

- Woodland, which be subject of selective thinning to diversify the woodland structure, create open glades and encourage understorey development.

Fauna

Amphibians

- 5.32. With an absence of suitable breeding habitat nearby, great crested newts are not likely to be present or affected.
- 5.33. Loss of rough grassland and some woodland might impact upon common toad, if present. As required by the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, it the proposed development will deliver significant habitat creation off-site, and with the woodland strategy proposed within the development itself, there will be far better opportunities for amphibians, including common toad.

Badgers

- 5.34. The identified badger sett is well outside the area likely to be affected during construction and hence it is not likely to be affected. The site's development is not likely to affect the local badger foraging resource.

Bats

- 5.35. No features likely to support roosting bats would be affected by development. There is the potential for off-site properties to support bats, though the habitats within the site are not likely to be of importance for bat foraging. With the proposed development design, diversification (though reduction) in woodland, and off-site improvements, opportunities for bats should be retained within the site, and improved outside of it. Provided lighting is designed appropriately, development should not affect bat commuting routes in the event they exist.

Birds

- 5.36. Based on the nature and extent of habitats within the site, no significant impacts to birds of conservation concern are anticipated. Annex II ground nesting birds are not expected at the site, and a strategy is already described to increase the available habitat within Ringwood Forest to off-set increased disturbance as a result of the SANG.
- 5.37. All native wild birds being protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) whilst nesting. Clearance of scrub and trees in Ringwood Forest would be timed to avoid the bird nesting season. This would also be the case within the development t site, or else it would be preceded by a survey to confirm disturbance would not occur.

Dormice

- 5.38. Given the habitat is sub-optimal adjacent and within the site, no impacts are envisaged.
- 5.39. Works within Ringwood Forest would be undertaken in accordance with Forestry Commission guidance to protect dormouse (Ref. 14).

Invertebrates

- 5.40. As stated, the poor fen habitat supporting the diving beetle *Hydroporus necopinatus*, an endangered UK BAP species and SoPI, is retained. The morphology and wooded banks to the ephemeral pools will not be modified in the event that this has a detrimental effect. For instance, the species appears to prefer sparsely vegetated pools; increasing the insolation (sunlight) on the



pools may encourage dominance of purple moor-grass, an issue in the adjacent forest, and hence suitability of the pools. A management prescription in the plan for the retained woodland will ensure such issues are addressed.

- 5.41. There is likely to be a temporary impact to two nationally scarce species (tawny cockroach and lesser cockroach) found in rough grassland habitat during the construction phase. However, with the woodland strategy within the development, and works proposed off-site, there should be better opportunities than currently exist.

Reptiles

- 5.42. Habitats supporting the common reptile populations of local value would be lost during site clearance. All species of common reptile are protected from harm under WCA, hence it will be necessary to move them from harm's way before works commence (either through translocation or phased strimming to passively encourage them to move). The woodland transition strategy, and in particular the new 'ecotone' habitat, will provide replacement, safeguarded habitat for the reptiles.
- 5.43. Potential increases in predation and disturbance to more heavily protected reptile species (smooth snake and sand lizard) would be addressed by the habitat creation within Ringwood Forest. This will increase the habitat available, and hence the size of the population, which will as a result be more robust to such perturbation.



Section 6: Summary and Conclusion

- 6.1. The potential for adverse effects to the Dorset Heathlands SPA, the most significant ecological issue in respect of future residential development of the site, has been addressed through a SANG strategy that has been agreed with Natural England. The SANG is reliant on Forestry Commission owned land, and the developer and the Forestry Commission have agreed how such work could be secured. Natural England requested that a recreation audit be conducted to provide some baseline information to assess the future efficacy of the SANG.
- 6.2. The SANG strategy necessitates creation of 2ha of dry heath and 13 ha mire habitat (UK BAP Priority habitats that are characteristic of the local area) that would make the important existing bird and reptile populations more robust to likely increased disturbance of Ringwood Forest (itself a non-statutory SINC), close to the development. In line with national and local policy, and the objectives of the Forestry Commission's Forest Design plan, this quantum of habitat creation would in fact lead to significant biodiversity gain, whilst making Ringwood Forest a more diverse and interesting recreational resource,.
- 6.3. Impacts to Dorset Heaths SAC would be avoided by appropriate drainage design, as well as mire restoration work in Ringwood Forest.
- 6.4. No other protected sites would be affected.
- 6.5. The site is of limited ecological value. The development has been designed to retain the shaded, poor fen habitat of local value that supports the diving beetle *Hydroporus necopinatus*, an endangered UK BAP species and SoPI. Other habitats, including dwarf gorse of local value, will be affected, but impacts will be more than mitigated through a combination of woodland enhancement strategies, and off-site works.
- 6.6. Whilst there will be temporary impacts to two nationally scarce species (tawny cockroach and lesser cockroach) found in rough grassland, suitable habitat will be recreated and safeguarded. Reptiles will be moved from harm's way to suitable habitat within the development.
- 6.7. A management and maintenance plan would be necessary for the SANG, and also for the retained and enhanced habitats within the site itself.
- 6.8. An appropriate mechanism for controlling delivery of the mitigation and enhancement strategy would involve the use of planning conditions to:
 - Detailed SANG design and a recreation audit within Ringwood Forest;
 - Drainage design to protect the SAC and poor fen habitats within the site boundary;
 - Design and implementation of a protected species strategy for invertebrates, nesting birds and reptiles; and
 - A management plan for habitats within the site boundary.
- 6.9. A Section 106 agreement has been drafted to control delivery of the SANG. The management of the site could be secured in the same way.
- 6.10. In conclusion, with the implementation of the mitigation and enhancement strategy, the proposed development would be in conformity with planning policy that seeks to protect and enhance ecological resources.



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- 12 Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2012-2014 Supplementary Planning Document
- 13 Dorset Heathlands Development Plan Document Preferred Options Consultation (February 2013)
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Appendix 1: Breeding Bird Survey



Land off Ringwood Road, Verwood

Breeding Bird Survey

Ecology Surveys

August 2012

Contents

1	Introduction and Methodology.....	1
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3	Summary and Conclusions.....	6

1 Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 Ecology Surveys was commissioned by Tyler Grange in May 2012 to undertake a breeding bird survey of a small site proposed for development off Ringwood Road, Verwood, as well as those parts of Ringwood Forest adjacent to the site.
- 1.2 The development site itself consists of an area of cleared ground (formerly playing fields) bordering the back of a line of gardens, together with an area of woodland plantation, dominated by Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* with sparse silver birch *Betula pendula*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*. On the woodland edges small amounts of both common gorse *Ulex europaeus* and dwarf gorse *Ulex minor* are present together with some heather *Calluna vulgaris*. Other ground flora are rather sparse, but include honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., plus purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and bog myrtle *Myrica gale* in the damper areas.
- 1.3 The adjacent Ringwood Forest, as with the on-site woodland, is heavily conifer dominated, although there are numerous rides, a watercourse (which also runs alongside the site boundary), and some significant clearings. Clearing 1 nearest the site (see plan 1) is heavily heather dominated, with much dwarf gorse, whilst the much larger clearing 2 (around 500m east of the site) is dominated by purple moor-grass, plus occasional small trees and shrubs.
- 1.4 The adjacent parts of Ringwood Forest were included in the survey due to the potential for the occurrence of several breeding species of European importance: nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*.
- 1.5 Three surveys were conducted in May and June 2012 in order to assess breeding bird activity in the area. Each survey consisted of an evening survey, ending after dark (when nightjars become active) followed by a morning survey, beginning before first light. The dates of the surveys together with a summary of the weather conditions are given in table 1.

Date (2012)	Times	Weather summary
14 th – 15 th May	19:00 – 21:45 04:20 – 06:40	1/8 cloud, light westerly breeze.
8 th – 9 th June	19:45 – 22:20 04:00 – 06:20	8/8 cloud, wind SW3, though lighter in the early morning.
26 th – 27 th June	20:00 – 22:30 03:40 – 06:10	8/8 cloud, humid and still. Misty early morning.

Table 1: Dates, times and weather conditions during the breeding bird surveys.

- 1.6 On each survey an experienced ornithologist followed a circuitous route around the site and through Ringwood Forest recording the locations, numbers and activity of all bird species present in the area during this time. All recording within the Forest was carried out from the numerous rides, which allowed good coverage, and leant themselves to recording an area up to around 500m from the site. At first light and last light the clearings (1 and 2) were targeted in order to observe any nightjar activity.

-
- 1.7 Over the three visits this methodology should ensure that the vast majority of species present at the site are recorded, although certain species that may be using the area as part of a larger territory, for example nocturnal species such as owls, may be missed.
- 1.8 To ascertain the breeding status of birds using the site, the following criteria were applied following the methodology used in the 'Atlas' surveys of 1988-1991 (Gibbons et al, 1993). This accepts the following activities as denoting breeding (including those probably breeding although definite proof was lacking):
- Bird apparently holding territory.
 - Courtship and display.
 - Nest-building (including excavating nest-hole).
 - Distraction display or feigning injury.
 - Adult carrying faecal sac or food.
 - Adult entering or leaving apparently occupied nest site.
 - Nest with eggs or eggshells found, or bird sitting but not disturbed.
 - Nest with young; or downy young of ducks, game-birds, waders and other nidifugous species.
 - Recently fledged young.

2 Results

- 2.1 A total of 40 species of birds was recorded during the breeding bird survey, of which only eight were breeding or possibly breeding within the site boundary, with an additional 24 species breeding or possibly breeding in adjacent parts of Ringwood Forest. The remaining eight species were either recorded distantly, flying over the site, or represented only by apparently non-breeding individuals.
- 2.2 A summary of observations for each species is included in table 2, whilst the distribution of breeding birds is shown in plan 1.

Systematic list

Species (and BTO species code)	RSPB listed	Estimated number of pairs		Notes
		Site	Forest	
Pheasant (PH) <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		0-1	0-1	
Sparrowhawk (SH) <i>Accipiter nisus</i>			0	One present on 9 th June was the only record.
Buzzard (BZ) <i>Buteo buteo</i>			0	One was present on 26 th – 27 th June.
Woodcock (WK) <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Amber		1	One roding (i.e. territory holding) male at dusk and dawn on all visits.
Black-headed gull (BH) <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber	0		Recorded flying over.
Woodpigeon (WP) <i>Columba palumbus</i>		1	5	Common throughout the forest plantation.
Cuckoo (CK) <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Red		0-1	A single male regularly recorded, ranging widely across the forest.
Nightjar (NJ) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Red		2-3	One territory includes both clearings 1 and 2. There is possibly a second territory in clearing 2, and another churring male in the pylon clearing to the northwest.
Tawny owl (TO) <i>Strix aluco</i>			0	Heard in the forest, but only distantly.
Green woodpecker (G.) <i>Picus viridis</i>	Amber		0-1	
Great spotted woodpecker (GS) <i>Dendrocopos major</i>		0	1	
Tree pipit (TP) <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Red		1	In clearing 2.
Wren (WR) <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1	13	The most abundant species in the forest plantation.
Dunnock (D.) <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber		0-1	In gardens adjacent to the forest.
Robin (R.) <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	8	The second most abundant species in the forest plantation.
Stonechat (SC) <i>Saxicola torquata</i>			1	In clearing 2.
Blackbird (B.) <i>Turdus merula</i>		0	4	More associated with the gardens in the area.
Song thrush (ST) <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red		1	

Species (and BTO species code)	RSPB listed	Estimated number of pairs		Notes
		Site	Forest	
Mistle thrush (M.) <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Amber	0	0-1	
Blackcap (BC) <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		0-1	0-1	
Wood warbler (WO) <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Red		0-1	A singing male on 9 th June only.
Willow warbler (WW) <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber		1	
Chiffchaff (CC) <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			3-4	
Goldcrest (GC) <i>Regulus regulus</i>		1	6	Common throughout the forest plantation.
Blue tit (BT) <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		0		
Great tit (GT) <i>Parus major</i>		0	0-1	
Coal tit (CT) <i>Periparus ater</i>		2	2	
Long-tailed tit (LT) <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			0-1	
Treecreeper (TC) <i>Certhia familiaris</i>		0	3	
Jay (J.) <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			0-1	
Magpie (MG) <i>Pica pica</i>			0-1	
Carrion crow (C.) <i>Corvus corone</i>			1	
Starling (SG) <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	0		Recorded flying over the site.
Chaffinch (CH) <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		2	5	Common throughout the forest plantation.
Greenfinch (GR) <i>Carduelis chloris</i>			0-1	More associated with gardens than the forest.
Goldfinch (GO) <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		0		Recorded flying over.
Siskin (SK) <i>Carduelis spinus</i>		0	1	
Bullfinch (BF) <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber	0	1	
Crossbill (CR) <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			0	A flock of 14 flew across clearing 2 on 9 th June.
Yellowhammer (Y.) <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red		1	In clearing 2.

Table 2: Bird species recorded during the breeding bird surveys at Verwood. (Note a 'zero' is included in the table if the species was recorded, although not breeding, whereas a blank indicates the species was not recorded in that part of the survey area).



Plan 1: Distribution of breeding birds at Verwood.

Red circles indicate species breeding or probably breeding; green circles those possibly breeding. Species locations do not necessarily show nest-sites, but show the location of each species within its presumed territory. For the key to species, see the systematic list above.

3 Summary and Conclusions

- 3.1 Breeding bird activity within the site itself is restricted to the woodland plantation, which supports a limited range of generally the commonest species found in the adjacent forest, including the 'generalist' species: woodpigeon, wren, robin, chaffinch and possibly pheasant and blackcap, together with the conifer specialists goldcrest and coal tit. None of these species breeding within the site is of significance.
- 3.2 Conversely, a number of notable species were found to be breeding in adjacent parts of Ringwood Forest, the majority of them in the vicinity of clearing 2, around 500m from the site boundary, including a selection of typical 'heathland' species: woodcock, cuckoo, nightjar, tree pipit, stonechat and yellowhammer, with wood warbler possibly breeding nearby.
- 3.3 Nightjar was the only species of European importance to be recorded during the survey. One territory includes *both* clearing 1 and the north part of clearing 2 – both the male and female were observed moving between the two clearings, the male 'churring' (singing) in both locations. At least one territory is located along the pylon ride 500m or more north-northwest of the site, and there is possibly an additional territory at the southern end of clearing 2.
- 3.4 Nightjars are highly mobile and can cover large distances at night whilst feeding (on flying invertebrates). As well as within the forest, they are likely to forage over the proposed development site as well as over the gardens in the area.
- 3.5 No woodlarks were recorded during the survey, either singing or foraging etc., and, although clearing 2 in particular looks suitable, this species appears not to be present in the vicinity, at least in 2012.
- 3.6 Similarly, no Dartford warblers were recorded during this survey. This species is at a rather low ebb in 2012, following two cold winters, although its absence could simply be attributable to the general lack of common gorse within the survey area.

Appendix 2: Invertebrate Survey Report



Land off Ringwood Road, Verwood, East Dorset
Ecological Assessment

1522_R11a 21 May 2013 LW_RW

INVERTEBRATE ASSESSMENT – SITE AT VERWOOD, NR. RINGWOOD, DORSET.

1. Introduction and methods

This report describes the results of an invertebrate assessment carried out at a site situated on the south-eastern extremity of the town of Verwood, near Ringwood, Dorset for the Tyler-Grange environmental consultancy. The site includes an open field and, to the east of this, an area of woodland that occupies approximately one third of the total area. The field had been ploughed recently, but around its fringes are stands of rank grassland, tall ruderal grassland and some more open somewhat heathy patches. The woodland is secondary, with mixed Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris* and oak *Quercus* sp. on the drier ground to the west, while to the east, there is boggy ground with purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, bog myrtle *Myrica gale* and a little bog-moss *Sphagnum* spp. under a canopy of birch *Betula* sp. and grey willow *Salix cinerea*.

The brief for this work stipulated that a single day's invertebrate assessment of the site should be carried out, with this visit being made on 22 June 2012. The aim of the assessment was to look at the range of invertebrate habitats present on the site and to assess their potential importance for invertebrates. In addition, a small amount of invertebrate sampling was carried out, though this was quite limited given the time constraints. The boggy areas and the more species-rich and/or heathy stands of ruderal vegetation appeared to be most likely to support interesting invertebrates, so these were the focus of the limited invertebrate sampling undertaken. For the purposes of this report, the site has been sub-divided into a number of survey areas, each of which has been allocated a code number, these being shown on Figure 2.1.

Sampling of the invertebrate fauna was mostly carried out by sweeping the vegetation with a heavy-duty entomological sweep net and shaking litter and grass tussocks into a white plastic tray. The main invertebrate taxa sampled was beetles (Coleoptera), but a range of other taxa with which the contractor is familiar, such as terrestrial molluscs and hoverflies (Syrphidae), were also determined to species level. In addition, readily identified groups such as the Orthopteroidea and butterflies were also noted. A full list of the invertebrates recorded during the survey can be found in Appendix 1, at the end of this report.

Section 2 lists any key invertebrate species recorded during the June sampling. Key species are defined as being: 1) of EC Annex II Species Directive (EC II), UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority, Red Data Book (RDB), Nationally Scarce or Local/Regional BAP Priority status; and 2) indicative of the main habitat(s) present on the site in question.

In section 3, an assessment of the invertebrate habitats is provided, with thoughts on those areas thought to be of particular value. Because a full invertebrate survey has not been carried out in this instance, the habitat assessment has relied primarily on the identification of microhabitat features that are likely to be important for invertebrates. However, the list of invertebrates recorded from the site has also been drawn on, with special emphasis on any key species recorded during the visit.

2. Important invertebrates recorded at Verwood

2.1. Key invertebrates

Despite the very limited amount of survey work undertaken, three key invertebrate species were recorded at the Verwood site in 2012. The species accounts in this section of the report include brief notes on the occurrence of these, plus comments on their ecology and national/regional distribution. Map 2.1. shows the location of all key species records.

In addition to the surveyors own information, these accounts also draw on information from the following sources:

Foster, G. N. 2010. A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain Part (3): Water beetles of Great Britain. *Species Status 1*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Haes, E. C. M. & Harding, P. T. 1997. *Atlas of grasshoppers, crickets and allied insects in Britain and Ireland*. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Huntingdon.

Marshall, J. A. & Haes, E. C M. 1988. *Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland*. Harley Books, Colchester.

The emboldened national status designations given after the scientific name of each of the key species are defined as follows:

BAP. – Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. Species included in the list of Priority Species in the UK BAP. These may be species that are threatened in Britain and/or for which Britain has internationally important populations. This definition may include species that occur quite widely in Britain currently, but which are declining to a degree that jeopardises their long-term survival.

Nb. – Nationally Scarce category B. Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10 km squares of the National Grid or, for less well recorded groups, within between eight and twenty vice-counties.

RDB-EN. – Red Data Book – Endangered. A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically Endangered, but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

2.1.1. Tawny cockroach *Ectobius pallidus* Nb. *E. pallidus* is a moderately large native cockroach (8-9.5mm) of a rich tawny-brown colour. Nymphs are similarly coloured, and additionally have a scattering of black dots on the dorsal surface. The tawny cockroach is a warmth-loving insect, with most of its sites being in the extreme south-east of England in a band stretching from Kent, west as far as Dorset. Elsewhere there are a few sites in south-west England and on the Gower peninsula, as well as isolated single sites in Suffolk and south Lancashire. It is found in a range of warm, dry habitats, such as wood-edges, heaths, chalk grassland and coastal cliffs and dunes. *E. pallidus* has a two-year life cycle, with nymphs overwintering in the fourth of their six instars and adults appearing in the following season from late-June through to October-November. Both adults and nymphs are readily collected by ground searching and sweeping low vegetation.

2.1.2. Lesser cockroach *Ectobius panzeri* Nb. This is the smallest of the three British native cockroaches. It is of very local occurrence in southern England and south Wales, where it usually occurs in grass tussocks and under heather plants in well-insolated maritime grassland and heath. It is scarcer inland, but it can be found occasionally in very warm, dry sites on heathland and chalk grassland. At Verwood, a single nymph was found in a tussock in dry grassland on the edge of survey area 5. *E. panzeri* has a one-year life cycle, with overwintering eggs hatching in April or May. The distinctive black and white nymphs develop through the spring and early summer. Adults appear in July and August, and will persist into September and October(). Both adults and nymphs of this species are quite easily found by hand searching amongst vegetation and litter.

2.1.3. A diving beetle *Hydroporus necopinatus* Fery, 1999. RDB-EN / BAP. A small, black diving beetle, which is very closely allied to the common *H. melanarius*. *H. necopinatus* usually has the body a little rounded at the sides, and is moderately shiny, while *H. melanarius* appears very parallel-sided, with dense microsculpture giving it a much duller appearance. However, reliable determination depends on examination of the male genitalia, which has a more elongate apex in *H. necopinatus*. *H. necopinatus* is a great rarity in Britain, only being known from a few sites on the lowland heaths of Dorset, where it has previously been found on the Purbeck heaths and also in the adjacent area of heathland to the south of the River Frome. Here, it is usually collected in sparsely vegetated pools on the interface between dry heath and valley mire. On the continent, it has a strongly 'Atlantic' distribution, with records from western France, and the Atlantic seaboard of Spain and Portugal.

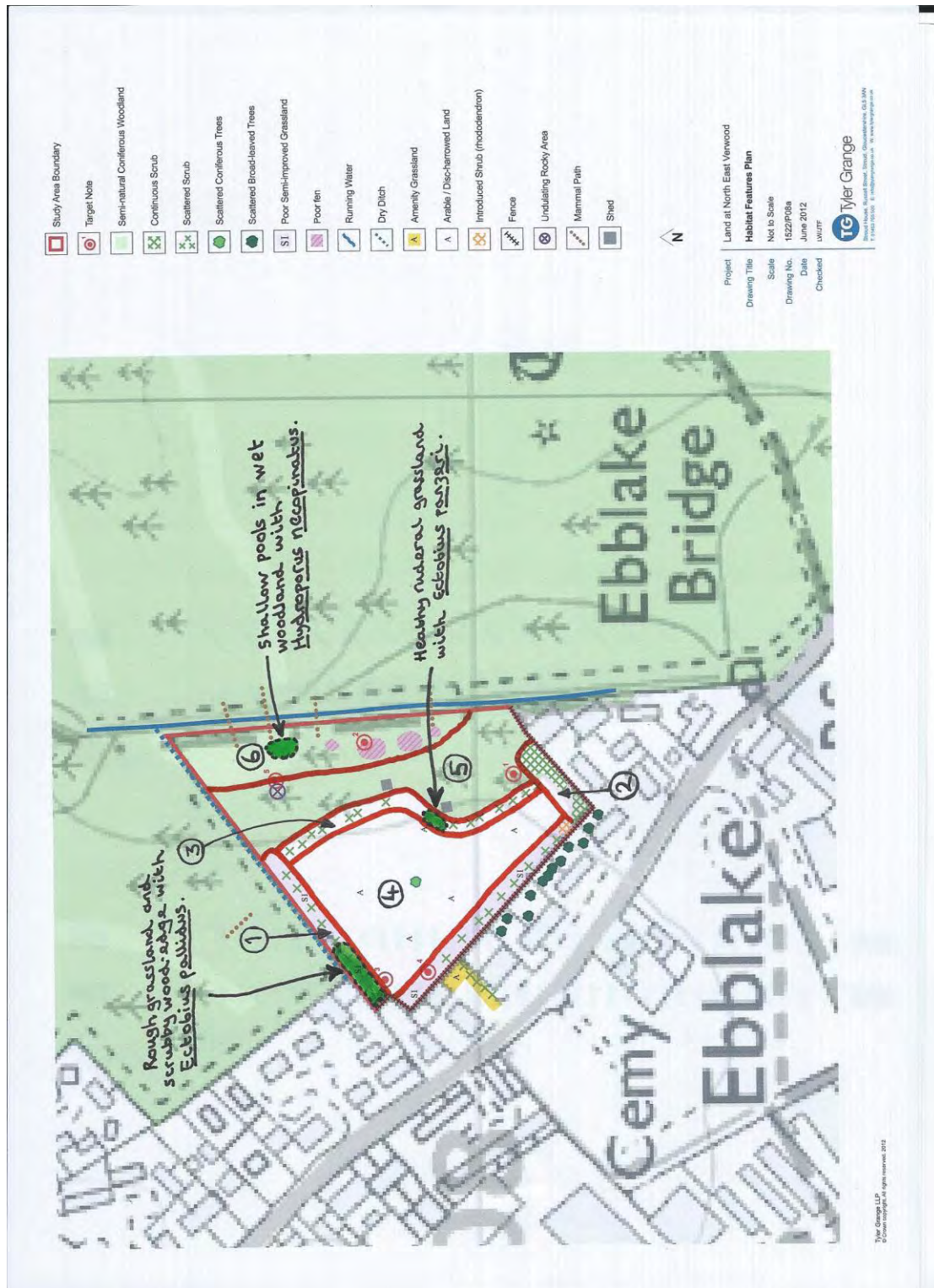
A single male was collected from a sparsely vegetated peaty pool in the area of boggy wet woodland in survey area 6. Because this is a difficult species to identify, the specimen was submitted to the international authority on water beetles, Professor Garth Foster, who has confirmed its identity as *H. necopinatus*. This is a very important record, as it is a Red Data Book (Endangered) and priority BAP species. The record from Verwood represents a significant extension of its known range in Dorset. The Dorset populations of *H. necopinatus* have been assigned to their own sub-species, *roni* Fery, 1999, which is only found here, while those on Jersey belong to the more widespread French sub-species *robertorum* Fery, 1999.

2.2. Other invertebrates

Other than *H. necopinatus*, very few invertebrates were collected during the brief survey of the wet woodland area. However, those species that were found here, such as the diving beetle *Hydroporus gyllenhalii* and the ground beetles *Pterostichus minor*, *P. diligens* and *Agonum gracile* collectively form part of a typical assemblage of acid mire habitats.

With the exception of the two native cockroaches described above, the invertebrate fauna of the drier areas of the site was composed of relatively common and eurytopic species.

Figure 2.1. Survey areas and locations of key species at Verwood



3. Important invertebrate habitat features at Verwood

3.1. Key invertebrate habitat features

The assessment of the site has identified habitat features that are thought likely to be of special importance for invertebrates. Where key species are present in a habitat feature, these are listed in parentheses in the titles at the start of each of the following sub-sections.

3.1.1. Shallow pools in wet woodland (*Hydroporus necopinatus*)

There are a number of pools in the wet woodland of survey area 6. These are for the most part sparsely vegetated, but there are scattered patches of submerged bog-moss, and also some sparse mats of floating sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*. The site originally appears to have been open mire, and there is still good cover of purple moor-grass, as well as some patches of bog myrtle, with the latter mostly being in remnant open glades. However, most of the area now has secondary cover of birch and willow scrub. *H. necopinatus* is an Endangered species, which is also included on the UK BAP priority species list. Pending further survey information on the wider distribution of the species in the Verwood-Ringwood area, the presence of the species here requires that this habitat feature should be assessed provisionally as being of national significance.

3.1.2. Acid mire in wet woodland. The wetter areas of mire have stands of relatively intact bog vegetation, and are the least disturbed semi-natural habitat feature present on this site. Though no key species were recorded, this habitat feature did support some invertebrates typical of undisturbed acid mires, and the invertebrate assemblage present here is thought likely to be of at least local significance in respect of its invertebrate assemblage.

3.1.3. Ruderal grassland (Lesser and tawny cockroaches). Stands of ruderal grassland are found in survey areas 1, 2, 3 and 5. A number of tawny cockroach nymphs were found in the first of these, being most frequent where there were 'soft' edges between relatively rank grassland and the Scot's pine plantation to the north. A single lesser cockroach nymph was found in quite short ruderal grass-heath in survey area 3. Both of these species are quite widely distributed in a range of open habitats in the Ringwood-Verwood area, and the population here is not thought likely to be of very limited significance when set in the context of the large amount of suitable habitat present in the Ringwood area. No other interesting invertebrates were recorded and this habitat feature is assessed as being of no more than low to local importance.

3.2. Other invertebrate habitat features

The remaining habitat features present at Verwood are thought likely to be of no more than low to very moderate importance for invertebrates. Brief thoughts on these are given in the following sub-sections.

3.2.1. Ploughed area. The recent ploughing of much of the open field (survey area 4) made it impossible to survey this meaningfully. No significant species were noted during a brief walkover of it.

3.2.2. Dry woodland. The mixed conifers and broadleaves in survey area 5 are very unlikely to support an important invertebrate assemblage.

4. Conclusions

Overall the invertebrate fauna of this site is assessed as being of low to local importance, with the exception of the mire and wet woodland in survey area 6. The presence of the Endangered, BAP priority diving beetle *Hydroporus necopinatus* here necessitates a provisional rating of national importance, pending further surveys of the Ringwood-Verwood area.

APPENDIX 1: CHECKLIST OF INVERTEBRATES RECORDED FROM VERWOOD - 2012

Group	Family	Status	Sp. scientific name	Sp.common name	Survey area	Habitat	Dy	Mo	Year	Sampling method
Mollusca	Arionidae		<i>Arion ater</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Mollusca	Arionidae		<i>Arion subfuscus</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Mollusca	Zonitidae		<i>Aegopinella pura</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Mollusca	Zonitidae		<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Mollusca	Zonitidae		<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Mollusca	Zonitidae		<i>Oxychilus helveticus</i>		5	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Mollusca	Zonitidae		<i>Zonitoides excacatus</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Mollusca	Agriolimacidae		<i>Deroceras laeve</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Mollusca	Agriolimacidae		<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>		2	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Mollusca	Helicidae		<i>Candidula intersecta</i>		4	Ploughed	22	6	2012	Under stone
Mollusca	Helicidae		<i>Trichia hispida</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Mollusca	Helicidae		<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Mollusca	Helicidae		<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Garden snail	1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Diplopoda	Glomeridae		<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	Pill millipede	3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Orthoptera	Tettigoniidae		<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>	Speckled bush-cricket	3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Dictyoptera	Blatellidae	Nb.	<i>Ectobius pallidus</i>	Tawny cockroach	1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Dictyoptera	Blatellidae	Nb.	<i>Ectobius panzeri</i>	Lesser cockroach	5	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Dermaptera	Forficulidae		<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Common earwig	4	Ploughed	22	6	2012	Under stone
Hemiptera	Pentatomidae		<i>Podops inuncta</i>	Turtle shieldbug	5	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Dytiscidae		<i>Hydroporus gyllenhalii</i>		6	Bog/wet woodland	22	6	2012	Sieving shallow pools
Coleoptera	Dytiscidae		<i>Hydroporus memnonius</i>		6	Bog/wet woodland	22	6	2012	Sieving shallow pools
Coleoptera	Dytiscidae	RDB-En./BAP	<i>Hydroporus necopinatus</i>		6	Bog/wet woodland	22	6	2012	Sieving shallow pools
Coleoptera	Carabidae		<i>Pterostichus minor</i>		6	Bog/wet woodland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Carabidae		<i>Pterostichus diligens</i>		6	Bog/wet woodland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Carabidae		<i>Calathus fuscipes</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Carabidae		<i>Calathus melanocephalus</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Carabidae		<i>Agonum gracile</i>		6	Bog/wet woodland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Carabidae		<i>Harpalus rubripes</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search

Coleoptera	Carabidae	<i>Harpalus rufipes</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Carabidae	<i>Harpalus latus</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Carabidae	<i>Demetrias atricapillus</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Carabidae	<i>Paradromius linearis</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Carabidae	<i>Syntomus foveatus</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Silphidae	<i>Silpha tristis</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Sepedophilus nigripennis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Tachinus laticollis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Tachyporus pusillus</i>		4	Ploughed	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Cordalia obscura</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Drusilla canaliculata</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Scaphisoma agaricinum</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Under reptile mat
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus clavicornis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Astenus pulchellus</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Rugilus erichsonii</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under reptile mat
Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	<i>Tasgius morsitans</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Elateridae	<i>Agriotes obscurus</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Coleoptera	Lampyridae	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>	Glow-worm	1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Nitidulidae	<i>Meligethes carinulatus</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	<i>Rhyzobius litura</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	<i>Nephus redtenbacheri</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	<i>Subcoccinella 24-punctata</i>	24-spot ladybird	5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Oedemeridae	<i>Oedemera lurida</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Coleoptera	Oedemeridae	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Cerambycidae	<i>Stenurella melanura</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> flowers
Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	<i>Gastrophysa viridula</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	<i>Longitarsus succineus</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Apionidae	<i>Apion haematodes</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Apionidae	<i>Ischnopterapion loti</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Otiorhynchus ovatus</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Coleoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Coleoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Andrion regensteinese</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On <i>Ulex europaeus</i>

Lepidoptera	Geometridae	<i>Bupalus piniaria</i>	Bordered white	1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	In flight
Lepidoptera	Arctiidae	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Diptera	Rhagionidae	<i>Rhagio scolopacea</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	On foliage
Diptera	Therevidae	<i>Thereva nobilitata</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	On foliage
Diptera	Syrphidae	<i>Episyrhus balteatus</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Diptera	Syrphidae	<i>Eristalis horticola</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Diptera	Syrphidae	<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Diptera	Syrphidae	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Diptera	Syrphidae	<i>Sericomyia silentis</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Diptera	Syrphidae	<i>Xylota segnis</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On foliage
Diptera	Scathophagidae	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Swept
Hymenoptera	Formicidae	<i>Lasius flavus</i>	Yellow meadow ant	1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Hymenoptera	Formicidae	<i>Lasius niger</i>		3	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Hymenoptera	Formicidae	<i>Formica fusca</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Hymenoptera	Formicidae	<i>Myrmica ruginodis</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Hymenoptera	Formicidae	<i>Myrmica scabrinodis</i>		2	Ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Under stone
Hymenoptera	Apidae	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Red-tailed bumblebee	1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Hymenoptera	Apidae	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honey bee	5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	On flowers
Pseudoscorpiones	Chthoniidae	<i>Chthonius ischnocheles</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Araneae	Philodromidae	<i>Tibellus oblongus</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Isopoda	Trichoniscidae	<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Isopoda	Oniscidae	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>		5	Tall ruderal grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Isopoda	Philosciidae	<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Isopoda	Porcellionidae	<i>Porcellio scaber</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search
Isopoda	Armadillidiidae	<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>		1	Rough grassland	22	6	2012	Ground search

Appendix 3: Reptile Survey Methodology and Results



Appendix 3: Reptile Survey Methodology and Results

Survey of the site

Methodology

- A3.1. Presence/absence surveys were conducted by Lindsay Carrington Ecological Services in line with guidance published by Froglife (Ref. 9).
- A3.2. Reptile refugia comprising 0.5m x 1m pieces of roofing felt were laid out in areas with potential to support reptiles, within the site, and in Ringwood Forest up to 400m from the site. They were placed at a density of approximately 10 to 20 refuges per hectare of suitable habitat.
- A3.3. The refugia were then checked on seven subsequent occasions during optimal survey conditions – dry, warm (9°C to 18°C), intermittent sun and light winds. On occasion, some refuges were checked during slightly higher temperatures, however it is not considered that this has affected the validity of the results.
- A3.4. Searches of natural basking spots and refuges already present were also searched during the reptile surveys.
- A3.5. To estimate the populations sizes of the reptiles present the Key Sites Register survey assessment was used (Ref. 9). This assesses the likely size of a population based on the maximum number of adults recorded during any one survey visit.

Species	Low population	Good population	Exceptional population
Grass snake	<5	5 – 10	>10
Common lizard	<5	5 – 20	>20
Slow worm	<5	5 – 20	>20

Table A3.1: Estimated population size based on maximum number of adults recorded in any one survey visit (peak adult count)

Results

- A3.6. The results of the seven survey visits that followed are summarised in Table A3.2, below. **Plan 1522/P11b** indicates the locations of the refugia where reptiles were recorded.

Date and Time	Species	Daily Total (juveniles and adults)	Total	Peak Adult count
14/8/12:12:05	Slow worm	6f and 5 juv	11	6
	Common Lizard	1f and 3 juv	4	1
16/8/12: 11:00	Slow worm	14f, 1m and 5 juv	20	15
	Common Lizard	1m and 4 juv	5	1
17/08/12: 15:10	Slow worm	3f, 1m	4	4
	Common lizard	1m	1	1



23/08/12: 11:15	Slow worm	12f, 1m and 4 juv	17	13
	Common lizard	2 juv	2	0
24/08/12: 14:00	Slow worm	7f, 2m and 3 juv	12	9
	Common lizard	1m	1	1
28/08/12: 11:30	Slow worm	12f, 2m and 9 juv	23	14
	Common lizard	2m and 2 juv	4	2
29/08/12: 15:45	Slow worm	2f, 7m and 6 juv	15	9
	Common lizard	1f, 1m and 3 juv	5	2

Table A3.2: Reptile Survey Results within the development site

Survey of adjacent Ringwood Forest

Methodology

- A3.7. The same method was employed. In addition to the use of roofing felt refugia, corrugated tins were also used in order to reduce the potential of the survey results to be biased against snake species, where research indicates that snakes preferentially use tins (Ref. 9).
- A3.8. The locations of the areas surveyed are illustrated in Figure A3.1.

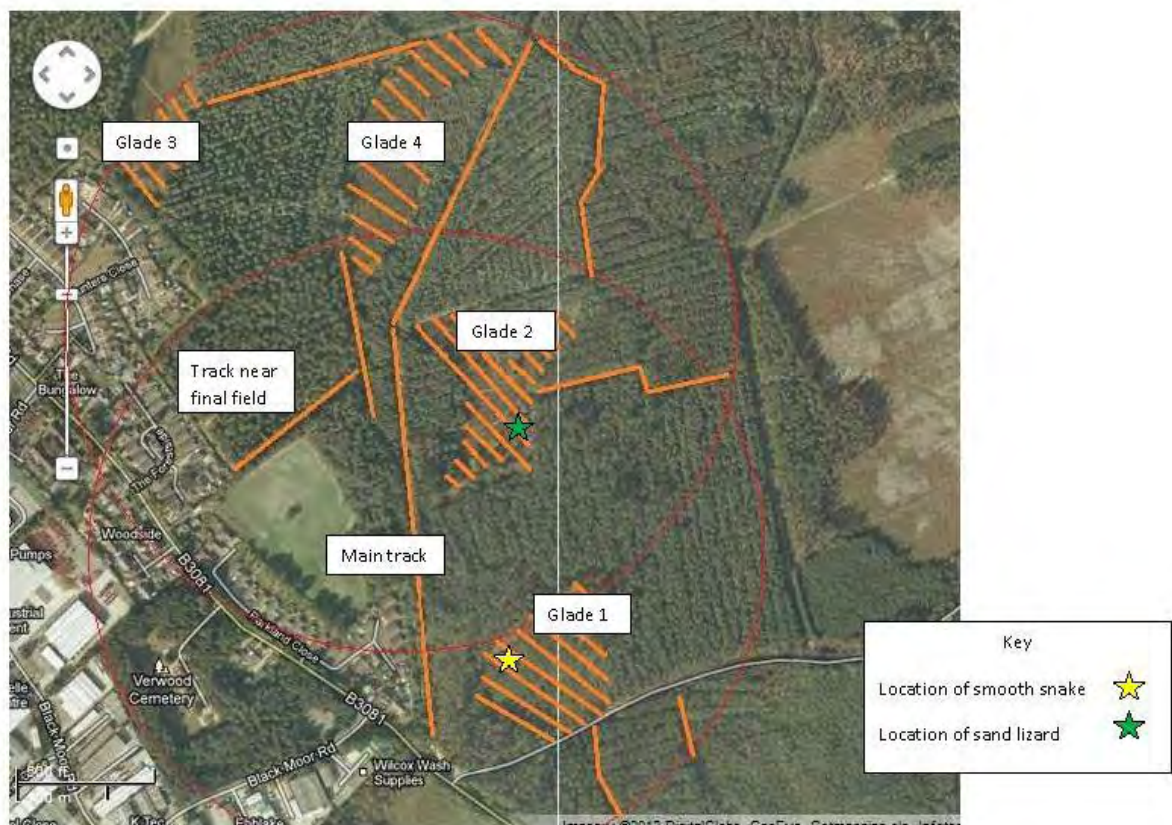


Figure A3.1: Locations of surveyed areas in Ringwood Forest

- A3.9. In respect of specially protected smooth snake and sand lizard, surveys were undertaken by surveyors licensed to disturb these species.

Results

A3.10. The results of the seven survey visits that followed are summarised in Table A3.3, below.

Date and Time	Species	Daily Total (juveniles and adults)	Total	Peak Adult count
14/8/12: 09:30	Slow worm	14f, 2m and 2 juv	18	16
	Smooth snake	1 juv	1	0
16/8/12: 09:05	Slow worm	2f, 1m and 5 juv	8	3
	Common lizard	1m	1	1
17/08/12: 13:15	Slow worm	4f and 2 juv	6	4
	Common lizard	1m	1	1
	Smooth snake	2 juv	2	0
	Sand lizard	1f	1	1
23/08/12: 11:15	Slow worm	7f, 6m and 6 juv	19	13
	Common lizard	3m	3	3
	Smooth snake	2 juv	2	0
	Sand lizard	2f, 1m	3	3
24/08/12: 14:00	Slow worm	7f, 4m and 4 juv	15	11
	Common lizard	1m	1	1
	Smooth snake	1 juv	1	0
28/08/12: 11:30	Slow worm	10f, 4m and 9 juv	23	14
	Common lizard	4m	4	4
	Smooth snake	1 juv	1	0
	Sand lizard	2f, 2m	4	4
29/08/12: 09:30 (Survey stopped at 11:00 due to heavy rain. Survey restarted at 15:45)	Slow worm	6f, 2m and 5 juv	13	8
	Smooth snake	1 juv	1	0

Table A3.3: Reptile Survey Results within Ringwood Forest

Appendix 4: Protected Sites











Dorset Environmental Records Centre

Ebblake Verwood

Designated Sites Map 2

Key:

-  Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)
-  Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW)
-  National Nature Reserve (NNR)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Site of interest & 5km search area
-  Dorset/Hampshire border

Scale 1:40000

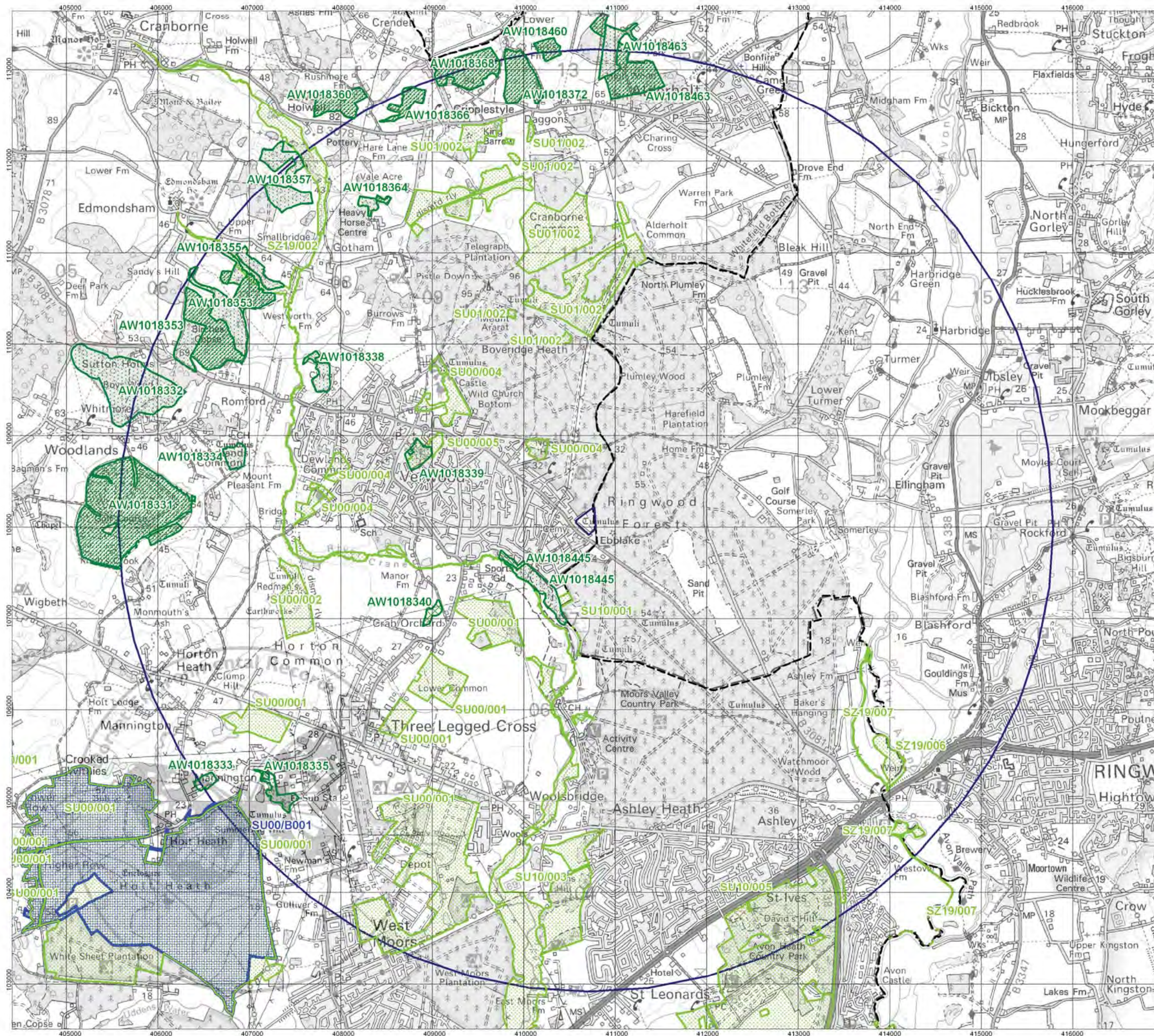


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Dorset Environmental Records Centre

Ebblake Verwood

Designated Sites Map 3

Key:

-  Ramsar
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  Site of interest & 5km search area
-  Dorset/Hampshire border

Scale 1:40000

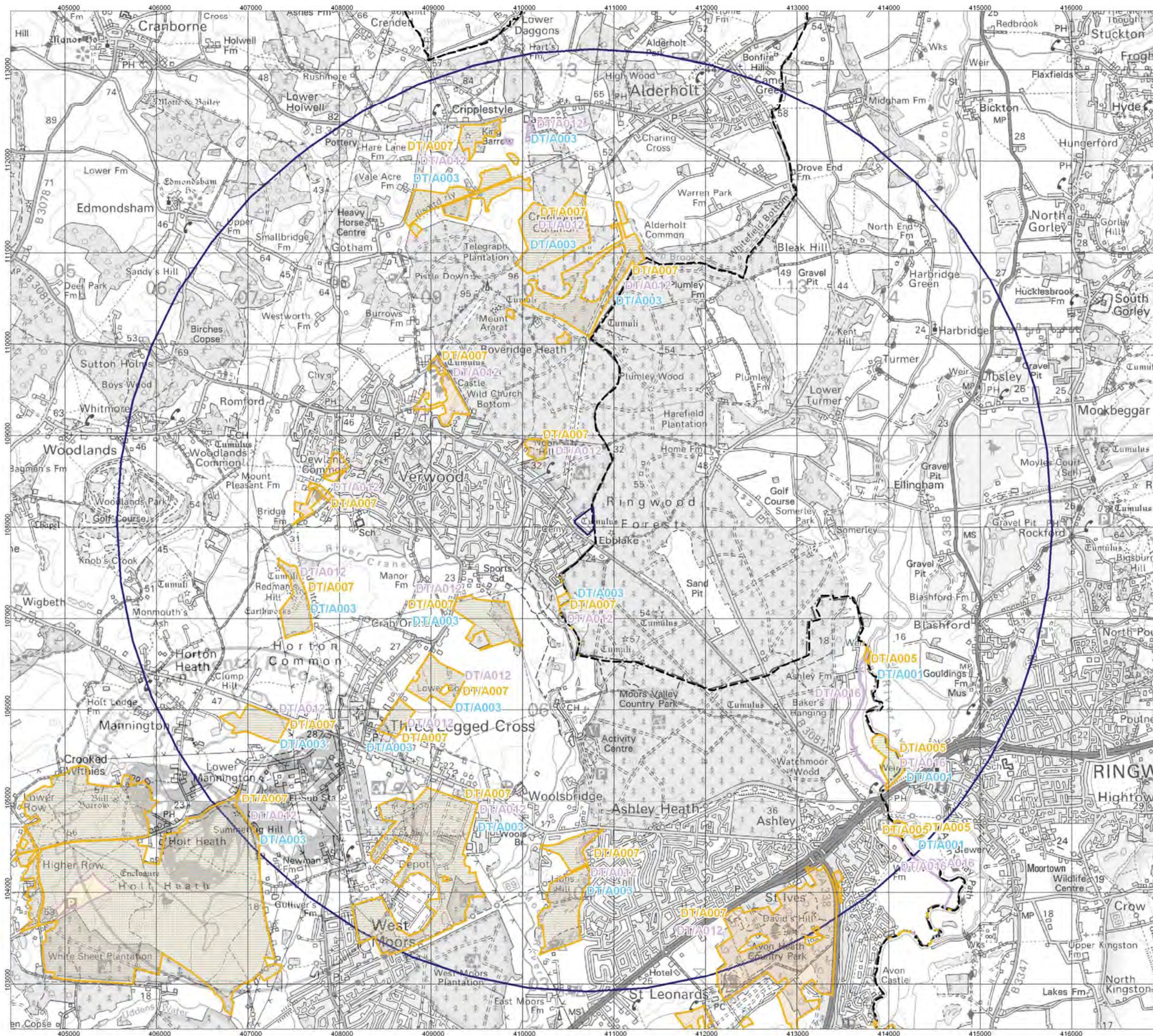


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Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

HBIC Ref: 3603

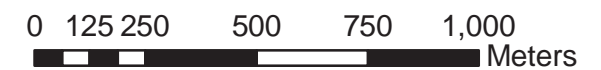
Statutory designated sites within 2km of The Verwood Site:

Legend

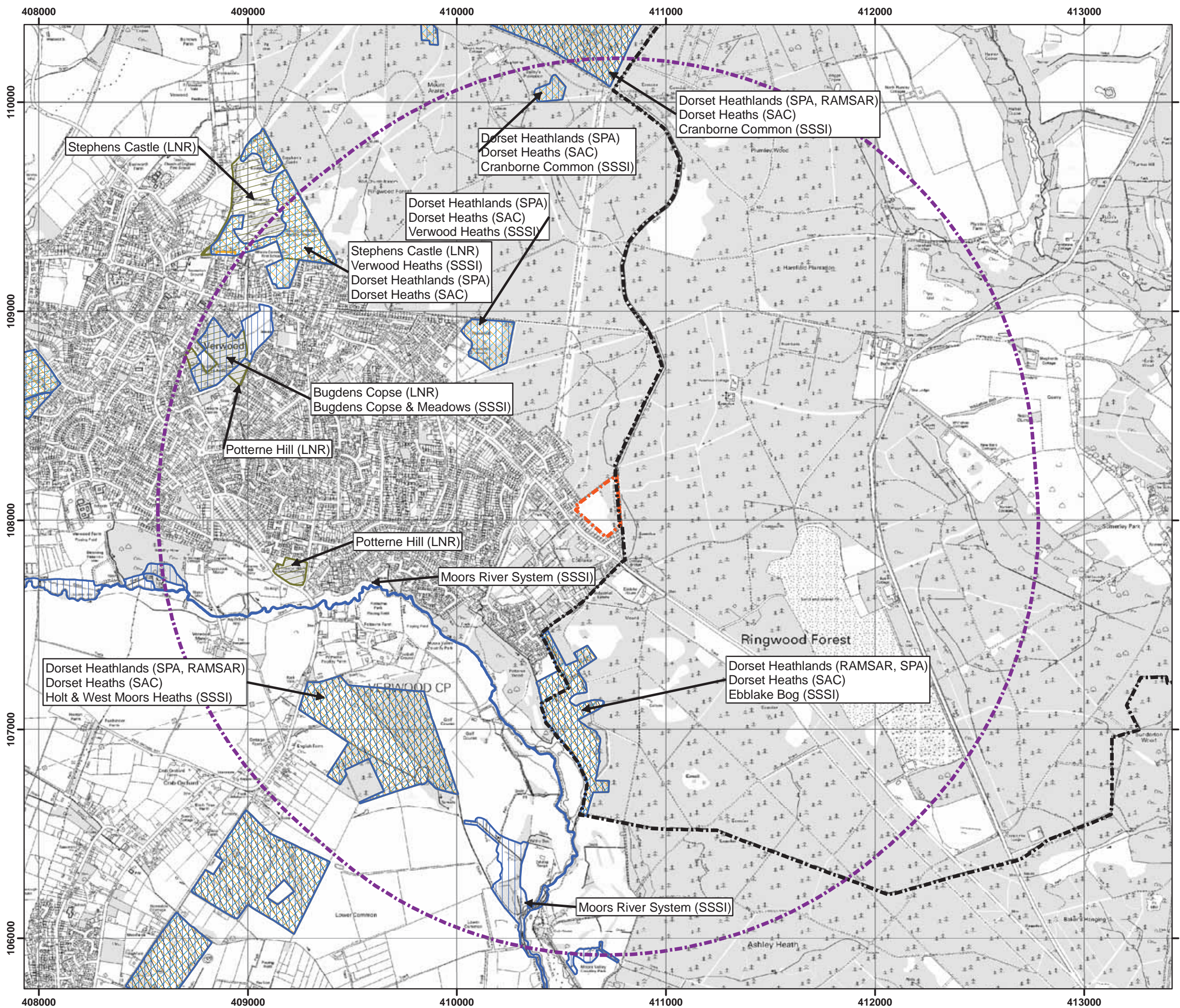
- County Boundary (inc. LWM)
- Verwood Site
- 200m Search Area
- SSSI
- SAC
- SPA
- LNR
- RAMSAR

Created: 11/06/2012

Scale at A3: 1:17,000



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Please note: The boundaries for statutory sites have been provided as digital data from Natural England (NE); this digital data is indicative not definitive. Paper maps produced by NE at the time the sites were designated show the official site boundaries.



Hampshire Biodiversity
Information Centre

HBIC Ref: 3603

Non-statutory designated
sites within 2km of the
Verwood Site, SU107080:

Legend

- Verwood Site
- County Boundary (inc. LWM)
- 200m Search Area
- SINC
- Surrounding SINC
- Ancient Woodland Inventory**
 - Semi-Natural
 - Replanted

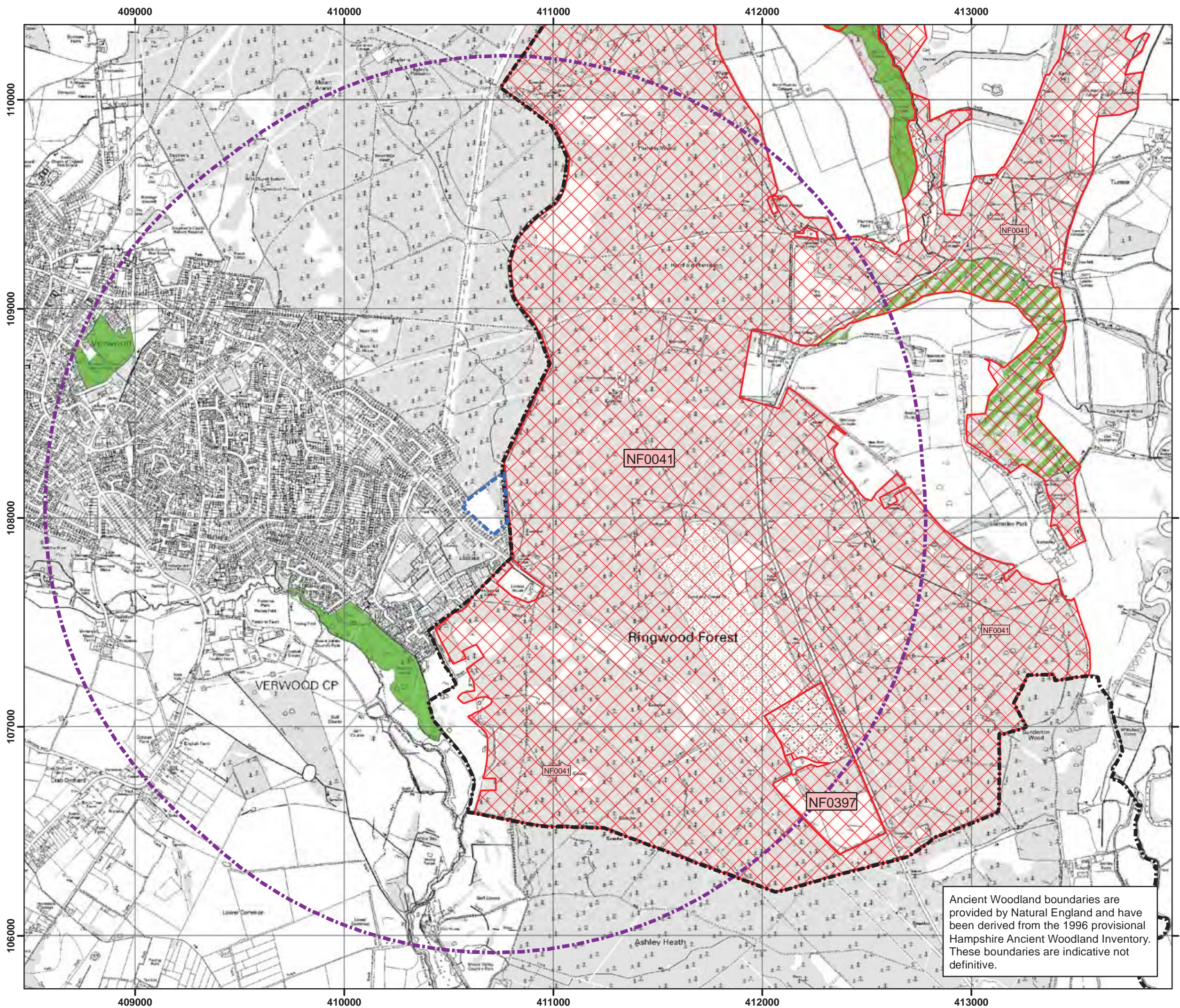
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Ancient Woodland boundaries are provided by Natural England and have been derived from the 1996 provisional Hampshire Ancient Woodland Inventory. These boundaries are indicative not definitive.

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Appendix 5: Target Notes



Appendix 5: Target Notes

Target note	Description
1	Dwarf gorse <i>Ulex minor</i> , a Dorset notable species (indicative of good unimproved or semi-improved habitat to assist in the selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest), noted as occasionally present within woodland and along woodland margins
2	Small areas of acid mire habitat, supporting mosses, including sphagnum moss, purple moor-grass, bog myrtle and occasional soft rush and frequent heath wood-rush present on surrounding drier ground. Located near to the eastern boundary of the site.
3	Area of rough grassland and scattered scrub with piles of brashings located in the south-western corner of the site, offering potential to support common reptile species.
4	Piles of brashings within rough grassland strip on the western site boundary, offering potential habitat and hibernacula for the common species of reptile.
5	Undulating vegetated rocky area within the woodland – a potential reptile hibernaculum.



Appendix 6: Legislation and Planning Policy



Appendix 6: Legislation and Planning Policy

Legislative Context

- A6.1. Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in the UK under various pieces of legislation, including:
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010;
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
 - The Hedgerows Regulations 1997;
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
 - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006.
- A6.2. The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1992, often referred to as the 'Habitats Directive', provides for the protection of key habitats and species considered of European importance. Annexes II and IV of the Directive list all species considered of community interest. The legal framework to protect the species covered by the Habitats Directive has been enacted under UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- A6.3. In Britain, the WCA 1981 (as amended) is the primary legislation protecting habitats and species. SSSIs, representing the best examples of our natural heritage, are notified under the WCA 1981 (as amended) by reason of their flora, fauna, geology or other features. All breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Act, which makes it illegal to knowingly destroy or disturb the nest site during nesting season. Schedules 1, 5 and 8 afford protection to individual birds, other animals and plants.
- A6.4. The CRoW Act 2000 strengthens the species enforcement provisions of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and makes it an offence to 'recklessly' disturb a place of rest or shelter of a protected animal or nest site.

National Policy

- A6.5. The relevant adopted policy at the national level is set out in The National Planning Policy Framework (2012), which replaces Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005). The NPPF aims to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment and to promote sustainable growth. It sets out the key principles of ensuring that development is sustainable and that the potential impacts of planning decisions on biodiversity and geological conservation are fully considered (although the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined).
- A6.6. Outline principles state that planning should:
- Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; and



- Promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production).

A6.7. Chapter 11, Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment, sets out a number of planning protocols, as follows:

- The NPPF provides guidance as to the protection of statutorily designated sites, including international sites, National Nature Reserves (NNR) and SSSIs, as well as non-statutory regional and local sites. The NPPF also addresses development and wildlife issues outside these sites and seeks to ensure that planning policies minimise any adverse effects on wildlife;
- The NPPF places emphasis on local authorities to further the conservation of those habitats of principal importance, or those habitats supporting species of principal importance, which are identified in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;
- The NPPF requires that adverse effects of development on species of principal importance should be avoided through planning conditions or obligations and that planning permission should be refused where harm to these species, or their habitats, may result, unless the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the harm;
- The NPPF requires that opportunities for improving biodiversity within developments should be maximised. It states that development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted and that opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged; and
- The NPPF states that by encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

Local Policy

East Dorset District Local Plan - Saved Policies

- A6.8. The East Dorset local plan was adopted on 11th January 2002 and continues to provide relevant planning policy for the whole district until a Local Development Framework for East Dorset is produced.
- A6.9. The Local Plan of relevance to the site is that of the East Dorset District. In 2007, the Secretary of State formally 'saved' a range of policies from the existing adopted Local Plan for the District and Structure Plan for the area. Chapter 13 is of relevance and includes proposals for Verwood and Three Legged Cross.
- A6.10. The policies of relevance to nature conservation within the East Dorset District Local Plan are:
- Policy V15, which seeks to designate a number of sites as Local Nature reserves, primarily for nature conservation purposes and non-intensive outdoor recreation;
 - Policy V17, which promotes re-creation of areas of heathland habitat and their subsequent use as common land; and
 - Policy V18, which seeks to protect selected local sites with secure fencing.



Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy Core Strategy

A6.11. East Dorset District Council has developed a Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Core Strategy Pre Submission – November 2012 document. Policies of relevance to nature conservation within the Core Strategy include:

Policy ME1 - Safeguarding biodiversity and geodiversity

A6.12. The Core Strategy aims to protect, maintain and enhance the condition of all types of nature conservation sites, habitats and species within their ecological networks including:

- Internationally designated sites (SPA, SAC, Ramsar);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI);
- Local Nature Reserves;
- Priority species and habitats;
- Important geological and geomorphological sites;
- Riverine and coastal habitats; and
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace.

A6.13. The following criteria should be addressed when development is proposed:

- Avoidance of harm to existing priority habitats and species through careful site selection, development design and phasing of construction and the use of good practice construction techniques;
- Retention of existing habitats and features of interest, and provision of buffer zones around any sensitive areas;
- Enhancement of biodiversity through improving the condition of existing habitats and achieving net gains in biodiversity, where possible. Particular attention should be paid to priority habitats and species referred to in Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy, and the Strategic Nature Areas identified on the Dorset Nature Map;
- Where harm is identified as likely to result, provision of measures to adequately avoid or adequately mitigate that harm should be set out. Development may be refused if adequate mitigation or, as a last resort compensation cannot be provided;
- Provision of adequate management of the retained and new features;
- Monitoring of habitats and species for a suitable period of time after completion of the development to indicate any changes in habitat quality or species numbers, and put in place corrective measures to halt or reverse any decline; and
- In addition, and in recognition of the function of the New Forest National Park, the Core Strategy will carefully consider any adverse impacts on the New Forest as a result of development.

Policy ME2: Protection of the Dorset Heathlands

A6.14. In accordance with the advice from Natural England, no residential development will be permitted within 400m of protected European and internationally designated heathlands.



- A6.15. Any residential development within 400m and 5km of these areas will provide mitigation through a range of measures as set out in the Dorset Heathlands Joint Development Plan Document, and the Dorset Heathlands Joint Supplementary Planning Document which sets out guidance in the intervening period prior to the adoption of the Development Plan Document including:
- Provision of on-site alternative natural greenspace (provided in accordance with guidelines set out in Appendix 5); and
 - Contributions to off-site greenspace or recreation projects.
- A6.16. The avoidance or mitigation measure are to be delivered in advance of the developments being occupied and must provide for mitigation in perpetuity Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) will be secured by way of a legal agreement between the developer and the relevant council. Heathland mitigation measures will be secured through CIL in the majority of cases. The authority will ensure that mitigation measures to avoid harm are given priority as required by this policy.
- A6.17. On development proposals of approximately 50 dwellings, where adequate mitigation measures cannot be provided on-site as part of the development, a financial contribution to the Councils will be required.
- A6.18. The Dorset Heathlands Joint Development Plan Document will set out the type of development circumstances, a list of projects which will be funded by developer contributions and the calculated contribution amounts as they apply to different types of development. Projects delivered through the Development Plan Document will include SANG, heathland access and visitor management, wardening, education, habitat re-creation and other appropriate avoidance measures.
- A6.19. The combination of the 400m exclusion zone with the heathland mitigation measures set out above function together as an effective package avoiding the harmful effects of additional residential development on the European and internationally designated heathlands.

New Forest District (outside the National Park) Core Strategy: Adopted 26 October 2009

Policy CS3 Protecting and enhancing our special environment (Heritage and Nature Conservation)

- A6.20. Development proposals must protect and, where possible, enhance sites of recognised importance for nature and heritage conservation.
- A6.21. Working with local communities, features of local heritage value which contribute to local distinctiveness will be identified. New development proposals should maintain local distinctiveness and where possible enhance the character of identified features.
- A6.22. Measures will be taken, working with other partners, to secure the enhancement, restoration and creation of biodiversity, including measures to adapt to the consequences of climate change, so as to assist in achieving national, county and local biodiversity targets as set out in the Hampshire and New Forest Biodiversity Action Plans.
- A6.23. The special characteristics of the Plan Area's natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced through:
- (a) applying relevant national and regional policies;
 - (b) ensuring that new development protects and enhances local distinctiveness (see Policy CS2);



- (c) a review of Areas of Special Character and landscape features through subsequent Local Development Framework Documents;
- (d) using the development management process to positively bring about development which enhances local character and identity and which retains, protects and enhances features of biological or geological interest, and provides for the appropriate management of these features;
- (e) producing Conservation Area appraisals and management plans, including enhancements such as environmental improvements, traffic management etc.;
- (f) supporting an ongoing programme of survey of habitats and species, and designation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation;
- (g) encouraging and developing public understanding of biodiversity, e.g. through the New Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, and enabling public access to designated sites for the purpose of interpretation and understanding where feasible without harm to nature conservation interests;
- (h) encouraging land management practices that restore or enhance sites of biodiversity value and which create new sites;
- (i) working with landowners and developers to ensure land management practices protect and enhance valued landscapes, and to restore landscapes where valued features and habitats have been lost or degraded;
- (j) protecting networks of natural habitats identified through the local Biodiversity Action Plan, where appropriate including them in access routes and areas of natural green space;
- (k) extending specific protection to important trees and hedgerows including those not currently included within designated sites;
- (l) ensuring development contributes, where possible, to biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for (including on sensitive areas outside the Plan Area including the international nature conservation designations in the National Park); and
- (m) retaining and enhancing the green infrastructure networks within settlements.

New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration August 2005 – Saved Policies

Policy DW-E8: Trees On development sites

1. existing trees and woodland that contribute to local amenity, the character of the area and/or are of nature conservation value should be retained. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. where it is imperative that a development takes a particular form, or for safety reasons or declining health of the trees/ woodland) felling and replacement planting that maintains local amenity, the character of the area and nature conservation interest may be acceptable;
2. additional trees and woodland should be planted as appropriate as part of the overall landscape scheme and in the creation of new areas of nature conservation value (see Policies DW-E6 and DW-E7); and
3. in cases where development would affect trees or woodland of amenity value on, or adjacent to, the site, measures which have been agreed by the local planning authority shall be taken during construction works to protect any trees or woodland which are to be retained and to ensure their retention in the longer term.



Policy DW-E38: Locally designated sites

- A6.24. Development likely to harm a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGGS) will not be permitted unless the local planning authority is satisfied that the harm to the nature conservation value of the site is outweighed by other material considerations. Where such development is permitted, the local planning authority will use conditions and/or planning obligations to minimise the damage and to provide compensatory and site management measures where appropriate.

The Dorset Biodiversity Protocol

- A6.25. The Dorset Biodiversity Protocol states that planning work that affects a green or brown field site greater than 0.1 ha that is not currently in use as a residential or business premises, or that the application will affect any known ecological interests, such as designated sites (SSSI/SNCIs/nature reserves etc.) or semi natural habitat such as woodland, heath, reed bed/fen, downland, ponds, rivers and streams etc., then an environmental consultant will be required to undertake a Phase 1 Survey.
- A6.26. Even if a site does not support biodiversity interests, a 'Biodiversity Mitigation Plan' must still be completed to ensure appropriate enhancement measures are secured through a planning condition. The Biodiversity Mitigation Plans will include measures that will be retained in perpetuity once the development is completed. For example, bird/bat boxes, replacement hedges, ponds etc.

