







Contents Page

Sect	ion	Page number
1.	General Information	3
1a.	Table 1: Summary of Area	4
1b.	Site History	4
1c.	Site Description	4/5
2.	Evaluation	6
3.	Nature Conservation Value	8
4.	Amenity Value	8
5.	Constraints	9
6.	Management Objectives	9
7.	Rationale	9
8.	Table: Operational objectives an	d
	Outline prescriptions	10/11
9.	References	11
10.	Acknowledgements	11



Path through Eagle's Copse

- Appendix 1: Hocombe location within Eastleigh Borough
- Appendix 2: 1588 Map of Hursley Parish
- Appendix 3: SINC Criteria sheet

11. Appendices

- Appendix 4: Local Nature Reserve Declaration and Boundary Map
- Appendix 5: Map showing Permissive Paths, Coppice Coupes,
 - and South Meadow cutting areas
- Appendix 5a: Coppicing to the rear of 117 to 125 Hocombe Road
- Appendix 6: 1812 and 1870 maps
- Appendix 7: Eagles Copse coppice rotation details
- Appendix 8: South Meadow cutting cycle details
- Appendix 9: Cutting cycles for stream banks and heather area
- Appendix 10: Miles King (Grasslands Trust) NVC Survey 2008
- Appendix11: Results of 2011 Reptile survey by John Caplen
- Appendix12: Butterfly transect map, annual results and list of key species
- Appendix13: Aerial Photographs

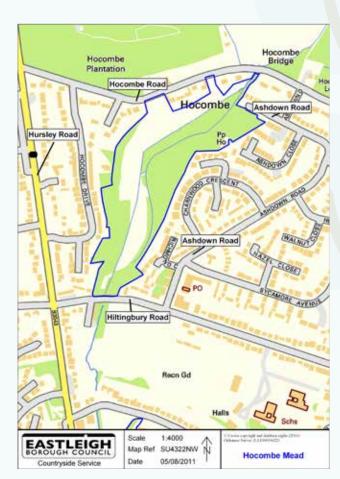


Management Plan

1. General Information

Hocombe Mead is an area of historic woodland and meadow, which is situated between Ashdown Road and Hiltingbury Road in Chandler's Ford South Hampshire, (Appendix 1). The site is under the ownership of Eastleigh Borough Council, and managed by the Council's Countryside Service. This varied site comprises an area of 8.25 hectares, which includes mixed woodland and ancient meadows with small areas of valley bog and remnants of heathland.

Parts of the woodland are over 400 years old, featuring on old maps as far back as 1588, when it was known as Eagles Copse, (Appendix 2). The meadows are the largest open spaces in Hocombe Mead, are relatively flat and in the summer are fairly well drained. Together, the woodland, stream valley and meadows hold considerable value for both local amenity and wildlife.



Map showing the location of Hocombe Mead



Foxgloves in a woodland glade

Hocombe Mead has been designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), (Appendix 3). On 22nd February 2008 Hocombe Mead was declared as the Borough's first Local Nature Reserve, (Appendix 4).



1a. Table 1: General Site Information

Site name	Hocombe Mead
Status	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Local authority	Eastleigh Borough Council
County	Hampshire
Area	8.25 Ha
Grid ref	SU43002270
Ownership	Eastleigh Borough Council, freehold
Managed by	Eastleigh Borough Council Countryside Service
Rights of Access	Public access on permissive footpaths (Appendix 5)

1b. Site History

The earliest map available to the Council's Countryside Service is a copy of a 1588 map of Hursley Parish (Appendix 2). Hocombe Mead is clearly shown as a small strip of enclosed pasture within the extensive area of open heathland of Cranbury Common. This could be the reason for the unusually large earth-banks which are found within the area today. A small copse called Eagles Copse on the 1588 map adjoins the north-eastern corner of the meadow and is therefore of ancient character (i.e. pre 1600). The 1812 map of the parish (Appendix 6) accurately documents that very little change had occurred in the intervening period of over 200 years in the meadow and copse.

The 1870 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey map (Appendix 6) is the next detailed map to note any significant changes to the area. The majority of the surrounding heathland enclosed 60 years earlier is now mainly housing with a small amount of secondary woodland. However, the boundaries of Hocombe's meadows and Eagles Copse have remained unchanged.

The most recent Ordnance Survey maps show that the land has changed very markedly by the establishment of a large residential development mainly to the East of the site, and a good deal of the ancient woodland

and heath has been destroyed. However the meadow remains intact with a small fringe of secondary woodland.

Recent habitat improvements carried out during the life of the 2005-2010 management plan have included a programme of Rhododendron control with subsequent replanting of some of the cleared areas with hazel (Corylus avellana). An example of this is the bank at the north end of the site in January 2010 planted by the "Friends of Hocombe". Eagles Copse has been regularly cut as per the coppice cycle (Appendix 7). Summer grazing of the North Meadow was continued through the life of the 2005/10 management plan, with the South Meadow cut and raked on a bi-annual cycle (Appendix 8). Appendix 5 shows Eagles Copse with the coupes numbered, and the areas cut in the South Meadow. Permissive paths are also shown on this map.

Hocombe Mead was declared a Local Nature Reserve in February 2008 by Eastleigh Borough Council (Appendix 4). In September 2008 Eastleigh Borough Council entered into a partnership project at Hocombe Mead with the Grasslands Trust. A Project Officer (Martin Reeves) was funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant to work with the Council's Countryside Officer responsible for the site. The project's aims in general terms were to assist with infrastructure improvements (mainly boardwalks and viewing platforms in the north meadow), improving interpretation, involving the local community through events and activities, setting up a dedicated website for Hocombe Mead (www.hocombe-mead.org), and the setting up of a "Friends Group". The project has now finished, but as a result there is now an active Friends of Hocombe Mead group.

In February 2010 Hocombe Mead amongst a number of other countryside sites in the Borough was entered into a Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (agreement number AG00296266)

1c. Site Description

Hocombe Mead is an area of mixed semi-natural woodlands and unimproved grasslands situated in a shallow valley and surrounded by urban Chandler's Ford. A small stream runs through the centre of Hocombe Mead. The site is bordered on all sides by dwellings and has a number of permissive paths

2016-2025

running through it. It is widely used recreationally by the local community particularly by dog walkers.

The woodlands on the site vary from being on freely drained sloping ground with frequently occurring species including birch, oak, sweet chestnut, ash, and hazel. On the poorly drained waterlogged soils, alder and grey willow are dominant. Although none of the site is officially classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW Inventory, February 1995), Eagles Copse is shown on the 1588 map of Hursley Parish. A prominent boundary bank is present running through the centre of the site.

An NVC (National Vegetation Classification) survey carried out by Miles King of The Grasslands Trust in 2008 (Appendix 10) recorded the woodlands as W10 Quercus spp-Rubus fruticosus-Pteridium aquilinum Oak-Bramble-Bracken woodland or W10b Anemone nemorosa Wood Anemone sub-community. This W10b woodland supports a number of ancient woodland indicators, including wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa), Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum odoratum), wood speedwell (Veronica montana) and wood spurge (Euphorbia amygdaloides).

There are two meadows on the site; North Meadow and South Meadow. The most recent phase 2 survey of the meadows was carried out by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership in 2014. It classified the North Meadow (titled Hocombe Mead Meadow in the survey) as NVC communities M27, Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire, M23b, Juncus effusus/acutiflorus-Galium palustre rushpasture: Juncus effusus subcommunity, M23a, Juncus





Galloway

Cuckooflower

effusus/acutiflorus-Galium palustre rush-pasture: Juncus acutiflorus subcommunity, W21, Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix scrub.

The South Meadow (titled Hocombe Mead Glade in the survey) was classified as M27, Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire, \$14, Sparganium erectum swamp.

Non-native invasive plant species found on the site, some areas of which have already been subject to control include rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) located in dense stands throughout the woodland, and Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) which is found at either side of the path near the southern access gate.

Management strategies include the maintenance of pathways, rhododendron clearance and Japanese knotweed eradication, seasonal cattle grazing of the unimproved grassland in the northern meadow and a cutting regime of the banks of the stream that runs through it, annual cutting and raking of sections of the southern meadow, a coppice cycle operating in Eagles Copse, and a heathland regeneration project based on the small remnant in the centre of the site.





2016-2025





Meadow Brown

Marsh Marrigold

2. Evaluation

Size

Hocombe Mead is 8.25 hectares of which the North meadow is the largest open area at approximately 3 hectares. There is a smaller meadow at the southern end of the site of approximately 0.5 hectares. The rest of the site is mainly woodland.

Diversity

There is a wide diversity of habitat types including mixed woodland, ancient meadows, small areas of mire, swamp and remnants of heathland.

Naturalness

The former area of heathland to the East of the site has now been developed for housing, and to the west much of the land has been planted with conifers. The land has changed very markedly by the establishment of a large residential development and a good deal of the ancient woodland has been destroyed, although Eagles Copse still remains intact with a small fringe of secondary woodland and scrub. The site now owes its form to management practices, which restrict succession and increase biodiversity.

Rarity

Hocombe Mead has a small remnant area of heathland with bell heather (Erica cineria), which is an internationally threatened habitat and has declined by about 80% in Eastleigh Borough in the past 20 years. This remaining small area of heather on the site has been in decline for a number of years. There is currently a project underway by members of the Friends Group to improve and maintain the area. The heathland also supports a small community of slowworm (Anguis fragilis), and a number of common toad (Bufo bufo) have been observed in the area. Both are UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species. Records from a survey conducted by John Caplen in 2011, are shown in Appendix 11.

The ancient meadows are particularly important as only 2% of grassland in Eastleigh is unimproved. Common frog (Rana temporaria) spawn regularly in a ditch on the North Meadow.

The site also contains Hampshire BAP Priority Species such as the Stag Beetle Lucanus cervus, Silverwashed fritillary butterfly (Argynnis paphia), and Festoon moth (Apoda limacodes), both of which are Nationally Scarce also occur on the site, records sourced from the Butterfly Transect and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)

A number of ancient grassland indicator species (species which seldom occur outside unimproved grasslands or are indicative of a long period of uninterrupted grassland management) have been recorded from the meadows. These include Water Avens Geum rivale, Bristle Club-Rush Isocepis setaceus, and Devils Bit Scabious Succisa pratensis, (July 2014 Phase 2 NVC Survey, HBIC).

The woodland at the Northern end of the site (Eagles Copse) has existed on the site since before 1600 (see map Appendix 2) and supports a number of indicator species of ancient woodland. Including Wood Sorrel Oxalis acetosella, Wood Speedwell Veronica montana, and Wood Anemone Anemone nemorosa

There is also a good assemblage of breeding birds.

Butterfly Transects (surveys) run to the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme guidelines (www.ukbms.org) have been carried out at Hocombe on an annual basis since 1994. A map of the route, annual results list and notes on key species can be found in Appendix 12. The transects have been mainly undertaken by volunteers with occasional help from the Council's Countryside Service staff, and particular thanks should go to Alastair Cummings who has carried out most of the weekly surveys since 2004.



2016-2025

Fragility

Without protection from trampling by visitors, management to control invasive species, and enhancement of the heather stocks the remaining heathland would be lost. Bramble invasion in both meadows needs particular control. The meadows are also vulnerable to succession from the surrounding secondary woodland.

Typicalness

Hocombe Mead has good examples of wet meadows, secondary woodland, and ancient coppice woodland.

Recorded History

The earliest map available to the Council's Countryside Service is a copy of a 1588 map of Hursley parish, (Appendix 2). Hocombe Mead is clearly shown as a small strip of enclosed pasture within the extensive area of open heathland of Cranbury Common. Appendix 6 shows further maps including the 1812 Hursley Parish Enclosure Map, and an 1870 6 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map. The outline of the current site can be seen clearly on both maps.

A series of aerial photographs dating from circa 1940 show the site and particularly illustrate the encroachment of scrub which has divided the meadows into two (Appendix 13).

Potential

The wildlife value of the site could be increased through appropriate management. Grazing is vital to maintain and improve the larger (northern) meadow, as it will help to scrub and bramble invasion in check and to remove nutrients which encourage rank growth at the expense of wildflowers. The annual cutting and raking cycle should continue on the smaller southern meadow for the same reasons. Continuation of the coppice cycle in Eagles Copse is also important to maintain the biodiversity in that area. There is potential to increase the amenity and educational value of the site through encouragement of use by local schools and communities. The Friends of Hocombe Mead have already increased the use an awareness of the site by schools, local residents and other groups through their programme of events and activities.





3. Nature Conservation Value

The table below lists some of the habitats and species found on the site (HBIC 2000) Survey

Site Features	Conservation Status	Hampshire BAP Priorities
1. Vegetation Types	Both habitats come	
Heathland	under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Yes
 Agriculturally unimproved grasslands 	(BAP)	Yes
2. Species		
Plants		
Bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Nationally Important	
 Small Teasel Dipsacus pilosus 	County Rare	
 Wood Horsetail Equisetum sylvaticum 	County Scarce	
Invertebrates		
 Silver Washed Fritillary Argynnis paphia 		Yes
 Festoon Moth Apoda limacodes 	Nationally Scarce	Yes
The Mocha Cyclophora annularia	Nationally Scarce	
Stag Beetle Lucanus cervus	Nationally Scarce	Yes

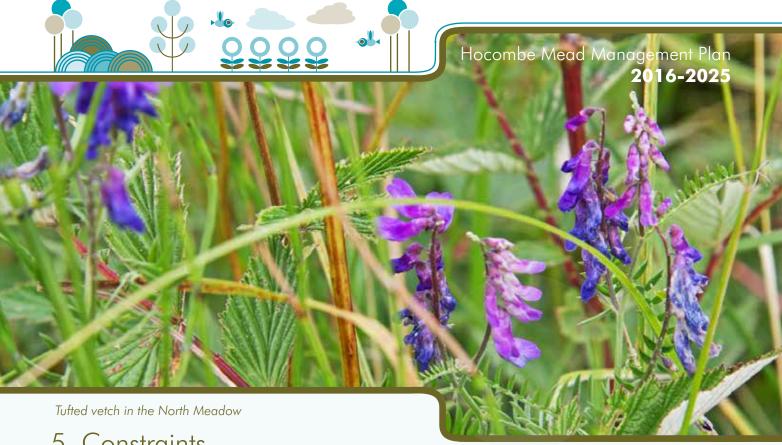
In addition Eagles Copse, although too small to feature on the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory (ASNW) of February 1995, is undoubtedly of ancient origins (Appendix 2) and supports a number of ancient woodland indicator species.

Hocombe Mead also supports a very good assemblage of butterflies as shown by continuous transect survey data (Appendix 12).

4. Amenity Value

Through the provision of visitor facilities including information panels, permissive paths, and boardwalks the area is widely used recreationally, particularly by dog walkers and local residents. 'The Keble Way', which opened in 1995, links together a series of local walks around the Ampfield Heritage Area and follows the footpath through the centre of Hocombe Mead thus increasing its intrinsic appeal to others. The amenity value has been further enhanced through the encouragement of use by local schools and communities by the programme of events and activities organised by the "Friends of Hocombe Mead".





5. Constraints

- Tree Preservation Order TPO 58. Created by Hampshire County Council. Order dated 28.08.1954 covering all tree species.
- Grazier Historically it has always been difficult to arrange grazing at Hocombe Mead, particularly by suitable breeds. The current grazier (since 2008) grazed originally three Aberdeen Angus, and from 2010 has been using either 3 Galloway or 3 Dexter cattle to graze the site. In the summer of 2011 a water trough connected to mains supply was installed which should make the site more attractive to potential future graziers.
- Neighbours Possible objection to woodland management e.g. coppicing. In the past a few objections have been received and considered during the process to obtain TPO Planning consent for the coppicing.
- Ground conditions Can make access difficult for plant and machinery especially during the winter, to the Northern Meadow. Access is very limited over the rest of the site to vehicles and/or machinery.

Yew



Ragged Robin



6. Management Objectives

- 1. To conserve, improve and diversify the wildlife habitat value.
- 2. To enhance the amenity and recreational value of the area.
- 3. To promote and maintain links with local residents, schools and "The Friends of Hocombe Mead" in order to help co-ordinate proposals for future management.
- 4. To ensure the site is safe and fit for use by the public through regular planned site checks (monthly), and follow-up maintenance regimes.
- 5. To undertake all commitments and improvements to meet conditions of our Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England.

7. Rationale

The delivery of a management plan at Hocombe Mead will contribute to the aims and objectives of the Eastleigh Borough Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), the objectives of the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement, and make a valuable contribution to the UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plans. A programme of scrub and bramble control, combined with continuation of the grazing programme will help to restore and enhance the existing wet meadows and benefit species already present. Continuing the coppice programme in Eagles Copse will maintain and enhance woodland flora and fauna in that area.



8. Operational Objectives and Outline Prescriptions

Operational Objective	Outline Prescription
Maintain and enhance Eagle's Copse	 Remove the remaining small areas of rhododendron in the coppice woodland Continue coppice cycle to maintain and enhance woodland flora Continue to block off unofficial paths where proliferation is causing damage to vegetation, encourage use of main routes Monitor the effects of coppicing (at present the only monitoring is through the butterfly transect, the route of which passes through the coppice woodland)
Maintain and enhance existing wet meadows	 Scrub and bramble control particularly in the northern meadow Continuation of the grazing programme in the North Meadow Monitor effects of grazing at present(through the butterfly transect) In the southern meadow continue annual programme of cutting and raking (monitored via butterfly transect) Area A to be cut on years ending in an odd number, area B to be cut on years ending with an even number. See appendices 5 and 8 In the both meadows and fenced area of lesser pond sedge swamp: remove encroaching willow and or scrub from around edges and treat stumps to prevent regrowth For both meadows open up a ride through the secondary woodland Annual pre-grazing checks and maintenance of stock fences in north meadow Clear one quarter of the total length of the banks of the stream that flows through the centre of the north meadow per year. See appendices 5 and 9 The drainage ditch on the eastern edge of the north meadow should be cleared occasionally to prevent over saturation of the nearby meadow area and deterioration of the footpath through the meadows
Maintain and enhance secondary woodland	 Continue programme of cutting and removing rhododendron from the woodland, all rhododendron to be cleared by January 2020 as per HLS agreement with Natural England (with the exception of shelter belts adjacent to houses) Mark, monitor and cut and treat as necessary the shelter belt to prevent expansion Where rhododendron has been cleared regrowth from cut stumps and new seedlings should be monitored, cut and/or treated as necessary Japanese knotweed control, all knotweed to be eradicated by January 2020 as per HLS agreement with Natural England
Maintain and enhance heathland Maintain	 Control of bracken Control of coarse grasses Rhododendron clearance around the edges of the heather area, this has mainly been achieved monitoring/control of regrowth will be needed Fencing maintained to prevent trampling of heather. Monitor and fence rest of the area if necessary Stripping of thin layer of topsoil to encourage growth of heather from any dormant seeds The fenced area of heather at the top of the bank to be managed by a 15 year cutting cycle, arisings to be spread on bare ground between established heather plants See appendices 5 and 9 Monitor and record progress of heathland through annual fixed point photography Survey and monitor populations, particularly butterflies through
and enhance population of notable species	transect monitoring scheme 2. Monitor effects of grazing 3. Follow up and repeat vegetation surveys





Maintain site in suitable and safe condition for visitors, and enhance visitor experience

- 1. Continue regular planned site checks record findings
- 2. Undertake any works need by site checks within reasonable time frames
- 3. Work with "Friends of Hocombe" to encourage and support events and activities on the site
- 4. Liaise with the Council's "Street Scene" Area Manager to ensure planned grounds maintenance (litter picking, path cutting is carried out)
- 5. Deal with tree safety issues as and when they arrive in partnership with the Council's Tree Team

Review and Update Management <u>Pla</u>n

- 1. Management plan to be re-written at the end of its current life
- 2. Review on an annual basis and update if necessary
- 3. Update and record regular planned management operations as they occur

9. References

- Hocombe Mead Management Plan October 2005 Vicky Hollands, Volunteer Ranger Eastleigh Borough Council's Countryside Service
- Hocombe Mead Phase 2 Surveys 2000/2014 Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)
- NVC survey 2008 Miles King, The Grasslands Trust
- Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (agreement number AG00296266)
- Hocombe Friends www.hocombe-mead.org

10. Acknowledgements

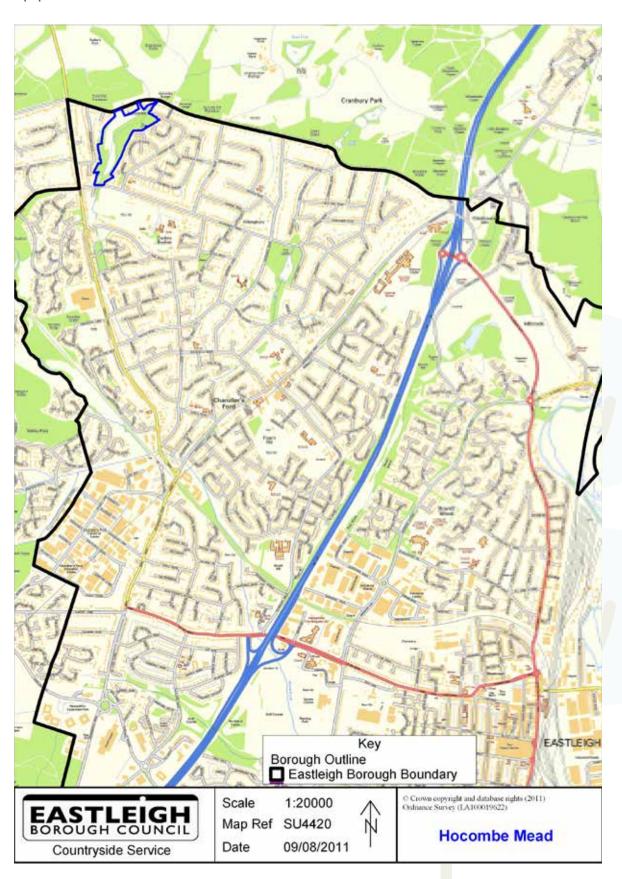
- Colleagues from Eastleigh Borough Council Countryside Unit.
- John Caplen (for reptile information) and Tony Glombeck (1588 map of Hursley) from the Friends of Hocombe Mead.
- Alastair Cumming and other volunteers for their work on the Butterfly Transect.
- David Cardinal for permission to use his excellent photographs.



The friends of Hocombe helping with footpath improvements



Appendix 1: Hocombe location within Chandler's Ford





Appendix 2: 1588 Map of Hursley Parish



2016-2025

Appendix 3: SINC Criteria

Hocombe Mead

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Hocombe Mead meets the following SINC selection criteria (as defined in Hampshire County Council Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Review)).

Hocombe Mead's SINC criteria can be revised at any time should further survey work reveal the presence of additional SINC criteria features.

Woodland

1A Ancient¹ semi-natural² woodlands.

- 1C Other semi-natural woodland if;
- (ii) they comprise important community types of restricted distribution in the County, such as yew woods and alder swamp woods
- ¹ Ancient refers to woodlands which have developed particular ecological characteristics as a result of their long continuity. Those identified to date which are over 2ha are included on the Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (Provisional).
- ² Semi-natural modified types of vegetation in which the dominant and constant species are accepted natives to Britain and that locality, and the structure of the community conforms to the range of natural vegetation types.

Neutral/acid/calcareous grassland

2A Agriculturally unimproved grasslands³

³ Agriculturally unimproved grassland - grassland that is composed of a mixed assemblage of indigenous species in essentially semi-natural communities which has been allowed to develop without the major use of herbicides or inorganic fertilisers.

Heathland

- 3B Areas of heathland which are afforested or have succeeded to woodland if;
 - (i) they retain significant remnants of heathland vegetation which would enable their recovery,
 - (ii) they are contiguous with, or form an integral part of an open area of heathland,

Wetlands

5B Fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions.

Criteria last revised: 11/11/2005 by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic





Appendix 4: Local Nature Reserve Declaration

NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949 Hocombe Mead Nature Reserve No 1 Declaration of 2008

In pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the above-mentioned Act, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, the Eastleigh Borough Council hereby declares that the land containing 8 hectares or thereabouts situated at Hocombe Mead in the locality of Chandler's Ford in the County of Hampshire and shown edged red on the attached plan is within the ownership of the Council

AND in pursuance of Section 19(2) of the above-mentioned Act and all other powers aforesaid the Council hereby further declares that the said land is being managed as a Nature Reserve.

This declaration may be referred to as the Hocombe Mead Nature Reserve No 1 Declaration of 2008.

Given under the Common Seal of Eastleigh Borough Council this

22nd day of February 2008

in the presence of:

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Certified to be a true copy / extract of the original.

Head of Legal Services Eastleigh Borough Council

27/02/2008

- Schocker

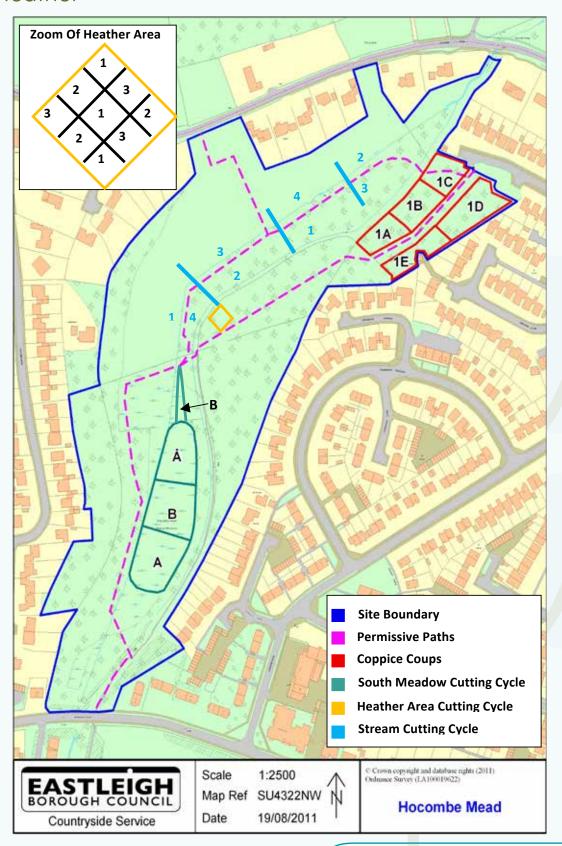


Appendix 4: Local Nature Reserve Boundary Map





Appendix 5: Map showing Permissive Paths, Coppice Coupes and cutting cycles for South Meadow, North Meadow Stream and Heather





2016-2025

Appendix 5a: Coppicing to the rear of 117 to 125 Hocombe Road

(Coppice Coupes 2A & 2B)

Adjacent to the rear gardens of numbers 117 to 125 Hocombe Road is a narrow strip, (approx 102m by 10m) of woodland. Consisting mainly of Hazel with some small Oak, Birch, and Guelder Rose. This area was planted in circa 1990 by the then Itchen and Hamble Countryside Project to act as a buffer strip between the grazing meadow and the properties.

Now (2012) some of the birch trees are having to be felled as they are starting to damage or threaten the stock fencing along the edge of this strip. The hazel, (which was probably intended to be coppiced when they were planted) is now starting to encroach over both the stock fence and the fences of the adjacent properties.

It is proposed that the hazel along the length of this strip be coppiced over the next 2 years in 2 sections as follows:

- Year 1 (2012/13): Coppice coupe 2A (Rear of 117 to 119 Hocombe road approx 42m)
- Year 2 (2013/14): Coppice coupe 2B: Rear of 121, 123 & 125 Hocombe road (approx 60m)

At the same time any of the other trees will be considered for felling or crown lifting as the individual circumstances dictates.

The Council's Tree Officer has confirmed that there is no Tree Preservation Order covering this area or any individual trees within it.

It is hoped that the Friends of Hocombe Mead can be involved with the coppicing, starting in 2012/13.

Once both of the areas have been cut a regular coppice cycle should be introduced, but at this stage it may be best to monitor the rate and extent of regrowth before deciding on the timing.

Owing to the wet ground conditions and restricted access it will be difficult to remove any of the cut material, although it may be possible for individuals to carry away some of the produce for use as firewood. Some of the resulting brash can be used to cover the main stools when cut to help protect them from deer damage. It may be possible to burn on site providing a suitable fire site can be identified, (for example, in nearby areas of bramble which are due for control). Consideration should also be given to wind direction and smoke in the vicinity of neighbouring properties. If burning is not considered a viable option the brash will have to be stacked on site in suitable locations.

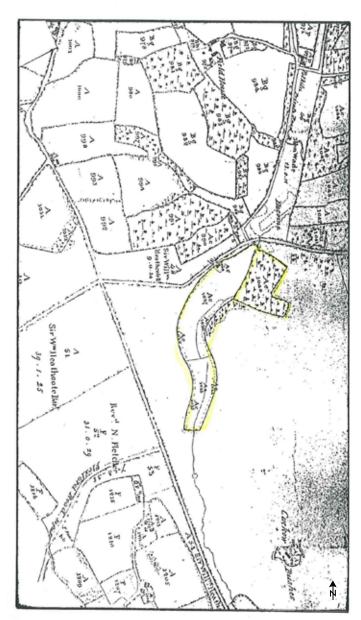
See Appendix 7 for Eagles Copse coppice rotation details (Coppice Coupes 1A-E).



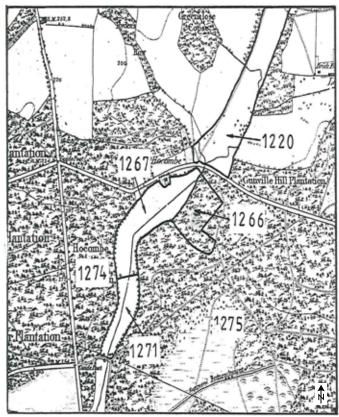


Appendix 6: 1812 and 1870 maps

1812 Hursley Parish Enclosure Map



1870 Ordinance Survey Map (6" to the mile)



Key

1220 Pot Kiln Green

1266 Eagles Copse

1267 Hocombe Meadow

1271 Hocombe Mead

1274 Hocombe Plantation

1275 Cranbury Common



Appendix 7: Hocombe Mead Eagles Copse

Con	picing	(vc	le.
$-$ 0 ρ	picnig	\sim	

Year 1 2002/3 Coupe 1D Cut between Oct 2002 and Feb 2003

Year 2 2003/4 Coupe 1E Cut between Nov 2003 and Feb 2004

Year 3 2004/5 Rest Year

Year 4 2005/6 Coupe 1B Cut between Nov 2005 and Mar 2006

Year 5 2006/7 Rest Year

Year 6 2007/8 Coupe 1C Cut between Sept 2007 and Feb 2008

Year 7 2008/9 Coupe 1A Cut between Oct 2008 and Feb 2009

Year 8 2009 / 10 Rest Year

Second Cycle

Year 1 2010/11 Coupe 1D Cut between Sept 2010 and Feb 2011

Year 2 2011/12 Coupe 1E Cut between September 2011 and January 2012 Year 3 2012/13 Rest Year

Year 4 2013/14 Coup 1B Cut between January and March 2014

Year 5 2014/15 Rest Year

Year 6 2015/16 Coupe 1C Cut between November 2015 and March 2016

Year 7 2016/17 Cut 1A

Year 8 2017/18 Rest Year

Third Cycle

Year 1 2018/19 Cut 1D

Year 2 2019/20 Cut 1E

Year 3 2020/21 Rest Year

Year 4 2021/22 Cut 1B

Year 5 2022/23 Rest Year

Year 6 2023/24 Cut 1C

Year 7 2024/25 Cut 1A

Year 8 2025/26 Rest Year



Appendix 8: South Meadow cutting cycle details – progress table

Year	Date	Area	Comments
1993	Ś	А	Cut and raked
1994	Ś	В	Cut and raked
1995	Ś	А	Cut and raked
1996	Not cut	Not cut	
1997	Ś	В	Cut and raked
1998	Not cut	Not cut	Conservation task in October to remove large Alder and encroaching willow scrub from both sides at centre of meadow
1999	8th November	А	Cut and raked
2000	Not cut	Not cut	
2001	21st September	В	Cut and raked
2002	Not cut	Not cut	
2003	Ś	Α	All willow and scrub removed from stream side of meadow
2004	6th september	В	Cut and raked
2005	15th November	А	Cut and raked
2006	Sept	В	Cut and raked by Red Kite
2007	18th November	А	Staff
2008	Sept	В	Red Kite
2009	9th September	А	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2010	7th September	В	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2011	8th September	А	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2012	28th August	В	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2013	3rd September	А	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2014	11th September	В	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2015	10th September	А	Cut by staff and raked by volunteers from Friends of Hocombe
2016		В	



Appendix 9

Cutting cycle for the stream through North Meadow

The stream banks will be cut following the table below. The stream will be divided into four sections along its length, then further divided by the stream its self. The stream length through the meadow is 290 meters. A measuring wheel is to be used to determine where each section starts and finishes and temporary pegs to be placed in the ground to mark out the cutting then removed as the end of the work. See map appendix 5.

Cycle 1 – 2016	Cycle 2 – 2021
Cycle 2 – 2017	Cycle 3 – 2022
Cycle 3 – 2018	Cycle 4 – 2023
Cycle 4 – 2019	Cycle 1 – 2024
Cycle 1 – 2020	Cycle 2 – 2025

Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4	Cycle 2
Cycle 4	Cycle 2	Cycle 1	Cycle 3
South to North	South to North	South to North	South to North
0m - 72.5m	72.5m - 145m	145m - 217.5m	217.5m - 290m

Cutting Cycle for fenced heather area

The area to be divided into 9 equal sections, using marks made on the fence posts, temporary string lines strung between them during the cutting to give the areas to be cut. See map appendix 5.

Cycle 1 – to be cut in 2016

Cycle 2 – to be cut in 2021

Cycle 3 – to be cut in 2026

Cycle 3	Cycle 2	Cycle 1
Cycle 2	Cycle 1	Cycle 3
Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 2

This process to be repeated giving a 15 year cutting cycle.



2016-2025

Appendix 10: Miles King (Grasslands Trust) NVC Survey 2008

Hocombe Mead Vegetation Survey 2008

The vegetation of Hocombe Mead LNR was surveyed by Miles King, Conservation

Manager for the Grasslands Trust on May 29th 2008 (woodland compartments) and June 26th 2008 (grassland compartments). Survey was carried out to phase one standard for the woodlands, although an assessment of Phase 2 habitats has been made, based on the survey. Survey of grassland compartments was made to phase 2 standard for notable areas, notably the rush pasture, meadowsweet mire and lesser pond-sedge communities. There was a small number of other NVC communities (e.g. open vegetation and ditch communities) also observed, but these stands were too small to warrant sampling.

Standard National Vegetation Classification nomenclature is used in this report.

Summary

Hocombe Meads Local Nature Reserve supports the following vegetation communities:

Grasslands/Mires

MG10 Holcus lanatus — Juncus Effusus Yorkshire fog — Soft rush rush-pasture

M23a Juncus acutiflorus – Galium palustre Sharpflowered rush – Marsh bedstraw rushpasture

M27 Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris Meadowsweet-Angelica mire

S7 Carex acutiformis Lesser pond-sedge swamp

Woodlands

W10 Quercus spp. - Pteridium aquilinum — Rubus fruticosus Oak-bramble-bracken

Woodland

W7 Alnus glutinosa – Fraxinus excelsior – Lysimachia nemorum Alder-Ash-yellow pimpernel woodland

W1 Salix cinerea-Galium palustre Grey willowmarsh bedstraw woodland W4 Betula pubescens – Molinia caerulea Downy birch-Purple moor-grass woodland

W16 Quercus spp.- Betula spp.-Deschampsia flexuousa Oak-Birch-wavy hair-grass

Woodland

Data to support the assignment of these communities can be found in Appendix 1.

Description

Hocombe Mead supports a relatively large number of vegetation communities considering it's small size (8.3ha). This diversity in large part reflects the varying topology and geology, as well as management history.

Woodlands

The area of woodland in the NE corner of the reserve is the most species-rich assignable to W10b Anemone nemorosa sub-community and supports a number of ancient woodland indicators, including Anemone nemorosa wood anemone,

Polygonatum odoratum Solomon's-seal, Veronica Montana wood speedwell and

Euphorbia amygdaloides wood-spurge. In addition to the area where coppicing has been reinstated, the woodland along the stream in the far north of the reserve also supports this community, along with garden throw-outs from adjacent dwellings. This area is the ancient semi-natural woodland known as Eagle's copse.

The woodland on the slopes to the east side of the reserve is mostly more species poor

W10 on more acidic soils derived from abandoned heathland, as described in the management plan. This community extends all the way along the eastern edge of the reserve, until at its southern boundary it is a very narrow corridor. Some areas are dominated by Rhododendron.

On the steeper slopes adjacent to the open areas, where Rhododendron has been cleared, a slightly different woodland type (W16) has developed, typified by the presence of Deschampsia flexuousa wavy hairgrass, as well as a richer bryophyte flora. This area includes the patch of Calluna vulgaris heather.



2016-2025

In the southern central area of the reserve in the valley bottom, two separate types of wet woodland have developed. The principal wet woodland community here is W1 Salix cinerea-Galium palustre grey willow – marsh bedstraw woodland. Most of these stands also appear to be relatively recent in origin and are not particularly species-rich. A smaller area on the eastern side of the valley bottom, associated with peat accumulation, has developed a stand of W4 Betula pubescens Molinia caerulea Downy birch – Purple moor-grass woodland, supporting a more luxuriant ground flora in very boggy conditions. Sphagnum palustre marsh bog-moss was abundant here.

In the far southern section of woodland, around the southern boardwalk, a different

woodland type has developed, W7 Alnus glutinosa – Fraxinus excelsior – Lysimachia

nemorum Alder-Ash-yellow pimpernel woodland. This woodland appears more ancient than the previous stands of wet woodland, as it supports ancient woodland indicators such as Anemone nemorosa and Veronica Montana.

Along the western flank of the reserve there is more rather species-poor W10 woodland, with some Rhodendron, although much has been cleared already.

Grassland/Mire/Swamp Communities.

Of the four main grassland/mire communities surveyed three are rush-pastures or variants thereof. The main open area is mainly M23a Juncus acutiflorus – Galium palustre Sharp-flowered rush – Marsh bedstraw rush-pasture, with some species-rich

stands, while other areas are less diverse, the latter possibly reflecting past woodland

encroachment or times when grazing has ceased. It was interesting to note that some species noted in the 2000 survey eg Succisa pratensis devil's-bit scabious and Achillea ptarmica sneezewort were not recorded this time (though this may simply have been because an exhaustive survey was not carried out), while others such as Lychnis flos-cuculi ragged-robin and Lythrum salicaria purple-loosestrife were recorded this time but not in 2000. Indeed Lythrum appears quite abundant now.

While it is not possible to make any objective assessment of change from comparing

the 2000 survey to this one, there are indications that the community has shifted from a species-poor one dominated by Holcus lanatus Yorkshire fog and Juncus effusus soft rush (ie MG10) towards a slightly more diverse community clearly referable to M23a.

The far northern section of this area of the reserve is still more species-poor is closer to MG10 Holcus lanatus – Juncus Effusus Yorkshire fog – Soft rush rush-pasture than M23; this area also supports large stands of Chamaerion angustifolium Rosebay-willowherb and has more Rubus fruticosus bramble brakes. This may reflect a recent shift from willow scrub to rush-pasture with fire sites for burning cleared scrub. Associated with this community was also a small area of W24 Rubus fruticosus bramble underscrub (mapped but not sampled).

To the south of this main open area there are 2 almost contiguous areas of S7 Carex

acutiformis Lesser pond-sedge swamp on either side of the stream. The larger area occurs to the west of the stream, as a clearing in the willow-carr, while there is a smaller patch on the east side of the stream. Neither of these stands is species-rich and have probably developed from former rush-pasture areas as a result of abandonment.

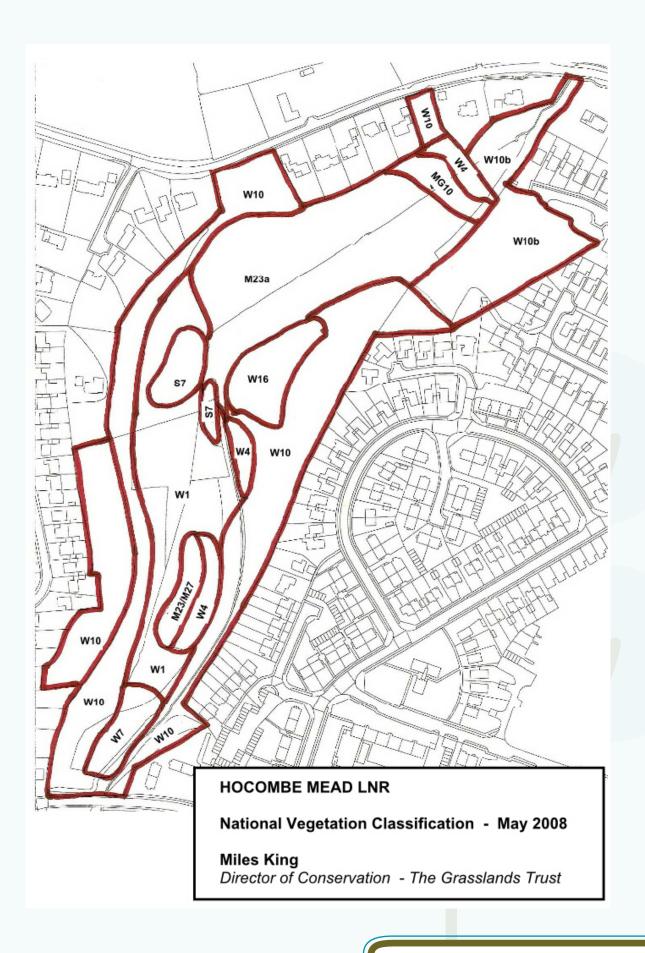
The third area is a relatively recently created clearing to the south of the reserve,

maintained by mow<mark>in</mark>g. This supports an interesting community transitional between

M23 and M27 Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris Meadowsweet-Angelica mire. The

tendency towards M27 is greatest at the southern end of the clearing, where Filipendula ulmaria meadowsweet becomes dominant. These stands are quite species rich in places and the profusion of different flowers provides a rich nectar source for invertebrates.







Appendix 11: Results from 2011 Survey of Heather Area using 6 felt squares Surveyor John Caplen

Date	Square A	Square B	Square C	Square D	Square E	Square F
25 th June		1 Adult Toad	1 Juvenile		2 Slow-worms	
			Frog			
12 th July			1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm		
14 th July		1 Slow-worm		2.01		
15 th July		1 Slow-worm	1.01	1 Slow-worm	1.01	
18th July		1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	
22 nd July		1 Slow-worm	1 Cl	3 Slow-worms	1 Slow-worm	
29 th July	1 Tl	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	0.01
8 th August	1 Toad	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	1 Toad	0.01	2 Slow-worms
9 th August	2 Toads	1 Slow-worm	1 Slow-worm	1 Toad 1 Slow-worm	2 Slow-worms	
10 th August	2 juv Slow-worms					
	1 juv Toad					
	1 med Toad					
14 th August	1 Juv Toad	1 Juv			1 Juv Slow-	1 Med Toad
o o	1 Med Toad	Slow-worm			worm	
17 th August	1 Juv Toad	1 Female Slow-	1 Female	1 Med Toad		1 Juv
	1 Med Toad	worm	Slow-worm			Slow-worm
21st August	1 Med Toad	1 Juv		1 Female Slow-	1 Female	2 Juv Slow-
		Slow-worm		worm	Slow-worm	worm
				1 Juv Slow-worm		
24 th August	1 Med Toad	1 Juv		1 Juv Slow-worm		1 Juv
		Slow-worm				Slow-worm
28th August		2 Juv				
0.7 + 4		Slow-worm	2 1			
31st August	1 Female	1 Juv	1 Juv	1 Juv Slow-worm		1 Juv Toad
	Slow-worm	Slow-worm	Slow-worm			1 Medium
2 nd				1 Juv Slow -worm		Toad 1 Medium
September				1 Juv Slow -worm		Toad
September						1 Large Toad
3 rd		2 Juv	1 Juv	1 Juv Slow-worm		1 Juv
September		Slow-worm	Slow-worm	1 JUV SIOW-WOITH		Slow-worm
		510W-W01111	310 VV - VV OTTT			1 Medium
						Toad
6 th	1 Female	1 Juv		1 Juv Slow-worm		. 3 3 3
September	Slow-worm	Slow-worm				
10 th	2 Juv	2 Juv		2 Juv Slow-worm	1 Juv Slow-	1 Large Toad
September	Slow-worm	Slow-worm		1 Female	worm (only 3	Ŭ
				Slow-worm	inches long)	
12 th		1 Juv			1 Large Toad	
September		Slow-worm				



15 th September	2 Female Slow-worms			1 Juv Slow-worm 1 Female Slow-worm	1 Juv Slow-worm	1 Juv Slow-worm
19 th September	1 Female Slow-worm	1 Female Slow-worm		1 Juv Slow-worm 1 Female Slow-worm	1 Juv Slow-worm	
21 st September	1 Female Slow-worm		1 Male Slow-worm	1 Juv Slow-worm 1 Female Slow-worm	1 Male Slow-worm 1 Medium Toad	1 Juv Slow-worm

Date	Square A	Square B	Square C	Square D	Square E	Square F
27 [™] September	1 Juv Slow-worm			2 Juv Slow-worms 1 Female Slow-worm		
28 th September				1 Juv Slow-worm		

Notes, On 22^{nd} July Squares A and F were moved slightly On 9th August Square E 1 Large Male Slow-worm with missing tail On 10th August seen away from felt squares 1 juv Slow-worm 3 juv Toads 2 Large Toads





Appendix 12: Hocombe Mead Butterfly Transect Annual Results

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2001	2004	2005
Small skipper	55	54	28	10	18	37	69	37	27
Essex skipper	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0
Large skipper	34	45	25	14	18	9	11	2	24
Clouded yellow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brimstone	63	29	36	27	4	7	25	20	12
Large white	7	21	4	46	22	17	7	10	28
Small white	81	45	11	18	8	4	44	60	35
Green veined white	86	57	45	47	33	30	76	40	14
Orange tip	10	10	9	14	6	13	17	18	2
Purple hairstreak	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
Small copper	3	0	7	3	1	0	2	1	0
Brown argus	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Common blue	30	18	2	25	10	8	10	34	17
Chalkhill blue	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holly blue	0	0	6	17	5	1	4	1	0
White admiral	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Red admiral	6	6	12	3	2	1	3	2	4
Painted lady	4	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small tortoiseshell	26	26	32	40	13	5	4	39	1
Peacock	12	22	28	15	4	7	14	1	8
Comma	13	9	3	14	1	5	5	0	0
Dark green fritillary	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silver washed fritillary	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Speckled wood	72	38	44	45	19	39	31	31	12
Marbled white	0	12	5	7	15	2	16	0	0
Gatekeeper	85	53	48	44	48	63	87	75	40
Meadow brown	40	55	65	113	155	68	166	110	114
Small heath	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0
Ringlet	61	93	43	59	143	221	98	0	93



Appendix 12: Hocombe Mead Butterfly Transect Annual Results

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Small skipper	39	1	3	3	5	2	3	1	21	0
Essex skipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Large skipper	8	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	0
Clouded yellow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0
Brimstone	26	5	1	28	15	17	7	19	29	26
Large white	12	2	12	35	14	13	0	47	20	34
Small white	27	3	10	82	19	26	20	89	32	62
Green veined white	35	12	25	127	62	52	31	33	29	3
Orange tip	9	12	2	11	4	23	19	17	43	25
Purple hairstreak	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Small copper	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	2
Brown argus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common blue	23	2	1	10	17	8	0	2	22	14
Chalkhill blue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holly blue	3	1	1	1	0	1	6	0	1	9
White admiral	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Red admiral	5	1	4	3	4	5	7	2	2	1
Painted lady	2	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	3
Small tortoiseshell	13	0	0	5	6	3	0	11	37	17
Peacock	5	3	6	13	16	0	2	18	28	20
Comma	7	0	0	16	7	0	12	4	6	1
Dark green fritillary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silver washed fritillary	1	1	0	0	1	6	0	4	2	5
Speckled wood	27	8	10	44	16	14	10	8	19	18
Marbled white	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	9
Gatekeeper	48	13	13	32	21	37	9	31	32	58
Meadow brown	53	13	71	129	24	49	15	94	77	137
Small heath	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ringlet	55	0	20	134	79	41	36	71	67	23



Key Species

Meadows

Large Skipper, eggs laid on large clumps of grass, caterpillar hibernates in tubular chrysalis made from grasses and silk. It is important to leave some tall grass over winter.

Small Skipper, eggs laid in sheaths of Yorkshire Fog, Creeping Soft-Grass. Caterpillars hibernate together in sheaths of longer grasses it is important to leave some areas of longer grass over winter.

Essex Skipper, often under recorded, (very similar to Small Skipper), eggs laid in longer grasses, Tor Grass, Cocks Foot, Creeping Soft-Grass. Eggs over winter in sheaths of grasses, it is important to leave some areas of longer grass over winter.

Green Veined White, Prefers slightly damper habitats than other whites, (moist field margins and meadows) eggs laid on various crucifers.

Orange Tip, eggs laid on Cuckoo Flower, Garlic Mustard, and other crucifers. Spends 10-11 months as chrysalis near to egg laying site.

Hocombe Mead Management Plan **2016-2025**

Common Blue, eggs laid on tender leaves of wide range of legumes including Common Birds Foot Trefoil, Black Medick, and Clovers. Found in a wide range of habitats including damp flowery meadows.

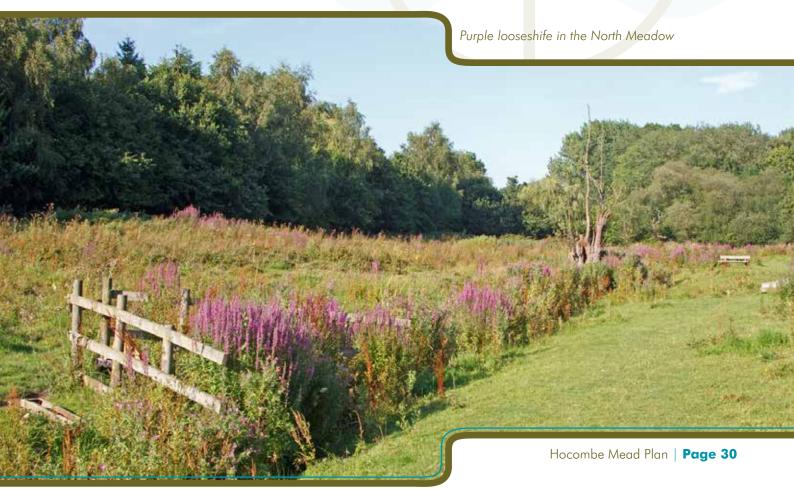
Marbled White, Butterfly of unimproved flowery grassland, adult feeds on Knapweeds and Scabiouses. Eggs laid at random amongst various grasses including Sheeps Fescue, Red Fescue, Tor Grass.

Ringlet, prefers damp meadows, riverbanks where soils is heavy and vegetation lush, avoids hot dry habitats. Eggs dropped at random amongst lush growths of coarse grasses, spends 10-11 months as caterpillar amongst grasses.

Woodland

Holly Blue, butterfly of shrubby parks, woods and gardens, eggs laid on Holly and Ivy, where caterpillar feeds. Chrysalis overwinters in crevices in bark.

Speckled Wood, Butterfly of dappled woodland glades, benefits from sunny rides where eggs are laid on a wide range of grasses.







Appendix 12: Butterfly transect map

