Overton Parish

Biodiversity Action Plan

2009 to 2014

www.overton-biodiversity.org

Contents

Foreword

This report describes the wildlife of Overton and sets out some ideas for looking after it. Producing the report has been very much a community event and many people have been involved in it – completing questionnaires, attending meetings, making comments, identifying wildlife sites, taking photographs and carrying out surveys.

Overton Biodiversity Society would like to thank everyone who was involved in producing the Biodiversity Action Plan. We would particularly like to thank Kath Doyle who started the project, Liz Allinson, Alison Cross, Debbie King and Amanda Bassett of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Mike Bird and Julia Nethercott of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for guiding and encouraging us throughout the process. We would also like to thank Graham Flatt and Bernie Martin of Hampshire County Council for supplying the soils map of Overton Parish and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre for providing survey information.

All photographs courtesy of Overton Biodiversity Society unless otherwise stated.

A Parish Plan for Biodiversity

What is Biodiversity?

'Biodiversity' comes from the words **biological diversity** and simply refers to the variety of living things found within an area. Overton's biodiversity ranges from single celled micro-organisms to mammals, birds and trees. The biodiversity of an area also refers to the range of **habitats** such as woodlands or rivers where these species are found.

Why is Overton's Biodiversity Important?

All human life depends on healthy ecosystems and the living things they contain.

Globally, biodiversity provides us with many of the things we need to survive – water, oxygen, food, clothing and medicines.

Locally, Overton's biodiversity contributes to making the village a pleasant place to live. It enriches our lives and helps to keep us healthy – mentally as well as physically! One of the factors which attracts people to live and work in north Hampshire is its natural environment and wildlife.

Overton's Biodiversity Plan and the Bigger Picture

In June 1992 the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro led to over 150 countries signing the Convention on Biological Diversity. The main aim of the Convention is to encourage widespread commitment to sustaining and enhancing global biodiversity. It calls for the creation and enforcement of national strategies and action plans to conserve, protect and enhance biological diversity.

As part of its response to the Rio Summit the UK Government published the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 1995 setting out our national objectives.

In 1998 the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership set out strategic action plans for biodiversity within the county[1] followed in 2000 by specific species and habitat action plans[2].

In 2003 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council produced "Living Landscapes – a Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy for the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane". The strategy provides a framework for the work of the council in relation to the conservation and enhancement of landscape and biodiversity[3]. One of the tasks identified in the strategy was to explore the development and role of parish-based conservation action plans in helping to achieve landscape and biodiversity objectives. This key action supports one of the guiding aims of the strategy - to encourage the participation of local groups and people in decisions affecting the future of the borough's biodiversity.

A Biodiversity Action Plan for Overton will help our community to identify the principles set out at international, national and regional level and to put them into practice at a local level within Overton Parish. It will also help us to identify our local wildlife resources and to make suggestions on how they may be maintained or improved.

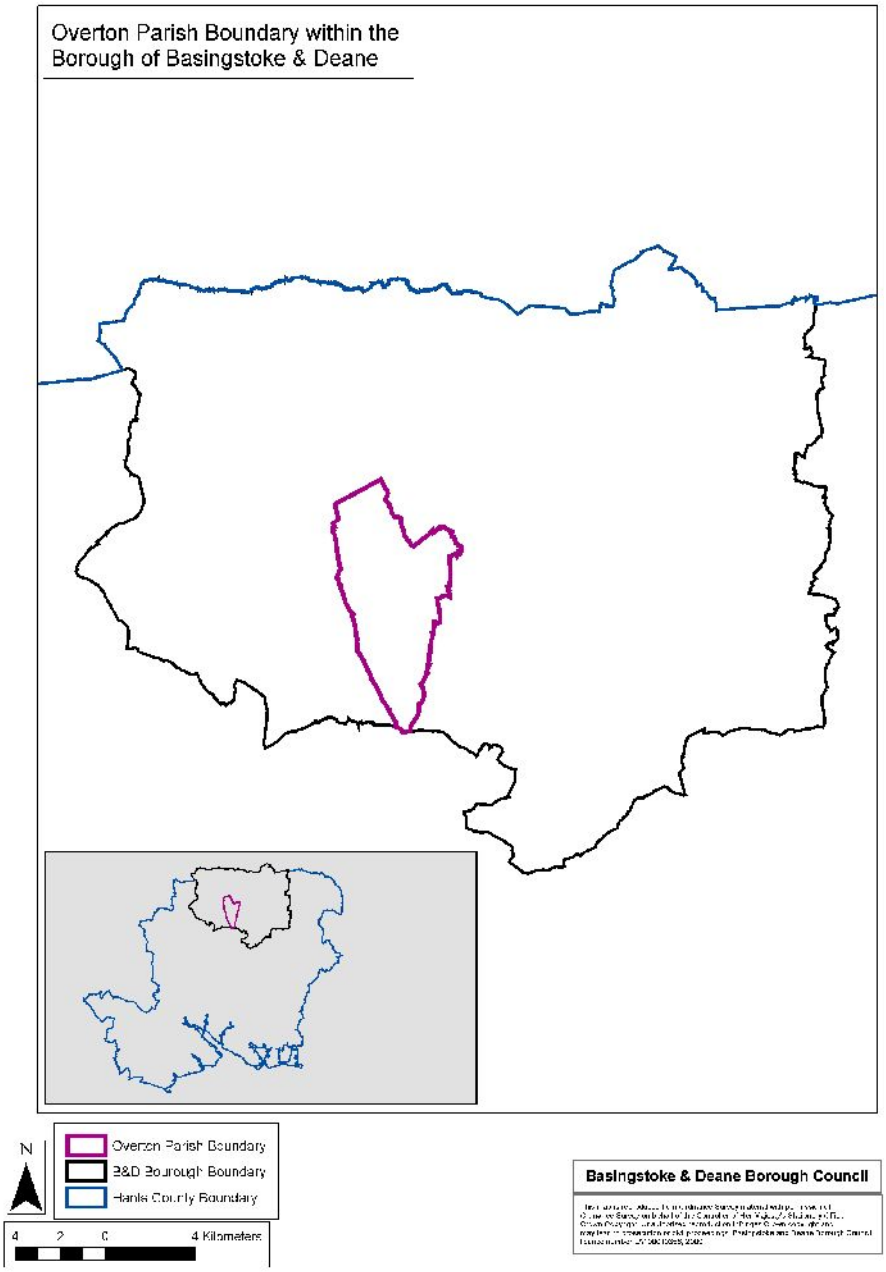
Overton's largest oak tree – 31 July 2005

The Parish of Overton

Location

The Parish of Overton is situated in north-west Hampshire and covers an area of approximately 35 km² (13 square miles) on the western side of the Hampshire Downs. It includes the upper Test valley and the source of the River Test which rises at Ashe Manor Farm.

Overton village has approximately 3000 inhabitants and lies at the centre of the parish in the valley of the River Test, 13 km west of Basingstoke on the B3400.



Overton Parish within north Hampshire and the Borough of Basingstoke and DeaneOverton Parish Rights of Way and Transport Routes

Geology and Soil

The underlying rocks of the parish form part of the Hampshire Basin, a geological feature in which the rocks slope gently from the north to the south. The oldest rock is Cretaceous chalk which was formed over 65 million years ago. This chalk is a porous, fine grained limestone which is generally highly permeable and alkaline.

The soil types in the parish are mainly calcareous with areas of overlying plateau drift and clay with flints. In the river valley there are river and valley silt and gravel deposits.

The Soil Survey of England and Wales has identified 4 main groups of soils (Soil Associations) in the parish[4]:

Soil Association	**Characteristics**
Charity 2 Association	Well drained flinty fine silty soils in valley bottoms. Calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, sometimes shallow. Parent materials: flinty and chalky drift over chalk.
Frome Association	Shallow calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils over flint gravel affected by groundwater. Small areas of peat. Risk of flooding. Parent materials: chalky and gravelly river alluvium.
Andover 1 Association	Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk on slopes and crests. Deep calcareous and non-calcareous fine silty soils in valley bottoms. Striped soil patterns locally. Parent material: Chalk.
Carstens Soil Association	Well drained fine silty over clayey and fine silty soil, often very flinty. Parent materials: Plateau drift and clay-with-flints.

A map showing the soil types present in the parish is given in Appendix 1.

Climate and Hydrology

Overton has a temperate climate with an average annual temperature of about 10^{o}C and about 800 mm annual rainfall[5]. Just under 50% of the rainfall is lost to evaporation and transpiration. The rest soaks into the deeper layers of the underlying chalk which are saturated with water. This water moves through the chalk under the influence of gravity until it emerges as springs in the river valley.

Generally rain takes several months to filter through the underlying chalk to the springs, so the winter rainfall swells the underground reserves and gives peak river flows in late spring. The temperature of the water is fairly constant entering the River Test at about 11°C regardless of the season[6].

With climate change, snowfall is becoming rare and frost less common than in the past. Predictions for the future suggest increasingly hot, dry summers with milder, wetter winters. Extreme weather events such as storms and heavy rain may become more common[7].

Topography

The landscape of the parish owes much to the influence of the last ice age which ended some 10,000 years ago.

Overton village looking north over the valley of the River Test © Sue Teagle.

Although not actually covered by ice during this period (the glaciers ended further to the north), the dry valleys in the Chalk Downs were probably formed by stream erosion when the ground was frozen causing rainfall to run over them rather than soaking in as it does today[4].

One of the main landscape features of the parish is the valley of the River Test which runs from east to west across the central portion of the area.

Altitudes within the parish range from 75 metres at its lowest point (where the River Test flows out of the parish at Laverstoke) to 185 metres at Robley Belt on the northern boundary of the parish.

Landscape History and Archaeology

Man has influenced the landscape of the parish for thousands of years. Evidence of human activity can be seen in the presence of:

Popham Beacons – a prehistoric barrow dating to the bronze age (2,400 – 700 BC)

Harrow Way – an ancient trackway thought to date to the iron age (700 BC – 43 AD) or earlier

Portway - the Roman road from Silchester to Sarum which forms part of the northern boundary of the parish

Victorian railway line - the tree-lined railway line with its impressive embankments bisecting the northern part of the parish.

Historic landscape types identified in the parish[8] include:

Assarted Woodland – early medieval to early post-medieval enclosures, formed by the clearance of woodland and scrub to form farmland

Wavy-edged fields – fields with wavy boundaries, resulting from 17th and 18th century informal enclosure

Ladder fields – fields with long wavy-edged parallel boundaries, often running for several kilometres over chalk uplands, resulting from 16th and 17th century informal enclosure

Parliamentary fields – regularly shaped fields typically formed by Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th – 19th century.

Ladder fields looking south over Robley Belt © Sue Teagle

Studying field patterns and their boundaries can indicate where the oldest and most species-rich hedges are likely to be found and gives an indication of when and how the modern landscape has been formed.

A map showing the historic landscape types present in the parish is given in Appendix 2.

Landscape Character Areas

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has identified 4 main "**Landscape Character Areas**" within the parish, based on a study of habitats, land use and landscape history. Each Landscape Character Area represents a tract of land with a recognisable local identity and wildlife interest[8].

A map showing the landscape character areas present in the parish is given in Appendix 3. The landscape character areas are described in more detail overleaf.

Great Litchfield Down and Willesley Warren

This open, rolling area forms a distinct character area in the northern part of the parish with its southern boundary marked by the River Test. The area is underlain predominantly with chalk, which has been covered in places with clay with flint deposits. Erosion of this underlying geology has led to the formation of a rolling, strongly undulating landform, with numerous dry valleys. Elevated relief and lack of vegetation cover contribute to an exposed and remote character.

Landscape character within this area is comparatively uniform with coherence and unity provided by the area's scale and openness. Large, open arable fields, with a weak hedgerow and woodland structure separate it from the surrounding, more enclosed, chalkland landscapes. Occasional small areas of pasture are distributed within the area. The area is bounded to the north by Robley Belt - a linear plantation marking the route of the Roman road which forms the northerly boundary of the Parish. The area north of the Salisbury to London railway line lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Great Litchfield Down and Willesley Warren landscape character area © Sue Teagle

Test and Bourne Valley

The River Test has cut through the underlying geology of predominantly chalk beds giving rise to the distinct flat valley floor. The alluvial loam and valley gravels deposited by the river results in a change in vegetation characteristics from the surrounding chalkland.

The area consists of valley floor, slopes and built areas. The land adjacent to the river forms a mixture of wet woodland, disused watercress beds and grazing land, some of which is now unused and overgrown. The River Test and some adjacent areas are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The valley sides have a mosaic of pasture and arable farmland interspersed with small woodland blocks, the fields bounded by a strong hedgerow structure and hedgerow trees. Much of the settlement within the parish is situated in this area.

River Test at Southington © Jane MacKenzie

South Test Down

This area is underlain with chalk layers creating a gently undulating landform and is found to the south of the village.

Within the parish, the western part of this area is characterised by large arable fields with low hedgerows and limited woodland cover creating a fairly open landscape. To the east, the higher frequency of woodland and hedgerows leads to a more enclosed landscape.

Looking north over Test Valley Golf Course showing South Test Down landscape character area © Sue Teagle

Oakley and Steventon Down

This area, also underlain by chalk beds, is covered by widespread deposits of clay with flints (particularly on higher ground) which creates the characteristic undulating landform.

The landscape comprises a patchwork of medium to large arable fields interspersed with frequent woodland blocks. The relatively enclosed nature created by the woodland distinguishes this area from the surrounding more open character areas.

The area includes a high proportion of ancient semi-natural woodland which has been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

The second of Overton's two SSSIs – Micheldever Spoil Heaps - is found in the southern part of this area on the site of Victorian railway excavations now colonised with rare plant species such as cut-leaved germander (*Teucrium botrys*).

Micheldever Spoil Heaps looking north © Ken MacKenzie

Habitat Types

The Phase 1 Habitat Types in the parish were mapped in 1996/97 by Hampshire County Council and in 2006 by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council[9]. The mapping was carried out using aerial photographs but has since been partially ground-truthed.

The following ten main habitats were identified as occurring locally:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Although there is no single large area of woodland in the parish, there are many scattered stands of mixed woodland throughout, particularly in the south of the parish on areas of heavier soils. Many of these areas are classed as semi-natural ancient woodland. In addition, the parish is covered by an extensive network of hedgerows (around 150 km/100 miles) providing both localised woodland habitats and a valuable green connection, *i.e*. corridors between habitats.

Open Standing Water

In the past the River Test was diverted in several places to create watercress beds (at Polhampton, Flashetts, Southington). These are no longer used for growing watercress but remain as important areas of open water as are the settling beds associated with Overton Paper Mill.

Lowland Wet Grassland

Several areas along the River Test are situated in low- lying areas with silty or gravelly soils, a high water table and, sometimes, seasonal flooding (Ashe, Polhampton, Quidhampton, Southington). These factors create a grassland habitat distinct from the classic chalk grassland habitat.

Chalk Rivers

The source of the River Test is at Ashe on the eastern edge of the parish. It runs westward for 4.1 km (2.5 miles) before crossing the parish boundary on the western side.

Wood Pasture and Parkland

Wood pasture and parkland are valued for their preservation of ancient trees, often pollarded, and their associated species, such as lichen and invertebrates. Small areas of wood pasture and parkland exist in the parish. Parkland can be found around Berrydown Court and relict wood pasture with notable pollarded beech trees can be found east of the C29, adjacent to the Micheldever Spoil Heaps.

Arable

The greatest part of the parish is dedicated to arable farming. A large part of the south of the parish is farmed organically by Laverstoke Estate and other areas are entered into environmental stewardship schemes. The major crops grown are wheat, barley and oilseed rape.

Hedgerows

There is an extensive network of hedges within the parish. The total length of hedgerow has been estimated as approximately 150 km with a density of about 4 km of hedge per kilometre of ground area[15].

Well-maintained hedges, especially when combined with sympathetic field margin management, are an outstanding wildlife resource. They provide shelter for a wide range of species including many farmland birds and also make up wildlife corridors allowing species to move safely from one area to another. Without hedges, some species such as dormice would remain dangerously isolated in specific locations.

In addition to their importance for wildlife, hedges are also of great landscape value and historic significance.

Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Only tiny areas of unimproved chalk grassland remain in the parish, along a few road verges (Kingsclere Road) and in Overton Church graveyard where there is a significant glow worm population (*Lampyris noctiluca*).

Spoil Heaps

These are localised areas of disturbed chalk derived from Victorian railway cuttings found in the southern end of the parish. The spoil heaps can provide a habitat for a range of unusual plant species, including the rare cut-leaved germander.

Improved Grassland

Areas of grassland used for grazing livestock are found throughout the parish. On conventional farms these are sown pastures containing ryegrass and are heavily fertilised for maximum production. On organically farmed land artificial fertilisers are not used and the sown seed mixtures include a wide range of herbs and grasses.

Nature Conservation Sites in Overton

The habitats of 31 sites within the parish have been surveyed and the records of these surveys are kept by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). Some of the sites surveyed are of particular wildlife significance and have been designated for their nature conservation importance. There are two **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)** within the parish and seventeen **Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs).**

A map showing all the designated sites within the parish is given in Appendix 4.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 7% of the country's land area. The designation process is managed by Natural England[10]. Notification of a site as a SSSI gives legal protection to the best sites for wildlife and geology in England.

There are two SSSIs within the parish – the River Test SSSI, running from east to west through the middle of the parish and Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI (also known as “the Chalkies” in the south of the parish):

The River Test SSSI

The River Test is a classic chalk stream and is one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England. The water is naturally base-rich and of great clarity, but like many lowland rivers shows evidence of nutrient enrichment.

River Test between Kingsclere Road and Station Road © Jane MacKenzie

The River Test supports a high diversity of invertebrate species and is especially rich in aquatic molluscs.

The River Test SSSI includes areas of former water meadows, fen pasture and rush pasture communities of botanical interest. The River Test and its adjoining vegetation provide valuable habitats for wetland birds.

Almost the entire river is managed to maintain and facilitate fishing for trout (brown and rainbow)[11].

Water voles (*Arvicola terrestris*) are common in places, but their numbers are thought to have declined as has been noted elsewhere in Britain[12].

Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI

This area, now partly managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, is an area of nineteenth century chalk spoil heaps produced during the construction of the London to Southampton railway. The area is described as being of "quite exceptional botanical importance" for species such as cut-leaved germander, wall bedstraw (*Galium parisiense*), spring cinquefoil (*Potentilla neumanniana*), fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*)[13] which have colonised the site.

Micheldever Spoil Heaps © Ken MacKenzie

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

SINCs are locally important wildlife sites. A SINC is a non-statutory designation generally administered by a local authority in partnership with conservation organisations. The designation recognises important habitats and species on sites that fall outside statutory site designations. Local government authorities have schedules of SINCs within their area and include policies in their Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks to safeguard these sites from inappropriate development[14].

SINCs within the Parish of Overton

A map showing the location of each SINC is given in Appendix 4. The following comments are taken from original habitat survey reports held by HBIC.

1	**Overton Green Lanes and Sunken Tracks**		
Survey Date	May 1998	**Area**	0.9 ha
Comments A series of fine old sunken tracks and green lanes situated on a gently sloping and northerly facing valley side site, between the western edge of Overton and Southington. The site constitutes a series of important ecological corridors linking the Test Valley with the open country to the south and west of Overton.			

2	**Court Drove Woodland Strip**		
Survey Date	May 1998	**Area**	0.9 ha
Comments Court Drove is a small ancient semi-natural Oak-Ash-Hazel-Field Maple woodland, situated in a broad strip along the eastern side of Court Drove between the school and the railway line, Overton. Despite its small size the wood retains a notable number of ancient woodland vascular plants (or indicators) including goldilocks buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*). Evidence would suggest that the site supports an active population of dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*).			

3	Road Verge, NS 30-B3051		
Survey Date	August 2003	**Length**	About 1 km

Comments

Grassland which has become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retains sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery.

13 species of vascular plants characteristic of unimproved chalk grassland.

4	Southley Copse		
Survey Date	September 1990	**Area**	7.7 ha

Comments

Southley Copse lies on the rolling chalklands of North Hampshire where variable depths of drift material can give rise to unusual and surprising types of woodland. Within intact ancient semi-natural woodland soils are often acid and impoverished and may be seasonally wet. Centuries of extractive management have maintained these conditions originally under pasture woodland (later under coppice management) and created curious monotonous stands in which ash is rare, beech, unless introduced, usually absent and calcicole (chalk-loving) shrubs are generally restricted to banks, pits or other disturbed areas.

These woods are quite distinct from woods on thin, truly chalky soils and may be of great antiquity.

Southley Copse is a good example and appears to be a fragment of formerly extensive woodland.

23 ancient woodland vascular plants recorded.

5	Cobley Wood - North		
Survey Date	April 1992	**Area**	6.4 ha

Comments

Cobley Wood North is a moderately sized ancient semi-natural oak-ash wood on a relatively flat and gently sloping site.

The wood exhibits a notable semi-natural canopy including an unusual plateau alder stand. The wood also retains a diverse flora including some 21 ancient woodland vascular plants.

6	Quidhampton Southley Copse & Pilgrim's Copse		
Survey Date	May 1997	**Area**	7.7 ha & 8.0 ha

Comments

Quidhampton Southley Copse is a medium sized ancient semi-natural woodland, situated on a gently sloping and flat site on the immediate side of Pilgrim's Copse.

The wood retains a notable variety of stand types and includes the unusual old woodland indicator plant water avens (*Geum rivale*).

32 ancient woodland vascular plants recorded.

Pilgrim's Copse is a moderately sized, ancient semi-natural hazel and field maple wood situated on a gently sloping hillside on the mid Hampshire chalk.

The wood is adjacent and very similar to Quidhampton Southley Copse.

28 ancient woodland vascular plants recorded.

7	Cobley Wood - Middle		
Survey Date	April 1992	**Area**	7.1 ha

Comments

Cobley Wood 'Middle' is a medium sized ancient semi-natural oak-hazel wood on a relatively flat site.

The wood is of particular interest because of its varied semi-natural canopy and diverse ground flora.

20 ancient woodland vascular plants recorded.

8	Cobley Wood - South		
Survey Date	April 1992	**Area**	4.3 ha

Comments

Cobley Wood 'South' is a small ancient semi-natural copse on a gently sloping and rather poorly drained site.

The wood retains notable variation in the semi-natural canopy, as native 'stand-types' vary with the underlying soil and drainage characteristics of the site.

15 ancient woodland vascular plants recorded.

9	Field South of Bramdown Copse		
Survey Date	August 2000	**Area**	0.2 ha
Comments Arable field on south facing slope, sheltered by wood to north. Contains broad-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella rimosa),* a UK BAP priority species.			

10	Bramdown Copse		
Survey Date	June 1985	**Area**	33 ha
Comments A dark neglected wood. 27 ancient woodland vascular plants.			

11	Berrydown Copse		
Survey Date	01/11/90	**Area**	20.9 ha
Comments Bounded to the south by excellent old green lanes and wood hedges. 23 ancient woodland vascular plants.			

12	Litchfield Grange Boundary Bank		
Survey Date	01/04/92	**Area**	1.3 ha
Comments A strip of ancient semi-natural woodland and old hedgerow on a particularly impressive old boundary bank.- notable semi-natural canopy and retains diverse and species-rich ground flora.			

13	Litchfield Copse		
Survey Date	April 1992	**Area**	11.3 ha

Comments

Litchfield Copse is a mainly ancient semi-natural copse with some notable associated recent semi-natural and ancient/recent semi-natural stands.

The wood retains a diverse structure and a species rich flora, including some 27 species of ancient woodland indicator plants. The structure of the wood suggests that it may be derived from wood pasture.

Evidence suggests that the copse retains a population of dormice.

14	Kingsdown Wood		
Survey Date	Not available	**Area**	11.2 ha

Comments

Part ancient semi-natural woodland. No survey information available.

15	Burley Wood and Lane		
Survey Date	01/04/05	**Area**	8 ha

Comments

A good example of coppice-with-standards woodland and has varying ages of coppice present. The woodland is rich in species, especially ancient woodland indicators. In total 30 ancient woodland indicators were noted including a large population of the county scarce herb-paris (*Paris quadrifolia)*.

16	Heath Copse		
Survey Date	Not available	**Area**	1.8 ha

Comments

Part ancient semi-natural woodland. No survey information available.

17	**White Lane**		
Survey Date	June 1995	**Area**	0.5 ha

Comments

White Lane is a wooded green lane stretching from the northern edge of Great Deane Wood to the cross-roads north of Ashe Warren House. No management.

7 ancient woodland vascular plant species.

Other Sites of Interest

HBIC holds survey records for the following non-designated sites within the parish:

Site Name	Grid ref	Area (ha)	Survey Date	Comments
Court Drove Arable Field	SU50805030	8.1	Apr 1999	Perimeter includes Ancient semi-natural woodland and tall hedge, unclipped on fine old boundary bank. Hedge reaching 5 metres wide.
Small Meadow, Laverstoke	SU51585045	1	May 1994	A small rank fen meadow situated in the valley of the River Test to the immediate south of Northington fen. This is a possible former water meadow, isolated from management for some time. 1 species of species of vascular plant characteristic of unimproved neutral grassland.
Railway Line Copse	SU51205060	0.9	May 1998	A strip of recent woodland and scrub situated on the railway embankment on the southern edge of the railway line, between the B3051 and Court drove. Interesting as a wildlife corridor.
Flashetts	SU51605000	3.8	April 1997	The Flashetts comprise an area of valley bottom fen and swamp, willow dominated riverine woodland and old watercress beds. Scrub encroaching fen in places. Patches of common reed swamp in the south. Evidence of Dormice.

Site Name	Grid ref	Area (ha)	Survey Date	Comments
Foxdown Estate Copse	SU51805050	0.5	May 1993	A small roughly square copse situated on a gently and southerly facing hillside. Limited management and some evidence of urban fringe influence.
North of Micheldever Spoil Heaps	SU51924480	2	July 2000	Further bare chalk spoil heaps beyond the Micheldever Spoil Heaps HIOWWT Reserve. Superb bare chalk flora including cut-leaved germander recorded in 2000.
Cobley Plantation	SU5250444	5.8	April 1992	Cobley wood 'south-west' is a largely recent sycamore-ash stand situated on a relatively flat site, to the immediate north of the Popham Beacons.
Warren Plantation	SU52804540	2.6	April 1992	Warren Plantation is a recent sycamore plantation on a gently sloping and westerly facing site.
Road Verge 114, C19 Deane	SU54105120	~ 700 m	June 2000	Broad ancient semi-natural woodland on each side of the road.
Parish Hedgerows	Overton	150 km (100 miles)	2003 - 2005	Surveyed by Overton Biodiversity Society

Other sites such as the Harrow Way and Overton churchyard do not appear to have been surveyed, or the surveys have not been passed on to HBIC. A priority for OBS is to identify such sites and to arrange surveys.

Habitat Action Plans

Of the ten main habitats types identified in the habitat surveys, eight can be defined as UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and are included in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan[2].These are:

1. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (areas of Wet Woodland have also been recorded within the parish)
2. Open Standing Water / Ponds
3. Lowland Wet Grassland (which can include Floodplain Grazing Marsh and Lowland Meadows). In addition, areas of Lowland Fen have also been recorded in the parish)
4. Chalk Rivers
5. Wood-pasture & Parkland
6. Arable Field Margins
7. Hedgerows
8. Lowland Calcareous Grassland

A map showing the all the habitats types recorded within the parish is given in Appendix 5.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland woodland forms a significant part of the parish landscape and is a major wildlife habitat. Much of the lowland woodland is ancient semi-natural woodland and has SINC status.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Encourage development of the tree warden scheme within the village.	Autumn 2009	OBS, OPC, BDBC
2. Identify and survey remaining areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland within the parish and identify candidates for SINC status.	Autumn 2011	OBS, HIOWWT, HBIC
3. Encourage the planting of new woodland adjacent to existing areas of mixed deciduous woodland and as linking belts between them.	Ongoing	OBS, FC, BDBC
4. Continue to identify “veteran” trees within the parish and apply for tree preservation orders (TPOs) on trees under threat that meet the criteria used to serve TPOs and are not growing within a Conservation Area.	Ongoing	OBS

Standing Open Water

Standing open water habitats are found in a few locations adjacent to the River Test such as settling beds associated with Overton paper mill, disused watercress beds, farm ponds and ornamental lakes. The Hampshire BAP identifies these as a priority habitat.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Identify and where possible arrange surveys of standing open water areas within the parish.	Autumn 2013	OBS
2. Raise awareness of standing open water areas and their value for wildlife with landowners and the public.	Ongoing	OBS

Lowland Wet Grassland

The wildlife interest of the River Test is not restricted to the river itself but extends to the meadows adjacent to it. Some of these, especially higher up in the catchment, have been significantly improved for agriculture whereas some of the meadows closer to the western boundary retain more of their wildlife interest. These areas are now largely ungrazed and are at risk of reverting to wet woodland or conversion to unsuitable land uses such as pony paddocks.

Some of these areas are included in the River Test SSSI designated area.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Identify and where possible arrange surveys of floodplain grazing marsh areas to identify wildlife interest and types of habitats.	Autumn 2013	OBS, HIOWWT
2. Raise awareness of the importance of floodplain grazing marsh to wildlife conservation in the area.	Ongoing	OBS

Chalk Rivers

The River Test, its associated side streams and adjacent meadows and wet woodland, are classed as an SSSI and widely regarded as the Parish's prime wildlife site. It is home to many of the landmark species of the parish such as kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*), water voles and possibly otters (*Lutra lutra*).

However, the most recent assessments of the river within the parish by Natural England between April 2002 and March 2006 described conditions throughout as being "unfavourable" or "unfavourable and declining"[11].

This is due to a variety of factors including inappropriate water levels, siltation and water pollution within the river and lack of grazing and invasion of nettles and scrub in adjacent areas.

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has been noted in at least one location on the banks of the river. This non-native garden escape rapidly colonises riverbanks and damp ground. In the autumn the plants die back leaving the banks bare of vegetation and vulnerable to erosion.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Promote the importance of the River Test and its associated habitats and species to landowners, borough and parish councillors, schools and community groups.	Ongoing	OBS
2. Help landowners to improve conservation status of the river by organising practical conservation work such as scrub removal.	Ongoing	OBS, BTCV
3. Raise awareness of the issues associated with Himalayan Balsam and other non-native alien species and engage in practical conservation work to prevent spread.	Ongoing	OBS

Wood-Pasture and Parkland

Areas of wood-pasture and parkland were identified by HBIC at Berrydown Court, Burley Wood and Southington. Areas of former wood-pasture also exist in the south of the Parish adjacent to the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Survey area and record wildlife value.	Summer 2013	OBS

Arable Field Margins

Arable farming is the predominant form of land use in the parish. The predominant crops grown are wheat, barley and oilseed rape. Fields are large to accommodate modern farm machinery and many hedges have been removed over the last 50 years. Sympathetic management of the field margins and headlands may encourage farmland birds and rare arable plants such as cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus).*

Chicory

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Identify any areas of rare arable plants and encourage their conservation	Ongoing	OBS, FWAG

Hedgerows

Overton Biodiversity Society carried out a two-year survey of hedgerows in the parish. The total length of hedgerows in the parish was estimated at 150 km, making them an extremely significant wildlife resource. In most respects our local hedgerows were found to be very representative of the chalky arable landscape of southern England although they also appear to be more species-rich than the national average[15].

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Organise hedge-laying courses to improve availability of skilled volunteers within the community	Autumn 2010	OBS, HIOWWT
2. Identify hedgerows which would qualify as SINCs	Autumn 2011	OBS, HCC
3. Protect vulnerable hedgerow trees via Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) if they meet the criteria used to serve TPOs and are not growing	Spring 2013	OBS, BDBC

Action	By When	By Whom
within a Conservation Area.		
4. Continue surveying hedgerows within the parish with a particular emphasis on hedgerows at risk and species-rich or ancient hedgerows.	Ongoing	OBS
5. Raise awareness of the importance of hedges in linking habitats together and for encouraging species such as dormice.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT
6. Encourage and assist the planting of new hedgerows or renovating old ones particularly linking existing hedgerows and woodland and also in community areas such as Town Meadow.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT, BDBC, FWAG
7. Encourage the planting and maintenance of hedges within the village to improve urban habitats.	Ongoing	OBS, OPC

Other land use

Although not identified as priority habitats for Hampshire the following land use types are important locally.

Sports fields

Overton is fortunate in having available a wide range of recreational land. This includes land managed by Overton Recreation Centre, Overton Primary School playing fields, land managed by the Parish Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the privately-owned Test Valley Golf Course.

Some of this land already has considerable wildlife potential – Town Meadow contains sections of the River Test SSSI and has evidence of the presence of water voles while others could be improved for wildlife without interfering with their recreational potential.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Work with Overton Recreation Centre to improve wildlife habitats and access to environmental facilities for groups such as scouts and guides.	Autumn 2009	OBS, ORC
2. Work with Overton Recreation Centre to improve the hedgerows at Town Meadow.	Spring 2010	OBS, ORC
3. Liaise with recreational landowners and managers to carry out wildlife surveys on their land. E.g. Test Valley Golf Course – hedgerow and ponds.	Autumn 2011	OBS, HIOWWT
4. Work with Overton Parish Council to maintain and improve the value for wildlife of their recreational areas.	Ongoing	OBS, OPC

Gardens

Gardens form a major wildlife resource within the village with some being managed exclusively as wildlife gardens.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Liaise with Overton Garden Society to promote wildlife gardening.	Spring 2010	OBS, Overton Garden Society
2. Act as an information source for gardeners wishing to encourage garden wildlife.	Ongoing	OBS
3. Continue to arrange visits to wildlife gardens.	Ongoing	OBS

Roadside Verges

There are approximately 50 km of road in the parish - short stretches of which have retained some of the original diversity of chalk grassland. One section on the B3051 Overton to Kingsclere road has been designated as a SINC on the basis of its floral diversity which includes orchids.

Road side verge Kingsclere Road © Ken MacKenzie

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Implement appropriate cutting regimes with Hampshire County Council road maintenance department.	Spring 2010	OBS, HCC
2. Survey road verges and any associated banks for wildlife interest	Summer 2010	OBS
3. Seek SINC designation for any areas that meet SINC criteria.	Autumn 2010	OBS, HBIC

Water Vole © Graham Roberts

Species Action Plans

Overton's habitats support a tremendous range of species, some of which are **UK & Hampshire BAP Priority Species**[2]. Tables showing details of notable species recorded within the parish are given in Appendix 6**.**

It would not be possible to review all of the species in this document, but it is possible to select "**flagship species**" and to suggest ways in which they can be protected. Flagship species meet one or more of the following criteria:

- They are priority species in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan
- They have statutory protection
- They are indicators of the health of the habitat in which they live
- They are widely valued by the local community as a species of local importance.

Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris)*

The water vole is one of Britain's fastest declining species with numbers having fallen by as much as 94% over the last 100 years[12]. The species was once common within the parish but is now only rarely seen.

A water vole survey carried out by Overton Biodiversity Group in 2007[16] identified two areas within the parish where populations have survived. The survey also identified inappropriate river bank management and predation by mink (*Mustela vison*) as major causes of their decline.

Action	**By When**	**By Whom**
1. Carry out further surveys to monitor the population of water voles.	Autumn 2013	OBS
2. Liaise with landowners, Environment Agency and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to encourage correct riverside bank management.	Ongoing	OBS, EA, HIOWWT
3. Encourage landowners to monitor the presence of mink and arrange for control where necessary.	Ongoing	OBS

Common Dormouse

(*Muscardinus avellanarius)*

Common Dormouse © Phil McLean

The common or hazel dormouse is a small tree-living and largely nocturnal mammal.

Dormice prefer natural woodland and thick hedgerows so their presence is an indication of a healthy woodland habitat.

Action	**By When**	**By Whom**
1. Carry out dormouse survey training and start surveying woodland and hedges for their presence.	Spring 2009	OBS, HIOWWT
2. Set up and monitor dormouse nest box survey area.	April 2012	OBS
3. Train volunteers to become licensed dormouse handlers.	December 2012	HIOWWT
4. Raise public awareness of dormice and the need to preserve their habitats.	Ongoing	OBS

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis)*

The kingfisher is a fairly rare, easily disturbed bird and is widely seen as a symbol of the River Test. Kingfishers require slow moving, shallow stretches of rivers which are clean enough to support large amounts of small fish. Kingfishers require overhanging branches above shallow stretches of the river for their perches.

Kingfisher © Phil McLean

Action	**By When**	**By Whom**
1. Monitor kingfisher numbers and territories.	Summer 2014	OBS, BTO

Action	By When	By Whom
2. Raise public awareness of kingfishers and their importance as a symbol of the health of the River Test.	Ongoing	OBS

Farmland Birds

Lapwing © Albert Roberts

Just as the kingfisher can be seen as an indicator of the health of aquatic environments, farmland birds are taken as an indicator of the environmental health of agricultural land.

Farmland bird species include corn bunting (*Miliaria calandra*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), stock dove (*Columba oenas*), tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*), turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and yellow hammer (*Emberiza citrinella*). Major reductions in their numbers have been recorded through surveys such as the BTO Common Bird Census and Breeding Bird Survey[17] largely due to the intensification of agriculture which has taken place over the last 50 years.

Overton is fortunate that all the local farmers are sympathetic to wildlife and a significant part of the parish farmland is managed organically by the Laverstoke Estate with consequent benefits for wildlife, especially farm land birds.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Monitor wild bird numbers in selected locations comparing organically farmed and conventionally farmed sites.	Winter 2014	OBS, BTO

Black Poplar (*Populus nigra)*

The black poplar is one of Britain's rarest trees and is associated with the wet meadow conditions found along the valley of the River Test. Overton Biodiversity Society has carried out a survey of notable trees in the parish and was able to liaise with a local landowner and confirm that one of the trees on his land is a mature black poplar.

Black Poplar © Ken MacKenzie

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Set up a small nursery of young trees produced from cuttings to be available for planting in suitable locations within the parish.	Winter 2009	OBS
2. Raise the awareness of the local community about the significance of the black poplar.	Ongoing	OBS
3. Encourage the planting of black poplars in suitable sites within the river valley.	Ongoing	OBS

Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus)*

Southern England is one of the strongholds of the bluebell where it is one of the indicator plants for ancient semi-natural woodland. Although fairly common they can be threatened by illegal removal and by inappropriate woodland management.

Spectacular bluebell woods within the parish include Southley Copse and Burley Wood.

Bluebell © Alex Cruickshank

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Raise awareness of bluebells as ancient semi-natural woodland indicator species	Spring 2010	OBS

Glow worm (*Lampyris noctiluca)*

The glow worm is a beetle about 25 mm in length. The wingless female glows in the dark to attract males. After mating she will lay her eggs and then die.

Glow worms require specific conditions to survive – snails (on which they feed) and sensitive management of the vegetation in which they live.

St Mary's churchyard has a long-established colony of glow worms.

Glow worm © John Horne

Action	**By When**	**By Whom**
1. Collate existing survey information and commence annual monitoring surveys.	Summer 2009	OBS
2. Liaise with St Mary's churchwardens to instigate a management plan to maintain and improve glow worm numbers.	Summer 2009	OBS, St Mary's Church
3. Investigate the suitability of St Mary's churchyard for designation as a SINC (relict calcareous grassland and glow worm population).	Summer 2009	OBS, HIOWWT, HCC

Butterflies and Moths

Most UK butterfly and moth species are declining with 24 species of butterfly and 150 species of moth now listed as priority species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan[18].

Butterflies and moths are very sensitive to changes in their environment and are excellent indicators of the health of their habitats.

Action	By When	By Whom
1. Raise awareness of local butterfly and moth species.	Autumn 2010	OBS
2. Carry out butterfly surveys and moth trapping to identify local butterfly and moth species and suitable habitats.	Autumn 2012	OBS
3. Work with gardeners and landowners to improve habitats for butterflies and moths.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT

Conclusions

Overton Parish contains a wide range of wildlife habitats and species which contribute to its biological, economic and social well-being.

Overton's wildlife areas are coming under increased pressure from climate change, development, water abstraction and pressure to maximise food and fuel production in a time of increasing global resource scarcity.

The identification of key habitats and species within the parish and the production of habitat and species action plans form a framework for the conservation of local wildlife.

We hope that this report will help decision making and initiate community-based action to protect Overton's natural heritage.

References and Abbreviations

1. Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership 1998 Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire: Volume One. Hampshire County Council

2. Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership 2000 Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire: Volume Two. Hampshire County Council

3. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council 2003 Living Landscapes - a Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy for the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane

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5. Meteorological Office website, 1971 – 2000 Mapped Averages (accessed 26th August 2008) http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/averages/19712000/mapped.html

6. Environment Agency 2002 Leaflet Fact File 11 The River Test

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8. Landscape Design Associates in association with Wessex Archaeology 2001 Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Basingstoke

9. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Phase 1 Habitat Survey for Overton Parish 2006 Personal Communication

10. Natural England website Sites of Special Scientific Interest (accessed 26th August 2008) http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/index.cfm

11. Natural England website SSSI Units for the River Test (accessed 28th August 2008) http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/unitlist.cfm?sssi_id=2000170

12. Strachan, R & Jefferies, D.J. 1993 The Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris* in Britain 1989-90 Its Distribution and Changing Status. The Vincent Wildlife Trust. London

13. Natural England website (accessed 28th August 2008) http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1001316.pdf

14. Hampshire County Council website (accessed 28th August 2008) http://www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hampshire/sincs

15. Overton Biodiversity Society 2005 Hedgerow Survey in the Parish of Overton http://overton-biodiversity.org/biodiversity/studies/hedgerows.html

16. Overton Biodiversity Society 2007 Water Vole Survey http://overton-biodiversity.org/biodiversity/studies/watervoles.html

17. British Trust for Ornithology website (accessed 28th August 2008) http://www.bto.org/survey/cbc.htm

18. Butterfly Conservation website (accessed 14th November 2008) http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/downloads/390/biodiversity_action_plan.html

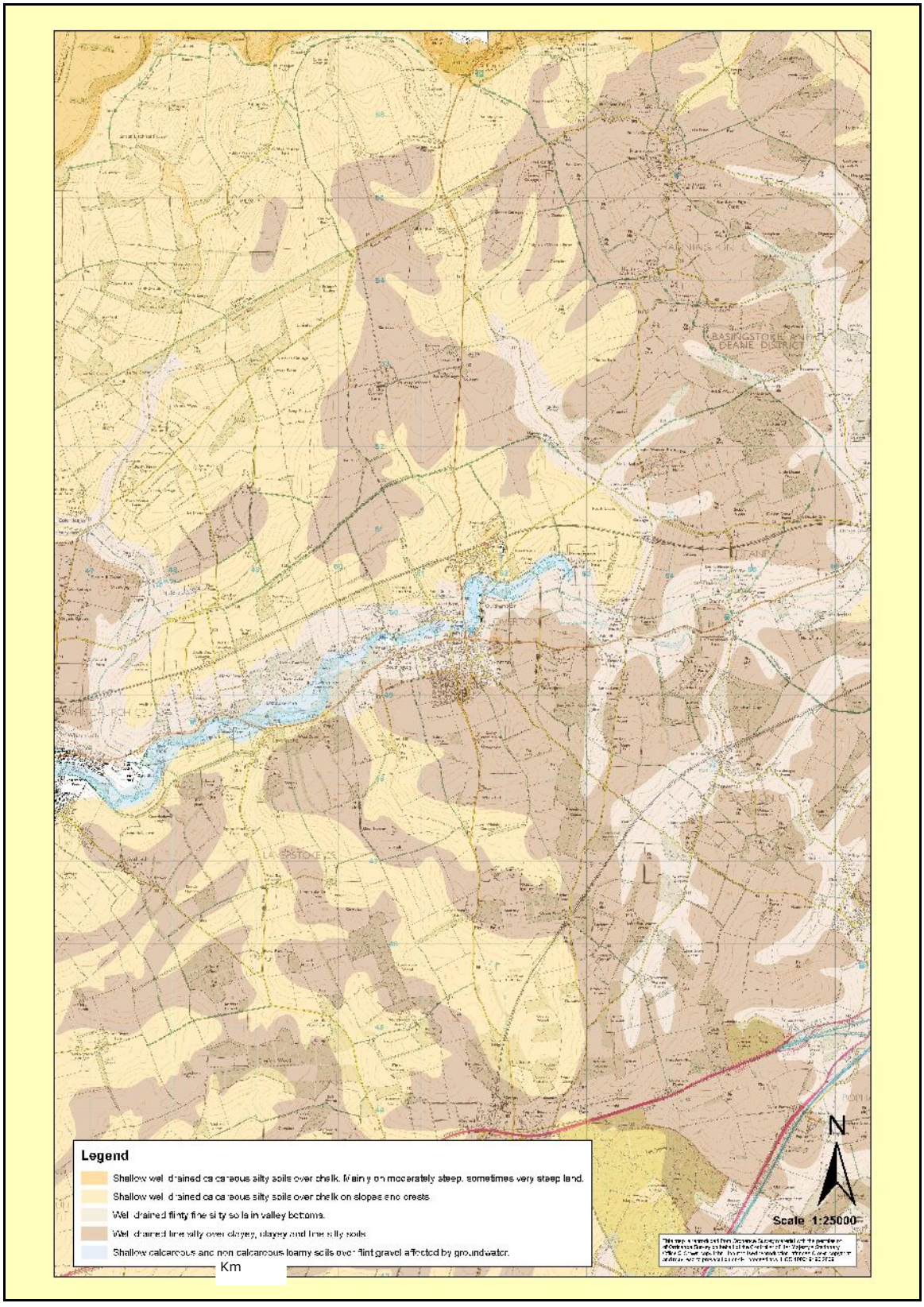
Abbreviations used in text

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BDBC	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
HIOWWT	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
OBS	Overton Biodiversity Society
OPC	Overton Parish Council
ORC	Overton Recreation Centre
SINC	Site of Interest for Nature Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

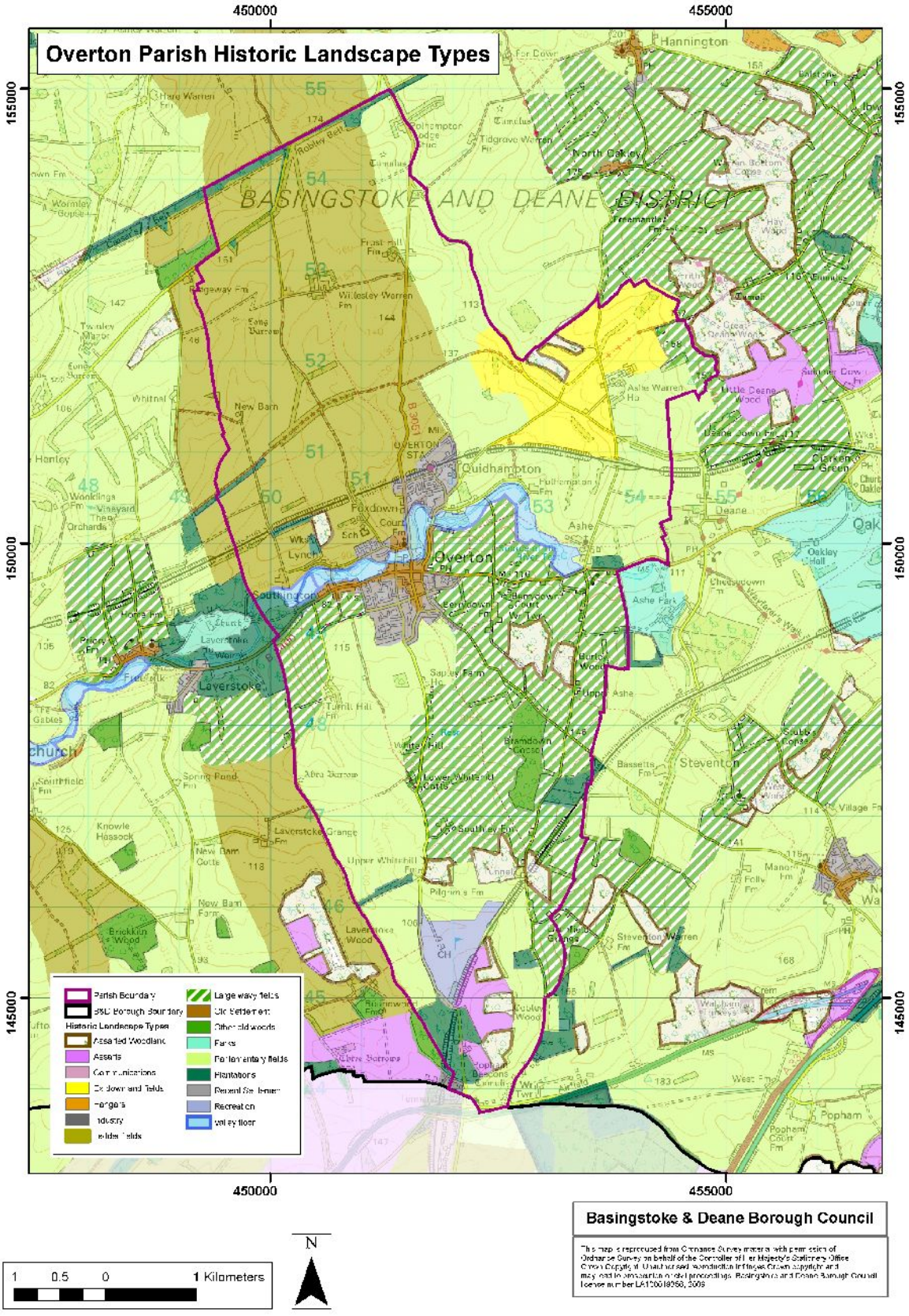
Appendices

1. Soils of Overton (map)
2. Historic Landscape Types (map)
3. Landscape Character Areas (map)
4. Designated Sites (map)
5. Phase 1 Habitat Types (map)
6. Protected and Notable Species Records
7. Summary Action Plan

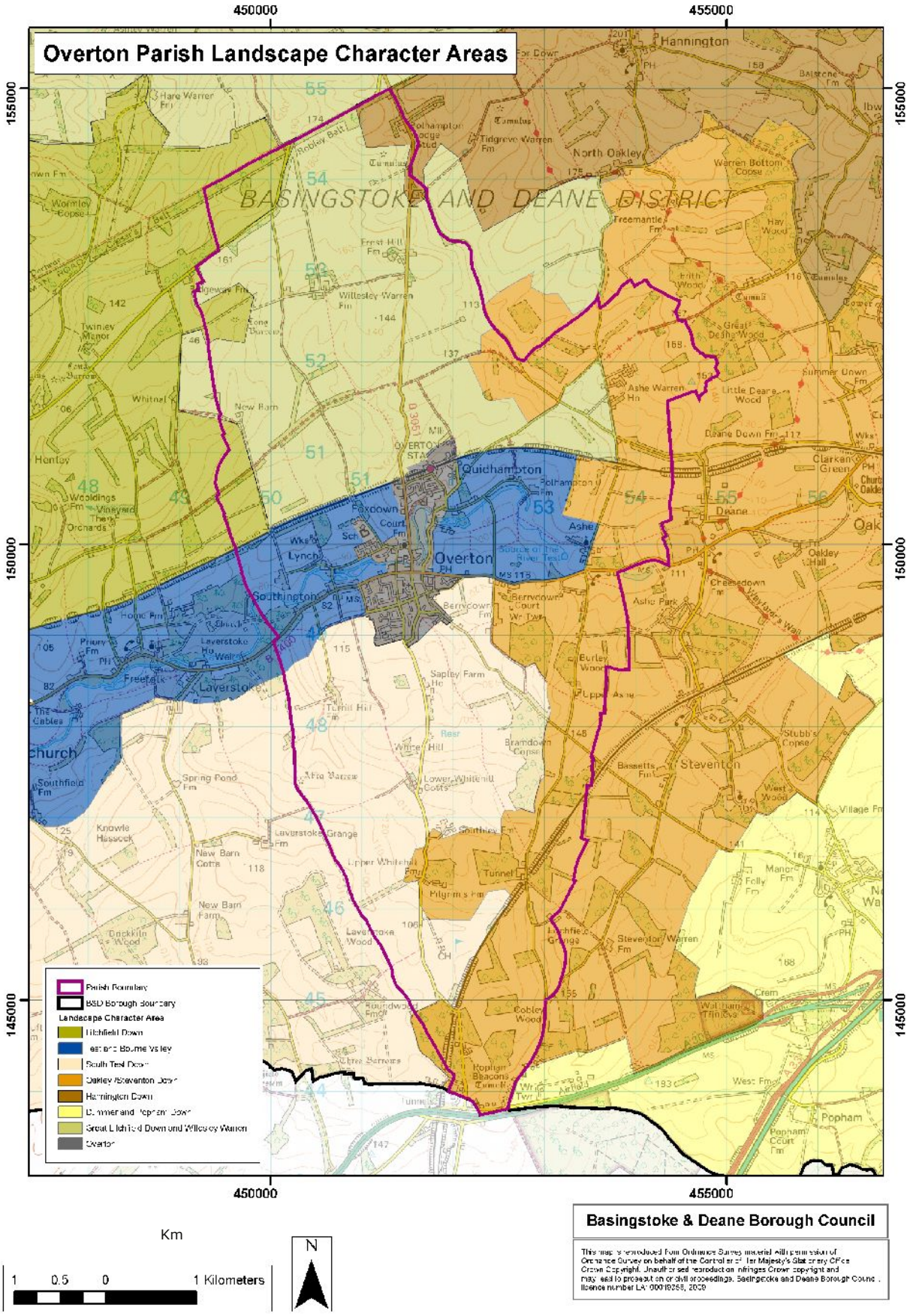
Appendix 1 – Soils of Overton



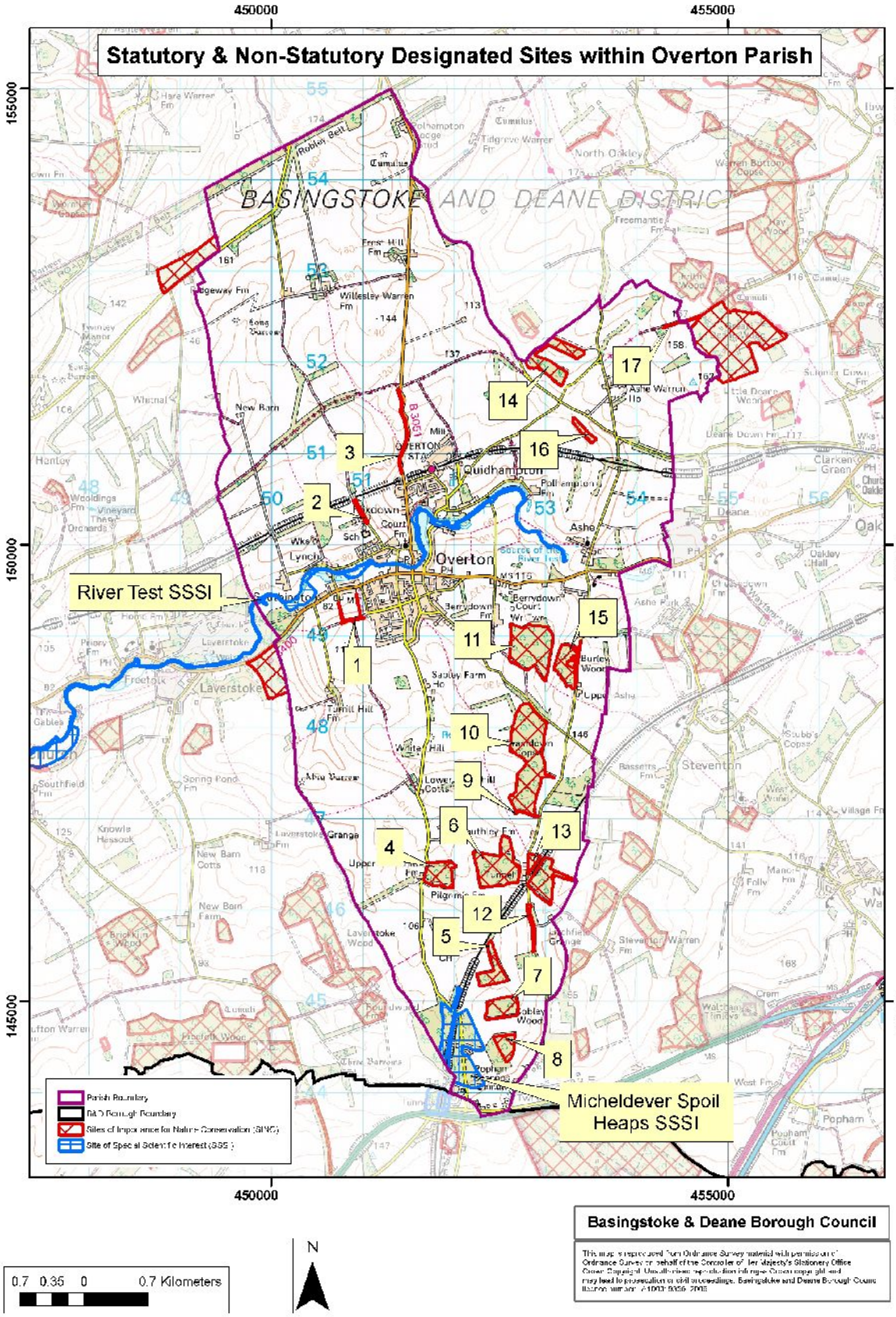
Appendix 2 – Overton Parish Historic Landscape Types



Appendix 3 – Overton Parish Landscape Character Areas



Appendix 4 – Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites within Overton Parish

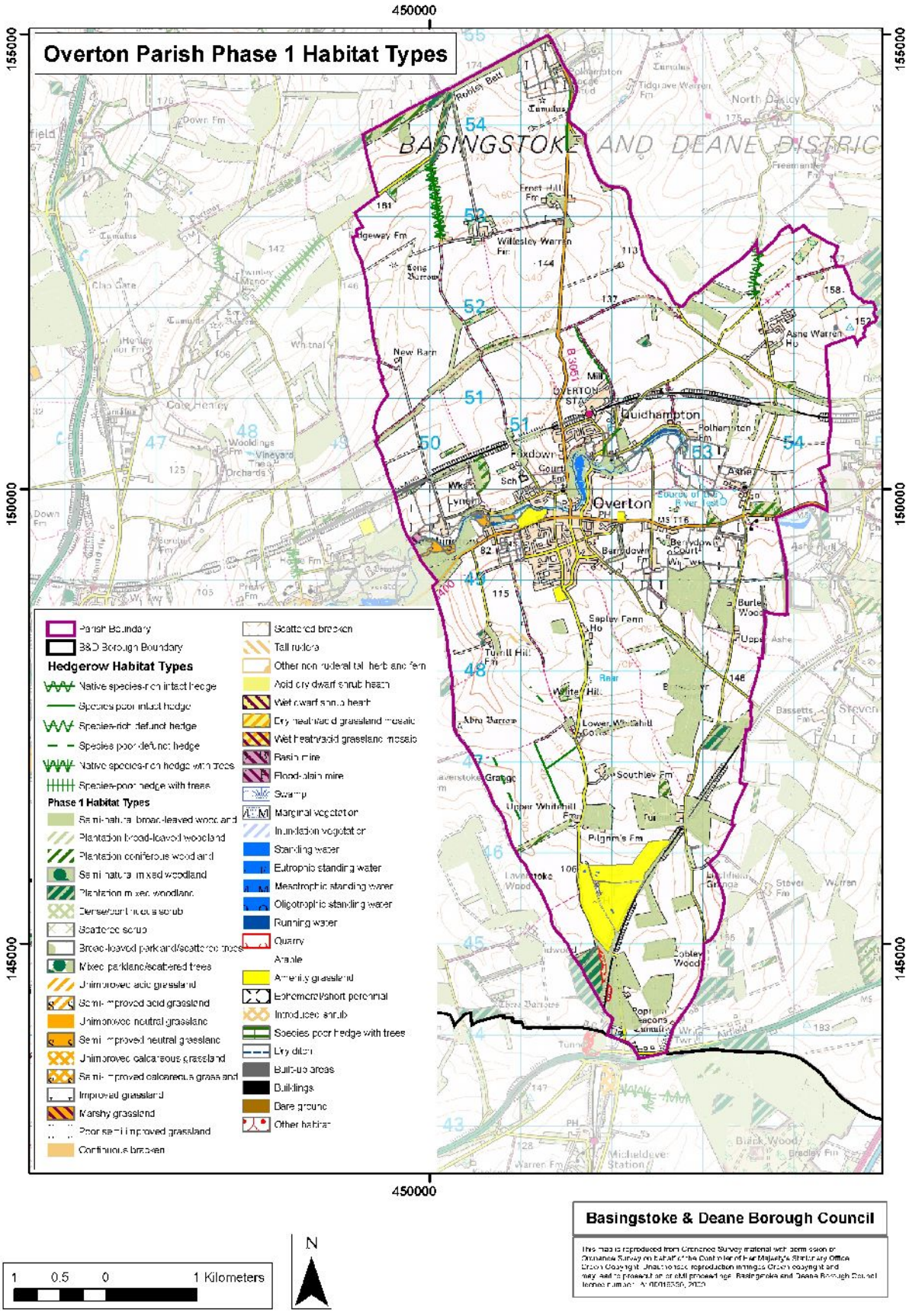


see legend overleaf

Legend

1. Overton Green Lanes and Sunken Tracks
2. Court Drove Woodland Strip
3. Road Verge, NS 30-B3051
4. Southley Copse
5. Cobley Wood
6. Quidhampton Southley Copse and Pilgrim's Copse
7. Cobley Wood – middle
8. Cobley Wood – South
9. Field south of Bramdown Copse
10. Bramdown Copse
11. Berrydown Copse
12. Litchfield Grange Boundary Bank
13. Litchfield Copse
14. Kingsdown Wood
15. Burley Wood and Lane
16. Heath Copse
17. White Lane

Appendix 5 – Overton Parish Phase 1 Habitat types



Appendix 6 – HBIC Protected and Notable Species Records

Table 1: Details of notable plant species records for Overton Parish, from the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre's database (summer 2008):

Record No.	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Date of Record	Taxon Name	Common Name	Species Status
1	SU50204930	Small Meadow, Laverstoke - 17/05/1994	17/05/1994	*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*	Blue Water-Speedwell	CS
2	SU50904918	Overton Green Lanes & Sunken Tracks - 08/05/1998	08/05/1998	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
3	SU51005030	Court Drove Copse - 01/05/1998	01/05/1998	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
4	SU51804640	Southley Copse - 13/09/1990	13/09/1990	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
5	SU51924480	N. Of Micheldever Spoil-Heaps - 22/07/2000	22/07/2000	*Potentilla neumanniana*	Spring Cinquefoil	NS
6	SU51924480	N. Of Micheldever Spoil-Heaps - 22/07/2000	22/07/2000	*Teucrium botrys*	Cut-Leaved Germander	NR
7	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Arabis hirsuta*	Hairy Rock-Cress	CS
8	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 24/06/1979	24/06/1979	*Cephalanthera damasonium*	White Helleborine	NR
9	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 04/07/1999	04/07/1999	*Galeopsis angustifolia*	Red Hemp-Nettle	NR
10	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/06/2002	13/06/2002	*Galeopsis angustifolia*	Red Hemp-Nettle	NR
11	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 04/07/1999	04/07/1999	*Galium parisiense*	Wall Bedstraw	NR
12	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/06/2002	13/06/2002	*Galium parisiense*	Wall Bedstraw	NR
13	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 24/06/1979	24/06/1979	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
14	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
15	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/06/2002	13/06/2002	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
16	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 24/06/1979	24/06/1979	*Lithospermum arvense*	Field Gromwell	NR
17	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 04/07/1999	04/07/1999	*Monotropa hypopitys*	Yellow Bird's-Nest	NR
18	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 24/06/1993	24/06/1993	*Neottia nidus-avis*	Bird's-Nest Orchid	NI
19	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Neottia nidus-avis*	Bird's-Nest Orchid	NI
20	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Ophrys insectifera*	Fly Orchid	NR
21	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/06/2002	13/06/2002	*Ophrys insectifera*	Fly Orchid	NR
22	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 24/06/1979	24/06/1979	*Platanthera bifolia*	Lesser Butterfly-Orchid	NR
23	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Potentilla neumanniana*	Spring Cinquefoil	NS

Record No.	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Date of Record	Taxon Name	Common Name	Species Status
24	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 04/07/1999	04/07/1999	*Potentilla neumanniana*	Spring Cinquefoil	NS
25	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/06/2002	13/06/2002	*Potentilla neumanniana*	Spring Cinquefoil	NS
26	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Teucrium botrys*	Cut-Leaved Germander	NR
27	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 04/07/1999	04/07/1999	*Teucrium botrys*	Cut-Leaved Germander	NR
28	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 13/06/2002	13/06/2002	*Teucrium botrys*	Cut-Leaved Germander	NR
29	SU52004430	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (South) - 04/07/1999	04/07/1999	*Vulpia unilateralis*	Mat-Grass Fescue	NS
30	SU52004500	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (North) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Arabis hirsuta*	Hairy Rock-Cress	CS
31	SU52004500	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (North) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
32	SU52004500	Micheldever Scrubs Reserve (North) - 13/04/1995	13/04/1995	*Neottia nidus-avis*	Bird's-Nest Orchid	NI
33	SU52404530	Cobley Wood North - 01/04/1992	01/04/1992	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
34	SU52404650	Quidhampton Southley Copse - 23/05/1997	23/05/1997	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
35	SU52504440	Cobley Plantation - 06/04/1992	06/04/1992	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
36	SU52504490	Cobley Wood Middle - 06/04/1992	06/04/1992	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
37	SU52604450	Cobley Wood South - 06/04/1992	06/04/1992	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
38	SU52604650	Pilgrim's Copse - 23/05/1997	23/05/1997	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
39	SU52734707	Field South Of Bramdown Copse - 02/08/2000	02/08/2000	*Euphorbia exigua*	Dwarf Spurge	NI
40	SU52804750	Bramdown Copse - 25/04/1981	25/04/1981	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
41	SU52804750	Bramdown Copse - 13/06/1985	13/06/1985	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
42	SU52804890	Berrydown Copse - 13/06/1985	13/06/1985	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
43	SU52804890	Berrydown Copse - 28/11/1990	28/11/1990	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
44	SU52804890	Berrydown Copse - 28/11/1990	28/11/1990	*Paris quadrifolia*	Herb Paris	CS
45	SU528470	Field South Of Bramdown Copse - 28/08/1996	28/08/1996	*Euphorbia exigua*	Dwarf Spurge	NI
46	SU528470	Field South Of Bramdown Copse - 08/08/1994	08/08/1994	*Papaver argemone*	Prickly Poppy	NR
47	SU528470	Field South Of Bramdown Copse - 28/08/1996	28/08/1996	*Stachys arvensis*	Field Woundwort	NI
48	SU528470	Field South Of Bramdown Copse - 08/08/1994	08/08/1994	*Valerianella rimosa*	Broad-Fruited Cornsalad	NR
49	SU528470	Field South Of Bramdown Copse - 28/08/1996	28/08/1996	*Valerianella rimosa*	Broad-Fruited Cornsalad	NR
50	SU52904580	Litchfield Grange Boundary Bank - 01/04/1992	01/04/1992	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI

Record No.	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Date of Record	Taxon Name	Common Name	Species Status
51	SU52904580	Litchfield Grange Boundary Bank - 01/04/1992	01/04/1992	*Lathraea squamaria*	Toothwort	CS
52	SU52904580	Litchfield Grange Boundary Bank - 01/04/1992	01/04/1992	*Tilia cordata*	Small-Leaved Lime	nHR
53	SU52904630	Litchfield Copse - 01/04/1992	01/04/1992	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	NI
54	SU52904630	Litchfield Copse - 01/04/1992	01/04/1992	*Lathraea squamaria*	Toothwort	CS

Highlighted rows are unconfirmed species records

Please note: Although records of Hyacinthoides non-scripta and Ruscus aculeatus are included in the above list of notable species they are not used in the identification of SINCs which meet Section 6 of the Hampshire SINC criteria. Hyacinthoides non-scripta is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (Sale only) and Ruscus aculeatus is listed in Annex 5 of the EU Habitats and Species Directive.

Species Status Codes:

NR	Nationally Rare	**CR**	County Rare	**nHR**	North Hampshire Rare (Vice-County 12)
NS	Nationally Scarce	**CS**	County Scare	**nHS**	North Hampshire Scarce (Vice-County 12)
NI	Nationally Important (other)	**CI**	County Important (other)	**sHR**	South Hampshire Rare (Vice-County 11)
				sHS	South Hampshire Scarce (Vice-County 11)

HBIC has an extensive database of habitat and higher plant data for the County. In addition, HBIC hold copies of datasets belonging to partner organisations. Through data exchange agreements with these partner organisations HBIC supplies species information on their behalf. Currently HBIC holds copies of the following datasets (summer 2008):

- Butterfly Conservation's butterfly and moth database
- Data administered by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIOWWT) on behalf of the species recording groups below:
  - Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group (HARG)
  - Hampshire Invertebrate Network (HNIC)
  - Hampshire Mammal Group (excluding records for bats and badgers).

Table 2: Within Overton Parish, the following records of notable and protected species are currently (summer 2008) held in the above databases:

Record No.	Grid Ref.	Taxon Name	Vernacular Name	First Year Recorded	Last Year Recorded	Wildlife & Countryside Act *	Conservation Status	Hampshire BAP Priority Species	UKBAP Species
1	SU503494	*Satyrium w-album*	White Letter Hairstreak	1996	1996	4	Notable/Nb	HBAP	
2	SU505493	*Satyrium w-album*	White Letter Hairstreak	1997	1997	4	Notable/Nb	HBAP	
3	SU507525	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1999	1999			HBAP	BAP
4	SU508502	*Euleioptilus carphodactyla*		1979	1979		Notable/Nb		
5	SU508502	*Eupithecia insigniata*	Pinion-spotted Pug	1980	1980		Notable/Nb		
6	SU508502	*Eupithecia insigniata*	Pinion-spotted Pug	1980	1980		Notable/Nb		
7	SU508502	*Hypenodes humidalis*	Marsh Oblique-barred	1979	1979		Notable/Nb		
8	SU508502	*Luquetia lobella*		1979	1979		Notable/Nb		
9	SU508502	*Paratalanta hyalinalis*		1979	1979		Notable/Nb		
10	SU514499	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1996	1996			HBAP	BAP
11	SU514507	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1999	1999			HBAP	BAP
12	SU5149	*Hypenodes humidalis*	Marsh Oblique-barred	1981	1981		Notable/Nb		
13	SU5154	*Oria musculosa*	Brighton Wainscot	1963	1963		Notable/Na	HBAP	BAP
14	SU515533	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1999	1999			HBAP	BAP
15	SU518508	*Satyrium w-album*	White Letter Hairstreak	1996	1996	4	Notable/Nb	HBAP	
16	SU518515	*Lysandra coridon*	Chalk-hill Blue	1991	1991	4		HBAP	
17	SU519509	*Adscita geryon*	Cistus Forester	1991	1991		Notable/Nb	HBAP	
18	SU520444	*Alauda arvensis*	Sky Lark	1995	1995			HBAP	BAP
19	SU520444	*Anguis fragilis*	Slow-worm	1995	1995	3			
20	SU520444	*Apatura iris*	Purple Emperor	1985	1985	4	Notable/Nb	HBAP	
21	SU520444	*Argynnis paphia*	Silver-washed Fritillary	1980	1980			HBAP	
22	SU520444	*Argynnis paphia*	Silver-washed Fritillary	1999	1999			HBAP	
23	SU520444	*Argynnis paphia*	Silver-washed Fritillary	1999	1999			HBAP	
24	SU520444	*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*	Six-belted Clearwing	1971	1971		Notable/Nb		

Record No.	Grid Ref.	Taxon Name	Vernacular Name	First Year Recorded	Last Year Recorded	Wildlife & Countryside Act *	Conservation Status	Hampshire BAP Priority Species	UKBAP Species
25	SU520444	*Ctenidium molluscum*	Chalk Comb-moss	1977	1977			HBAP	
26	SU520444	*Elaphria venustula*	Rosy Marbled	1971	1971		Notable/Nb		
27	SU520444	*Epinotia demarniana*		1971	1971		Notable/Nb		
28	SU520444	*Ethmia dodecea*		1971	1971		Notable/Nb		
29	SU520444	*Lysandra coridon*	Chalk-hill Blue	1995	1995	4		HBAP	
30	SU520444	*Metzneria neuropterella*		1971	1971		provisional Red Data Book 2		
31	SU520444	*Nomada fucata*	a solitary bee	1999	1999		Notable/Na		
32	SU520444	*Pancalia leuwenhoekella*		1971	1971		Notable/Nb		
33	SU520444	*Paratalanta hyalinalis*		1971	1971		Notable/Nb		
34	SU520444	*Polia bombycina*	Pale Shining Brown	1971	1971		Notable/Nb	HBAP	BAP
35	SU520444	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	Common Bullfinch	1995	1995			HBAP	BAP
36	SU520444	*Seligeria calycina*	English Rock-bristle	1977	1977			HBAP	BAP
37	SU520444	*Sorhagenia lophyrella*		1971	1971		Notable/Na		
38	SU520444	*Synanthedon myopaeformis*	Red-belted Clearwing	1971	1971		Notable/Nb		
39	SU520444	*Tipula selene*		1999	1999		Red Data Book 3		
40	SU522511	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1999	1999			HBAP	BAP
41	SU5244	*Euleioptilus carphodactyla*		1997	1997		Notable/Nb		
42	SU5244	*Euleioptilus carphodactyla*		1997	1997		Notable/Nb		
43	SU5244	*Nemapogon clematella*		1997	1997		Notable/Nb		
44	SU5244	*Nemapogon clematella*		1997	1997		Notable/Nb		
45	SU5244	*Synanthedon andrenaeformis*	Orange-tailed Clearwing	1997	1997		Notable/Nb		
46	SU527483	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1999	1999			HBAP	BAP
47	SU529463	*Muscardinus avellanarius*	Hazel Dormouse	unknown	1700	1		HBAP	BAP
48	SU529506	*Muscardinus avellanarius*	Hazel Dormouse	2003	2003	1		HBAP	BAP

Record No.	Grid Ref.	Taxon Name	Vernacular Name	First Year Recorded	Last Year Recorded	Wildlife & Countryside Act *	Conservation Status	Hampshire BAP Priority Species	UKBAP Species
49	SU530450	*Argynnis paphia*	Silver-washed Fritillary	1998	1998			HBAP	
50	SU532494	*Gynnidomorpha luridana*		2003	2003		Notable/Nb		
51	SU532494	*Pammene fasciana*		2003	2003		Notable/Nb		
52	SU532494	*Pammene fasciana*		2003	2003		Notable/Nb		
53	SU5347	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1975	1975			HBAP	BAP
54	SU548518	*Lepus europaeus*	Brown Hare	1999	1999			HBAP	BAP

* Wildlife and Countryside Act Codes:

1 Schedule 5 (full)

2 Schedule 5, Section 9, Parts 4a and 4b only

3 Schedule 5, Section 9, Parts 1 (killing, injuring) and 5 only

4 Schedule 5, Section 9, Part 5 only

5 Schedule 5, Section 9, Parts 1 and 4a only

6 Schedule 5, Section 9, Part 4a only

7 Schedule 5, Section 9, Parts 1 (taking) and 5 only

8 Schedule 5, Section 9, Parts 1, 2 and 5 only

9 Schedule 8, Section 13 (full)

10 Schedule 8, Section 13 (full, England and Wales only)

11 Schedule 8, Section 13, Part 2 only

12 Schedule 1, Part I

13 Schedule 1, Part II

14 Protection of Badgers Act 1992

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Appendix 7 – Summary Action Plan

Action	By When	By Whom
Carry out training for dormouse surveys and start surveying woodland and hedges for their presence.	Spring 2009	OBS, HIOWWT
Liaise with St Mary's churchwardens to instigate a management plan to maintain and improve glow worm numbers.	Spring 2009	OBS
Collate existing glow worm survey information and commence annual monitoring surveys.	Summer 2009	OBS
Investigate the suitability of St Mary's churchyard for designation as a SINC (relict calcareous grassland and glow worm population).	Summer 2009	OBS, HIOWWT, HCC
Encourage development of the tree warden scheme within the village.	Autumn 2009	OBS, OPC, BDBC
Work with Overton Recreation Centre to improve wildlife habitats and access to environmental facilities for groups such as scouts and guides.	Autumn 2009	OBS, ORC
Set up a small nursery of young black poplar trees produced from cuttings to be available for planting in suitable locations within the parish.	Winter 2009	OBS
Liaise with Overton Garden Society to promote wildlife gardening.	Spring 2010	OBS, Overton Garden Society
Implement appropriate road verge cutting regimes with Hampshire County Council.	Spring 2010	OBS
Raise awareness of bluebells as semi-ancient woodland indicator species	Spring 2010	OBS
Survey road verges and any associated banks for wildlife interest	Summer 2010	OBS
Work with Overton Recreation Centre to improve hedgerows at Town Meadow.	Summer 2010	OBS, ORC
Identify and where possible arrange surveys of floodplain grazing marsh and fen areas to identify wildlife interest.	Autumn 2010	OBS, HIOWWT
Seek SINC designation for appropriate roadside verges	Autumn 2010	OBS

Action	By When	By Whom
Raise awareness of local butterfly and moth species	Autumn 2010	OBS
Organise hedge laying courses to improve availability of skilled volunteers within the community	Autumn 2010	OBS, HIOWWT
Encourage school, scouts and guides to make and put up dormouse boxes.	Spring 2011	OBS
Liaise with recreational landowners and managers to carry out wildlife surveys on their land e.g. Test Valley Golf Course to carry out wildlife surveys on their land – hedgerows and ponds.	Spring 2011	OBS HIOWWT
Identify and survey remaining areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland within the parish and identify candidates for SINC status.	Autumn 2011	OBS, HIOWWT
Identify hedgerows which would qualify for SINC status.	Autumn 2011	OBS, HIOWWT
Train volunteers to become licensed dormouse handlers.	Summer 2012	OBS, HIOWWT
Set up and monitor dormouse nest box survey area.	Summer 2012	OBS, HIOWWT
Carry out butterfly and moth surveys to identify local species and habitats.	Autumn 2012	OBS.
Approach landowners to carry out surveys of the conservation value of the wood pasture areas and parkland areas identified.	Summer 2013	OBS
Carry out further surveys to monitor the population of water voles.	Autumn 2013	OBS
Identify and where possible arrange surveys of eutrophic standing water areas within the parish.	Autumn 2013	OBS
Identify and where possible arrange surveys of floodplain grazing marsh areas to identify wildlife interest and types of habitat.	Autumn 2013	OBS, HIOWWT
Protect vulnerable hedgerow trees via TPOs if they meet the necessary criteria.	Spring 2014	OBS, BDBC
Monitor kingfisher numbers and territories.	Summer 2014	OBS, BTO
Monitor farmland bird numbers in selected locations comparing organically farmed and conventionally farmed areas.	Winter 2014	OBS, BTO

Action	By When	By Whom
Encourage the planting of new woodland adjacent to existing areas of mixed deciduous woodland and as linking belts between them.	Ongoing	OBS, FC, BDBC
Continue to identify “veteran” trees within the parish and apply for tree preservation orders on trees under threat if they meet the necessary criteria.	Ongoing	OBS
Raise awareness of eutrophic standing water areas and their value for wildlife with landowners and the public.	Ongoing	OBS
Promote the importance of the River Test and its associated habitats and species to landowners, borough and parish councillors, schools and community groups.	Ongoing	OBS
Help landowners to improve conservation status of the river by organising practical conservation work such as scrub removal.	Ongoing	OBS, BTCV
Raise awareness of the issues associated with Himalayan Balsam and other non-native alien species and engage in practical conservation work to prevent spread.	Ongoing	OBS
Help landowners to improve conservation status of the river by organising practical conservation work such as scrub removal.	Ongoing	OBS, BTCV
Raise awareness of the importance of floodplain grazing marsh to wildlife conservation in the area.	Ongoing	OBS
Identify any areas of rare arable plants and encourage their conservation.	Ongoing	OBS, FWAG
Continue surveying hedgerows within the parish with a particular emphasis on hedgerows at risk and species rich or ancient hedgerows.	Ongoing	OBS
Raise awareness of the importance of hedges in linking habitats together and for encouraging species such as dormice.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT
Encourage and assist the planting of new hedgerows or renovating old ones particularly linking existing hedgerows and woodland and also in community areas such as Town Meadow.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT, BDBC, FWAG
Encourage the planting and maintenance of hedges within the village to improve urban habitats.	Ongoing	OBS, OPC

Action	By When	By Whom
Work with Overton Parish Council to maintain and improve the value for wildlife of their recreational areas.	Ongoing	OBS, OPC
Act as an information source for gardeners wishing to improve to encourage garden wildlife.	Ongoing	OBS
Continue to arrange visits to wildlife gardens.	Ongoing	OBS
Liaise with landowners, Environment Agency and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to encourage correct riverside bank management.	Ongoing	OBS, EA
Encourage landowners to monitor the presence of mink and arrange for control where necessary.	Ongoing	OBS
Raise public awareness of dormice and the need to preserve their habitats.	Ongoing	OBS
Raise public awareness of kingfishers and their importance as a symbol of the health of the River Test.	Ongoing	OBS
Raise the awareness of the local community about the significance of the black poplar.	Ongoing	OBS
Encourage the planting of black poplars in suitable sites within the river valley.	Ongoing	OBS
Work with gardeners and landowners to improve habitats for butterflies and moths.	Ongoing	OBS