

Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area - Biodiversity Report

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Background Ecological Data Search; Haslemere Neighborhood Plan Area – Biodiversity Report

1.0 Introduction

The following report has been compiled by the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre (SBIC) on behalf of Haslemere Vision as part of a desktop ecological assessment of known biodiversity interest within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area. Based on our standard data search service it includes information on a) any statutory designated wildlife sites (i.e. sites of international or national importance), b) non-statutory designated wildlife sites (i.e. site of local/regional importance including Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodland and Conservation Verges, c) Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) and d) Habitats of Principal Importance (as defined by Section 41 of The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act) falling within the boundaries of the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area. The report is completed by a series of maps showing the Neighbourhood Plan boundary together with the boundaries of any relevant features (Annex A).

Please note, the information contained in this report should be read in association with Surrey Wildlife Trust's advice note for Local Authorities and Neighbourhood Groups, *Biodiversity and Planning in Surrey – May 2014*.

2.0 Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites

The United Kingdom supports a wide variety of species and habitats and a key policy tool for conserving them all is the designation and management of protected sites - areas of land, inland water and the sea that have special legal protection to conserve important habitats and species. Legal protection in turn protects prevents damaging activities.

Within the UK, protected areas fall into a number of categories:

- Protected areas established as a result of European Union Directives and other European initiatives (including Special Protection Areas for Birds and Special Areas of Conservation which together form part of a larger European network called Natura 2000) or protected areas set up under Global Agreements (including Ramsar sites).
- Protected areas established under national legislation. This includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National and Local Nature Reserves.

Categories can overlap and it is possible for an area of land to fit into all of the above categories.

2.1 Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites

Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites fall into three main categories;

Ramsar sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention), agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1973. Originally intended to protect sites of importance especially as waterfowl habitat, the Convention has broadened its scope over the years to cover all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities. The Convention adopts a broad definition of wetland, namely "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres". Wetlands "may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands".

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

SPAs are classified by the UK Government under Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive). SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I to the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. SPAs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are classified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. SPAs, together with SACs, form the Natura 2000 network.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are designated under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive). SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended). SACs, together with SPAs, form the Natura 2000 network

One Internationally Designated Wildlife Site falls within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area. Further details are shown below.

2.1.1 Special Protection Areas

Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Nature Conservation Interest
Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area	Various	2053.8	Classified under Article 4.1 of EC Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive) as it is regularly used by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of the following Annex I listed species; Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>); 1.7% Great Britain population, Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>); 1.4% Great Britain population, Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>); 4.3% Great Britain population.

2.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites fall into three main categories;

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

SSSIs are designated for their biological or geological interest give legal protection to a representative sample of some of the best sites in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 8% of the country. In Surrey there are 63 SSSIs covering a total of 7,295 ha. Surrey's SPAs & SACs are also designated as SSSIs, although the features for which the different types of site have been designated may differ. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

NNRs contain examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in Great Britain. They are managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats communities and species represented within them. In addition they may be managed to provide public recreation that is compatible with their natural heritage interests. NNRs are declared by the statutory country conservation agencies under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

LNRs are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. LNRs may be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation agency. LNRs are declared and managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education, or simply enjoying and having contact with nature.

Two Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites fall within Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area. Further details are shown below.

2.2.1 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Nature Conservation Interest
Devil's Punch Bowl SSSI	SU892370	280.45	A Site of Special Scientific Interest notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Notified in 1986. "This site, comprising Hindhead Common, the Devil's Punch Bowl and Highcomb Valley supports and excellent series of semi-natural habitats including broadleaved and coniferous woodland, heathland, scrub and small meadows, and is one of the most scenically spectacular areas in the western weald."
Stockstone Quarry SSSI	SU876381	3.8	A Site of Special Scientific Interest notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Notified in 1986. "This quarry shows the finest available exposure of the Bargate Beds which are a distinct lithological sub-unit of the Lower Greensand Sangate Beds in the north-western Weald. The quarry is also of great significance in providing the best field illustration of the phenomena associated with chert formation in the Bargate Beds – showing both the calcareous and cherty sandstone lithologies characteristic of these beds in the region "

A copy of the relevant original SSSI citation is included for your information (Annex B).

3.0 Non-Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites

3.1 Local Wildlife Sites

A Local Wildlife Site is a defined area, identified and selected locally for its substantive nature conservation value, taking into consideration the most important and the most distinctive species and habitats within a national, regional and local context (DEFRA, 2011) ¹.

Although they do not have any statutory status, many Local Sites 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 encompass both biodiversity and geological conservation and cover contrasting landscapes in coastal, rural and urban situations. Within each Local Sites System, the criteria for the selection of sites will be derived locally with reference to the national site selection framework of criteria published by Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in 2006 ².

Local Wildlife Sites may have multiple interests and benefits in addition to their substantive nature conservation value. As such they may provide social and community functions or they may have interests relating to education, research or quiet enjoyment.

Local Wildlife Sites make a vital contribution to delivering international commitments to halt the loss of biodiversity. Local Sites provide wildlife refuges for most of the UK's fauna and flora and through their connecting and buffering qualities complement nationally (SSSIs) and internationally designated sites e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). They represent extensive areas of wildlife habitat essential to sustaining populations of rare and declining species within the wider landscape and were identified in the recent Lawton Report - Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (DEFRA, 2010) ³ as being vital components in England's ecological network.

Within the context of a changing climate, Local Wildlife Sites represent some of the best opportunities to conserve habitats and species as well as important reference sites for monitoring change. Local Wildlife Sites play an important part in the natural processes that maintain air, soil and water quality and that reduce the effects of flooding and pollution. They also represent an important mechanism in providing places for education and research. They represent local character and distinctiveness, and contribute to the quality of life and well-being of local communities.

In Surrey, Local Wildlife Sites are known as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and to date, over 700 have been identified by the Local Sites Partnership (LSP – formerly known as the Surrey Nature Conservation Liaison Group or SNCLG).

The designation of SNCIs in no way diminishes the importance of other areas of semi-natural habitat in Surrey, and it is recognised that all semi-natural habitat is important for wildlife and of potential education value. The assessment and designation of SNCIs is a continual process and new sites will be identified as scientific knowledge of individual sites and of the total resource increases.

All of the SNCIs described in this report fall within the administrative area covered by either Waverley Borough Council.

359 sites in Waverley were initially surveyed between 1993 and 1997 as part of a Borough wide review carried out by the Surrey Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Borough Council and Surrey County Council. Candidate sites for each area were then reviewed by the SNCLG at a series of meetings in 1997 and 1998. 167 SNCIs were originally identified across Waverley, all of which were adopted by the Borough Council and incorporated into the adopted Waverley Borough Local Plan, 2002, as Policy C10. Subsequent to this date, a limited number of additional sites have been evaluated by the LSP and added to the list of SNCIs in Waverley on the basis of information provided by relevant organisations or individuals for example County recorders.

Twenty SNCIs fall either wholly or partially within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area and the following table lists the name and reference number of each SNCI together with an Ordnance Survey grid reference, the size and the nature conservation interest of each site.

Site Name	Reference Number	Grid Reference	Area (ha) /Length (km)	Borough / District	Nature Conservation Interest
Home Wood - East SNCI	WA026	SU918318	1.5 ha	Waverley	Site containing County rare flora, selected on these grounds.
Lythe Hill Copse SNCI	WA027	SU924323	8.2 ha	Waverley	A good example of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland with neglected coppice and standards. It has a high diversity with 22 ancient woodland indicator species and a localised abundance of characteristic ground flora.
White House Wood and Fowlshatch Copse SNCI	WA028	SU921349	4.2 ha	Waverley	White House Wood consists of ecologically significant Ancient Semi-natural Woodland stands forming the southernmost stands of a large ancient woodland complex. Fowlshatch is less interesting having been replanted with conifers. It is excluded from the SNCI.
Barfold Copse SNCI	WA050	SU922316	5.2 ha	Waverley	Ancient woodland currently a RSPB reserve. Good site for birds with a number of important species being noted.
Barfold Copse - South SNCI	WA051	SU923316	5.5 ha	Waverley	Site containing county rare flora, selected on the grounds of this.
Hyde Copse, Gravel Hanger & Marchants Hill SNCI	WA060	SU879378	32.2 ha	Waverley	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland and secondary woodland, central area being returned to heath, an important and vanishing habitat.
Kingfisher Farm (Site 2) SNCI	WA072	SU871329	2.2 ha	Waverley	Mosaic of semi-improved grassland, ponds, banks, springs bounded by good species rich hedges.

Site Name	Reference Number	Grid Reference	Area (ha) /Length (km)	Borough / District	Nature Conservation Interest
Imbhams Farm Pond SNCI	WA073	SU926337	1.2 ha	Waverley	Very large, open ancient farm pond with good surrounding vegetation, which is subjected to good management.
Parish Lands, Grayswood SNCI	WA074	SU910341	9.7 ha	Waverley	Broadleaved, acidic and wet semi-natural woodland dominated by Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) and lying adjacent to ancient woodland.
Beechnut House Wood SNCI	WA094	SU881339	8.8 ha	Waverley	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland larger than 5ha with a ground flora containing 17 ancient woodland indicator species.
Bunch Lane Woodland SNCI	WA095	SU895338	10.0 ha	Waverley	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland larger than 5ha with a good ground flora (<i>Sphagnum</i> dominated), ground flora containing 17 ancient woodland indicator species. The site contains c.3ha of wet Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) woodland and 4ha of storm damaged and cleared woodland which has been replanted with native species.
Woodcock Bottom and Whitmore Vale SNCI	WA13	SU875357	56.8 ha	Waverley	Site supports internationally and nationally rare woodland NVC communities including W16b <i>Quercus</i> spp. <i>Betula</i> spp. - <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> woodland; rare Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) stands forming variants of the Ilcio-Fagion forest community type listed in the EU Habitats Directive.
Windy Gap SNCI	WA131	SU861367	6.1 ha	Waverley	Relict mature heath of (around 1 ha) and acid grassland with surrounding stands of acidic woodland.
Frillinghurst Wood SNCI	WA132	SU 930344	14.8 ha	Waverley	Ancient semi-natural woodland of over 5 ha including Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) ghyll woodland, 44 ancient woodland indicators have been recorded from this site. Streams provide direct links between this and adjacent semi-natural stands.
Beacon Hill SNCI	WA133	SU871375	37.9 ha	Waverley	Extensive tracts of open relict heathland that could be restored with plantation clearance and clearings contiguous with extensive open heath of considerable nature conservation interest.
Woodland to the East of Hindhead SNCI	WA134	SU902359	275.8 ha	Waverley	Extensive woodland, scrub and relict heathland oriented around Hindhead. Whilst most of the western site boundary is contiguous with the Devil's Punch Bowl SSSI, supporting patches of relict open heath and scrub, eastern areas cover large areas of Ancient Woodland. Nationally rare woodland NVC communities are present including lowland variant of W16b.
Keffold's Copse SNCI	WA137	SU 907350	16.4 ha	Waverley	The site lies at the extreme south-eastern margins of an extensive forest complex that is all listed in the Surrey Inventory of Ancient Woodland. It contains W7 wet Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) wood, rare in South-East England and species that are scarce in the County.

Site Name	Reference Number	Grid Reference	Area (ha) /Length (km)	Borough / District	Nature Conservation Interest
Hindhead Golf Club SSCI	WA139	SU863373	67.5 ha	Waverley	Supports around 10 ha of relict heath and unimproved acid grassland scattered across the site. Whole site selected as imposing a definitive boundary not possible.
Grayswood Hill SSCI	WA145	SU917343	7.6 ha	Waverley	Ancient semi-natural woodland and secondary woodland under active management supporting at least 19 ancient woodland indicators including a County rarity.
Grayswood Green Cricket Field SSCI	WA149	SU917347	1.7 ha	Waverley	Area containing County rare flora.

3.2 Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodland is defined by Natural England as a site that has had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. It is an irreplaceable, wildlife-rich habitat, and often includes important archaeological features. Surrey is one of the most wooded parts of lowland Britain and supports approximately 37,700 ha of woodland, of which, 11,935 ha (or 7.1% of the of the County) are considered to be Ancient.

Ancient woodland is commonly divided into two broad categories, Ancient Semi-natural Woodland and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites. Both types of stand are classed as ancient woodland and are given equal protection under the National Planning Policy Framework. Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) are stands that are composed predominantly of trees and shrubs native to the site that do not obviously originate from planting. They include stands that may have been managed by coppicing or pollarding in the past, as well as those where the tree and shrub layer has grown up by natural regeneration. Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) are areas of ancient woodland where the original native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted stock most commonly of a species not native to the site, for example conifers such as Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) or Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra var. maritime*), but also broadleaves such as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) or Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). These sites often retain some ancient woodland features such as soils, ground flora, fungi, and woodland archaeology – and they can respond well to restoration management.

Ancient woodland status is determined using information from historic Ordnance Survey and other historic sources and information about the name of the wood, its shape, relief, internal boundaries and location relative to other features such as parish boundaries. Ground survey information such as flora and historical features plus aerial photography interpretation is also used when available. The original inventory was produced by Nature Conservancy Council (later English Nature) on a county-by-county basis in the 1980's and 1990's and included all sites over two hectares in size. Access to additional resources and advances in digital mapping techniques mean that it is now possible to map woodlands under two hectares with greater ease and accuracy and since 2005 this led to an on-going project to completely revise and update the Ancient Woodland Inventory across the South East. The Surrey Ancient Woodland Survey was carried out by SBIC on behalf of Natural England, Forestry Commission, Surrey Hills AONB, Surrey County Council and ten Borough/District Councils from 2009 until 2011. The results of this work have now been adopted by Natural England and incorporated into the national ancient woodland inventory. The details of any ancient woodland sites contained in this report taken from the final SBIC version of this dataset. Please note, the Ancient Woodland Inventory should always be classed as “provisional” and will be reviewed and updated as new information comes to light.

Eighty-four sites falling either wholly or partially within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area appear on the Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory ⁴ for the County.

The following table shows the unique identification for each site, site name (where known), an Ordnance Survey grid reference and the area of the site as shown on the Inventory. The site name and grid reference used are taken directly from the Inventory and may therefore not necessarily match those used elsewhere in this report.

Code	Wood Name (Where Identified)	Type	Borough/District	Parish	Grid Reference	Area (ha)
C_1513	Oulden Rough, Boarding Door Bottom	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU920311	30.7
C_1514		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU909312	11.2
SRY_46		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU880382	0.5
SRY_67		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU921346	0.3
SRY_68		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Thursley CP	SU904355	2.6
SRY_69		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Witley CP	SU917349	1.5
SRY_74		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Thursley CP	SU901355	3.6
SRY_87a		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU886380	2.7
SRY_95		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	East Hampshire District	Grayshott CP	SU855371	1.3
SRY_106		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU920343	0.3
SRY_2530		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU924344	1.9
SRY_3213		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU916339	0.9
SRY_3215		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU909326	1.2
SRY_3218		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU919328	0.4
SRY_3220		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU904319	2.8
SRY_3222		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU915323	1.6
SRY_3223		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU917321	1.6
SRY_3224		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU913321	0.4
SRY_3225		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU915321	1.2
SRY_3228xx		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU899353	1.6
SRY_3229		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU896339	0.9
SRY_3230		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU889337	4.7
SRY_3233		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU881341	0.4
SRY_3234		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU883340	0.7

SRY_3235		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU873328	2.5
SRY_3239xx		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU900352	3.0
SRY_3241		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU903342	0.7
SRY_3242		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU888340	3.4
SRY_3243xy		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU886340	0.3
SRY_3247		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU895323	0.2
SRY_3248		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU916313	0.9
SRY_3924		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU910342	2.6
SRY_3928		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU914346	2.4
SRY_3930		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU883333	1.1
SRY_3931		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU876326	0.3
SRY_3933		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU897336	1.3
SRY_3934		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU915336	0.3
SRY_3936a		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU913333	1.1
SRY_3936b		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU915331	3.6
SRY_3937		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU922337	0.3
SRY_3938		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU925337	0.2
SRY_3941		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU927335	0.6
SRY_3947		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU919316	0.5
SRY_3948		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU918318	1.3
SRY_3949		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU920315	2.1
SRY_4005		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU871358	1.2
SRY_4006		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU922342	2.1
SRY_4014		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU923341	1.6
SRY_4709		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU919350	4.1
SRY_4709		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU920348	0.9
SRY_4857		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU885334	3.3
SRY_4857		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU885337	1.8
SRY_4858		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU875326	0.7
SRY_4859		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU894332	5.3
SRY_4860		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU916343	3.5
SRY_4861		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU915336	1.2
SRY_4862		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU923334	3.1
SRY_4863		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU910329	9.5

SRY_4864		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU894343	4.0
SRY_4865		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU915334	5.2
SRY_4866		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU928334	4.4
SRY_4868xy		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU908338	2.5
SRY_4869		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU913346	1.6
SRY_4870		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU923337	4.2
SRY_4871		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU903348	2.1
SRY_4872		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU900349	3.4
SRY_5003		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU907340	5.4
SRY_5030		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU906349	14.3
SRY_5031		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU896342	8.0
SRY_5032		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU880336	7.4
SRY_5035		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU917314	2.0
SRY_5050		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU930343	35.5
SRY_5227xx		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU922351	22.7
SRY_5253		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Chiddingfold CP	SU921328	1.9
SRY_5254		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU917341	2.1
SRY_5255b		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU895332	1.7
SRY_5256		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU916316	20.2
SRY_5259		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU921320	22.3
SRY_5260		Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU917331	8.9
SRY_5296		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Lurgashall CP	SU922317	10.4
SRY_6218		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU912330	1.1
SRY_6366		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU896347	4.1
SRY_6367		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU893342	1.4
SRY_6368		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Waverley District (B)	Haslemere CP	SU879330	0.4

3.3 Conservation Verges

The Surrey Road Verge Habitat Action Plan (RVHAP - part of the Surrey Biodiversity Action Plan) aims to raise awareness of the biodiversity potential of vergeside habitat and identifies how this can be managed to maintain and enhance biodiversity in a way which best balances the competing interests of conservation and road safety. The RVHAP has been produced by a working group including representatives from Surrey County Council, Borough and District Councils, the term contractors responsible for carrying out road verge management, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Botanical Society and Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre and is relevant to all those involved in the management of road verges in Surrey. A copy of the full plan can be viewed online at www.surreybiodiversitypartnership.org.

One of the key sections of the RVHAP was to identify the County's most important verges for wildlife. Once selected, these Conservation Verges were mapped by SBIC and information on their location passed to all relevant bodies including public utilities. Each Conservation Verge will also have a management regime applied to it which best supports the interest of that site.

The wildlife importance of many verges in Surrey has already been recognised as part of larger designated wildlife sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) however the guidelines used to identify Conservation Verges apply different criteria which reflect the particular character of these sites. A verge of any length or size can become a Conservation Verge as long as it meets one of the following criteria:

- It supports a population of nationally or locally rare or scarce species or,
- It contains semi-natural vegetation containing a good population or assemblage of species of conservation interest in Surrey or,
- The verge is culturally important and of intrinsic value to local people for its wildlife or,
- It forms part of a larger site, or connects sites that have an existing wildlife designation such as a SSSI or SNCI.

The selection and review of Conservation Verges will be a continual process.

Two sites falling sites falling either wholly or partially within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area have been identified as Conservation Verges. The following table shows the unique identification number for each verge, the site name, an Ordnance Survey grid reference for the central point of the verge, its length and the nature conservation interest of each site.

CV Number	Site Name	Length (m)	Grid Reference	Borough	Parish	Site Description	Biodiversity Interest
CV049	Tilford Road 2	321.4	SU87483810	Waverley District (B)	Frensham CP	Tilford Road, Churt. Eastern side of the road from SU87533829 to SU87463798 adjacent to Stocksfield House	Supports <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> , (Navelwort) - Surrey Scarce
CV073	Hyde Lane	120.3	SU87703830	Waverley District (B)	Frensham CP	Hyde Lane, Churt. Southern side only adjacent to disused mineral workings. SU87753826	Supports <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> , (Navelwort), Surrey Scarce

3.4 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). They are important as an educational, historical and recreational resource and the designation of RIGS is one way of recognising and protecting important Earth science and landscape features for future generations to enjoy. RIGS are the geological equivalent to Local Wildlife Sites or other non-statutory wildlife designations and are designated by locally developed criteria. In Surrey, the identification and designation of RIGS is overseen by the Surrey RIGS Group.

One RIGS site falls within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area, the details of which are shown below. For more information on this site or RIGS in general, please contact;

Ian Fletcher
Chairman
Surrey RIGS Group
96A High Street
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2BT

Tel: 01372 461642 (Day), 020 8543 0179 (Evening) E-mail: ian.fletcher@tonygee.com

Site Name	RIGS Number	Grid Reference	Area	Borough	Stratigraphic Position	Regional Importance
Devil's Punch Bowl RIGS	002	SU8936	201.1 ha	Waverley	Lower Cretaceous	Largest example of spring-sapping in South-East England. Only exposure of Atherfield Clay in the area.

4.0 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation in Surrey, where targeted conservation action will have the greatest benefit. The main aim within BOAs is to restore biodiversity at a landscape scale through the maintenance, restoration and creation of Priority habitats. BOAs have been identified across Surrey and link with BOAs mapped across the whole of south-east England. There are currently 50 BOAs covering some 39% of Surrey. These were mapped by SBIC in consultation with local authorities and conservation organisations in Surrey. They were identified by taking into account existing concentrations of Priority habitats and important areas for Priority species. The potential for habitat restoration was also considered and took into account geology, topography and hydrology. A policy statement is in preparation for each BOA identifying the features of biodiversity importance and its specific conservation objectives, as well as targets for maintenance, restoration and creation of Priority habitats, and recovery of Priority species populations.

Two BOAs have currently been identified within the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area. These are;

- WG04 - Devil's Punchbowl and Hindhead Heaths
- LW01 - Chiddingfold and West Weald Woodlands

A copy of the current BOA statements are included in Annex C and should be read in association with *Biodiversity Opportunity Areas: the basis for realising Surrey's ecological network*, Surrey Nature Partnership, December 2015

5.0 Habitats of Principal Importance

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions. In particular:

- Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities will use it to identify the species and habitats that should be afforded priority when applying the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) to maintain, restore and enhance species and habitats.
- Local Planning Authorities will use it to identify the species and habitats that require specific consideration in dealing with planning and development control, recognising that under PPS the aim of planning decisions should be to avoid harm to all biodiversity.
- All Public Bodies will use it to identify species or habitats that should be given priority when implementing the NERC Section 40 duty.

Fifty-six Habitats of Principal Importance are included on the S41 list. These are all the habitats in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. They include terrestrial habitats such as upland hay meadows to lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and freshwater and marine habitats such as ponds and sub tidal sands and gravels.

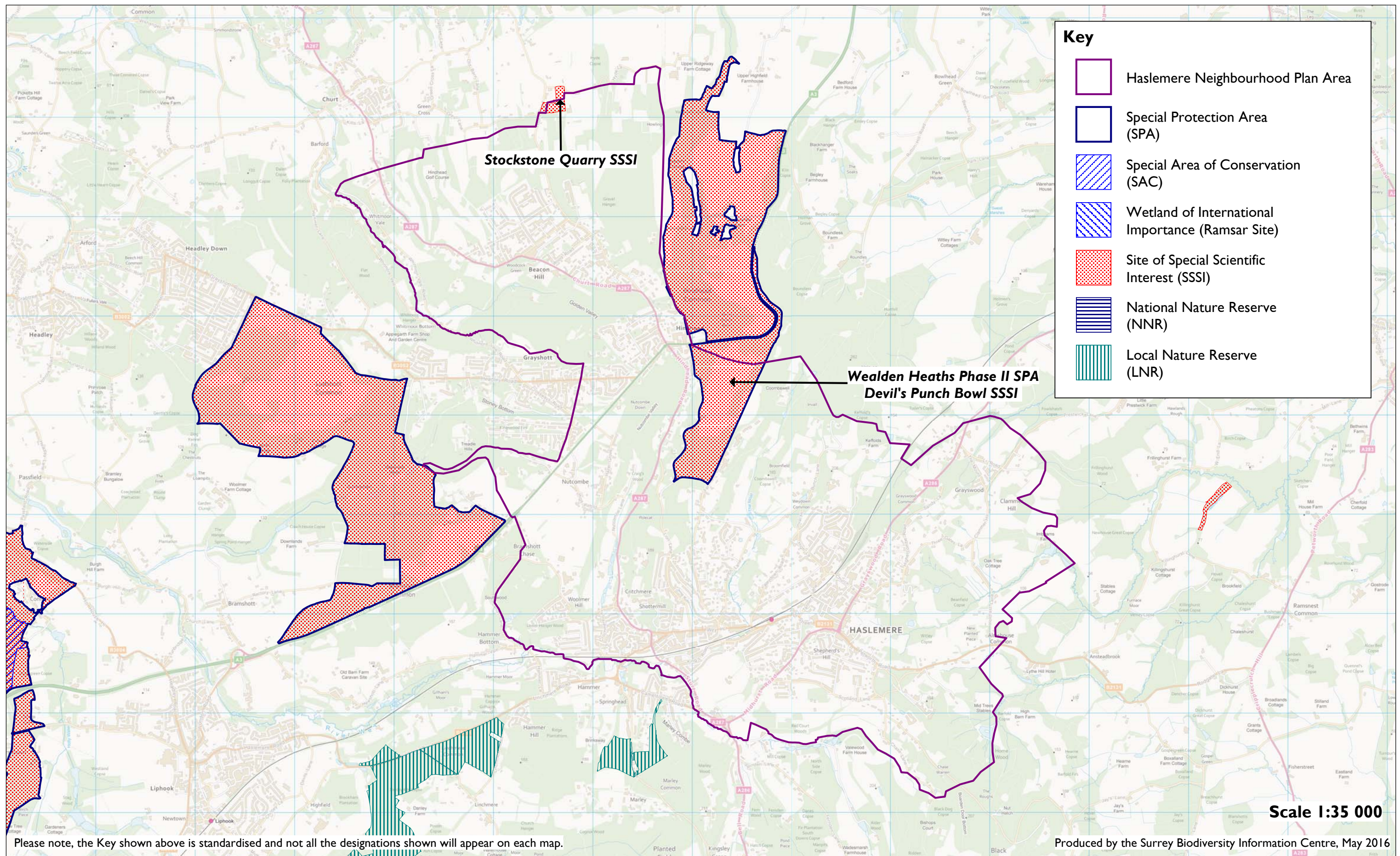
Priority Habitats in Surrey

- Lowland Heathland: a key habitat, important for breeding birds, reptiles, invertebrates and rare wetland plants. Surrey has 13% of the national resource.
- Grasslands
 - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland: often associated with heathland on sandy and gravelly soils. Important for rare plants and invertebrates. Sensitive to nutrient changes.
 - Lowland Calcareous Grassland: a key habitat, associated with areas of chalk and limestone geology, such as in the North Downs and over a minor outcrop of calcareous sandstone in the Weald known as Bargate stone. Flower-rich, important for invertebrates (particularly butterflies). Sensitive to nutrient changes.
 - Lowland Meadows (Neutral Grassland): uncommon in Surrey but important for flowers, invertebrates and birds. Sensitive to changes in hydrology, nutrients and management.
- Woodlands

- Wood-pasture & Parkland: important for veteran trees, invertebrates, fungi and bats. Found mainly on old estates, and often incorporating one or more of the above grassland types.
- Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland: a key habitat, mainly in the North Downs but also the Low Weald.
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland: can have rich ground flora. Also important for bats, woodland birds and butterflies, occasionally support Dormice.
- Wet Woodland: of restricted distribution, mainly adjacent to waterbodies or part of a wetland habitat mosaic in river corridors. May support rare invertebrates.
- Traditional Orchards: restricted distribution, dependent on traditional management methods. Important for bats, invertebrates, mosses, lichens.
- Wetlands
 - Floodplain Grazing Marsh: a key habitat associated with river floodplains. Sometimes flower-rich, important for wading birds. Particularly sensitive to changes in hydrology and nutrients.
 - Lowland Fens: restricted distribution but important for rare invertebrates and plants, Water vole and perhaps Otter. Sensitive to changes in hydrology and nutrients.
 - Eutrophic Standing Waters: likely to be found in old gravel pits and reservoirs, often important for waterbirds.
 - Ponds: may be rich in plants and invertebrates. Likely to be breeding sites for amphibians. Sensitive to changes in hydrology and nutrient status.
 - Reedbeds: restricted distribution. Important for birds, may support Water voles, Harvest mice or rare plants. Sensitive to changes in hydrology.
 - Rivers: provide important wildlife corridors. Likely to support Water vole, maybe Otter, and a variety of invertebrates.
- Other
 - Hedgerows: an important linking habitat used by foraging birds and bats, Dormice and a range of invertebrates. (Subject to the Hedgerow Regulations 1997).
 - Open Mosaic Habitats: on previously developed land; examples include former quarries, gravel pits and ash lagoons - important for birds, invertebrates and specialist plants.
 - Arable field margins: strips around field edges managed to provide benefits for wildlife - can provide important food sources for birds and invertebrates.

Information on the location of Habitats of Principal Importance contained in this report is taken from Priority Habitats' Inventory (Single Habitats' Layer) for England recently developed by Natural England. This inventory replaces Natural England's separate BAP habitat inventories (produced from 1999 onwards and derived from habitat datasets collated from across the country) and combines the individual inventories into one national polygon layer. Habitats contained in the Single Habitat Layer are a simplified form of the full S4I list

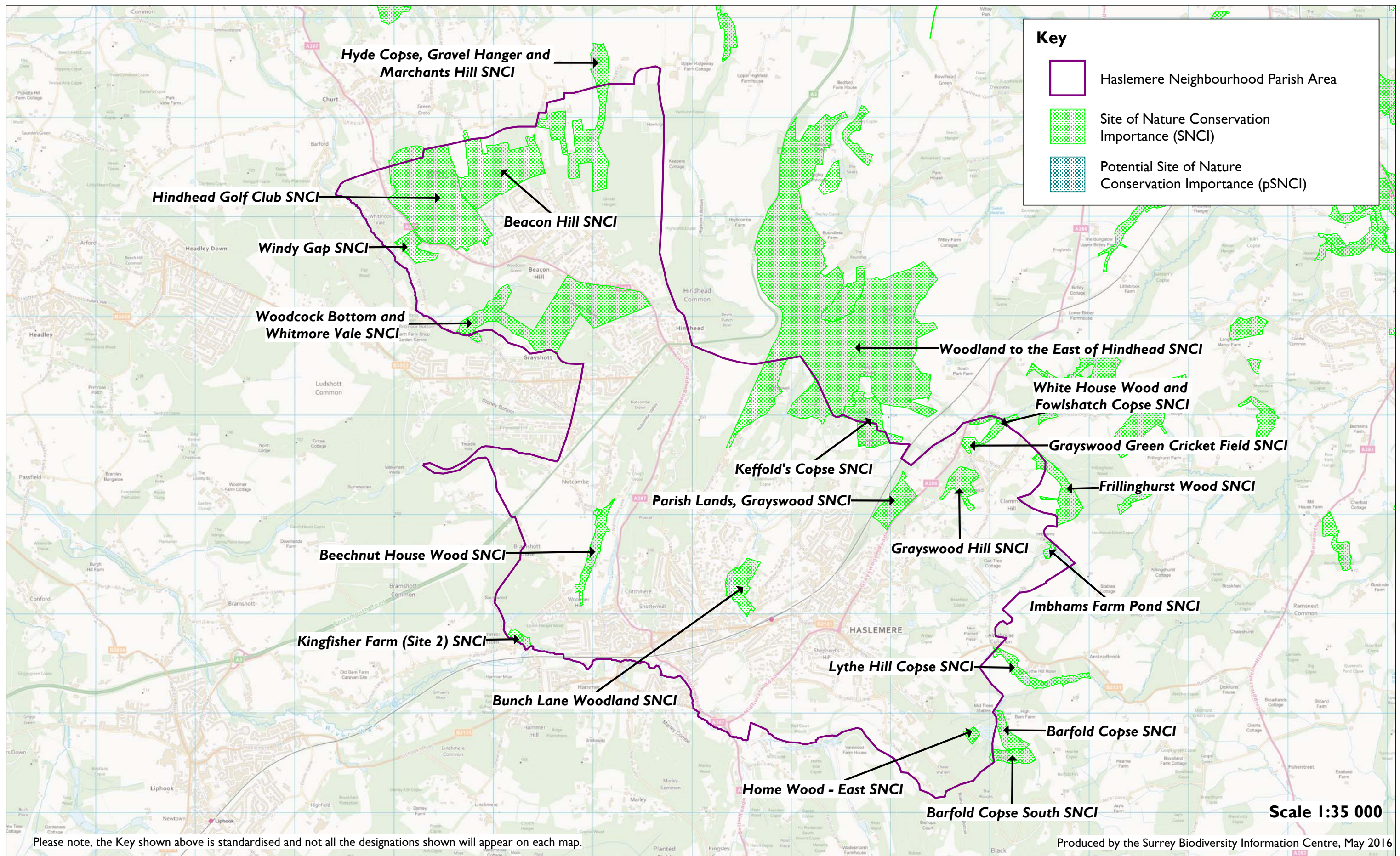
Annex A – Site Maps



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Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites

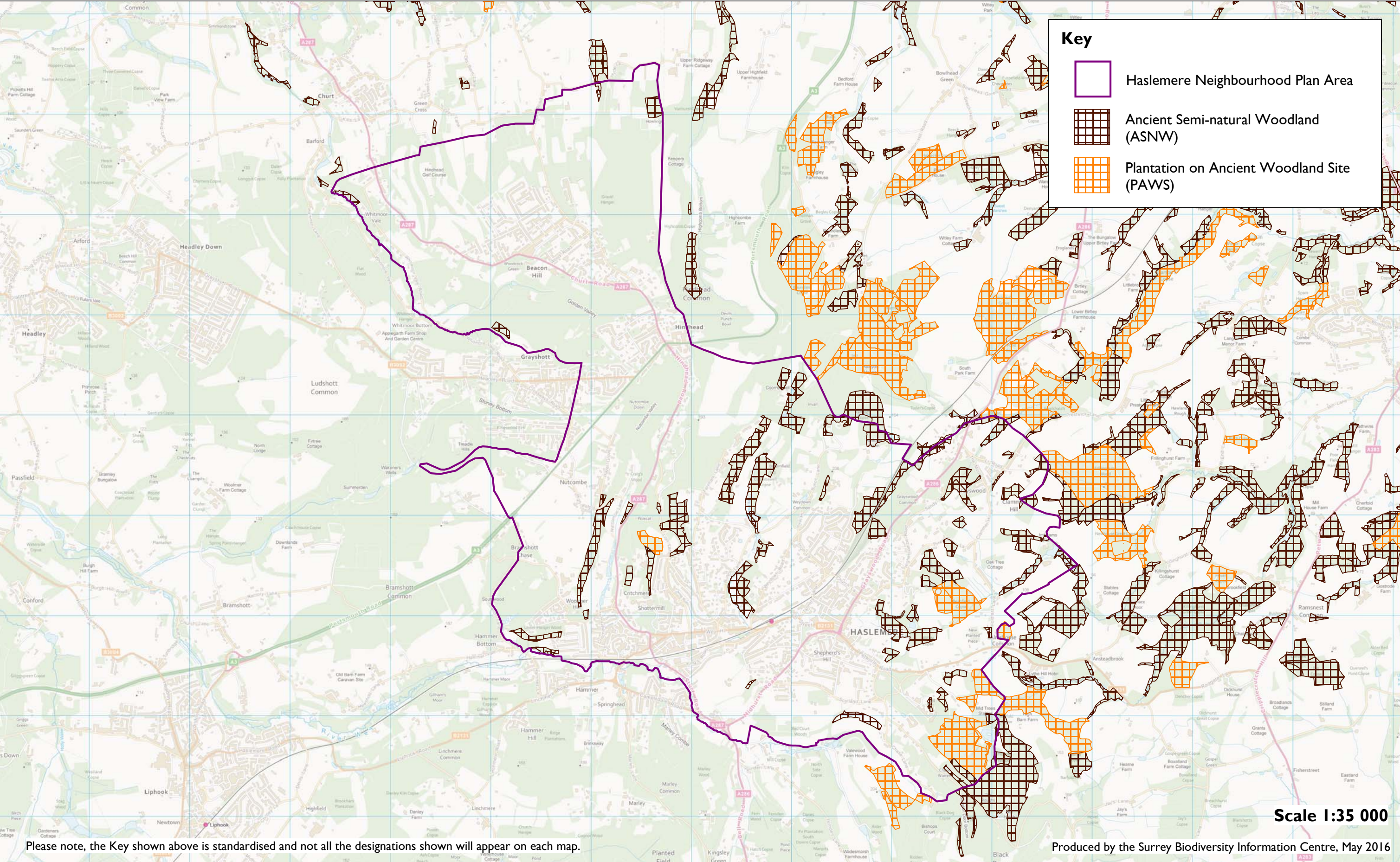




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Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

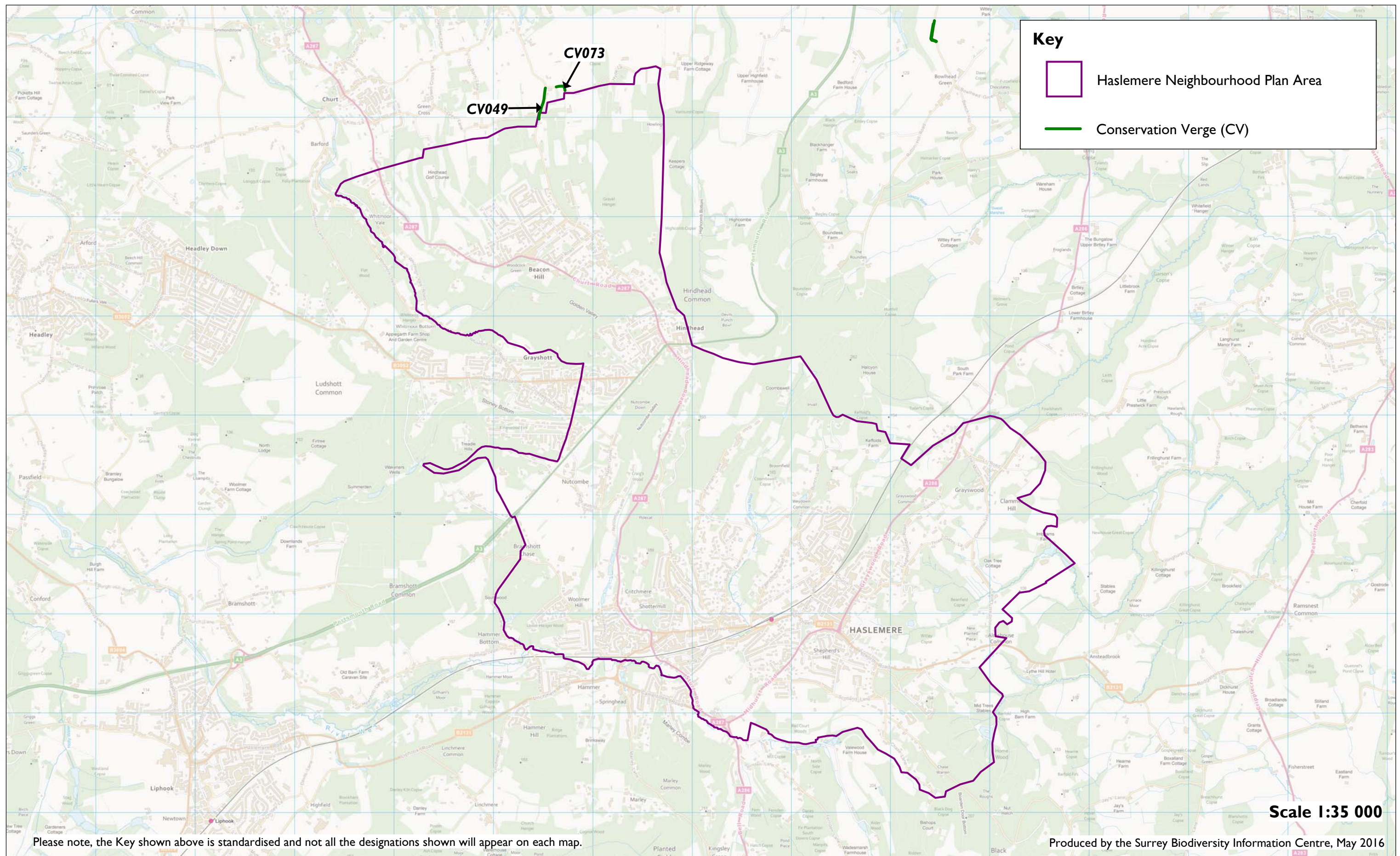




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**Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area
Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory**

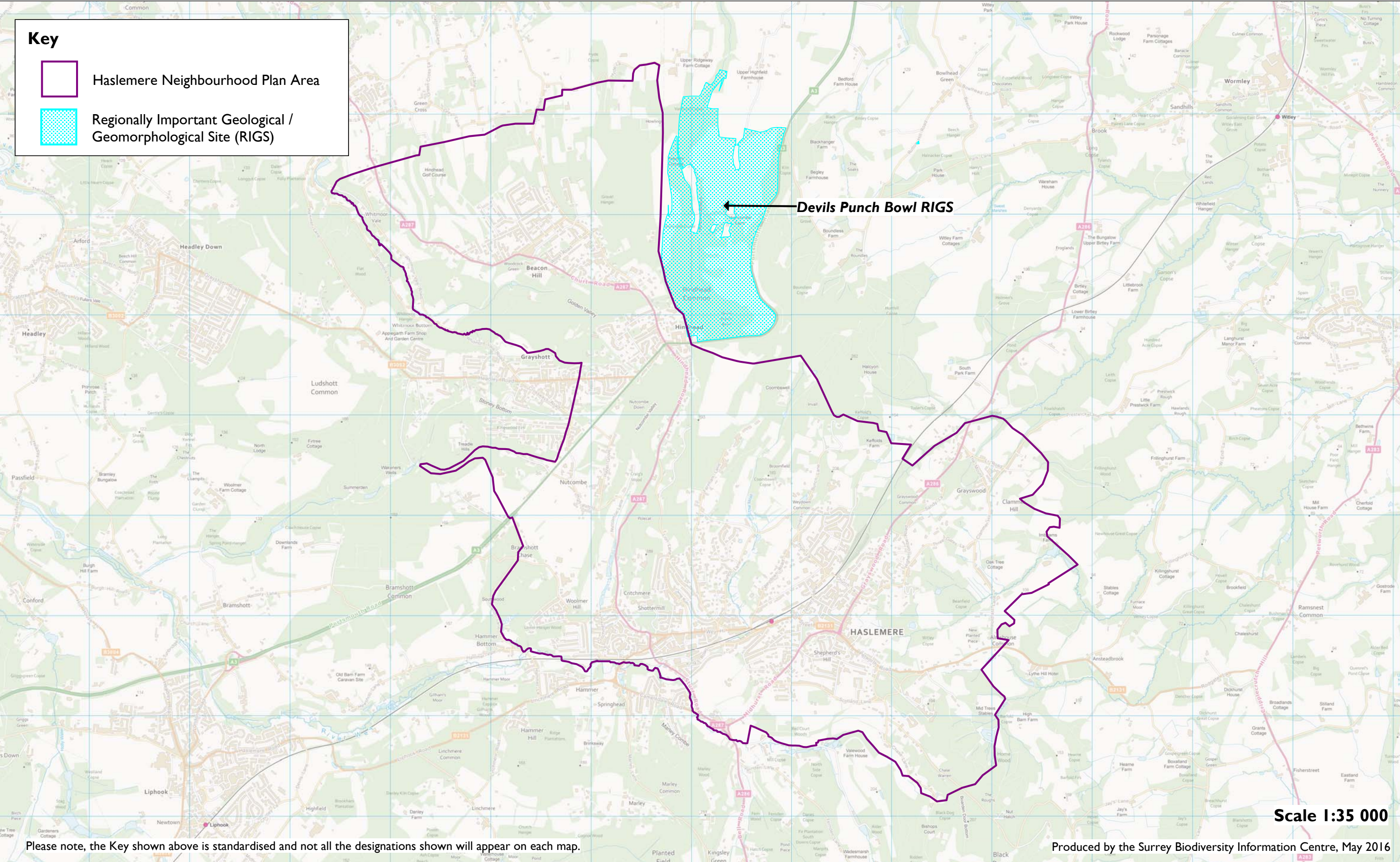


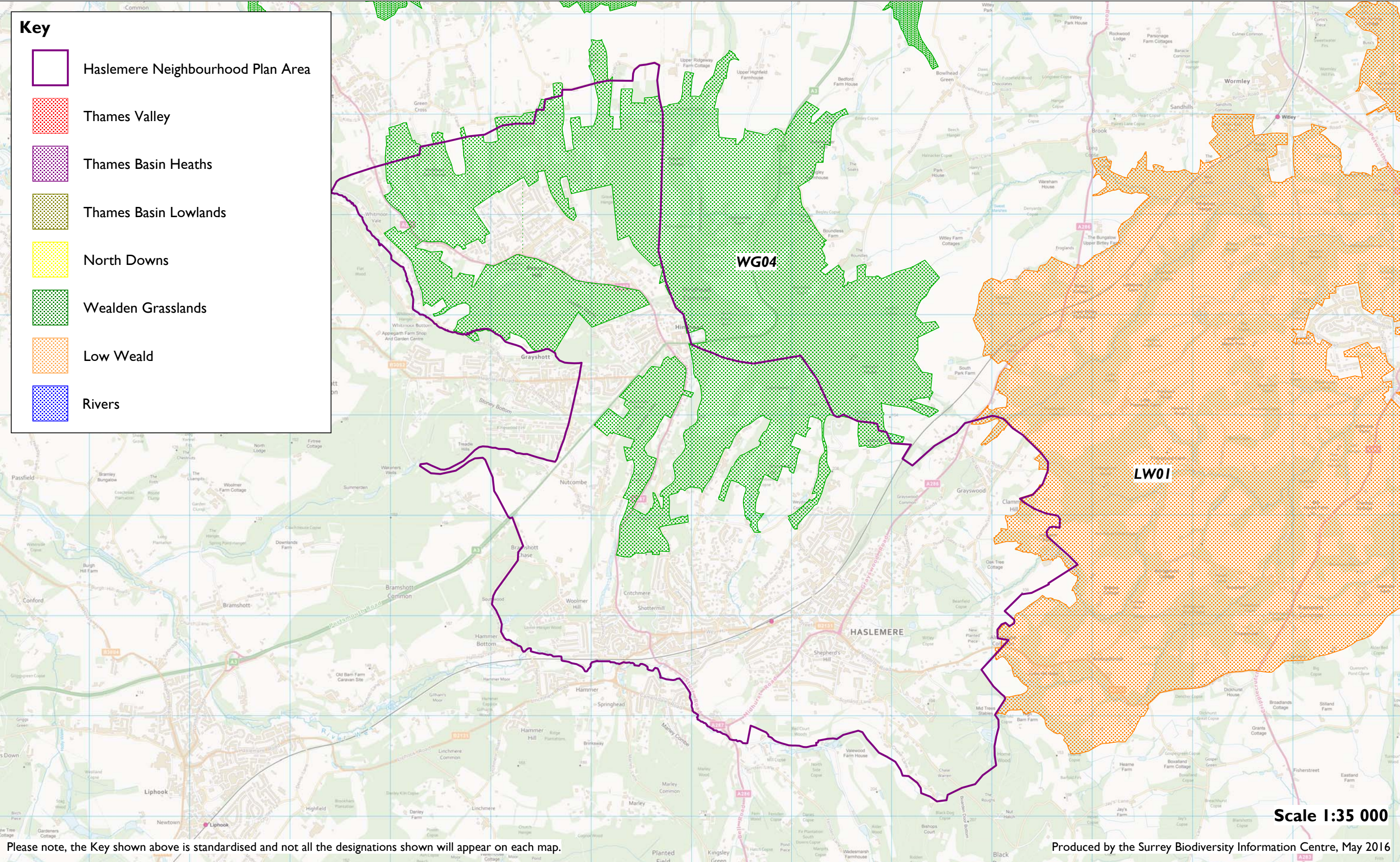


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Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area Conservation Verges





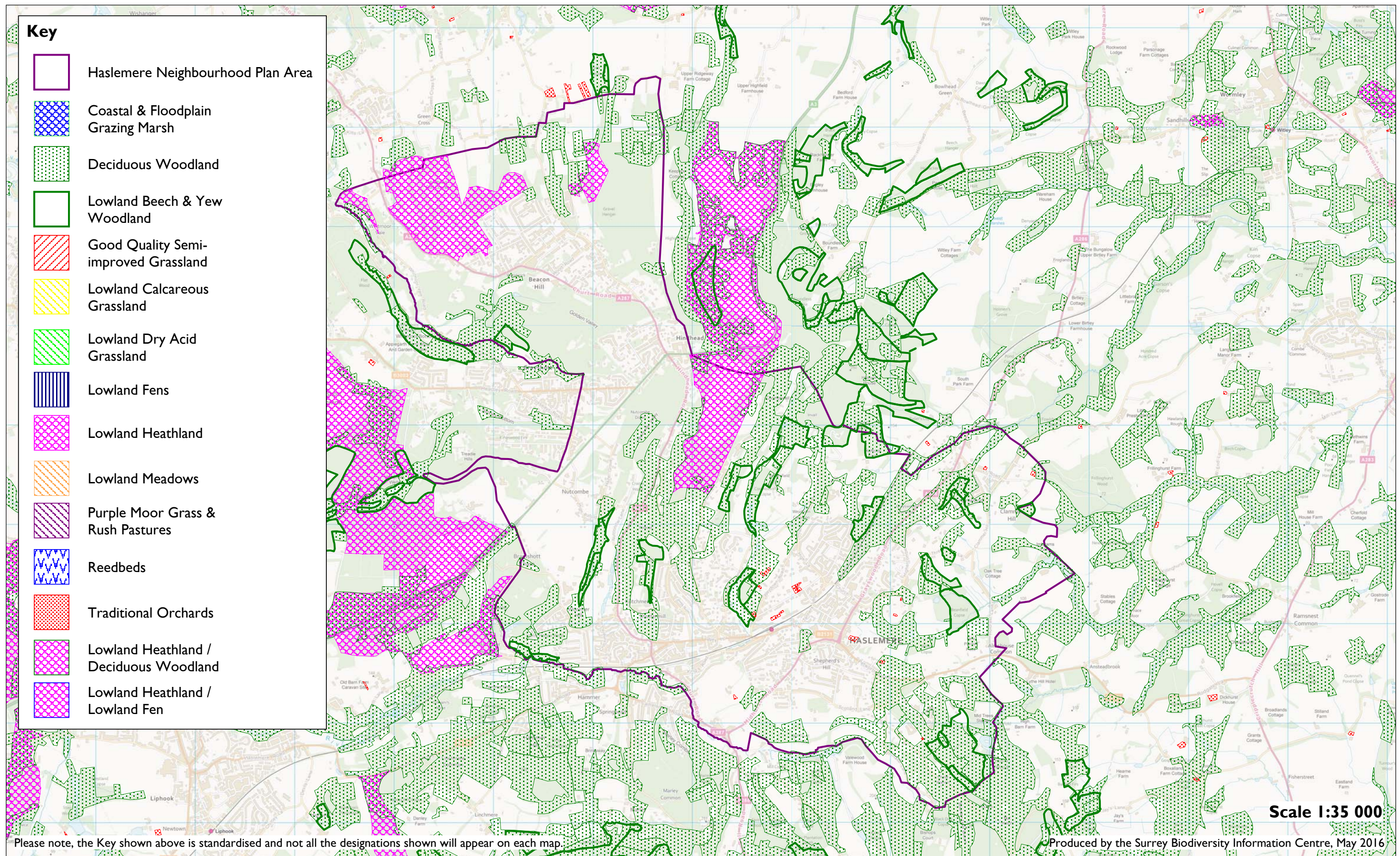


Please note, the Key shown above is standardised and not all the designations shown will appear on each map.

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Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area Biodiversity Opportunity Areas





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Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan Area Natural England Priority Habitats Inventory



Annex B – SSSI Citations

COUNTY: SURREY SITE NAME: DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL

BOROUGH: WAVERLEY

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SU 892 370 Area: 279.9 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 1:10,000: SU 83 NE & SU 83 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955 Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: -

Other Information: This site lies within the Wealden Greensand Natural Area. Most of the site is owned and managed by the National Trust.

Reasons for Notification:

This site, comprising Hindhead Common, the Devil's Punch Bowl and the Highcomb Valley supports an excellent series of semi-natural habitats including broadleaved and coniferous woodland, heathland, scrub and small meadows, and is one of the most scenically spectacular areas in the western weald.

Hindhead Common, lying on the acidic sandstones of the Hythe Beds of the lower Greensand, supports heathland, scrub and secondary woodland communities. The Devil's Punch Bowl itself forms the head of the steep-sided Highcomb Valley, where the Hythe Beds have been eroded by the action of springs to expose the under-lying Atherfield Clay. Further down the valley the Hythe Beds give way to the harder and more calcareous Bargate Beds where a steep-sided gorge has developed.

There are two contrasting areas of ancient woodland in the Highcomb Valley. A stand on the Hythe Beds contains pedunculate oak, *Quercus robur*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and holly *Ilex aquifolium* over a sparse ground flora of bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. The woodland in the gorge overlying the Bargate Beds has a canopy of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* along the streamside with an understorey of hazel *Corylus avellana* and regenerating wych elm *Ulmus glabra* over a luxuriant fern-dominated ground flora. Higher up the gorge sides, pedunculate oak occurs together with some very large beeches. The ground flora here is sparser but remains quite rich in species. The soft shield fern *Polystichum setiferum* is abundant in the gorge, whilst less common species include scaly male fern *Dryopteris affinis*, toothwort *Lathraea squamaria* and bird's-nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*.

Secondary pedunculate oak woodland containing much birch *Betula spp.* and holly with some invasive Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris* occurs throughout the site but is best developed on the western slopes of the Highcomb Valley. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and heath grasses dominate the ground flora. Much of the streamside woodland is extremely wet with a canopy of down birch *Betula pubescens*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willows *Salix spp.* The ground flora varies from purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and bog mosses in the most acidic areas to species-rich flushes containing marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, large bitter

cress *Cardamine amara*, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, lady fern *Athyrium filix femina*, bog-bean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and marsh violet *Viola palustris*.

The eastern slopes of the Highcomb Valley are largely covered by bracken, gorse *Ulex europaeus* and scrub woodland. Some areas of open heathland still remain, however, resembling the much larger area south of the A3 road which is dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bell heather *Erica cinerea*, and where bracken and scrub invasion are less extensive.

The site also includes some small enclosed pastures in Highcomb Bottom. These support a grassland flora dominated by common bent grass *Agrostis capillaris*, fescue grasses *Festuca* spp. and sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* with much pignut *Conopodium majus*. The damper areas are dominated by rushes *Juncus* spp. and contain heat-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* spp. *ericetorum*, bristle club rush *Isolepis setacea*, lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor* and lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*.

The Devil's Punch Bowl has a rich and varied invertebrate fauna which has not as yet been fully recorded. The woodland provides a wide range of invertebrate habitats: dead wood is abundant and harbours good populations of characteristic beetles and the locally rare fly *Xylophagus ater*. The wet woodland supports a crane fly more commonly found in western Britain *Limonia distendus* and several interesting beetles such as the scarce *Malthodes maurus*. Heathland areas support good populations of beetles including the local *Altica ericeti*.

The site contains an outstanding variety of birdlife, with over sixty breeding species. The Highcombe Valley supports breeding wood warblers and redstarts. Rarer woodland breeding species include firecrest, redpoll and crossbill whilst siskin and hawfinch may breed occasionally. Heathland breeding species include nightjar, stonechat, tree pipit and whitethroat. Dartford warblers have bred occasionally.

VIL'S PUNCH BOWL

JRREY



NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL

Site boundary thus ———

Scale 1:25 000

0 Metres 500 1,000 1,500

0 Yards 500 1,000 1,500

Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright reserved 1985/5

NOTE: A larger scale map, showing the definitive boundary, is available on request

COUNTY: SURREY SITE NAME: STOCKSTONE QUARRY

BOROUGH: WAVERLEY

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SU 876 381 Area: 3.8 (ha.) 9.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 1:10,000: SU 83 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

This new site will be included in 'A Geological Conservation Review'.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This quarry shows the finest available exposure of the Bargate Beds which are a distinct lithological sub-unit of the Lower Greensand Sandgate Beds in the north-western Weald. The quarry is also of great significance in providing the best field illustration of the phenomena associated with chert formation in the Bargate Beds -- showing both the calcareous and cherty sandstone lithologies characteristic of these beds in the region.

NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL

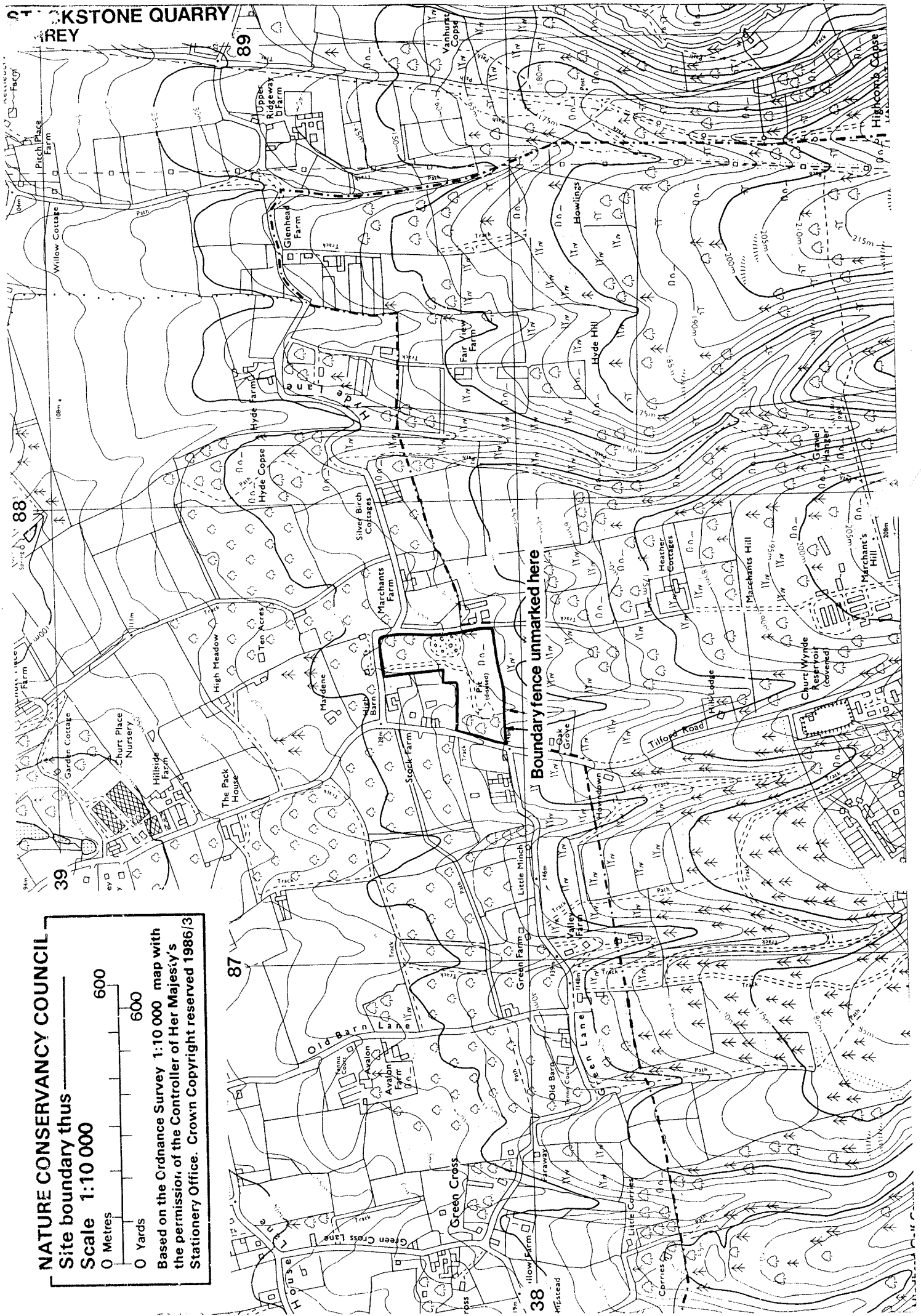
Site boundary thus _____

Scale 1:10 000

0 Metres

0 Yards

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Annex C – Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statements

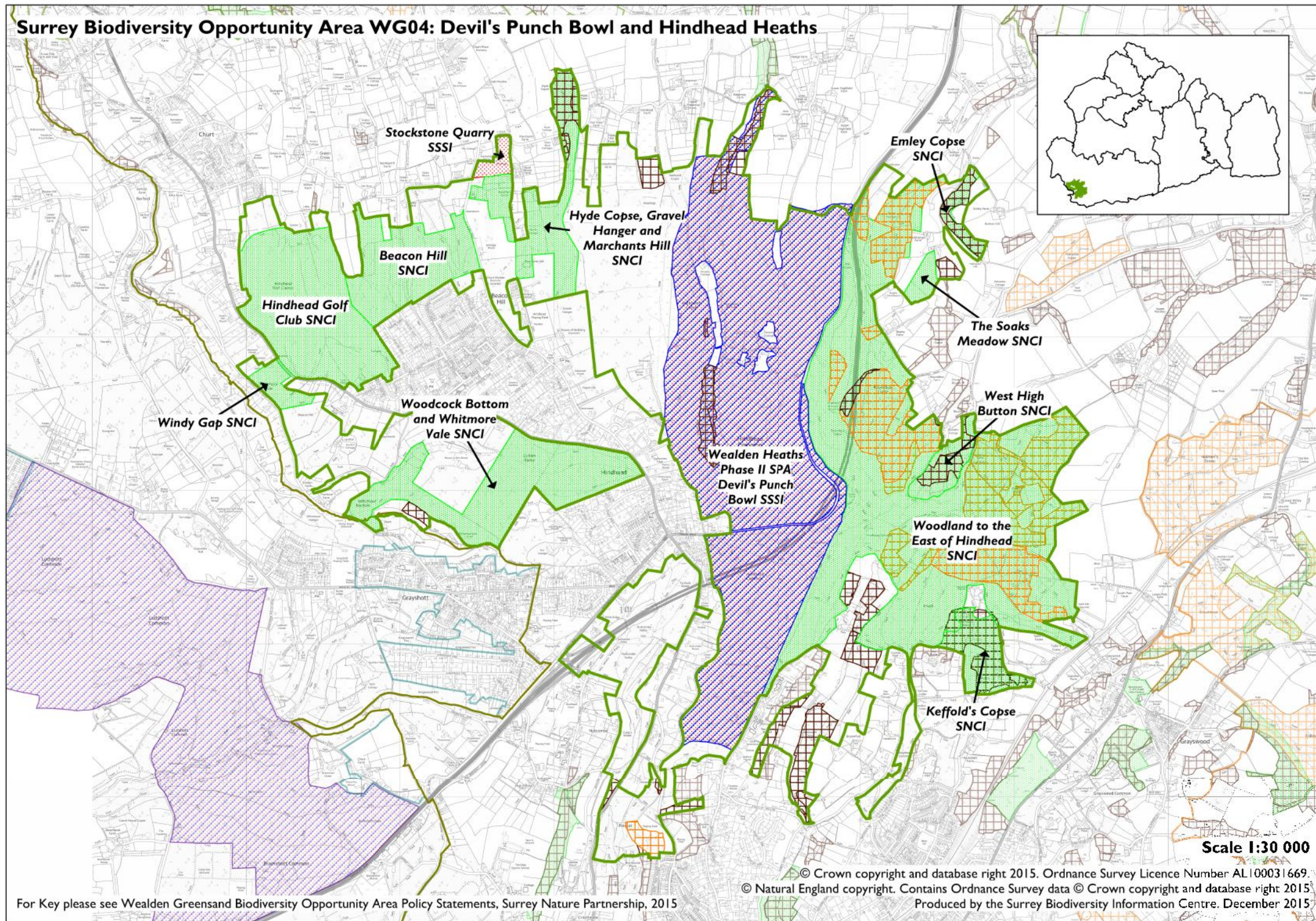
Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG04: Devil's Punch Bowl & Hindhead Heaths	
Local authorities: Waverley	
<p>Aim & justification</p> <p>The aim of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. Priority habitats will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets National Planning Policy Framework policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify & map components of the local ecological networks (para. 117).</p> <p>Explanatory</p> <p>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</p>	
<p>1. Overview</p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes a large area of woodland and heathland centred on the Devil's Punch Bowl SSSI at Hindhead. Significant heathland restoration was recently achieved here through the A3(M) tunnel project. The BOA is contiguous with Hampshire BOA 15 (Wealden Heaths). Area: 1168.5 ha</p>	
<p>2. National Character Areas</p> <p>Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), Low Weald (NCA 121; marginal)</p>	
<p>3. Profile</p> <p>3.1 Geology</p> <p>Lower greensand. A dramatically elevated section of the Greensand ridge, rising to a maximum 272m on Gibbett Hill. Numerous steep-sided stream valleys or "bottoms" radiate from this high ridgeline including Highcomb, which forms the punch bowl, as well as Whitmoor Vale and Polecat Valley</p> <p>3.2 Biodiversity</p> <p>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</p> <p>Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): Wealden Heaths Phase 2 SPA</p> <p>SSSI: Devil's Punch Bowl; Stockstone Quarry (geological interest only)</p> <p>AONB: Surrey Hills</p> <p>3.2.2 Local Sites</p> <p>SNCI: 10</p> <p>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</p> <p>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</p> <p>Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland</p> <p>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</p> <p>Fungi/Lichens: <i>Usnea florida</i> (a lichen)</p> <p>Invertebrates: Grayling, Small heath, Shining guest ant, Hornet robberfly, White-clawed crayfish</p> <p>Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Wood warbler, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat</p> <p>3.2.4 Further important species interest: Bird's-nest orchid, Bristle club-rush, Heath spotted-orchid, Lousewort, Marsh violet; <i>Altica ericeti</i> (a leaf beetle), Common awl-fly, Golden-tabbed robberfly, <i>Limonia distendens</i> (a crane-fly); Crossbill, Dartford warbler, Firecrest, Hobby, Redstart,</p>	

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

<p>Siskin</p> <p>3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS</p> <p>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: [ex-Hindhead Together]</p> <p>3.3 Archaeology Cross Dyke on Hindhead Golf Course</p> <p>3.4 Access</p> <p>3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Hindhead Common, Nutcombe Valley, Golden Valley, Beacon Hill (National Trust); Boundless-Hurthill Copse, Holmen’s Grove, Black Hanger (Forestry Commission)</p> <p>3.4.2 Long-distance PRow, etc: Greensand Way</p> <p>3.5 Key ecosystem services Agricultural production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf, angling, mountain-biking, outdoor youth pursuits, nature observation)</p> <p>3.6 Socio-Economic</p> <p>3.6.1 Employment profile: Agriculture and Silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Private education sector; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian, hospitality)</p> <p>3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3</p>							
<p>4. Objectives & Targets</p> <p>WG04/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. T1: 50% by 2020 (by area)</p> <p>WG04/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. T2: All by 2020</p> <p>WG04/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heathland/T3a: 8 ha by 2020• Acid grassland/T3b: 7.25 ha by 2020• Mixed deciduous woodland (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/T3c: 75% by area• Wet woodland/T3d: 1.5 ha by 2020 <p>WG04/O4: Priority species recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• T4: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species: <table><tr><td>Adder</td><td>Grayling</td><td>White-clawed crayfish</td></tr><tr><td>Woodlark</td><td>Nightjar</td><td>Polecat</td></tr></table>	Adder	Grayling	White-clawed crayfish	Woodlark	Nightjar	Polecat	
Adder	Grayling	White-clawed crayfish					
Woodlark	Nightjar	Polecat					

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG04: Devil's Punch Bowl and Hindhead Heaths



For Key please see Wealden Greensand Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements, Surrey Nature Partnership, 2015

Biodiversity Opportunity Area LW01: Chiddingfold & West Weald Woodlands	
Local authorities: Waverley	
<p>Aim & justification:</p> <p>The aim of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. Priority habitats will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets National Planning Policy Framework policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify & map components of the local ecological networks (para. 117).</p> <p>Explanatory</p> <p>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</p>	
<p>1. Overview</p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the heavily wooded upper reaches of the River Arun in Surrey, from Haslemere & Grayswood in the west to Dunsfold & Alfold in the east where it is contiguous with West Sussex BOA 17 (Chiddingfold Complex). The northern boundary is the Hambledon ridge. Area: 4893.7 ha</p>	
<p>2. National Character Areas</p> <p>Low Weald (NCA 121), Wealden Greensands (NCA 120; marginal)</p>	
<p>3. Profile</p> <p>3.1 Geology</p> <p>Weald Clay (with Paludina limestone), Lower Greensand. Undulating upper catchment of the Loxley Stream and tributaries, exhibiting a system of deeply-cut stream-courses ('gills') with intervening clay and sandstone plateaux</p> <p>3.2 Biodiversity</p> <p>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</p> <p>SSSI: Chiddingfold Forest; Netherside Stream Outcrops (geological interest only)</p> <p>AONB: Surrey Hills</p> <p>3.2.2 Local Sites</p> <p>SNCI: 46[*]</p> <p>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</p> <p>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats): Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Wood pasture & parkland, Heathland, Meadows, Hedgerows, Ponds</p> <p>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</p> <p>Plants: Chamomile, Glandular eyebright*, Pennyroyal; Pitted frillwort (a liverwort)</p> <p>Fungi/Lichens: Bearded tooth, Olive earthtongue, Zoned tooth (all fungi), <i>Caloplaca atroflava</i> (a lichen)</p> <p>Invertebrates: Brown hairstreak, Dingy skipper, Grizzled skipper, Pearl-bordered fritillary*, Small heath, Small pearl-bordered fritillary*, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Wood white, Argent-&-sable, Common fan-foot, Clay fan-foot, Drab looper, Orange upperwing*, Betony case-bearer (a micro-moth), Bearded false-darkling beetle, Two-tone reed beetle, Stag beetle, Shining guest ant, <i>Chrysis fulgida</i> (a ruby-tailed wasp), Black-headed mason wasp, Long-horned mining bee</p> <p>Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Hawfinch, Lesser redpoll, Lesser spotted woodpecker,</p>	

* probably extinct in BOA

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Linnet, Marsh tit, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Turtle dove, Willow tit*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Sand lizard, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Barbastelle bat, Bechstein's bat, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage, Dyer's greenweed, Greater butterfly-orchid, Pale sedge, Zigzag clover; Purple emperor, Broad-bordered bee hawk-moth, Light orange underwing, Mocha, Small black arches (all moths), *Mesosa nebulosa*, *Xyleborus dispar* (both beetles), *Cheilosia carbonaria*, *Microdon analis* (=eggeri) (both hoverflies), Woodland grasshopper; Firecrest, Grey wagtail, Nightingale, Alcah   whiskered bat

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS (probably the densest concentration in Surrey)

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: West Weald Landscape Project (led by Sussex Wildlife Trust); Arun-Rother Catchment Partnership

3.3 Archaeology

Chiddingfold Roman villa; Burningfold Manor; Sidney Wood glassworks

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Tugley Wood-Botany Bay, Sidney Wood (Forestry Commission); Oaken Wood NR (Butterfly Conservation); Dursfold Wood (Woodland Trust); Dunsfold Common (Dunsfold Parish Council); Firtree Copse (Surrey Wildlife Trust), Wey & Arun Canal; Hambledon & Buss's Commons (part)

3.4.2 Long-distance ProW, etc: Sussex Border Path; Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf, angling, nature observation)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture and Agriculture sector; Equine livery, breeding & services; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

LW01/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1:** 50% by 2020 (by area)

LW01/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

LW01/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Mixed deciduous woodland/T3a:** 4.75 ha by 2020 (restoration; Ancient woodland prioritised: 75% by area)
- **Wet woodland/T3b:** 1.25 ha by 2020
- **Wood pasture & parkland/T3c:** 27 ha by 2020
- **Meadows/T3d:** 16.25 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T3e:** 6.75 km by 2020
- **Ponds/T3f:** 6 ha by 2020

LW01/O4: Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

Wood white
Marsh tit

Pearl-bordered fritillary
Lesser spotted woodpecker

Adder
Bechstein's bat

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Map **LW01** (to be added)

† Subject to possible correction

References

- ¹ DEFRA, (2011); *DEFRA Guidance on the Improved Local Biodiversity. Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented*. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London.
- ² DEFRA, (2006); *Local Sites - Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management*. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London.
- ³ DEFRA, (2010); *Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network*. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London.
- ⁴ Davies, R., (2011); *A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Surrey*, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, Pirbright.