Surrey Nature Partnership
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Biodiversity Opportunity Areas:
the basis for realising Surrey's ecological network

Appendix 7: Wealden Greensands Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements

WG01: Puttenham & Crooksbury
WG02: Farnham Heaths
WG03: Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Heaths
WG04: Devil's Punch Bowl & Hindhead Heaths
WG05: Hascombe, Winkworth & Hydon's Heath & Woodlands
WG06: Blackheath, Chilworth & Farley Heaths
WG07: Winterfold & the Hurtwood Greensand Ridge
WG08: Leith Hill, Wotton, Abinger & Holmwood Greensand Ridge
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WG11: Holmesdale
WG12: Albury & Shere Heaths & Parkland
WG13: Abinger Roughs

September 2019

Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG01: Puttenham & Crooksbury**

Local authorities: Guildford, Waverley

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes a large area of largely planted wooded commons between the Hog's Back and the River Wey, from Waverley Abbey in the west to the Hampton Estate at Puttenham in the east. **Area**: 1166.1 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), North Downs (NCA 119; marginal)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Upper greensand, Chalk. A densely contoured landscape typical of the Greensand ridge, rising steeply from the Wey valley to a maximum height of 162m on Crooksbury Hill; then falling gently to the east but deeply dissected by a dammed stream-course rising off the Hog's Back at Hampton Park.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites

SSSI: Puttenham & Crooksbury Commons
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites

SNCI: 8

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Fen, Standing open water

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Copse-bindweed; Rusty fork-moss
Fungi/Lichens: Woolly tooth*, Orchard tooth (both fungi)
Invertebrates: Silver-studded blue, Small heath, White admiral, Goat moth, Shining guest ant
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Lesser redpoll, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Sand lizard, Slow-worm, Smooth snake, Common toad, Great crested newt, Natterjack toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*

* probably extinct in BOA

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Common wintergreen, Dodder, Eight-stamened waterwort, Heath cudweed, Mezereon, Sand sedge, Sheep's-bit, Shepherd's-cress, Smooth cat's-ear, White sedge; *Platydracus fulvipes*, *Thryogenes festucae* (both beetles), Common hawker, Golden-ringed dragonfly; Dartford warbler, Nightingale

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Wildlife Trust Grazing Project; Wey Landscape Partnership

3.3 Archaeology

Hillbury hill fort; two Bowl Barrows in Littleworth Clump; triple Bell Barrows on Turners Hill; two Bowl Barrows on Culverswell Hill; Soldier's Ring hill fort

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Crooksbury Hill, Crooksbury Common, Lower Puttenham Common, Puttenham Common, Little Common (Hampton Estate/Surrey Wildlife Trust/ Forestry England/Amphibian & Reptile Conservation)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: North Downs Way, Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

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

3.6 Socio-Economic

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

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG01/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 50% by 2020 (by area)

WG01/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

WG01/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

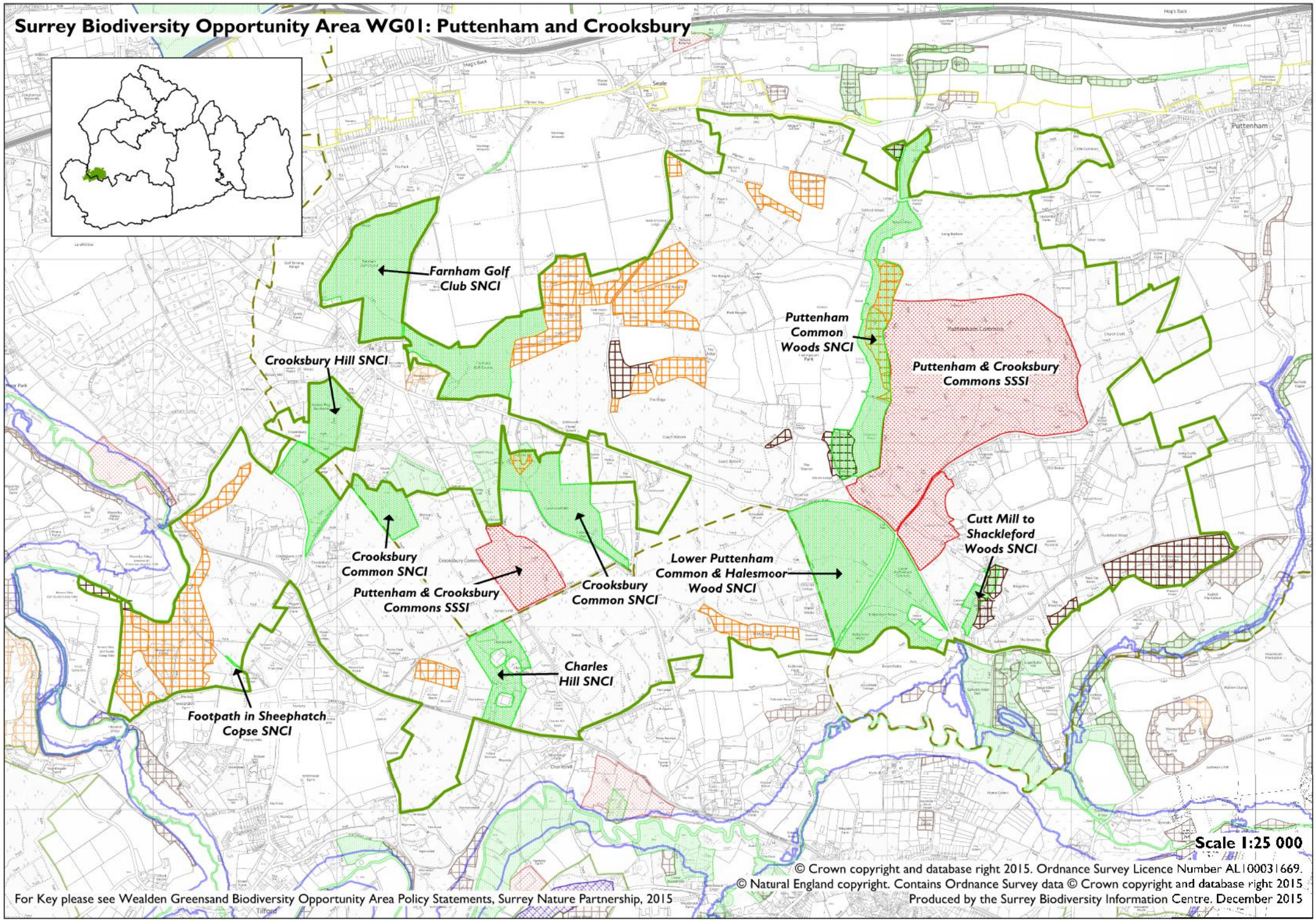
- **Heathland/T3a**: 8 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3b**: 7.25 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3c**: 1.5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland** (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T3d**: 75% by area
- **Fen/T3e:** 4 ha by 2020

WG01/O4: Priority species recovery.

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

Nightjar **Woodlark** **Smooth snake**

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG01: Puttenham and Crooksbury



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

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG02: Farnham Heaths**

Local authorities: Waverley

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes a large area of forestry plantations over former heathland to the south of Farnham & Wrecclesham. An active heathland reclamation programme is in operation here, as at the RSPB's Farnham Heath Nature Reserve. The BOA is contiguous with R04 (River Wey & tributaries) along its southern boundary. **Area**: 316 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Upper greensand. An undulating section of the Greensand ridge truncated by the narrow Wey floodplain to east and south, rising to 104m in Alice Holt Forest-Bourne Wood at the northern end.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
SSSI: Gong Hill
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites -

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Wet woodland, Mixed deciduous woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Invertebrates: Grayling, Silver-studded blue, Small heath, Shining guest ant, Field cricket
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser redpoll, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Sand lizard, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Dodder, Heath cudweed, Smooth cat's-ear; Great green bush-cricket; Crossbill, Dartford warbler, Firecrest, Hobby, Siskin

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Heathland Project)

3.3 Archaeology

Two bowl barrows in Bourne Wood

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Farnham Heath & Tankersford Common (RSPB); Alice Holt Forest-Bourne Wood (Forestry England); Rural Life Centre

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, nature observation, film-making)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture and agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (visitor attractions, hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG02/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 75% by 2020 (by area)

WG02/O2: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

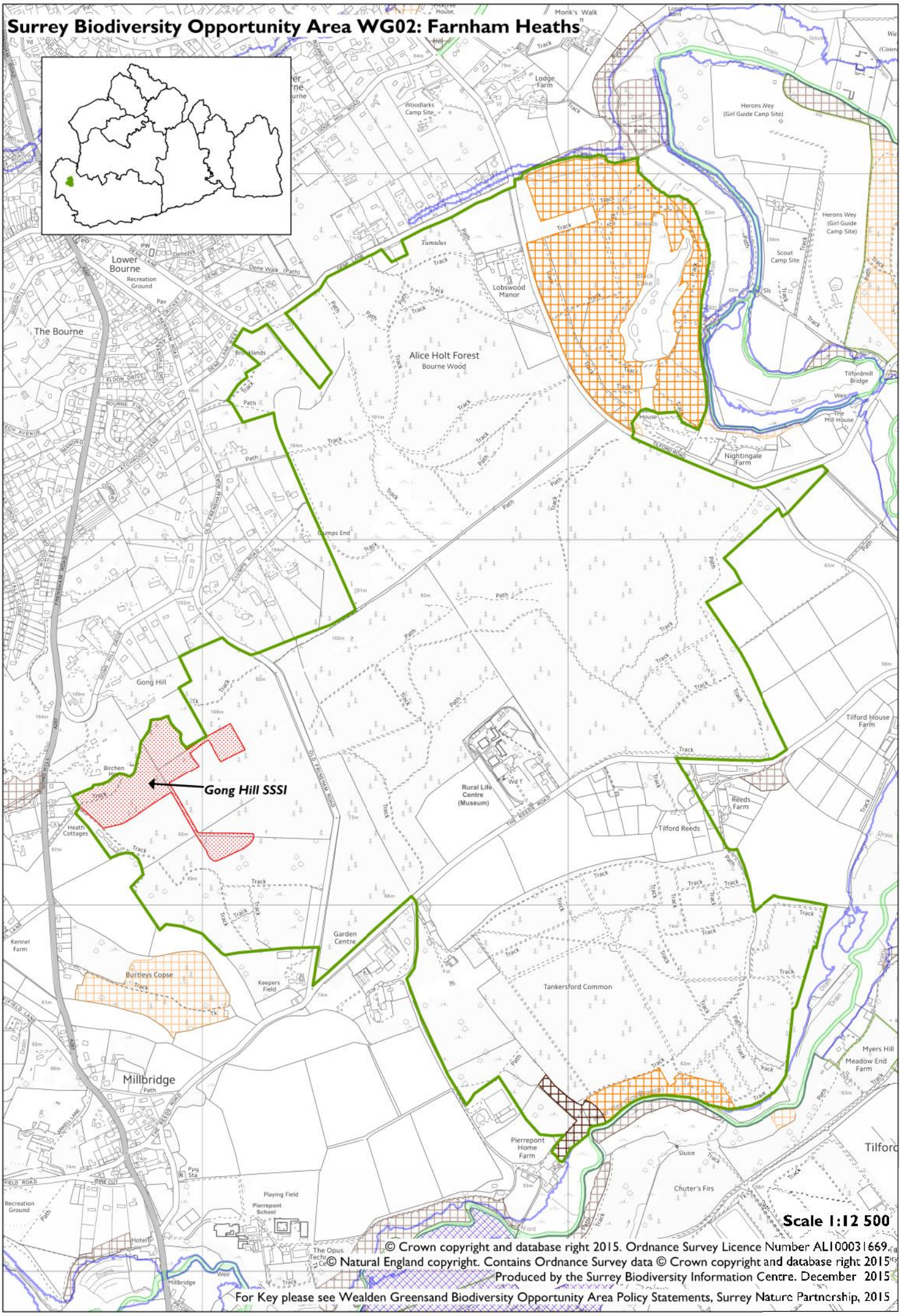
- **Heathland/T2a**: 2.25 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T2b**: 2 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T2c**: 0.5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T2d**: 75% by area

WG02/O3: Priority species recovery.

- **T3**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

Grayling	**Field cricket**	**Sand lizard**
Woodlark	**Nightjar**	

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG02: Farnham Heaths



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

Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG03: Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Heaths**

Local authorities: Waverley

Aim & justification:

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks****, and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes an extensive area of largely contiguous heaths and commons, from the county boundary at Frensham and Churt in the west to Milford and Witley in the east. A large section is internationally designated within the Wealden Heaths Special Protection Area. It is contiguous with R04 (River Wey & tributaries) at several points along the northern boundary, as well as Hampshire BOA 15 (Wealden Heaths).
Area: 2710.2 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Upper greensand. A largely open, undulating landscape untypical of the Greensand, falling generally towards the Wey floodplain to the north and west. Drained by numerous minor tributaries of the Wey, often dammed to form significant open water-bodies, including Thursley lake, Warren mere and the two Frensham ponds.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites

Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1) SPA; Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC; Thursley & Ockley Bogs Ramsar Site
SSSI: Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons
NNR: Thursley
LNR: The Flashes; Rodborough Common
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites

SNCI: 6 ***IBA***: Wealden Heaths (Birdlife)

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Fen, Standing open water, Reedbeds
Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Chamomile, Deptford pink*, Marsh clubmoss, Red-tipped cudweed; Rusty fork-moss*, Pitted frillwort (a liverwort)
Fungi/Lichens: Woolly tooth*, Orchard tooth, Nail fungus (all fungi)
Invertebrates: Grayling, Silver-studded blue, Small heath, Small pearl-bordered fritillary*, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak*, Argent-&-sable*, Common fan-foot, Clay fan-foot, False mocha, Goat moth, Shoulder-striped clover*, Early sunshiner* (a beetle), Heath tiger-beetle, Two-tone reed beetle, Stag beetle, Poplar leaf-rolling weevil, Shining guest ant, Erratic ant, *Chrysis fulgida* (a ruby-tailed wasp), 5-banded tailed digger wasp, Bloody spider-hunting

wasp, Hornet robberfly, Broken-banded wasp-hoverfly, Mottled bee-fly, Field cricket*, Large marsh grasshopper*, Great fox-spider, Silky gallows-spider, Cotton's Amazon spider*, Heath grasper (a spider), Peus' long-backed spider, Swamp look-out spider*, Triangle hammock-spider*, Sedge jumper (a spider), Lichen running-spider*, Gentle groove-head spider*, Window-winged sedge* (a caddis-fly), White-clawed crayfish
Vertebrates: Bittern (winter), Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Curlew, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Lapwing, Lesser redpoll, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Turtle dove, Woodlark, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Sand lizard, Smooth snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt, Natterjack toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Otter, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Bog pimpernel, Bottle sedge, Brown beak-sedge, Bulbous meadow-grass, Common wintergreen, Cranberry, Early marsh-orchid, Hare's-tail cottongrass, Heath cudweed, Lesser bladderwort, Marsh cinquefoil, Marsh St John's-wort, Meadow thistle, Oblong-leaved sundew, Petty-whin, Royal fern, Sand sedge, Shining pondweed, Western gorse, Papillose bog-moss, Magellanic bog-moss; Purple emperor, Black darter, Brilliant emerald, Common hawker, Downy emerald, Golden-ringed dragonfly, Small red damselfly, White-faced dragonfly*, *Altica ericeti* (a leaf beetle), *Hylis olexai* (a false click-beetle), *Cryptocheilus notatus* (a spider-hunting wasp), *Symmorphus crassicornis* (a solitary wasp), *Stelis breviuscula* (a bee), *Melanogaster aerosa* (a hoverfly), Golden-tabbed robberfly, *Myopa fasciata* (a thick-headed fly), *Micracanthia marginalis* (a bug); Common snipe, Crossbill, Dartford warbler, Great grey shrike (winter), Hobby, Nightingale, Osprey (passage), Redstart, Water rail

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Wildlife Trust Grazing Project; Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Heathland Project); Wey Landscape Partnership

3.3 Archaeology

Frensham Manor; three Bowl Barrows on Frensham Common; pair of Bowl Barrows on Thursley Common; group of four Bowl Barrows on Witley Common

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Frensham Common Country Park (National Trust/Waverley Borough Council); Hankley Common (MoD/part Amphibian & Reptile Conservation); Thursley National Nature Reserve (Natural England); Elstead & Royal Commons, Bagmoor Common, Rodborough Common LNR (Surrey Wildlife Trust/MoD/Surrey County Council); Witley Common (National Trust/ARC); Mare Hill Common (Waverley Borough Council).
3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, mountain-biking, golf, angling, sailing, bathing, nature observation, film-making)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Agriculture and silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian, hospitality)
3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG03/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 95% by 2020 (by area)

WG03/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

WG03/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland/T3a**: 18.5 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3b**: 16.75 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3c**: 3.5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T3d**: 75% by area
- **Fen T3e:** 9.5 ha by 2020

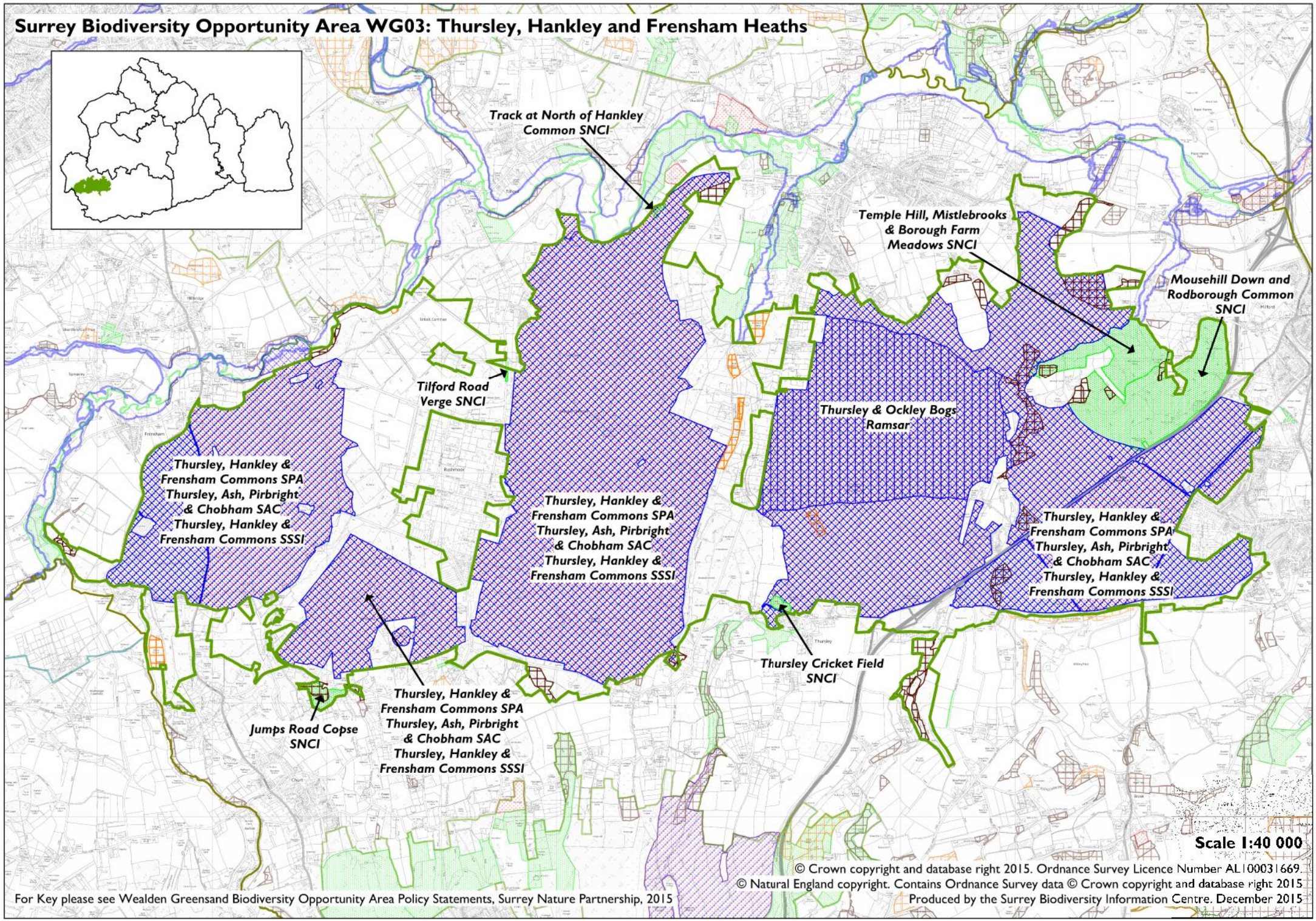
WG03/O4: Priority species recovery.

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

Marsh clubmoss	**Heath tiger-beetle**	**Curlew**
Nightjar	**Woodlark**	**Smooth snake**
Noctule bat		

* probably extinct in BOA

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG03: Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Heaths



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

Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG04: Devil's Punch Bowl & Hindhead Heaths**

Local authorities: Waverley

Aim & justification

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Explanatory

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1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes a large area of woodland and heathland centred on the Devil's Punch Bowl SSSI at Hindhead. Significant heathland restoration was recently achieved here through the A3(M) tunnel project. The BOA is contiguous with Hampshire BOA 15 (Wealden Heaths). **Area**: 1168.5 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), Low Weald (NCA 121; marginal)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand. A dramatically elevated section of the Greensand ridge, rising to a maximum 272m on Gibbett Hill. Numerous steep-sided stream valleys or "bottoms" radiate from this high ridgeline including Highcomb, which forms the punch bowl, as well as Whitmoor Vale and Polecat Valley.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): Wealden Heaths Phase 2 SPA
SSSI: Devil's Punch Bowl; Stockstone Quarry (geological interest only)
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 10

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Fungi/Lichens: *Usnea florida* (a lichen)
Invertebrates: Grayling, Small heath, Shining guest ant, Hornet robberfly, White-clawed crayfish
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Wood warbler*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

* probably extinct in BOA

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Bird's-nest orchid, Bristle club-rush, Heath spotted-orchid, Lousewort, Marsh violet; *Altica ericeti* (a leaf beetle), Common awl-fly, Golden-tabbed robberfly, *Limonia distendens* (a cranefly); Crossbill, Dartford warbler, Firecrest, Hobby, Redstart, Siskin

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: [ex-Hindhead Together]

3.3 Archaeology

Cross Dyke on Hindhead Golf Course

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Hindhead Common, Nutcombe Valley, Golden Valley, Beacon Hill (National Trust); Boundless-Hurthill Copse, Black Hanger (Forestry England)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf, angling, mountain-biking, outdoor youth pursuits, nature observation)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Agriculture & Silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Private education sector; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian, hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG04/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 50% by 2020 (by area)

WG04/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

WG04/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

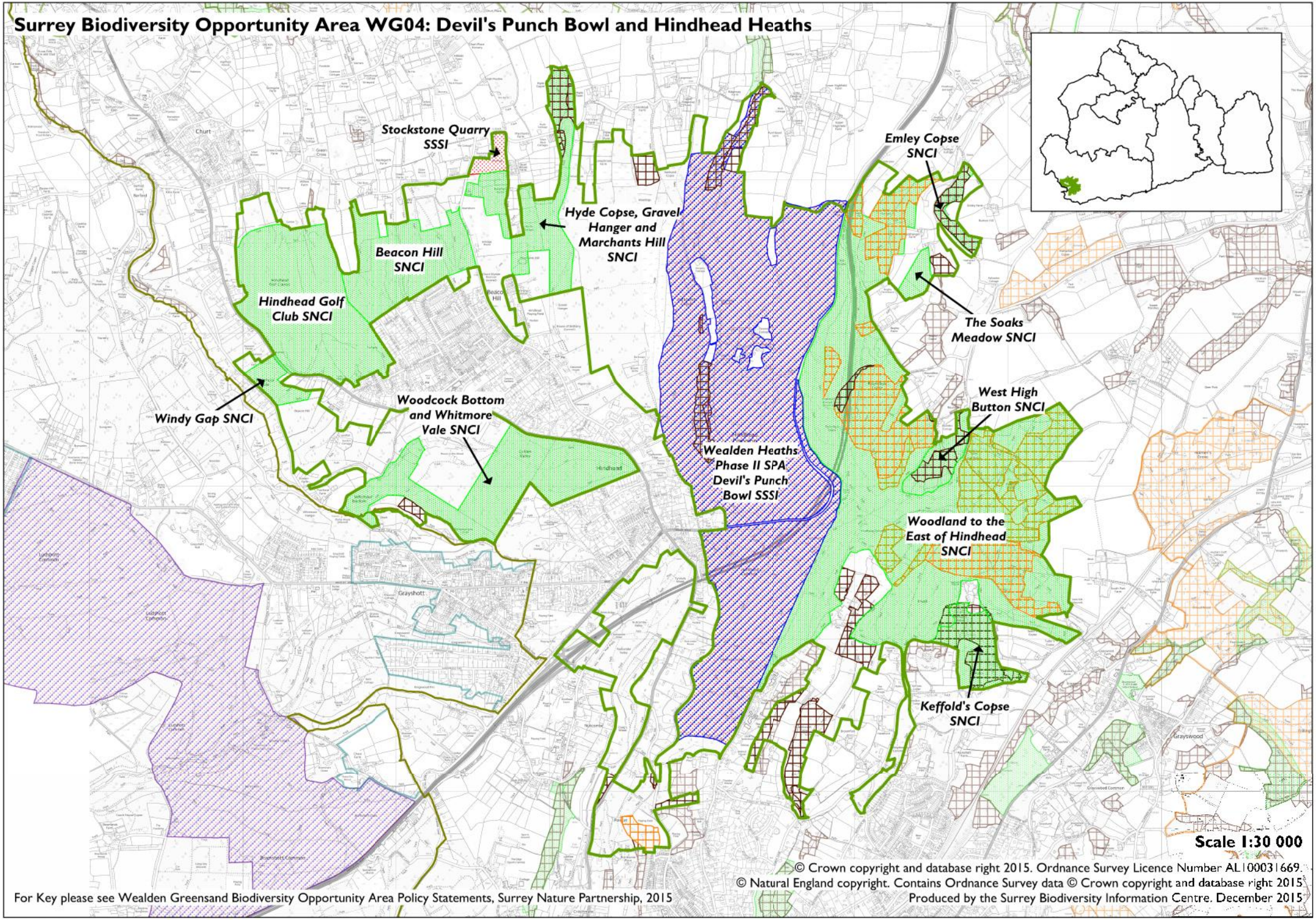
- **Heathland/T3a**: 8 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3b**: 7.25 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T3c**: 75% by area
- **Wet woodland/T3d**: 1.5 ha by 2020

WG04/O4: Priority species recovery.

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

Adder	**Grayling**	**White-clawed crayfish**
Woodlark	**Nightjar**	**Polecat**

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



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

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG05: Hascombe, Winkworth & Hydon's Heath & Woodlands**

Local authorities: Waverley

Aim & justification

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1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes an area of largely wooded commons with adjacent farmland, centred on the village of Hascombe. **Area**: 976.9 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), Low Weald (NCA 121; marginal)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Weald clay. A section of the densely contoured Greensand ridge between two tributary valleys of the River Wey, rising to a maximum 179m at Hydon's Ball on Hydon Heath. A narrow stream valley flows north exiting the BOA at Winkworth Arboretum.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 5

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Mixed deciduous woodland, Beech & Yew woodland, Wet woodland, Heathland, Acid grassland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Copse-bindweed
Invertebrates: Small heath
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Dunnock, Cuckoo, Hawfinch*, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Lesser redpoll, Linnet, Marsh tit, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Turtle dove*, Willow tit*, Woodlark, Wood warbler*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage, Narrow-leaved bittercress, Pale St John's-wort, Small pondweed; Crossbill, Firecrest, Kingfisher, Nightingale*

* probably extinct in BOA

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Greenscape Facilitation Fund

3.3 Archaeology

Hascombe Camp: a small multivallate hillfort north-west of Lodge Farm

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Hydon Heath, Winkworth Arboretum (National Trust)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture & agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (equestrian, hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG05/O1: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1**: All by 2020

WG05/O2: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

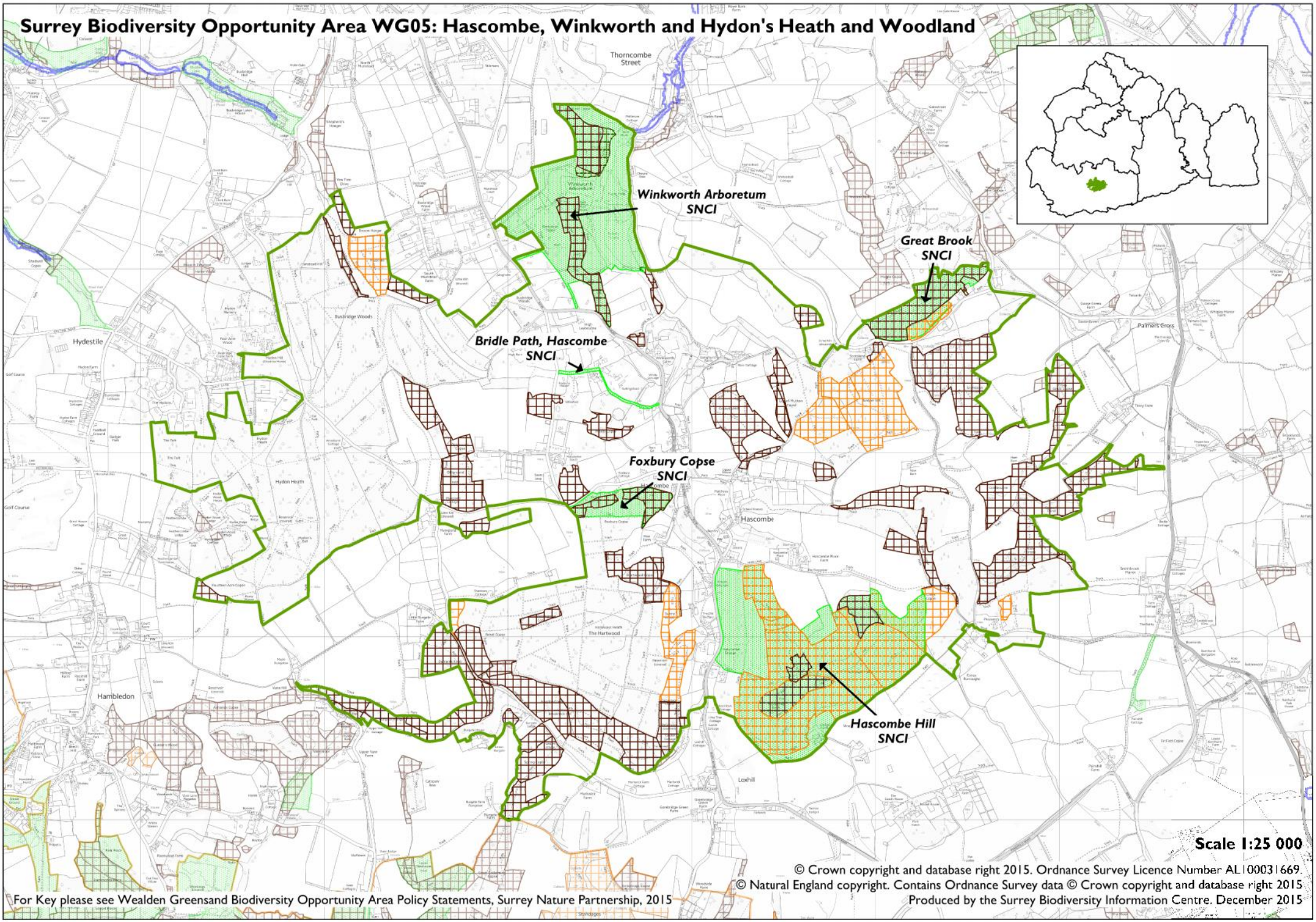
- **Heathland/T2a**: 6.75 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T2b**: 6 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland-Beech & Yew** (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T2c**: 75% by area
- **Wet woodland/T2d**: 1.25 ha by 2020

WG05/O3: Priority species recovery.

- **T3**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

Silver-studded blue	**Nightjar**	**Woodlark**
Adder	**Common dormouse**	

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG05: Hascombe, Winkworth and Hydon's Heath and Woodland



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

Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG06: Blackheath, Chilworth & Farley Heaths**

Local authorities: Guildford, Waverley

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the heaths and commons between Blackheath and Farley Green, north-east of Shamley Green. The BOA meets WG07 (Winterfold & The Hurtwood) south-east of Farley Heath. **Area**: 563.2 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, River terrace deposits. Two steep-sided hills marking the western end of a high Greensand ridgeline truncated by the Cranleigh Waters, a tributary of the River Wey. Blackheath rises to a maximum 116m on Rosemary Hill. Farley Heath is slightly higher, rising steadily to join the lofty Winterfold Heath to the south-east.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
SSSI: Blackheath
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 2

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Beech & Yew woodland, Mixed deciduous woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Chamomile*, Glandular eyebright*, Yellow bird's-nest
Invertebrates: Brown hairstreak, Silver-studded blue, Small heath, White admiral, False mocha (a moth), Shining guest ant, Mottled bee-fly
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Turtle dove*, Willow tit*, Woodlark, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Sand lizard, Slow-worm, Smooth snake, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

* probably extinct in BOA

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage, Burnet-rose, Dodder, Round-leaved crowfoot, Rugose fork-moss, Shepherd's-cress, Silver hair-grass; *Lampronia fuscatella* (a micro-moth), *Lomechusoides strumosa* (a rove beetle), *Oxyopes heterophthalmus* (Lynx spider)

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Heathland Project); Greenscape Facilitation Fund

3.3 Archaeology

Romano-British temple & enclosure on Farley Heath

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Blackheath (Waverley Borough Council/National Trust); Farley Heath (Bray-Ockley Estate/Friends of the Hurtwood)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Downs Link

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (walking, equestrian, mountain-biking); Spiritual uses

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture & agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (equestrian & hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG06/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 75% by 2020 (by area)

WG06/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

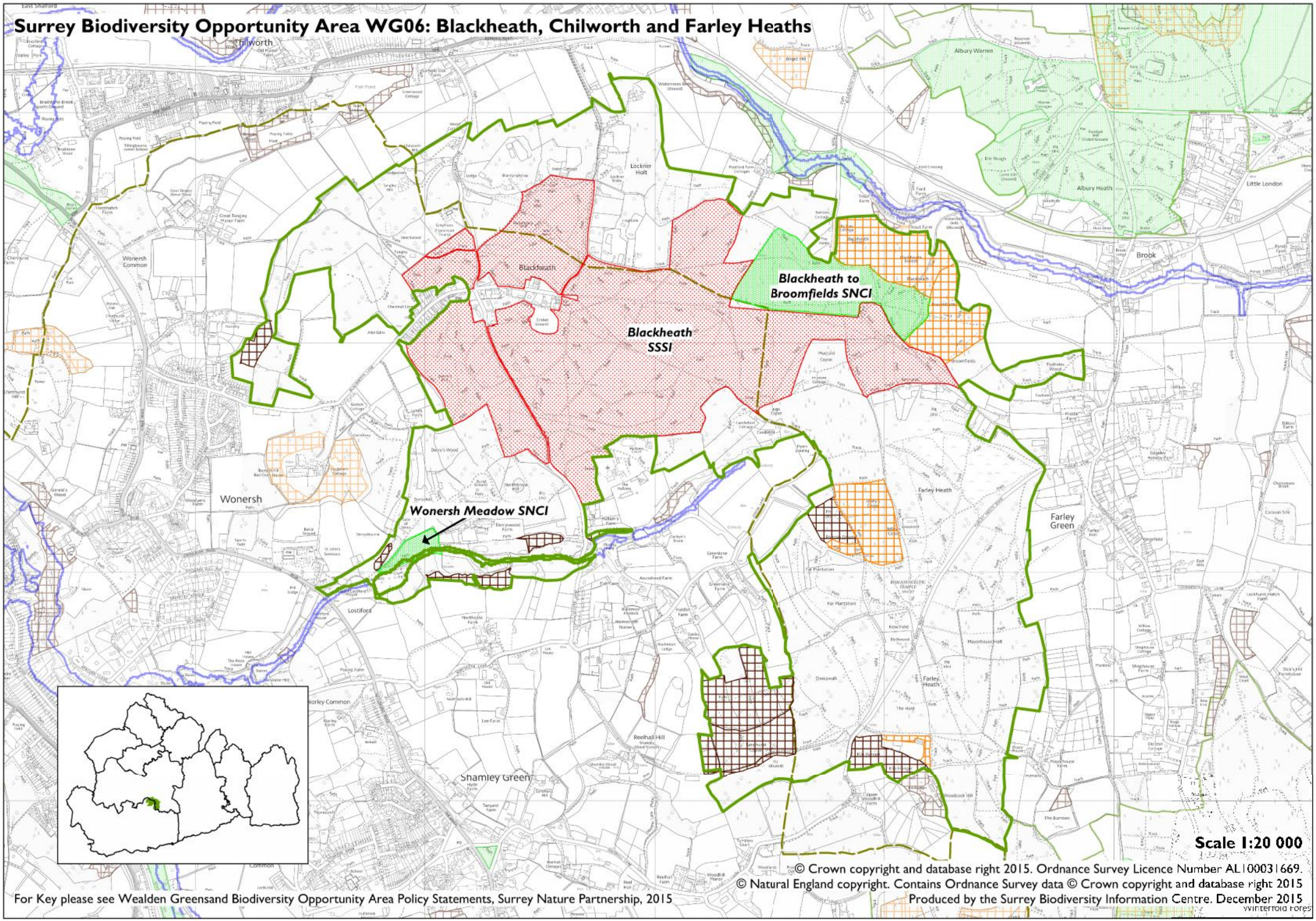
WG06/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland/T3a**: 4 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3b**: 3.5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T3c**: 75% by area
- **Beech & Yew woodland/T3d**: 0.75 ha by 2020

WG06/O4: Priority species recovery.

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

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG06: Blackheath, Chilworth and Farley Heaths



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

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG07: Winterfold & the Hurtwood Greensand Ridge**

Local authorities: Guildford, Waverley

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes an elevated ridgeline of largely afforested commons from Winterfold Heath in the west, through Peaslake and the Hurt Wood estate to Holmbury St Mary in the east. The BOA is contiguous with WG06 at Farley Heath. **Area**: 1212 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Weald clay. A densely contoured landscape typical of the Greensand ridge, rising abruptly from the Wealden plain to the south to heights of 257m at Pitch Hill and 261m on Holmbury Hill. A narrow stream valley bisects the BOA south of Peaslake.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 12

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Beech & Yew woodland, Wet woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Glandular eyebright
Invertebrates: Small heath, White admiral, Shining guest ant, Tormentil mining bee, Mottled bee-fly
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Turtle dove*, Willow tit*, Woodlark, Wood warbler*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Sand lizard, Slow-worm, Smooth snake, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Polecat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Flattened meadow-grass, Heath cudweed, Heath pearlwort, Ivy-leaved crowfoot, Lemon-scented fern, Lily-of-the-valley, Lousewort, Round-fruited rush,

* probably extinct in BOA

Royal fern, Smooth cat's-ear, Stag's-horn clubmoss; Bilberry mining-bee, *Zora silvestris*[*] (a ghost spider); Crossbill, Firecrest, Nightingale, Redstart, Wood warbler[*]

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Heathland Project); Greenscape Facilitation Fund

3.3 Archaeology

Large univallate hillfort at Felday; Holmbury Camp (a small multivallate hillfort north of Three Mile Road); Roman road at Winterfold Forest

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Winterfold Heath, Hurt Wood estate (Albury & Bray-Ockley Estates/Friends of the Hurtwood)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (walking, equestrian, mountain-biking, angling)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture & agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Private education; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian & hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG07/O1: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1**: All by 2020

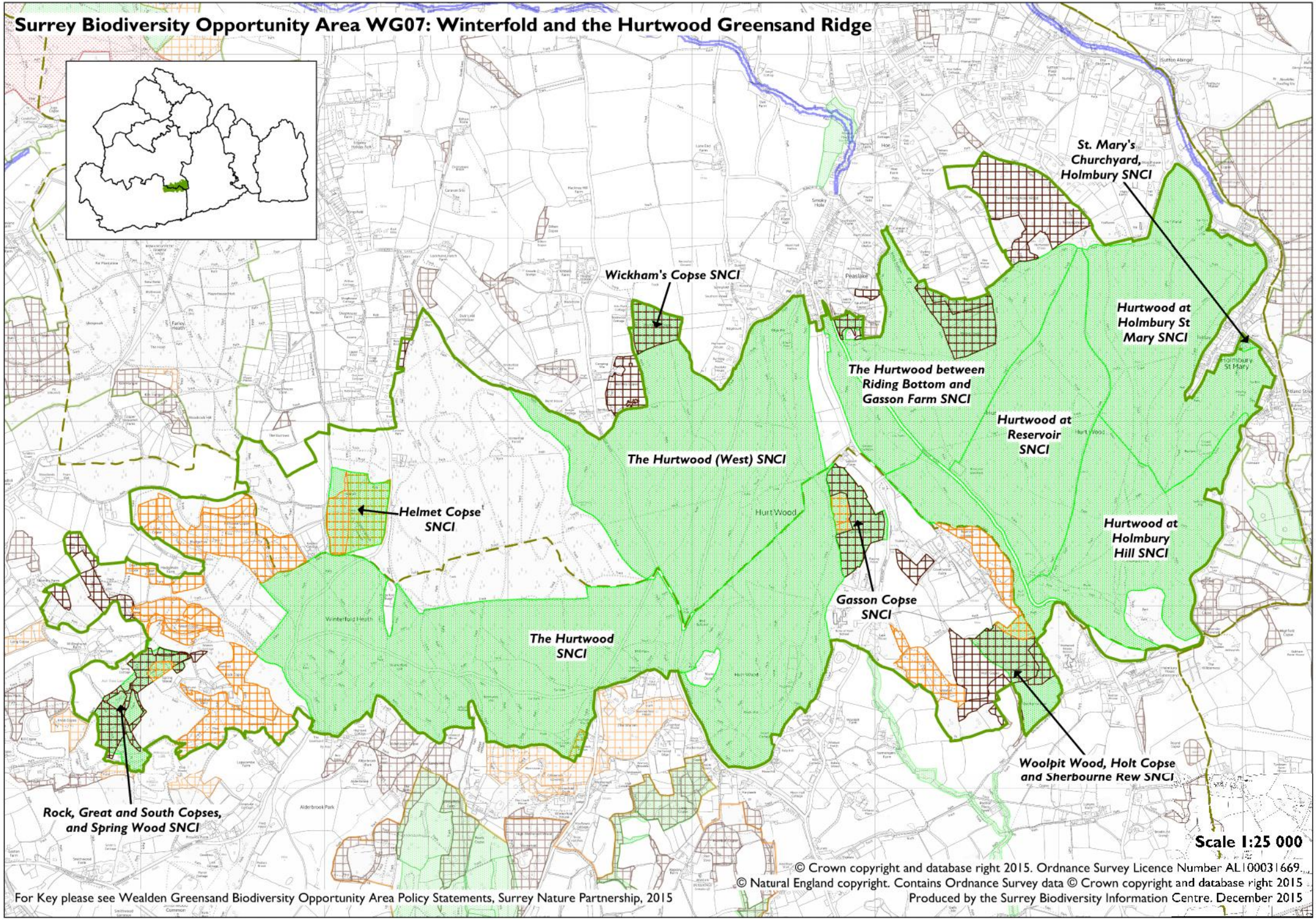
WG07/O2: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T2a**: 75% by area
- **Beech & Yew woodland/T2b**: 0.75 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T2c**: 0.75 ha by 2020
- **Heathland/T2d**: 8.5 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T2e**: 7.5 ha by 2020

WG07/O3: Priority species recovery.

- **T3**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  Nightjar **Woodlark** **Marsh tit**
  Smooth snake

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG07: Winterfold and the Hurtwood Greensand Ridge



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

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG08: Leith Hill, Wotton, Abinger & Holmwood Greensand Ridge**

Local authorities: Mole Valley, Guildford

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area continues the elevated ridgeline of largely afforested commonlands from Holmbury St Mary in the west, through Friday Street and Coldharbour to Holmwood Common in the east. The BOA meets WG07 in the west and LW04 on its southern boundary. **Area**: 2193.5 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), Low Weald (NCA 121)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Weald clay. An extensive section of the densely contoured Greensand ridge, rising steeply from the Wealden plain to 292m at Leith Hill. Several narrow stream valleys rise and drain generally northward, forming the headwaters of the Tillingbourne in the west and toward the Pipp Brook in the east.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
SSSI: Leith Hill
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 5 (plus 5 potential SNCI)

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Chamomile, Glandular eyebright, Juniper, Pillwort*, Starfruit; Large-celled flapwort (a liverwort), Thatch-moss*
Invertebrates: Brown hairstreak, Dingy skipper, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Orange upperwing*, Sloe carpet, Long-horned mining bee, Bloody spider-hunting wasp*, Black-headed mason wasp, Broad groove-head spider*, Small-horned Walckenaer* (a spider), Greenweed flat-body* (a micro-moth), Pondweed leafhopper*
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Hawfinch, Lesser redpoll, Lesser spotted woodpecker,

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

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Bird's-nest orchid, Bristle club-rush, Creeping forget-me-not, Greater duckweed, Hare's-tail cottongrass, Heath cudweed, Lemon-scented fern, Marsh violet, Pale sedge, Round-leaved crowfoot, Sessile oak, Sheep's-bit, Shining hookeria (a liverwort), Silver hair-grass, Small pondweed, Smooth-stalked sedge, Wood horsetail; Purple emperor, Bilberry mining-bee, *Agabus melanarius* (a diving-beetle), *Notolaemus unifasciatus*, *Silvanus bidentatus* (both bark beetles), Ash-black slug, Lemon slug; Crossbill, Dartford warbler, Firecrest, Nightingale, Redstart, Siskin

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: -

3.3 Archaeology

Anstiebury Camp: a large multivallate hillfort; Pond Bay south of Friday Street; Stane Street (Roman Road)

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Redlands & Squires Wood/Abinger Forest, Pasture Wood (Forestry England); Coldharbour Common, Severalls Copse, Leith Hill-Leith Hill Place Wood, Holmwood Common (National Trust); Wotton Estate (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Inholms Claypit (Mole Valley District Council/Surrey Wildlife Trust)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (golf, walking, equestrian, mountain-biking, angling); Spiritual uses

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture & agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (equestrian, game fishing & hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets

WG08/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 75% by 2020 (by area)

WG08/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

WG08/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland/T3a**: 15 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3b**: 13.5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland** (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T3c**: 75% by area
- **Wet woodland /T3d**: 2.75 ha by 2020

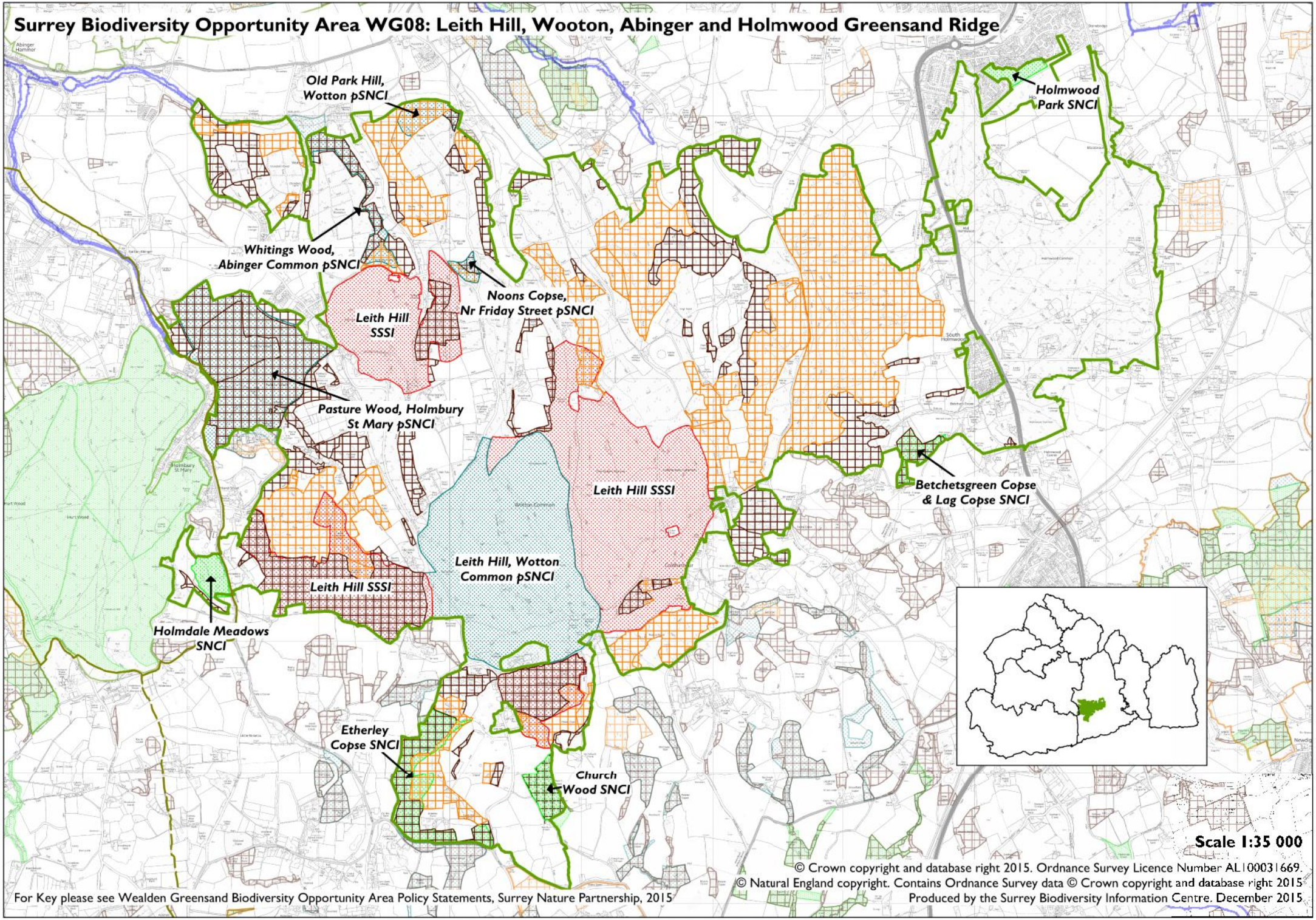
WG08/O4: Priority species recovery.

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

Nightjar	**Woodlark**	**Marsh tit**
Adder	**Common dormouse**	

* probably extinct in BOA

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG08: Leith Hill, Wooton, Abinger and Holmwood Greensand Ridge



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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG09: Limpsfield Heaths**

Local authorities: Tandridge

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the largely wooded commons and relict heathland around Limpsfield Chart to the east of Oxted in East Surrey. It is contiguous with Kent's Greensand Heaths & Commons BOA. **Area**: 285.8 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand. A chain of hilltops along the densely contoured Greensand ridge, gaining height from west to east to reach a maximum 202m on the Kent border at the High Chart, and dropping steeply to the Wealden plain in the south.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 7

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Fungi/Lichens: Olive earthtongue (a fungus)
Invertebrates: Small heath
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Dunnock, Linnet, Nightjar, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Wood warbler*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Dodder, Stag's-horn clubmoss; Pink waxcap (a fungus)

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: -

* probably extinct in BOA

3.3 Archaeology

Roman road (course of)

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Limpsfield Common, Limpsfield Chart (National Trust)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way; Tandridge Border Path

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural & timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf)

3.6 Socio-Economic

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

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets

WG09/O1: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1**: All by 2020

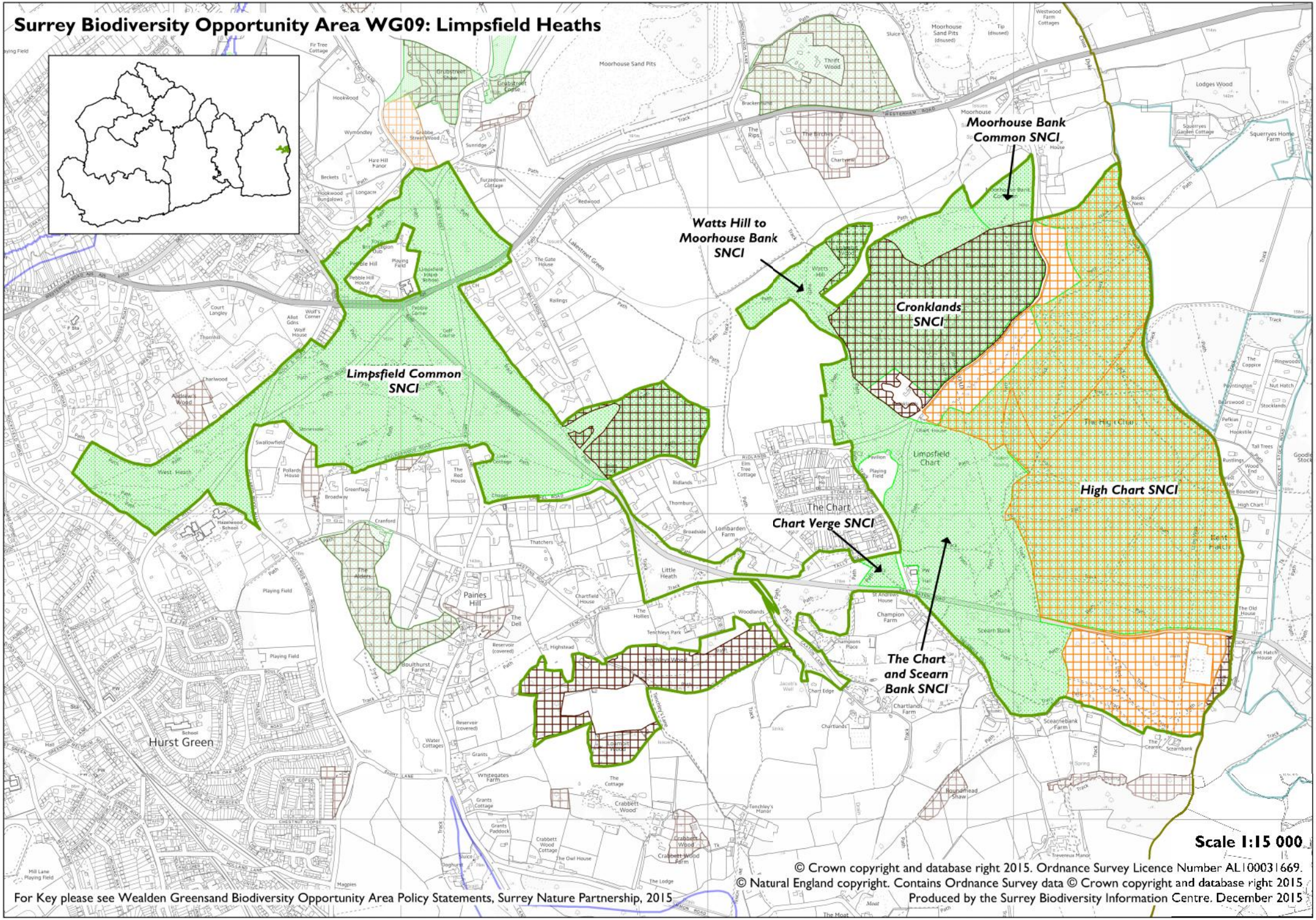
WG09/O2: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland/T2a**: 2 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T2b**: 1.75 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland** (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T2c**: 75% by area

WG09/O3: Priority species recovery.

- **T3**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  Nightjar **Adder** **Common dormouse**

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG09: Limpsfield Heaths



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

Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG10: Reigate Heaths**

Local authorities: Reigate & Banstead, Mole Valley

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes an area of open and wooded commons to the west of Reigate town. It extends from Reigate Heath in the west to Priory Park, Reigate in the east. The BOA is contiguous with LW07 along much of its southern boundary. **Area**: 160.7 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Alluvium. A section of the Greensand ridge divided by the Wallace Brook, rising to 90m at Reigate Mill Church in the west and to 132m at Park Hill in Priory Park in the east.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
SSSI: Reigate Heath
LNR: Reigate Heath

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 2 (plus 1 potential SNCI)

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Annual knawel, Chamomile, Glandular eyebright*; Large-celled flapwort (a liverwort)
Invertebrates: Brown hairstreak, Small heath, Oak mining bee, 5-banded tailed digger wasp, Phoenix fly
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Willow tit*, Yellowhammer; Adder*, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage, Bird's-foot clover, Bottle sedge, Bur chervil, Field mouse-ear, Greater chickweed, Lily-of-the-valley, Marsh violet, Petty-whin, Silver hair-grass, Upright chickweed, White sedge; *Chrysis gracillima*, *Crossocerus congener*,

* probably extinct in BOA

Diodontus insidiosus, *Hedychrum niemelai*, *Pemphredon rugifer*, *Stigmus pendulus* (all wasps), *Nomada lathburiana*, *Nomada signata* (both bees); Kingfisher

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers

3.3 Archaeology

Multiple bowl barrows within the Reigate Heath Round Barrow Cemetery complex; Priory Park

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Reigate Heath, Priory Park (Reigate & Banstead Borough Council)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (golf, walking, equestrian); Spiritual uses

3.6 Socio-Economic

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

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets

WG10/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 95% by 2020 (by area)

WG10/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

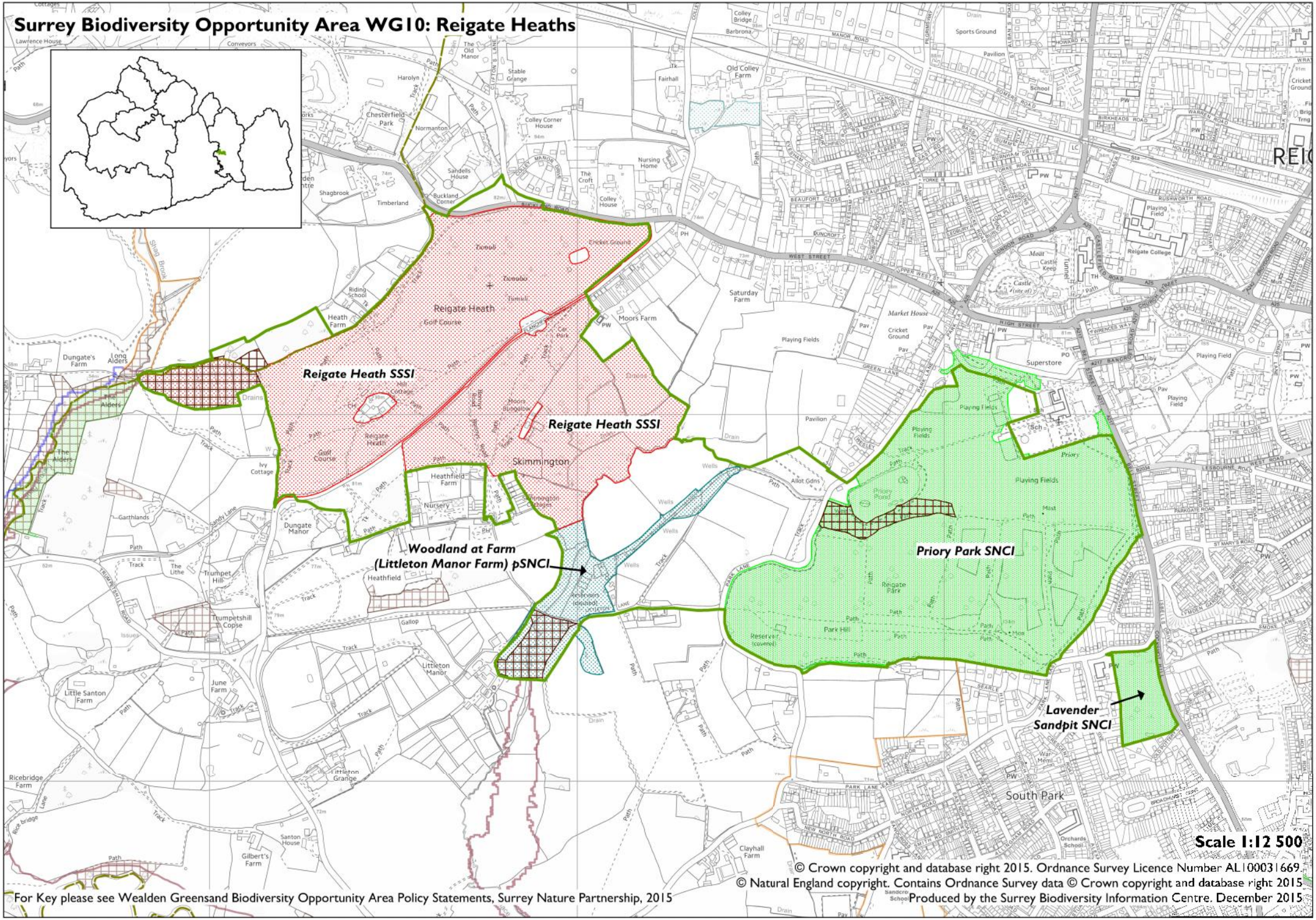
WG10/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland/T3a**: 1.25 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3b**: 1 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3c**: 0.25 ha by 2020

WG10/O4: Priority species recovery.

- **T4**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  Annual knawel **5-banded tailed digger wasp** **Adder**
  Hedgehog

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG10: Reigate Heaths



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

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG11: Holmesdale**

Local authorities: Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge

Aim & justification:

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes an extensive and largely open agricultural landscape between Redhill and Godstone. It is bounded by the M25 to the north and the Nutfield Ridge in the south. At the western end is a near-continuous chain of restored sandpits, overshadowed by the operational Patteson Court landfill site. East of this is the M23 corridor, several farm estates with numerous small woodlands and large ponds, and finally the important complex of wetland habitats at Godstone and the wooded Tilburstow Hill east of Bletchingley. The BOA is contiguous with LW07 east of Redhill. **Area**: 1410.5 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), Low Weald (NCA 121)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Upper greensand, Gault clay, Lower greensand. The valley of the west-flowing Redhill Brook and the east-flowing Stratton Brook; gently rising to the North Downs in the north but more abruptly toward the Nutfield-Bletchingley ridge (max. 170m at Tilburstow Hill) in the south. Open water-bodies mark former minerals workings in the river floodplain to the west.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
SSSI: Godstone Ponds
AONB: Surrey Hills (marginal)

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 5 (plus 5 potential SNCI)

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Standing open water, Floodplain grazing marsh, Reedbeds, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Hedgerows

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Annual knawel*, Chamomile; Large-celled flapwort (a liverwort)
Invertebrates: Brown hairstreak, Small heath, Clay fan-foot, Heart moth*, Sloe carpet, Necklace ground-beetle, Stag beetle, Southern yellow splinter (a cranefly), Broad groove-head spider, Mud snail*
Vertebrates: Bittern (winter), Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Grey partridge*, Lapwing, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Yellow wagtail*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm,

Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown hare*, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage, Bird's-nest orchid, Black poplar, Burnet-rose, Butterbur, Corn marigold, Corn spurrey, Common wintergreen, Dyer's greenweed, Golden dock, Grey club-rush, Horned pondweed, Knotted pearlwort, Lesser water-parsnip, Marsh valerian, Pink water-speedwell, Tasteless water-pepper, Thread-leaved water-crowfoot, Wood small-reed; Cobalt crust (a fungus); White-legged damselfly, Willow emerald damselfly, *Anasimyia transfuga* (a hoverfly), *Nephrotoma analis*, *Thaumastoptera calceata*, *Crypteria limnophiloides*, *Erioptera hybrida* (all craneflies); Gadwall, Grey wagtail, Jack snipe, Kingfisher, Little ringed plover, Sand martin, Sedge warbler, Shoveler, Smew, Water rail; Water shrew

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers; Nutfield Marshes Living Landscape (Surrey County Council/Surrey Wildlife Trust/Sibelco plc); River Mole Catchment Partnership; River Medway Catchment Partnership

3.3 Archaeology

Earthworks at North Park farm and Leigh Place; Tumuli at Godstone; Roman bath house at Pendell; Bletchingley Palace at Place Farm

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: The Moors, Spynes Mere, Kitchen Copse (permit only), Bay Pond, Graeme Hendrey nature reserve, Tilburstow Hill (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Holmethorpe Lagoon (Linden Homes); Mercers Country Park (Aqua Sports plc); Nutfield Marsh (Nutfield PC/Tandridge District Council); Tilburstowhill Common-The Enterdent, Godstone Green (Godstone PC/Tandridge District Council)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Greensand Way, Tandridge Border Path, Waterlink Way (National Cycle Network), *Avenue Vert* (London-Paris cycle route)

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural production; Timber production; Aggregates extraction; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Waste decomposition; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, water-sports, angling, golf, nature observation)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Agriculture & silviculture sector; Mining & waste sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian, water-sports, hospitality); Environmental education

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets

WG11/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 50% by 2020 (by area)

WG11/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

WG11/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Standing open water/T3a**: 1.75 ha by 2020
- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T3b**: 13.75 ha by 2020
- **Reedbeds/T3c**: 2.75 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3d**: 0.25 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland/T3e**: 1.5 ha by 2020
- **Heathland/T3f**: 4.25 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3g**: 5 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T3h**: 2 km by 2020

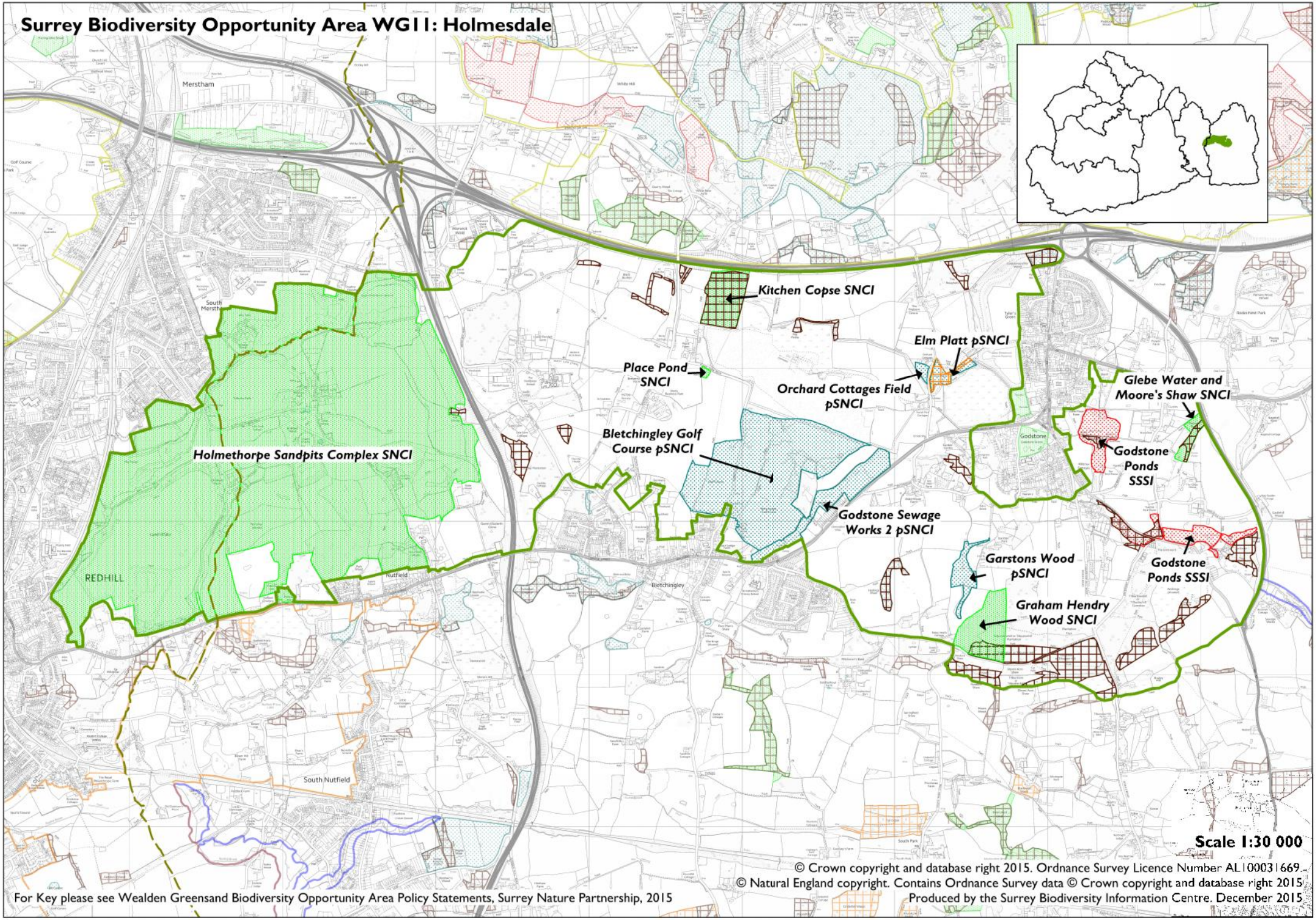
WG11/O4: Priority species recovery.

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

Grey partridge	**Lapwing**	**Great crested newt**
Brown hare	**Water vole**	

* probably extinct in BOA

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG11: Holmesdale



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

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG12: Albury and Shere Heaths & Parkland**

Local authorities: Guildford

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and ***establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to i***dentify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks***, *and* ***areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation*** (para. 174).

Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the wooded parkland and relict heathland south of the A25, between Albury and Shere in the Tillingbourne valley. It shares adjacency with ND02 on the northern boundary and R04 along the river. **Area**: 227.5 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Lower greensand, Alluvium. A short section of the narrow Tillingbourne valley, including the foot of the North Downs scarp together with an elevated Greensand ridgeline rising to 122m in Albury Park, then falling towards the valley of the Law Brook in the south.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 6

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Mixed deciduous woodland, Wood pasture & parkland, Heathland, Acid grassland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Copse-bindweed
Fungi/Lichens: *Bacidia circumspecta*, *Opegrapha prosodea*[*], Southern grey *Physcia*, *Wadeana minuta* (all lichens)
Invertebrates: Small heath
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Willow tit[*], Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Barbastelle bat, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Hoary cinquefoil, Shepherd's cress, Smooth cat's-ear,

[*] probably extinct in BOA

Upright chickweed

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Wildlife Trust Grazing Project; Greenscape Facilitation Fund

3.3 Archaeology -

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Albury Heath, Shere Heath (Albury Estate)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: -

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Timber production; Agricultural production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Silviculture & agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (equestrian, game fishing & hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

WG12/O1: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1**: All by 2020

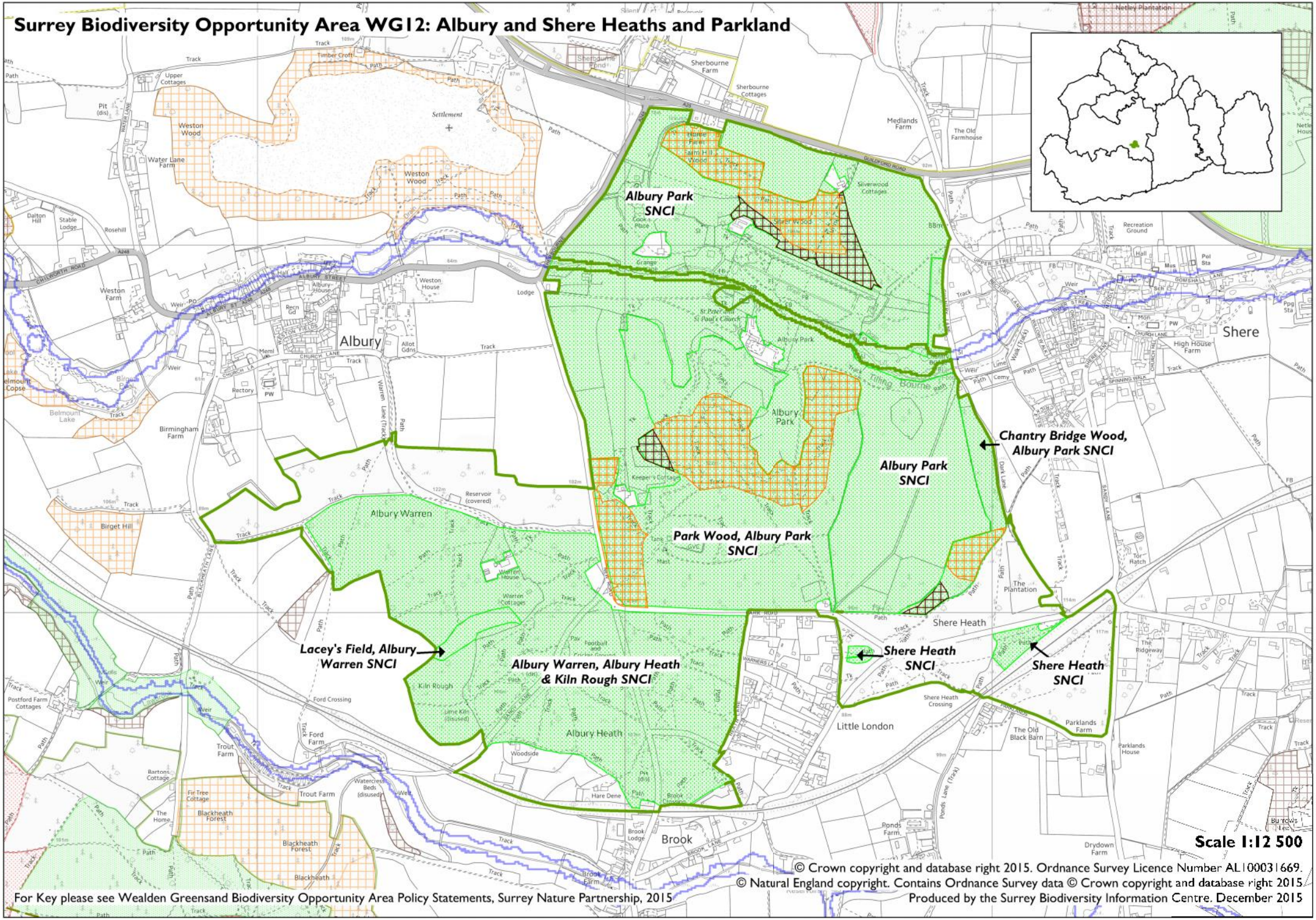
WG12/O2: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T2a**: 75% by area
- **Heathland /T2b**: 1.75 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland /T2c**: 1.5 ha by 2020
- **Wood pasture & parkland /T2d**: 0.5 ha by 2020

WG12/O3: Priority species recovery.

- **T3**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  (rare **lichen** assemblage) **Nightjar** **Woodlark**

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG12: Albury and Shere Heaths and Parkland



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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **WG13: Abinger Roughs**

Local authorities: Mole Valley, Guildford

Aim & justification

The aim of **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

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Explanatory

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the wooded ridge north of the A25, between Abinger Hammer and Wotton in the Tillingbourne valley. It shares adjacency with ND02 along much of the northern boundary. **Area**: 189.7 ha

2. National Character Areas

Wealden Greensands (NCA 120), North Downs (NCA 119; marginal)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Upper greensand, Lower greensand. A short section of the Tillingbourne valley at the foot of the North Downs scarp, including part of the Greensand ridge rising to 138m on Broomy Downs-The Rough.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites
AONB: Surrey Hills

3.2.2 Local Sites
(1 potential SNCI)

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (***Priority habitats***):
Mixed deciduous woodland, Wood pasture & parkland, Heathland, Acid grassland

Species of Principal Importance (***Priority species***):
Plants: Copse-bindweed, Juniper
Invertebrates: Hornet robberfly
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Lesser redpoll*, Linnet, Marsh tit, Skylark, Song thrush, Turtle dove*, Tree sparrow*, Willow tit*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat; Brown trout

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Box, Hairy whitlow-grass, Hoary cinquefoil, Green hellebore, Meadow saxifrage, Sainfoin

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

* probably extinct in BOA

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: -

3.3 Archaeology -

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Abinger Roughs, Piney Copse (National Trust)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Pilgrims Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Recreational (walking, equestrian)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Agriculture & silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (equestrian & hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets

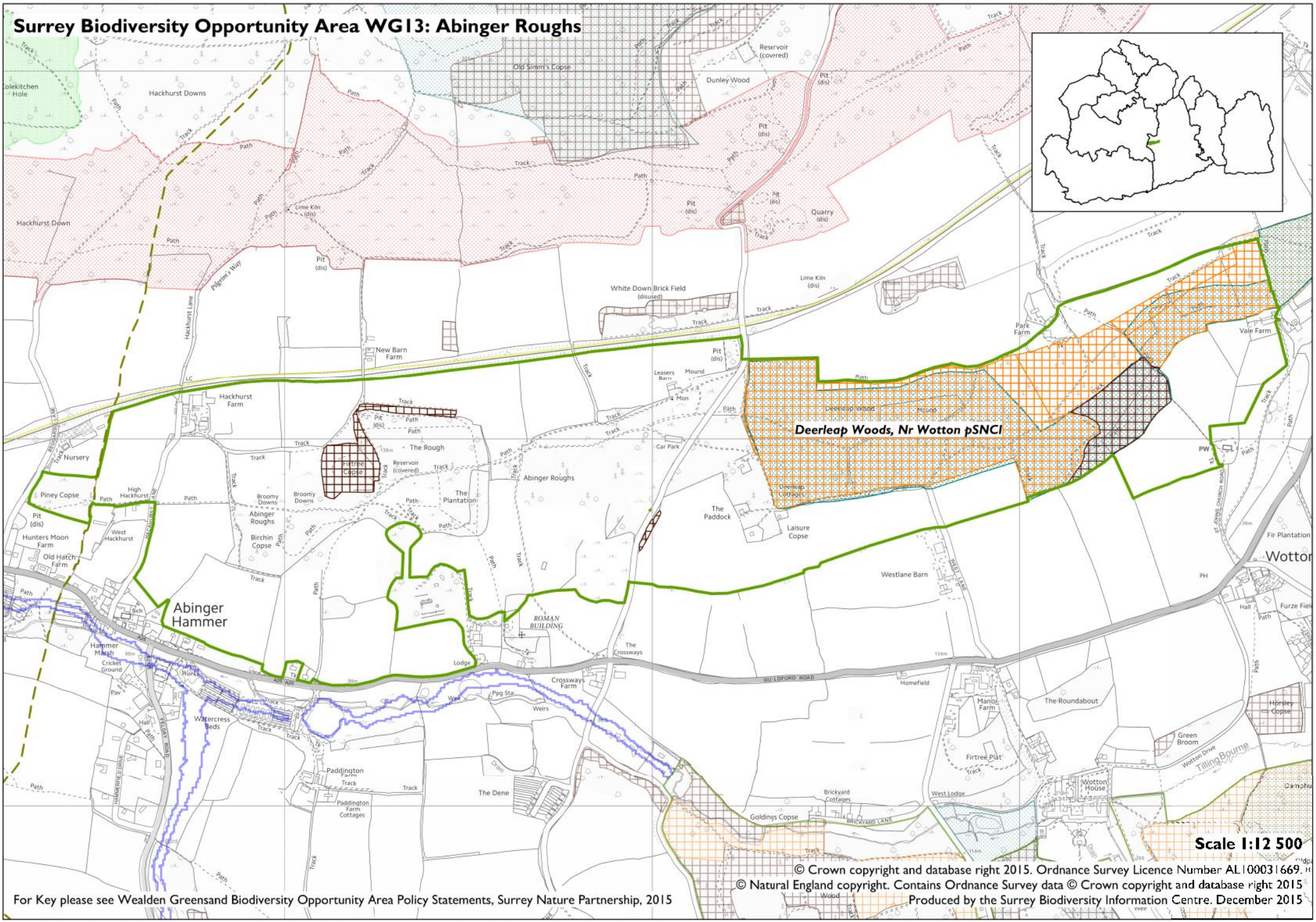
WG13/O1: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland /T1a**: 1.5 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland /T1b**: 1.25 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)**/T1c**: 75% by area

WG13/O2: Priority species recovery.

- **T2**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  Juniper **Woodlark** **Adder**
  Common dormouse

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area WG13: Abinger Roughs



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

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statements - Key to Statement Maps

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

- Thames Valley
- Thames Basin Heaths
- Thames Basin Lowlands
- North Downs
- Wealden Greensand
- Low Weald
- Rivers
- Other "Opportunity Areas"

Statutory Nature Conservation Designations

- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Non-statutory Nature Conservation Designations

- Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)
- Potential Site of Nature Conservation Importance (pSNCI)
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW)
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)

Administrative Boundaries

- Surrey County Council
- Borough/District Council

Please Note: This is a standardised key and as such not all designations will appear on each map.