



Herts & Middlesex

Stevenage Local Wildlife Sites 2013 Review



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STEVENAGE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES REVIEW 2013

Introduction:

What are Local Wildlife Sites?

Local Wildlife Sites, (or 'Local Sites' which include geology sites), are sites of substantive nature conservation value and although they do not have any statutory status, many are equal in quality to the representative sample of sites that make up the series of statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). There are more than 40,000 Local Sites in England overseen by 65 Local Sites systems. These systems vary considerably in terms of size (both the administrative area they cover and the number of sites selected) and cover contrasting landscapes in coastal, rural and urban situations. Local Sites systems encompass both biodiversity and geological conservation. National guidance on the identification, selection and management of Local Sites was published by DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in 2006 - <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/localsites.pdf>

Local Wildlife Sites ('LWSs') are a good indicator of the health of our natural environment, follow national guidance and protocols, and are recognised for this role in the Government's Natural Environment White Paper. Sites of LWS standard normally receive protection through policies in the planning system. The new national planning guidance on the National Planning Policy Framework recognises the importance of LWSs.

The Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Site Partnership (HLWSP)

As outlined by paragraphs 14-25 in DEFRA's above National Guidance, Hertfordshire has an established LWS Partnership. This was initiated in 1997 (following a Hertfordshire-wide habitat survey carried out from 1994-1997, in order to record the species and habitats at a site by site level across the county, and then to identify and protect areas which were considered to be of significance for wildlife). The Partnership now includes a regular board of 12 organisations including Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), Natural England (NE)/DEFRA, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT), Herts Environmental Records Centre (HERC), Countryside Management Service (CMS), Environment Agency (EA), Forestry Commission (FC), Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA), Herts LNP Coordinator/Biodiversity Officer, Herts RIGS Group, and Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB). A wider Partnership network includes specialist groups such as the Herts Bat Group, Butterfly Conservation and Herts Natural History Society (HNHS). The purpose of the partnership is to

continue to survey and update information on existing LWS and to advise on their management so that their interest may be protected and enhanced into the future.

Local Wildlife Site Selection Criteria

As recommended by paragraphs 38-53 of DEFRA's above National Guidance, the Partnership has developed Hertfordshire-specific site selection criteria, which can be applied to any site in question, alongside a standardised survey methodology. The system for identifying Local Wildlife Sites in Hertfordshire takes into account national priorities, local distinctiveness and threats and declines in certain species or habitats. The system has to be developed locally because certain habitats or species would be identified as deserving Local Wildlife Site status in one part of the country but not necessarily in another. The system does not try to identify all sites of importance for wildlife in Hertfordshire, only those of substantial quantifiable value. Wildlife Site selection in Hertfordshire is based on the criteria identified by Ratcliffe (A Nature Conservation Review, ed D.A. Ratcliffe, CUP, 1977) for the selection of sites on National importance. A series of thresholds have been produced which reflect the above criteria and which are based on the Guidelines for Selection of Biological SSSIs (1989) set out by the Nature Conservation Committee. These have been modified appropriately by the Local Wildlife Site Ratification Group (see below) for the selection of sites of County importance for Hertfordshire. It is recognised that these thresholds need to be reviewed regularly as the state of knowledge both nationally and locally improves, and as the wildlife of Hertfordshire changes.

The Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Site Ratification Group

As outlined in paragraphs 26-37, 54-57 and 81-84 of the above referenced DEFRA Guidance, Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Sites are reviewed by a rolling programme of survey work. Reports prepared on all sites surveyed (to be added, reviewed or deleted) from the Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Register, are assessed by the Local Wildlife Sites Ratification Group (a panel which includes representatives from NE/DEFRA, HMWT, HERC, HCC, EA, HNHS). The Ratification Group validates additions, deletions and amendments to the Local Wildlife Sites Register and meets annually.

A role of the LWS partnership is to help local authorities comply with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) by providing them with the best available knowledge on sites of LWS standard. Best available knowledge is represented by the latest version of the LWS dataset which is updated and given to all local authorities on an annual basis.

Stevenage Borough Council's Local Wildlife Sites

The Borough of Stevenage is predominantly an urban district, and the 2nd smallest District in Herts. However there are pockets of wildlife-rich areas scattered throughout. In 2012, Stevenage Borough Council commissioned a review by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust of the 37 Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough. The sites were surveyed by experienced botanists in spring and summer 2013, following the established methodology agreed for Hertfordshire. The Borough owns many of its LWS (25 sites, representing 81ha). A high proportion of the LWS in Stevenage are Ancient Woodlands (21 LWS), representing the bulk of SBC's LWS coverage at 76.8ha, which highlights how important the District is for its ancient woodlands. These sites are irreplaceable pockets of surviving woodland which has remained since at least the 1600s, and their ongoing positive management is vital to protect their botanical and faunal interest. Many other sites represent important grassland areas (meadows, fen/marsh, road verges) (14 sites, 30.7ha) which need regular appropriate management (cutting or grazing) to prevent them becoming scrubbed over and to protect their botanical interest.

The overall extent of habitats present in the Borough of Stevenage

The following information detailing the overall extent of various habitats in the Borough of Stevenage includes information from the Stevenage BAP (2010). The extent of habitats quoted below, unless stated otherwise, originate from the Phase 1 habitat survey for Hertfordshire, completed in 1997. This includes reference to habitats which are not Local Wildlife Sites. Note that the large extent of Stevenage's urban area to its small size should be considered where coverage of some habitats are less than the county average.

Woodlands

The total area of woodland habitats (including parkland) is 131.5ha, or 5.06% of the Borough area, somewhat less than the national average of 9% and the county average of 9.27%. A total of 58.3ha (44.33%) of all the woodland in Stevenage is semi-natural broad-leaved. Plantations amount to 65.8ha (50.04%), of which 18.4ha is broad-leaved, 11.0ha coniferous and 36.4ha is a mix of broadleaf and conifer species.

Within Stevenage, 53.99ha of woodland are identified as ancient (from Natural England's Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory) that is 41% of all woodland within the Borough. In addition, another 23.76ha (18.07%), are believed to be ancient although it does not appear on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Parkland habitats account for 7.4ha or 0.28% of the Borough. Included in this category are ancient deer parks through to the more modern parks laid out this century. Scrub communities cover an area of 6ha representing 0.23% of the Borough.

Forming the majority of the wildlife resource in Stevenage, the woodlands represent both an ecologically and scenically important habitat, with nearly all the woodland identified as 'Local Wildlife Sites' being ancient in origin.

The woodland type characteristically found throughout Stevenage is the Oak and Hornbeam mix, with Bluebell dominant in the ground flora. The EU Habitats Directive has identified this woodland type as being internationally important. Representing the largest area of any long-standing semi-natural habitat within the Borough, Stevenage has a particular responsibility to maintain and enhance this wildlife resource. Monk's and Whomerley Woods within Fairlands Valley Park form a particularly extensive tract of woodland with a diversity of structure and associated species.

However, large scale replanting in much of the wood has replaced ecologically valuable native trees with introduced

species of lower conservation value. The majority of the woods within the Borough were found to have, to a greater or lesser degree, a non-native planted component. A number of smaller woodlands, although believed to be ancient in origin, were not selected as Local Wildlife Sites because their ecological interest had been substantially degraded by such plantings.

Grasslands

Grassland habitats of all types have an area of 446.9ha, accounting for 17.20% of the Borough (somewhat less than the county figure of 21.3% for this habitat type). A total of 355.3ha (80%) of all grassland has been substantially 'improved' for agriculture or amenity use, resulting in a decrease in plant diversity. This comprises 17.7ha of improved grassland, 26.4ha of species-poor semi-improved grassland and 311.2ha of amenity grassland.

A further 72.5ha (16%) is semi-improved but still retains some wildlife interest. This includes 62.5ha of neutral grassland, 9.2ha of acidic grassland and 0.8ha of calcareous grassland. Only 19.1ha (4%) remains unimproved and of high ecological value, a figure surprisingly close to the county average of 4.3% given the urban nature of the Borough. This comprises 10.2ha of neutral, 6.6ha of acidic and 2.3ha of marshy grassland. All unimproved grasslands are selected as Local Wildlife Sites in recognition of their ecological importance. Ecologically important grassland habitats are somewhat scarce within the Borough, with the best examples comprising long-standing grasslands, which have been encapsulated within the New Town. An exception is Martin's Way where the steep banks formed in the construction of the dual carriageway have revealed the underlying chalk on which a chalk grassland wildflower mix has been sown. Over subsequent years the resultant species-rich flora has been colonised by plant and insect species. It is now a habitat of high wildlife interest, albeit artificial in origin.

Of the long-standing grasslands within the Borough, those in the west are slightly more acidic in nature, with Six Hills grassland supporting species such as Harebell and Early Hair-grass in the short mown sward. Towards the east of the Borough a more calcareous influence can be found, with Poplars Meadow supporting a particularly diverse flora including indicator species of calcareous, neutral and acidic conditions in its flora.

To the south Stevenage Brook Marsh provides for the only significant area of marshy grassland within the Borough. This area comprises blocks of marshy grassland and tall herbs surrounded by drier semi-improved grassland. The marshy areas

support plants such as Lesser Pond Sedge, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil and Ragged Robin as well as a range of commoner species. Currently the wetter areas are becoming increasingly rank and with the effect of increasingly long dry spells, are in danger of degrading through lack of appropriate management.

Ancient Hedgerows

Stevenage Borough consists of a number of local areas eg Chells, Poplars, Broadwater that are connected not only by roads but also by pedestrian routes and cycle ways. Many of these cycle ways are old country lanes with their original ancient hedgerows still lining the route. These hedgerows are a precious habitat in the middle of a new town and contribute significantly to biodiversity.

The hedgerows are a mixture of mature standards such as Oak, Ash, Hornbeam and Field Maple and the more traditional hedgerow species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Elder. Many of the hedgerows show signs of coppicing in the past but most have not been managed for several years. Therefore a management strategy needs to be developed as a matter of urgency to rejuvenate these important hedgerow habitats and to ensure their future survival.

Wetlands

Wetland habitats of all types (fens, mires and swamps but excluding open water and marshy grassland) cover an area of only 0.4ha accounting for 0.02% of the Borough. This figure is comprised solely of Ridlins Mire. Open still water bodies greater than 0.3ha in area cover 9.87ha accounting for 0.38% of the Borough, almost equal to the county average of 0.39%. Ponds of 0.3ha or less number 20 in the Borough and in many areas represent the only aquatic habitat. Streams and rivers have a total length of 4.6km. Both these totals are substantially less than the average for the county, indicating the scarcity of all wetland habitats within Stevenage and highlighting the need to prioritise these for action and to conserve and enhance the remaining aquatic resource.

The Borough's wetland habitats are notable in including Ridlins Mire, an HMWT Nature Reserve, one of the few examples of a valley mire peat bog within the county. The flora includes species that are uncommon or scarce within the county including Greater Tussock Sedge, Great Horsetail and Marsh Valerian. The mosaic of valley mire habitat, unimproved grassland and scrub provides an important combination of habitats of particular value to scarce and rare invertebrate species with the site listed on Natural England's Invertebrate Site Register.

The only large water bodies within Stevenage, Fairlands Valley Park Lakes provide an aquatic habitat of considerable wildlife potential. The current uniform bank profile and intensive mowing of surrounding grassland provides limited wildlife habitat, though opportunity exists for significant improvement. Nearby remnants of ancient woodland and patches of more species-rich grassland within the amenity sward all offer the potential to develop an extensive area of wildlife value.

Elsewhere in the Borough, ponds provide a valuable habitat for various aquatic flora and fauna with a number of old ponds, pre-dating the new town development. With appropriate management these ponds and their surrounding habitats could sustain valuable amphibian communities including the internationally scarce Great Crested Newt, which has been recorded in one or two ponds in Stevenage.

Legislation protecting Local Wildlife Sites, BAP habitats and ecological networks

Extracts from: The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012:

As established by paragraph 113 of the NPPF, the LPA should have 'criteria based' policies in the local plan against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected Local Wildlife Sites will be judged.

As described in paragraph 117, planning policies should also promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets. As stated in paragraph 117, the 'local ecological network' may include international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration and creation

Paragraph 114 establishes that the LPA should 'plan positively' for the "creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure".

Ancient Woodland and Veteran trees

Paragraph 118 establishes that planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits or, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that planning should function to achieve sustainable development, which includes contributing to "Moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature", in line with the objectives of the Natural Environment White Paper 2011.

Paragraph 152 states:

"Local planning authorities should seek opportunities to achieve each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and net gains across all three. Significant adverse impacts on any of these dimensions should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, measures to mitigate the impacts should

be considered. Where adequate mitigation measures are not possible, compensatory measures may be appropriate."

The NPPF paragraph 109 sets out that the planning system should "contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by... minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible... including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures."

Extract from: The NERC Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty:

Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC Act) places a direct statutory duty to conserve biodiversity on all public authorities:

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.

Section 40(3): conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

A list of habitats and species of principle importance to the purpose of conserving biodiversity was drawn up, largely based on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species, as required by section 41. The list can be viewed [here](#).

Section 41(3): the Secretary of State must take such steps as appear to him to be reasonably practicable to further the conservation of the living organisms and types of habitats included in the list of species of principal importance. He is further required to promote the taking by others (such as public bodies) of such steps to further the conservation of the statutory priority species.

Extract from Policy EN17 of the Stevenage Local Plan (currently 2nd Review, 2004):

This identified 37 Local Wildlife Sites (then named 'Wildlife Sites'), and included the following Policy (EN17):

Development proposals within or adjacent to the wildlife sites and "RIGS" shown on the Proposals Map which would have an adverse affect on their nature conservation or geological value will not be permitted unless the following criteria can be met:

- (a) adverse affects could be prevented or satisfactorily minimised through mitigation measures; or

- (b) in exceptional circumstances it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the development that would outweigh the need to safeguard the substantive nature conservation or geological value of the site.

If further sites which meet the criteria for Wildlife Site designation are identified over the period of this plan, they will be afforded the same protection as the sites identified above through an alteration to the plan.

Two Local Wildlife Sites (Fishers Green Meadow and Marymead Spring) have been deselected since 2004, and two new sites (Barnwell School and Whomerley Wood Road Verge) have been selected in the interim period. The current location and extent of Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough (pre the 2013 Ratification boundary amendments as this has not been published as of this Review's publication on 02/12/13) is shown in Map 1 on page 11:

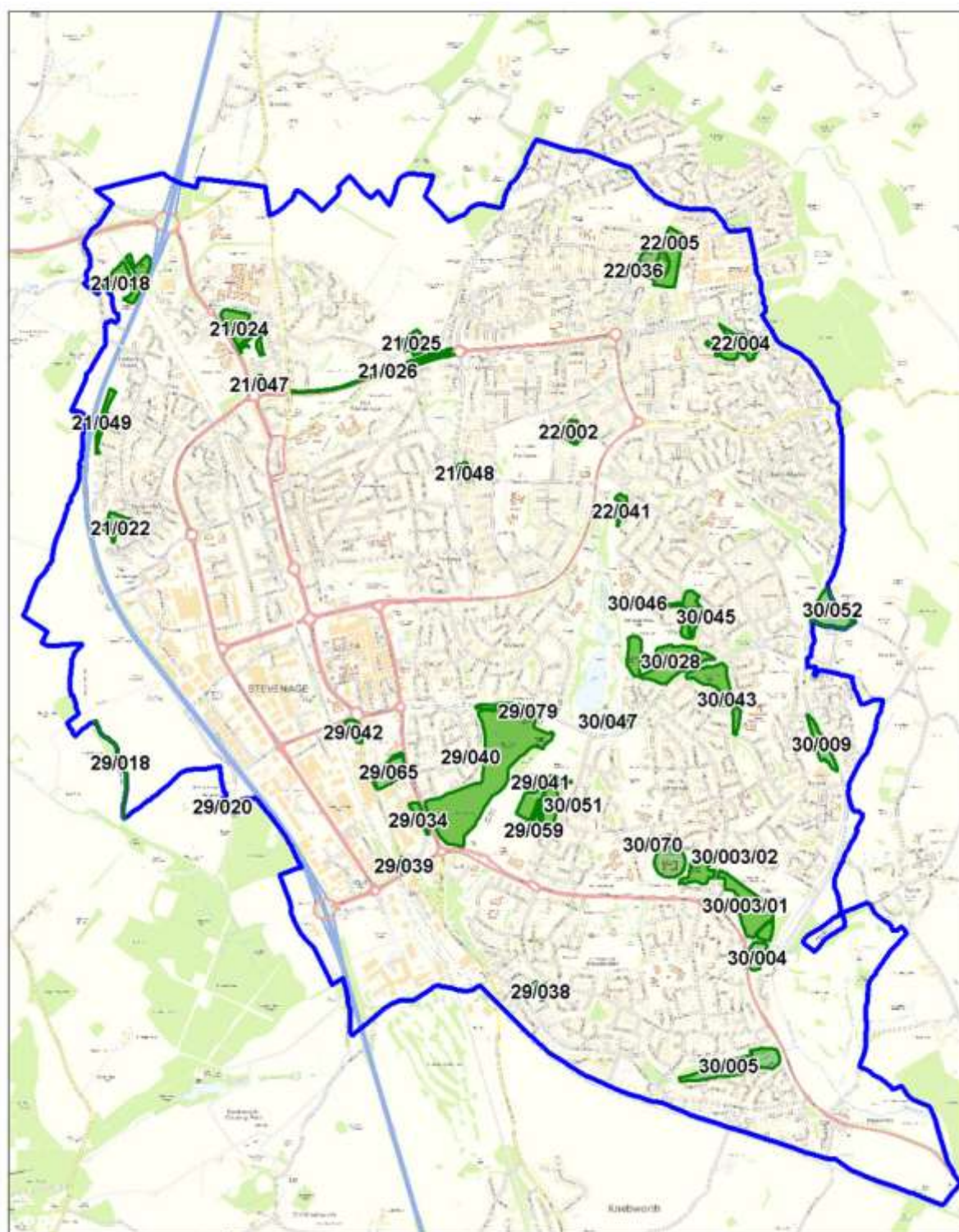
Stevenage Borough Council are currently in the early stages of preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough. It is anticipated that this will cover the period to 2031.

Annual Single Data List Report: 'Local Nature Conservation/Biodiversity (ref 160-00)

Also note that the annual reporting on the management of Local Wildlife Sites (by HMWT) contributes to the Single Data List, specifically *Local Nature Conservation/Biodiversity* (reference 160-00).

In summary

This report contains the summarised results as well as the detailed reports for each site surveyed, including management recommendations aimed at protecting and enhancing their wildlife interest into the future (i.e, getting each of the LWS into 'positive conservation management').



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2013 Ordnance Survey 100024285

Map1: The current location and extent of Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough (pre the 2013 Ratification boundary amendments as this has not been published as of this Review's publication

Summary of results:

Category	Result
Total number of Local Wildlife Sites in SBC:in 2013	37
Number of Wildlife Sites surveyed and through Ratification for this report	31 (97.61ha)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of woodland sites surveyed (including 1 wooded green lane): No of grassland sites (including meadows/fen/marsh/roadverges) No of species sites (point-based sites for protected species, which do not have a habitat boundary) 	18 (71.5ha) 12 (25.3ha) 2 (0 ha)
Number of Wildlife Sites not surveyed	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 - permission refused 29/020, 29/034, 29/039, 21/024 2 species sites (22/036 is a Bat site and due to be reassessed by HERC next year, 30/070 is a WS for GCNs with data from 2005 so still valid within 10 years). 	
Number of Wildlife Sites pending further review in 2014:	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29/018 Kitching Green Lane (to be tested) - may remove the southern third from the site pending Ratification panel review 21/048 Almond Spring - Ratification panel review of site criteria pending review of new survey data for veteran trees and features of ancient origin. 	
Number of Wildlife Sites with suggested boundary changes as a result of the surveys:	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reductions: 4 (21/026, 22/004, 29/038, 30/009) Extensions: 4 (21/049, 22/004, 30/028, 30/043). (note one site shares both an extension and reduction)	
Number of RIGS in Stevenage which have been surveyed and deselected Note that this was the only RIGS in Stevenage.	1 of 1

Future Management and enhancement of Stevenage's Local Wildlife Sites

The individual site reports produced following the surveys highlighted key management recommendations to ensure the LWS remains in favourable condition. Where sites are owned by the Borough Council, this work has been passed on to SBC officers by the Wildlife Trust through the Stevenage Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group, which includes SBC's Green Spaces Policy & Development Manager and Environment Portfolio Holder. The ongoing management of these sites will be monitored through these meetings in future.

Table of all Stevenage’s Local Wildlife Sites with summary information and survey results

COLOUR CODE:	species site (bats or amphibians)		SBC-owned or survey permitted by private owners		surveyed in 2012 by HWSP and monitored in 2013		permission refused or not given or ownership unknown		owner refused but survey provided to SBC via Planning application in 2012								
	Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)	Notes	boundary change notes	Ratification Decision	criteria met	Management recommendation summary
	21/018	17/1	Margaret's Wood, Todds Green	TL223267	3.86	Private Individuals	H.1.1.1	Woodland - Ancient	17/04/2009	Ancient Woodland Inventory, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak- Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi- natural, coppice with standards, Scrub.	permision received but only area to west of track - not the 'spoil bank'	PART OF SITE NOT ACCESSED	None	Ratified	H.1.1.1 (12 AWIs)	Prevent further incursion into the woodland with spoil/waste materials. No woodland management required.
	21/022	17/3	Symonds Green	TL221250	1.31	Local Authority	H.2.2e	Grassland - General	06/09/1997	Common land, Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, unimproved, Grassland: acid, Scrub, Scattered trees, Open water: pond, Ditch, Hedge			None	Ratified	H.2.2b (10 neut); H.2.2d (5 wet); H.2.2e (14 mixed)	Continue mowing regime, leaving some patches uncut until September. Ideally, leave some patches for a year to allow overwintering invertebrates to complete their life cycle, and then cut the following spring. Always remove cuttings to prevent enrichment.
	21/024	17/4	Whitney Wood	TL230263	3.78	Private Individuals	H.1.1.3	Woodland - Ancient	07/05/1987	Wildlife Site, Ancient Woodland	Pedunculate Oak- Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi- natural, coppice with standards, Open water: ponds	permission refused	informatio n via Planning application -still qualifies under H.1.1.3 with 18 AWIs	none - report never submitted to HWSP officially so cannot use data	LWS - boundary remains the same	H.1.1.3	n/a
	21/025	17/5	St Nicholas Churchyard , Stevenage	TL240262	1.83	Church	H.2.2e	Grassland - General	25/11/1991	Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, unimproved, Hedge with trees	permission granted		None	Ratified	H.2.2b (11 neut); H.2.2a (8 calc); H.2.2e (12 mixed)	Continue current mowing regime, but allow saxifrage strip to extend. Leave some patches of the less rich grassland un- mown till Oct or, preferably, for a whole year . Non-natives in graves are spreading out and their spread needs to be controlled.

Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)	Notes	boundary change notes	Ratification Decision	criteria met	Management recommendation summary
21/026	17/6	Martins Way, Stevenage A1072	TL242261	1.16	Unknown	H.2.2e	Grassland - General	25/11/1991	Wildlife Site (.045ha in northernmost corner was shared with area of a RIGS)	Grassland: calcareous		NOTE HAS BEEN DESECTED AS A RIGS	Yes – reduction	Ratified with boundary change.	H.2.2a: (8 neut); (16 calc); (16 mixed)	Treatment of scrub re-growth should be undertaken within the next 2 years. Remove invasive cotoneaster at the same time. Extend the scrub removal into the area shaded by Ash at the eastern end. The chalky bank grassland community should ideally be cut annually, in September after flowering. Consider removing planted trees to allow the chalk flora to flourish. Cut in Spring and Autumn and remove the cuttings.
21/047	17/7	Whitney Drive Wood	TL231260	0.42	Local Authority	H.1.1.3; H.8.1	Woodland - Ancient- urban	06/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards			None	Ratified	H.1.1.3	Remove invasive species (cultivated Yellow Archangel). Otherwise no major work at this time – minimal intervention.
21/048	17/8	Almond Spring	TL244254	0.67	Local Authority	H.1.1.3; H.8.1	Woodland - Ancient -urban	06/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, Woodland: mixed, plantation,		Not on Bryant so not H.1.1.3	None	awaiting 2014 Review: (15 AWIs) for features of ancient origin and if present will qualify under H.1.1.3		Woodland: Minimal intervention – no major work required at present. Grassland: A relaxed spring mowing regime to allow more flowering.
21/049	17/9	Fishers Green Wood	TL221258	1.08	Local Authority	H.1.1.3; H.8.1	Woodland - Ancient-urban	06/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural			Yes - extension (owner is SBC)	Ratified with extension	H.1.1.3 (13 AWIs)	Minimal intervention. No major work required at the present time.

Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)					Management recommendation summary
22/002	17/10	Sishes Wood	TL251256	1.47	Local Authority	H.1.1.3; H.8.1	Woodland - Ancient, Urban	01/05/1993	Wildlife Site, Ancient Woodland	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards,			None	Ratified	H.1.1.3 (10 AWIs)	Control Holly and Laurel in future, but presently they provide the only shrub cover, which is good for breeding birds and overwintering invertebrates. Remove cultivated Yellow Archangel. Consider reducing the number of paths through the wood to reduce impacts and erosion.
													Yes – reduction and extension (owner is SBC)			Minimal management required. The Hornbeam coppice stools are mature, but the ground flora is still persisting.
22/005	17/12	Wellfield Wood	TL257267	4.76	Local Authority	H.1.1.2	Woodland - Ancient	09/05/1992	Ancient Woodland Inventory, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards, Woodland: mixed, plantation			none	Ratified	H.1.1.2 (28 AWIs)	Progressive removal of conifers from the southern sections of the wood. If possible, remove/control the Norway Maple as this can spread/seed freely.
		Exeter Close	TL256266	0	Private Individuals	S.3.2	(Species)		Wildlife Site			spp (bat) site -	n/a	LWS until HERC can assess in 2014		n/a
		Hanginghill Wood (Stevenage)	TL255252	0.94	Local Authority	H.1.1.3, H.8.1	Woodland - Ancient, urban	10/10/1995	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards, Woodland: broadleaved, plantation			None	Ratified	H.1.1.3 (12 AWIs)	Non-intervention. The wood is small, so even in the interior it is still quite light.

Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)	Notes	boundary change notes	Ratification Decision	criteria met	Management recommendation summary
29/018	17/14	Kitching Green Lane	TL221234	0.93	Private Individuals	H.1.7, H.a	Woodland:Wooded green lanes and hedgerows	02/08/1995	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Boundaries, hedge with trees, Ditch			whole site needs rechecking against new hedgerow criteria lengths test and veteran trees	for review in 2014		Hedgerow maintenance, also possibly opening up some areas of verge for herbs, although monitor in case this only gives rise to ruderals.
29/020	17/15	Garston Meadow (Norton Green)	TL227230	4.58	Private Individuals	H.2.2b, H.a	Grassland - Neutral	23/08/1989	Wildlife Site	Grassland: acid, unimproved, Grassland: neutral, Open water: pond, Scrub, Hedge	sent via email - refusal on file	permission refused	n/a	LWS - no evidence to assess or deselect		n/a
29/034	17/16	Monks Wood West	TL241231	1.15	Unknown	H.1.1.3	Woodland - Ancient	20/09/1997	Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards	emailed permission form on 5/4/13 - refused by email on 17/4/13	permission refused	n/a	LWS - no evidence to assess or deselect		n/a
29/038	17/17	Broadwater Marsh	TL249220	0.82	Local Authority (except small area - see map)	H.5.3; H.8.1	Fens, Mires, Swamp and Marshes, Urban	12/04/1995	Wildlife Site	Grassland: marshy, Woodland: broadleaved, Ditch		No habitat criteria met but spp criteria met for Nationally Notified invertebrate recorded (Flea Beetle) on Aspens	Yes – reduction	Now qualifies as a species Wildlife Site	S.6.2	Restore open, wet conditions by removing some trees (but not Aspens) could restore fen vegetation if site becomes wet again. Hydrological investigation and work needed. Remove invasives. Clearing some areas and cutting back growth of ruderals and removing the cuttings.
29/039	17/18	Warren Springs	TL240228	0.33	Private Individuals	H.1.1.3; H.8.1	Woodland - Ancient, Urban		Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards	emailed on 5/4/13 - is leased but no response re permission from leasee	permission chased but never given	n/a	LWS - no evidence to assess or deselect		n/a

Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)	Notes	boundary change notes	Ratification Decision	criteria met	Management recommendation summary
29/040	17/19	Monks & Whomerley Woods	TL246233	25.29	Local Authority	H.1.1.1	Woodland - Ancient (and species criteria)	14/07/1992	Ancient Woodland Inventory, Grade A* Site; Countryside Heritage Project Site (Ecology/Archaeology); Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards, Woodland: plantation, Open water: ponds			none	Ratified	H.1.1.1 (31 AWIs)	Cut back the sides of the ride early and late in the year in small sections Open ride by taking out some of the trees along the sides wood but be careful with the Aspen stand, and leave important old or interesting trees, especially those with large, low branches.
29/041	17/20	Shackledell Grassland	TL248232	2.58	Local Authority	H.2.2b	Grassland - Neutral	06/07/2011	Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, Scrub, Open water: stream, Hedge			None (monitored in 2013 after 2012 survey)	LWS - boundary remains the same	H.2.2b, H.2.2e	continue to cut in late summer and remove all arisings
29/042	17/21	Six Hills Common	TL237237	0.95	Local Authority	H.2.2e; H.5.3	Grassland - General	19/07/2012	Common land, Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved, Grassland: acid, Scrub			None (monitored in 2013 after 2012 survey)	LWS - boundary remains the same	H.2.2a; H.2.2b; H.2.2c; H.2.2e	Since 2011, the site has received an annual cut in late summer with all the arisings removed - continue. Self-set scrub is also removed on an annual basis and this should be continued as necessary
29/059	17/23	Triangular Grassland by Fairlands Valley Park	TL249232	0.75	Local Authority	H.2.2b	Grassland - Neutral, linking habitat	08/08/1995	Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, unimproved, Scrub, Hedge		in desperate need of scrub clearance although made criteria	None	Ratified	H.2.2b (8 neut)	Urgent management required. Remove scrub from the middle of the site. After removal, cut grassland to retain an open structure.. Each patch could be cut on rotation - variety of structure for invertebrates. Ideally, link the grassland here to the patch of grass in the adjoining site to the west.

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29/065	17/24	Elder Way Flood Meadow	TL240235	2.89	Private Organsiation	H.2.2b	Grassland - Neutral	01/05/1998	Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved	permission granted		None	Ratified	H.2.2b (13 neut); H.2.2a (9 calc); H.2.2e (14 mixed)	Some rotational cutting of both grass and scrub. The grassland should be summer cut on rotation. cutting should certainly only be undertaken on a small percentage of the site in any one year. Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam need to be removed.
30/003/01	17/26	Ridlins Wood	TL264225	6.76	Local Authority	H.1.1.1	Woodland - Ancient	14/08/1993	Ancient Woodland Inventory, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards Woodland: coniferous, plantation, Open water:stream, Hedge, Ditch			None	Ratified	H.1.1.1 (14 AWIs)	Some of the older trees could be haloed to create space for veterans to develop. There is already a mix of dense shrubs and more open woodland. Eradicate the small patch of Garden Yellow Archangel and Snowberry, as they can spread and take over very quickly. Remove conifers
30/003/02	17/25	Loves Wood	TL260227	2.6	Local Authority	H.1.1.2	Woodland - Ancient	19/05/1978	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, Woodland: plantation, Scrub,			None	Ratified	H.1.1.2 (11 AWIs)	Conifers could be removed to benefit ground flora.
30/004	17/27	Ridlins Mire	TL263222	1.57	Local Authority	H.5.3	Fens, Mires, Swamp and Marshes	?	HMWT Reserve (all within), Invertebrate Site Register, Wildlife Site	Grassland: marsh, Swamp: tall fen, Open water:running, Mire: bare peat			None	Ratified	H.5.3 (7 fen)	Increased cutting of the main area of wetland to reduce the swamping of smaller fen species by the dominant tall herbs. Further rotational cutting of tall fen vegetation within the site is of high propriety to retain and regain the ecological value of the site.

Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)	Notes	boundary change notes	Ratification Decision	criteria met	Management recommendation summary
30/005	17/28	Stevenage Brook Marsh	TL262215	5.87	Environment Agency	H.2.2e, H.5.3	Fens, Mires, Swamp and Marshes, Grassland - General	22/08/1992	Wildlife Site	Grassland: marsh, Grassland: neutral, Swamp: tall fen , Open water: running, Scrub,	EA have confirmed that they own the whole site and that access should be open		None	Ratified	H.5.3 (5 fen)	Rotational scrub clearance in the dense areas, and more extensive rotational cutting of the tall fen areas; not everywhere and not every year. Removal of Giant Hogweed and Canadian Goldenrod Himalayan Balsam (frequent all along the stream)
30/009	17/29	Poplars Meadow and Pond	TL268236	1.95	Local Authority	H.2.2e	Grassland - General	04/07/1995	Grassland Inventory, Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, unimproved, Scrub, Open water: pond, Hedge			Yes – reduction	Ratified	H.5.3 (5 fen)	cut specifically to encourage Betony, Pepper Saxifrage, Dropwort. The cut material should be removed and the brambles cut back. Remove invading scrub, but retain the scrub edges Tim Hill will discuss management of the grassland area in the south with scouts and check the grassland again in summer 2014
30/028	17/30	Ashtree Wood and Abbots Grove	TL258241	7.89	Local Authority	H.1.1.1	Woodland - Ancient	07/07/2003	Ancient Woodland Inventory, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards, Woodland: mixed, plantation			yes – extensions	Ratified	H.1.1.1	Removal/thinning of conifers in blocks to allow natural regeneration of broad-leaves and a diversification of the structure of the woodland. Eradicate the Three-cornered Garlic and Yellow Archangel cultivar before further spreading.
30/043	17/32	Great Collens Wood	TL261240	4.26	Local Authority	H.1.1.3	Woodland - Ancient	07/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, Woodland: mixed, plantation			Yes – extension (owner is SBC)	Ratified	H.1.1.3 (12 AWIs)	Remove the Spanish Bluebell and the cultivated Yellow Archangel (in the new section) Coppicing or thinning a small area would create more variety in the age structure and may allow

Site Code	District Plan ref	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ownership Type	original criteria code	Wildlife Site Criteria Habitat	Previous Survey Date	Designation	Habitat	permission notes (for sites not owned by SBC)	Notes	boundary change notes	Ratification Decision	criteria met	Management recommendation summary
																regeneration.
30/045	17/33	Pestcotts Spring & Wood	TL259244	2.95	Local Authority	H.1.1.3	Woodland - Ancient	07/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woodland, broadleaved, semi-natural, Woodland: mixed, plantation,			None	Ratified	H.1.1.3 (21 AWIs)	Some thinning in planted areas will allow more natural regeneration and a greater development of structural diversity within the wood.
30/046	17/34	Blacknells Spring	TL257245	0.51	Local Authority	H.1.1.3	Woodland - Ancient	07/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural			none although remaining third of site not surveyed due to no permission	Ratified	H.1.1.3 (13 AWIs)	Removal of rubbish would be beneficial, and watchful control over invasives from the margins.
30/047	17/35	Wiltshire's Spring	TL254237	0.76	Local Authority	H.1.1.3; H.8.1	Woodland	07/09/1997	Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Site	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, Woodland: mixed, plantation, Scrub			None	Ratified	H.1.1.3 (12 AWIs)	Some careful thinning and removal of smaller planted trees in the western section could be undertaken in order to increase regeneration and structural diversity. Tidying and removal of rubbish.
30/051	17/36	Valley Way Wood	TL250232	2.67	Local Authority	H.1.1.3	Woodland - Ancient, Urban	06/05/2005	Wildlife Site	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, Woodland: mixed, plantation, Scrub					(14 AWIs)	Long term removal of planted conifers to allow regeneration of a more natural stand type. A small area of Snowberry and cultivated Yellow Archangel should be removed ASAP. Opening up a clearing or ride would introduce new age-classes and allow light to the woodland floor.
30/052	17/37	Elm Green Pastures	TL268244	3.45	Local Authority	H.2	Grassland		Wildlife Site	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved, Marshy grassland, Hedge with trees			None	Ratified	H.2.2b (14 neut); H.2.2e (15 mixed)	The cutting regime will benefit the flora but will be detrimental to the invertebrate interest. A more sensitive regime may retain a small proportion uncut each

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																year, rotated around the field.
30/070	TBA	Barnwell School and Rectory	TL2258227	0		S.5	(species)		Wildlife Site	Pond, Improved graasland, Hedgerows	permission received, but too late for survey of GCNs		n/a	LWS (spp point site)	S.5	n/a
29/079	TBA	Whomerley Wood Road Verge	TL247238	1	Local Authority	tbc	roadverge	2012	Wildlife Site	roadverge			None (monitored in 2013 after 2012 survey)	LWS - boundary remains the same	H.2.2b, H.2.2e	Since 2010, the site has received an annual cut in late summer with all the arisings removed - continue