

Appendix 1

A) List of Countryside Sites, Date: 26/01/2017

No	Site Name	Area	Main habitat(s)	Designations	Grid Ref
1.	Abbotswood Paddock	1.5ha	Urban Fringe	LNR, SNCI	TQ 010 510
2.	Bullswater Common	26.6ha	Heathland	SSSI, SPA	SU 959 546
3.	Burpham Court Farm	39ha	Wey Valley Meadows	SNCI	TQ 006 528
4.	Chapel Lane	3.4ha	Heathland	SNCI	SU 945 562
5.	Chantry Wood	63.7ha	Woodland	AONB, SAM, SANG	TQ 020 054
6.	Chantry Wood Fields	14.1ha	Acid Grassland	AONB, SANG	TQ 016 480
7.	Chilworth Gunpowder Mills	11ha	Woodland	SAM	TQ 024 476
8.	Compton Common	13.9ha	Open Common (Woodland Area 7.7ha)	AONB	SU 964 094
9.	Dawney Hill	10ha	Heathland	SNCI	SU 945 563
10.	Effingham Common	34.5ha	Open Common (Woodland Area 5.2ha)	Registered Common, SANG	TQ 106 553
11.	Fox Corner Nature Reserve	6.3ha	Urban Fringe	LNR	SU 964 547
12.	The Gardens	11.5ha	Heathland	SNCI	SU 945 564
13.	Gosden Common (Shalford Common)	17.3ha	Woodland	SNCI, Registered Common	TQ 002 457
14.	Heathfield	1.9ha	Urban Fringe		TQ 023 558
15.	Hollybush	13.1ha	Urban Fringe		SU 885 519
16.	Lakeside Nature Reserve	15.5ha	Urban Fringe (Woodland 11ha)	LNR, SNCI, SANG	SU 889 519
17.	Merrow Common Wood, Merrow Lane	7.7ha	Woodland	SNCI, Registered Common	TQ 024 517
18.	Merrow Common, Speedwell Close	0.5ha	Woodland		TQ 019 515
19.	Merrow Common, Main Common	10.1ha	Open Common (Woodland 4ha)	Registered Common	TQ 024 518
20.	Merrow Downs Wood	78.7ha	Woodland	AONB, SNCI, Registered Common	TQ 042 500
21.	Merrow Downs, incl Golf Course	74.3ha	Downland	AONB, SNCI, Registered Common	TQ 023 499

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22.	Moore Close	0.5ha	Woodland		SU 885 500
23.	The Mount	32ha	Downland (Henley Wood 1.3ha)	SNCI, AONB	SU 989 489
24.	Newbridge Common	5.3ha	Woodland		SU 946 550
25.	Onslow Arboretum	4.7ha	Urban Fringe		SU 977 491
26.	Parsonage Water Meadows	9.5ha	Wey Valley Meadows	SNCI, SANG	SU 997 511
27.	Peasmarsh (Shalford Common)	15.3ha	Woodland	Registered Common	SU 986 459
28.	Peasmarsh Green, Shalford Common	1.9ha	Open Common	Registered Common	SU 006 468
29.	Peasmarsh (Titham's Corner)	1.1ha	Woodland	Registered Common	SU 989 457
30.	Pewley Downs	9.5ha	Downland	AONB, SNCI, LNR	TQ 005 491
31.	Pirbright Common	26.27ha	Heathland	SSSI, SPA	SU 945 561
32.	Riverside LNR	33.3ha	Wye Valley Meadows	LNR, SNCI, SANG	TQ 011 526
33.	Rowan Field	4.9ha	Urban Fringe		SU 885 505
34.	Send Hill	1.1ha	Urban Fringe		TQ 023 549
35.	Shalford Common	40ha	Open Common (Woodland 12.8ha)	SNCI, Registered Common,	TQ 006 469
36.	Shalford Water Meadows	38.1ha	Wey Valley Meadows	SSSI,	SU 995 481
37.	Shaw Fields	3.5ha	Urban Fringe		SU 887 507
38.	Short Wood	5.2ha	Woodland		TQ 106 535
39.	Snakey Lane	2.7ha	Urban Fringe	LNR	SU 887 542
40.	St Catherine's Common	1.9ha	Open Common	Registered Common, SAM	SU 994 482
41.	Stoke Water Meadows	11.2ha	Wey Valley Meadows	LNR (Riverside), SNCI	SU 998 512
42.	Stoke Park, Jubilee Wood	0.7ha	Woodland		TQ 005 507
43.	Stoke Park, Peacock Wood (Wildwood)	1.2ha	Woodland		TQ 003 507
44.	Thornycroft Wood	10.7ha	Woodland	LNR (Riverside), SNCI	TQ 002 508
45.	Tongham Railway	8.3ha	Urban Fringe		SU 897 498

No	Site Name	Area	Main habitat(s)	Designations	Grid Ref
46.	Tyting Farm	46.9ha	Downland (Woodland 3ha)	SANG	TQ 027 487
47.	The Villages Community Wildlife Area	0.5ha	Urban Fringe		TQ 032 550
48.	West Heath	9.2ha	Heathland	SNCI	SU 938 559
49.	Westborough Woods	5.1ha	Woodland		SU 974 508
50.	Weybrook	1.7ha	Woodland		TQ 016 524
51.	Weylea Farm	6.8ha	Wey Valley Meadows	LNR (Riverside), SNCI	TQ 007 515
52.	Woodbridge Meadows	4.8ha	Wey Valley Meadows		SU 992 507
53.	Conservation Road Verges	32km	Road Verge	various	n/a

B) Site designations:

The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2008 – Section 40 places a duty on Local Authorities to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity in carrying out their functions. Effective protection and management of designated sites requires all parts of the Council to be aware of their location and extent and their designation.

The following designations apply to Guildford Borough Council's Countryside Sites:

1) SPA: Special Protection Areas

The Special Protection Areas together with Special Areas of Conservation form the Natura 2000 network, the highest levels of protection under EU law. SPAs are classified by the UK Government under the EC Birds Directive as the most important habitat for rare and migratory birds within the European Union. The relevant national legislation is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 place a duty on public bodies to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive in carrying out their function, which includes the protection of 'European sites', and 'European protected species'. The regulations also provide for the control of potentially damaging operations. Operations that require appropriate assessment include off site development and even Local Plans.

All SPAs are also notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England.

2) SSSI:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) represent the best examples of our national wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. They are nationally important and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs.

Local authorities own approximately 40,000ha of designated SSSIs, and therefore have a key role in contributing to the government's objective to bring SSSIs in favourable condition.

The notification of SSSI sites is a statutory protection for those sites and their features of interest. It includes a list of Operations Likely to Damage (OLDs) the features of special interest and which cannot be carried out without the written approval from Natural England.

Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act) requires local authorities to "take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the site is of special scientific interest". This duty applies to land managers as well as the planning authority.

A code of guidance to inform the management of SSSI sites has been published by Defra.

3) LNR:

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. LNRs may be declared by local authorities after consultation with Natural England. This is the highest level of protection that local authorities can afford to a site.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They are designated for both wildlife and people and provide opportunities for research and education.

In England there are 1280 LNRs covering some 40,000 hectares.

4) SNCI:

Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) are protected through the planning system. Different planning authorities use different terms and they are nationally referred to as Local Wildlife Sites.

The Planning Policy Framework provides the direction for local authorities to identify, map and protect Local Wildlife Sites through local plans. It also requires protection of Local Wildlife Sites to recognise the importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks, as stated in the Government's Natural Environment White Paper.

Local Wildlife Sites are selected by Local Nature Partnerships for their nature conservation value. The Local Nature Partnerships will work with planning authorities to ensure that SNCIs are considered in the Local Plans. SNCI designations are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

There are over 35,000 Local Sites in England.

5) Registered Common:

Registered Commons are land areas that are legally registered as Common Land in the Commons Register. This designation does not apply to unregistered areas that are called Common by name.

The term 'common' does not mean that it is in common ownership or that the public own it at all. Common Land refers to the "rights" which specific people have to products of the soil, not ownership of the land. The laws as applied to common land are often the same as for any other piece of private land, except for certain people who possess commoners' rights. Commoners' rights belong to individuals, not to everyone. The six types of Commoners' rights are pasture (the right to graze animals), pannage (the right to let your pigs go and eat acorns and beech mast), estovers (the right to take fallen branches or bracken), turbary (the right to dig turf or peat for use as fuel or for thatching), piscary (the right to take fish) and Common in the soil (the right to take stone, sand or minerals).

The Commons Act 2006 regulates the management of registered common land, and requires land managers to obtain approval from the Secretary of State to carry out certain works on the Common Land. Such works include for example installation of gates and fences, creation of ditches and change of surfaces. In addition, there are activities that are not compatible with Common Land.

Common land represents 3% of England's area (approximately 400,000ha).

Surrey County Council manages the Commons Register in Surrey.

6) SANG:

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) provides mitigation or avoidance to reduce recreational use of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. The purpose of SANGs is to provide alternative greenspace to attract visitors away from the Thames Basin Heath SPA.

SANGs are designated by the Local Planning Authority and approved by Natural England. The provision of SANG sites is required to enable the provision of housing within the 5km zone of influence on the Thames Basin Heath SPA.

Natural England has provided guidance that lists features that should be provided in order for a site to fulfil its purpose as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace. The provision of SANG features should not negatively affect existing nature conservation value of a site.

A SANG site should have the following features:

- Natural greenspace with areas of open (non-wooded) countryside and areas of dense and scattered trees and scrubs
- Perceived as semi-natural with few buildings or artificial structures
- Perceived as safe – no tree or scrub cover along parts of the walking routes
- Safe and easily accessible car parks
- Circular walk of 2.3 - 2.5km length

7) SAM:

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) are 'nationally important' archaeological sites or historic buildings, that are protected against unauthorised change through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The designating authority is the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Works that may impact on the Scheduled Ancient Monument require consent from Heritage England.

8) AONB:

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are designated by Natural England under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 clarifies the procedure and purpose of designating AONBs. The purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve natural beauty, including wildlife, physiographic features and cultural heritage, whilst safeguarding agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities.