



**Surrey Nature Partnership**

Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

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

**Appendix 5: Thames Basin Lowlands  
Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy  
Statements**

**TBL01: Wanborough & Normandy Woods & Meadows**

**TBL02: Clandon to Bookham Parkland**

**TBL03: Esher & Oxshott Commons**

**TBL04: Ashted & Epsom Woodland, Prince's Coverts &  
Horton Country Park**

**September 2019**

| <p><b>Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL01: Wanborough &amp; Normandy Woods &amp; Meadows</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Local authorities:</b> Guildford</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <p><b>Aim &amp; justification</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas</b> (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 &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by <b>providing net gains</b> for biodiversity and <b>establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to <b>identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation</b> (para. 174).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p>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.</p> |  |
| <p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area consists largely of an enclosed system of small fields, hedgerows and ditches, variably sized ancient woodlands and small surviving commons, situated between Ash Green in the west and Broadstreet Common on the outskirts of Guildford in the east. It is adjacent to ND01 (Hog's Back) along much of the southern boundary. <b>Area:</b> 1597.3 ha</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114), <a href="#">North Downs</a> (NCA 119; marginal), <a href="#">Thames Basin Heaths</a> (NCA 129; marginal)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Physical</b></p> <p>London Clay, Bagshot Sands, Blackheath Beds, Chalk. Rolling clay plain, gently rising to the foot of the Hog's Back (North Downs ridge) in the south.</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites -</b></p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> 19</p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b></p> <p>Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Meadows, Arable field margins, Hedgerows, Ponds</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p> <p><b>Plants:</b> Chamomile, Copse-bindweed, Glandular eyebright, Red-tipped cudweed*, Small fleabane*</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> White-letter hairstreak, Small heath, White admiral, Forester* (a moth), Stag beetle</p> <p><b>Vertebrates:</b> Bullfinch, Corn bunting*, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lapwing, Linnet, Skylark, Song thrush, Tree sparrow*, Turtle dove*, Yellowhammer; Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Barbastelle bat, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Further important species interest:</b> Corky-fruited water-dropwort, Greater butterfly-orchid, Green-winged orchid, Lesser marshwort, Water-violet; Alder-tongue (a fungus); Purple emperor; Nightingale*</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |

\* probably extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present, including PAWS

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership; Surrey Wildlife Trust

## 3.3 Archaeology

Romano-Celtic Temple complex west of Long Common

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Broadstreet & Backside Commons, Littlefield Common (Surrey Wildlife Trust/Surrey County Council)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** The Fox Way (Link 6); Ash Green Lane East

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural production; Timber production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Agriculture and silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (esp. equestrian)

**3.6.2 LEP:** Enterprise M3

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**TBL01/O1:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1:** All by 2020

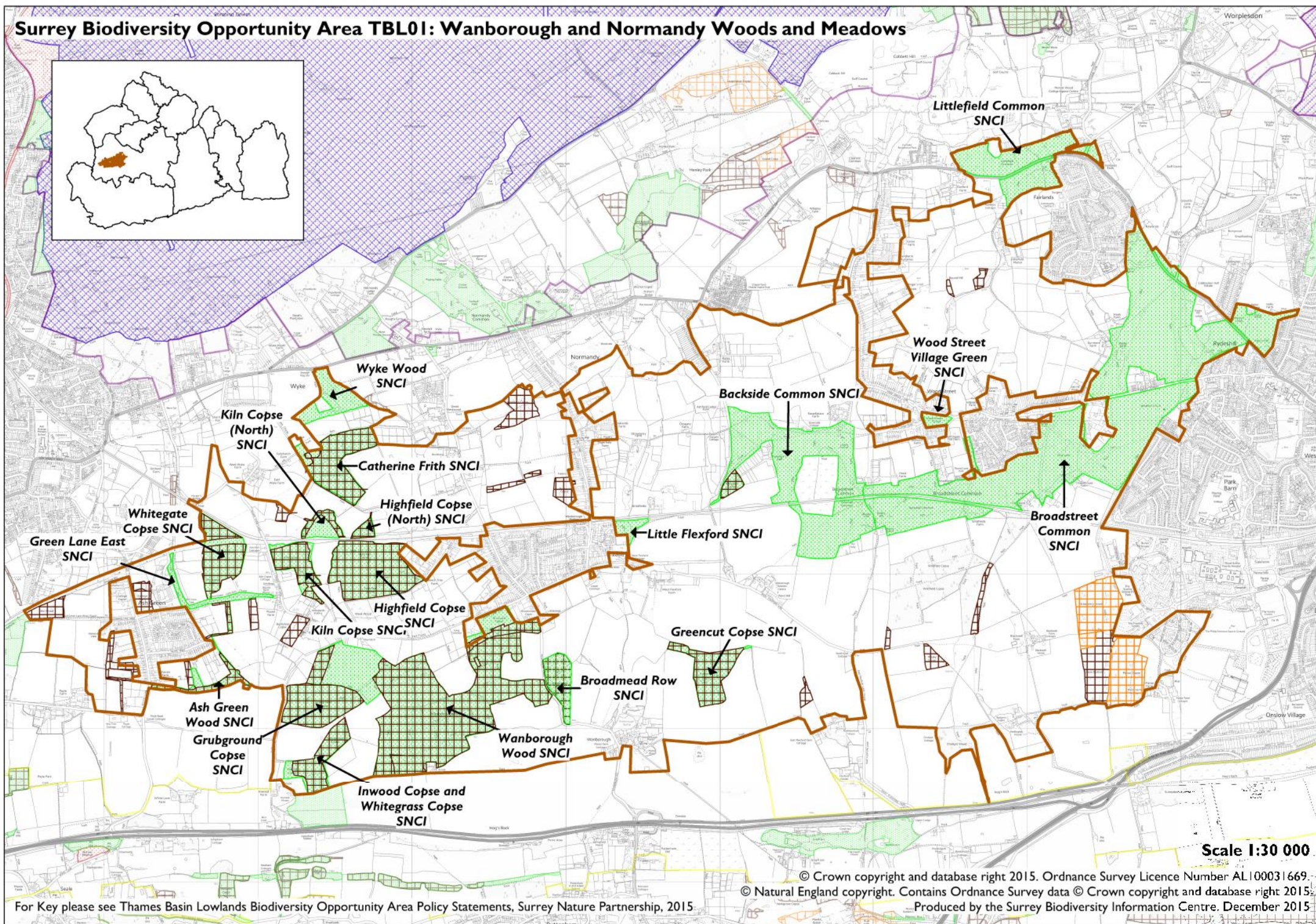
**TBL01/O2:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Meadows/T2a:** 5.25 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**  
(restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T2b:** 75% by area
- **Wet woodland/T2c:** 2 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T2d:** 2.25 km by 2020

**TBL01/O3:** Priority species recovery.

- **T3:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:  
**Chamomile**                      **Small fleabane**                      **Great crested newt**

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL01: Wanborough and Normandy Woods and Meadows



| <p><b>Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL02: Clandon to Bookham Parkland</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Local authorities:</b> Guildford, Mole Valley</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <p><b>Aim &amp; justification</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas</b> (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 &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by <b>providing net gains</b> for biodiversity and <b>establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to <b>identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation</b> (para. 174).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p>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.</p> |  |
| <p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area consists of several former estate parklands and commons set in a matrix of agricultural fields with hedgerows and ditches, with variably sized ancient and secondary woodland blocks; from Clandon Park in the west to the outskirts of Fetcham and Leatherhead in the east. It shares adjacencies with ND02 at several points along the southern boundary. <b>Area:</b> 3914 ha</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| <p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114), <a href="#">Thames Basin Heaths</a> (NCA 129; marginal)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Physical</b></p> <p>River Terrace deposits, London clay, Alluvium, Blackheath beds, Chalk, Bagshot beds. Rolling, flat clay plain, gently rising to the south towards the dip slope of the North Downs.</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b></p> <p><b>SSSI:</b> Bookham Commons</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> 17</p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b></p> <p>Wood pasture &amp; parkland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Meadows, Hedgerows, Ponds, Traditional orchards</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p> <p><b>Plants:</b> Glandular eyebright*, Green hound's-tongue, Pennyroyal*, White helleborine, Yellow bird's-nest</p> <p><b>Fungal/Lichens:</b> Orange-fruited elm-lichen*, <i>Anaptychia ciliaris</i> ssp. <i>ciliaris</i>* (a lichen)</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> Brown hairstreak, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Heart moth, Sloe carpet, White-spotted pinion, New Forest mud beetle*, Poplar leaf-rolling weevil, Stag beetle, Scarlet malachite beetle, Hornet robberfly, Thin weblet (a spider)</p> <p><b>Vertebrates:</b> Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Hawfinch, Lesser redpoll*, Lesser</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

spotted woodpecker, Lapwing, Linnet, Marsh tit, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Reed bunting, Turtle dove\*, Wood warbler\*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Barbastelle, Bechstein's bat, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

**3.2.4 Further important species interest:** Black poplar, Eared willow, Fat duckweed, Green hellebore, Orange foxtail, Short-styled field-rose, Thread-leaved water-crowfoot, *Zygodon conoideus* (a moss); Robust bracket (a fungus); Purple emperor, *Araneus alsine* (Strawberry spider), *Procraterus tibialis* (a click-beetle); Nightingale\*, Red kite, Alcathoe whiskered bat

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present, including PAWS

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Lower Mole)

## 3.3 Archaeology

Medieval fishponds in Lollesworth Wood; Medieval moated site and fishpond in Greatlee Wood

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Merrow Common, The Forest Nature Reserve (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Great Ridings Wood Nature Reserve (Woodland Trust); Effingham Common (Guildford Borough Council); Bookham Common (National Trust)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PROW, etc:** The Fox Way (Links 1-2); Horsley Jubilee Trail

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Agricultural production; Timber production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf, shooting, angling)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Agriculture and silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure & tourism sector (esp. equestrian, game shooting & historic visitor attractions)

**3.6.2 LEP:** Coast-to-Capital

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**TBL02/O1:** SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1:** 95% by 2020 (by area)

**TBL02/O2:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**TBL02/O3:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Wet woodland/T3a:** 5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**  
(restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T3b:** 75% by area
- **Wood pasture & parkland/T3c:** 19 ha by 2020
- **Meadows/T3d:** 13 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T3e:** 5.4 km by 2020
- **Ponds/T3f:** 4.75 ha by 2020

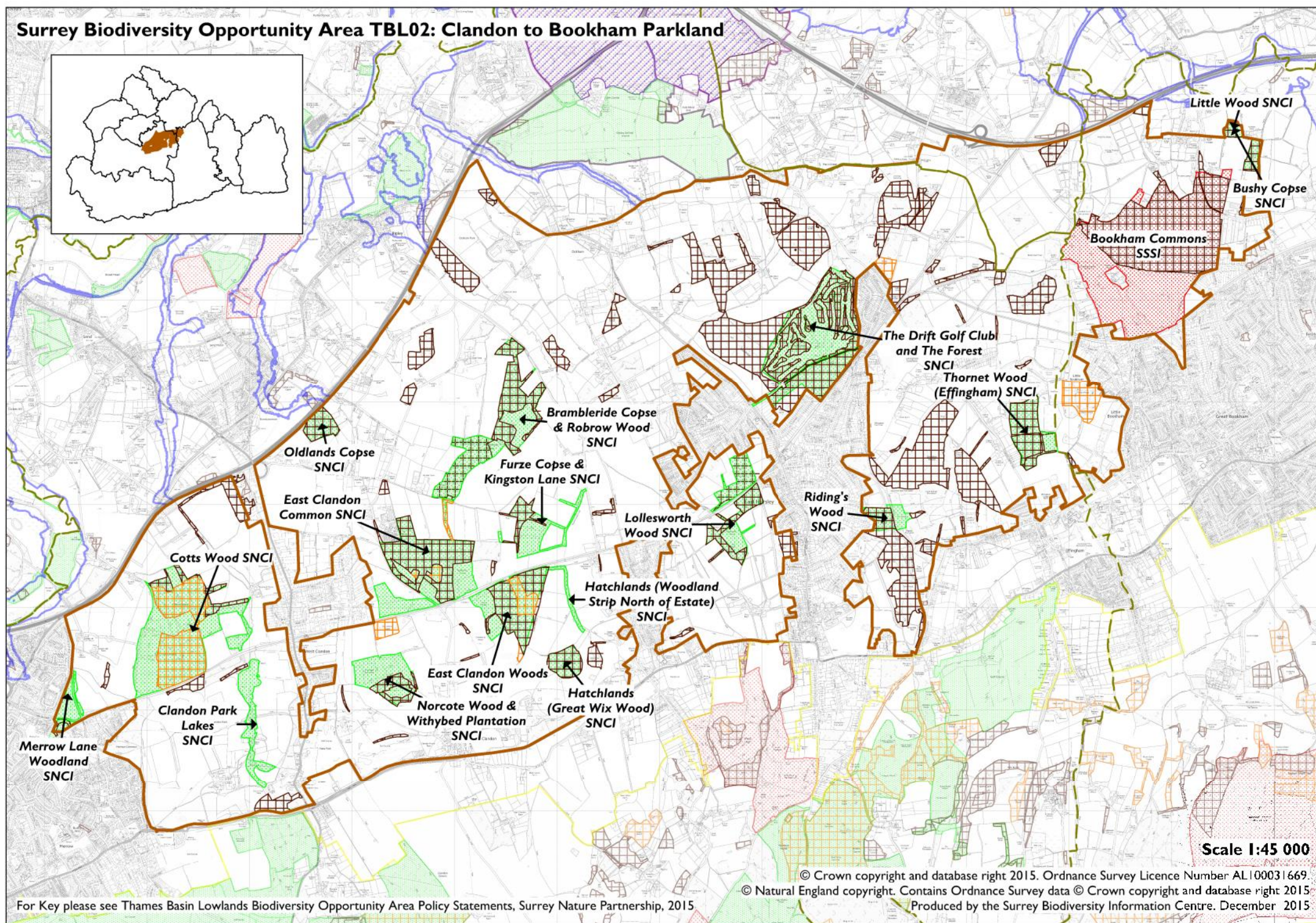
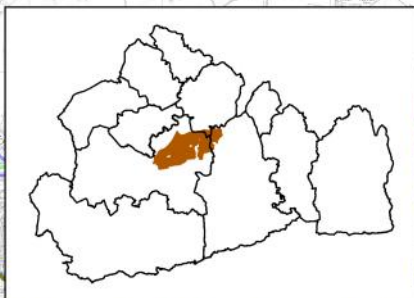
**TBL02/O4:** Priority species recovery.

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

|                                  |                      |                           |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>White-letter hairstreak</b>   | <b>White admiral</b> | <b>Great crested newt</b> |
| <b>Lesser spotted woodpecker</b> | <b>Hawfinch</b>      |                           |

\* probably extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL02: Clandon to Bookham Parkland



Scale 1:45 000

© Crown copyright and database right 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence Number AL100031669.  
 © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015.  
 Produced by the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre. December 2015

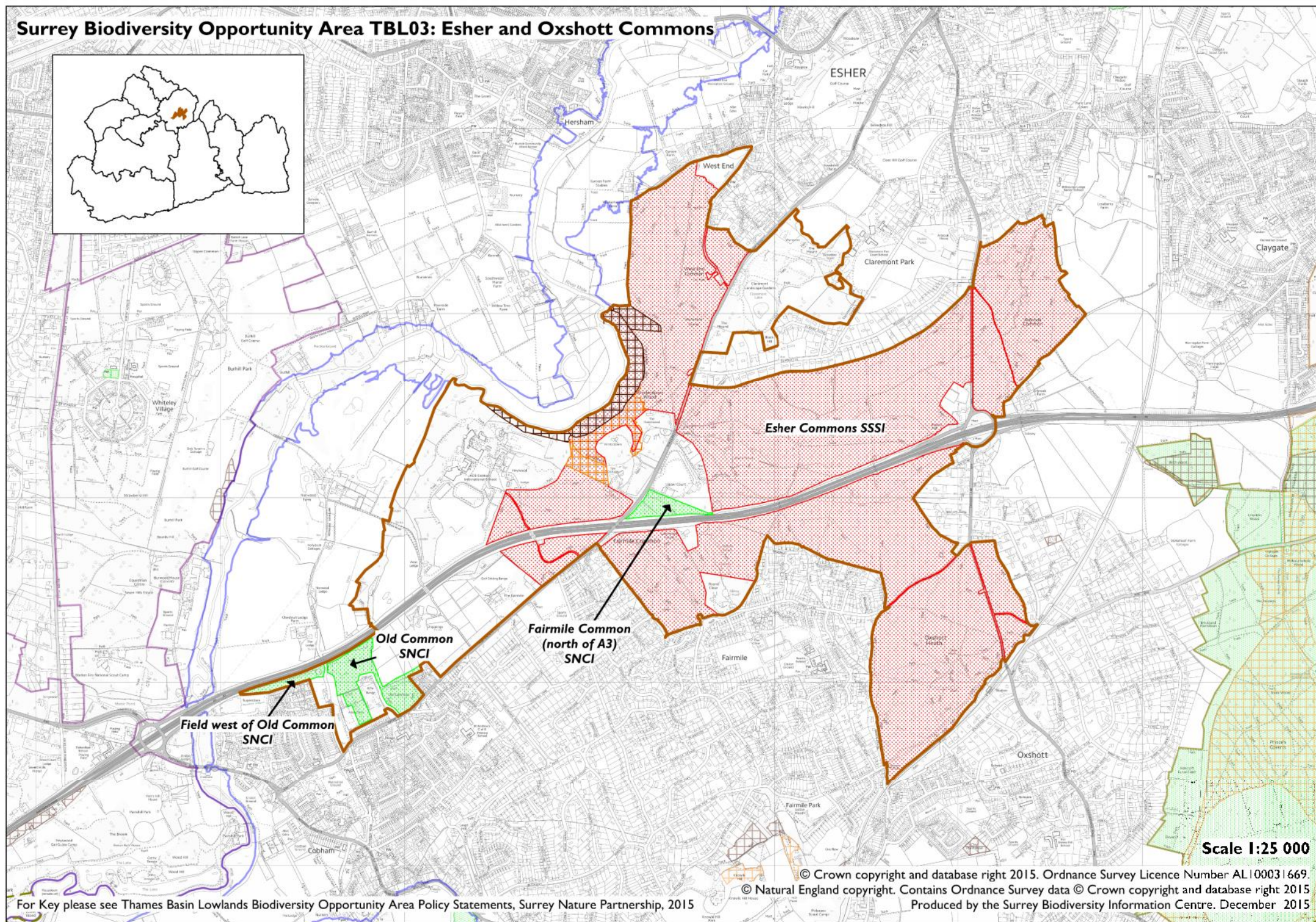
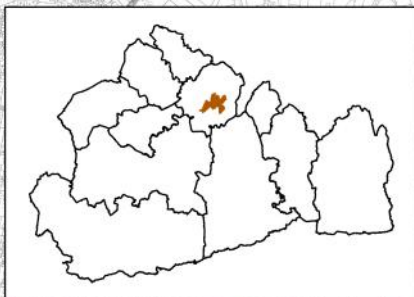
For Key please see Thames Basin Lowlands Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements, Surrey Nature Partnership, 2015

| Biodiversity Opportunity Area <b>TBL03: Esher &amp; Oxshott Commons</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Local authorities:</b> Elmbridge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <p><b>Aim &amp; justification</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> 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 &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by <b>providing net gains</b> for biodiversity and <b>establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to <b>identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation</b> (para. 174).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> |  |
| <p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is centred on the Esher Commons SSSI and straddles the A3 corridor from Cobham in the west to the outskirts of Esher in the east. Peripheral parkland and farmland is also included. It shares adjacency with R05 (River Mole) in the north-west. <b>Area:</b> 576.3 ha</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| <p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114), <a href="#">Thames Basin Heaths</a> (NCA 129; marginal)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| <p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Physical</b></p> <p>River Terrace deposits, London clay, Bagshot beds. Gently undulating terrain, but falling sharply to the Mole floodplain at the Ledges in the north.</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b></p> <p><b>SSSI:</b> Esher Commons</p> <p><b>LNR:</b> Esher Common; West End Common; Old Common</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> 3</p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b></p> <p>Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wood pasture &amp; parkland, Standing open water, Hedgerows</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p> <p><b>Plants:</b> Starfruit, Tubular water-dropwort</p> <p><b>Fungi/Lichens:</b> Orange chanterelle*, Mealy, Ridged, Velvet, Fused* &amp; Grey tooth (all fungi)</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> Silver-studded blue, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Oxbow diving beetle*, Sallow guest weevil, Scarlet malachite beetle, Skeetle (a camphor) beetle*, Stag beetle, Shining guest ant, Southern yellow splinter (a crane fly), Silky gallows-spider, Peus' long-back spider*, Thin weblet* (a spider)</p> <p><b>Vertebrates:</b> Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser redpoll*, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest</p>                                                                                                                                                         |  |

\* probably extinct in BOA

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                |                                |              |                 |                 |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| <p>mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Further important species interest:</b> Greater chickweed, Greater dodder, Heath cudweed, Lemon-scented fern, Lily-of-the-valley, Marsh dock, Marsh St John’s-wort, Marsh violet, Oblong-leaved sundew, Petty-whin, Royal fern; <i>Hebelomina neerlandica</i>, Starfish fungus (both fungi); Purple emperor, Small red damselfly, Brilliant emerald, Downy emerald (both dragonflies), <i>Graphoderus cinereus</i> (a diving-beetle), Oak pinhole-borer beetle, <i>Cardiophorus asellus</i>, <i>Procræus tibialis</i> (both click-beetles), Scarce 7-spot ladybird; Dartford warbler, Hobby, Kingfisher, Nathusius’ pipistrelle bat</p> <p><b>3.2.5 Ancient woodland:</b> present, including PAWS</p> <p><b>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:</b> Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Lower Mole, Heathland Projects)</p> <p><b>3.3 Archaeology</b><br/>The Belvedere at Claremont</p> <p><b>3.4 Access</b></p> <p><b>3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:</b> Esher Common, Oxshott Heath, Fairmile Common, West End Common, Arbrook Common (Elmbridge Borough Council); Claremont Landscape Gardens (National Trust)</p> <p><b>3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:</b> -</p> <p><b>3.5 Key ecosystem services</b><br/>Carbon sequestration, Agricultural production; Timber production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)</p> <p><b>3.6 Socio-Economic</b></p> <p><b>3.6.1 Employment profile:</b> Leisure &amp; tourism sector (esp. equestrian &amp; historic visitor attractions); Equine livery &amp; services</p> <p><b>3.6.2 LEP:</b> Coast-to-Capital</p> |                                |                                |              |                 |                 |  |  |
| <p><b>4. Objectives &amp; Targets</b></p> <p><b>TBL03/O1:</b> SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. <b>T1:</b> 50% by 2020 (by area)</p> <p><b>TBL03/O2:</b> SNCI protected by planning policy &amp; in positive management. <b>T2:</b> All by 2020</p> <p><b>TBL03/O3:</b> Priority habitat restoration &amp; creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Heathland/T3a:</b> 3.75 ha by 2020</li><li>• <b>Acid grassland T3b:</b> 3.5 ha by 2020</li><li>• <b>Mixed deciduous woodland</b><br/>(restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/<b>T3c:</b> 75% by area</li><li>• <b>Hedgerows/T3d:</b> 0.8 km by 2020</li><li>• <b>Ponds/T3e:</b> 0.75 ha by 2020</li></ul> <p><b>TBL03/O4:</b> Priority species recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>T4:</b> By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation &amp; preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:</li></ul> <table><tr><td><b>Starfruit</b></td><td><b>White-letter hairstreak</b></td><td><b>Adder</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Nightjar</b></td><td><b>Woodlark</b></td><td></td></tr></table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Starfruit</b>               | <b>White-letter hairstreak</b> | <b>Adder</b> | <b>Nightjar</b> | <b>Woodlark</b> |  |  |
| <b>Starfruit</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>White-letter hairstreak</b> | <b>Adder</b>                   |              |                 |                 |  |  |
| <b>Nightjar</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Woodlark</b>                |                                |              |                 |                 |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                |                                |              |                 |                 |  |  |

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL03: Esher and Oxshott Commons



Scale 1:25 000

© Crown copyright and database right 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence Number AL100031669.

© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015

Produced by the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre. December 2015

For Key please see Thames Basin Lowlands Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements, Surrey Nature Partnership, 2015

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL04: Ashtead &amp; Epsom Woodland, Prince's Coverts &amp; Horton Country Park</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| <p><b>Local authorities:</b> Elmbridge, Epsom &amp; Ewell, Mole Valley</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <p><b>Aim &amp; justification</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas</b> (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 &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by <b>providing net gains</b> for biodiversity and <b>establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to <b>identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation</b> (para. 174).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p>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.</p> |  |
| <p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is centred on the Epsom and Ashtead Commons SSSI, extending north to include Horton Country Park and the Crown Estate-owned Prince's Coverts. The BOA is contiguous with similarly-identified opportunity land in Greater London. The Rye Brook is a tributary of the River Mole (R05) flowing along the southern boundary. <b>Area:</b> 1239.7 ha</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| <p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114), <a href="#">North Downs</a> (NCA 119; marginal)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| <p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Physical</b></p> <p>River terrace deposits, London clay, Blackheath beds. BOA occupies the undulating plateau and flanks of a north-south ridge below the Kingston Road (A243).</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b></p> <p><b>SSSI:</b> Epsom &amp; Ashtead Commons</p> <p><b>NNR:</b> Ashtead Common</p> <p><b>LNR:</b> Claygate Common; Epsom Common; Horton Country Park; Ashtead Park</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> 10</p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b></p> <p>Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Wood pasture &amp; parkland, Heathland, Acid grassland, Hedgerows, Ponds</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p> <p><b>Plants:</b> Glandular eyebright*, Green hound's-tongue</p> <p><b>Fungi/Lichens:</b> Oak polypore, Zoned rosette, Orchard tooth (all fungi); <i>Parmelina carporrhizans</i> (=quercina)*, <i>Sclerophora pallida</i>* (both lichens)</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> Brown hairstreak, Dingy skipper, Grizzled skipper, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Clay fan-foot, Heart moth, Necklace ground-beetle*, New Forest mud beetle*, Stag</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |

beetle, Shining guest ant, Phantom hoverfly, Small mesh-weaver (a spider), Silky gallows-spider, Thin weblet\* (a spider), Triangle hammock-spider, Horehound long-horn (a micro-moth)

**Vertebrates:** Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler\*, Grey partridge, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Wood warbler\*, Yellowhammer; Adder, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common lizard, Common toad, Great crested newt; Bechstein's bat, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

**3.2.4 Further important species interest:** Corky-fruited water-dropwort, Greater bladderwort, Greater yellow-rattle, Lesser pondweed, Marsh speedwell, Meadow-thistle, Needle spike-rush, Pale sedge, Purple willow, Round-leaved crowfoot, Saw-wort, Wood small-reed; Purple emperor, *Bibloporus minutus*, *Procræus tibialis*, *Rhizophagus oblongicollis* (all beetles), *Ctenophora bimaculata*, *Oedalea apicalis* (both flies); Barn owl, Kingfisher

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present, including PAWS

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Surrey Countryside Partnerships (Lower Mole)

## 3.3 Archaeology

Camp and Roman Villa in Ashted Forest; Roman Road (course of)

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Claygate Common (Elmbridge Borough Council); Prince's Coverts (Crown Estate); Ashted Common (City of London); Epsom Common, Horton Country Park (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council); Leatherhead Common (Mole Valley District Council), Ashted Park (Mole Valley District Council/Surrey Wildlife Trust)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** Thames Down Link; Leatherhead Common Walk

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

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

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Leisure & tourism sector (esp. equestrian, golf & visitor attractions); Equine livery & services

**3.6.2 LEP:** Coast-to-Capital

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**TBL04/O1:** SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1:** 95% by 2020 (by area)

**TBL04/O2:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**TBL04/O3:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Mixed deciduous woodland**  
(restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T3a:** 75% by area
- **Wet woodland/T3b :** 1.5 by 2020
- **Wood pasture & parkland/T3c:** 6 ha by 2020
- **Heathland/T3d:** 8.25 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland T3e:** 7.75 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T3f:** 1.7 km by 2020

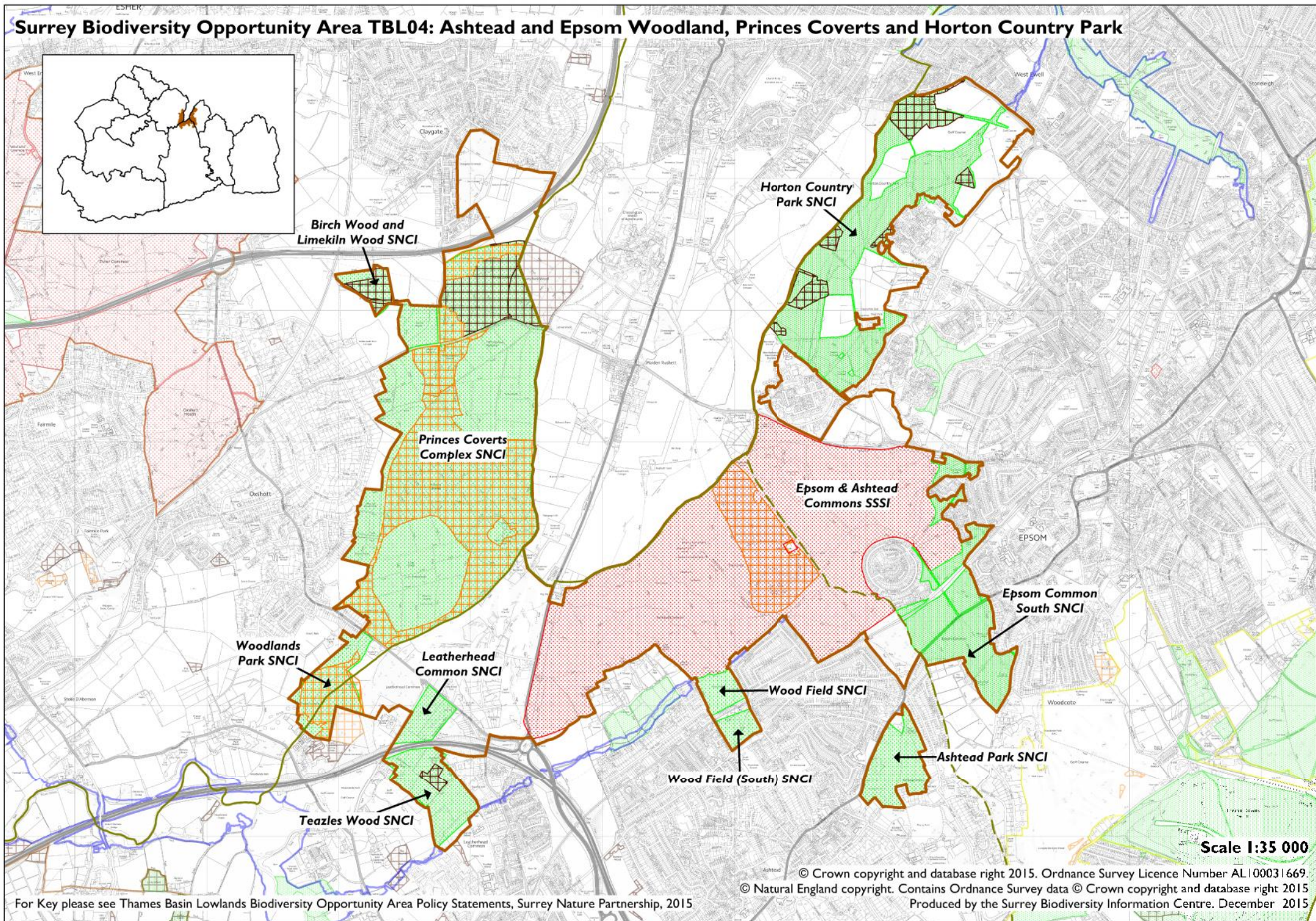
**TBL04/O4:** Priority species recovery.

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

|                                |                   |              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>White-letter hairstreak</b> | <b>Heart moth</b> | <b>Adder</b> |
| <b>Harvest mouse</b>           |                   |              |

\* probably extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL04: Ashtead and Epsom Woodland, Princes Coverts and Horton Country Park



For Key please see Thames Basin Lowlands Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements, Surrey Nature Partnership, 2015

© Crown copyright and database right 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence Number AL100031669.  
 © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015  
 Produced by the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre. December 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.