



**A REVIEW OF LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES
AND NI 197 (IMPROVED LOCAL
BIODIVERSITY) IN THE BOROUGH
OF HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX**

Report for

Hastings Borough Council

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Applied Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Hastings Borough Council (HBC) in September 2008 to undertake a review of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in the Borough. The purpose of this review is to inform the emerging Local Development Framework and to ensure that the Council discharges its duties under various legislative instruments and policy directives. It also provides an opportunity for LWSs to be reviewed against the Government's National Performance Indicator (NI) 197 Improved Local Biodiversity.

The following report outlines the review methods and provides a summary of the assessments findings. Detailed results of the individual site assessments and site maps are provided in the Appendices and also as an Access database and Geographic Information System (GIS) layer.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

PPS9 provides a statement of national planning policy for biodiversity and geological conservation in England. It recognises that Local [Wildlife] Sites have a fundamental role to play in helping to meet overall national biodiversity targets, contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the community and in supporting research and education. Local Development Frameworks should identify all local nature conservation areas on the Proposals Map.

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

Under Section 74 of the CROW Act 2000, every minister and Government department has a duty to have regard to the purpose of the conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of its functions. They also have a duty to take, or promote the taking by others, of steps to further the conservation of the habitats and species which together are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Strategy for England

This is the principal means by which the Government in England will discharge the section 74 duties referred to above, and this includes the promotion of a more



consistent approach to the operation of the Local [Wildlife] Sites system.

Biodiversity Action Plans

In most areas, local biodiversity partnerships have identified locally important species and habitats, along with actions needed to maintain and enhance them, taking account of priorities identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions (DETR) circular on the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (04/01) makes it clear that Local [Wildlife] Sites are important components of Local BAPs.

Of relevance to the current assessment are the Sussex BAP which was published in 1997 and lists a total of 23 habitats and 21 species, and the Hastings BAP which was published in 2006 and lists 10 UK BAP habitats that occur in the Borough.

Local Development Framework

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Hastings Borough Council will be preparing a 'Local Development Framework' (LDF) to replace the existing Local Plan by 2011. This document will provide an overall framework for development in the Borough up to 2026.

1.3 GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Local Wildlife Sites Guidance

In 2006 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published *Local Sites: Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management* which provided national guidance relating to Local Site's in England¹. This guidance is intended to '*promote more transparent and consistent approaches in the operation of Local Sites systems across the country, embracing regional and local diversity and variation within the natural environment*'.

According to the guidance, the network of Local [Wildlife] Sites should provide a 'comprehensive', rather than representative, suite of sites. This is in contrast to the purpose of statutory designations whose function is to form a 'representative' suite of sites. Local Wildlife Sites have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets, whilst also representing local character and distinctiveness. They complement other site networks, and may provide important

¹ Local Site can be subdivided into 'Local Wildlife Site' or 'Local Geological Site'.



connecting and/or buffering functions. Although Local Wildlife Sites will contain features of substantive nature conservation value, they may provide other benefits and have an important role in the local community.

The Guidance endorses the use of Ratcliffe's Criteria², which is a widely adopted method used to evaluate biological sites and their nature conservation interest. It consists of a number of evaluation criteria, as follows:

- Size or Extent;
- Diversity;
- Naturalness;
- Rare or Exceptional feature;
- Fragility;
- Typicalness;
- Recorded history and cultural associations;
- Connectivity within the landscape;
- Value for appreciation of nature;
- Value for learning.

This approach was set out in the Nature Conservation Review in 1977 and was used to identify a series of nationally important sites. Although Ratcliffe's criteria provide an appropriate means of evaluating Local Wildlife Sites, the Guidance identifies that some adjustment is likely to be required for their application at a local scale.

Where appropriate, the Guidance recommends that measurable thresholds for the criteria should be developed, but recognises that in many instances professional judgement will be required. Once the criteria have been agreed, potential sites can be evaluated against them and all sites that possess substantive nature conservation interest selected.

National Performance Indicator (NI) 197 - Improved Local Biodiversity

Current guidance is provided by Defra (December, 2008) *Defra Guidance on the Improved Local Biodiversity Indicator (NI 197)*. The aim of NI 197 is to measure the performance of Local Authorities in this respect by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management of Local [Wildlife] Sites within a specified

² Ratcliffe, D. A (ed.) (1977) *A nature conservation review*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.



recording period. The performance is calculated as a proportion of all sites where positive conservation management has taken place up to five years prior to the reporting date. Positive conservation management means maintaining, restoring or enhancing biodiversity and this should be assessed through one or more of the following:

- **Site management plan** - a plan has been written and has been/is being implemented;
- **Management schemes** - the site is being managed in accordance with an environmental management scheme such as Environmental Stewardship, Countryside Stewardship, Woodland Grant Scheme;
- **Relevant Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** - management activity carried out in accordance with a Biodiversity Action Plan (including HAP, SAP, LBAP); and
- **Management advice and guidance** - advice on conservation management has been provided by the Local Sites Partnership and has been/is being acted upon.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW

Identification of Candidate Sites

A total of 33 candidate sites were indentified by HBC and have been included within the current assessment (**Figure 1**). Of these sites, 29 (**H1- H29**) are current Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and were included in the original 1998 LWS Inventory³. The original LWS's were previously referred to as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). East Hill was also listed as a LWS in the 1998 Inventory, but for the purposes of the current assessment East Hill now forms part of Hastings Country Park (Local Nature Reserve), which is a new candidate LWS (**H32**). The three other candidate sites are not currently LWSs, but possess other statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designation(s). These are **H30** Flisham Reedbed, **H31** Marline Valley and **H33** St Helens Woods.

Selection of Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria are based on the use of Ratcliffe's criteria, as highlighted previously in Section 1.3. These have been fine-tuned by AEL in consultation with HBC for the purposes of this study. Further definition of the criteria used in the current assessment is provided is **Table 1**.

Database Design

A Microsoft Access database has been designed to store all information collected during the assessment. The database consists of a number of forms that correspond to the individual assessment criteria, and has been designed to allow new information to be added as it becomes available (e.g. for additional sites), and by non-technical users. It allows information to be retrieved flexibly using varying criteria, and enables formal reports and maps to be produced in hard copy or Adobe .pdf formats.

Review of Existing Data

Full Ordnance Survey, MasterMap and aerial photograph coverage, together with Geographic Information System (GIS) layers of all statutory and non-statutory

³ Hastings Borough Council (April, 1998) *Hastings Urban Nature Conservation Strategy 1996*. Previous called Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

Hastings Local Sites Register

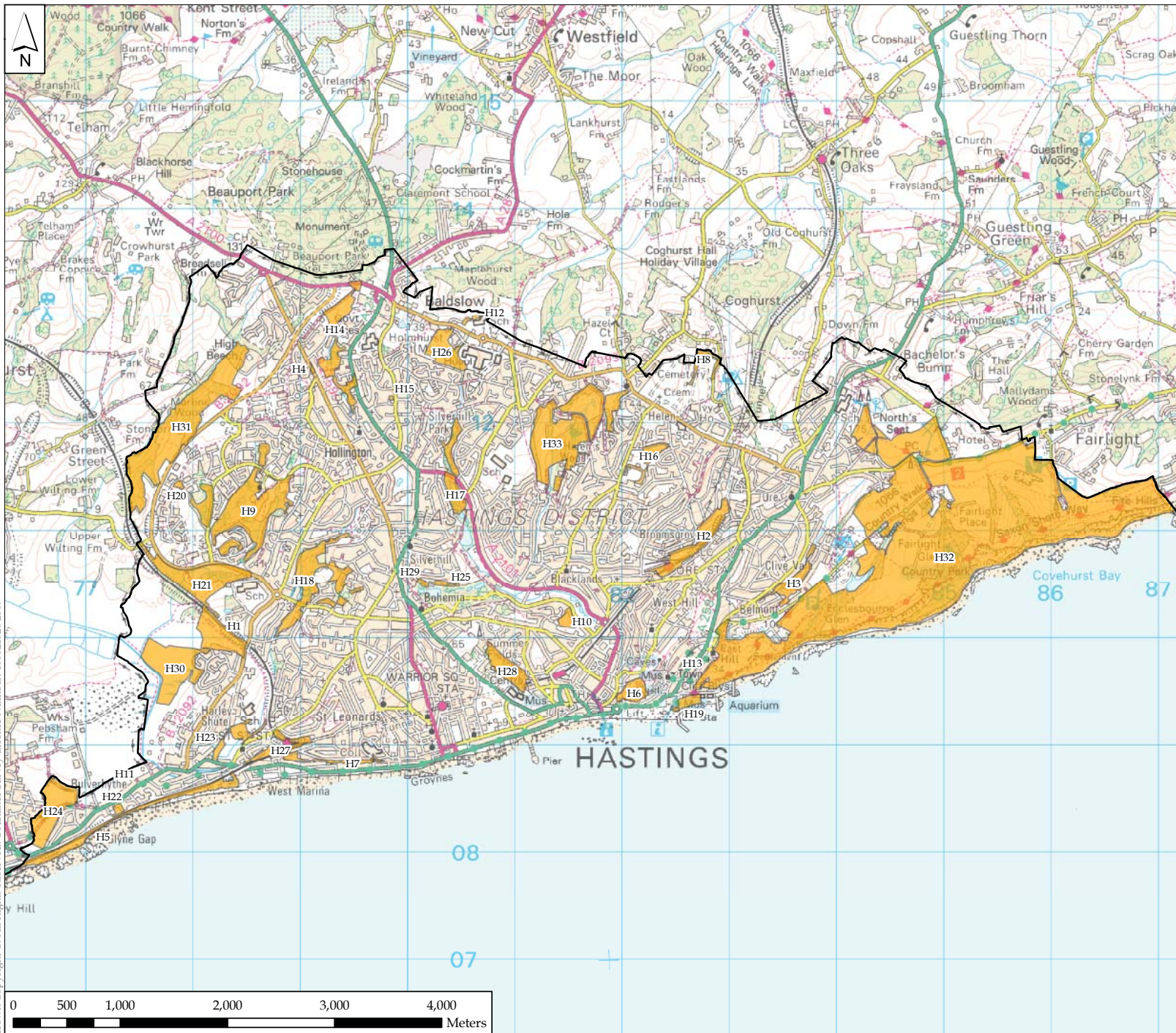
Figure 1

Key:

— Borough boundary

Local Site

Site ref	Site name
H1	Old Filsham Golf Course
H2	Broomgrove
H3	Clive Vale
H4	Augustus Way Pond
H5	Bulverhythe Shingle Beach and Cliffs
H6	Castle Hill
H7	Caves Road Cliffs
H8	Hastings Cemetery
H9	Church wood
H10	Lower Cornwallis Allotments
H11	Gorringe Stream
H12	Helenswood Meadows and Ponds
H13	High Street and All Saints Wall
H14	Hollington Valley
H15	Ledsham Close
H16	Ochiltree Woods
H17	Old Roar Ghyll
H18	Ponds Wood
H19	Rock A Nore Shingle Beach
H20	Wainwright Close
H21	Wishing Tree
H22	Water Tower
H23	South Saxons
H24	Glyne Gap
H25	Shornden Meadow
H26	Holmhurst St Mary
H27	West St Leonards Railway Embankments
H28	Summerfields Woods
H29	Shornden Woodland
H30	Filsham Reed Beds
H31	Marline Valley Woods
H32	Hastings Country Park
H33	St Helens Woods



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Date of survey:
September & October 2008

Job reference no:
Local Sites Register

Status:
Final

Drawn by:
LJB

Checked by:
RH





wildlife sites within the Borough was provided by HBC. Species data for the Borough was provided by Sussex Biological Records Centre (SBRC).

Review of 1998 and 2008 GIS format Site Boundaries

An initial comparison of the LWS boundaries shown by the 1998 Inventory and the 2008 GIS boundaries was undertaken. This comparison indicated that a number of significant non-development related boundary changes had occurred over this period. Other minor differences also existed between site areas given in the 1998 Inventory and those shown on the 2008 GIS layer, but these are likely to be associated with minor inaccuracies in the 1998 area measurements and are not related to significant boundary changes. The current assessment uses the site areas measured from the 2008 GIS layer as these are considered to be most accurate. The significant boundary changes since 1998 can be summarised as:

1. **H12 Gorrington Stream** - The 2008 GIS boundary excludes the former designated western part of the ditch. The size of the designated area has reduced from 1.05ha to 0.29ha.
2. **H25 Glyne Gap** - The size of the site given in the 1998 Inventory of 5.55ha was incorrect; the site at this time was around 16.9ha. In addition, the 2008 GIS data shows a change to the original 1998 boundary has occurred, and the boundary now excludes a former designated area of consisting of mosaics of reed, damp grass and scrub to the north west of site. The size of the designated area has reduced from 16.9ha to 13.66ha.

Review of Species Data

The following datasets were provided by SBRC, and have been used in the current assessment:

- Sussex BAP species inventory (mostly 1978 - 2007);
- Protected species inventory (mostly 1981-2007);
- Sussex rare species inventory (mostly 1991-2006);
- Birds of conservation concern (Amber and Red list species) (1990-2005).

To enable lists of notable species to be compiled for each candidate site, the species



records were provided in GIS format. However, locations of species records are mostly recorded according to the national grid (rather than site level) and often at different levels of exactness (i.e. 1x1km, 2x2km etc). For the purposes of this assessment all species records that fall within the grid square coincident with a sites boundary have been assigned to the site. Therefore it is possible that some species listed for a site do not occur within it.

Field Survey

Field survey of all sites was undertaken by an experienced AEL ecologist (Robert Hutchinson MIEEM) over the period 24 September to 7 October 2008. Access was gained to all 33 sites, although physical access was often restricted due to terrain and/or dense impenetrable vegetation. In such situations, suitable vantage points were targeted and binoculars used as necessary. The time spent at each site varied according to the sites' size and complexity, and ranged from 0.5 hours to 8 hours.

The walkover survey focused on recording attributes not obtainable from desk-top and data review that were considered necessary to inform the site assessment, including:

- Key Phase 1 Habitat types and an estimation of their % coverage;
- Habitat loss due to recent development;
- The presence of natural processes (e.g. flooding, erosion) and natural features (e.g. ghyll streams, anthills);
- Evidence of excessive human use (e.g. disturbance, dog-fouling);
- Evidence of invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed;
- Evidence of opportunities for the appreciation of nature, such as open public access and interpretation boards;
- Evidence of current management and potential management issues.

In addition, brief notes on the habitats present, their character and dominant species were made, along with representative digital photographs. The 1998 Inventory



citation⁴ was also checked for its accuracy.

Data Entry

Access Database

All relevant information collected during the desk-top assessment and field survey has been entered into an Access database. A summary of the individual criteria which each site is considered to qualify is provided in the site description box.

GIS Layer

Habitat loss due to recent development was recorded by AEL on a number of sites during the field survey. Site boundaries have been amended accordingly and a new GIS layer has been created to record these changes. The extent of habitat loss at each of the effected sites, and the proposed new site areas have been calculated and are provided in the database.

Evaluation

Evaluation of Individual Criteria

A summary of the assessment methods and evaluation rationale for each criterion is provided in **Table 1**.

All sites have been assessed against each assessment criteria. Where appropriate, qualification thresholds for individual criteria have been suggested for the purpose of this review, and include the following:

- **Size** - sites greater than 10ha qualify under this criterion, sites below 10ha do not;
- **Habitat diversity** – sites supporting at least five habitat types qualify under this criterion;
- **Rare features** – sites that support at least five rare habitat and/or five rare species qualify under this criterion;
- **Typicalness** – sites that support at least two typical habitat types qualify under this criterion;
- **Connectivity** – sites with at least 10ha of wildlife designated land within and

⁴ Hastings Borough Council (April, 1998) *Hastings Urban Nature Conservation Strategy 1996*. Previous called Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.



around 500m of the site qualify under this criterion;

- **Value for learning** – sites within 500m of a school qualify under this criterion.

Assessment of naturalness, fragility, and appreciation criteria has been based solely on professional judgement.

A request for information relating to historic and cultural information was made to the Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG). No information has been provided to date, but provision for this information to be added to the Access database has been provided.

Evaluation of Candidate Sites

For the purposes of the current assessment, sites that qualify with four or more of the 11 assessment criteria are considered to represent **High Value** sites that warrant LWS selection. Sites which qualify with three or fewer criteria are considered **Low Value** sites and could be considered for de-selection.



Table 1: Summary of selection criteria, assessment methods and evaluation rationale

Criterion	Assessment method	Evaluation rationale
Size or Extent	<p>The size (ha) of each site was calculated using GIS software based on the GIS layer provided to AEL by HBC.</p> <p>Habitat loss due to development was recorded in the field and verified using aerial photographs. Areas of habitat loss have been digitised using GIS and loss figures calculated.</p>	<p>The larger the size of the site the greater its value to wildlife, recreation and education. For the purposes of the current assessment, sites with an existing area of ≥ 10ha are considered to qualify under this criterion.</p>
Diversity	<p>Habitat diversity within each site was recorded during field survey according to standard JNCC Phase 1 Habitat categories. The percentage cover of each habitat present was estimated in the field and verified using aerial photographs.</p>	<p>Habitat diversity contributes to a site's wildlife value. In general, sites that possess at least five habitat types are considered to qualify under the habitat diversity criteria.</p> <p>However, in some instances sites that support fewer habitat types can be of high value, especially when these habitats are national/locally uncommon, or support viable population(s) of notable species. An element of professional judgement has been used to evaluate this criterion.</p>
Naturalness	<p>The presence of natural processes and/or features was recorded during field survey.</p>	<p>In general, the greater the numbers of natural processes/features present the greater the value for wildlife.</p> <p>However, this criterion is not easy to score as some processes (e.g. natural succession) can be positive and/or negative. Professional judgement has been used to evaluate this criterion.</p>
Rare or Exceptional feature	<p>The current assessment defines rare habitats as those listed in the Habitat Directive (Annex 1) and UK, County and Local BAPs. The presence of these habitats at each site was based on field survey assessment.</p> <p>The presence of rare species was based on records provided by the Sussex Biological Records Centre, and includes UK BAP species (excluding birds), protected species (W&C Act 1981, Schedules 5, 6 and 8), Red and Amber list Birds of Conservation Concern and Sussex Rare Species Inventory. It is important to note that the resolution of species records varies, and that all species records that fall within the grid square coincident with a sites boundary have been assigned to the site.</p>	<p>The greater the number of rare habitats and species present the greater the value of the site. In general, site's which support five rare habitats and/or five rare species qualify for under this criterion. In some instances however, sites that support few rare habitats and/or species can be of high value. It is also possible for sites with a range of rare habitats, to be of relatively low value as they may not represent particularly good examples of their type. With this in mind professional judgement has been used to evaluate this criterion in some instances.</p>
Fragility	<p>Fragility has been assessed by recording the presence of specific factors/indicators during field survey that suggest a site is or has</p>	<p>This criteria in particularly difficult to evaluate. For example, sites that are deteriorating but which still retain substantial wildlife value, may</p>



	suffered detrimental effects associated with excessive or inappropriate use.	be key targets for designation, whereas sites that have deteriorated too far and would require disproportionate effort to restore their wildlife value are not likely to be suitable for designation. Although the number of threats recorded during the field survey provides a useful indication of a sites current and future condition, it is not an accurate measure of its current wildlife value. Professional judgement has been used to evaluate this criterion.
Typicalness	Typicalness has been assessed according to the presence of locally characteristic habitat types within each of the sites based on field survey assessment. The list of local habitats has been derived from English Nature's High Weald Natural Area Profile.	The greater the number of typical habitats the greater the value of the site. In general, sites which support two typical habitat types are considered to qualify under this criterion. However, in some instances professional judgement has been used to help evaluate this criterion.
Recorded history and cultural associations	A request for historic and cultural information was made to Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG). No information has been provided to date.	This criterion does not form part of the current assessment. However, provision for this information to be added has been provided in the database.
Connectivity within the landscape	Connectivity for each site has been assessed using GIS analysis. A buffer area of 500m around each individual site has been created and the total area of land carrying statutory and non-statutory wildlife designations within this buffer has been calculated. The figures given include the area of the site itself.	The greater a sites connectivity, the greater its value for wildlife. Site's which possess ≥ 10 ha of designated land within and around 500m of their boundary qualify under this criterion.
Value for appreciation of nature	A sites value for the appreciation of nature is primarily based on the availability of public access, together with existing use by the local community. This aspect was assessed during the field survey and review of existing information.	Sites that are open to the public, although perhaps with limited access due to terrain and/or dense vegetation, qualify under this criterion.
Value for learning	Value for learning has been assessed using GIS analysis. The distance from each site to the school (as indentified using MasterMap data) has been measured.	Sites within 500m of a school qualify under this criterion.



2.2 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (NI) 197 - IMPROVED LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

All information required to enable NI 197 to be assessed (i.e. the proportion of Local Wildlife Sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented) has been provided by HBC and has been entered into the LWS access database by AEL. The calculation includes only those sites that currently possess LWS designation, and therefore excludes **H30** Filsham Reedbed, **H31** Marline Valley Woods, **H32** Hastings Country Park, and **H33** St Helens Park.

The indicator is a simple percentage and is calculated as follows:

$$X/Y \times 100$$

Where,

X is the number of sites in the Local Authority area where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented during the last five years.

Y is the total number of sites in the Local Authority area at the time of reporting.



3 RESULTS

3.1 LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW

Review of Candidate Sites

Detailed results of individual site assessments are provided in **Appendix 1**. A summary of the LWS review is provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Summary of LWS review

Site Ref and Name	Size (ha)	No. of criteria site qualifies under	Value
H1. Old Filsham Golf Course	10.58	7	High
H2. Brooms Grove	10.66	8	High
H3. Clive Vale	5.22	7	High
H4. Augustus Way Pond	0.21	2	Low
H5. Bulverhythe Shingle Beach and Cliffs	11.24	7	High
H6. Castle Hill	4.04	5	High
H7. Caves Road Cliffs	3.00	5	High
H8. Hastings Cemetery	2.68	4	High
H9. Churchwood	32.98	8	High
H10. Lower Cornwallis Allotments	2.14	0	Low
H11. Gorrige Stream	0.29	2	Low
H12. Helenswood Meadows and Pond	0.54	2	Low
H13. High St Wall / All Saints Wall	0.03	4	High
H14. Hollington Valley	12.00	9	High
H15. Ledsham Close	0.15	0	Low
H16. Ochiltree Woods	3.42	6	High
H17. Old Roar Ghyll	7.66	5	High
H18. Ponds Wood	17.89	9	High
H19. Rock-A-Nore Shingle Beach	2.16	5	High
H20. Wainwright Close	0.50	5	High
H21. Wishing Tree	17.99	9	High
H22. Water Tower	0.73	0	Low
H23. South Saxons	3.88	6	High
H24. Glyne Gap	13.66	6	High
H25. Shornden Meadow	0.88	1	Low
H26. Holmhurst St Mary	7.98	6	High
H27. West St Leonards Railway Embankments	4.19	5	High
H28. Summerfields Woods	7.23	6	High
H29. Shornden Woodland	0.53	1	Low
H30. Flisham Reedbed	18.80	6	High
H31. Marline Valley	43.18	7	High
H32. Hastings Country Park	334.48	8	High
H33. St Helens Wood	38.79	8	High

Of the 33 sites assessed, 25 are considered to be **High Value** and warrant Local Wildlife Site designation using the criteria we suggest, and eight sites are considered to be **Low Value** and could be considered for de-selection. These are **H4** Augustus



Way Pond, **H10** Cornwallis Allotments, **H11** Gorringe Stream, **H12** Helenswood Meadows and pond, **H15** Ledsham Close, **H22** Water Tower, **H25** Shornden Meadow and **H29** Shornden Woodland.

Suggested Site Boundary Changes

Boundary maps of the 33 candidate sites are provided in **Appendix 1** and will also be provided in GIS format. It is suggested that the boundary of four LWS's be revised to exclude areas of recent development. Areas of habitat loss have been digitised by AEL and used to create a new GIS layer. Sites subject to significant habitat loss as a result of recent development are:

- **H3** Clive Vale (the site's size has decreased from 5.71ha to 5.22ha);
- **H14** Hollington Valley (decreased from 13.56ha to 12.00ha);
- **H18** Ponds Wood (decreased from 20.08ha to 17.89ha);
- **H21** Wishing Tree (decreased from 20.85ha to 17.99ha).

Presence of Invasive Plant Species

A total of five invasive plant species were recorded during the walkover surveys, namely Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, giant knotweed *Fallopia sachalinensis*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, parrot's-feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, and floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*. A summary of the presence of these species within each of the 33 sites is provided in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Presence of invasive plant species

Site Ref and Name	Japanese knotweed	Giant knotweed	Giant hogweed	Floating pennywort	Parrot's-feather
H2. Broomsgrove	Yes	-	-	-	-
H3. Clive Vale	Yes	-	-	-	-
H4. Augustus Way Pond	Yes	-	-	-	Yes
H10. Lower Cornwallis Allotments	Yes	-	Yes	-	-
H11. Gorringe Stream	Yes	-	-	-	-
H14. Hollington Valley	Yes	-	-	-	-
H16. Ochiltree Woods	Yes	-	-	-	-
H21. Wishing Tree	-	-	-	Yes	-
H26. Holmhurst St Mary	Yes	Yes	-	-	-
H28. Summerfields Woods	Yes	-	-	-	-
H29. Shornden Woodland	Yes	-	-	-	-
H32. Hastings Country Park	Yes	-	-	-	Yes



3.2 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (NI) 197 - IMPROVED LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

A summary of the evidence of positive conservation management occurring in each of the sites, as provided by HBC, is provided in **Table 4**. It should be noted however, that sites **H30-33** are not currently designated as LWS, and are not therefore included within the NI 197 calculations.

Table 4: Summary of positive conservation management for assessment of NI 197

Site Ref and Name	Site management plan	Management schemes	Relevant BAP	Management guidance and advice
H1. Old Filsham Golf Course	-	-	-	-
H2. Broomsgrove	Yes	-	-	-
H3. Clive Vale	-	-	-	-
H4. Augustus Way Pond	-	-	-	-
H5. Bulverhythe Shingle Beach and Cliffs	-	-	-	Yes
H6. Castle Hill	-	-	-	Yes
H7. Caves Road Cliffs	-	-	-	-
H8. Hastings Cemetery	-	-	-	Yes
H9. Churchwood	Yes	-	-	-
H10. Lower Cornwallis Allotments	-	-	-	-
H11. Gorrige Stream	-	-	-	-
H12. Helenswood Meadows and Pond	-	-	-	-
H13. High St Wall / All Saints Wall	Yes	-	-	-
H14. Hollington Valley	-	-	-	-
H15. Ledsham Close	-	-	-	-
H16. Ochiltree Woods	-	-	-	-
H17. Old Roar Ghyll	Yes	-	-	-
H18. Ponds Wood	-	-	-	Yes
H19. Rock-A-Nore Shingle Beach	-	-	-	-
H20. Wainwright Close	-	-	-	-
H21. Wishing Tree	-	-	-	-
H22. Water Tower	-	-	-	-
H23. South Saxons	Yes	-	-	-
H24. Glyne Gap	-	-	-	-
H25. Shornden Meadow	-	-	-	-
H26. Holmhurst St Mary	-	-	-	Yes
H27. West St Leonards Railway Embankments	-	-	-	-
H28. Summerfields Woods	Yes	-	-	-
H29. Shornden Woodland	-	-	-	-
H30. Flisham Reedbed	Yes	-	-	-
H31. Marline Valley Woods	Yes	-	-	-
H32. Hastings Country Park	Yes	-	-	-
H33. St Helens Park	Yes	-	-	-

The Indicator a simple percentage calculated as follows:



$X/Y \times 100$

Where,

X is the number of sites in the Local Authority area where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented during the last five years.

Y is the total number of sites in the Local Authority area at the time of reporting.

Therefore, of the 29 current Local Wildlife Sites 11 possess evidence of positive conservation management.

$11/29 \times 100 = 38\%$

Therefore, positive conservation management has been or is being implemented in 38% of the current Local Wildlife Sites within the Borough.



4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW

The current assessment comprises a review of 33 candidate Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) within the Borough of Hastings. Following our proposed selection criteria, 25 of the sites are considered to be of High Value and warrant LWS designation. Eight sites have been assessed as being of Low Value, and should be considered for de-selection. These sites are:

- **H4** Augustus Way Pond;
- **H10** Lower Cornwallis Allotments;
- **H11** Gorringe Stream;
- **H12** Helenswood Meadows and Pond;
- **H15** Ledsham Close;
- **H22** Water Tower;
- **H25** Shornden Meadow; and
- **H29** Shornden Woodland.

4.2 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (NI) 197 - IMPROVED LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

On the basis of the information provided, the NI 197 indicator is calculated to be 38% (i.e. 38% of the current Local Wildlife Sites within the Borough have been or are being subject to positive conservation management).



Appendix 1

Individual Site Assessments and Maps