Biodiversity Assessment for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Stage 1)

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Contents

Executive Summary

Biodiversity[1] is declining on a global and local scale and this is a major sustainability issue which needs to be addressed. A range of legal and planning policy requirements are in place to ensure that the planning system, with its purpose of delivering sustainable development, contributes towards the protection, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity rather than to its decline.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance on the biodiversity implications of accommodating future development within the borough, with a focus on areas around Basingstoke, where it is considered that strategic sites are most likely to be situated.

This report presents the findings for an assessment of thirteen potential future development areas. The sites are all located in the area immediately surrounding Basingstoke, reflecting the South East Plan approach of focusing major development for the borough at Basingstoke. Sites include those which have been promoted to the council for future development through consultation and also sites which have previously been considered through the planning system and need to be considered for future development potential. Further reports may be produced to assess additional areas as the Local Development Framework (LDF) progresses.

These areas have been assessed for the compatibility between the principle of undertaking development within them and the range of biodiversity policies and legislation that would have to be applied to such a decision. As a result of this assessment each potential future development area has been assigned a number from one to five, with one indicating the fewest biodiversity constraints and greatest compatibility with policies and legislation. Five indicates that the development of the area is largely incompatible with biodiversity policies and or legal requirements. The areas and their assessment grade are shown below.

Table 1: Overall Assessment

AREA	REF	Implications for Development
Basingstoke Golf Course	PS7	1
Land adj to Weybrook Golf Course	PS10	1
Cufaude Farm	PS5	1
West Lane Farm	PS13	1
Land North of Great Binfields School	PS12	2
Land at Carpenters Down	PS11	2
N of Popley Fields	PS3	2
South of Kempshott	PS6	2
Razors Farm, Chineham	PS4	3
Land West of Basingstoke	PS2	3
Land East of Basingstoke	PS1	4
Basing Fen	PS9	5
Peak Copse	PS8	5

[1] the variety of living organisms on earth, including the range of species, the genetic diversity within them and the ecosystems (for example, forests) that are formed from the interaction of different species with the physical environment.

Definition of Assessment Grades
1 - Relatively few constraints. There may be biodiversity issues to be addressed, but it is anticipated that these can be satisfactorily addressed through detailed site planning and established ecological mitigation practices. 2 - Some constraints such as presence of a SINC, priority habitat, within the area and, there may be a priority/protected species constraint, or adjacent habitats that may suffer from indirect pressure. Layouts will need to successfully integrate any SINCs or priority habitats, accommodate species requirements, and seek to mitigate indirect effects. 3 - Development likely to be possible in parts of the area, but significant parts are constrained and/or there is a significant risk of indirect impacts on adjacent habitats or on priority species. Off-site compensation may be needed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity. 4 - Development may be feasible while meeting the biodiversity criteria, but there are important biodiversity interests within the zone of influence that are particularly sensitive to the types of impact arising from development. Further assessment is needed based on additional information about potential development scenarios, the subsequent nature and magnitude of impacts, and the capacity of the biodiversity interests to tolerate them. 5 - Strategic development allocation is considered to be incompatible with biodiversity objectives and the policies from which they are derived.

The study recommends that, on biodiversity grounds alone, preference be given to those potential future development areas with the lowest score, with each subsequent area only being considered if lower scoring areas are not sufficient to meet requirements. It is also recommended that those with a score of 5 are not considered further as potential future development areas.

The planning policy framework for biodiversity requires that local planning authorities actively pursue opportunities to achieve a net gain in biodiversity. Accordingly, each of the areas has been assessed for habitat restoration and creation potential as well as constraints. Areas with the greatest potential for biodiversity enhancement are Land East of Basingstoke (PS1) and Land West of Basingstoke (PS2). Land East of Basingstoke contains the River Loddon valley where there is significant potential for the restoration and expansion of wetland habitats, linked to South East Biodiversity Strategy objectives. Land West of Basingstoke has areas of importance for rare arable flora that were once much richer and could potentially be improved for this interest as well as a number of ancient woodlands that could enhanced and linked through the creation of new native woodland.

More detailed recommendations and information on the implications of all of the potential future development areas are given in the main body of this report.

1. Introduction

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms on earth, including the range of species, the genetic diversity within them and the ecosystems (for example, forests) that are formed from the interaction of different species with the physical environment. Considerable benefits are gained from a biodiverse world including carbon storage, clean air and water, food sources, timber and other raw materials, drug precursors, the source material for crop breeding and the pollination of cultivated crops. In addition, a biodiverse environment is more attractive, improves people's quality of life and contributes to the economy through leisure and tourism-related activity. For these reasons, biodiversity was identified as a key sustainability issue at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, leading to the publication of the Biodiversity Convention, which the UK has signed up to.

In response to the government's international commitments, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan [1] has been prepared and, as part of an ongoing delivery process, habitats and species requiring special attention and conservation action have been identified [2]. A similar process has been undertaken at a local (county) level throughout England, including the production of a Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan [3], of which Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council is a partner. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council has also prepared its own corporate strategy for biodiversity [4], which is currently being revised.

In respect of local authorities, the government has imposed a general duty on them[2] to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in carrying out their various functions, including planning. In addition, specific policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity have been incorporated into government planning policies at national and regional levels and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council has a saved biodiversity planning policy (E7) within its Adopted Local Plan [5].

Biodiversity, therefore, is an important and significant consideration in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks and needs to be considered at each stage of the process where decisions will be taken that have biodiversity implications. The results of such assessments should ultimately be used to inform the statutory Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of each LDF document so that they can be considered alongside other sustainability considerations.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance on the biodiversity implications of accommodating future development within the borough, with a focus on areas around Basingstoke, where it is considered that strategic sites are most likely to be situated. The consideration of additional areas and sites which may have development potential, including those around other towns and villages in the borough, will need to be subject to additional biodiversity assessments.

This report presents the findings for an assessment of thirteen potential future development areas. These are all located in the area immediately surrounding Basingstoke, reflecting the South East Plan approach of focusing major development for the borough at Basingstoke. Sites include those which have been promoted to the council for future development through consultation and also sites which have previously been considered through the planning system and need to be considered for future development

[2] Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

potential. The potential future development areas that are the subject of this report are listed in Table 2 and their locations shown in Figure 1.

Table 2: Areas included in study	
AREA	**REF**
Land East of Basingstoke	PS1
Land West of Basingstoke	PS2
N of Popley Fields	PS3
Razors Farm, Chineham	PS4
Cufaude Farm	PS5
South of Kempshott	PS6
Basingstoke Golf Course	PS7
Peak Copse	PS8
Basing Fen	PS9
Land at Carpenters Down	PS11
Land adj to Weybrook Golf Course	PS10
Land North of Great Binfields School	PS12
West Lane Farm	PS13

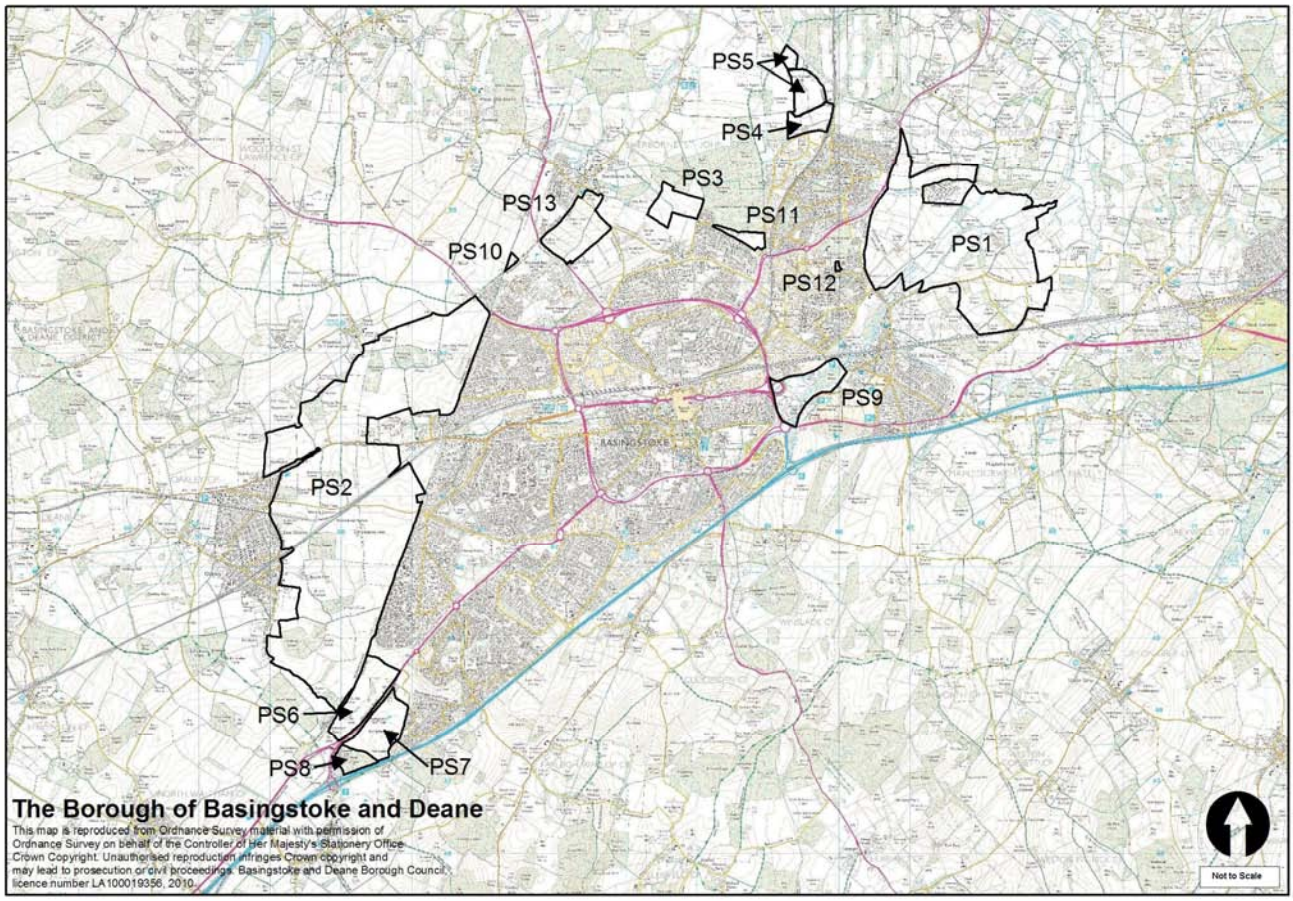

Figure 1: Location of potential future development areas

2. Legislative and Policy Context

2.1 Legal Requirements

At the international level, key pieces of legislation are the EC Birds and Habitats Directives, including the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, which transpose their requirements into domestic law. Collectively, these provide protection to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which are known as European sites.

Under the Habitats Regulations, local planning authorities must carry out a process known as 'appropriate assessment' before giving authorisation for a plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless the plan or project is directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of the site. They may only agree to the plan or project if they have ascertained, in compliance with prescribed procedures, that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site, unless there is no satisfactory alternative and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

Not all plans or projects require an 'appropriate assessment', but they should be subject to an initial screening assessment to determine whether they are likely to have a significant effect on a European site and, therefore, whether an appropriate assessment is required.

With regard to development proposals, it is government policy that the above requirements are also applied to candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) and internationally important wetland sites designated under the Ramsar Convention. However, in the local context there are no cSACs as they have now been fully classified and there are currently no pSPAs awaiting full classification.

In addition to requirements relating to European sites, the Habitats Regulations provide additional protection, beyond that provided by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in respect of certain species. Those which occur within the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane are:

- Dormouse;
- Otter;
- Several species of bat; and
- Great crested newt.

While not directly applicable to strategic planning, a local planning authority can only grant planning consent for a proposal that would disturb[3] a European protected species or destroy its breeding or resting place under the following circumstances: there must be no satisfactory alternative; the decision must not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range; and there must be an overriding public interest in favour of the decision. Given these constraints, it would be prudent when considering potential areas for development to be satisfied that any subsequent planning permission arising from a development

[3] Disturbance, within these provisions means anything likely to significantly affect the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young or the local distribution and abundance of that species.

allocation is likely to meet these requirements.

The Habitats Regulations are also relevant to LDF preparation in that they require policies to be included that encourage the management of features of the landscape, which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.

2.2 National Policy Context

The overarching requirement for local authorities, in respect of biodiversity, comes from the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40(1) of this Act requires that:

"Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity… Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat."

Guidance from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [6] states that national planning policy on biodiversity conservation is the primary reference point for those developing or appraising development plans or projects.

National planning policy on local development frameworks (LDFs) is set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: Creating Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning [7]. This promotes a spatial planning approach which requires LDFs to integrate the objectives of a wider range of plans and programmes. Of significance to biodiversity and local authority duties under the NERC Act are the UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plans [1 & 3], the South England Biodiversity Strategy [8] and the council's own landscape and biodiversity strategy [4].

Specific national planning policies on biodiversity are set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation [9]. PPS 9 states that LDFs should indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity, making clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites. A key principle of PPS9 is that planning policies and decisions should not only avoid, mitigate or compensate for harm to biodiversity, but seek ways to enhance and restore it. It states that LDFs should identify any areas or sites for the restoration or creation of new priority habitats which contribute to regional targets, and support this restoration or creation through appropriate policies.

PPS 9 refers to the statutory protection afforded to European sites, rather than setting out additional policy protection for them. In respect of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), it states that the features of SSSIs should be given a high degree of protection under the planning system. It states that, for development likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI (either individually or in combination with other developments), planning permission should not normally be granted and that an exception should only be made where the benefits of the development at that location clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features that make it a SSSI and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs. In such cases, conditions and planning obligations should be used to secure mitigation and enhancements.

In respect of local sites (eg. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), PPS9 states that criteria-based policies should be established in LDFs against which proposals for any development on, or affecting, such sites will be judged. It states that these policies should be distinguished from those applied to nationally important sites.

PPS9 also identifies ancient woodland as an important biodiversity resource that, once lost, cannot be recreated. It states that planning permission should not be granted where it would result in the loss, or deterioration of, ancient woodland unless the need for, and benefits of, development at that location outweigh the loss of the woodland habitat.

Habitats identified by the government as being of 'principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England (see Appendix 1) are also stated to be a material consideration within PPS9 and it requires local planning authorities to conserve these through policies in LDFs. It must be noted, however, that these habitat descriptions encompass a wide range of habitat types from those that are effectively irreplaceable, to broad classifications such as hedgerows that encompass both irreplaceable ancient ones and relatively species poor Enclosure Acts hedgerows. Therefore, while it is desirable to protect all existing priority habitats, it is important, if considering the implications of losing a particular area of priority habitat, to consider, after evaluating the particular habitat in question, whether this can realistically be compensated for, on a like-for-like basis, through the creation of new habitat. When considering the potential for off-setting losses through habitat creation elsewhere, it is also important to consider the likelihood of a comparable species assemblage[4] developing on the new site, whether the right environmental characteristics such as hydrology, soils and geology exist on the compensation site and whether the appropriate ecosystem processes and systems of land management, such as grazing, will be available.

PPS9 also refers to species identified by the government as being of 'principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England (see Appendix 1) and states that local planning authorities should take measures to protect the habitats of these species from further decline through policies in local development documents and should ensure that they are protected from the adverse effects of development, using planning conditions or obligations where appropriate. Where harm to these species or their habitats would result from granting planning consent, PPS9 states that permission should be refused unless the need for, and benefits of, development clearly outweigh that harm.

PPS9 also supports the advice within PPS12 for LDFs integrating the objectives of a wider range of plans and programmes, stating that LDF policies should reflect and be consistent with national, regional and local biodiversity priorities and objectives (including those agreed by local biodiversity partnerships).

Both the UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plans identify habitat types and species that are priorities for conservation action. Further national and regional planning policies make these material considerations within the planning process (see below). As is the case with habitats of 'principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England, these habitat descriptions can cover a wide range of habitat types and the same considerations apply when assessing the implications of loosing a given area of the habitat type and assessing the feasibility of compensation. Priority habitats and species of relevance to the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane are listed in Appendix 2.

[4] Assemblage: a collection of living organisms characteristically associated with a particular environment.

The South East Biodiversity Strategy sets regional targets for habitat protection, management, restoration and creation, taken from national targets. It aims to provide a landscape-scale framework for the delivery of these targets through the identification of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) across the region in order to develop a network of habitats (see Appendix 5). These BOAs represent extensive tracts of land and they are not intended to represent a constraint to development or other land uses such as farming. Nor is it expected that the whole of each land area will be restored to a priority habitat type such as unimproved grassland or woodland. Their purpose is simply to identify areas where there is the most potential for improving biodiversity and subsequently serve as a focus for where conservation effort and resources can have the greatest benefit.

Of relevance to this report is a BOA for the Rivers Loddon/Lyde/Whitewater Catchment & Headwaters. Targets and opportunities have been identified for the following priority habitat types within this area:

- Wet Woodland
- Lowland Meadow
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
- Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Heath

In addition, targets have been set as part of the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan as shown in Table 3. This shows the current known extent in the county, as a target for protection and maintenance, targets for restoration of degraded habitats (for example restoration of ancient woodlands that have been planted with conifers or other habitats that have declined in quality due to lack of appropriate management, and targets for creating new habitats, particularly in close proximity to existing habitats of the type.

Table 3: Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets

Habitat	Maintenance (ha) (current extent)	Restoration (ha)	Creation/ expansion (ha)
Native woodland	48,475	1,300	0
Wood-pasture and parkland	> 15 sites	10 sites	3 sites
Lowland meadows	1,400	98	56
Lowland dry acid grassland	4,310	43	43
Heathland	10,068	n/a	1,050
Lowland calcareous grassland	1,991	40	400
Purple moor-grass and rush pasture	190	2	2
Eutrophic standing waters	1,635	none	none
Lowland raised bogs	none	none	none
Fens	285	55	n/a
Reedbed	286	n/a	105
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	8,058	320	80

2.3 Regional Policy Context

The South East Plan [10] states, under Policy NRM5, that local planning authorities shall avoid a net loss of biodiversity, and actively pursue opportunities to achieve a net gain across the region. In doing this, they must give the highest level of protection to sites of international nature conservation importance (ie. European sites[5]), ensuring that development allocations are chosen in a way that avoids adversely affecting the integrity of European sites. The policy also requires that local planning authorities to avoid damage to nationally important sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and seek to ensure that damage to county wildlife sites and locally important wildlife sites is avoided. Other requirements of the policy are that local planning authorities ensure appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance, identify areas of opportunity for biodiversity improvement, apply appropriate land management practices to increase the wildlife value of land, promote policies that integrate the need to accommodate changes to the agricultural sector with the potential impacts of development in the countryside. Local authorities should also identify and deliver green infrastructure (multi-functional green space) in conjunction with new development.

Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan relates to the protection of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (European sties). These are outside of the borough, but a 5km zone has been identified within which new development could generate recreational impacts and thus require mitigation through the provision of alternative Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG).

Policy NRM7 of the South East Plan (Woodlands) requires that local development documents support the implementation of the Regional Forestry and Woodland Framework by:

- protecting ancient woodland from damaging development and land uses;
- promoting the effective management, and where appropriate, extension and creation of new woodland areas including, in association with areas of major development, where this helps to restore and enhance degraded landscapes, screen noise and pollution, provide recreational opportunities, helps mitigate climate change, and contributes to floodplain management;
- replacing woodland unavoidably lost through development with new woodland on at least the same scale;
- promoting and encouraging the economic use of woodlands and wood resources, including wood fuel as a renewable energy source; and
- promoting the growth and procurement of sustainable timber products.

Cross cutting policies within the South East Plan include:

- CC4: Sustainable Design and Construction – all new development, and the

5 'European sites' is the term used to encompass sites that have the highest level of protection in the UK either through legislation or policy. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), proposed SPAs (pSPAs) and Ramsar sites.

redevelopment and refurbishment of existing building stock will be expected to adopt and incorporate, inter alia, biodiversity enhancements; and

- CC8: Green Infrastructure – green infrastructure networks of multi-functional green space, including existing and new assets, need to be planned and managed to deliver the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits including conserving and enhancing biodiversity as well as landscape, recreation, water management, social and cultural benefits to underpin individual and community health and 'well being'.

2.4 Local Policy Context

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Adopted Local Plan 1996-2011 Policy E7 sets out the following biodiversity requirements, in respect of development control decisions:

> "Development or a change of land use will be permitted where it will not have an adverse effect on protected species or the conservation status of priority species, harm the nature conservation interest of a statutory or non-statutory wildlife nature conservation site or lead to the loss or deterioration of a key habitat type or harm the integrity of linkages between such sites and habitats.
>
> Proposals will be expected to conserve and, where possible, enhance the biodiversity of the receiving environment, taking into account the aims and targets of the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans. Where appropriate, planning conditions and obligations will be used to secure these requirements. In particular, the opportunity will be taken to secure the creation and management of features of the landscape that, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as 'stepping stones', are of major importance for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
>
> The weight given to the protection of nature conservation interests will depend on the national or local significance and any statutory designation or protection applying to the site, habitat or species concerned. Where the public interest in favour of a proposal is deemed to outweigh harm to biodiversity, the local planning authority will require the use of the best practicable mitigation/compensation measures, which will be secured through planning conditions and planning obligations, as appropriate.
>
> Applications for development must include adequate information to enable a proper assessment of the implications for biodiversity. It should be noted that adverse effects on nature conservation interests are not necessarily limited to the proposal site. Adjacent land, including that outside the local plan boundary, must also be considered."

It should be noted that this is one of a number of Local Plan policies that have been 'saved' with the consent of the Secretary of State [11] and therefore is still material for the purposes of determining planning applications. However, the Secretary of State's direction requires that these policies are read in context and that where policies were adopted some time ago new material considerations, particularly the emergence of new national and regional policy, need to be given considerable weigh in decisions. Policy E7 was drafted before the emergence of national planning policy for biodiversity set out in PPS9 and adopted before the emergence of biodiversity policies within the South East Plan so is of less relevance within the

context of the strategic approach that Local Development Frameworks are required to take.

Basingstoke and Deane's Draft Revised Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy sets out the following relevant objectives:

- protection and management of key habitats;
- creation of new habitat to expand and link isolated areas of key habitats;
- sustainable land management in the countryside and built-up areas that supports wildlife;
- a viable and sustainable rural economy to underpin sustainable rural land management;
- species-focussed action for those that are most under threat or affected by factors that are not addressed by other objectives;
- improved public access to natural green space and the countryside where this can be achieved without adversely affecting the natural environment;
- promotion of opportunities for local communities to learn about and get involved with the care of their local environment; and
- ensuring adequate green infrastructure is provided to support our growing populations and economy.

Based on the South East Biodiversity Strategy BOAs, the draft strategy identifies the existing Loddon and Eversley Heritage Area as a strategic area for biodiversity conservation effort and the corridor, including floodplain, of the River Loddon as a specific target area for habitat improvements.

Also of relevance is the Thames draft River Basin Management Plan [12]. This sets an objective of increasing the length of the River Loddon achieving good ecological status/potential to 79km by 2015 (currently 30km). At the river basin level, the plan states an aspiration that “habitats and wildlife corridors, which are areas that allow wildlife to move freely, should be of good quality with few artificial barriers. Floodplains and rivers should be allowed to interact in as natural a way as possible to help sustain aquatic and riparian habitats.”

3. Methodology

3.1 Assessment Framework

In common with sustainability appraisal methodology, an assessment framework of biodiversity objectives has been derived from the legislative and policy context set out in Section 2. A compatibility appraisal has then been undertaken, with each of the potential future development areas assessed against these biodiversity objectives in order to test the compliance of each option with the relevant policies. Given the advice from the Secretary of State with regard to 'saved' local plan policies [11], the fact that the purpose of the policy is to set out requirements in respect of individual development control decisions and because many of the principles in Policy E7 are now set out in national and regional policies, the requirements of Policy E7 do not form part of this assessment framework. The biodiversity objectives and their origin are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Assessment Framework

Criteria	Origin
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	Habitats Directive and Regulations, etc. Statutory Appropriate Assessment is required if development is likely to have a significant effect. It is government policy for Ramsar sites and potential Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation to be treated as if already designated. SE Plan requires the highest level of protection to be given to European sites and that where it is not possible to conclude a plan or programme will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, it will not be approved unless otherwise in accordance with 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	PPS 9: SSSIs must be given a high degree of protection within the planning system. Proposed development within, or outside a SSSI but likely to have an adverse effect (individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be granted. Exceptions should only be made where the benefits of development, at the particular site, clearly outweigh both the impacts on the features that make the site a SSSI and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs. Where there is deemed to be an overriding reason for development, conditions and obligations must be used to mitigate the harmful aspects of the development. SE Plan: local planning authorities shall avoid damage to nationally important sites of Special Scientific Interest and shall seek to avoid damage to additional areas outside of European sites where these support the species for which that site has been selected.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, imposes a duty on local planning authorities exercising functions which are likely to affect SSSIs. This requires an authority to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the features for which sites are of special interest. Under PPS9, where there is deemed to be an overriding reason for development, conditions and obligations must be used, where possible, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity interest.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a	Habitats Directive and Regulations: local planning authorities are competent authorities, within the meaning of regulation 6 of the Habitats Regulations. They therefore have a statutory duty under regulation 3(4) to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions. They must take into

species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	account the impact of development on European protected species and may only grant planning consent that will affect such a species where: • the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range; • there is no satisfactory alternative; • the decision is for preserving public health or public safety, or for reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	SE Plan: local planning authorities shall seek to ensure that damage to county wildlife sites and locally important wildlife sites is avoided.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	PPS 9: through policies in plans, local authorities should also conserve other important natural habitat types that have been identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England (see Appendix 1).
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	PPS9: local planning authorities should not grant planning permission for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that particular location outweigh the loss of the woodland habitat; SE Plan: local planning authorities will support the implementation of the Regional Forestry and Woodland Framework by, inter alia, protecting ancient woodland from damaging development and land uses.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	SE Plan: local planning authorities shall seek to ensure that damage to county wildlife sites and locally important wildlife sites is avoided.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	PPS 9: through policies in plans, local authorities should also conserve other important natural habitat types that have been identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England (see Appendix 1).
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	PPS 9: local authorities should aim to maintain networks of natural habitats by avoiding or repairing the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats. Such networks should be protected from development and, where possible, strengthened by or integrated within it.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	PPS 9: local authorities should aim to maintain networks of natural habitats by avoiding or repairing the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats. Such networks should be protected from development and, where possible, strengthened by or integrated within it.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	PPS9: local authorities should take measures to protect the habitats of species of principal importance from the adverse effects of development, where appropriate, by using planning conditions or obligations. They should refuse planning permission where harm to the species of their habitats would result unless the need for, and benefits of, development clearly outweigh that harm. Circular ODPM 06/2005, Defra 01/2005 states that the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority

	is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	SE Plan: opportunities for biodiversity improvement, including connection of sites, large-scale habitat restoration, enhancement and re-creation in the areas of strategic opportunity for biodiversity improvement will be pursued by local planning authorities; local planning authorities will support the implementation of the Regional Forestry and Woodland Framework by, inter alia, promoting the effective management and, where appropriate, extension and creation of new woodland areas, including, in association with areas of major development, where this helps restore and enhance degraded landscapes, screen noise and pollution, provide recreational opportunities, help mitigate climate change and contribute to floodplain management.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	PPS9: development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity features as part of good design. When considering proposals, local planning authorities should maximise such opportunities in and around developments.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	Habitats Directive transposed into UK law through the Habitats Regulations 1994 requiring policies in respect of the conservation of the natural beauty and amenity of the land shall be taken to include policies encouraging the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	SE Plan: local planning authorities shall avoid a net loss of biodiversity.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	SE Plan: local planning authorities shall actively pursue opportunities to achieve a net biodiversity gain across the region.

3.2 Assessment of Each Potential Future Development Area

In order to assess the potential biodiversity implications of development within each area, existing data sets held by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) were used, along with data held by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and obtained from Natural England. These included digital mapping of:

- Ordnance Survey (various products and scales);
- Geosense aerial imagery;
- European sites;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation; and
- Priority habitats.

These data were supplemented by additional surveys commissioned from HBIC including a rare arable plant survey [13] of Land West of Basingstoke (ref: PS2), and supplementary habitat surveys (see Appendix 3) for Land East of Basingstoke (ref:PS1). Other sources reviewed included the Basingstoke Water Cycle Study, Phase 2 Ecological Appraisal [14]

and Environment Agency Strategic River Corridor Survey [15].

A Geographic Information System was used to assess spatial data in relation to each potential future development area. In addition to biodiversity within the area, the wider landscape was assessed to identify cohesive landscape-scale habitat networks passing through the area. In order to identify the potential for indirect impacts on biodiversity, a zone of potential influence of 400m was applied outside of the boundary to each potential future development area. 400m was chosen as a potential distance over which cat predation and development fringe effects, including recreational disturbance, and the fly-tipping of garden waste and other rubbish may have an influence on biodiversity. It is based on the Zone A within the Draft Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area: Mitigation Standards for Residential Development (Draft Delivery Plan) [16], which was considered within the assessor's report to the panel for the Draft South East Plan Examination in Public and accepted as a reasonable distance within which these types of indirect effect may be significant [17] and incorporated into the South East Plan in respect of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area policy (NRM6). Where rivers or other water courses were identified within an area, downstream biodiversity was considered beyond the 400m.

In order to assess the implications in relation to European sites, an initial search for any sites within 15km of the potential future development areas was undertaken, based on draft guidance on the appropriate assessment of local development documents [18]. From this screening, the River Itchen SAC and Thames Basin Heaths SPA was found to be within 15km of some of the potential future development areas. Based on an assessment of river catchments and drainage patterns, it is considered that the risk of development within any of the areas having a significant effect on the River Itchen SAC is very low. A lower threshold of 5km has been identified within the South East Plan as a zone around the Thames Basin Heaths where new development may have a significant effect by creating additional recreation pressure on them. This does not mean that development, particularly large-scale housing outside of this 5km zone, may not have a significant effect, but this is something that would need to be assessed case-by-case for a given development scenario. For the purposes of this initial study, the 5km zone has been used to assess the risk of development within the potential future development areas having a significant effect or adversely affecting the integrity of a Thames Basin Heath SPA site. However, there will be a further need for any areas taken forward for development for a formal screening assessment to be undertaken, which may lead to a requirement for statutory appropriate assessment.

Other than a rare arable plants survey, specific species surveys were not undertaken for this strategic-level assessment. However, based on an assessment of habitats within the potential future development areas and the surrounding landscape, it is possible to make an assessment of the potential for protected or otherwise significant species to be affected. Existing records have also be reviewed (see Appendix 4). Based on this approach, consideration has been given to those species that would be material to a decision on whether, in principle, to develop within an area. Consideration has not been given, at this stage, to species impacts that will depend on the detailed design and layout of development within any particular area. However, more detailed consideration will need to be given to such species early on in the process of taking forward any preferred potential future development areas to ensure a timely and strategic approach to mitigating and off-setting impacts. Given the long-timescales that could be involved from allocating an area for development until implementation, repeat surveys are likely to be required to ensure that detailed development proposals are based on up-to-date information.

In addition to considering impacts on existing biodiversity interests, consideration was also given to opportunities within each area to enhance biodiversity and to the scope to contribute to targets for habitat restoration and improvement.

Based on the above considerations, an assessment has been made of the possible implications of development within the potential future development areas and this has then been considered in relation to each biodiversity objective within the assessment framework and an assessment of compatibility made. The following compatibility categories have been used:

Table 5: Compatibility Categories

Code	Compatibility Rating	Definition
C	**Compatible**	Strategic development considered to be compatible with objective.
NL	**No Link**	Strategic development considered to have a neutral effect on objective
LBC	**Likely to be Compatible**	Subject to compliance with legal requirements regarding statutory sites or species, but not anticipated to be a constraint.
PC	**Potentially compatible**	Compatibility subject to a layout that respects and successfully integrates designated sites and important habitats and/or includes provision for positive biodiversity enhancements. This may mean that significant parts of the site remain undeveloped. Significant mitigation measures are liable to be necessary and off-site compensation might be necessary to ensure not net loss and or a net gain.
CU	**Compatibility Uncertain**	It is not possible to fully assess compatibility without further studies of the potential impacts.
I	**Incompatible**	Strategic development not considered to be compatible with objective.

From an assessment of the compatibility ratings for each potential future development area, a rank has been assigned to each one in terms of the level of constraint that it presents to development. This enables a sequential approach to be taken when considering the potential of each area in terms of biodiversity, with the least constrained areas being considered before those that are liable to have higher impacts.

Assessment Grades

1 - Relatively few constraints. There may be biodiversity issues to be addressed, but it is anticipated that these can be satisfactorily addressed through detailed site planning and established ecological mitigation practices.

2 - Some constraints such as presence of a SINC, priority habitat, within the area and, there may be a priority/protected species constraint, or adjacent habitats that may suffer from indirect pressure. Layouts will need to successfully integrate any SINCs or priority habitats, accommodate species requirements, and seek to mitigate indirect effects.

3 - Development likely to be possible in parts of the area, but significant parts are constrained and/or there is a significant risk of indirect impacts on adjacent habitats or on priority species. Off-site compensation may be needed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity.

4 - Development may be feasible while meeting the biodiversity criteria, but there are important biodiversity interests within the zone of influence that are particularly sensitive to the types of impact arising from development. Further assessment is needed based on additional information about potential development scenarios, the subsequent nature and magnitude of impacts, and the capacity of the biodiversity interests to tolerate them.

5 - Strategic development allocation is considered to be incompatible with biodiversity objectives and the policies from which they are derived.

3.3 Presentation of Assessment Results

The assessment of each area is presented in Section 4 with a description and a map of the area and immediate context, based on the 400m zone of potential influence. The size of each area is given as an aid to understanding its significance. It does not indicated the developable area, which will depend on a detailed consideration of the constraints for each area.

The key biodiversity constraints and considerations for each area are described followed by a compatibility assessment in tabular format. Comments are then given on the significance of the assessment in terms of the implications for development within the area.

The results for all of the area assessments are presented in Section 5 along with a discussion of the findings and recommendations.

4. Assessment of Potential Future Development Areas

4.1 PS1 – Land East of Basingstoke

Description of Area

Size: 400ha

This area is situated within the Loddon Valley, with the River Loddon and associated floodplain running through the middle of it. The river flows southeast to northwest. A smaller watercourse, Petty's Brook, flows into the R. Loddon from the west. The land is mostly farmed, much it being arable with some improved grassland.

The most notable features of biodiversity interest are the River Loddon itself and associated wetland habitats, including small areas of fen, wet woodland and several ancient woodland copses. The upper reaches of the river within this area are characteristic of chalk rivers [14].

The northern part of the area surrounds Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works. There are several farmsteads within the area, including Lodge Farm, Blacklands Farm and Poors Farm.

Land to the west is predominantly urban, with the A33 bounding part of the site. To the south and east is predominantly arable farmland and to the north, a mixture of arable and improved grassland with thin belts of ancient woodland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. However, Stanford End Mill and River Loddon SSSI, designated primarily as a stronghold for Loddon Pondweed, *Potamogeton nodosus*, is located downstream and could potentially be affected by changes in water quality so is considered to be within the zone of potential influence.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are fifteen SINCs that are wholly or partly within the area. However, one of these, Blacklands Farm Fen, is to be de-listed, following the assessment undertaken during survey work in 2009. This is because its wildlife interest has been destroyed (see Appendix 3). The main channel of the River Loddon and a small area of wet woodland, fen

and swamp are designated as the River Loddon and Lower Mill Fen SINC. Two of the other SINCs, Blacklands Farm Meadow Stream and Blacklands Farm (2) are associated with the river and are liable to be affected by changes in hydrological regime. The remaining SINCs are ancient woodlands with communities associated with dry conditions. They have been assessed as being unlikely to be impacted by changes in water quality or flow within the river [14], although they could be affected by any rises in the water table. A new site to the immediate northwest of Blackland's Farm has been identified as a potential new SINC[6].

A further twenty three SINCs are wholly or partly within 400 m of the area, although seven of these are relatively isolated from the area by the presence of the A33 to the northwest and railway line to the south. Several ancient woodland SINCs would be accessible from the area via the Rights of Way network. SINCs are show in Figure 2 and listed in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6: SINCs wholly or partly within area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0633	PYOTT'S HILL COPSE (32A PYOTT'S HILL)	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0693	ROUND COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0680	RUSHES ROW	1A/1Cii	Ancient semi-natural woodland; important community type with restricted distribution in the county
BD0711	BLACKLANDS FARM MEADOW STREAM	5A	Open freshwater supporting outstanding assemblages of floating/submerged/ emergent plant species, invertebrates, birds or amphibians.
BD0661	PETTY'S BROOK STRIP	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0673	BAIN'S WOOD	1B	Other woodland where significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0674	BOTTOM ROW	1A/1Cii	Ancient semi-natural woodland; important community type with restricted distribution in the county
BD0697	BLACKLAND'S FARM FEN*	2B/5B/6A	Semi-improved grasslands which retain a significant element of unimproved grassland; fen supporting a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions; supports one or more notable species
BD0660	UPPER RIVER ROW	1A/1Cii	Ancient semi-natural woodland; important community type with restricted distribution in the county
BD0675	LOWER RIVER ROW	1A/1Cii	Ancient semi-natural woodland; important community type with restricted distribution in the county
BD0699	LONG COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0683	BELLS COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0662	RIVER LODDON & LOWER MILL	5A/5B/6A	Open freshwater supporting outstanding assemblages of floating/submerged/ emergent plant species, invertebrates, birds or

[6] See Appendix 3, Summary Reports on Habitats within Land East of Basingstoke, Phase 1 Survey Notes, notes for Area B,

	FEN		amphibians; fen that supports a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions; supporting one or more notable species
BD0698	BLACKLAND'S FARM (2)	2D	Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery.
BD0665	WHITMARSH LANE & PIECE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
* to be de-listed from SINC schedule			

Table 7: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area (not inc. above)			
SiteRef	**SiteName**	**Criteria**	**Habitat Types**
BD0636	PETTY'S COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0623	BASING FEN & WOOD	1Cii/5B/6A	Semi-natural woodland comprising important community type with restricted distribution in the county; fen that supports a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions; supporting one or more notable species
BD0692	HODD'S COPSE EAST	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0693	ROUND COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0664	BRICK HILL COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0641	THORNHILL GRASSLAND	2B	Semi-improved grasslands which retain a significant element of unimproved grassland
BD0658	BUSHYLEAZE COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0628	DANESHILL DRIVE COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0714	ASHMOOR COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0624	GREAT BINFIELD COPSE	1B/6A/7A	Contains a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland; support one or more notable species; community woodland value
BD0681	MOULSHAY FRAM BREAK	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining
BD0634	GUINEA COPSE	1A/7A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; community woodland value
BD0632	LITTLE BASING FIELDS	2D/6A	Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery; supports one or more notable species
BD0691	HODD'S COPSE BREAK	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining
BD0678	HODD'S & VIRNELL'S COPSES	1A/1Cii	Ancient semi-natural woodland; semi-natural woodland comprising important community type with restricted distribution in the county
BD0659	GRAVELLY BOTTOM COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving

BD0675	LOWER RIVER ROW	1A/1Cii	Ancient semi-natural woodland; semi-natural woodland comprising important community type with restricted distribution in the county
BD0704	FORKED COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0687	ASHMOOR LANE PLANTATION	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0719	RIVER LYDE	5A	Area of open freshwater supporting outstanding assemblages of floating/submerged/ emergent plant species, invertebrates, birds or amphibians
BD0639	TOLL HOUSE COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0688	PAGE'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0710	ROUND COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

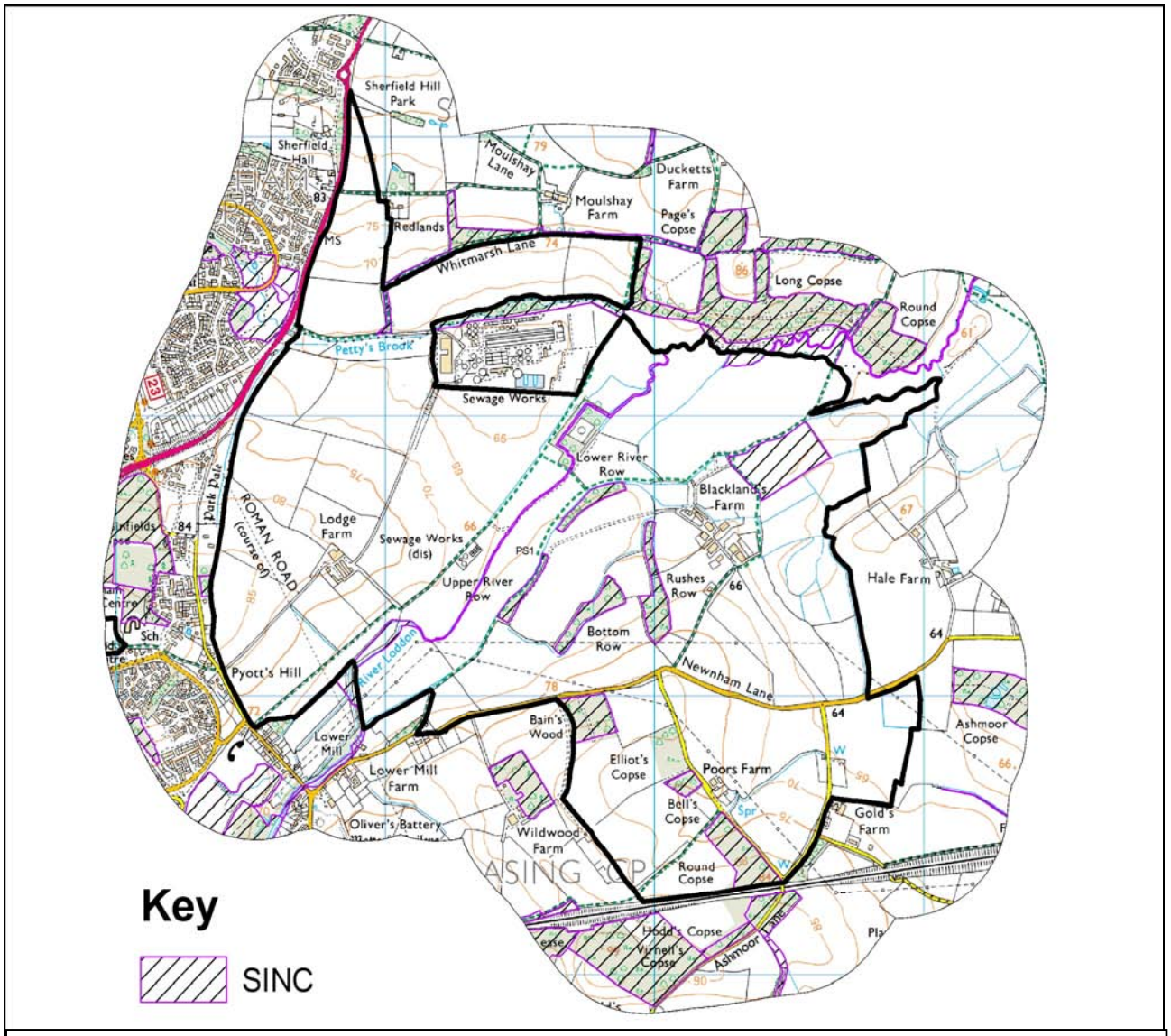

Figure 2: PS1 Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadow
- Wet Woodland
- Floodplain grazing marsh
- Fen
- River (chalk)
- Hedgerow
- Pond

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

Many of these priority habitats form part of a SINC. However, there is a significant secondary channel of the River Loddon to the south and the area contains a number of hedgerows, an old decoy pond and some small areas of mixed deciduous woodland.

Of greatest significance in terms of priority habitat types is the River Loddon.

Habitat Connectivity

The area is of particular importance in the context of wider landscape habitat connectivity in terms of the River Loddon Corridor that passes through it. This provides a landscape-scale habitat link of regional importance, connecting important habitats including Basing Fen and Wood, Little Basing Fields (aka The Mill Field), Lower Mill Fen, Summerstead Farm Marsh, Sherfield on Loddon Meadows, Stratfield Say Lake, and Stanford End Mill and River Loddon SSSI. In addition to its importance in the hydrology of these sites and the movement of aquatic species, the river corridor is important for wetland birds, many of which are BAP priority species and/or protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Species Constraints

The floodplain areas near Blacklands Farm are important for wetland birds, (see Appendix 4). The area also offers habitat of value to foraging bats, particularly along the corridors of the River Loddon and Petty's Brook, and potential roost sites in farm buildings. The woodlands and hedgerows offer suitable habitat for dormice and the river corridor has potential for otters and the river channels and riparian habitat, for water voles.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

The area has considerable potential for the restoration, enhancement and creation of wildlife habitats, particularly within the wetter parts of the valley. Blacklands Farm Fen is a high priority for restoration and the whole area to the north and east of Blacklands Farm offers good potential for the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats. There is also good potential for woodland creation to link and expand the ancient woodland SINCs to the immediate west of Blacklands Farm.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Of key importance to the biodiversity within this area are the fluvial processes and

hydrology connected with the River Loddon and its associated wetland habitats.

Parts of the area are under Entry-Level Stewardship, but land management within the area has generally had a negative effect on biodiversity, as evidenced by the loss of Blacklands Farm Fen . Future successful conservation of the area's biodiversity would depend on positive habitat management, including appropriate grazing regimes.

Assessment

Table 8: Assessment of PS1	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. No impacts anticipated as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths and no other European site considered to be within zone of potential influence. However, Habitats Regulations Screening will be required.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatibility Uncertain**. Would depend on impact of development on water quality and flow regimes within the River Loddon.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Compatibility Uncertain**. See above re potential effects. No direct potential for furthering the conservation or enhancement of a SSSI.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Could affect bat roosts, particularly through demolition of existing buildings, but mitigation likely to be achievable. The old decoy pond should be assessed for great crested newts. Dormice could be affected through habitat fragmentation, particularly severing of hedgerows for access, but careful design and adequate new habitat creation could improve connectivity for this species, which is particularly vulnerable to habitat isolation. Increased cat predation could affect local populations of this species so mitigation and possibly off-site compensation would be necessary to improve the carrying capacity for this species and offset this impact.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Potentially compatible**. This would depend on the extent to which the area is developed and would be subject to careful layout. There are 14 SINCs (excluding Blacklands Farm Fen) within the potential Strategic Development Area, but this criterion could be met through careful site layout to avoid them (any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Considerations as above.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Potentially compatible**. Considerations as above.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Compatibility Uncertain**. Development within the site is liable to put increased indirect pressure on any SINCs that are accessible as a result of the layout, but it is certainly possible through design to seek to avoid this, by ensuring adequate buffers between SINCs and other site uses and the provision of additional natural green space as an alternative focus for recreational activities. Zoning and active management of recreation are other potential forms of mitigation that would need to be explored. There are several footpaths within the area, some of which run through SINCs outside of the Potential Strategic Development Area and could

	increase recreational pressure on SINCs outside of the area boundary. Further investigation of the hydrological impacts of potential development scenarios should be undertaken. Significant buffers to the River Loddon would be required to avoid interference with fluvial processes and potentially, impacts on hydrology.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Compatibility Uncertain**. See above.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Potentially compatible**. Would need to avoid development of the River Loddon corridor running through the area, including its floodplain.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Potentially compatible**. In addition to above considerations, would need to avoid development, including creation of roads, between SINCs and through hedgerows. Avoiding the latter is likely to be very difficult. However, this could be minimised by ensuring access through areas of species-poor hedge. Areas liable to be particularly affected by fragmentation effects of development are the networks of woodland and hedgerow southwest of Blackland's Farm (Upper River Row, Lower River Row, Bottom Row and Rushes Row) and also Bain's Wood, Elliot's Copse, Bell's Copse and Round Copse)
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	**Potentially compatible**. Residential development is liable to introduce recreational disturbance and cat predation pressures. Therefore compatibility will depend on the extent to which layout and zoning of the area can be achieved to mitigate disturbance, and habitat enhancements within the area can achieved to improve carrying capacity and increase populations to offset any losses. Off-site conservation measures might be required to offset any residual negative impacts. Disturbance to wetland birds is likely to be the most significant issue and requires further assessment against potential development scenarios.
Has the potential to contribute to regional habitat improvement targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy	**Potentially compatible**. Very significant potential to contribute to habitat improvement targets through restoration of degraded fens and creation of new wetland, woodland and meadow habitats. However, this would depend on safeguarding a significant part of the area, particularly within the floodplain of the river.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Potentially compatible**. There are significant opportunities to enhance biodiversity within the area, subject to extent of area developed.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Potentially compatible**. Current land management in the area is unsympathetic to sustaining its biodiversity resources and, as a result, priority habitat types have deteriorated. Therefore, there is the potential to improve land management for biodiversity. However, this would require specialist habitat management, including an appropriate grazing regime, rather than general municipal open space management. Development within the area is likely to increase access to areas of wildlife importance. However, whether or not this is appropriate will depend on successful design, zoning and access management.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Potentially compatible**. See above.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Compatibility Uncertain.** Indirect impacts need further assessment based on potential development scenarios.

Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Compatibility Uncertain.** Indirect impacts need further assessment based on potential development scenarios. However, subject to adequate protection of existing interests, there is significant potential for habitat enhancement.

Commentary

The primary biodiversity constraint to development is considered to be the River Loddon, its floodplain and the habitats within this zone. Protection of these features is necessary to safeguard existing priority habitats, including those designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, to protect an important 'wildlife corridor' of landscape-scale significance, and to safeguard an important area of opportunity for habitat restoration and creation that would contribute to regional and county biodiversity action plan targets.

While development within parts of the area could enable the restoration of habitats that have been lost or have deteriorated due to inappropriate management and, subject to significant parts of the area being safeguarded for the purpose, make an important contribution to habitat creation targets, there is uncertainty over the indirect negative impacts that development could have. In particular, assessment of the effects of possible development footprints on the hydrological regime of the River Loddon and associated wetland habitats would need to be investigated. Disturbance effects on wetland birds will also need to be taken into account.

The ancient copses within the area would also need to be given adequate protection within any development scenario.

4.2 PS2 – Land West of Basingstoke

Description of Area

Size: 845ha

The site is predominantly arable farmland, containing a number of copses. It is bounded to the east by Basingstoke. It is partly bounded by Oakley to the west and by more arable land elsewhere. In terms of biodiversity interest, the significant features are rare arable plants and the ancient woodland copses.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are twelve SINCs that are wholly or partly within the area. A further three SINCs are wholly or partly within the 400 m zone. SINCs are shown in Figure 3 and listed in Tables 9 and 10.

Table 9: SINCs wholly or partly within area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0435	PARDOWN COPSE & SMALL'S COPSE	1A/6A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; supports one or more notable species
BD0447	GREAT STUBBS COPSE & LITTLE STUBBS COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0472	WORTING WOOD	1A/6A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; supports one or more notable species
BD0445	SITE 7, MANYDOWN	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0456	WOOTON COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0432	COW DOWN COPSE	1A/6A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; supports one or more notable species

BD0453	BEECH BREAK - WEST OF SAUNDERS LAND	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0440	MARVEL ROW & NEW PLANTATION	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0443	WELL'S COPSE	1A/6A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; supports one or more notable species
BD0428	ST JOHN'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0448	JEFFERY'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0446	MOTHER'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

Table 10: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area (not inc. above)

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0461	BEECH BREAK - NORTH OF SAUNDERS LAND	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0421	WINTERDOWN COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0431	SOUTH WOOD (NORTH & SOUTH)	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland; woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving

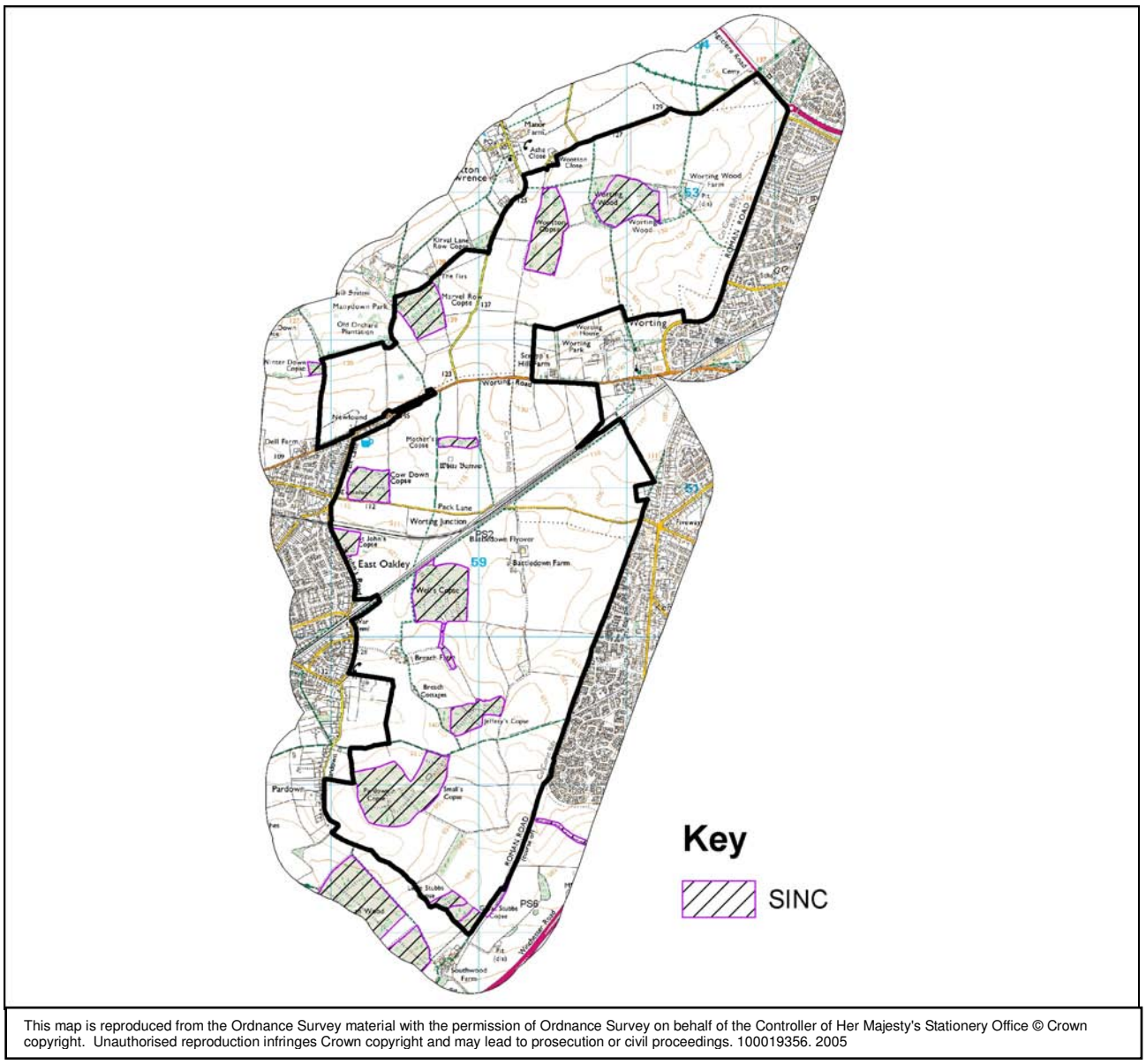

Figure 3: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland
- Ponds

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

Hedgerows and small areas of woodland / woodland belts.

Habitat Connectivity

Woodland habitats are small and isolated by intensively-managed arable farmland, road and a railway line. Hedgerows and woodland belts provide some connectivity between the woodland habitats.

Species Constraints

The area is of importance for rare arable flora and has historically been recognised as one of the richest sites in Britain for these plants [13]. Surveys undertaken in 2009 have shown that the area still supports important areas for rare arable plants (see Figure 4).

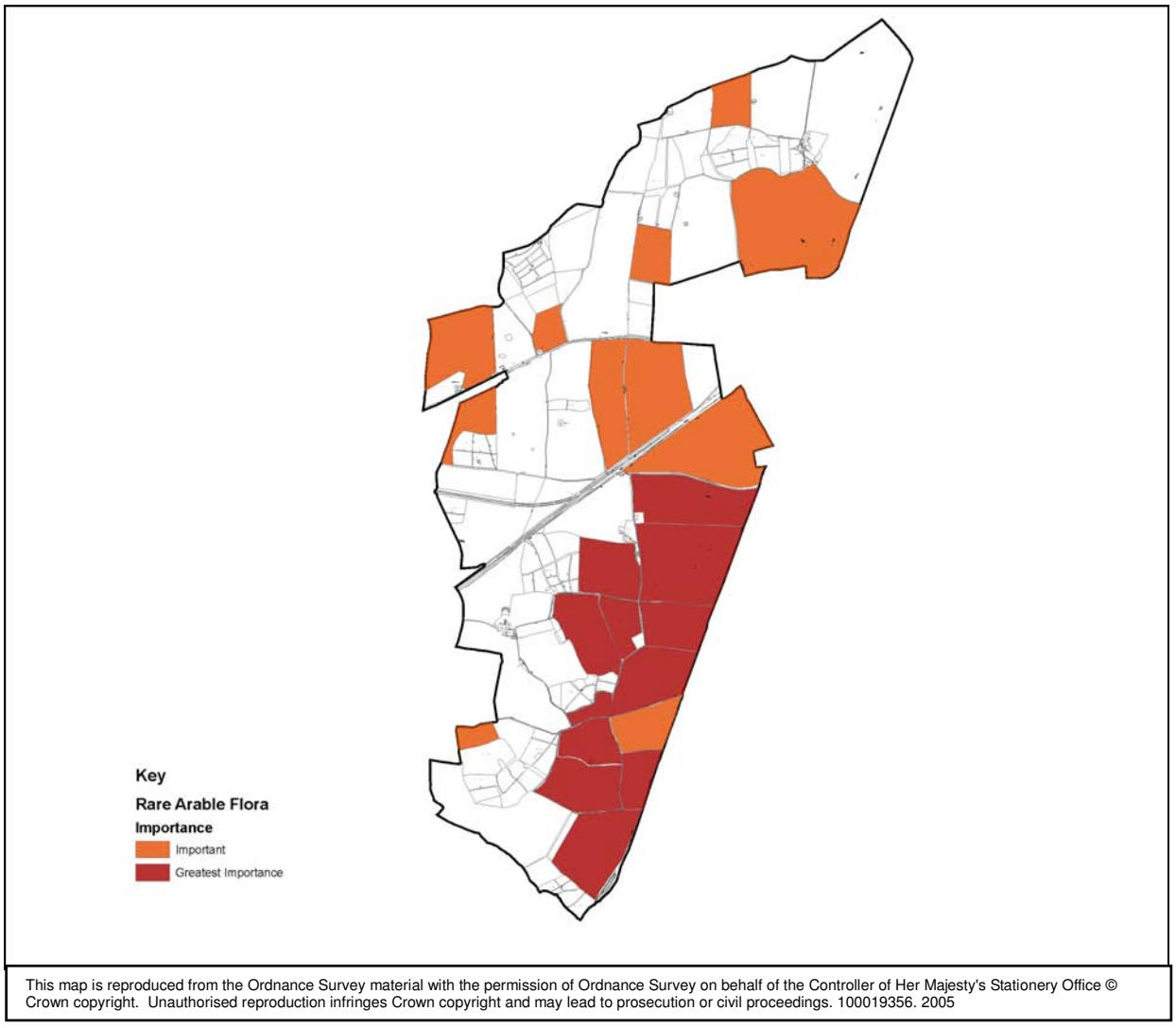

Figure 4: Fields of Importance for Rare Arable Plants

Within the area there is also potential for dormice and bats, especially foraging along hedgerows and roosting in farm buildings and mature trees.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is good potential to improve management of the land for rare arable plants, but this would require continued farm management within the area as these species require the

annual disturbance caused by cultivation. There is also good potential for linking woodland habitats through additional woodland creation.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Ongoing arable farming is important to maintain conditions for rare arable plants. The farmland is currently under Entry Level Stewardship and the woodlands are under a Woodland Grant Scheme with management plans in place.

Assessment

Table 11: Assessment of PS2	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Could affect bat roosts, particularly through demolition of existing buildings, but mitigation likely to be achievable. Dormice could be affected through habitat fragmentation, particularly severing of hedgerows for access, but careful design and adequate new habitat creation could improve connectivity for this species, which is particularly vulnerable to habitat isolation. Increased cat predation could have an effect on local populations of this species and would need to be offset through habitat enhancements to increase the carrying capacity of the area.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to avoid them (any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to avoid them (any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Potentially compatible**. This would be subject to careful layout of development to avoid them (any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Potentially compatible.** Development within the site is liable to put increased indirect pressure on any SINCs that are accessible as a result of the layout, but it is certainly possible through design to seek to avoid this, by ensuring adequate buffers between SINCs and other site uses and the provision of additional natural green space as an alternative focus for recreational activities.

	Zoning and active management of recreation are other potential forms of mitigation that would need to be explored.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. As above.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to avoiding development of barriers between woodland.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Would need to avoid development, including creation of roads, between SINCs and through hedgerows. Avoiding the latter is likely to be very difficult, however it this could be minimised this by ensuring access through areas of species-poor hedge.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Potentially compatible**. Depending on the extent of development, could result in the loss of areas of importance for rare arable flora, in which case it is considered that compatibility would be uncertain and further investigation of the scope for mitigation and compensation would be required. Residential development is liable to introduce cat predation pressures that would require adequate mitigation and potentially compensation through off-site measures.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Scope to increase lowland mixed deciduous woodland.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Compatible**. Subject to protecting areas of importance for rare arable flora, these could be enhanced. Also scope to improve and create other habitats as part of an integrated approach to open space and landscape design.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to satisfactory retention of existing features of biodiversity importance and continued arable farming of areas of importance for rare arable flora.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to satisfactory retention of existing features of biodiversity importance including areas of importance for rare arable flora.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible.** Subject to adequate avoidance and mitigation of impacts on existing biodiversity assets and significant habitat improvements.

Commentary

Main constraints are the ancient woodland SINCs and areas of importance for rare arable flora. There are also likely to be indirect impacts on habitats and species due to the introduction of new houses and cat predation pressures. However, there are also significant opportunities for improving habitat linkages between existing woodlands

through the creation of new woodland and improved management of areas of importance for rare arable flora, subject to farming of these areas remaining viable. If development within the areas of importance for arable flora is considered, then further work to assess the scope for mitigation and compensation will be required.

4.3 PS3 – North of Popley Fields

Description of Area

Size: 25.5ha

The area comprises arable farmland with a small water course that runs through the middle of the site in a northerly and then north-westerly direction. There are several trees within the site, but little other vegetation of significance.

To the north and northwest, is Basing Forest, a relatively large area of woodland, which is of ancient origin, although many parts of it have been planted with conifers. To the east is existing housing, to the southeast through to the southwest is new housing development and, to the west, improved grassland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs that are wholly or partly within the area. There are eleven SINCs wholly or partly within the 400 m zone. SINCs are shown in Figure 5 and listed in Table 12.

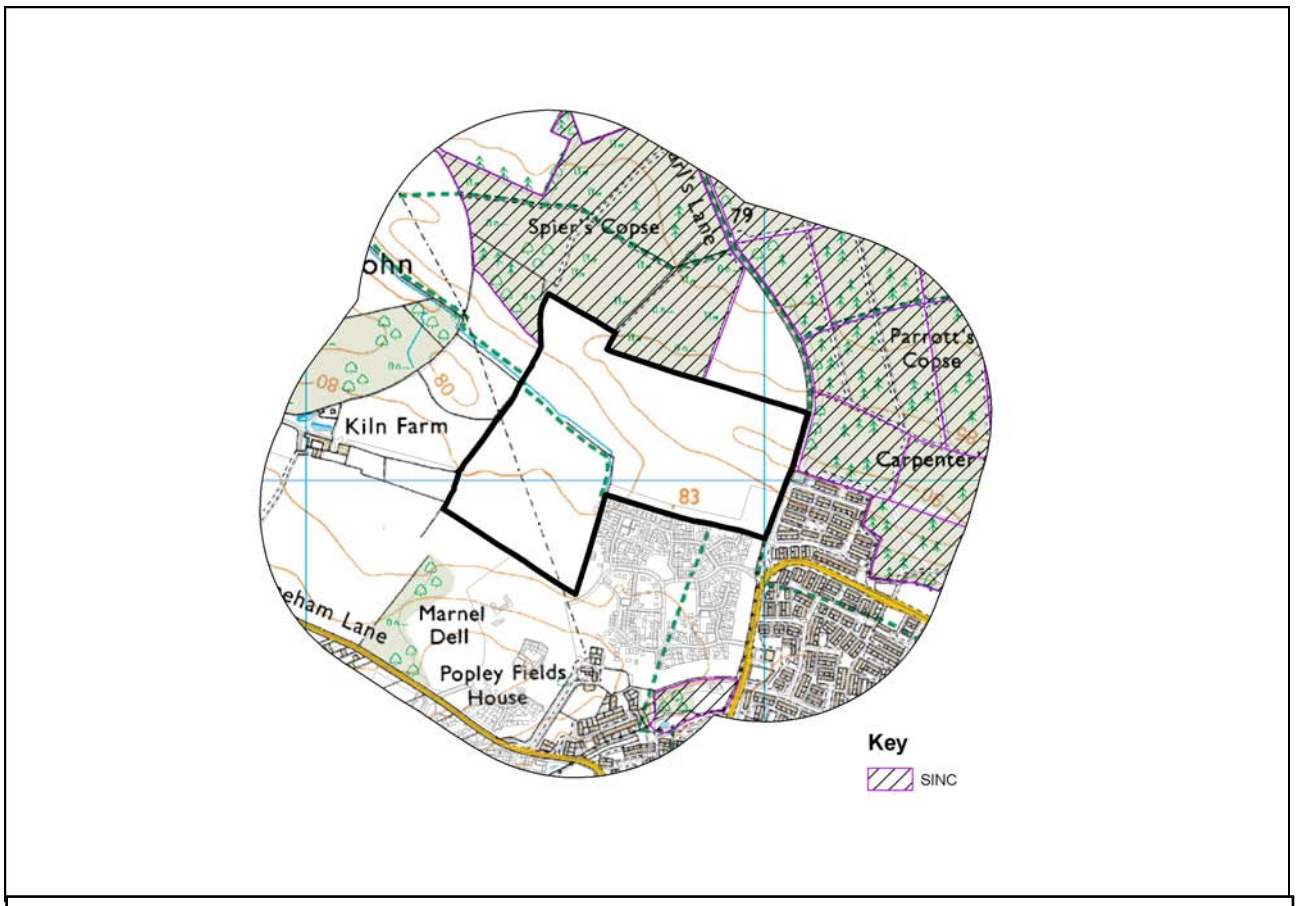

Figure 5: Showing SINCs

Table 12: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0555	BASING FOREST 2: BARN COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0556	BASING FOREST 10: UPPER PARROTT'S COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0559	BASING FOREST 5:GREAT GERMAN'S & PARROTT'S COPSES	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0571	BASING FOREST 1: CARPENTERS DOWN WOOD 'SOUTH'	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining
BD0553	BASING FOREST 17: MARLS COPSE	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining
BD0572	BASING FOREST 7: SCOURS PLANTATION	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0565	BASING FOREST 3: CARPENTERS DOWN WOOD (NW)	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0552	BASING FOREST 9: SEVEN ACRE PIECE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving

BD0566	BASING FOREST 6: UPPER PLANTATION	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining
BD0540	SPIER'S COPSE	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining
BD0545	POPLEY POND	6A	Supports one or more notable species (Great Crested Newts)

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds and water course
- Hedgerows

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

There are hedgerows around the perimeter of the area. There are also some areas of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland outside of the site, but within the 400m zone that do not qualify as SINCs. There are newly-created ponds within the area and also existing ponds within the 400m zone at Kiln Farm.

Habitat Connectivity

Parts of the site are likely to be important to the movement of great crested newts between breeding ponds, foraging areas and hibernation sites. In addition to conserving a population centred around Popley Ponds, this may also be important in maintaining meta populations over a wider area. A small watercourse running through the middle of the site, eventually flows into the Vyne Stream.

Species Constraints

The area is near to Popley Ponds which supports a significant population of great crested newts. Extensive work has already been carried out to mitigate the impacts of the Marnell Park development on this species and monitoring work indicates that this has been successful [19]. This area contains mitigation features installed as part of this project, including ponds and terrestrial habitat in the form of tree and shrub planting. In addition, the arable farmland is likely to be providing foraging habitat for this species, even though it is not its optimal habitat type.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Additional woodland planting would provide a richer foraging habitat for Great Crested Newts than arable farmland.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The most important land management in terms of great crested newts is the habitat management of the ponds, corridors and tree and shrub planting that has been put in place for this species as well as the management of the Basing Forest SINCs (currently managed by the Forestry Commission).

Land to the immediate west is currently under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement.

Assessment

Table 13: Assessment of PS3	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**No link**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Potentially compatible**. Further assessment of impacts on great crested newts would be required, including the consideration of possible development layouts.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are no SINCs or LNRs within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to incorporate these features. Any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. There are no ancient semi-natural woodlands within the area boundary.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Potentially compatible.** Additional housing is liable to increase recreational pressure on the Basing Forest SINCs. These are already subject to anti-social behaviour problems including the lighting of fires and joy riding. Options to address these pressures might include incorporation of landscape buffers next to the SINCs and partnership working with the Forestry Commission to manage recreation within the woodlands.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. See above.

Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. Subject to adequate protection of the water course running through the site, with adequate buffering and sustainable drainage to protect the flow regime and water quality.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Would need to incorporate corridors to facilitate the movement of Great Crested Newts.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Compatible**. It is anticipated that impacts on other species could be satisfactorily mitigated, if necessary through off-site compensation measures—for example financial contributions to farmland bird conservation projects.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. The size of the area is such that there would be limited opportunities to accommodate development and new habitat of sufficient size to make a significant contribution to these targets. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Potentially compatible**. Depending on extent of site developed, there is potential to enhance habitat for Great Crested Newts. In addition, small-scale local improvements such as wildlife-friendly landscaping could be incorporated into new development. The existing resource of the Basing Forest SINCs offers good opportunities for residents to have access to wildlife and natural surroundings. However, the appropriateness of this will depend on successful management of access and any additional anti-social behaviour resulting from the development.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Compatible**. Through appropriate S106 contributions, development could help to secure appropriate forms of habitat management for any new habitat features.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to above comments on indirect impacts and habitat fragmentation.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to above comments on indirect impacts and habitat fragmentation and incorporation of habitat features within the design.

Commentary

The main issues, if considering this area further for development, will be the impact on the great crested newt populations and the scope for further mitigation. Consideration will also need to be given to the indirect impacts on the nearby Basing Forest SINCs through the generation of additional recreational pressure.

4.4 PS4 - Razors Farm, Chineham

Description of Area

Size: 20ha

The site is an area of improved grassland, containing the farmstead of Razor's Farm. It is bounded by hedgerow and mature trees and contains two ancient woodland belts. It is bounded to the south by a strong woodland belt, beyond which is a business park, to the east, by a railway line, beyond which is land allocated for housing as part of the Taylor's Farm development. To the north and west is arable farmland and abutting the southwest corner is Long Swains Row, an ancient woodland copse.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There is one SINC that is within the area, comprising two ancient woodland belts. A further six SINCs are wholly or partly within the 400 m zone. SINCs are show in Figure 6 and listed in Tables 14 and 15.

Table 14: SINCs wholly or partly within area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0613	Razor's Farm woodland strips	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

Table 15: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area (not inc. above)

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0636	PETTY'S COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0591	GALLARIES & GALLARY PIGHTLE COPSES	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0620	BAKER'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

BD0627	CUFADE LANE COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0621	LITTLE BAKER'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0596	LONG SWAINS ROW	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

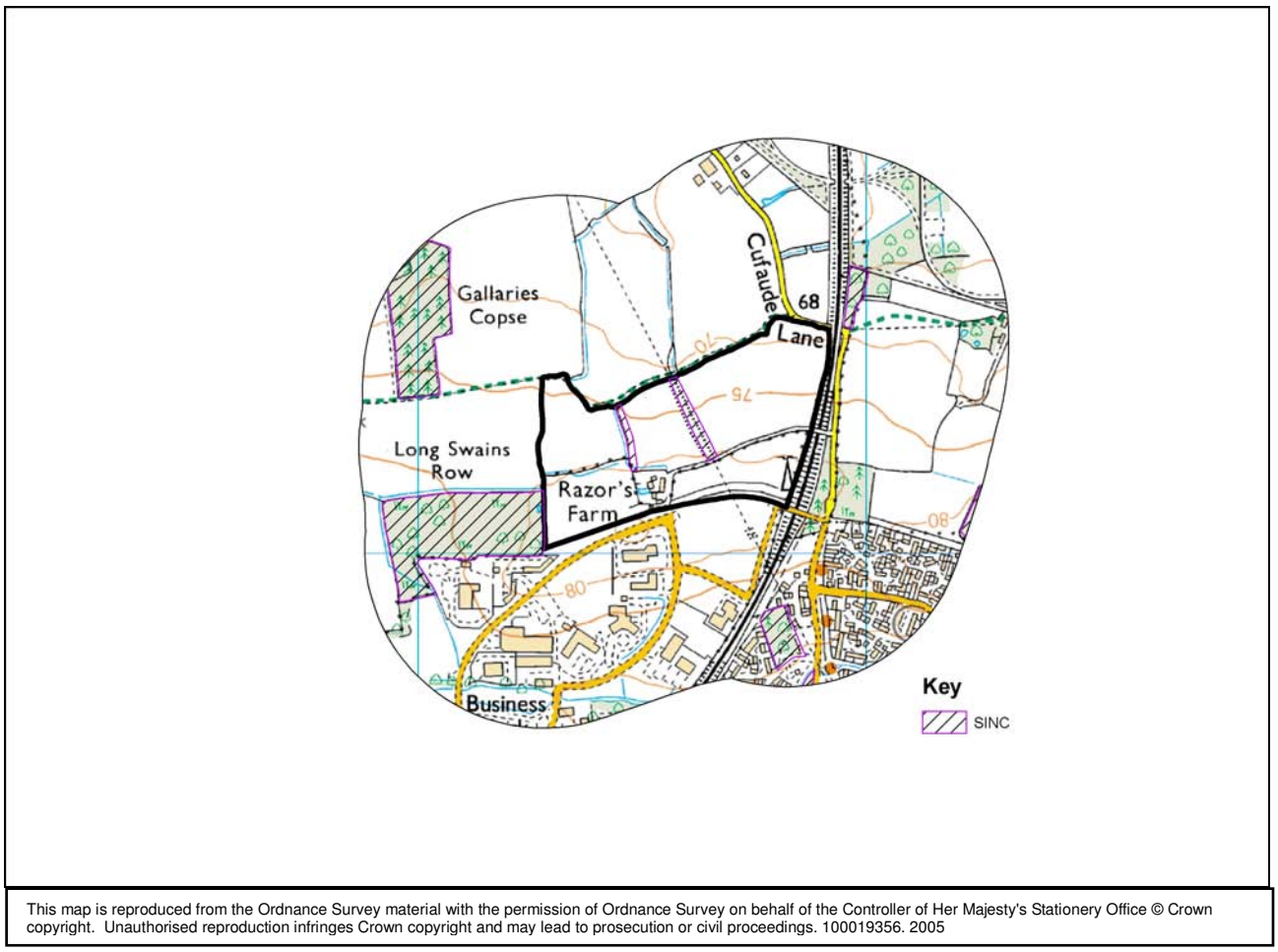

Figure 6: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerows
- Ponds

Other features of biodiversity significance:

The area contains small water courses that drain to the Bow Brook.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

There are hedgerows and ponds, plus some small areas of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland to the northeast of site, mostly on the other side of the railway line.

Habitat Connectivity

There is excellent connectivity of hedgerows and woodlands, and the adjacent railway embankment also provides good semi-natural habitat connectivity between the site and surrounding countryside. There are smaller water courses within the area, which feed into the Bow Brook and eventually, the River Loddon.

Species Constraints

There is significant potential for dormice in the woodland and hedgerow network and there is good potential for bats foraging and roosting in farm buildings and mature trees. There is some potential for great crested newts, given the presence of several ponds that could be breeding sites.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Ponds within the area are currently of low biodiversity value and could be significantly enhanced.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The grassland is agriculturally improved resulting in low diversity. Successful conservation of the hedges will depend on appropriate management. The ponds have suffered due to lack of management and the natural process of succession.

Assessment

Table 16: Assessment of PS4	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site .
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**No link**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural	**Potentially compatible**. Could affect dormice. Careful design to retain hedgerows and woodlands would preserve their habitat and ability to move through the landscape, but there may be some effect from cat predation. Off-site compensation may be required to compensate for this. There is some potential for great crested newts being present, in which case, protection of ponds and the woodland and hedgerows would be important and mitigation would be essential.

range.	
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to incorporate these features. Any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. As above.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to incorporate these features. Any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Potentially compatible.** Housing is liable result in pressure on the SINCs/priority habits within the developed area and cat predation on wildlife both within the developed area and adjacent habitats. The small size of the woodlands within the area would make them vulnerable to access pressure and anti-social behaviour, particularly the dumping of rubbish and garden waste. Adequate buffering and incorporation of sustainable drainage principles would be required to avoid negative impacts on the watercourses and potential downstream pollution impacts on the River Loddon.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. See above.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to incorporate these features. Any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Potentially compatible**. As above.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to careful design to retain the woodlands, hedgerows and ponds, the most important habitats for these species could be retained, but it is likely that there would be pressure from cat predation, particularly on birds.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. The size of the area is such that there would be limited opportunities for development and creation new habitat of sufficient size to make a significant contribution to these targets. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species;	**Potentially compatible**. There is scope to improve the pond habitats within the site, but the area already has a good network of woodland and hedgerow habitats and there is unlikely to be much scope for additional improvements in

providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	addition to accommodating development. Therefore, off-site contributions are likely to be the only way of securing improvements.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Compatibility uncertain**. Development may make normal hedgerow and woodland management difficult.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. The significant risks of indirect pressure on vulnerable ancient woodland belts would be a significant challenge to address.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible.** Enhancement of ponds is the main opportunity for enhancement, but an overall net gain would need to be achieved through contributions to off-site improvements.

Commentary

It is considered possible, subject to the layout and design, that development is possible without direct loss of important habitats. However, it is likely that there will be indirect impacts on habitats and species. It is possible that impacts on fauna could be off-set through on-site and off-site compensation measures to increase populations of these species and ensure that there is a positive improvement in the conservation status of these species. Indirect impacts on habitats and the flora they contain would need to be addressed through effective access restrictions. Additional off-site contributions would be needed to deliver a net gain in biodiversity. Early consideration should be given to the potential presence of dormice and great crested newts and surveys for these species are recommended.

4.5 PS5 – Cufaude Farm

Description of Area

Size: 28ha

The area comprises arable farmland and is subdivided by Cufaude Lane. Both parts are surrounded by hedgerows, with mature hedgerow trees in places. The main part of the site, to the south of Cufaude Lane, has a small watercourse running through the centre, south to north, which is joined in the centre by another water course that runs from the west. The main site contains farm buildings and to the immediate northeast (along Cufaude Lane) there are several houses. Slightly further to the northeast is Bramley Camp, an army training area, which comprises woodland and grassland of unknown quality and a network of tracks. To the east is more arable land, beyond which is a railway line. To the south is improved grassland and, to the west, more arable farmland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There no SINCs that are wholly or partly within the area. There are four SINCs wholly or partly within the 400 m zone. SINCs are shown in Figure 7 and listed in Table 17.

Table 17: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0591	GALLARIES & GALLARY PIGHTLE COPSES	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0613	Razor's Farm woodland strips	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0627	CUFADE LANE COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0596	LONG SWAINS ROW	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

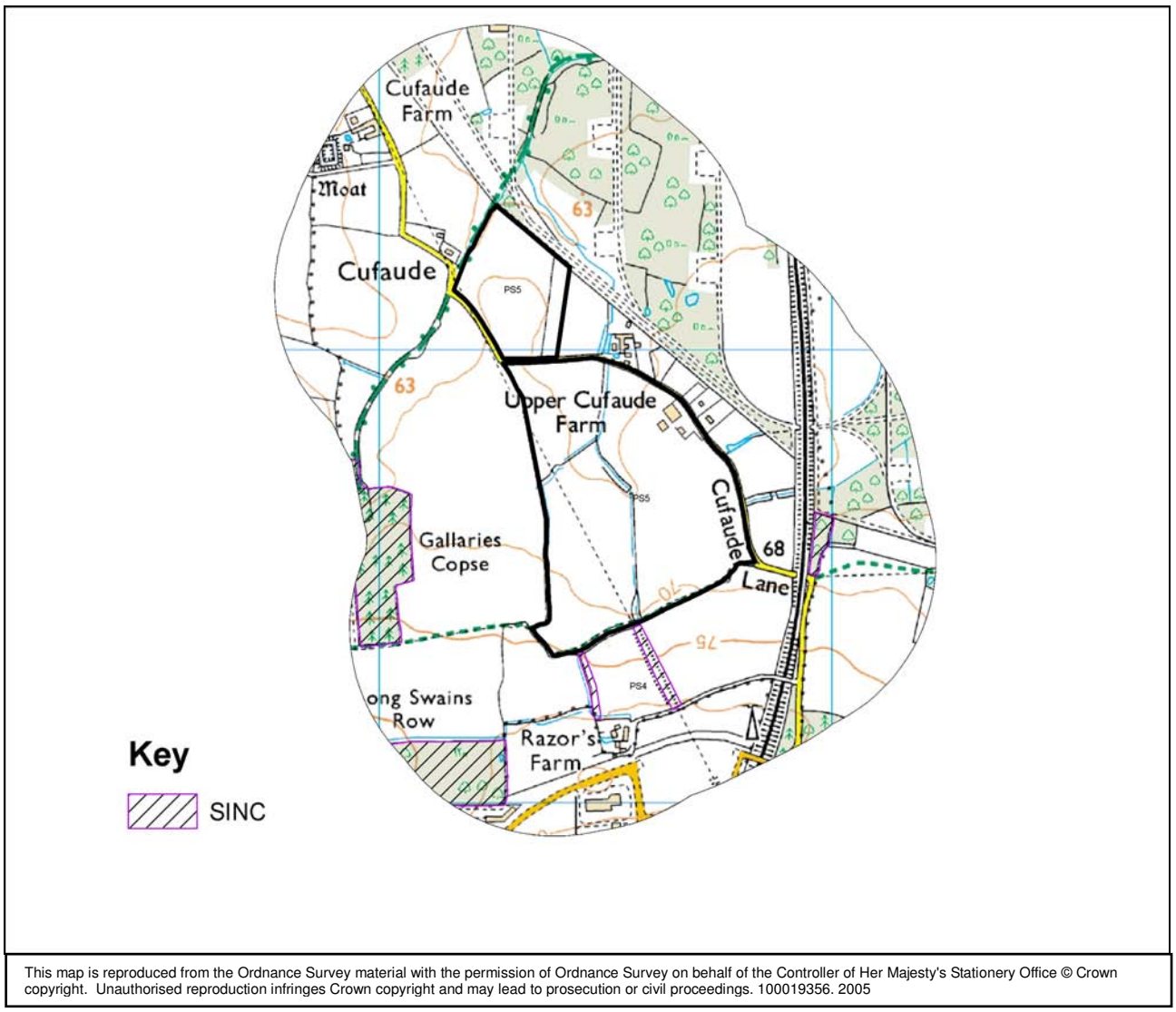

Figure 7: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds
- Hedgerows

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

Some small areas of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, especially within Bramley Camp, which have not been assessed for possible SINC status.

Other Features of Biodiversity Interest

The area contains small water courses that drain to the Bow Brook.

Habitat Connectivity

The area is important in providing for the continuity of hedgerow habitats around the perimeter and the water courses that run through it. These eventually feed into the Bow Brook and forms part of the River Loddon Catchment.

Species Constraints

The area has potential for dormice and is likely to provide foraging habitat for bats, especially foraging along hedgerows and potential roost sites in farm buildings and mature trees. Ponds may support great crested newts.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is some potential for the enhancement of water courses as part of a sustainable drainage system. There is also potential for the creation of new ponds and small-scale woodland and lowland meadow creation as part of open space provision.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The area is under arable farmland management.

Assessment

Table 18: Assessment of PS5	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site .
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Hedgerows may support dormice and farm buildings may support bat roosts, but it is likely that impacts could be satisfactorily mitigated.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to successfully integrating boundary hedgerows into layout design.

Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Likely to be compatible.** There is limited access to adjacent SINCs. Adequate buffering and incorporation of sustainable drainage principles would be required to avoid negative impacts on the watercourses and potential downstream pollution impacts on the River Loddon.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible.** See above.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. Subject to successful integration and protection of water courses within the layout, avoiding culverting.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Compatible**. Subject to protection of boundary hedgerows .
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to adequate mitigation and possible contributions to off-site biodiversity enhancements to off-set any negative impacts on local populations.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Very limited scope for creation of new woodland and lowland meadow. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to enhancement of watercourses and incorporation of other habitat features (see above).
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to creation of new habitats.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to adequate protection of watercourses and mitigation of impacts on species.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible.** Subject to incorporation of biodiversity enhancements as part of any development.

Commentary

Comparatively few constraints, subject to a layout that respects the few features of biodiversity interest within and around the area and subject to adequate mitigation of impacts on protected or priority species.

4.6 PS6 – South of Kempshott

Description of Area

Size: 28ha

The area is predominantly arable farmland containing a couple of small copses and a hedgerow with mature trees running east to west through the site. It is bounded by hedgerow and the A30 to the southeast, beyond which is a golf course, by a woodland belt to the north, beyond which is Old Down public open space and by a woodland belt to the west, beyond which is arable farmland. There is more arable farmland to the south.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are two SINCs that are wholly or partly within the area. A further five SINCs are wholly or partly within the 400 m zone. SINCs are show in Figure 8 and listed in Tables 20 and 21.

Table 20: SINCs wholly or partly within area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0461	BEECH BREAK - NORTH OF SAUNDERS LAND	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0453	BEECH BREAK - WEST OF SAUNDERS LAND	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving

Table 21: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area (not inc. above)

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	
BD0447	GREAT STUBBS COPSE & LITTLE STUBBS COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0484	LOWER BELT, HATCH WARREN	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

BD0439	GANDERDOWN COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0452	PEAK COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0431	SOUTH WOOD (NORTH & SOUTH)	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland / significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining

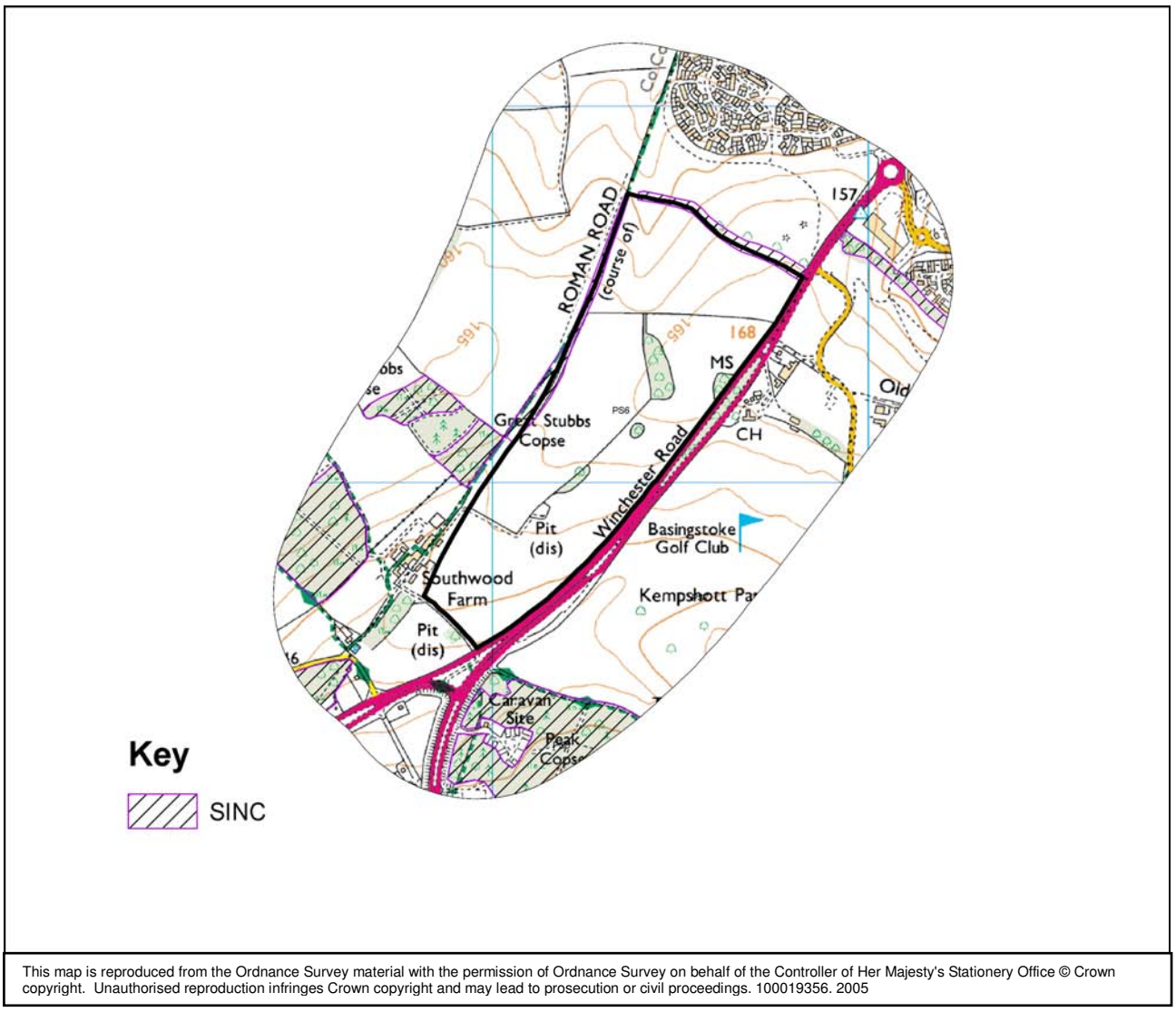

Figure 8: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland
- Hedgerows
- Pond

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

There are hedgerows and small fragments of lowland mixed deciduous woodland, plus a pond within the 400 m zone at Southwood Farm.

Habitat Connectivity

Surrounding woodland belts and hedgerows are important for woodland and hedgerow connectivity. The hedgerow through the site is of some importance for connectivity.

Species Constraints

Hedgerows and adjacent woodland may support dormice. Trees have the potential to support bats and the area has some value for foraging bats.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is good potential to expand and link the existing small woodland fragments.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The land is under arable farm management. The northern half of the area is currently under Entry Level Stewardship.

Assessment

Table 22: Assessment of PS6	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site .
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**No link**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. The risk of European protected species being affected is considered to be low.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. Subject to ensuring layout respects the two adjacent SINCs, which should be quite achievable without significant constraints to

	development layout.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Would be subject to careful layout of development to incorporate the small woodlands and hedgerow. Any such layout would need to allow for the full construction footprint and not just the design footprint of completed development.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. Subject to layout design to woodlands on periphery of area.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Potentially compatible**. Would need adequate landscape buffering of adjacent SINCs and control / management of access to these areas.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Housing is liable result in pressure on the small woodland fragments within the developed area and cat predation on wildlife is likely both within the developed area and adjacent habitats. The small size of the woodlands within the area would make them vulnerable to access pressure and anti-social behaviour, particularly the dumping of rubbish and garden waste.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. There are no such networks within the area.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to layout of development.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Potentially compatible**. May displace farmland birds. Cat predation on woodland and hedgerow fauna is likely. However, as habitat diversity within the site is currently rather poor, there is scope for new habitat enhancements to increase populations and offset any negative impacts.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Very limited opportunities for the creation of new lowland mixed deciduous woodland and small amount of lowland meadow as an amenity grassland area. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Compatible**. Good potential for locally-significant habitat enhancements, including offsite contributions to the improvement of biodiversity on Old Down, which is to the immediate northeast. The proximity to Old Down, which is public open space offers an existing resource, which would benefit from investment to improve its biodiversity.

Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Compatible**. Offers the potential to introduce more positive habitat management.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to layout and mitigation measures.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to incorporation of habitat enhancements.

Commentary

The site has relatively few constraints subject to a development layout that protects adjacent SINCs and incorporates woodland areas and hedgerow. There is likely to be some indirect pressure on wildlife and the woodlands within the site, but there is good scope to mitigate and compensate for these through habitat enhancements, careful layout design and the creation of new woodland areas to buffer and link the existing fragments.

4.7 PS7: Basingstoke Golf Course

Description of Area

Size: 46ha

The area is a formally landscaped golf course with a variety of ornamental trees (broadleaved and coniferous). The north-western edge is bounded by the A30, beyond which is arable farmland. To the northeast is open space; to the east is residential housing land; to the immediate south is the M3 Motorway; and to the southwest, is woodland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or within 400 m. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs that are wholly or partly within the area. There are six SINCs wholly or partly within the 400 m zone. However it is considered that four of these, Popley Pond, Maynard's Wood and Bank, and Wallin's Copse, are unlikely to be directly impacted due to barriers such as roads and existing housing. SINCs are shown in Figure 9 and listed in Table 23.

Table 23: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0461	BEECH BREAK - NORTH OF SAUNDERS LAND	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0439	GANDERDOWN COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0453	BEECH BREAK - WEST OF SAUNDERS LAND	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0484	LOWER BELT, HATCH WARREN	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0452	PEAK COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0474	KEMPSHOTT COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

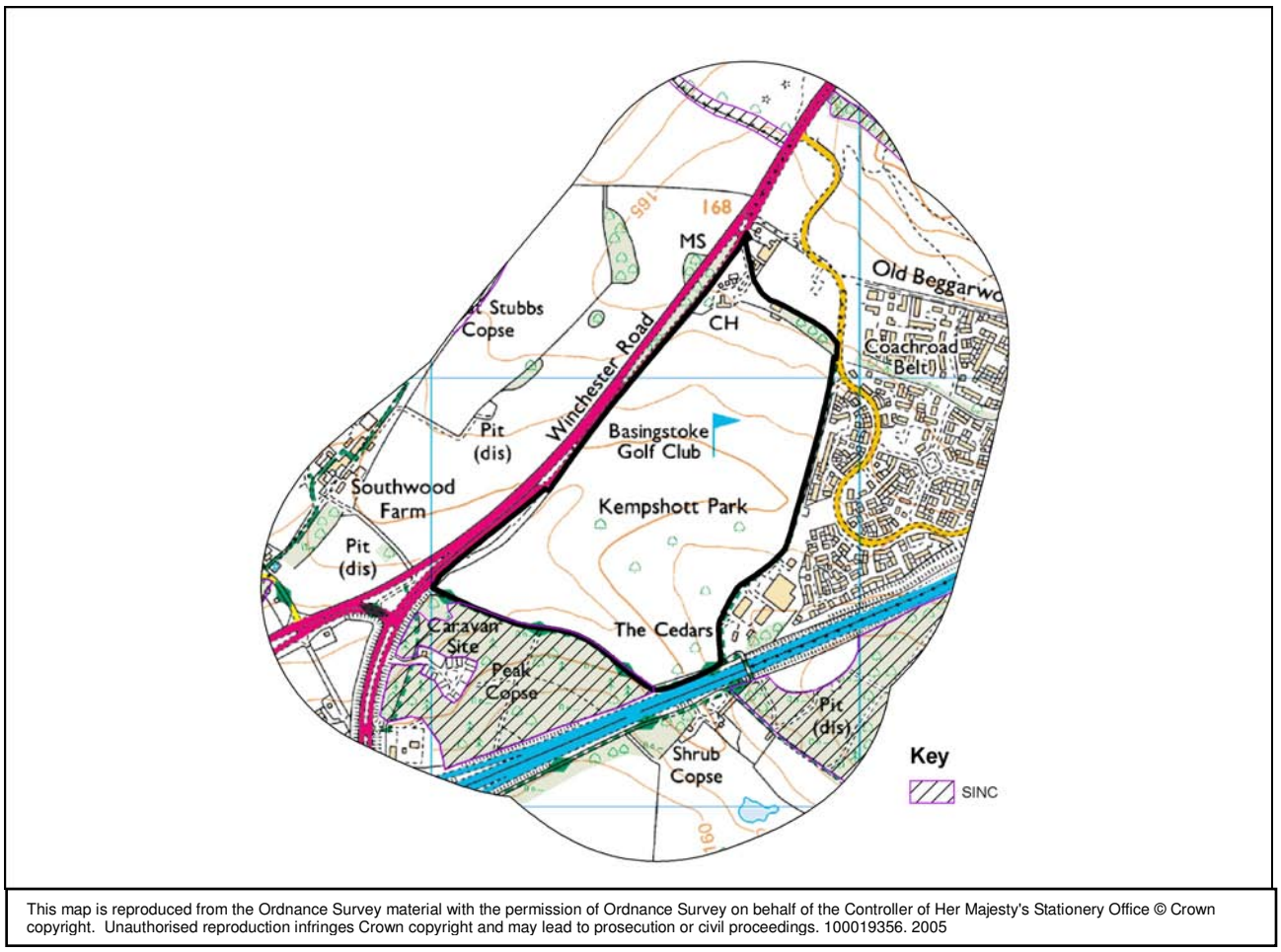

Figure 9: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerows

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

Some hedgerow within 400 m.

Habitat Connectivity

Negligible value in connecting wider landscape features

Species Constraints

Potential foraging habitat for bats, particularly around the fringes of the are.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Scope to improve links between Peak Copse and other woodland as well as additional woodland planting within the site. May also offer scope for small-scale species-rich grassland, depending on the nutrient status of the soil.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The area is subject to formal amenity management which is not particularly favourable to biodiversity.

Assessment

Table 23: Assessment of PS7	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to identification and incorporation of any significant bat roosts or satisfactory compensation for their loss.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Compatible**. Subject to successful protection of boundary woodland belts.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible.** There are none within the area.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to mitigating indirect pressure on the adjacent Peak Copse.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to protection and successful integration of boundary woodland habitats.

Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. There are no habitat linkages through the site of borough wide or greater significance.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Compatible**. Subject to the protection and successful integration of boundary woodland habitats.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to satisfactorily mitigating impact on the adjacent Peak Copse and boundary woodland habitats.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Scope for very small scale enhancements. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Compatible**. Scope to improve local habitat links and provide small-scale habitat improvements within the area.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Potentially compatible**. Linked to habitat improvements, introduction of specialist habitat management would be an improvement on formal golf course management.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to satisfactorily mitigating impact on the adjacent Peak Copse and boundary woodland habitats.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Potentially compatible**. Subject to satisfactorily mitigating impact on the adjacent Peak Copse and boundary woodland habitats and providing new habitat features as part of the new landscape within and around the developed area.

Commentary

Relatively unconstrained within the area, but the potential for indirect pressure on the adjacent Peak Copse SINC would need to be addressed through mitigation measures.

4.8 PS8 – Peak Copse

Description of Area

Size: 14.5ha

The area is almost entirely woodland comprising a plantation on an ancient woodland site. Despite the introduction of planted conifers, it retains significant ancient woodland features and is a good candidate for restoration. It contains a small area (approximately 1 ha) of hard standing within the western half of the woodland, with access to the adjacent main road. The area is bounded by the A30 to the north, beyond which is farmland, by the golf course area (PS7), to the northeast through to the east, by the M3 to the south, beyond which is another golf course and by the A30/M3 link road to the west, beyond which is farmland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m of the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

The majority of the area is a SINC, with the exception of the existing area of hard standing within the woodland and a small corner of the northern boundary. A further two woodland SINCs are wholly or partly within 400 m. SINCs are shown in Figure 10 and listed in Table 24.

Table 24: SINCS within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0439	GANDERDOWN COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0452	PEAK COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0474	KEPSHOTT COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

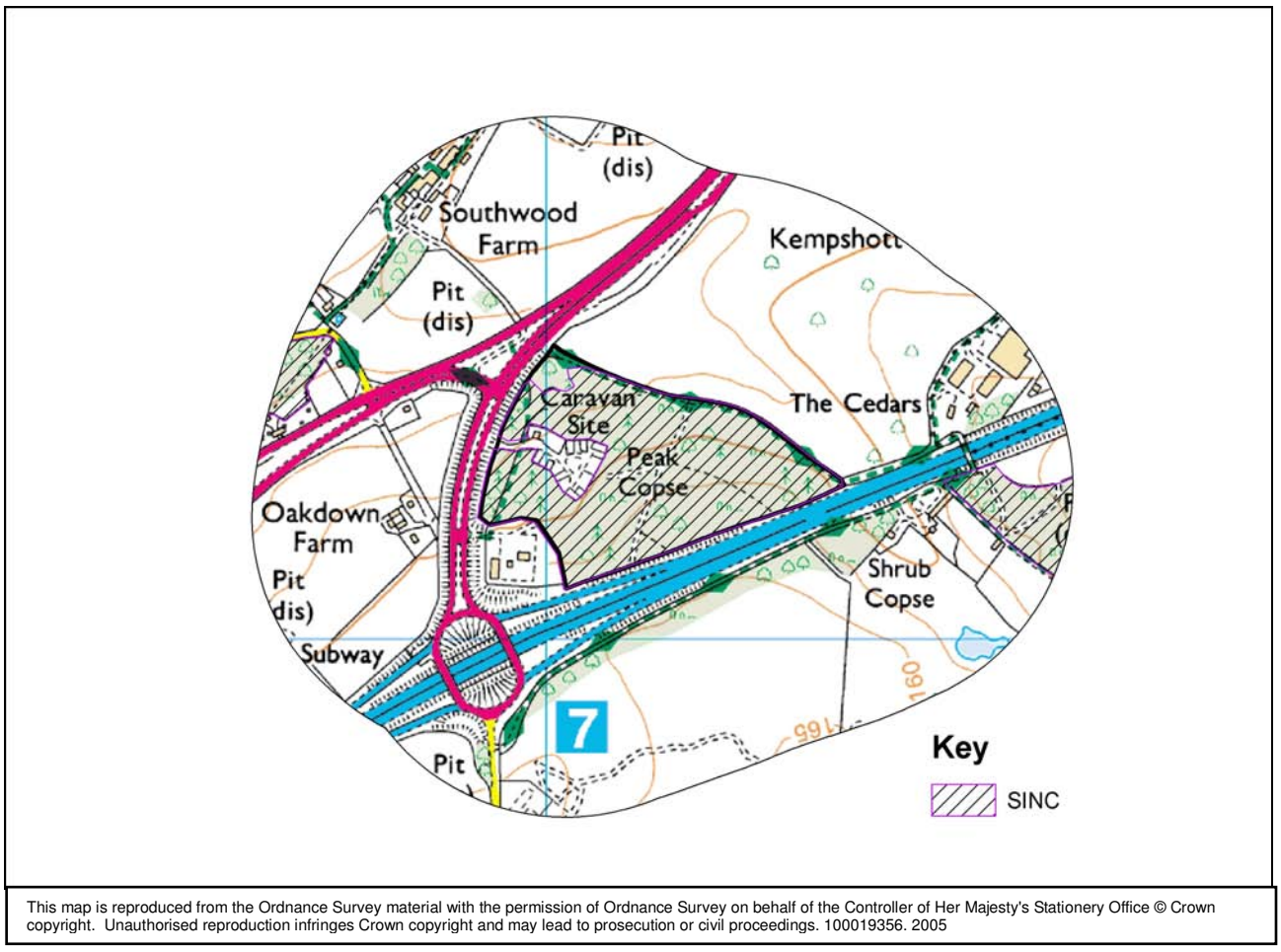

Figure 10: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds, but isolated by major roads

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds

Habitat Connectivity

There is some connectivity to woodland belts around adjacent golf course and along the M3 corridor, but the site is isolated from the surrounding countryside by major roads.

Species Constraints

There is some potential for dormice despite the isolated nature of the woodland, particularly in view of connectivity to the motorway woodland belts. Bats may also use the

woodland for roosting and foraging.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Excellent potential for restoration to native woodland.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Historically managed as a plantation, but still retaining significant elements of semi-natural woodland enabling natural woodland processes to occur. However, intervention through active woodland management is required for the woodland to achieve its full potential for biodiversity.

Assessment

Table 25: Assessment of PS8	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Compatibility Uncertain**. Could impact on dormice, in which case the loss of such a significant area of habitat would be difficult to compensate for and if this species is affected, the tests of there being no satisfactory alternative and an overriding public interest in developing this particular area would need to be satisfied. Bats may also be impacted. Mitigation for impacts on bats is likely to be more feasible but the other two tests would need to be met before disturbing or destroying the roost of any bat species.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Incompatible**. Would destroy a SINC.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Incompatible**. Would destroy a sizable area of lowland mixed broadleaved woodland of a type that could not be recreated.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Incompatible**. Would destroy an woodland that still contains significant ancient woodland features.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Incompatible.** Unlikely to cause indirect impacts on other SINCs within the vicinity due to their isolation by major roads, but significant levels of development within the area would be liable to cause the deterioration of any parts of the woodland that are retained.

Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Likely to be Compatible.** There may be some indirect impacts on adjacent belts of woodland, but it is likely that these could be mitigated.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. The woodland does not form part of a coherent landscape scale network.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Incompatible**. The loss of the woodland would impact on locally significant networks of woodland and trees and would remove the woodland's value as a 'stepping stone' habitat for birds.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Compatibility Uncertain**. Loss of the woodland would remove an important area of habitat for a wide range of species, some of which may be protected and/or listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Incompatible**. Development would have a negative impact on the achievement of restoration targets for ancient and native woodland.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Incompatible**. See above.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Incompatible**. See above.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Incompatible**. Development within the area would constitute a significant loss of an irreplaceable type of habitat.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Incompatible**. See above.

Commentary

While the woodland undoubtedly lost some of its former biodiversity value through the planting of conifers, it still retains significant features of ancient woodland and is an excellent candidate for restoration to native cover to enhance its biodiversity value. Significant development would destroy an important habitat, which is designated as a SINC. Even some development within the woodland is liable to destroy its integrity and therefore it is considered to be incompatible with the biodiversity objectives of the assessment framework and the planning policies from which they are derived.

4.9 PS9 – Basing Fen

Description of Area

Size: 46ha

The site is predominantly fen and wet woodland and forms part of the River Loddon corridor. To the western edge of the site is an area of made-up ground, part of which appears to be used by scramble bikes and part of which is paddock which appears to be used primarily for keeping horses. It is bounded to the west, by the Basingstoke Ringroad, beyond which is residential land. To the north is an electricity substation, housing and a hospital. To the northeast is the continuation of the River Loddon corridor. The south-eastern edge is bounded by a lane, beyond which is open space.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m of the area, but Stanford End Mill and River Loddon SSSI occurs down river of the site and could potentially be affected by changes within this area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There is one SINC that is within, and covers most of, the area. A further six SINCs are wholly or partly within 400 m. SINCs are shown in Figure 11 and listed in Tables 26 and 27.

Table 26: SINCs wholly or partly within area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0623	BASING FEN & WOOD	1Cii/5B/6A	Semi-natural woodland comprising important community types of restricted distribution in the county (alder swamp woods); fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions; supports one or more notable species

Table 27: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of the area (not inc. above)			
SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0629	WALL NORTH OF BASING HOUSE	6A	Supports one or more notable species
BD0626	Crabtree Plantation	6A	Supports one or more notable species
BD0632	LITTLE BASING FIELDS	2D/6A	Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery; supports one or more notable species
BD0605	BLACKDAM	1Cii/5B	Semi-natural woodland comprising important community types of restricted distribution in the county (alder swamp woods); fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions
BD0602	MILL HEAD POND	5B	Fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions
BD0600	BLACK DAM ROUNDABOUT (RV:NS17)	6A/6C	Supports one or more notable species; support an outstanding assemblage of species

Figure 11: Showing SINC

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Fen
- Wet Woodland
- River
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Habitat Connectivity

Basing Fen and Wood SINC forms a key link as part of the River Loddon Corridor. This provides a landscape-scale habitat link of regional importance.

Species Constraints

The site is important for a wide range of priority species with records of Loddon lily, many notable bird species, historic records of Desmoulin's Whorl Snail, *Ashfordia granulata* (mollusc)[7], and good potential for bats, water voles and otters.

Other species of note include the nationally rare Daphne mezereum and there are historic records to suggest the site supports exceptional assemblages of invertebrates[7].

Habitat Enhancement Potential

The fen is currently neglected and deteriorating in habitat quality. Appropriate management is needed to conserve and restore its full potential biodiversity value.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The fen does not appear to be managed and natural ecological processes are resulting in loss of biodiversity as the open fen habitat naturally succeeds to wet woodland. While the latter is also an important habitat type, a mosaic of fen and wet woodland is needed to successfully conserve the biodiversity of the SINC. Land on made-up ground to the west of the area, outside of the SINC boundary, is managed primarily for equestrian use.

[7] Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (1995) Basingstoke – Old Basing Strategic Gap Ecological Survey

Assessment

Table 11: Assessment of PS9	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatibility uncertain**. Would depend on impact of development on water quality and flow regimes within the River Loddon.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Compatibility uncertain**. See above re potential effects. No direct potential for furthering the conservation or enhancement of a SSSI.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Compatibility uncertain**. The fen has the potential to support European protected species, including otter (as part of larger territories) and bats.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Incompatible**. Development, other than a very limited amount on the higher ground to the west would result in loss of an irreplaceable habitat.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Incompatible**. As above.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. There is no ancient woodland within the area.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Incompatible.** Even development outside of the SINC is likely to result in significant indirect pressures on the fen and the species it supports through recreational pressure and cat predation. It is uncertain whether impacts on hydrology and water quality due to polluted run-off could be satisfactorily dealt with.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Incompatible.** See above.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Incompatible**. Loss of the fen would have a very significant impact on the integrity of the River Loddon corridor as a landscape-scale habitat network.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Incompatible**. Any loss or deterioration in the fen resulting from development would cause further unacceptable fragmentation of habitat along the River Loddon corridor .
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the	**Incompatible**. Any loss of the fen would remove important and irreplaceable habitat for such species. Indirect pressures from adjacent development are liable to have a negative impact.

conservation of biodiversity in England	
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Incompatible**. Development of this area would contribute to further loss / deterioration of habitat.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Incompatible**. There would certainly be benefits to securing control over the fen to enable appropriate habitat management to take place, but it is not considered that these would outweigh harm from development even if only part of the area was to be developed.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Incompatible**. See above.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Incompatible**. There is a footpath through the fen, which provides access for walkers passing through the area. However, the type of heavy recreational use on a relatively small and sensitive site that would be expected from adjacent development is not considered to be appropriate.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Incompatible.** See above.

Commentary

This area is highly constrained as much of it is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and it contains sensitive wetland habitats and species that are rare within the borough and county and form part of an important wetland corridor along the River Loddon. As such, it is not considered appropriate for further consideration as a potential future development area.

4.10 PS10 – Land Adjacent to Weybrook Golf Course

Description of Area

Size: 1.8ha

A small triangular area of improved / amenity grassland with a farmhouse in the eastern corner, bounded by rows of trees along the north-western and north-eastern boundaries and a tree belt along the southern boundary, beyond which is residential land. The site is surrounded by golf course on its other sides.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or 400 m of it. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or 400 m of it.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within the area or within 400 m of it.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadow
- Hedgerows

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

None of the above priority habitats are within a designated site.

Habitat Connectivity

No habitats of significance for connectivity within the area, but a significant woodland belt (The Spinney) forms the southern boundary to it and there is a hedgerow that runs along the north west boundary.

Species Constraints

There is potential for bat roosts in the farmhouse.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Limited due to the small size of the site, but there is some scope for minor enhancements such as the erection of nest boxes and bat boxes.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

None of significance.

Assessment

Table 28: Assessment of PS10	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site .
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Farm building may support bat roosts, but it is likely that impacts could be satisfactorily mitigated.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to successfully protecting adjacent woodland belt and hedgerow.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend).	**Compatible.** Indirect impacts are considered to be unlikely due to lack of proximity to site.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats.	**Likely to be compatible**. There may be some indirect impacts through cat predation and possible access and anti-social behaviour such as dumping rubbish in the adjacent woodland belt, which would need to be addressed through layout design and mitigation measures.

Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance.	**Compatible**. There are no habitat linkages through the site of borough wide or greater significance.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats.	**Compatible**. Subject to successfully protecting adjacent woodland belt and hedgerow.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Likely to be compatible**. There may be some indirect impacts through disturbance and cat predation that may need to be offset through off-site habitat improvements to increase populations of the affected species.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Very limited scope to contribute to these targets. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Compatible**. Scope for locally significant improvements as part of open space and landscaping.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Compatible**. Very limited scope to contribute to management of features that are of major importance, but would not prejudice this objective hence assessed as compatible.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to adequate mitigation of impacts on protected and priority species.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible.** Subject to incorporation of some habitat enhancement and /or contributions to off-site improvements.

Commentary

Comparatively few constraints, subject to a layout that protects adjacent priority habitats and adequate mitigation of any impacts on protected or priority species.

4.11 PS11 – Land at Carpenter's Down

Description of Area

Size: 10.5ha

The area is predominantly amenity grassland. Carpenter's Down Woodland bounds the site to the north. There is industrial land to the east and residential land on the other sides.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or within 400 m. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or 400 m of it.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within the area. There are twelve SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m. Eight of these comprise part of Basing Forest. Four of the remaining SINCs, Popley Pond, Maynard's Wood & Bank, Long Copse, and Wallin's Copse are isolated by roads and other existing development to an extent whereby impacts from development of this site are not be anticipated. SINCs are shown in Figure 12 and listed in Table 29.

Table 29: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0571	BASING FOREST 1: CARPENTERS DOWN WOOD 'SOUTH'	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland; woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0555	BASING FOREST 2: BARN COPSE	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0565	BASING FOREST 3: CARPENTERS DOWN WOOD (NW)	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0577	BASING FOREST 4: CARPENTERS DOWN WOOD (NE)	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0586	CARPENTER'S DOWN WOOD (EAST)	1A/1B/6A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving; supports one or more notable species
BD0559	BASING FOREST 5:GREAT GERMAN'S & PARROTT'S COPSES	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving

BD0566	BASING FOREST 6: UPPER PLANTATION	1A/1B	Ancient semi-natural woodland; woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0572	BASING FOREST 7: SCOURS PLANTATION	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0601	LONG COPSE	1A/6A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; supports one or more notable species
BD0595	WALLIN'S COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0545	POPLEY POND	6A	Supports one or more notable species
BD0604	Maynard's Wood & Bank	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland

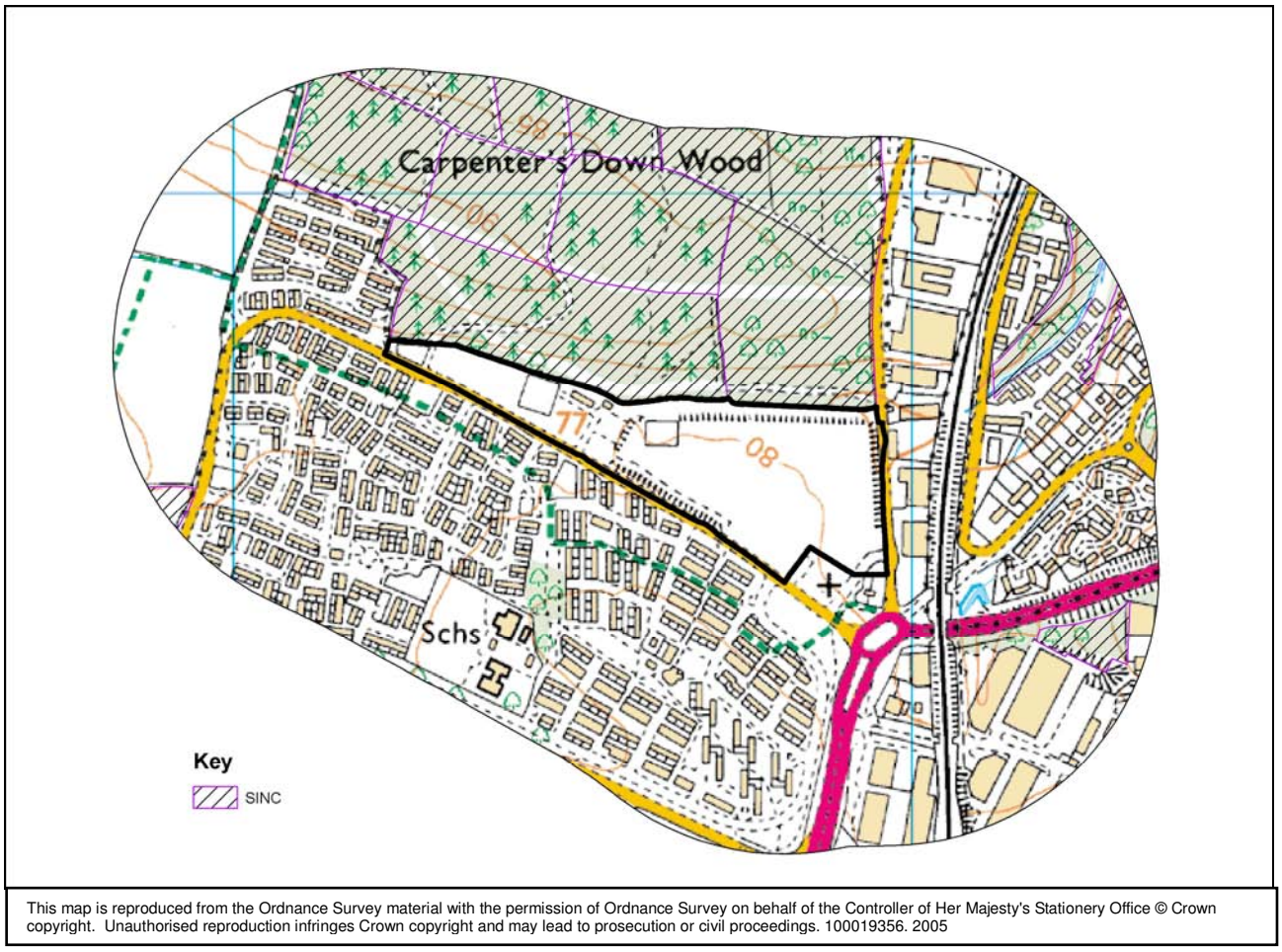

Figure 12: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

There is a small section of hedgerow within 400 m but this is isolated from the area by existing development.

Other features of biodiversity interest

There is amenity tree and shrub planting of some urban habitat value.

Habitat Connectivity

Negligible value in connecting wider landscape features.

Species Constraints

Bats are known to forage along the edge of the woodland and there is significant dormice potential in the adjacent woodland.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is potential for locally significant improvements, particularly along the edge of the woodland and through the incorporation of wildlife-friendly landscaping as part of a development scheme.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Most of the area is currently managed as amenity grassland, including sports pitches.

Assessment

Table 30: Assessment of PS11	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site.
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Foraging bats may be affected, but it is likely, subject mitigation, that detrimental effects on maintaining favourable conservation status can be avoided.

Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Compatible**. There are none within the area
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. There is no ancient semi-natural woodland within the area.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Likely to be compatible.** Subject to mitigation to address additional recreational pressure on the adjacent Basing Forest SINCs.
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible.** See above.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. There are no habitat linkages through the site of borough-wide or greater significance.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to maintaining bat commuting routes along the edge of adjacent woodland.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to mitigating impacts on adjacent Basing Forest SINCs.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Very limited scope within the area. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Potentially compatible**. There is scope for modest enhancements within the area, but good potential for off-site contributions to the adjacent woodland, subject to partnership with the Forestry Commission and addressing the potential negative impacts of development on this area.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Potentially compatible**. See above.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to mitigating impacts on adjacent Basing Forest SINCs.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Compatibility uncertain**. Will depend on the feasibility of contributing to enhancements within the adjacent woodland.

Commentary

Relatively unconstrained within the area, but the main issue will be the indirect impacts on the nearby Basing Forest SINCs through the generation of additional recreational pressure and impacts on bats foraging along the woodland edge. It is possible that both of these issues could be satisfactorily mitigated but the feasibility of this needs to be explored with the Forestry Commission who manage the site.

4.12 PS12 – Land North of Great Binfields School

Description of Area

Size: 0.6ha

An area comprises a small patch of vacant land within an existing urban area, but close to Great Binfields Copse. It is bounded by more vacant land to the north, some of which has recently been developed as an outdoor youth facility; beyond this is Great Binfields Copse. It is bounded to the east by an access road, beyond which are school grounds and by open space to the south, and a car park and shopping centre to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m of the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within the area but there are five SINCs within 400 m of it. SINCs are shown in Figure 13 and listed in Table 31.

Table 31: SINCS within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	
BD0633	PYOTT'S HILL COPSE (32A PYOTT'S HILL)	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0616	GREAT BINFIELDS COPSE (NW)	1B	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving
BD0628	DANESHILL DRIVE COPSE	1A	Ancient semi-natural woodland
BD0624	GREAT BINFIELD COPSE	1B/6A/7A	Woodland with a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving; supports one or more notable species; community woodland value
BD0619	DANESHILL PARK WOODS	1A/7A	Ancient semi-natural woodland; community woodland value

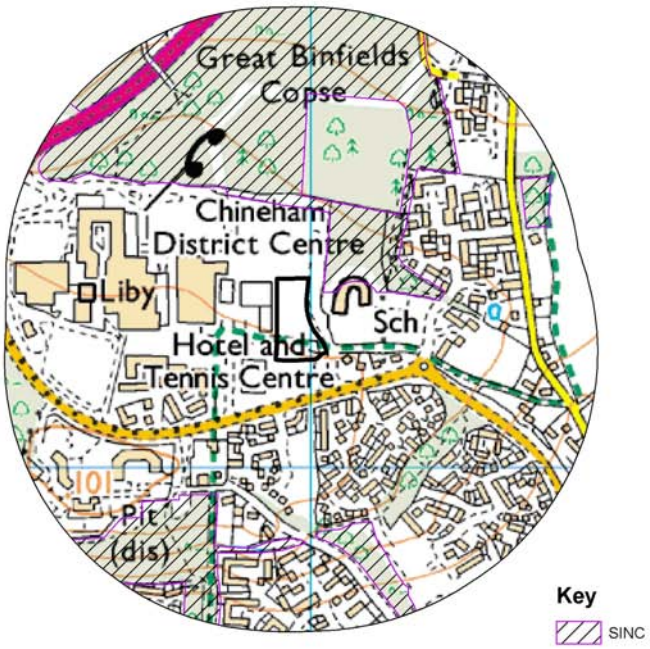

Figure 13: Showing SINCs

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds

Habitat Connectivity

A woodland belt within the southern half of the area is connected to adjacent woodland belts, but these are isolated by roads. However they will form useful 'stepping stone' habitats within the local urban context.

Species Constraints

The woodland belts may provide important foraging habitats for bats.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is scope for small-scale habitat enhancements as part of a development layout.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Woodland belts are managed as thickets by the local authority. The vacant land is undergoing a natural succession from grassland and, unmanaged, would develop into scrub and eventually, woodland.

Assessment

Table 32: Assessment of PS12	
Criteria	**Assessment**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site .
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. It is likely that any impact on bats could be successfully mitigated, subject to careful protection and integration of the woodland belt and adjacent shallow vegetated depression within the southern part of the area.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to careful protection and integration of the woodland belt within the southern part of the area, with provision of an adequate buffer between this and the construction footprint.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. There are none within the area .
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Likely to be compatible**. May generate additional recreation pressure on Great Binfields Copse, but the level of housing that could be accommodated in this relatively small area would be negligible compared to existing pressures on the woodland from surrounding houses and the area of housing within Great Binfields Copse.

Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to careful design to avoid impacts on adjacent linked woodland belts.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. There are no habitat networks of landscape-scale significance within the area.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to careful protection and integration of the woodland belt within the southern part of the area.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to mitigation measures, protection of the woodland belt and shallow depression in the southern part of the area.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. The area is too small to accommodate development and significant areas of new habitat. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Compatible**. The area could accommodate small-scale local enhancements, particularly in the vicinity of the tree belt.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Compatible**. Limited opportunities but development would not prejudice this objective hence assessed as compatible.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to protection of existing features as identified above.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible.** Scope for a modest contribution within the area and for off-site contributions to the improvement of Great Binfields Copse.

Commentary

Relatively unconstrained other than for the natural features within the southern part of the area, which would need to be retained and enhanced as part of any development proposal.

4.13 PS13 – West Lane Farm

Description of Area

Size: 51ha

The area comprises arable farmland, containing and bounded by gappy hedgerows. A belt of trees runs through the site from northeast to southwest and it is bounded by another belt of trees along its southwest boundary. There are farm buildings within the area. It is bounded by Sherborne St. John to the north, Weybrook Golf Course to the north, and more arable farmland in other directions.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around it.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs either wholly or partly within the area. There is one SINCs within 400 m. This is shown in Figure 14 and listed in Table 33.

Table 33: SINCs wholly or partly within 400 m of area

SiteRef	SiteName	Criteria	Habitat Types
BD0506	SHERBORNE ST JOHN MEADOWS	2D/5B	Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery; Fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions

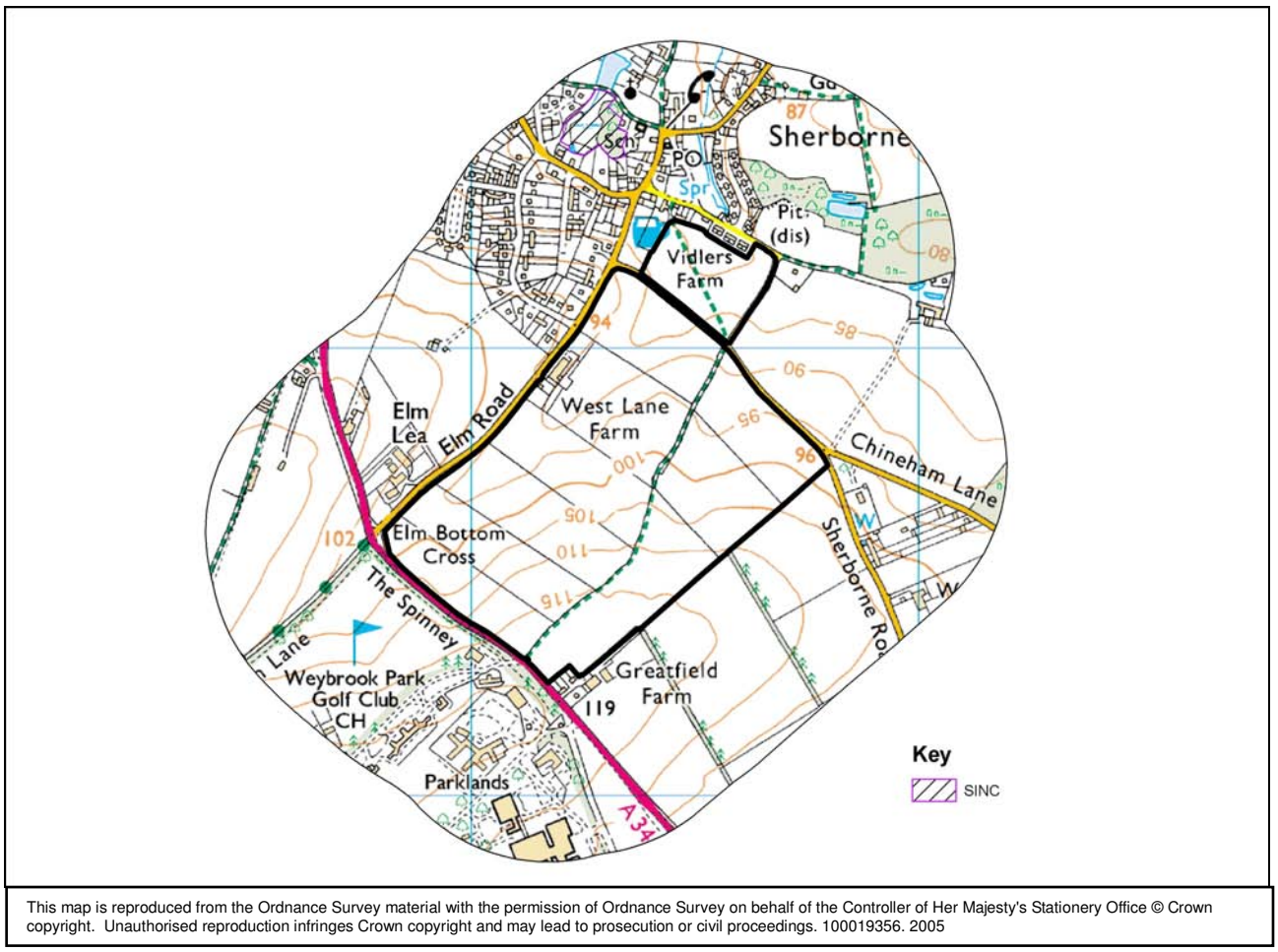

Figure 14: Showing SINC

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Within Area

The following priority habitat types occur within the area and its zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Ponds
- Hedgerows

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Designated Sites

There are hedgerows within and around the area and there are ponds at Kiln Farm and within adjacent woodland. There is also some lowland mixed deciduous woodland within the 400 m zone.

Habitat Connectivity

The area is of negligible value in connecting wider landscape features, although there are possible bat commuting routes along rows of trees.

Species Constraints

The area has some potential for bats, ie. roosting in farm buildings, but the area offers relatively poor foraging habitat.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is scope for the reinforcement of the hedgerow network through new planting and the improvement of existing ones. There is also potential for some small-scale woodland planting, creation of Lowland Meadow and new ponds as part of the open space provision.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Most of the area is under Entry Level Stewardship.

Assessment

Table 34: Assessment of PS13

Criteria	Assessment
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**Likely to be compatible**. Likely to be met as outside of the 5km zone for the Thames Basin Heaths.
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**Compatible**. There are no SSSIs likely to be affected by development of this site .
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**Not linked**. See above.
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**Likely to be compatible**. Farm buildings may support bat roosts, but it is likely that impacts could be satisfactorily mitigated.
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to successfully integrating hedgerows into layout design.
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	**Compatible**. There are none within the area.
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend)	**Compatible.** Indirect impacts are considered to be unlikely due to lack of proximity to site or isolation by existing development.

Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats	**Likely to be compatible**. There may be some indirect impacts through cat predation but there is scope to mitigate this through habitat enhancement to increase populations and subsequent resilience.
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance	**Compatible**. There are no habitat linkages through the site of borough wide or greater significance.
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats	**Compatible**. Subject to successfully integrating hedgerows into layout design.
Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England	**Likely to be compatible**. There may be some indirect impacts through cat predation but there is scope to mitigate this through habitat enhancement to increase populations and subsequent resilience.
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**Compatible**. Very limited scope to contribute to these targets. However, development would not compromise opportunities to contribute to these targets, hence assessed as compatible.
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**Compatible**. Scope for locally significant improvements as part of open space and landscaping.
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**Compatible**. Very limited scope to contribute to management of features that are of major importance, but would not prejudice this objective hence assessed as compatible.
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible**. Subject to adequate mitigation of impacts on protected and priority species.
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**Likely to be compatible.** Subject to incorporation of some habitat enhancement and /or contributions to off-site improvements.

Commentary

Comparatively few constraints, subject to a layout that respects the few features of biodiversity interest within and around the area, and adequate mitigation of any impacts on protected or priority species.

5. Results, Conclusions and Recommendations

A summary of the assessment findings are shown in Table 35. In order to allow a simple comparison between them, each potential future development area has been ranked as follows:

1 - Relatively few constraints. There may be biodiversity issues to be addressed, but it is anticipated that these can be satisfactorily addressed through detailed site planning and established ecological mitigation practices.

2 - Some constraints such as presence of a SINC, priority habitat, within the area and, there may be a priority/protected species constraint, or adjacent habitats that may suffer from indirect pressure. Layouts will need to successfully integrate any SINCs or priority habitats, accommodate species requirements, and seek to mitigate indirect effects.

3 - Development likely to be possible in parts of the area, but significant parts are constrained and/or there is a significant risk of indirect impacts on adjacent habitats or on priority species. Off-site compensation may be needed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity.

4 - Development may be feasible while meeting the biodiversity criteria, but there are important biodiversity interests within the zone of influence that are particularly sensitive to the types of impact arising from development. Further assessment is needed based on additional information about potential development scenarios, the subsequent nature and magnitude of impacts, and the capacity of the biodiversity interests to tolerate them.

5 - Strategic development allocation is considered to be incompatible with biodiversity objectives and the policies from which they are derived.

Table 36, shows how the potential future development areas have been ranked in accordance with the above scheme.

Table 35: Summary findings from assessment of potential future development areas													
Criteria	**PS1**	**PS2**	**PS3**	**PS4**	**PS5**	**PS6**	**PS7**	**PS8**	**PS9**	**PS10**	**PS11**	**PS12**	**PS13**
Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site.	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**
Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	**CU**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**CU**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**
If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated.	**CU**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**	**CU**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**	**NL**
Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding pubic interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.	**LBC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**CU**	**CU**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**
Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs.	**PC**	**PC**	**C**	**PC**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**I**	**I**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**
Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats.	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**C**	**I**	**I**	**LBC**	**C**	**LBC**	**LBC**
Avoids loss of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.	**PC**	**PC**	**C**	**PC**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**I**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**
Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, predation from cats, run-off, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend).	**CU**	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**PC**	**I**	**I**	**C**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**C**
Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats.	**CU**	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**I**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**
Avoids severing a landscape-scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance.	**PC**	**PC**	**C**	**PC**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**I**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**
Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats.	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**C**	**PC**	**C**	**I**	**I**	**C**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**C**

Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	**PC**	**PC**	**C**	**PC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**PC**	**CU**	**I**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**
Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	**PC**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**I**	**I**	**C**	**C**	**C**	**C**
Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance.	**PC**	**C**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**C**	**C**	**I**	**I**	**C**	**PC**	**C**	**C**
Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	**PC**	**PC**	**C**	**CU**	**LBC**	**C**	**PC**	**I**	**I**	**C**	**PC**	**C**	**C**
Avoids a net loss in biodiversity.	**CU**	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**PC**	**I**	**I**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**	**LBC**
Contributes to a net gain in biodiversity.	**CU**	**PC**	**PC**	**PC**	**LBC**	**PC**	**PC**	**I**	**I**	**LBC**	**CU**	**LBC**	**LBC**

C - Compatible
NL – No link
LBC – Likely to be compatible
PC – Potentially compatible
CU – Compatibility uncertain
I - Incompatible

Table 36: Overall Assessment		
AREA	**REF**	**Implications for Development**
Basingstoke Golf Course	PS7	1
Land adj to Weybrook Golf Course	PS10	1
Cufaude Farm	PS5	1
West Lane Farm	PS13	1
Land North of Great Binfields School	PS12	2
Land at Carpenters Down	PS11	2
N of Popley Fields	PS3	2
South of Kempshott	PS6	2
Razors Farm, Chineham	PS4	3
Land West of Basingstoke	PS2	3
Land East of Basingstoke	PS1	4
Basing Fen	PS9	5
Peak Copse	PS8	5

The above tables indicate that there are eight potential future development areas with relatively few or minor biodiversity constraints that could be addressed through careful development design.

A further two areas, Razors Farm and Land West of Basingstoke have potential to accommodate development, but there are significant implications that will limit the extent of the area that can be developed if existing biodiversity interests are to be protected. Off-site contributions may be required to achieve a net gain in biodiversity as well as to avoid a net loss. Subject to conservation of the existing rare arable plants interest and securing appropriate long-term management, the land to Land West of Basingstoke has significant potential for the enhancement of its arable flora interest. In addition, there is significant scope for expanding and linking existing woodlands, making an important contribution to biodiversity action plan targets.

Land East of Basingstoke may be able to accommodate development in compliance with biodiversity policies, but further assessment would be needed to determine this, taking into account possible development scenarios including the construction footprint of housing and supporting infrastructure such as roads and services. Based on possible development scenarios, assessments would be needed of the impact on hydrology and water quality as well as on the disturbance impacts on wildlife and the feasibility of satisfactorily mitigating these impacts. The valley floor of the River Loddon, even where historic wetland habitats have been lost or have become degraded offers significant potential for habitat restoration and creation so should be safeguarded from any development. In accordance with the relevant planning policies requiring development to contribute to a net gain in biodiversity, any development within this area would be expected to make a major contribution to the achievement of such habitat restoration and creation.

Two sites, Black Dam and Peak Copse are highly constrained by their existing biodiversity value and it is considered that taking these forward as potential future development areas would be wholly incompatible with the relevant biodiversity policies.

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Appendix 1: Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England

A list of habitats and species considered to be of principal importance in England for the purpose of conserving biodiversity has been published by the Secretary of State to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Its aim is to guide decision makers, including local authorities, in implementing their duty, under Section 40 of the same Act, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions.

Habitats

Habitats of Principal Importance are shown in the table below along with the broad habitat groups that they relate to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Habitats that are not locally relevant to this study have been excluded from the list.

Table 1: Habitats of Principal Importance	
Broad habitat	**Habitat of Principal Importance**
Arable and horticulture	Arable field margins
Boundary	Hedgerows
Freshwater	Eutrophic standing waters
Freshwater	Ponds
Freshwater	Rivers
Grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland
Grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland
Grassland	Lowland meadows
Grassland	Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
Heathland	Lowland heathland
Inland rock	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Wetland	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Wetland	Lowland fens
Wetland	Reedbeds
Woodland	Lowland beech and yew woodland
Woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Woodland	Wet woodland
Woodland	Wood-pasture and parkland

Species

There are 943 species of principal importance currently listed under S41 of the NERC Act. These include 10 amphibian/reptile species, 49 species of bird, 14 fish, 17 mammals, and 379 invertebrates. Many of these species do not occur within the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, or are listed in Appendix 2 (UK and Hampshire Priority Habitats and Species Relevant to Borough of Basingstoke and Deane). Therefore, the full list is not reproduced here, but it may be accessed at: http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/news/details.asp?X=45 . Species from the list that have been identified as being of particular relevance to the land use planning

sector[8] are shown in the table below.

Table 2: Species of Principal Importance of Particular Relevance to the Land Use Planning Sector	
Species	**Common Name**
Caprimulgus europaeus	Nightjar
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark
Arvicola terrestris	Water Vole
Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Soprano Pipistrelle
Plecotus auritus	Brown Long-eared Bat
Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	Greater Horseshoe Bat
Rhinolophus hipposideros	Lesser Horseshoe Bat
Anguis fragilis	Slow-worm
Lacerta vivipara	Common Lizard
Triturus cristatus	Great Crested Newt
Vipera berus	Adder
Cupido minimus	Small Blue
Erynnis tages	Dingy Skipper
Hipparchia semele	Grayling
Lucanus cervus	Stag Beetle
Pyrgus malvae	Grizzled Skipper

[8] DEFRA & Natural England Explanatory Note: http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/uploaded/files/s41%20list%20-%20explanatory%20note%20(final).doc

Appendix 2: UK and Hampshire Priority Habitats and Species Relevant to Borough of Basingstoke and Deane

The following table lists Key Borough Habitat types, from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's revised landscape and biodiversity strategy (in preparation) and the associated Hampshire and UK habitat action plans, where applicable.

Habitats

Table 1: Key Borough Habitat Types		
Key Borough Habitats	**Relevant Hampshire Habitat Action Plan**	**Relevant UK Habitat Action Plan**
Hedgerows	Hedgerows	Hedgerows
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Wood-Pasture & Parkland	Wood-Pasture and Parkland	Wood-Pasture & Parkland
Arable Field Margins	Arable Land	Arable Field Margins
Unimproved Neutral Grassland	Neutral Grassland	Lowland Meadows
Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Calcareous Grassland
Wet Grassland / Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Lowland Wet Grassland	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
Heathland/ Acid Grassland/Bog	Heathland/ Acid Grassland/Bog	Lowland Heathland; Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
Wetlands	Wetlands	Lowland Fens; Wet Woodland; Reedbeds
Ponds & Other Standing Open Water	Standing Open Water	Eutrophic Standing Waters; Ponds
Chalk Rivers	Chalk Streams	Rivers
Rivers and Streams	Rivers and Streams	Rivers
Basingstoke Canal	Canals	None
Species-Rich Road Verges & Roundabouts	None	None
Green Lanes	None	None

Species

The following table lists Hampshire and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species for the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane. Status notes are as follows:

HBAP – Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
UKBAP – UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
NERC_s41 – Species of Principal Importance in England (see Appendix 1)

Table 2: Priority Species Relevant to Borough of Basingstoke and Deane		
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Status**
Amphibians & Reptiles		
Anguis fragilis	Slow-worm	UKBAP NERC_s41
Bufo bufo	Common Toad	UKBAP NERC_s41

Natrix natrix	Grass Snake	UKBAP NERC_s41
Triturus cristatus	Great Crested Newt	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Vipera berus	Adder	UKBAP NERC_s41
Zootoca vivipara	Common Lizard	UKBAP NERC_s41
Birds		
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Reed Warbler	HBAP
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Anas strepera	Gadwall	HBAP
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit	UKBAP NERC_s41
Aythya ferina	Pochard	HBAP
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Burhinus oedicnemus	Stone-Curlew	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Calidris alpina	Dunlin	HBAP
Caprimulgus europaeus	Nightjar	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Carduelis cabaret	Lesser Redpoll	UKBAP NERC_s41
Carduelis cannabina	Linnet	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Cettia cetti	Cetti`s Warbler	HBAP
Circus cyaneus	Hen Harrier	HBAP NERC_s41
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	HBAP
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Coturnix coturnix	Quail	HBAP
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	UKBAP NERC_s41

Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	HBAP
Emberiza calandra	Corn bunting	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	UKBAP NERC_s41
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Falco columbarius	Merlin	HBAP
Falco subbuteo	Hobby	HBAP
Gallinago gallinago	Snipe	HBAP
Jynx torquilla	Wryneck	UKBAP
Lanius collurio	Red-Backed Shrike	UKBAP
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull	HBAP
Limosa limosa	Black-Tailed Godwit	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Locustella naevia	Common Grasshopper Warbler	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Lullula arborea	Woodlark	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Luscinia megarhynchos	Nightingale	HBAP
Mergus merganser	Goosander	HBAP
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	HBAP
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	HBAP
Motacilla flava subsp. flavissima	Yellow Wagtail	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	UKBAP NERC_s41
Panurus biarmicus	Bearded Tit	HBAP
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	UKBAP NERC_s41

Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Pernis apivorus	Honey Buzzard	HBAP
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler	UKBAP NERC_s41
Pluvialis apricaria	Golden Plover	HBAP
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover	HBAP
Poecile montanus	Willow Tit	UKBAP NERC_s41
Poecile palustris	Marsh Tit	UKBAP
Prunella modularis	Hedge Accentor	UKBAP NERC_s41
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Regulus ignicapilla	Firecrest	HBAP
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat	HBAP
Streptopelia turtur	Turtle Dove	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Sturnus vulgaris	Starling	UKBAP NERC_s41
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler	HBAP
Tringa totanus	Redshank	HBAP
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel	UKBAP NERC_s41
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Fish		
Lampetra planeri	Brook Lamprey	HBAP
Cottus gobio	Bullhead	HBAP
Salmo salar	Atlanic salmon	UKBAP
Thymallus thymallus	Grayling	HBAP
Higher plants (Clubmosses & Quillworts)		

Lycopodiella inundata	Marsh Clubmoss	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Higher plants (Conifers)		
Juniperus communis	Juniper	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Higher plants (Flowering Plants)		
Adonis annua	Pheasants-eye	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Ajuga chamaepitys	Ground-pine	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Althaea hirsuta	Rough Marsh-Mallow	HBAP
Althaea officinalis	Marsh-mallow	HBAP
Astragalus danicus	Purple Milk-vetch	UKBAP NERC_s41
Blysmus compressus	Flat-sedge	UKBAP NERC_s41
Briza minor	Lesser Quaking-grass	HBAP
Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Cephalanthera damasonium	White Helleborine	UKBAP NERC_s41
Cephalanthera longifolia	Narrow-leaved Helleborine	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Cerastium pumilum	Dwarf Mouse-ear	HBAP
Chamaemelum nobile	Chamomile	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Clinopodium acinos	Basil Thyme	UKBAP NERC_s41
Coeloglossum viride	Frog Orchid	UKBAP NERC_s41
Dactylorhiza traunsteineri	Narrow-leaved marsh-orchid	HBAP
Epipactis leptochila	Narrow-lipped Helleborine	HBAP
Epipactis phyllanthes	Green-Flowered Helleborine	HBAP
Euphorbia platyphyllos	Broad-Leaved Spurge	HBAP
Euphrasia anglica	Glandular Eyebright	UKBAP NERC_s41

Euphrasia pseudokerneri	Chalk Eyebright	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Galeopsis angustifolia	Red Hemp-nettle	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Galium parisiense	Wall Bedstraw	HBAP
Galium pumilum	Slender Bedstraw	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Gentianella campestris	Field Gentian	UKBAP NERC_s41
Gentianella germanica	Chiltern Gentian	HBAP
Gnaphalium sylvaticum	Heath Cudweed	HBAP
Helleborus foetidus	Stinking Hellebore	HBAP
Herminium monorchis	Musk orchid	HBAP UKBAP
Iberis amara	Wild Candytuft	HBAP UKBAP
Lathryrus aphaca	Yellow vetchling	HBAP
Leucojum aestivum	summer snowflake (Loddon lily)	HBAP
Lithospermum arvense	Field Gromwell	HBAP
Minuartia hybrida	Fine-leaved Sandwort	UKBAP HBAP
Monotropa hypopitys	Yellow Bird`s-nest	UKBAP NERC_s41
Oenanthe fistulosa	Tubular Water-dropwort	UKBAP NERC_s41
Oenanthe fluviatilis	River water-dropwort	HBAP
Ophrys insectifera	Fly Orchid	UKBAP NERC_s41
Orchis morio	Green-Winged Orchid	HBAP
Orchis ustulata	Burnt Orchid	UKBAP NERC_s41
Orobanche purpurea	Yarrow Broomrape	HBAP
Orobanche rapum-genistae	Greater Broomrape	HBAP
Platanthera bifolia	Lesser Butterfly-orchid	UKBAP NERC_s41
Polypogon monspeliensis	Annual Beard-grass	HBAP
Pulicaria vulgaris	Small Fleabane	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Pulmonaria longifolia	Narrow-leaved Lungwort	HBAP

Ranunculus arvensis	Corn Buttercup	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Ranunculus penicillatus	Stream water-crowfoot	HBAP
Scandix pecten-veneris	ShepherdÆs Needle	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Scleranthus annuus	Annual Knawel	UKBAP NERC_s41
Scleranthus annuus subsp. annuus	Annual Knawel	UKBAP NERC_s41
Silene gallica	Small-flowered catchfly	HBAP & UKBAP
Stellaria palustris	Marsh Stitchwort	UKBAP NERC_s41
Tephroseris integrifolia subsp. integrifolia	Field Fleawort	UKBAP NERC_s41
Teucrium botrys	Cut-Leaved Germander	HBAP
Teucrium scordium	Water Germander	UKBAP NERC_s41
Thesium humifusum	Bastard-toadflax	HBAP
Torilis arvensis	Spreading Hedge Parsley	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Ulmus minor subsp. angustifolia	Goodyer's elm	HBAP
Valerianella rimosa	Broad-Fruited Corn Salad	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Vulpia unilateralis	Mat-grass fescue	HBAP
Invertebrates (Coleoptera)		
Lucanus cervus	Stag Beetle	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Invertebrates (Diptera)		
Brachyopa bicolor	a hoverfly	HBAP
Cheilosia semifasciata	a hoverfly	HBAP
Eumerus ornatus	a hoverfly	HBAP
Odontomyia argentata	a soldier fly	HBAP
Urophora quadrifasciata	a tephritid fly	HBAP
Invertebrates (Hymenoptera)		
Formica rufa	Southern wood ant	HBAP
Invertebrates (Lepidoptera)		
Acronicta psi	Grey Dagger	UKBAP NERC_s41

Acronicta rumicis	Knot Grass	UKBAP NERC_s41
Adscita statices	The Forester	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Agrochola helvola	Flounced Chestnut	UKBAP NERC_s41
Agrochola litura	Brown-spot Pinion	UKBAP NERC_s41
Agrochola lychnidis	Beaded Chestnut	UKBAP NERC_s41
Agrotis cinerea	light feathered rustic	HBAP
Aleucis distinctata	Sloe Carpet	UKBAP NERC_s41
Allophyes oxyacanthae	Green-brindled Crescent	UKBAP NERC_s41
Amphipoea oculea	Ear Moth	UKBAP NERC_s41
Amphipyra tragopoginis	Mouse Moth	UKBAP NERC_s41
Apamea anceps	Large Nutmeg	UKBAP NERC_s41
Apamea remissa	Dusky Brocade	UKBAP NERC_s41
Apatura iris	Purple Emperor	HBAP
Apoda limacodes	Festoon	HBAP
Aporophyla lutulenta	Deep-brown Dart	UKBAP NERC_s41
Arctia caja	Garden Tiger	UKBAP NERC_s41
Argynnis adippe	High Brown Fritillary	UKBAP NERC_s41
Argynnis paphia	Silver-washed fritillary	HBAP
Asteroscopus sphinx	The Sprawler	UKBAP NERC_s41
Atethmia centrago	Centre-barred Sallow	UKBAP NERC_s41
Blepharita adusta	Dark Brocade	UKBAP NERC_s41
Boloria euphrosyne	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41

Boloria selene	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Brachylomia viminalis	Minor Shoulder-knot	UKBAP NERC_s41
Caradrina morpheus	Mottled Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Catocala promissa	Light Crimson Underwing	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Catocala sponsa	Dark Crimson Underwing	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Celaena leucostigma	The Crescent	UKBAP NERC_s41
Chesias legatella	The Streak	UKBAP NERC_s41
Chiasmia clathrata	Latticed Heath	UKBAP NERC_s41
Coenonympha pamphilus	Small Heath	UKBAP NERC_s41
Cosmia diffinis	White-spotted Pinion	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Cossus cossus	Goat moth	HBAP UKBAP
Cucullia lychnitis	Striped lychnis	HBAP UKBAP
Cupido minimus	Small Blue	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Cyclophora porata	False Mocha	UKBAP NERC_s41
Cymatophorima diluta	Oak Lutestring	UKBAP NERC_s41
Diarsia rubi	Small Square-spot	UKBAP NERC_s41
Dicycla oo	Heart Moth	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Diloba caeruleocephala	Figure of Eight	UKBAP NERC_s41
Ecliptopera silaceata	Small Phoenix	UKBAP NERC_s41
Eilema sororcula	Orange footman	HBAP

Elegia similella	a pyralid moth	HBAP
Ennomos erosaria	September Thorn	UKBAP NERC_s41
Ennomos fuscantaria	Dusky Thorn	UKBAP NERC_s41
Ennomos quercinaria	August Thorn	UKBAP NERC_s41
Epirrhoe galiata	Galium Carpet	UKBAP NERC_s41
Erynnis tages	Dingy Skipper	UKBAP NERC_s41
Eugnorisma glareosa	Autumnal Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Eulithis mellinata	The Spinach	UKBAP NERC_s41
Euphydryas aurinia	Marsh Fritillary	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Euxoa nigricans	Garden Dart	UKBAP NERC_s41
Graphiphora augur	Double Dart	UKBAP NERC_s41
Hamearis lucina	Duke of Burgundy	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Heliophobus reticulata	Bordered Gothic	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Heliothis viriplaca	Marbled Clover	HBAP
Hemaris fuciformis	Broad-bordered bee hawk	HBAP
Hemaris tityus	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Hemistola chrysoprasaria	Small Emerald	UKBAP NERC_s41
Hepialus humuli	Ghost Moth	UKBAP NERC_s41
Hipparchia semele	Grayling	UKBAP NERC_s41
Hoplodrina blanda	The Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Hydraecia micacea	Rosy Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Hypena rostralis	Buttoned snout	HBAP

Jodia croceago	Orange Upperwing	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Lasiommata megera	Wall	UKBAP NERC_s41
Limenitis camilla	White Admiral	UKBAP NERC_s41
Lycia hirtaria	Brindled Beauty	UKBAP NERC_s41
Lysandra bellargus	Adonis Blue	HBAP
Lysandra coridon	Chalk-Hill Blue	HBAP
Macaria wauaria	V-moth	UKBAP NERC_s41
Malacosoma neustria	The Lackey	UKBAP NERC_s41
Meganola strigula	Small black arches	HBAP
Melanchra persicariae	Dot Moth	UKBAP NERC_s41
Melanchra pisi	Broom Moth	UKBAP NERC_s41
Melanthia procellata	Pretty Chalk Carpet	UKBAP NERC_s41
Mesoligia literosa	Rosy Minor	UKBAP NERC_s41
Minoa murinata	Drab looper	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Mythimna comma	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	UKBAP NERC_s41
Mythimna turca	Double line	HBAP
Noctua orbona	Lunar Yellow Underwing	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Oria musculosa	Brighton Wainscot	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Orthosia gracilis	Powdered Quaker	UKBAP NERC_s41
Pechipogo strigilata	Common Fan-foot	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Pelurga comitata	Dark Spinach	UKBAP NERC_s41
Pempelia genistella	a pyralid moth	HBAP

Plebejus argus	Silver-studded Blue	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Polia bombycina	Pale Shining Brown	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Pyrgus malvae	Grizzled Skipper	UKBAP NERC_s41
Rheumaptera hastata	Argent and sable	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Satyrium w-album	White Letter Hairstreak	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Scotopteryx bipunctaria	Chalk Carpet	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Scotopteryx chenopodiata	Shaded Broad-bar	UKBAP NERC_s41
Shargacucullia lychnitis	Striped Lychnis	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Spilosoma lubricipeda	White Ermine	UKBAP NERC_s41
Spilosoma luteum	Buff Ermine	UKBAP NERC_s41
Tholera cespitis	Hedge Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Tholera decimalis	Feathered Gothic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Timandra comae	Blood-vein	UKBAP NERC_s41
Trichiura crataegi	Pale Eggar	UKBAP NERC_s41
Tyria jacobaeae	The Cinnabar	UKBAP NERC_s41
Tyta luctuosa	Four-Spotted Moth	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Watsonalla binaria	Oak Hook-tip	UKBAP NERC_s41
Xanthia gilvago	Dusky-lemon Sallow	UKBAP NERC_s41
Xanthia icteritia	The Sallow	UKBAP NERC_s41
Xanthorhoe ferrugata	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	UKBAP NERC_s41

Xestia agathina	Heath Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Xestia castanea	Neglected Rustic	UKBAP NERC_s41
Invertebrates (Mollusca)		
Ashfordia granulata	a snail	HBAP
Pisidium tenuilineatum	Fine-lined Pea Mussel	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Vertigo (Vertigo) moulinsiana	Desmoulin`s whorl snail	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Invertebrates (Odonata)		
Ceriagrion tenellum	Small red damselfly	HBAP
Cordulia aenea	Downy emerald	HBAP
Orthetrum coerulescens	Keeled skimmer	HBAP
Platycnemis pennipes	White-legged damselfly	HBAP
Lower plants (Liverworts, Hornworts & Mosses)		
Ctenidium molluscum	a moss	HBAP
Mammals (Terrestrial)		
Apodemus flavicollis	Yellow-necked mouse	HBAP
Arvicola terrestris	Water Vole	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Eptesicus serotinus	Serotine	HBAP
Erinaceus europaeus	West European Hedgehog	UKBAP NERC_s41
Lepus europaeus	Brown Hare	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Lutra lutra	Otter	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Micromys minutus	Harvest Mouse	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Muscardinus avellanarius	Dormouse	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41
Mustela putorius	Polecat	UKBAP NERC_s41
Neomys fodiens	Water shrew	HBAP
Nyctalus noctula	Noctule	UKBAP NERC_s41
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Common Pipistrelle	HBAP

Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Soprano Pipistrelle	UKBAP NERC_s41
Plecotus auritus	Brown Long-Eared Bat	UKBAP NERC_s41
Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	Greater Horseshoe Bat	UKBAP HBAP NERC_s41

Appendix 3: HBIC Habitat Survey Results

Summary from Report on Rare Arable Plants within the Manydown Estate[9]

The Manydown Estate was recognised as one of the richest sites in Britain for its arable flora in the early 1990s, with populations of UKBAP priority listed species *Galeopsis angustifolium* and *Scandix pecten-veneris*. The Estate scored 97 on Plantlife's IAPA system for assessing the importance of arable plant sites, making it of international importance.

No systematic survey of the estate had been carried out since 1993, and records for the site required updating to provide information for planning purposes.

All arable fields from the southern edge of the site northwards to the minor road from Wooton St Lawrence to Basingstoke were surveyed. The margins of 37 fields were walked and all species present were recorded.

The majority of the uncommon species recorded in 1987-1993 were refound in 2009, although some including *Scandix pecten-veneris, LIthospermum arvense, Silene noctiflora* and *Spergula arvensis* were not. Populations of other species including *Papaver hybridum* had decreased. In contrast, *Valerianella dentata* had increased.

In 2009, the estate scored 71 on the IAPA system.

It is probable that the quality of the arable flora could be restored by introducing more favourable management under Entry Level Stewardship or Higher Level Stewardship.

Summary Reports on Habitats within Land East of Basingstoke[10]

Phase 1 Survey Notes

Within the survey area of Blackland's Farm estate and immediate environs eight potential sites of interest were identified. These areas were labelled A to H with an additional field target noted and labelled Area I (see map). They were surveyed at a Phase 1 level with target notes on habitats present and any areas of wildlife interest.

The grassland within the sites is almost all improved and species-poor. There are only a few small areas of marshy flood-plain grassland present (in Area D and Area E). The potential for establishing flood-plain grassland of wildlife interest is low. In general however, the streams and ditches along the boundaries of many of the sites support a range of swamp and aquatic species and habitats, providing a fair wildlife interest. This is especially so in Area B, which will be put forward as a SINC. Outside of the survey sites this pattern appeared to be the same, with improved, drained grasslands and fair ditch and stream vegetation.

Area A

This site is located within open countryside near Old Basing. The site comprises of an arable

[9] Wilson (2009) The Manydown Estate Rare Arable Plant Survey. Available from the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic/hbic-datarequests.htm

[10] Surveys undertaken, and summary notes provided, by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre 08/09/09 to 10/09/09.

field with a maize crop. To the north there is a small area of ley grassland and disturbed ground. Along the eastern boundary is a derelict hedge with a shaded ditch. To the south this boundary becomes a strip of mature oak trees. The southern boundary appears old, with a strip of mature trees over a hedgerow. Overall there is little current or potential wildlife interest within the site.

Area B

The site is a small field located in open countryside near Old Basing. The site is adjacent to two SINC woodlands. The grassland within the field is an improved ley sward with little species diversity or interest. Along the northern edge is a stream which has a good marginal vegetation. This is composed of brooklime, water-cress and floating sweet-grass. The County Scarce Veronica anagallis-aquatica is found here. To the south is another stream which also supports a good marginal and aquatic vegetation. Brooklime, fool's water-cress, water mint and floating sweet-grass are abundant here.

The site will be proposed as a SINC under 5A and 6A criteria for stream vegetation and notable species status.

Area C

The site is a field located near Old Basing. It is adjacent to the SINC woodland Round Copse. The majority of the field is improved, species-poor pasture. To the east is a strip of maize. The southern boundary is a fence with trees and scrub. The northern boundary is species-poor hedge. Overall there is little current or potential wildlife value within the site.

Area D

The site is a field located along the River Loddon. The field is adjacent to the SINC Blackland's Farm (2) and Long Copse. The majority of the field is improved pasture with no wildlife interest. To the south, near the river the ground is marshy and supports a more diverse sward. This is composed of lesser pond-sedge, stinging-nettle, yorkshire fog, creeping buttercup, hairy sedge, false oat-grass and docks. Overall though, the site does not possess a sufficient wildlife interest to warrant proposal as a SINC.

Area E

The site is a field located in open countryside on the flood-plain of the River Loddon. The southern half of the field is a crop of maize. In the centre of the field is improved, species-poor ley grassland with no wildlife interest. To the north, along the river's edge is an area of marshy grassland. The grassland rates as MG10 rush-pasture and supports a fair diversity of species but no grassland indicators or notable species. These marshy hollows are the most interesting wildlife feature of the site, but are not diverse enough or large enough to warrant a proposal for SINC status on the area.

Area F

This site is a small field located in the flood-plain of the River Loddon. The field comprises of improved, species-poor grassland with no wildlife interest. Along the northern and western boundaries are ditches with a good amount of swamp vegetation. This is composed of common reed, branched bur-reed, reed canary-grass, stinging-nettle and lesser pond-sedge. Despite this ditch vegetation the site is not sufficient wildlife interest to put forward as a SINC.

Area G

The site is thin field located on the edge of Old Basing. The site is adjacent to Lower Mill Fen SINC. The field supports improved, species-poor pasture. Along the western boundary is a derelict hedge with a species-poor ditch. To the south there is a more mature line of hedge-with-trees. The site has little current or potential wildlife interest.

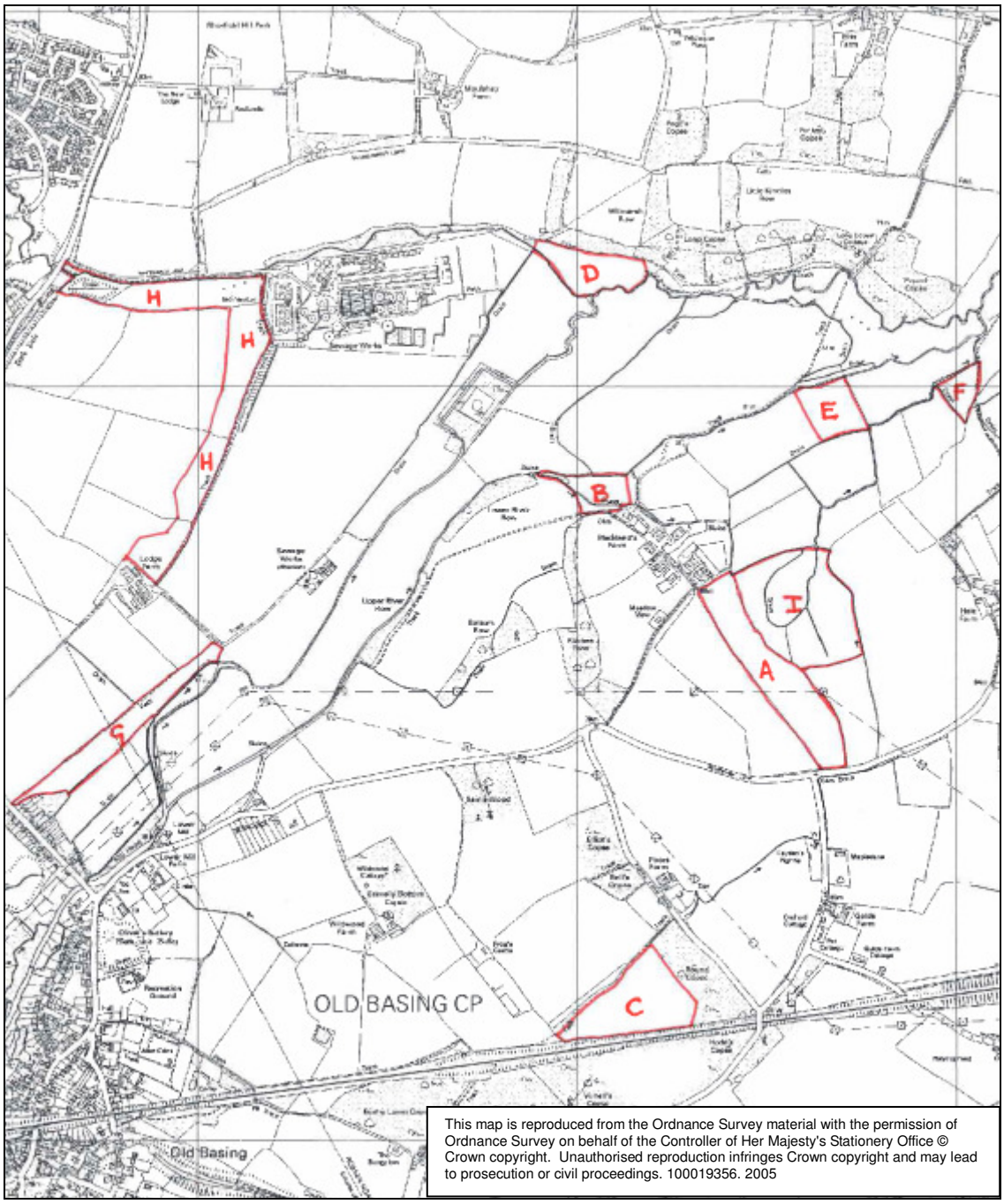
Area H

The site is a series of fields located on the edge of Basingstoke. To the south there is improved pasture. The sward here has a low species-diversity or little wildlife value. Further north there is a large field of maize crop. This field borders an area of wasteland used by the adjacent sewage works. To the west of this is an area of rank grassland. This area has been much disturbed and has a large amount of weed species present. The main species in this grassland are false oat-grass, yorkshire fog, thistles, stinging-nettle, ragwort, bristly oxtongue, creeping buttercup and docks. At the far west end of the site is a covered reservoir which is used for dog training. This area has a short sward of improved grassland. The boundaries of the site are generally mature with derelict hedge-with-trees, especially along the eastern edge. There is a shaded ditch running along the north boundary of the site.

Overall the site shows little current or potential wildlife interest.

Area I

This area was not picked out for survey initially but is adjacent to Area A and was noted of potential interest. A survey in 1997 found this area to have reseeded, species-poor grassland but a fair species diversity in the various ditches and drains. The field now supports some marshy grassland which appears to be less improved than the other sites. The sward has locally abundant tufted hair-grass and rushes and is rougher with a more tussocky structure. This area would seem to have the most obvious potential for breeding birds.



Map Showing Locations Referred to in Phase 1 Survey Notes

SINC Survey Notes

Woodland SINCs

The survey involved visiting the SINC woodland areas within the Blackland's Farm estate and immediate area. The purpose of the survey was to quickly assess the SINC status and boundary of the sites. Target notes were taken for each site and brief descriptions can be found below. The timing and brevity of the survey means that the target notes do not fully realise the wildlife value of the site.

The survey found that all the SINC woodlands were still present and in broadly similar condition and interest to the previous surveys. Two sites, Lower River Row SU 6780 5470 and Bain's Wood SINC SU 6780 5390 were less obviously of SINC quality and require full surveys at a more appropriate time of year to accurately assess their interest. However no changes to SINC status to any of the sites need to be made from this brief survey.

Whitmarsh Lane and Piece SINC SU 6760 5560

This site is a long, thin strip of ancient woodland located in open countryside near Basingstoke. The site borders the Long Copse SINC. The woodland is an old stand of coppice-with-standards. The ground flora is rich in species with 14 ancient woodland indicators noted in this brief survey.

Petty's Brook Strip SINC SU 6780 5540

The woodland is found along a tributary of the River Loddon near Basingstoke. The site is an ancient woodland. The majority of the woodland is old coppice-with-standards, there is also secondary woodland present and scrub. There is a good diversity of woodland species with 12 ancient woodland indicators noted in this brief survey.

Long Copse SINC SU 6850 5540

The site is a large area of ancient woodland located adjacent to several other SINC woodlands. The majority of the site is an old coppice-with-standards woodland. There is a good diversity within the ground flora with locally abundant bluebell. 12 ancient woodland indicators were noted including the County Scarce notable species *Paris quadrifolia.*

Lower River Row SINC SU 6780 5470

The site is a small area of woodland and plantation along a tributary of the River Loddon. To the north is a stand of sycamore plantation. This area is possibly a plantation on ancient woodland. The ground flora does not appear very rich but there is locally abundant bluebell and solomon's seal. To the south is a stand of coppice-with-standards. The ground flora shows signs of past grazing and there is a reduced level of ancient woodland indicators. A full survey in the spring will be required to confirm the ancient woodland status of the site.

Upper River Row SINC SU 6750 5430

The site is a small strip of woodland along a tributary of the River Loddon. The north half of the site and along the river banks is ancient, coppice-with-standards woodland. The ground flora appears rich in species with 11 ancient woodland indicators noted. To the south is a sycamore plantation with reduced ground flora but locally abundant bluebell. At the southern end there is an open area dominated by stinging-nettle.

Rushes Row SINC SU 6800 5440

The site is an ancient woodland comprised of a stand of old coppice-with-standards. There is a good ground flora present with 10 ancient woodland indicators noted.

Bottom Row SINC SU 6780 5430

This site is an ancient woodland with a canopy of oak standards and invading sycamore. The ground flora is rich in cover and species with 10 ancient woodland indicators noted in the brief survey. To the south is an area of wayleave forming hazel coppice.

Bain's Wood SINC SU 6780 5390

The site is a mixed plantation possibly over ancient woodland. The stand is a mix of larch, sycamore and oaks. The ground flora appears reduced in diversity with abundant ivy and

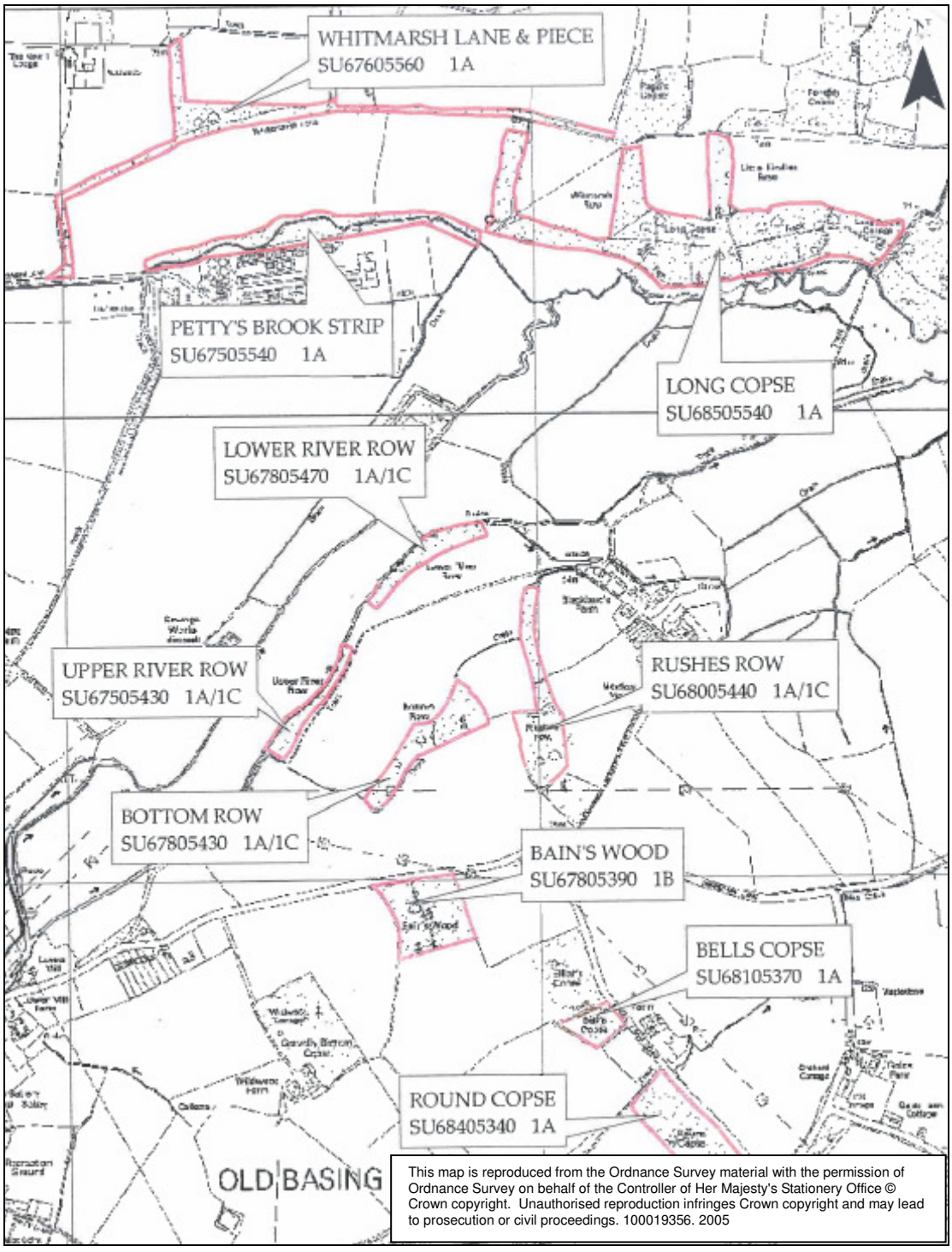
bramble. However ancient woodland species were noted. A full survey in the spring is required to properly assess the ancient woodland status of the site.

Bell's Copse SINC SU 6810 5370

This site is a very small stand of ancient woodland. It is an old area of coppice-with-standards woodland with an ash and oak canopy. The ground flora appears fairly diverse despite the size and active use for pheasant feeding.

Round Copse SINC SU 6840 5340

This site is an ancient woodland with an old coppice-with-standards structure. There is a good ground flora present with locally abundant bluebell and 11 ancient woodland indicators.



Map Showing Woodland SINC Locations

Other SINCs

Lower Mill Fen SINC

The site is a thin strip of land between tributaries of the River Loddon, situated on the outskirts of Old Basing. Along the edges of the site is a mix of wet and woodland as well as scrub. To the south is a stand of wet woodland. The main area of the site comprises of swamp and rank fen. These habitats merge into species-rich streamside and aquatic vegetation. There are several different swamp and fen stand types present. This vegetation is dominated by species such as reed sweet-grass, stinging-nettle, lesser pond-sedge and reed canary-grass.

Overall the site represents a good mix of semi-natural flood-plain habitats and qualifies for SINC status under the 1C(ii), 5A and 5B criteria for wet woodland, swamp, fen and stream vegetation. The notable species Veronica anagallis-aquatica (County Scarce) was not refound in this survey.

Blacklands Farm Fen SINC

The site is a field located on the flood plain of the River Loddon. The site was surveyed in 1997 and was designated a SINC for its semi-improved fen-meadow and flush vegetation as well as supporting 2 notable plant species. Improved ley grassland was also present within the site.

Since then, however the site has been much altered and the wildlife interest destroyed. The field appears to have been drained and possibly levelled as well as reseeded. The southern half of the site is also now a maize crop. There is no remnant or sign left of the fen-meadow or flush vegetation. There is also no sign of the flush itself. Some of the grassland is mown short to act as runway for small micro-light airplanes which are flown from the site.

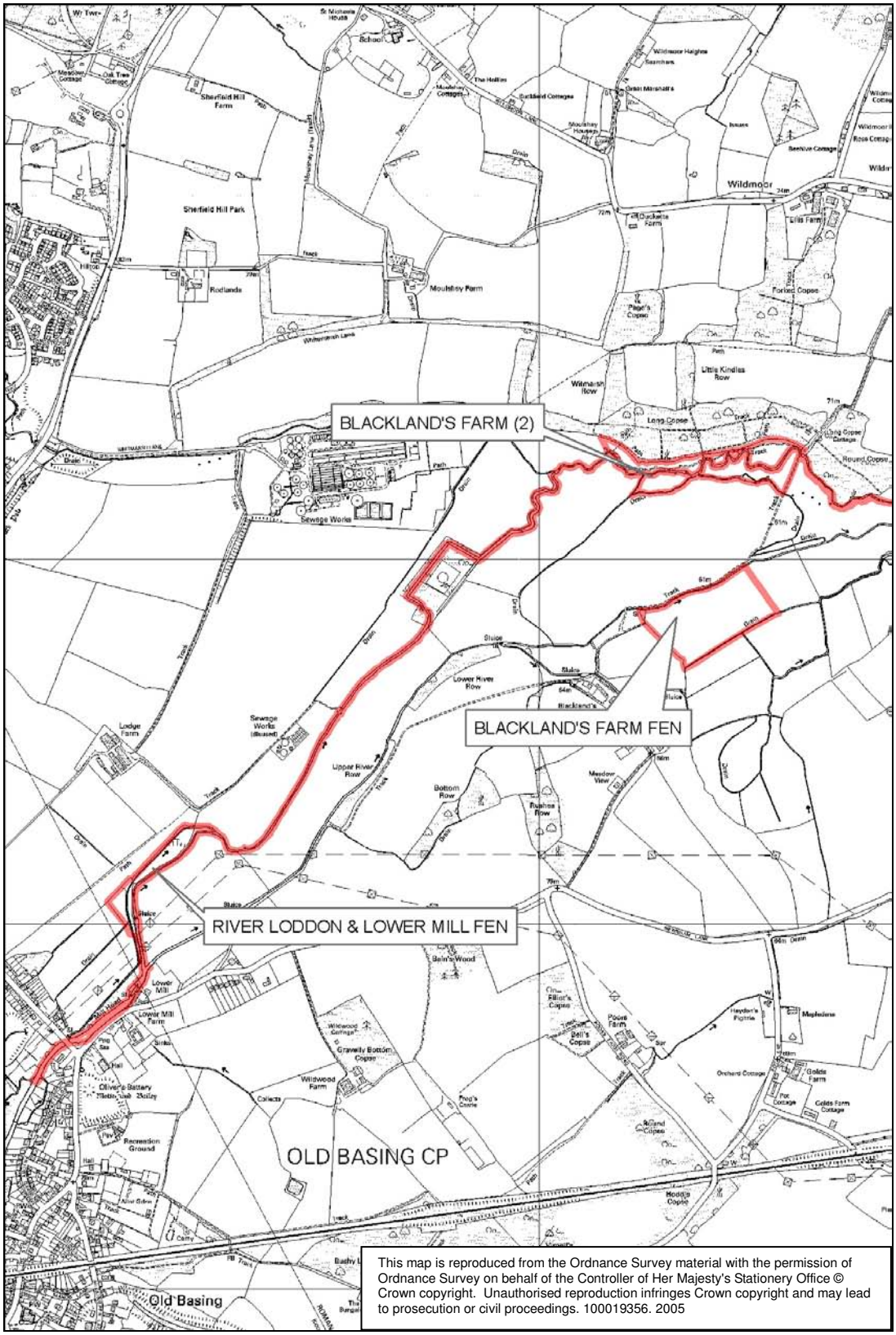
The site will be put forward for delisting as a SINC as there is no sign of the pre-existing wildlife interest.

Blacklands Farm (2) SINC

The site is an area of land located along the River Loddon. The site is a mix of small fields and areas of swamp, scrub and woodland. This provides a good diversity of semi-natural habitats and a good diversity of species.

To the south of the river is grassland which is semi-improved but not very rich in species. It is mostly rough and grades into more improved grassland to the east. 1 grassland indicator was noted in the sward. The grassland present here qualifies as the MG1 and MG6 NVC communities. Also to the south of the river is a stand of reed swamp. To the north of the river is a mosaic of scrub, wet woodland and ran fen river-bank vegetation. The latter is dominated by stinging-nettle. The river itself is rich in aquatic and marginal plants species.

Overall the site still qualifies as a SINC. The criteria it falls under are 1C(ii) for wet woodland, 2D for less-rich semi-improved grassland and 5B for swamp.



Map Showing Other SINC Locations

Appendix 4: Supplementary Records

Table 1: Bird Records for Blacklands Farm Area[11]	
Scientific Name	Common Name
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper
Larus ridibundus	Black-Headed Gull
Gallinago gallinago	Snipe
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo
Anas querquedula	Garganey
Alcedo atthis	Kingfisher

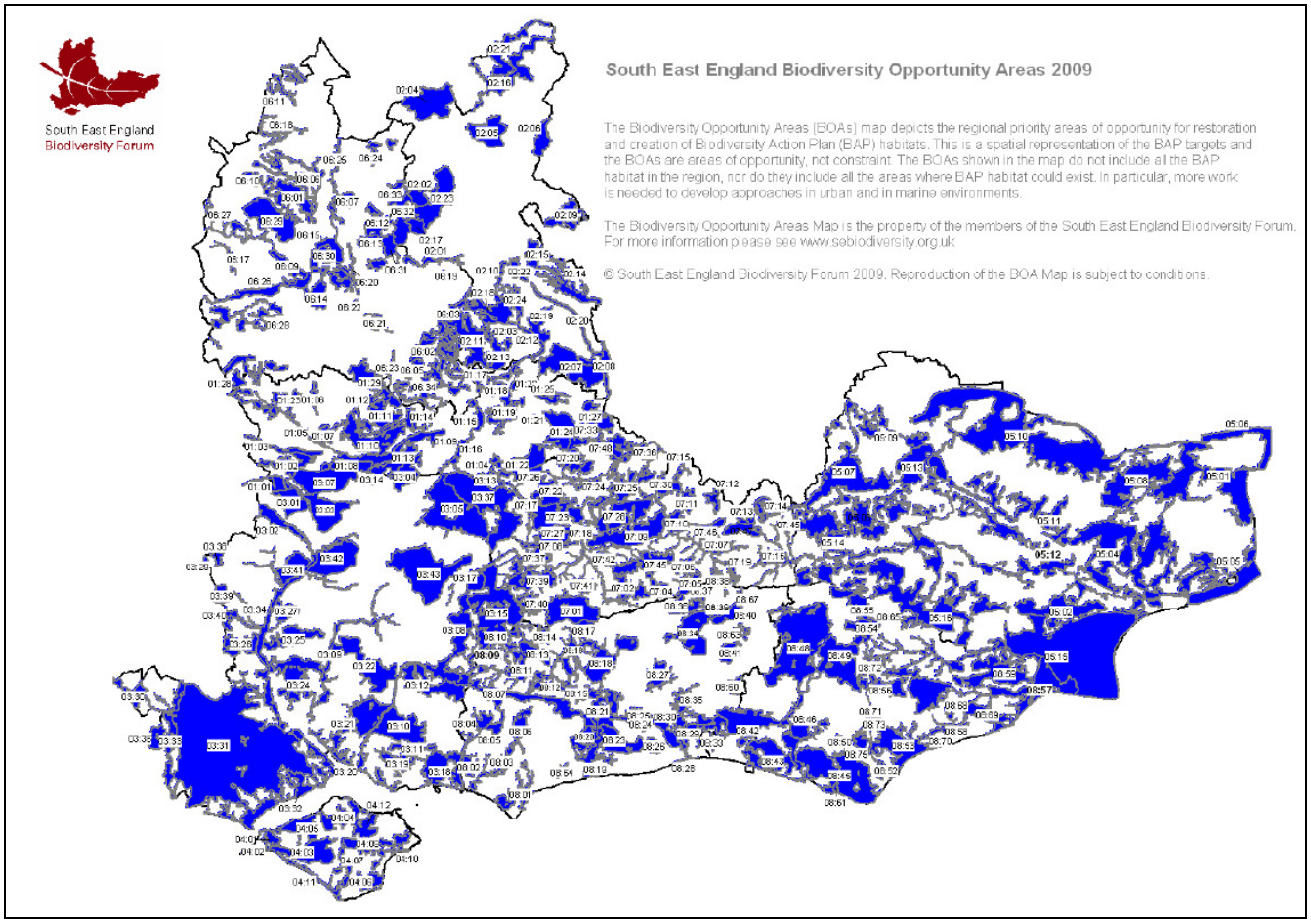
Table 2: Bird Records for Loddon Valley Area (UK BAP, H BAP or NERC S 41)[12]	
Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Eurasian Reed Warbler
Alauda arvensis	Sky Lark
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern
Burhinus oedicnemus	Stone-curlew
Calidris alpina	Dunlin
Caprimulgus europaeus	European Nightjar
Carduelis cabaret	Lesser Redpoll
Carduelis cannabina	Common Linnet
Cettia cetti	Cetti's Warbler
Circus cyaneus	Hen Harrier
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo
Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting
Falco columbarius	Merlin
Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe
Jynx torquilla	Eurasian Wryneck

[11] Records held by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

[12] Based on records from The Mill Field Local Nature Reserve (James Andrews, Mill Field Conservation Group Recorder, *Pers Comm*)

Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark
Luscinia megarhynchos	Common Nightingale
Emberiza calandra	Corn Bunting
Milvus milvus	Red Kite
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher
Panurus biarmicus	Bearded Tit
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge
Pernis apivorus	European Honey-buzzard
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler
Pluvialis apricaria	European Golden Plover
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover
Prunella modularis	Hedge Accentor
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Common Bullfinch
Regulus ignicapillus	Firecrest
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush
Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing

Appendix 5: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas



The above map shows strategic areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats. The area of direct relevance to this study is area 03:05 Rivers Loddon/Lyde/Whitewater Catchment & Headwaters. The description for this area given in the South East England Biodiversity Opportunity Areas 2009 Statements Folio[13] is reproduced below.

Landscape Character Area: North Hampshire Lowland and Heath / Hampshire Downs

Landscape Types: Settled Lowland Mosaic Ancient Forest / Open Downland and Downland Mosaic and Assarts in the southern reaches

Geology: a bedrock of mainly Clay, Silt and Sand, with areas of Sand in central and eastern regions and Chalk to the southern edges. River terrace deposits of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel reach down through valleys and Sand and Gravel deposits occur around the valleys.

Biodiversity: the rivers arise from a line of chalk springs along the northern edge of the chalk outcrop east of Basingstoke and flow slowly northwards across the clays, sands and gravels of the Thames basin. The valleys are broad and shallow and so are liable to flood. Although

[13] http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk/data/files/BOA/all_areas_descriptions.doc

much of these valleys now contain agriculturally improved grasslands there remains many relic areas of species rich grassland, swamp and fen including Basing Fen SINC, Mapledurwell Fen SSSI, Stanford End SSSI, Greywell Fen SSSI and many more SINCs. The headwaters of the Loddon, in particular, contain a nationally restricted type of chalk peatland which presents a high opportunity to restore to species-rich fen meadow. Odiham Common, Butter Wood and Hook Common SSSIs, all relicts of the ancient Odiham Forest are also included in the BOA along with numerous other important commons, village greens and ancient woodlands. The varied geology and wide floodplains have resulted in a matrix of different habitat types, supporting a diverse range of species.

Targets and opportunities:

- Wet Woodland
- Lowland Meadow
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
- Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Heath