

# HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH PLAN



## NATURE CONSERVATION



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## HEADLEY PARISH PLAN

### NATURE CONSERVATION

July 2010

This paper is an addition to, and becomes an integral part of, the Parish Plan published in March 2006.

The paper was written by Rosemary Schofield. The Parish Council is grateful to her and also to East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) who provided details of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

The soil in the Parish is generally sandy. In and around Headley village the soil is mildly acidic and the vegetation mainly pasture. In Headley Down the soil is strongly acidic and the vegetation mainly heathland. However Scots pine and various hardwood trees invade readily and the Parish contains areas of woodland, hedges and specimen trees. The sandstone being soft, sunken lanes are an important feature. Also important is the valley of the southern branch of the River Wey, which is the subject of the Water Features section of the published Plan.

There is virtually no land in the Parish with a statutory designation for nature conservation, although the Parish is almost surrounded by protected heathland. However HCC have designated some 20 SINCs, which are non-statutory but can be taken into account in development decisions.

The 20 designated SINCs are reasonably representative of the range of habitats in the Parish including ancient woodland, both recolonised and wet woodland, to acid grassland and heathland and also open areas of fresh water with the associated flora and fauna. There are several sites that support one or more notable species – these may be nationally rare, county rare or county scarce species.

One of the main aims of this section of the Parish Plan is to recognise, preserve, protect and maintain the biodiversity that is found within Headley parish. It is therefore essential that landowners, local councils (both at parish and district level) and the general public are aware of the existence of these SINCs, their value as important habitats and the need to preserve them especially in view of the ever increasing pressure for development – be it for housing, transport or leisure facilities.

A sketch map is at page 3 showing the position of the SINCs in relation to public footpaths within the parish boundary. On the facing page 4 there is a brief description of each site. Many of the SINCS are close to public footpaths and can therefore be enjoyed by any local walkers without infringing landowners' rights. Page 5 gives a full definition of the habitats and page 6 a fuller description of each SINC, both provided by HBIC.

A larger, more detailed version of this map is available in the Parish office for any members of the public who wish to examine it, so that these sites can be recognised and protected from any undesirable activity or development.

Areas of semi-ancient woodland can be found at Eveley Wood, Hatch Farm Meadow East, Dalen copse, Longgut copse and Hearn copse. Other woodland areas which have a large element of ancient woodland are found at Heath Hill and Little Hearn copse. Wet woodlands such as alder swamp woods can be seen at Headley Wood farm and on the Headley Wood estate; also at Mellow Farm alders and Wishanger valley. Also at Wishanger valley and on the Headley Wood estate are areas of open freshwater which support large numbers of specialised plants and associated invertebrates, birds and amphibians. Inundation grasslands can be seen at Hatch Farm Meadow East.

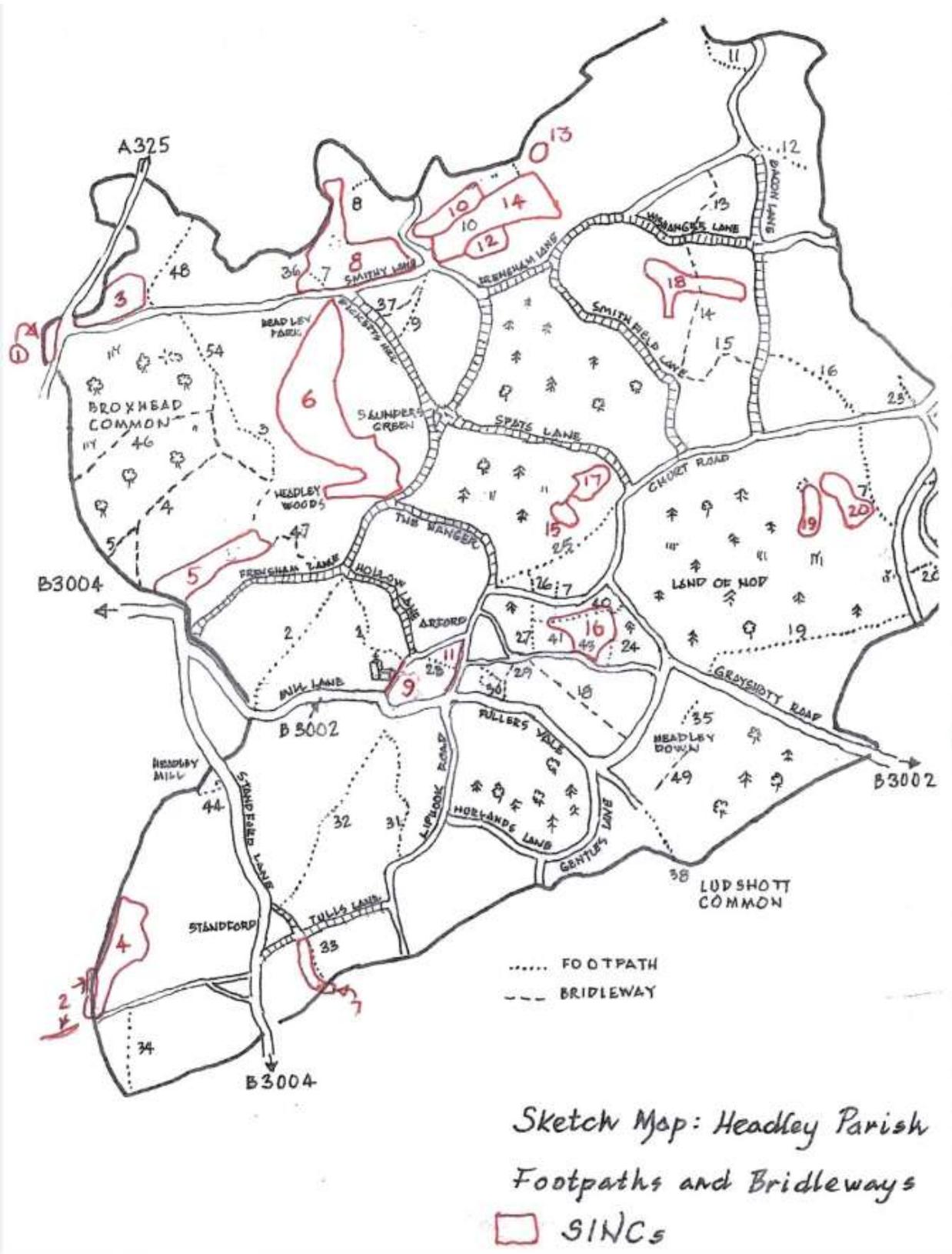
Acid Grassland showing mixed indigenous species in semi-natural communities (without major use of inorganic fertilisers) can be found at Mellow Farm meadows and water meadow, and grassland still retaining some indigenous species is at Sleaford Bridge meadow and Bordon sandpit.

Heathland vegetation can still be seen at Bordon sandpit, and there are significant remnants of heathland vegetation on Arford Common which would enable their recovery.

Notable and relatively rare species found in Headley include the liverwort *Targionia hypophylla* which grows in a few areas on the Churchyard wall in the High Street and on the wall opposite Arford Lodge on Arford Road. At Heath Hill there may still be a scarce luminous moss – *Schistostega pennata* – which is found in the loose gravel around rabbit holes, and the wild service-tree. Bordon sandpit has the upright chickweed, hoary cinquefoil and shepherd's cress and at Mellow Farm alders there is the alternate-leaved golden saxifrage. It is questionable whether the green-flowered helleborine which was recorded on the Walldown and Hollywater roadside edges has managed to survive all the roadworks in that area. There have been several sightings in recent years of two rare butterfly species, the silver-studded blue and the silver-washed fritillary and also recorded sightings of stag beetles – these are shown on a map in the Parish Office.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) HBIC have made landowners aware of their SINCs, and the Parish Council should try to ensure that successor landlords are aware.
- b) This paper, or at least the map and facing page, should be made widely available
- c) Councillors and volunteers should visit the sites to consider possible management needs
- d) Parishioners should be encouraged to look out for interesting habitats and species, and refer them to the Clerk or Rosemary Schofield for investigation



## Hampshire Biodiversity Information Guide

Details of sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCS) within the Parish of Headley:

Map Label	SINC Name	SINC Criteria	Species supported that meets Section 6 SINC Selection Criteria and a general description
1	Sleaford Bridge Meadow	2C/2D	Grassland – agriculturally unimproved
2	Walldown & Hollywater Roadside Verges	6A	Green Flowered Helliborine (Epipactis Phyllanthes)
3	Bordon Sandpit	2A/3A/6A	Upright Chickweed (Moenchia Erecta) Hoary Cinquefoil (Potentilla Argentea) Shepherd's Cress (Teesdalia Nudicaulis)
4	Eveley Wood	1A	Ancient woodland
5	River Wey at Headley Wood Farm	1C(ii)/5A	Semi-natural woodland. Open freshwater flora & fauna
6	River Wey & adjacent wood on Headley Wood Estate	1C(ii)5A/5B	Woodland, freshwater & inundated grassland
7	Hatch Farm Meadow, East	1A/5B	Ancient woodlands, inundated grasslands
8	Mellow Farm Meadows	2B/5A	Grassland and inundated grassland
9	High Street, Headley	6A	Liverwort (Targionia Hypophylla)
10	Heath Hill	1B/6A	Luminous moss (Schistostega Pennata) Wild service tree (Sorbus Torminalis) Woodland some ancient
11	Arford Road	6A	Liverwort (Targionia hypophylla)
12	Mellow Farm Alders	1C(ii)/6A	Semi-natural woodland, important alder wood Alternate leaved golden saxifrage (Chrysosplenium Alternifolium)
13	Wishanger Copse	1A	Ancient Woodland
14	Mellow Farm Water Meadow	2B	Significant element unimproved grassland
15	Little Hearne Copse	1B	Some ancient woodland
16	Arford Common/Beech Hill Common	3B(i)	Heathland now afforested
17	Hearn Copse	1A	Ancient woodland
18	Wishanger Valley	1C(ii)/5A	Semi-natural woodland, freshwater
19	Long Gut Copse	1A	Ancient woodlands
20	Dalen Copse	1A	Ancient Woodlands

## Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

## Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the Parish of Headley:

Map Label	Central Site Grid Ref.	SINC Name	SINC Criteria	Species supported that meets Section 6 SINC Selection Criteria
1	SU80203830	Sleaford Bridge Meadow	2C/2D	
2	SU80503440	Walldown & Hollywater Roadside Verges	6A	Green-flowered helleborine ( <i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i> )
3	SU80583840	Bordon Sandpit	2A/3A/6A	Upright Chickweed ( <i>Moenchia erecta</i> ) Hoary Cinquefoil ( <i>Potentilla argentea</i> ) Shepherd's cress ( <i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i> )
4	SU80703470	Eveley Wood	1A	
5	SU81303710	R. Wey At Headley Wood Farm	1C(i)/5A	
6	SU81603800	R. Wey & Adj Wood On Headley Wood Estate	1C(i)/5A/5B	
7	SU81803460	Hatch Farm Meadow East	1A/5B	
8	SU81903860	Mellow Farm Meadows	2B/5A	
9	SU82233636	High St. Headley	6A	Liverwort <i>Targionia hypophylla</i>
10	SU82403890	Heath Hill	1B/6A	Luminous moss ( <i>Schistostega pennata</i> ) Wild service-tree ( <i>Sorbus torminalis</i> )
11	SU82563638	Lane Near Arford, Headley	6A	Liverwort <i>Targionia hypophylla</i>
12	SU82703870	Mellow Farm Alders	1C(i)/6A	Alternate-leaved golden saxifrage ( <i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i> )
13	SU82903930	Wishanger Copse	1A	
14	SU83003900	Mellow Farm Water Meadow	2B	
15	SU83103728	Little Hearn Copse	1B	
16	SU83203660	Arford Common/Beech Hill Common	3B(i)	
17	SU83303750	Hearn Copse	1A	
18	SU83703860	Wishanger Valley	1C(i)/5A	
19	SU84503740	Longgut Copse	1A	
20	SU84803740	Dalen Copse	1A	

*sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife*

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

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# Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

**SINC** criteria.

## **WOODLAND**

- 1A Ancient semi-natural woodlands – these have developed particular ecological characteristics as a result of their long continuity
- 1B Other woodland if a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland is surviving.
- 1C Semi-natural woodland
  - ii) that comprise important community types of restricted distribution in the county  
i.e Yew woods, alder swamp woods.

## **GRASSLAND – ACID**

- 2A Agriculturally unimproved grasslands.
- 2B Semi-improved grassland with a significant element of unimproved grassland.
- 2C
- 2D Grasslands which have been impoverished through inappropriate management, but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery.

## **HEATHLAND**

- 3A Areas of heathland vegetation including matrices of dwarf shrub, acid grassland, valley mires and scrub.
- 3Bi Areas of heathland which are afforested or have succeeded to woodland but which retain significant remnants of heathland vegetation to enable their recovery.

## **WETLANDS**

- 5A Areas of open freshwater (ponds, rivers, streams etc) which support outstanding assemblages of floating/submerged/emergent plant species – also invertebrates, birds or amphibians.
- 5B Fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc, that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions.

## **SPECIES**

- 6A Sites which support one or more notable species.

Note: At sites 9 and 11 nationally scarce liverwort – *Targionia hypophyllia* – on stone walls.  
At site 10 nationally scarce luminous moss – *Schistostega pennata* – found in loose gravel around rabbit holes.