Ladies Walk Down

Management Plan

2022 – 2032

Test Valley Borough Council

LADIES WALK DOWN

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 – 2032

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Site Description

General Information

Size: 10.7 acres, 4.3 hectares
Grid Ref: SU37304490
Ward: Winton
Local Planning Authority: Test Valley Borough Council
Designations: Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

The site is steep to moderately sloping, levelling out towards the North of the site. Existing habitats suggest that there is a great potential for a wide range of flora and insect species, common of unimproved grassland habitats, of which Ladies Walk Down comprises.

The improved neutral grassland and unimproved calcareous grassland on the south of the site is mostly of improved rye-grass dominated grassland with locally unimproved downland including bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), burnet saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifrage*), cowslip (*Primula veris*) and salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*). The unimproved species poor neutral grassland on the downland to the north of the site is dominated by rank false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), with nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) locally abundant as well as retaining some downland herbs including field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*).

Areas of re-growth and regeneration of blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are frequent throughout the site, with further scrub and significant bramble encroachment occurring at the boundaries. An expanse of semi-ancient hedgerow boarders the site with oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) amongst it.

The main footpath bordering the site, known as The Ladies' Walk is lined with veteran trees planted on the 10th March 1863 to commemorate the wedding of His Royal Highness The Prince Of Wales (later King Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. Of the original 121 trees the remaining trees largely comprise of horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), oak (*Quercus robur*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

All three fields that make up Ladies Walk Down are now designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

1.1.1 Location

Ladies Walk Down is located on the South-eastern edge of Andover in the North of the Borough of Test Valley. The site is bordered by farmland situated to the Southwest, running the entire length of the site. To the Northwest, the adjoining land use is dominated by the development on Leigh Road, as well as the Old Winton Road Allotment and playing field (see Map 1)

1.1.2 Land Tenure and brief history

The Ladies Walk Down is owned and managed by Test Valley Borough Council's Community and Leisure Service, primarily for conservation and education with informal recreation for local residents.

Grazing licences are issued through the Council. These are reviewed annually with strict compliance in relation to details set out by Natural England under their Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

The Ladies' Walk, which gives its name to the site was laid out by the Enclosure Award Commissioners in conjunction with the Corporation of Andover in 1785. The ancient common field system of agriculture originally comprised of three open fields in which the villeins of the manor held their vigrates or yard lands which were arranged in half acre plots. These plots had been decaying for hundreds of years and in the 18th century this system with its straggling ownership became subject to enclosures act, requiring the Commissioners to divide and allot common fields (a specific share being set out and given to each owner). This was seen to be more economical from a modern farming point of view. During this time hedges were planted and fields where ploughed up.

Between 1760 and 1844, 4000 Enclosure Acts were passed and between 1785 and 1805, 40,000 acres of land were enclosed in Hampshire alone. Ladies Walk Down lies within what used to be known as the Andover South field and stretches to what is now called Picket Twenty Road. The walk crossed the old Barton Stacey Road (now known as Micheldever Road), a drift road used for driving cattle.

In 1863, one hundred and twenty one trees were planted on the Ladies' Walk, by subscription, to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales with Princess Alexandra of Denmark. The trees were distributed over the whole length of the walk and were allotted to subscribers according to a plan (see Appendix 3).

The walk itself forms part of a pre-roman track known as the Mark Way, which came up from the coast, passed by Leckford Hut, over Chilbolton Common, where ancient British pit dwellings were found, across the river at Fullerton and so on till it crossed the present fields to the Old Winton Road and the Ladies' Walk at the east end of which it continued on as the Ox Drove and joined the great Harroway near Finkley and close to the Devil's Ditch. This is illustrated in Dr William Freeman's map of ancient roads in his work "Field Archaeology, as illustrated by Hampshire".

1.1.3 Compartments

The compartment boundaries and numbers are shown in Map 3.

Comp no.	Compartment name	Location and brief description
1.	Meadow 1	Located at the Southern end of the site. The field is steeply sloping open grassland

		with scattered blackthorn and hawthorn scrub
2	Meadow 2	Centrally located this field is moderately sloping open grassland with scattered hawthorn and bramble scrub. There is an established hedgerow to the north west where the field joins with the open space at Hedge End Road.
3.	Meadow 3	Gently sloping to the north of the site. This field is predominately open grassland with blackthorn scrub encroaching from the eastern boundary.
4.	The Ladies Walk	Running the length of compartments 1 to 3 the Ladies Walk comprises a well-established hedgerow and numerous veteran trees lining the walk.

1.1 Environmental information

1.1.1 Physical

Table 3. Breakdown of Meadows by Area

Name of Meadow	Area in Hectares (ha)
Meadow 1	**1.4**
Meadow 2	**2.4**
Meadow 3	**1.6**
Total	**5.40**

Other Areas	Length in M
Ancient hedgerow	**554.9**
Total	**554.9**

1.2.1.2 Hydrology

The site is high lying, sloping to the North with free draining soil. The average precipitation is around 800 millimetres a year.

1.2.1.3 Geology and soils

The geology of Hampshire is comprised of mostly Upper, Middle, and Lower chalk ridges overlain with clay and flints. With an acid to neutral pH of around 6.5-7.

1.2.1.4 Aspect

The aspect of Ladies Walk Down is North-westerly lying on a chalk ridge rising 100 metres to the west and 120 metres to the north east. The adjoining meadows drop to the north by 22 metres at 78 metres above sea level.

1.1.6 Access

There are two Public Rights of Way affecting the site (See Map 4). The first path runs parallel to the site beginning at the top of Old Winton Road at SU369445 and running the entire length of the site and continuing on to Pickett Twenty. The footpath know as The Ladies' Walk, which gives its name to the site, was first laid out in 1785 by the Enclosure Award Commissioners in conjunction with the Corporation of Andover. The path itself follows an existing pre-Roman track known as the 'Mark Way. It runs between meadows 1 and 2 and follows a steep gradient to the summit and can be accessed from Hedge End Road, SU370448.' The second footpath known as the Dene path runs perpendicular to the first, joining with the Ladies' Walk on the brow of the hill, SU371446.

There appears to be 8 main access points used/created by the public. Fencing has been erected following on from the entry points to separate the fields and to hold cattle during grazing periods. Various paths cross the site and majority of these will remain open with the use of kissing gates (see map 4)

Due to the gradient of the site there is no vehicular access to the site apart from that necessary for management purposes.

Table 2. Vehicular Access

Meadow Number	Grid Reference
Meadow 1	SU370446 / SU371446
Meadow 2	SU371448 / SU372448
Meadow 3	SU372449

1.1.2 Biological

1.2.2.1 Habitats

i) Semi-ancient hedgerow
ii) Veteran trees
iii) Bramble
iv) Scrub
v) Neutral semi-improved grassland, lowland
vi) Calcareous unimproved grassland, lowland
vii) Neutral unimproved grassland, lowland
viii) Dead wood

1.2.2.2 Flora

A floral survey was carried out in 2014 by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) (Ian Ralphs) revealing meadow 1 at that time to comprise mainly of increasingly rank [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland and [CG6]: *Avenula pubescens* grassland with locally abundant cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*). With less frequently occurring [OV24] *Urtica dioica – Galium aparine* and [W21] *Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix* scrub. Boundries contained locally dense outgrows of shrubs and bramble, which was often nicely graded. Meadows 2 and 3 comprised communities of [OV24]: *Urtica dioica – Galium aparine*, with less frequent areas of [MG1]; Arrhenatherum elatius and [MG12]: Festuca arundinacea grassland with scattered areas of [W21] *Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix* scrub and [CG3] *Bromus erectus* grassland.

Further evaluation showed the meadow 1 to contain 10 chalk grassland indicators including glaucous sedge (*carex flacca*) and hairy violet (*Viola hirta*). Meadows 2 and 3 contained 17 chalk grassland indicators and 2 acid/neutral grassland indicators. These include common Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and cowslip (*primula veris*). Also recorded were Notable species recognised as Near Threatened under IUCN (EN2014), including Quaking-grass (*Briza media*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*).

Table 4. Past flora surveys

Surveyor	Area	Date
Ian Ralphs, HBIC	Allotment Gardens Down	30/04/1998
Ian Ralphs, HBIC	Ladies Walk Down South	30/04/1998
Catherine Wiseman	Meadow 3	2011
Ian Ralphs, HBIC	Allotment Gardens Down	28/05/2014
Ian Ralphs, HBIC	Ladies Walk Down South	28/05/2014

Full floral listings found within the meadows can be seen in Appendix II.

i) Semi-ancient hedgerow

Ancient hedgerows may be defined as those which were in existence before the Enclosure Acts, passed mainly between 1720 and 1840 in Britain.

Hedgerows are important in their own right providing habitats for a wide range of fauna. They are especially important for butterflies and moths, farmland birds, bats and dormice. Hedgerows form one of the most significant wildlife habitats over large stretches of lowland UK and are essential refuge for a large number of woodland and farmland flora and fauna. Hedgerows also act as wildlife corridors for many species including reptiles and amphibians, allowing dispersal and movement between other habitats.

Hedgerows on this site have previously become degraded through the loss of traditional management techniques and senescence without encouragement of replacements. Since 2012 a programme of gapping up has been implemented and the existing hedge reduced to a height of 1.5m.

Dormice were recorded on site in April 2022 following a footprint tunnel survey. Hedgerows will be managed in accordance with guidance from PTES about good habitats for dormice. The hedge will be surveyed and monitored for signs.

ii) Veteran trees

The surviving veteran trees were planted in 1863 and comprise of mainly horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Oak (*Quercus robur*) and sycamore (*Acer Pseudoplatanus*). A complete list of trees planted can be found in Appendix 4. A veteran tree is usually one in the second or mature stage of its life and has important wildlife and habitat features including: hollowing or associated decay fungi, holes, wounds and large dead branches (Woodland Trust, 2011).

iii) Bramble

Areas of bramble scrub are important for their conservation and wildlife value. With flowers attracting nectar-feeding butterflies and hoverflies, as well as providing cover and food for a wide range of birds and mammals. Bramble will also act as a natural barrier and screen to help to maintain restricted access to the meadows.

iv) Scrub

Scrub can be defined as seral or climax vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5 metres tall. For the purpose of this section scrub refers to all stages of scrub, from areas of scattered bushes to closed canopy scrub encompassing areas of hawthorn, ash and blackthorn dominated scrub.

Usually a result of the breakdown in traditional grazing regimes, lowland scrub now threatens the majority of remaining calcareous grassland in southern England. However, when existing as a mosaic with grassland and other open vegetation spatial patchiness can become an important habitat feature for many flora and fauna. Edges in particular are important especially when containing intimate mixtures of grass and scrub, which are particularly advantageous to many insects. Brown Hairstreak eggs have been found on Blackthorn scrub. Species variation within the scrub will be beneficial to a wide range of insects especially where rare ones are present. Similar structural patchiness can also result in very rich bird communities

(Mortimer et al. 2000). Therefore it will be important to maintain a mosaic of scrub and grassland in order to favour the widest range of flora and fauna whilst increasing the total area of calcareous grassland present.

v) Neutral semi-improved grassland, lowland

Occurring on neutral soils with a pH of approximately 5.5 to 7.0, neutral semi-improved grasslands have often been modified by artificial fertilisers, slurry, intensive grazing, herbicides or drainage. This results in a community often less diverse than unimproved grasslands due to the increase in nutrient loading. However, such grasslands are still of conservation value. As with all grassland habitats on site the implementation of sustainable grazing and mowing regimes will be fundamental to an increase in diversity and the maintenance of an open species rich grassland.

vi) Calcareous unimproved grassland, lowland

Occurring on calcareous soils (pH above 7.0). Calcareous unimproved grasslands are particularly rare in lowland areas. Often dominated by rank species, calcareous unimproved grassland may have been treated with low levels of farmyard manure, but should not have had sufficient applications of fertiliser, herbicide or have been intensively grazed so as to have changed the sward composition significantly. Species diversity is often high, retaining species characteristic of the area and they should have soils with a very low percentage of agricultural species.

vii) Neutral unimproved grassland, lowland

Occurring on neutral soils of pH 5.5 to 7.0, neutral unimproved grasslands are also rarely found in the lowlands. Species diversity is often high, as with calcareous unimproved grasslands, with species characteristic of the soil type and with a very low percentage of agricultural species.

viii) Dead wood

Old, dead and dying trees known as standing deadwood provide habitat for a wide range of species of invertebrates, birds and bats. Lichens, mosses and fungi are also abundant on this habitat. Any deadwood on site will be left in place where safe to do so, preferably in the shade so as not to dry out. A constant supply of dead wood differing in size and state would ideally be left throughout the site. Where it is unsafe to leave standing dead wood, wood will be left in deadwood piles to the base of the tree.

1.2.2.3 Fauna

1.2.2.3.1 Birds

No survey data exists at present for the site. A survey will be set up in year 1 the survey coordinator countryside officer, with data contributing to Bird Atlas and Bird Track. Volunteers will be vital in recording and reporting species sighted throughout the year. Because of the number of large veteran trees bordering the site available

for supporting natural nest holes, bird boxes are not seen as a priority, however boxes may be added to open areas along the scrub boundary in the future.

1.2.2.3.2 Invertebrates

The wide variety of transition habitats present throughout the site provides conditions for a range of invertebrates. A survey conducted in 2010 (see Appendix 4) revealed nationally Scarce taxa including wasp spider (*Argiope bruennuchi*), which is now locally frequent in rough grassy areas, and long horn beetle (*Paracorymbia fulva*) which develops in dead wood.

Table 5: Past invertebrate surveys

Surveyor	Area	Date
Dr Jonty Denton FRES FLS MIEEM	Ladies Walk Down	November 2010
Dr Jonty Denton FRES FLS MIEEM	Ladies Walk Down	November 2019
Dr Jonty Denton FRES FLS MIEEM	Ladies Walk Down	August 2023

1.2.2.3.3 Butterflies

A butterfly transect was established in 2012 to encompass the entire site. Surveyors follow a planned route through each meadow, which takes into account all habitat types. A survey will be carried out annually between April and September. Volunteers play a vital role in the recording of the transect data. Data collected is then forwarded to Butterfly Conservation. ADD BUTTERFLY RESULTS IN APPENDIX AND MENTION HERE

1.2.2.3.4 Mammals

Sightings of foxes and rabbits have been noted, however the most notable species throughout the site is of grey squirrels which dominate the tree canopy. Dormice have been recorded on the hedgerow by the main footpath following on from a footprint tunnel. The sites close proximity to adjoining farmland and nearby Harewood Forest boast for more significant mammal species. An in depth mammal survey will be conducted in order to find out more on the presence of mammals conducted by the Countryside Officer with an appropriate licence.

The presence of bats has previously been noted, including common pipistrelle and noctule, mainly using the woodland edge as a foraging corridor and as commuting route. A transect and fixed point surveys will be used to determine species using the site. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Ground Level Tree Assessment for bat potential was carried out in August 2017 concluded that although trees and tree features with the potential to be used by roosting bats were recorded within the site, only a few trees with moderate or above potential were recorded, with the majority of trees having low or no potential to be used by bats (Appendix II) Bat boxes have been placed along the Ladies walk and are monitored accordingly.

1.1.3 Cultural

1.2.3.1 Archaeology

To date no archaeological interest has been discovered on site. However, archaeology should not be overlooked due to the historical nature of the site and surrounding features of historical importance.

1.2.3.2 Past land use

The site was originally used for agriculture up until the division of the land in 1785 as part of the Enclosures Act. There is no recorded information as to the land use of Ladies Walk Down following this date however, it is possible that during this time the land was used for grazing.

1.2.3.3 Past management for conservation

The land to the South was acquired in 1984 and to the North in 1985. There has been no specific management for nature conservation by Test Valley Borough Council within the Ladies Walk Down up until 2011. Although the land was leased for grazing during this period.

1.2.3.4 Public interest

With the close proximity to the development at Spring Field Close and Old Winton Road, as well as the adjoining public footpaths, public interest is obviously high.

i) There are various informal paths throughout the site used by walkers and dog owners, either as a through way to another part of the site or as an area to exercise their dogs. This may have an impact on the species present on the site, due to compaction of the soil and disturbance to wildlife from dog walking.

ii) The majority of local residents will value the wildlife of the meadows and local naturalists and volunteer groups are enthusiastic to help contribute to gathering species records, such as birds and butterflies.

iii) The Anton River Conservation Association (TARCA) play a significant role in volunteer support throughout the site, with the site included in the groups annual work programme.

iv) The high interest in the historical value of the site means any remedial work focussed around the veteran trees is in the public eye seen as destruction and previous work has been met with complications. The use of signage, social media and press releases explaining the situation may overcome this problem.

v) The introduction of non-native plants through fly tipping may be an issue for concern from local housing that borders the site. Local residents will be

made aware of the likely damage through information, talks and local events.

IMPORTANT FEATURES AND NON-NATURAL ATTRIBUTES

2.1. Summary of important features and non-natural attributes

Important Features		
Feature	**Description**	**Cmpts Present**
Semi Ancient Hedgerow	Degraded hedgerows on site have been gapped up and existing hedge reduced to a height of 1.5m Once established will be cut back annually to prevent overgrowth and restocked if needed.	4
Veteran Trees	Veteran trees on site are in decline, where necessary dead trees will be left as standing deadwood monoliths. A replacement planting programme will be prepared and implemented as part of this management plan to maintain age structure	4
Bramble	Bramble will be managed on rotation to prevent encroachment, however retaining important stands to reinforce boundaries and field margins as well as scattered pockets.	1,2,3
Calcareous grassland	All grassland habitat will be managed through extensive conservation grazing bi-annually for between 6 and 12 weeks between April and October (avoid peak flowering to allow for establishment and seeding of wildflowers). In years when grazing is not achieved. Cut and collect and remove arising's where gradient allows.	1,2,3
Dead Wood	Leave deadwood where possible as standing monoliths, habitat piles or as dead hedge.	All

Non-natural Attributes		
Attribute	**Description**	**Cmpts Present**
Boundary fences/features	Boundaries such as gates and fences are intact throughout the site and maintained annually to support and secure the site for conservation grazing	All
Water troughs	There are 3 mains fed water troughs on site which are active during the period of April to September to provide water for grazing cattle.	1, 2, 3
Interpretation boards	There are three interpretation boards located on site providing information on site management and history for the fields and the Ladies Walk	2
Public Rights of Way	Two public rights of way are located on site. The first known as the Dene Path dissects compartments 1 and 2 via steeply sloping steps which join with the Ladies walk at the top of the hill. The second, known as the Ladies Walk begins at the top of Old Winton Road where it follows the boundary of compartments 1, 2, and 3 before crossing the old Mitcheldever Road and continuing on until London Road.	All
Permissive paths	There are a number of well-worn routes around the site which are kept open through regular foot fall. These are determined through desire lines most regularly used but visitors.	1, 2, 3
Way markers	There are a number of fingerposts located on junctions of the main footpaths on site, which indicate directions and distances for visitors using the footpaths.	all
Benches	There are currently 6 wooden benches on site, all of which are dedicated memorial benches. These are treated annually and inspected regularly for signs of damage. There is currently no scope for further benches onsite at this time.	all

OBJECTIVES

3.1. Vision for the site

The vision for Ladies Walk down is to maintain and develop a diverse wildlife rich grassland that can be enjoyed by local residence as a quality natural greenspace. The site offers opportunities for visitors to enjoy wildlife up close as well as to take in spectacular views across Andover. Ladies Walk offers opportunities for visitors of all ages learn about and to become involved in the management of their natural environment.

3.2. Site-wide Higher Level Objectives

The following high level objectives are summarised below. They are not shown in priority order and none are mutually exclusive. Each Higher level Objective is supported by a number of operational objectives identified in section 3.3.

	High level objective	Notes
1	Manage the site as a Nature Reserve.	The site is managed as a Nature Reserve and will be aimed towards obtaining Local Nature Reserve status during 2023
2	Facilitate sustainable public access and involvement by local community.	Continue to facilitate sustainable access on to the site through access gates and surfaced paths. Volunteer tasks will be arranged on site as part of the ongoing management of the site.
3	Manage features specific to Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status	Continue to manage grassland habitat to maintain favourable SINC status.

3.3. Operational Objectives

The operational objectives below identify the key elements involved in delivering the higher level objectives. The prescriptions in section 3.5 outline how each operational objective will be delivered.

Long term aims for the site can be categorised into 4 Management Options:
A - Active Conservation Management
B - Monitoring and Research
C - Education and Access
D - Administration and Public Relations

Table 7: Conservation of Features

Feature / Habitat	Management Option	Outline Prescription

Chalk grassland	A	Control scrub to maintain area managed as chalk grassland. Cattle to graze grassland for between 6 and 12 weeks between May and October. Cut grass in years not grazed (March and October) and remove arisings. Further cuts may be required.
Blackthorn, ash and hawthorn scrub	A	Control area of scrub to increase light levels and improve grassland habitats and achieve a varying age structure within scrub habitat
Butterflies	B	Involve and support local residents with butterfly transects on site. Send results to Butterfly Conservation
Birds	B	Conduct a Common Bird Census (CBC) with assistance from British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) members and local residents
Mammals	B	Record and note species seen by local residents. Carry out mammal trapping using Longworth mammal traps. Advisable to use mammal society trained and licensed operator.
Other invertebrates	B	Area surveyed in 2019. Re survey in 2023. Every 5 years there after.
Public access	C & D	Maintain permissive paths through site
School, college, university involvement	C	Involve local institutions in projects on site
Interpretation of features	C & D	Maintain interpretation boards where required, especially hedgerows, semi-improved grassland and blackthorn scrub, as well as historical features.
Control of invasive species	A	Control where appropriate or possible
Increase public awareness	D	Through interpretation boards, talks, local

		newsletters and work parties
Non-native species	A	Remove from site where possible.

3.4. Factors Influencing the Achievement of Higher level Objectives

Factor	Notes
Local community ownership	The ownership of the local community is essential, not only to fulfil the site's potential for people but also to ensure that users of the site take account of wildlife in their actions.
Natural Succession	Natural succession is the process by which open bare ground develops into grassland and eventually woodland. All open habitats in the UK are prevented from becoming woodland by external factors such as grazing pressure, mechanical cutting or fire. At Ladies Walk, a combination of grazing and mechanical cutting will be required to maintain the open habitats.

Operations Likely to Damage Site

- Further development of housing.
- Destruction of ancient hedgerow.
- Use of pesticides and herbicides without proper guidance.
- Use of heavy machinery leading to soil compaction.
- Damage cause by burning of scrub.
- Allowing 'right to roam' policy over entire site.
- Planting of non-native stock.
- Allowing non-native species to out compete native flora.
- Use of fertilisers/manure or allowing dumping of garden waste which increases soil nutrient content
- Dumping of any substance damaging to flora.
- Change of soil structure and pH.
- Construction and/or maintenance of pipelines/cables above or below ground.
- Removal of any flora by the public.
- Release of non-native species of fauna and flora.
- Extraction of minerals – including drilling
- Killing or removal of any animal from site.

- Chemical runoff from neighbouring farmland.
- Over grazing

3.5. Prescriptions

Compartment 1: neutral unimproved grassland

- Selectively thin scattered blackthorn and ash scrub to promote light levels and control encroachment.
- Maintain grassland by cattle grazing for between 6 and12 weeks between May and October (do not graze between 30 November and 28 February). Stocking density will be based on a ratio of 4 animal per acre. Avoid peak flowering to allow wildflowers to seed and peak nectering.
- Maintain sward between 2cm and 10cm in October.
- Maintain boundary fence to secure for grazing.
- Maintain kissing gates to allow for public access.
- Maintain way markers
- Control undesirable species such as ragwort and nettles by pulling. Allow 5% area to remain for habitat value.
- Control bramble to increase extent of unimproved calcareous grassland. Retain some bramble as to create a woodland edge.
- Maintain scrub at current extent to improve light levels and increase the extent of unimproved calcareous grassland. Maintain a boundary by cutting bays and widening pathways to reduce visual impact and benefit local users.
- Remove cut material by chipping. All chippings will be removed from site. No burning on site.
- Scrub clearance to be carried out between 1 October and 28 February outside of the bird nesting season.
- Control re-growth by grazing.

Compartment 2: calcareous unimproved grassland

- Maintain grassland by grazing cattle as in compartment 1.
- Maintain sward height as in compartment 1.
- Field operations and stocking density must not damage the soil structure. Small areas of bare ground on up to 5% of the field are acceptable.
- During years when area is not grazed maintain sward by mowing annually in late summer (no later than end September). Remove material arising to reduce nutrient loading.
- Do not top more than 30% in 1 year. Leave a minimum of 5% tussocks and longer grass.
- Maintain kissing gates to allow for public access.
- Control of non-native species by removal of sycamore saplings and trees.
- Control of undesirable species such as nettles and ragwort by pulling. Allow 5% to remain for habitat value.

- Control brambles to maintain light levels and enlarge extent of calcareous grassland.
- Retain a percentage of bramble to allow for a woodland edge.
- Control scrub to increase light levels and increase extent of calcareous grassland. Maintain a boundary by cutting bays and widening permissive paths to reduce visual impact.
- Scrub clearance to be carried out between 1 October and 28 February outside of the bird nesting season.
- Remove all arisings by chipping or burning as in compartment 1.
- Maintain fencing to secure for grazing.

Compartment 3: neutral semi-improved grassland and blackthorn dominated scrub

- Maintain grassland by grazing with cattle as in compartment 1 and 2.
- Maintain sward height as in compartment 1 and 2.
- During years where area is not grazed, mow grass annually in late summer (no later than end of September). Remove arisings to reduce nutrient loading.
- Maintain permissive paths as in compartment 1 and 2.
- Maintain fence to secure for grazing.
- Maintain kissing gates to allow for public access.
- Control encroachment of blackthorn on rotation to allow for diverse age structure suitable for Brown-hairstreak butterflies.
- Control brambles to maintain light levels and enlarge extent of calcareous grassland.
-

Compartment 4: semi-ancient hedgerow

- Reduce height of hedge to 1.2 meters to create a clear canopy and allow for views across the town.
- Eliminate gaps in hedgerow by planting native species. Using a suggested 3 staggered rows with 3 trees per meter.
- Monitor health of veteran trees.
- Replace trees where veteran trees have been removed.
- Retain standing and fallen dead wood where safe to do so.
- Erect boundary fence to secure for grazing.
- Install kissing gate for public access.
- Maintain way markers
- Maintain footpath.
- Maintain regulation kissing gate to allow public access.

3.6 Project Register and Group

A - Administration
R - Records
M - Management

Table 8: Summary of Management Projects

PROJECT	COMPARTMENTS	GROUP
Reinstate grassland habitat	1, 2, 3	M & R
Create grassland habitat	1, 2, 3	M & R
Remove sycamore saplings and trees	Whole site	M
Remove litter	Whole site	M & A
Lay and gap up hedges	4	M
Remove other non-native species	Whole site	M
Thin to favour best individuals	Whole site	M
Maintain Interpretation boards	Whole site	A
Secure site to allow for grazing	Whole site	M & A
Work and public access	Whole site	M & A
Sympathetic management of veteran trees	4	M, R, A
Education	Whole site	A & R
Monitor fly tipping	Whole site	M & A
Maintain footpaths	4,	M & A
Maintain waymark permissive paths	Whole site	M & A
Control bramble	1, 2 , 3	M

Table 9: Summary of Monitoring Projects

PROJECT	COMPARTMENT	GROUP
Monitor vegetation change after scrub clearance	1,2	R
Monitor grassland species after grazing and mowing	1,2, 3	R
Survey birds	Whole site	R
Survey butterflies	Whole Site	R
Survey invertebrates	Whole site	R
Monitor public use	Whole site	R
Monitor dog exercising/fowling	Whole site	R
Monitor school usage	Whole site	A & R
Monitor mammal species	Whole site	R
Monitor fly tipping	Whole site	R
Regular fixed point photography	Whole site	R

3.7 Survey Times for Habitats and Species

Table 10: Survey Times

HABITATS AND SPECIES	TIME TO SURVEY
Butterflies	May – September
Small mammals	April - May / October - November
Lower plants	April – November
Reptiles and amphibians	March – June / September - October

Dormice	April – November
Higher plants	April - November
Birds	March - June (breeding), October - March (overwintering)
Invertebrates (to be reviewed in 2015)	April - October (breeding), October - March (overwintering)
Bats	April - October (breeding), October - March (overwintering)

3.8 Work Parties

3.8.1 Contractors

Contractors will carry out the majority of the work involving the mowing of grassland areas and operations on a large scale. The problems of contractors include high financial cost, lack of enthusiasm and disregard for environmental issues. Constraints will be put on contractors to employ the most environmentally proactive management techniques and take extra care when working in sensitive areas. All contractors will be monitored during on site operations.

The contractors must fulfil Test Valley's Health and Safety statutory requirements as stipulated by the Health and Safety Officer.

3.8.2 Volunteers

For smaller projects including, scrub clearance, planting, and hedge laying, volunteer working days will be arranged for local residents. Other interested volunteer parties such as The Anton River Conservation Association (TARCA), Andover trees united (ATU), local businesses, employee volunteering and Andover/ Sparsholt college.

However, problems with volunteers can include sporadic attendance and different personal motivations. Health and Safety aspects (Risk Assessments etc) must be taken into consideration.

Volunteers can also be involved in surveying work - butterfly transects, bird surveys etc. Officers of Test Valley Borough Council or interested conservation organisations could supply training for regular volunteers.

The site also offers valuable project opportunities for students from the University of Southampton and Sparsholt College, who regularly visit other TVBC Local Nature Reserves (Valley Park LNR and Anton Lakes LNR). Projects carried out will assist with the planning and implementation of this management plan, as well as being compatible with the academic teaching they receive.

3.9 Plan Review

A management plan is not a rigid strategy that has to be strictly adhered to. Flexibility to implement new or revised ideas should be encouraged.

The management plan should be reviewed annually with a comprehensive review every 5 years and the opportunity taken to revise any of the objectives or prescriptions previously stated if they are deemed to be unsuitable because of unforeseen circumstances.

An annual work programme will be created using the 5-year work schedule describing work to be carried out in the relative management year.

3.9.1 Monitoring and Progress

Changes in vegetation occurring from management should be monitored and recorded, especially in areas where scrub has been cleared and grazing has been reinstated, through surveying flora before and after the operation. Any changes in management of the site will affect associated species such as butterflies, birds, mammals and invertebrates. Regular surveying of these species by the use of transects, will create a database of baseline information allowing any changes to be monitored.

The use of aerial and fixed-point photography is recommended for monitoring the long-term changes in vegetation. Aerial photos were captured by Test Valley Borough Council. These images will be used to insure accurate fixed-point photographic information of ground flora.

Resources

Mortimer, S.R., Turner, A.J., Brown, V.K., Fuller, R.J., Good, J.E.G., Bell, S.A. Stevens, P.A., Norris, D., Bayfield, N. and Ward, L.K. (2000) The nature conservation value of scrub in Britain. JNCC Report 308, 191 pages

Woodland Trust (2011) *Veteran Trees: What are veteran trees?* Woodland Trust Available from: http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/why-woods-matter/what-are-they/types/veteran/Pages/veteran.aspx [Accessed: 26/01/2011]

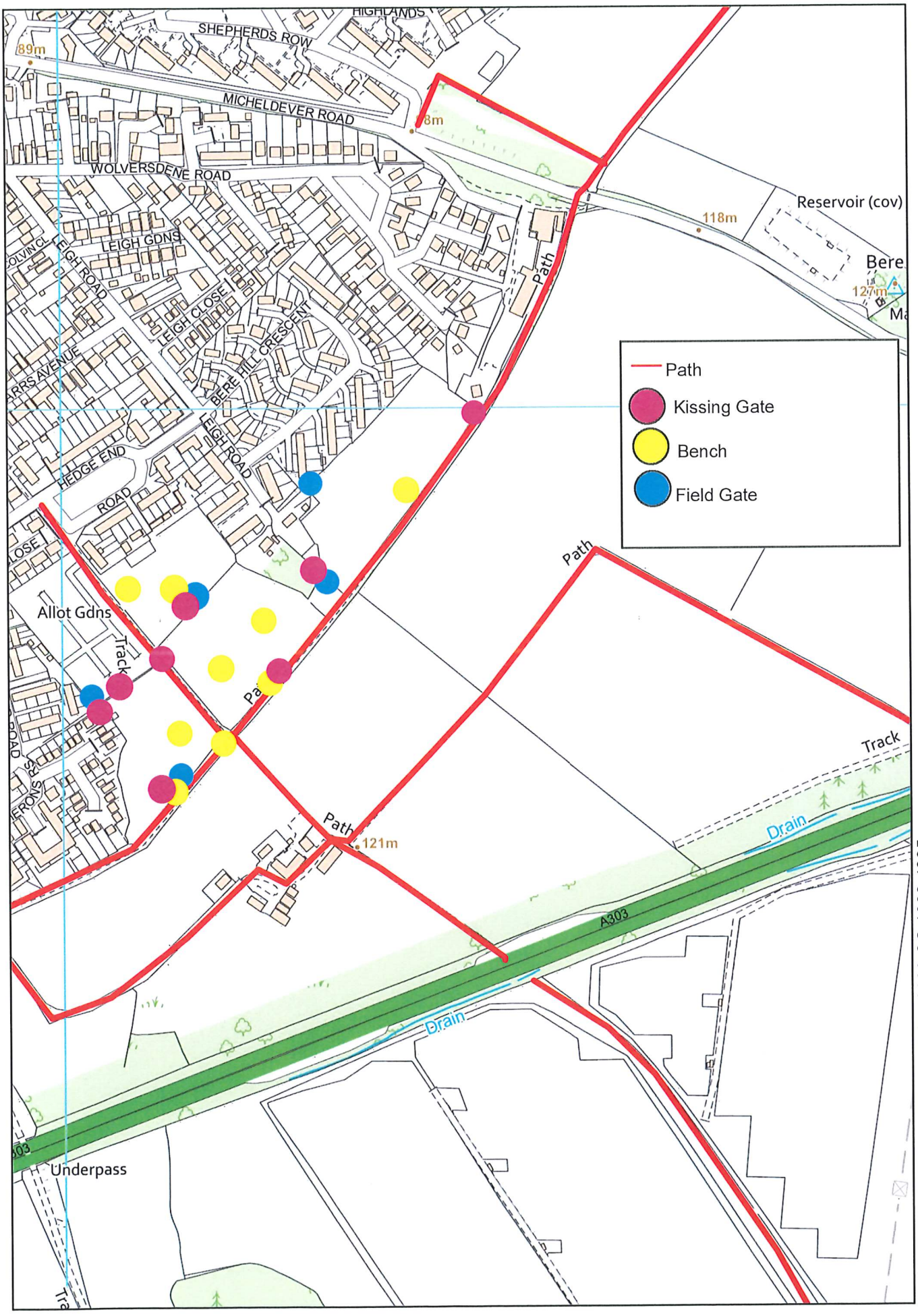
Appendix I

Aerial Photographs
Compartment maps
Work Programme
Task based risk assessment

Meadow 1

Meadow 2

Meadow 3



Ladies Walk

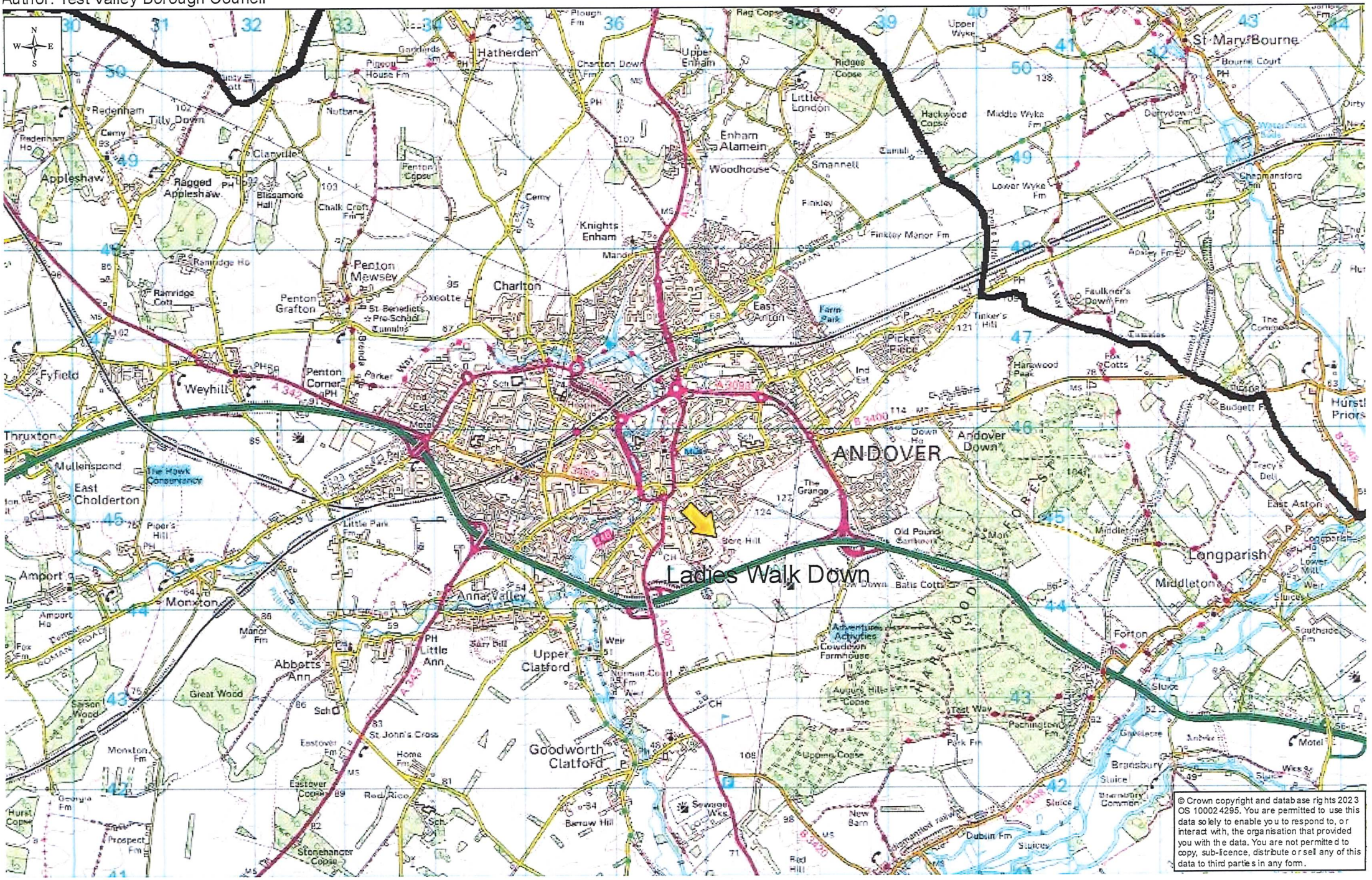
Test Valley Borough Council

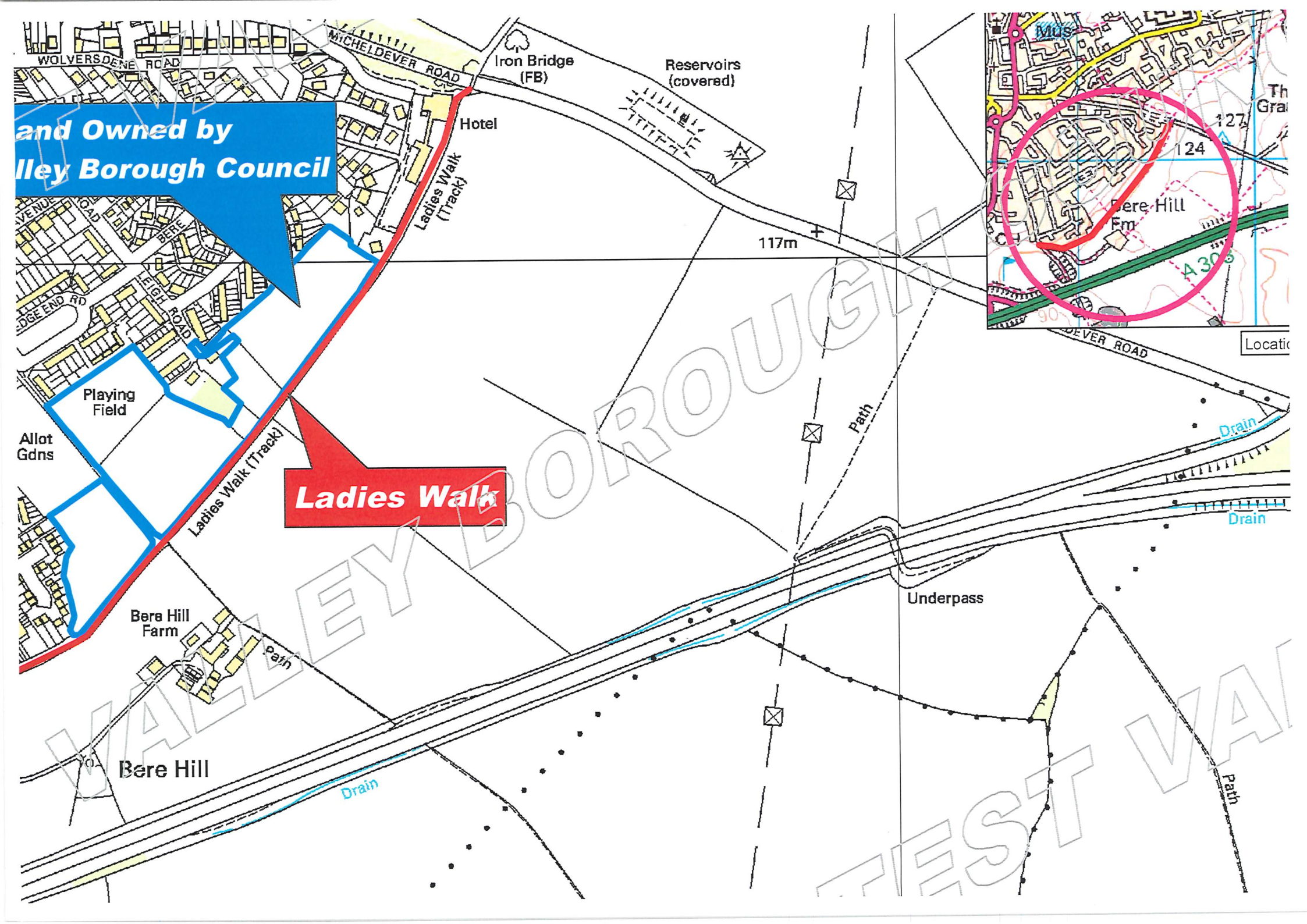
Date: 26/09/2023

Scale: 1:52,063

Author: Test Valley Borough Council

Map showing Ladies Walk Down




and Owned by
lley Borough Council
Ladies Walk
WOLVERSDENE ROAD
MICHELDEVER ROAD
Iron Bridge (FB)
Reservoirs (covered)
Hotel
Ladies Walk (Track)
117m
Playing Field
Allot Gdns
Ladies Walk (Track)
Bere Hill Farm
Path
Bere Hill
Drain
Underpass
Path
Drain
Drain
Path
Bere Hill Fm
A303
124
127
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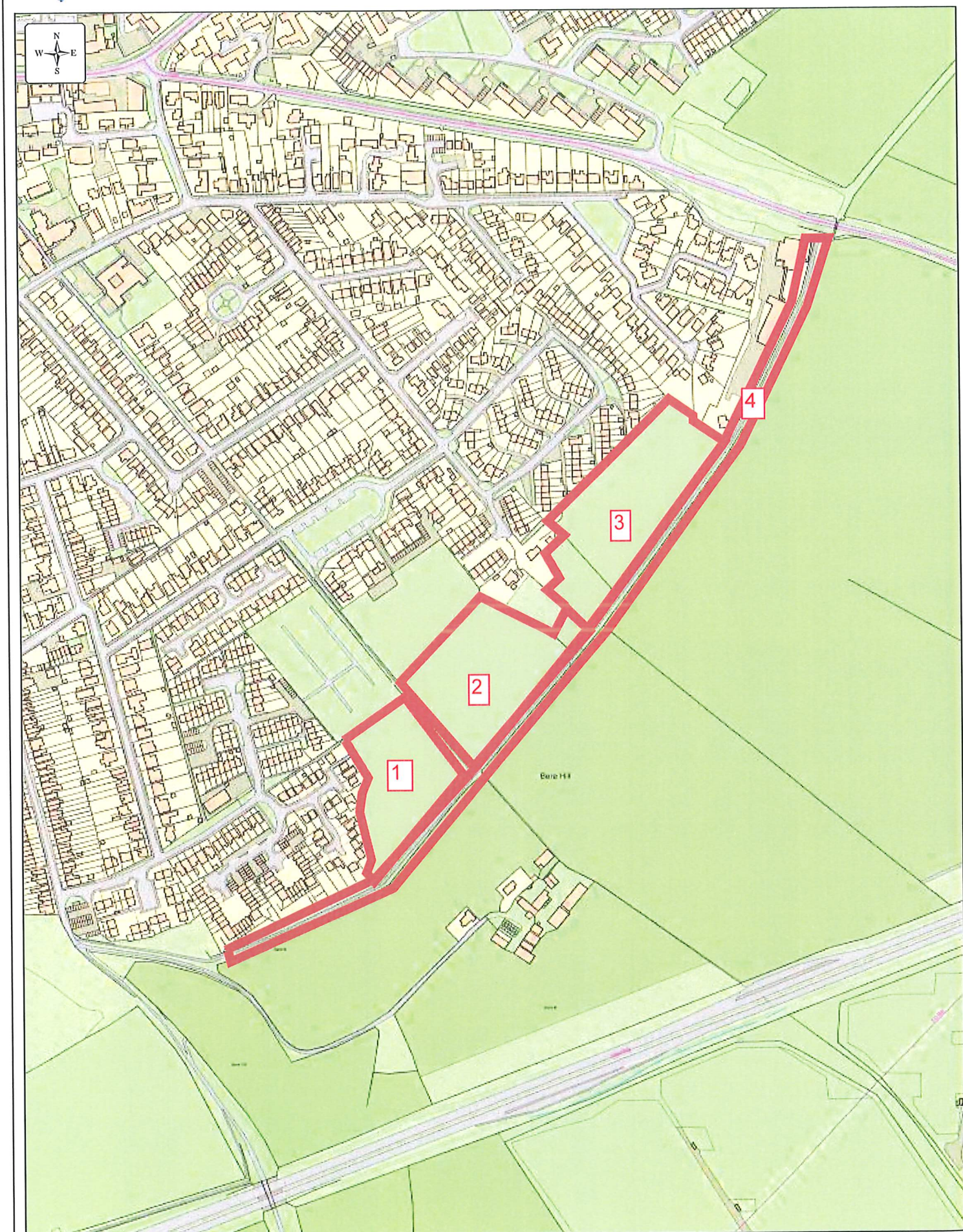
VALLEY BOROUGH
TEST VA

Test Valley Borough Council

ArcGIS Web Map



Date: 08/04/2020

Scale: 1:4,734

Author: Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

Map 3 : Ladies Walk Down Compartment Map

RISK ASSESSMENT - TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL					
SERVICE:	Community and Leisure	**LOCATION:**	Test Valley Borough Council Land		
People Affected*:		**Completed by:**	Charlotte Rimmer	**Date:**	23/06/2020
Name	**Name**				
Volunteers Staff Members of the public Students		**Reviewed by:**	Charlotte Rimmer	**Date:**	As required
			Daisy Kennard		12/04/2021
			Daisy Cameron		15/11/2021
			Catherine Sankey		As required or 17/01/2024

Assessment Seen By:					
Line Manager:					
Name:	Boyce Jeffery	**Signed:**		**Date:**	
	All staff/volunteers to sign to confirm that they have read, fully understand and will abide by control measures. Group leader will be responsible for ensuring this is the case for anyone where English is not their first language. The practical tasks that we carry out in our Nature Reserves can be strenuous, tiring and involve the use of hand tools that some people may find challenging. Please inform the co-ordinator leading the event if you have any medical conditions or concerns that could be a danger to yourself or other volunteers working around you. We reserve the right to restrict your level of participation in certain circumstances. All children under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult.				
Workplace Representative:					
Name:	Charlotte Rimmer	**Signed:**		**Date:**	

+Attach copies of previous risk assessments carried out during the previous 12 months(retain previous risk assessments for 6 years)

Task or Area Description: Litter picking/Tree Guard Removal/Weed pulling (ragwort, balsalm, bracken etc), General maintenance etc.

Hazards Identified and how harm may occur	Control measures in place	Risk Rating H/M/L	Further Action required?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Date Done
Biological – Leptospirosis and Weils disease, Lymes disease, Hep B & C, Tetanus, Avian Influenza	Wear appropriate PPE (plastic or chemical gloves). Keep arms and legs covered. Check for ticks regularly when you are outside and when you get home. Light coloured clothes make ticks easier to see. If you find a tick remove immediately using the correct technique. If symptoms occur see doctor. Cover any wounds. Clean new wounds immediately, then cover. Clean hands with antibacterial hand wash or wipes before consuming food, drinking or smoking. Do not touch needles or waste that may contain bodily fluids. Do not touch dead animals or animal faeces. Pregnant women or those wishing to become pregnant should avoid sheep due to risk of abortion. Refer to up-to-date DEFRA guidance on avian influenza.	M	Advise volunteers on risk and symptoms. Hand out leaflet on Leptospirosis and Lymes disease where appropriate. Up to date Tetanus. Use insect repellent if desired (follow manufacturers guidelines) Brief staff and volunteers on avian influenza and not touching dead animals before starting tasks.	Group Leader/ Countryside Officer.	Before task	
Slips, trips and falls	Be aware of potential uneven ground, rabbit holes etc. Avoid potentially dangerous areas. Wear appropriate footwear with ankle support and good grip. Avoid working in	M	Remind volunteers of control measures.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	

	particularly muddy or icy conditions. Beware of litter picking close to water courses (rivers/lakes).					
Tools/ equipment Litter picker/ long handled litter picker/ bags/ hoop/bowsaws/loppers/secaters/ spades/shovels/rakes/wheelbarrow/slashers/ pen knife	Wear appropriate PPE (gloves) to protect from inappropriate usage. If working near road side wear a high visibility jacket with sleeves (refer to Environmental Service risk assessment). Do not leave bowsaws, loppers or secateurs hanging from trees/branches.	M	Correct use of tools to be demonstrated. All tools should be disinfected between activities/users. Volunteers should not share tools during the activity.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Lifting heavy objects	Do not move objects that are too heavy. Two handed lifts may be appropriate. Break down the load into smaller manageable loads or seek assistance. Use good lifting technique. Ensure volunteers are comfortable carrying out the task and have taken regular breaks.	M	Remind volunteers of control measures. When collecting wet material be sure not to over fill bags.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Lone working	Do not work alone – Work in pairs. Always inform leader of your location. Report back at regular intervals. Carry a working mobile phone at all times (use a waterproof pocket to protect against water damage) in case of emergency. If approached by a person showing aggression, move away and if necessary, phone 999.	L	Remind volunteers of control measures. For staff use Life 360 app to check in on arrival to site. See Lone Working Risk Assessment.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Insect bites and stings	Wear long sleeves and	L	Remind volunteers of control	Group leader/	On the	

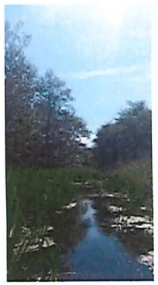
	trousers to protect from biting insects. Treat if necessary. Do not work near bee, wasp or hornet nests. Be aware of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. Phone emergency services immediately if symptoms of anaphylaxis or if sting victim known to be allergic. Those with allergies should have their medication available at all times. Clean sting/bite site immediately.		measures. Alert group leader to any relevant allergies.	Countryside Officer	day	
Refuse, litter, broken glass – general injury	Pick up only general litter. **Volunteers must not collect medical waste or syringes.** Inspect area for sharps before starting work. Wear gloves where sensible to.	L	Remind volunteers of control measures. Refer medical waste/syringes to group leader. Sharps box and PPE to be used by group leader only.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Accidents/incidents	Eye wash and fully stocked first aid box available. Trained first aider available.	L	Remind volunteers of control measures and location. Identify trained first aider. All accidents must be recorded in accident book. Be aware of suitable access and location for emergency services in advance of commencement of works (Site details can be found in vehicle glove compartment).	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Trees, shrubs and irritant/dangerous plants – allergic reaction etc.	Awareness of risk. Site inspection before commencement of work. Identify hazardous plants and avoid. Use gloves/long sleeves and trousers at all times and wash hands after	L	Remind volunteers of controls. Schedule Bracken control before early August to avoid the sporing season.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	Prior to and on the day	

	contact and before eating, drinking or smoking. Bracken control should not be undertaken in the late summer months, during which sporing is taking place, in order to avoid inhalation of potentially cancerous spores		Volunteers should disclose relevant allergies to the group leader prior to the task if they are happy to.			
Animals - Dogs	Avoid contact with loose dogs. Seek medical attention if bitten or scratched and report to police/dog warden and task organiser.	L	Up to date Tetanus vaccination. Remind volunteers of control measures.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Animals - bites	Be aware of the potential presence of animals such as grass snakes and adders. Watch the ground where working and avoid treading in long vegetation. Wear long trousers and sturdy footwear. No open toed sandals and thin trainers. Seek medical attention if bitten.	L	Advise volunteers on the presence of adders, to watch where they are working and to wear sensible, closed footwear.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Violence and aggression	Awareness of potential for aggressive or difficult members of the public. Withdraw rather than face conflict. Work in pairs. Have functioning mobile phone available.	L	Remind volunteers of control measures. Report incident to group leader. Phone 999 if necessary. Have functioning mobile phone available and use Life 360	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	
Dog faeces (Toxocara)	Inspect work area prior to commencement of task. Wash hands and other areas of contact. Clean hands with soap and water or antibacterial wipes before eating, drinking or smoking.	L	Remind volunteers of control measures. Hand out leaflet on Toxocara.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	

	Do not pick up dog faeces.					
Adverse weather conditions	Adjust programme to avoid extremes in weather. Stop work if conditions warrant. Wear appropriate clothing, sun screen etc. Take regular breaks and refreshments.	L	Remind volunteers of control measures.	Group leader/ Countryside Officer	On the day	

Control Measures in Place	**Yes**				
Business Unit Manager		**Signed:**		**Date:**	

* Staff, Contractors, Visitors., Public, Disabled



Anton Lakes LNR, Andover

Grid reference: SU357466

Anton Lakes were formed as a result of gravel extraction. The lake outflow is the headwaters of the River Anton. The springs, lake, river and meadows around the edge of the site provide a mosaic of habitats, including chalk grassland, watercress beds and water meadows. Cattle now graze throughout the summer months and help to support the diverse range of wild flowers. Many birds can also be found on the lakes and streams including kingfishers and water rail.

Ladies Walk, Andover

Grid reference: SU369445

Located on the south eastern edge of Andover, Ladies Walk comprises of three moderately steep north facing meadows. The chalk grassland on site supports a diverse array of butterflies and other invertebrates, as well as vertebrates such as common lizards and slow worms. The meadows are grazed throughout the summer to improve their sward structure. The Ladies Walk which boarders the site dates back to 1785.

Rooksbury Mill LNR, Andover

Grid reference: SU356443

Rooksbury Mill, also formed through gravel extraction and once a trout fishery, now plays host to a variety of wildlife including otters, water voles and kingfishers. Its mosaic of chalk grassland and riparian habitats provide a rich diversity of wildlife.

Harewood Common, Andover

Grid reference: SU357466

Comprising of nearly 10 hectares of chalk grassland, Harewood Common is rich in wildlife and provides a refreshing contrast to the nearby Urban Park. Originally an agricultural field, the common backs onto the ancient woodland of Harewood Forest and is managed through grazing during the summer months. This creates an ideal habitat for insects, birds and bats to thrive.

Ox Drove Meadow, Andover

Grid reference: SU357466

Comprising of just over three hectares of chalk grassland, Ox Drove Meadow is made up of a gently sloping path which encompasses the site. New trees planted around the site are helping to establish a robust hedgerow around its boundary which is important for the sites' inhabitants which include a wide variety of birds and insects as well as the Hazel Dormouse which makes the site its home.

Test Valley Parks and Countryside Team

The team work to maintain and develop the borough's green spaces which include countryside sites, Nature Reserves, parks and cemeteries.

Please contact the countryside officers in advance for more details.

Further information is available on **www.testvalley.gov.uk**

Or contact the the Countryside Officers on **01264 368000**, or email **community&leisure@testvalley.gov.uk**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered throughout 2022 to help maintain and enhance our green spaces.

New volunteers, including families, are always welcome to help with the on-going programme of events.

Local Conservation Groups

The Anton River Conservation Association (TARCA)

For more information contact: antonriver@live.com or visit: www.antonriver-conservation.org.uk

Parks and Countryside

Events and Activities 2023

North Test Valley

TestValleyB TestValleyB www.testvalley.gov.u

Test Valley Borough Council

T.A.R.C.A.

Parks and Countryside Events and Activities Guide 2023

North Test Valley

Date	Time	Task	Venue	Meeting Place (OS Grid Ref)
Sat 7 Jan	10am – 2pm	Tree planting/ coppicing	Rooksbury mill LNR	Car park (SU357445)
Sun 22 Jan	10am – 2pm	Ditch / pond maintenance	Anton Lakes LNR	Car park (SU357466)
Sat 4 Feb	10am – 2pm	Watercress bed maintenance	Anton Lakes LNR	Car Park (SU357466)
Sun 19 Feb	10am – 2pm	Scrub clearance	Ladies Walk	Hedge End Road playing field SP10 2DH (SU371449)
Sat 4 Mar	10am – 2pm	Coppicing / scrub clearance	Anton Lakes LNR	Car park (SU357466)
Sun 19 Mar	10am- 2pm	Tree guard removal	Harewood Common	P20 Co-Op car park SP11 6TY (SU390454)
Sat 8 Apr	10am – 2pm	Big litter pick, river clean and site maintenance	Rooksbury Mill LNR	Car park (SU357445)
Sat 22 Apr	10am – 2pm	Big litter pick, river clean and site maintenance	Anton Lakes LNR & Wickes Meadow	Anton Lakes car park (SU357466)
Sun 7 May	5am onwards	Dawn Chorus Day	Rooksbury Mill LNR	Car park (SU357445)
Sun 21 May	10am – 2pm	Anton river clean	Behind ASDA	Car park behind ASDA (SU362450)
Sun 9 Jul	11am onwards	Summer walk with optional lunch at The Oak, Smannell	Harmony Woods and paths around Smannell	East Anton Sports Ground car park SP11 6XU (approx. SU373483)
Sat 15 Jul	10am onwards	Free Family Discovery Day	Anton Lakes	Car park (SU357466)
Sun 23 Jul	10am – 2pm	Ragwort pull	Ladies Walk	Hedge End Road laying field SP10 2DH (SU371449)
Sat 12 Aug	10am – 2pm	Non-Native species removal	Anton Lakes LNR	Car park (SU357466)
Fri 8 Sep	7:45pm onwards	Bat walk	Harewood Common	P20 Co-Op car park SP11 6TY (SU390454)
Sat 30 Sep	7:00 pm onwards	Bat walk	Anton Lakes LNR	Car park (SU357466)
Sat 7 Oct	10am – 2pm	Orchard day	Rooksbury Mill LNR	Car park (SU357445)
Sun 22 Oct	10am – 2pm	Riverbank cutting	Behind ASDA	Car park behind ASDA (SU362450)
Sat 4 Nov	10am – 2pm	Woody debris mattress creation	Anton Lakes LNR	Car park (SU357466)
Sun 19 Nov	10am – 2pm	Winter tasks	Rooksbury Mill LNR	Car park (SU357445)
Sat 2 Dec	10am – 2pm	Winter tasks	Rooksbury Mill LNR	Car park (SU357445)

mportant Note

The practical tasks that we carry out on our Green Spaces and Nature Reserves can be strenuous, tiring and involve the use of hand tools that some people may find challenging. Please inform the co-ordinator leading the event if you have any medical conditions or concerns that could be a danger to yourself or other volunteers working around you. We reserve the right to restrict your level of participation in certain circumstances. All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Work Schedule

OBJECTIVE	PRESCRIPTION	COMPARTMENT	YEAR									
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Reinstate chalk grassland +	In years where grazing is not achieved mow course grass annually in late summer (no later than end September. Remove arisings	1,2,3	*		*		*		*		*	
Reinstate chalk grassland +	In years where grazing is not achieved mow course grass annually in late summer (no later than end September. Remove arisings	2, 3	*		*		*		*		*	
Reinstate chalk grassland	Grazing using cattle. March to October for between 6 to 12 weeks.	2,3		*		*		*		*		*
		1		*		*		*		*		*
Control of non-native species	Removal of sycamore saplings/trees	1, 2	*			*			*			*
Control scrub regeneration.	Control hawthorn scrub regeneration to prevent scrubbing up.	1, 3	*		*		*		*		*	
		2		*		*		*		*		*
Control scrub regeneration.	Control extent and age structure of blackthorn scrub to favour Brown-hairstreak butterflies.	1,3										
Maintain chalk grassland	Control extent of brambles growing within site as required	1, 2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Secure site to allow grazing	Inspect boundary fence periodically to ensure site security	Whole site	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

OBJECTIVE	PRESCRIPTION	COMPARTMENT	YEAR									
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Work and public access onto site	Maintain access gates and kissing gates when required	Whole site	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reinforce natural boundary of site	Cut bramble to form natural boundaries and prevent encroachment on footpaths	Whole site	*		*		*		*		*	
Eliminate gaps in hedgerow	Lay hedge in traditional Midland style. Divide hedge into 100m sections (lay annually on a 7 year rotation)	4				*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maintain hedge height	Cut hedge by hand to a height of 1.5m on a 3 year rotation to maintain scenic view	4 – 1		*			*			*		*
		4 – 2			*			*			*	
		4 – 3	*			*			*			*
Monitor health of veteran trees	Tree officer to inspect	Whole site	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Existing and possible future threat of fly tipping.	Surveillance of fly tipping	Whole site	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Establish educational visits/discovery day/bioblitz	Offer educational visits as part of annual schools programme.		*									
Interpretation board	Install interpretation board to inform visitors of site and its management. To include poster facility to advertise site events		*	*								
Local Nature Reserve Status	Designate site as a Local Nature Reserve		*									

Appendix II

Species records

INVERTEBRATE SURVEY OF

LADIES WALK

ANDOVER

NORTH HAMPSHIRE

NOVEMBER 2023

Dr. Jonty Denton FRES FLS CEcol MCIEEM

31 Thorn lane, Four Marks, Hants, GU34 5BX

Summary

A survey of terrestrial invertebrates was carried out across the site in 2023.

Survey date/s: 29th April, 23rd May, 31st July

Species total: A total of 70 invertebrate taxa, one of which had conservation designations, namely *Lissodema denticolle* which develops on moribund hawthorns and otherRosaceae.

INTRODUCTION

The project brief was to provide updated baseline records for invertebrates across the site.

The site consists of three fields set on steep north-facing escarpment above Andover.

METHODOLOGY AND SITE VISITS

The main emphasis of the survey was to find as many rare and notable species as possible within the reviewed groups.

The site was visited specifically for invertebrate surveying on the following dates;- 29th April, 23rd May, 31st July.

Standard field techniques were employed to sample the invertebrate fauna across the site. These included sweeping vegetation with a wide mouthed sweep net, beating trees and bushes over a beating tray, and grubbing amongst tussocks and key host plant rosettes etc.

Because it is impracticable to survey all the potential invertebrates within any given site, only specific groups of species were examined during fieldwork. These groups are sufficiently well known as to allow meaningful comparisons to be made with other sites, both locally and nationally. They are also important as indicators of the quality of a site and the habitats present (see Brooks 1993).

Groups covered during the survey were:

- Mollusca (slugs and snails)
- Arachnida (spiders, harvestmen & pseudoscorpions)
- Isopoda (woodlice)
- Thysanura (bristletails)
- Ephemeroptera (mayflies)
- Odonata (dragonflies & damselflies)
- Plecoptera (stoneflies)
- Orthoptera (grasshoppers & crickets)
- Dictyoptera (cockroaches)
- Dermaptera (earwigs)
- Hemiptera-Heteroptera (true-bugs)
- Hemiptera-Homoptera (hoppers)
- Neuroptera (lace-wings)
- Mecoptera (scorpion-flies)
- Lepidoptera (butterflies & moths)
- Trichoptera (caddis flies)
- Diptera (true flies)
- Aculeate Hymenoptera (ants, bees & wasps)
- Coleoptera (beetles)

RESULTS

A total of 70 species of invertebrate were recorded. A full species list with UK statuses is given in Appendix 1.

SURVEY LIMITATIONS

The moth fauna is always under-represented when only diurnal surveys are employed. Light trapping surveys with 2-3 MV and actinic Robinson type traps would add hundreds of species of moth and additional night flying species (Ichneumonidae, Coleoptera etc.)

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The site has degraded markedly since the grazing in 2019. Much of the open sward has been colonised by abundant *Taraxacum* and appears much less species rich generally.

The summer of 2021 was the worst on record for flying invertebrates and the prolonged drought of early summer 2023 brought an early end to the flight period for many taxa.

Figure 1. Looking west across upper slope of field 1.

REFERENCES

Brooks, S.J. 1993. Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Invertebrates: Guidelines for Invertebrate Surveys. *British Wildlife* 4(5) 283-287

RECCOMENDATIONS

don't graze between mid april and July
Needs much more winter scrub control by brushcutter etc.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Species list for 2023

species	family	order	status
Aceria campestricola	Eriophyidae	Prostigmata	common
Aceria erinea	Eriophyidae	Prostigmata	common
Acleris bergmanniana	Tortricidae	Lepidoptera	common
Aelia acuminata	Pentatomidae	Hemiptera	common
Amaurobius fenestralis	Amaurobiidae	Araneae	common
Anaspis maculata	Scraptiidae	Coleoptera	common
Anaspis rufilabris	Scraptiidae	Coleoptera	common
Aphantopus hyperantus	Nymphalidae	Lepidoptera	common
Araneus diadematus	Araneidae	Araneae	common
Argiope bruennichi	Araneidae	Araneae	local
Arion subfuscus	Arionidae	Pulmonata	common
Armadillidium vulgare	Armadillidiidae	Isopoda	common
Bombus hypnorum	Apidae	Hymenoptera	common
Bombus lapidarius	Apidae	Hymenoptera	common
Bombus pascuorum	Apidae	Hymenoptera	common
Bombus terrestris	Apidae	Hymenoptera	common
Bruchus rufimanus	Chrysomelidae	Coleoptera	common
Chaetostomella cylindrica	Tephritidae	Diptera	common
Chorthippus brunneus	Acrididae	Orthoptera	common
Chrysolina hyperici	Chrysomelidae	Coleoptera	common
Closterotomus norwegicus	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Coccinella septempunctata	Coccinellidae	Coleoptera	common
Cornu aspersum	Helicidae	Pulmonata	common
Deraeocoris lutescens	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Dilophus febrilis	Bibionidae	Diptera	common
Discus rotundatus	Patulidae	Pulmonata	common
Drusilla canaliculata	Staphylinidae	Coleoptera	common
Elipsocus hyalinus	Elipsocidae	Psocoptera	common
Episyrphus balteatus	Syrphidae	Diptera	common
Eurygaster testudinaria	Scutelleridae	Hemiptera	common
Forficula auricularia	Forficulidae	Dermaptera	common
Harmonia axyridis	Coccinellidae	Coleoptera	common
Heterogaster urticae	Lygaeidae	Hemiptera	common
Kleidocerys resedae	Lygaeidae	Hemiptera	common
Lasius flavus	Formicidae	Hymenoptera	common
Lasius niger	Formicidae	Hymenoptera	common
Machimus atricapillus	Asilidae	Diptera	common
Myrmica ruginodis	Formicidae	Hymenoptera	common
Limacus flavus	Limacidae	Pulmonata	common

Linyphia triangularis	Linyphiidae	Araneae	common
Lissodema denticolle	Salpingidae	Coleoptera	NS
Lygocoris pabulinus	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Malachius bipustulatus	Malachiidae	Coleoptera	common
Malthinus flaveolus	Cantharidae	Coleoptera	common
Maniola jurtina	Nymphalidae	Lepidoptera	common
Melanargia galathea	Nymphalidae	Lepidoptera	local
Melanostoma scalare	Syrphidae	Diptera	common
Mesembrina meridiana	Muscidae	Diptera	common
Monacha cantiana	Hygromiidae	Pulmonata	common
Myathropa florea	Syrphidae	Diptera	common
Neottiura bimaculata	Theridiidae	Araneae	common
Oedemera lurida	Oedemeridae	Coleoptera	common
Oedemera nobilis	Oedemeridae	Coleoptera	common
Pachygaster atra	Stratiomyidae	Diptera	common
Paidiscura pallens	Theridiidae	Araneae	common
Pegomya solennis	Anthomyiidae	Diptera	common
Philaenus spumarius	Aphrophoridae	Hemiptera	common
Philodromus albidus	Philodromidae	Araneae	common
Phytocoris varipes	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Plagiognathus arbustorum	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Plagiognathus chrysanthemi	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Psyllioides chrysocephala	Chrysomelidae	Coleoptera	common
Rhyzobius litura	Coccinellidae	Coleoptera	common
Stenotus binotatus	Miridae	Hemiptera	common
Tandonia budapestensis	Milacidae	Pulmonata	common
Tetragnatha montana	Tetragnathidae	Araneae	common
Tibellus oblongus	Philodromidae	Araneae	common
Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata	Coccinellidae	Coleoptera	common
Xylocleptes bispinus	Curculionidae	Coleoptera	local
Xysticus cristatus	Thomisidae	Araneae	common

Notable Species

Survey Summary

Ladies Walk Down South 28/05/2014

Taxon Name	Common Name	Status
Briza media	Quaking-grass	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened
Plantago media	Hoary Plantain	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened

Site Details

Grid Reference : SU37304490
File Reference : 34-0070
Total Area : 3 ha
District : Andover (unparished)
Test Valley
Vice-County : 12, North Hampshire

Survey Details

Survey Type : Phase II
Survey Date : 28/05/2014
Survey Time on Site : 4 (hrs)
Data Owned By : Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership
Data Re[illegible]ed By : Ian [illegible]hs, HBIC

Site Su[illegible]mary

Ladies W[illegible] Down is a gently sl[illegible]g downl[illegible]site, located on t[illegible]orth facing [illegible]alky ridg[illegible]t marks the south-eastern [illegible] of central Andover.

The dow[illegible]d has in the past b[illegible]abandon[illegible]nd has remain[illegible]managed [illegible]ome tim[illegible]oday, although parts are still u[illegible]naged and are still[illegible]e overgr[illegible] and rank, the ce[illegible]section [illegible]e main b[illegible] of downland has success[illegible]re-established a ch[illegible]rasslan[illegible]ard, after the re-in[illegible]uction of[illegible]annual h[illegible]t.

Three sp[illegible]s, recorded during [illegible]survey, r[illegible]have a range wh[illegible] restricte[illegible]ough to qu[illegible]hem as being notable [illegible]ies, on the basis th[illegible]ey are N[illegible] Threaten[illegible]picked out in b[illegible] these in[illegible] Quaking-grass, pi[illegible]d above

Site Designations

Designation
Private owner
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Features

Type	Description
Features	Ant Hills
Features	Scrub Invasion
Geology	Upper Chalk
Invasive Species	Sycamore
Management	Cut For Hay
Usage	Amenity
Usage	Dog Walking
Usage	Managed For Wildlife
Usage	Public Access

Priority Habitats

Priority Habitats	Area
Lowland calcareous grassland	

Survey Details

Ladies Walk Down South
28/05/2014

Habitats Recorded

Priority Habitats	Area
Lowland calcareous grassland	

National Vegetation Classifications	Area
OV24, Urtica dioica-Galium aparine community	45 %
CG6, Avenula pubescens grassland	25 %
W21, Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix scrub	10 %
MG1, Arrhenatherum elatius grassland	7 %
MG12, Festuca arundinacea grassland	7 %
CG3, Bromus erectus grassland	5 %

Species Recorded

Taxon Name	Common Name	Frequency
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	R/O
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	R
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	R/O
Agrostis [illegible]	[illegible]	R/O
Alopecurus pratensis	[illegible]	R/O
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	FLD
* *Aquilegia vulgaris*	Columbine	R
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	OLA
Bellis perennis	Daisy	[illegible]
# *Briza media*	[illegible]	[illegible]
~ *Bromopsis erecta*	Upright Brome	R/O
Bromus hordeaceus	Lesser Soft-Brome	O
Bromus sterilis	Barren Brome	OLA
~ *Carex flacca*	Glaucous Sedge	R
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	R
~ *Centaurea scabiosa*	Greater Knapweed	R
~ *Cirsium acaule*	Dwarf Thistle	R
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	R/O
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	R
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	OLA
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	OLF
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard	R
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	O
Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue	OLA
~ *Festuca ovina*	Sheep's-fescue	R
Festuca pratensis	Meadow Fescue	R/O
~ *Festuca rubra*	Red Fescue	FLA
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	O
Galium aparine	Cleavers	FLA
Galium mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw	FLA
~ *Galium verum*	Lady's Bedstraw	OLF
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	R
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	R
~ *Helictotrichon pubescens*	Downy Oat-grass	FLA
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	O

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Frequency	Notable
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	R	
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	O	
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	R	
Juglans regia	Walnut	R	
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	R/O	Y
Lamium album	White Dead-nettle	O	
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	O	
~*Leontodon hispidus*	Rough Hawkbit	OLA	
~*Leucanthemum vulgare*	Oxeye Daisy	R/O	
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	R	
~*Lotus corniculatus*	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	R/O	
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	O	
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	R/O	
~*Plantago lanceolata*	Ribwort Plantain	OLF	
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	R/O	
Plantago media	Hoary Plantain	R	Y
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	R	
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	FLA	
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass	O	
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil	R	
# *Primul is*			
~*Prunel lgaris*	Selfheal		
Prunus hosa	Blackthorn	OLF	
Ranun s acris	Meadow Butt p	OLF	
~*Ranun bulbosus*	Bulbous R sup	F	
Ranun	rcup	R	
Rosa a	Dog-rose	R/O	
Rubus cosus agg.	Bramble	OLF	
Rumex tosa	Common Sorre	O	
Rumex usifolius	Broad-leaved		
~*Sangu a minor*			
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	R	
Taraxacum	Dandelion Agg.	R	
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	O	
Trifolium repens	White Clover	R/O	
Ulmus procera	English Elm	R/O	
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	OLA	
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell	R/O	
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	R	
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	OLF	

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Present	Notable
Sylvia communis	Whitethroat	P	

Species Summary

	Total no. of species :	**76**
	No. of woodland species :	**32**
*	**No. of AWVP indicators :**	**1**
#	**No. of acid/neutral grassland indicators :**	**2**
~	**No. of chalk grassland indicators :**	**17**

Notes

Habitat

BAP Priority: Habitats identified as the highest priority for conservation action
NVC: A system of classifying natural habitat communities according to species
Phase 1: A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping broad wildlife habitats inclu
Peterken: A stand type classification that describes woodlands by

Indicators

* Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) - species most strongly associated with ancient woodla components of botanically rich ancient woodland
Acid/neutral grassland indicators - species which seldom occur outside of unimproved acid/neutral g of a long period of uninterrupted grassland
~ Chalk grassland indicators - species characteristic of unimproved chalk downland or have a strong

Species

Frequency: D=dominant A=abundant F=frequent O=occasional R=rare
Frequencies within brackets ( ) indicate non-native

Habitat and Species designations and

Habitat designations/categories and species legislation/statuses are correct at the time the report and may not necessarily reflect those applicable either at the time of survey or later than the

HBIC

#

Ladies Walk Down South
28th May 2015

The Nationally Near Threatened Quaking-grass (*Briza media*) Ladies Walk Down (2).

Ian Ralphs, Field Ecologist, HBIC.

Hbic
Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

General description and management.

Ladies Walk Down South is a gently sloping downland site, located on the north facing chalky ridge that marks the south-eastern edge of central Andover.

The downland has in the past been abandoned and has remained unmanaged for some time. Today, although parts are still unmanaged and are still quite overgrown and rank, the central section of the main block of downland has successfully re-established a chalk grassland sward, after the re-introduction of an annual hay cut.

Three species, recorded during the survey, now have a range which is restricted enough to qualify them as being notable species, on the basis that they are Nationally (England) Near Threatened (picked out in **bold type** in the report) these include **Quaking-grass**, pictured above.

Main block of [CG6]: *Helictotrichon (Avenula) pubescens* grassland. (2).

Target notes.

(1). [OV24]: *Urtica dioica - Galium aparine* community.

Tall and ruderal herb dominated margins. Unmanaged. (IHS:- OT3, SC2, GM4).

Shrub layer :-	Occasional to locally frequent Blackthorn and Bramble.
Flora :-	Often dense and rank cover of Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Hogweed, Nettle, Cock's-foot, False Oat-grass, Hogweed, Soft Brome and Tall Fescue.
*Variant 1 :-	More transitional (but still quite rank) [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, locally.

(2). [CG6]: *Helictotrichon (Avenula) pubescens* grassland.

Gently sloping chalk downland, recovering from abandonment. Mown annually for hay. (IHS:- GC11, GM22).

Flora :-	Red Fescue, Downy Oat-grass, Yorkshire-fog, Smooth Meadow-grass, **Quaking-grass**, Sheep's-fescue, Upright Brome, Tall Fescue and False Oat-grass. With Field Bindweed, Ribwort Plantain, **Hoary Plantain**, Hedge Bedstraw, Ladies Bedstraw, Cowslip, Bulbous

	Buttercup, Ox-eye Daisy, Salad Burnet, Rough Hawkbit, Red Clover, Agrimony, Sorrel, Black Medick, **Field Scabious**, Greater Knapweed and Glaucous Sedge.
*Variant 1 :-	More [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, locally.

(3). [CG3]: *Bromopsis (Bromus) erectus* grassland.

(IHS:- GC11, GM22).

Flora :-	Mainly as for (2) above but with Upright Brome conspicuous and locally abundant.

(4). [OV24]: *Urtica dioica - Galium aparine* community.

Unmanaged. Similar to (1) although overwhelmingly dominated by Cow Parsley. (IHS:- OT3, SC2, GM4).

Cow Parsley dominated (4).

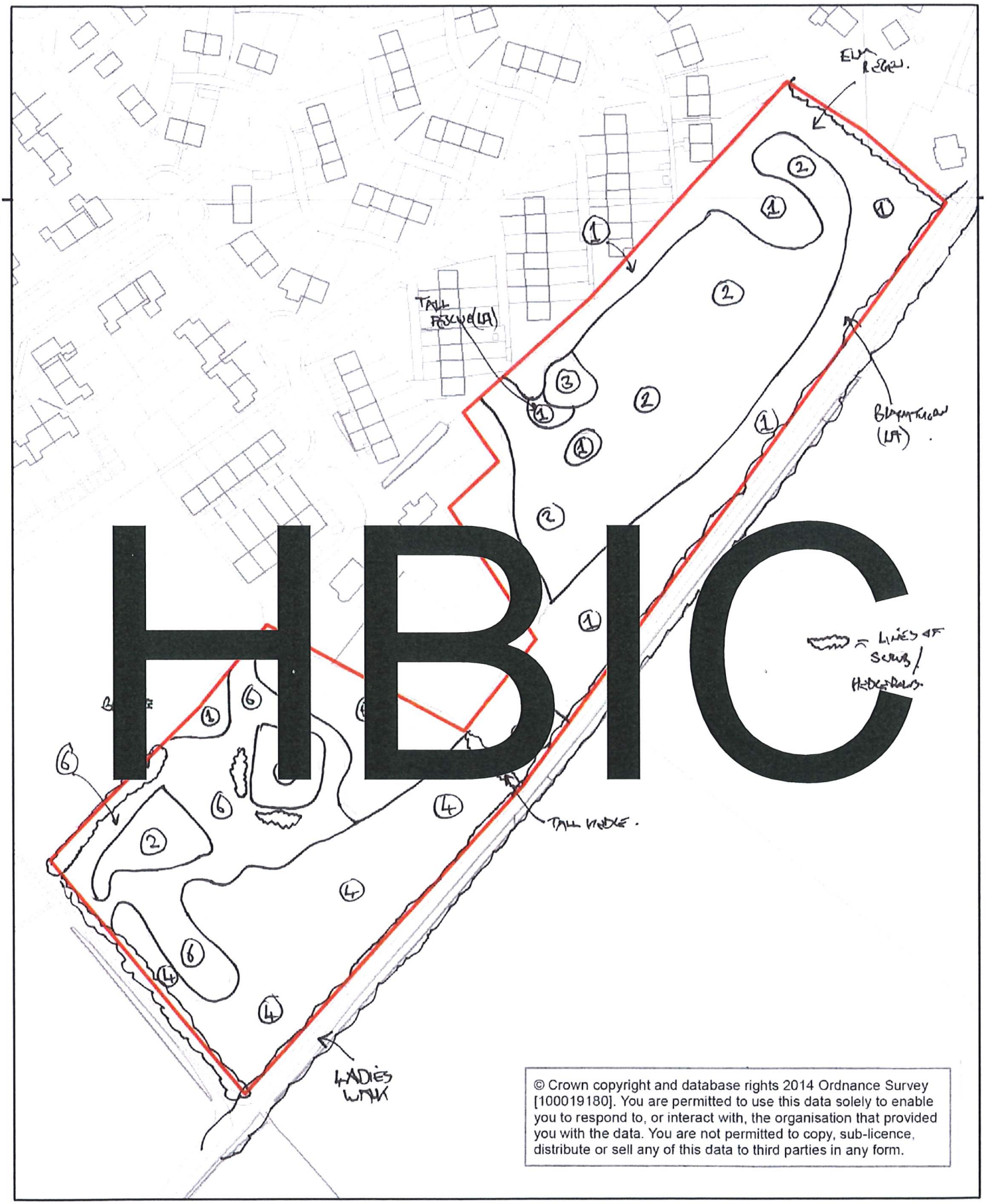
(5). [W21]: *Crataegus monogyna - Hedera helix* scrub.

Structurally diverse calcareous scrub. Not looked at in detail. (IHS:- WB2, WF11, WM7).

(6). Transitional sward.

Largely unmanaged and tending to be quite overgrown and rank, intermediate between [MG12]: *Festuca arundinacea* grassland, and [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland. Some evidence of rotational scrub control. (IHS:- GI0, SC2, GM4).

Shrub layer :-	Moderate to open Hawthorn, with occasional Sycamore.
Flora :-	Smooth Meadow-grass, Red Fescue, Tall Fescue, False Oat-grass and Cock's-foot.



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

HBIC SURVEY PROGRAM 2014
Ladies Walk Down SOUTH
SU373044 90

Legend
Sites for Survey (2014)

Scale at A4: 1:1,750

HBIC

HBIC Survey Programme 2014:
Ladies Walk Down South
SU37304490

Date Generated: 13/08/2015

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

out Hampshire's wildlife
rmation Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife groups.

Survey Summary

Allotment Gardens Down
28/05/2014

Site Details

Grid Reference : SU37104470
File Reference : 34-0067
Total Area : 1.1 ha
District : Andover (unparished)
Test Valley
Vice-County : 12, North Hampshire

Survey Details

Survey Type : Phase II
Survey Date : 28/05/2014
Survey Time on Site : 3.5 (hrs)
Data Owned By : Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership
Data Re[illegible]ded By : Ian [illegible]hs, HBIC

Site Su[illegible]mary

Allotmen[illegible]rdens Down is a sm[illegible]block of [illegible] chalk grassland [illegible]uated on a [illegible]ly steep [illegible]ping and north facing chalk do[illegible]n the southern edg[illegible] Andove[illegible]n.

The site [illegible]rgely unmanaged, a[illegible] from oc[illegible]onal scrub rem[illegible] and for th[illegible]st part [illegible]ry heavily overgrown and ofte[illegible]te scrubbed over. H[illegible]ever, the [illegible]tral (mid-slope) s[illegible]n retains [illegible]ood bloc[illegible] relict chalk grassland habitat, [illegible]n in part, has been [illegible]red of sc[illegible]

Site De[illegible]nations

Designation
Public Access

Site Features

Type	Description
Features	Ant Hills
Features	Scrub Invasion
Geology	Upper Chalk
Management	Scrub Clearance
Management	Unmanaged
Usage	Dog Walking
Usage	Managed For Wildlife
Usage	Public Access

Priority Habitats

Priority Habitats	Area
Lowland calcareous grassland	25 %

Notable Species

Taxon Name	Common Name	Status
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened

Survey Details

Allotment Gardens Down
28/05/2014

Habitats Recorded

Priority Habitats	Area
Lowland calcareous grassland	25 %

National Vegetation Classifications	Area
MG1, Arrhenatherum elatius grassland	45 %
CG6, Avenula pubescens grassland	30 %
OV24, Urtica dioica-Galium aparine community	20 %
W21, Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix scrub	5 %

Species Recorded

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Frequency	Notable
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	OLA	
Achille lefolium			
Agrimo eupatoria	Agrimony	LF	
Alliaria olata	Garlic Mustar	R/O	
Anthris sylvestris	Cow Parsley	OLF	
Arrhen	s	FLA	
Arum		R	
Avena	Wild-oat	R	
Bellis nis	Daisy	R/O	
Brachy um sylvaticum	False-brome	R/O	
~*Bromo erecta*	Upright Bro		
Bromu rdeaceus	ome		
Bromus sterilis	Barren Brome	OLF	
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	R	
~*Carex flacca*	Glaucous Sedge	O	
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	R	
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	O	
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	O	
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	FLA	
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	R/O	
Corylus avellana	Hazel	R/O	
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	OLF	
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard	R	
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	O	
Daucus carota	Carrot	OLA	
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern	R	
Epilobium	Willowherb	R	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	R	
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb	R	
~*Festuca rubra*	Red Fescue	FLA	
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	F	
Galium aparine	Cleavers	OLA	
Galium mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw	OLA	
~*Galium verum*	Lady's Bedstraw	O	
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	O	
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	R/O	

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Frequency	Notable
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	R/O	
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy	R/O	
Hedera helix	Ivy	OLF	
~*Helictotrichon pubescens*	Downy Oat-grass	OLF	
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	OLF	
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	R/O	
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	F	
Juglans regia	Walnut	R	
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	OLF	Y
Lamium album	White Dead-nettle	R/O	
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort	R/O	
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	OLF	
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild Privet	R/O	
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	O	
~*Lotus corniculatus*	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	R/O	
Malus	Apple	R	
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not	R/O	
~*Plantago lanceolata*	Ribwort Plantain	O	
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	R	
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	FLA	
Poa tri	-grass		
Potent nserina	Silverweed		
Prunus osa	Blackthorn	R/O	
Ranun s acris	Meadow Butt p	R/O	
~*Ranun bulbosus*	Bulbous B up	O	
Ranun	rcup	R	
Resed eola	Weld	R/O	
Rhamn athartica	Buckthorn	R/O	
Rosa a	Dog-rose	OLF	
Rubus cosus agg.	Bramble	LA	
Rumex usifolius	ock		
Sambucus nigra	Elder	R/O	
~*Sanguisorba minor*	Salad Burnet	OLF	
#*Senecio erucifolius*	Hoary Ragwort	O	
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	R/O	
Silene dioica	Red Campion	R	
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet	R	
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	R	
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	R	
Taraxacum	Dandelion Agg.	O	
Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard	R/O	
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	R	
Trifolium repens	White Clover	R	
Triticum aestivum	Bread Wheat	R	
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	O	
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell	O	
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	R	
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	O	
~*Viola hirta*	Hairy Violet	R/O	

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Present	Notable
Prunella modularis	Dunnock	P	
Sylvia communis	Whitethroat	P	

Species Summary

	Total no. of species :	87
	No. of woodland species :	43
*	No. of AWVP indicators :	0
#	No. of acid/neutral grassland indicators :	1
~	No. of chalk grassland indicators :	10

Notes

Habitat

RAP Priority: Habitats identified as the highest priority for conservation action
NVC: A system of classifying natural habitat communities according to species
Phase 1: A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping broad wildlife habitats inclu
Peterken: A stand type classification that describes woodlands by

Indicators

* Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) - species most strongly associated with ancient woodla components of botanically rich ancient woodland
Acid/neutral grassland indicators - species which seldom occur outside of unimproved acid/neutral g of a long period of uninterrupted grassland
~ Chalk grassland indicators - species characteristic of unimproved chalk downland or have a strong

Species

Frequency: D=dominant A=abu t O=occ nal R=ra
Frequencies within brackets ( ) indicate non-na

Habitat and Species designations and

Habitat designations/categories and species legislation/status are correct at the time the report and reflect either at the time of survey or later than the

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Allotment Gardens Down
28th May 2014

Allotment Gardens Down, community (2) the relic chalk grassland.

Ian Ralphs, Field Ecologist, HBIC.

sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

Hbic
Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

General description and management.

Allotment Gardens Down is a small block of relict chalk grassland, situated on a fairly steeply sloping and north facing chalk down on the southern edge of Andover town.

The site is largely unmanaged, apart from occasional scrub removal, and for the most part is very heavily overgrown and often quite scrubbed over. However, the central (mid-slope) section retains a good block of relict chalk grassland habitat, which in part, has been cleared of scrub.

The more overgrown and scrubby south-western corner of the Down (1).

Target notes.

1). [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland.

ward in excess of 1 metre, with scrub thickening up locally. (IHS:- GNZ, TS11, SC2, GM4).

Canopy :-	Occasional young pole stage Ash and Walnut, with Hawthorn, Sycamore, Hazel, Dog Rose, Buckthorn, Elder, Privet and Dogwood. 1-10 (15) metres, 10%-50%.
lora :-	Dense and quite rank False Oat-grass, Cow Parsley, Cock's-foot, Bramble, Cleavers, Smooth Sow-thistle, Rough Meadow-grass, Yorkshire-fog, Hogweed and Sterile Brome.
Variant 1 :-	More [OV24]: *Urtica dioica - Galium aparine* community, locally
Variant 2 :-	Becoming more transitional Bramble dominated [W21]: *Crataegus monogyna - Hedera helix* scrub, locally.

2). [CG6]: *Helictotrichon (Avenula) pubescens* grassland.

ecoming more overgrown [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, locally. Good variety of herbs. (IHS:- C11, TS11, SC2, GM4).

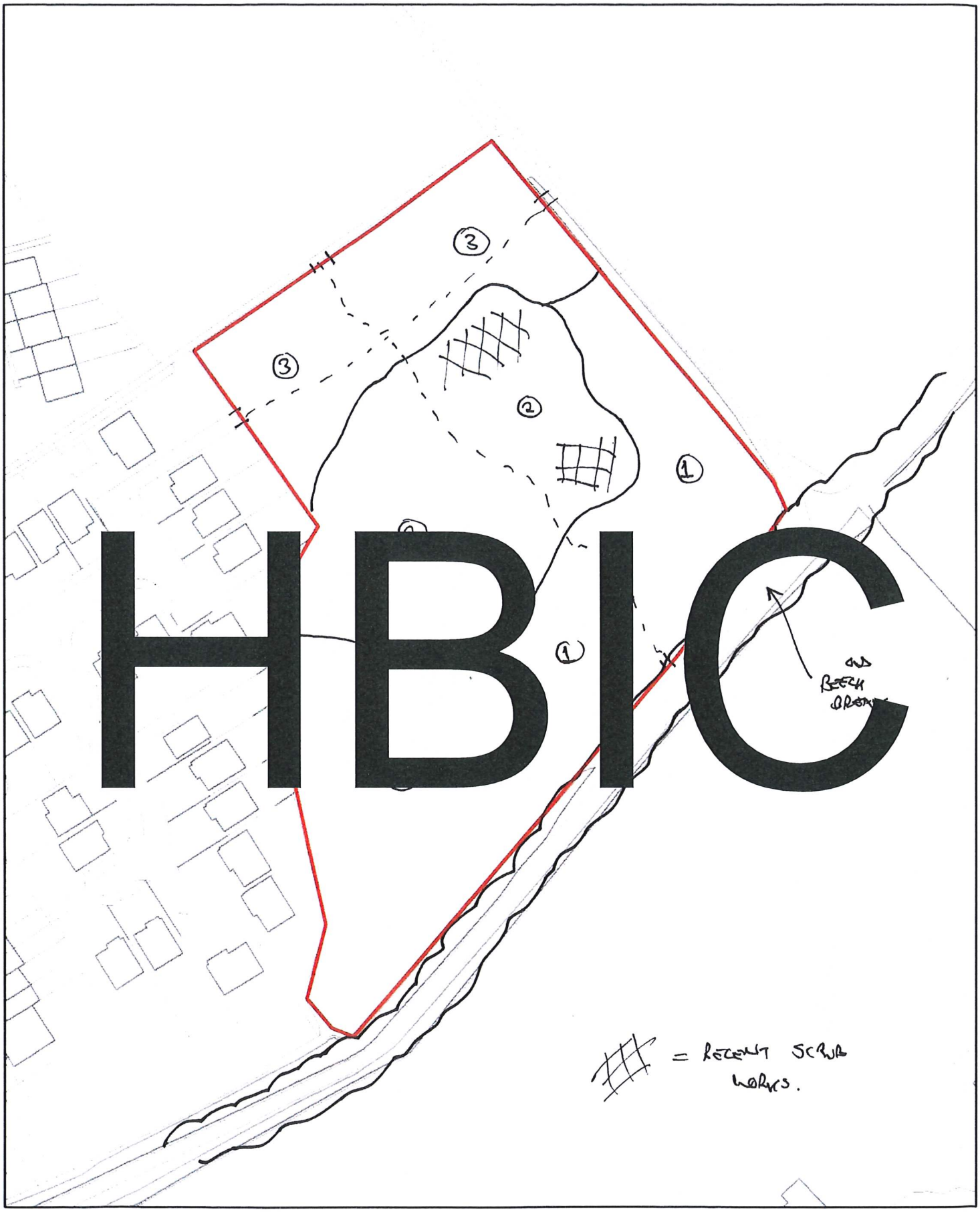
Canopy :-	As for (1) with some recent scrub clearance.

Flora :-	Red Fescue, Downy Oat-grass, False Oat-grass, Cock's-foot, Glaucous Sedge, Upright Brome, Hedge Bedstraw, Common Vetchling, Hoary Ragwort, Salad Burnet, Field Scabious, Ladies Bedstraw, Bulbous Buttercup, Ribwort Plantain, Perforate St .John's-wort, Hairy Violet and Wild Carrot.

(3). [OV24]: *Urtica dioica - Galium aparine* community,

Bottom of the slope. A more overgrown version of (1) dominated by ruderal herbs. (IHS:- OT3, SC2, GM4).

Allotment Gardens Down, community (2) the relic chalk grassland (view west).



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

HBIC Program Survey 2014
Allotment Gardens Down
SU37104470

Legend
Sites for Survey (2014)

Scale at A4: 1:1,000

Hbic
Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

HBIC Survey Programme 2014:
Allotment Gardens Down
SU37104470

Ladies Walk Downs Annual Butterfly Survey Report 2022

A big thank you

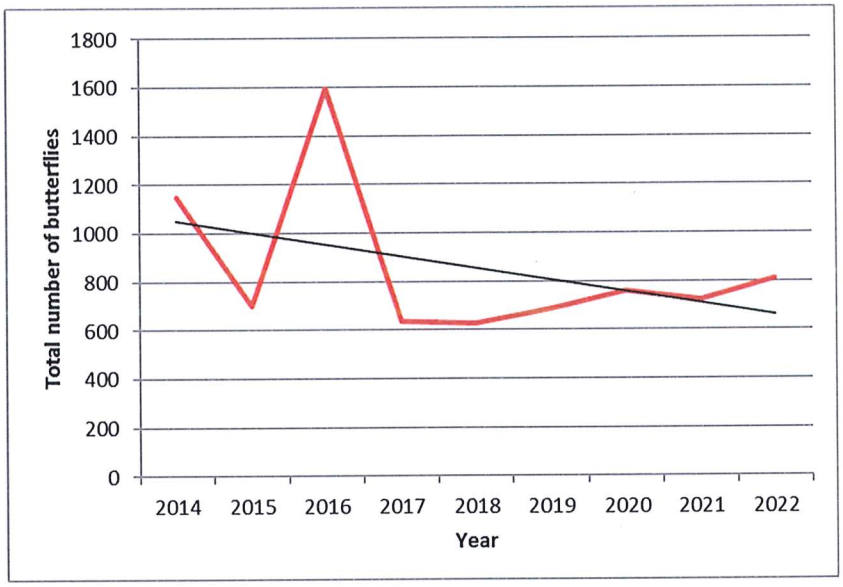
First off, I would like to thank everybody who participated in this years' butterfly surveys. Test Valley Borough Council are very grateful to have amazing volunteers who conduct surveys to give us such a wide range of results. Thank you all for collecting such valuable data.

Site introduction

The Ladies Walk butterfly survey has been carried out since 2012 and in that time we have seen a fluctuation in invertebrate numbers with an overall decline in recent years. There has been a total of 31 species recorded on this site over the years since we began surveying in 2012.

Results

This year saw 23 surveys with a total of 23 species and 810 individuals recorded. This gave us an average of 35.2 individuals recorded per visit. This result is a positive increase from last year where 722 individuals where recorded. As only 23 surveys where completed at Ladies Walk this year it means that although the data is interesting it may prevent accurate conclusions from being drawn as it did not meet the requirements of 24 surveys.



The highest butterfly count was on the week commencing 8th July where we saw 257 butterflies recorded. This is a decrease from last year's highest butterfly count of 321 on the week of the 22nd July. The most common butterfly recorded this year was the Meadow Brown with a total of 270 individuals. In 2022 we have seen some species on the increase such as the Ringlet, Marbled White and small Skipper where we saw vast increases on all 3 species.

	Ringlet	Marbled white	Small skipper
2021	20	57	3
2022	116	121	39

A total list of all species recorded can be found below with the five most common highlighted in **bold**.

Small Skipper	Essex Skipper	Large Skipper	Brimstone
Large White	Small White	Green-veined White	Small Copper
Brown Argus	Common Blue	Holly Blue	Red Admiral
Small Tortoiseshell	Peacock	Comma	Speckled Wood
Marbled White	**Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown**	**Meadow Brown**	Small Heath
Ringlet			

Conclusion

Overall there was an increase in the butterfly populations at Ladies Walk in comparison to 2021. With a range of factors to include such as warmer weather conditions and the completion of more surveys this year. However, when examining the trends over the past 10 years there is still lower numbers than seen previously at Ladies walk.

2021 UKBMS Annual Report can now be found on their website