

DESIGNATED SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION
IMPORTANCE
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

April 2003

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
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Date 16 April 2003

Price £10.00

Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

Introduction

- 1.1 The Borough Council has a duty to keep under review all matters that are expected to affect the development of their area, or the planning of its development. As part of such review the Council commissioned a biodiversity survey from specialist consultants to ensure that important nature conservation interests within the Borough would be protected from development and enhanced wherever possible.¹ Other surveys have been carried out in the past and subsequent surveys, which may be site specific, will be undertaken. All surveys are lodged with English Nature as public records.
- 1.2 Between June and September 2000 the Council's consultants surveyed a number of sites across the Borough which were considered to have some nature conservation interest, but their brief specifically excluded much of the Downland as the value of this area for nature conservation purposes is already widely understood. Their brief also only provided for sample surveys in the area known as 'Eastbourne Park' due to the size of the area. The results of the survey work were presented to an independent panel of experts who determined which sites should be designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance. This document provides a summary of those designated sites.

Consultation

- 2.1 The Council published a draft for consultation which was circulated to individuals and organisations likely to have an interest in its contents. The comments received were taken into account before the guidance was formally adopted by the Council.

Status of the Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 3.1 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) may be taken into account as a material planning consideration when reaching a decision on a planning application. Government guidance (as set-out in paragraphs 3.15-3.18 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 (PPG12): Development Plans) indicates that substantial weight can be attached to Supplementary Planning Guidance where it has been prepared in accordance with the tests set-out in PPG12.
- 3.2 This SPG is considered to have been prepared in accordance with PPG12 for the reasons set-out below:

Requirement	Relevant paragraph of PPG12	Comment
SPG must be consistent with national and regional planning guidance and the adopted development plan.	3.15	This SPG is consistent with relevant guidance including PPG12:Development Plans; PPG9:Nature Conservation; and the Replacement Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011.
SPG must be cross referenced to the relevant plan policy which it supplements	3.15	This SPG specifically relates to policy NE20 of the Adopted Borough Plan 2001-2011.

¹ Eastbourne Biodiversity Survey: Philip Masters, Simon Davey. September 2000. Price £30 (plus £3.50 postage and packing) available from Development Planning, 68 Grove Road, Eastbourne BN21 4UH.

SPG must be issued separately from the Plan.	3.15	The First Deposit draft of the Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011 was published on 28 February 2001. This SPG was subject to public consultation in Summer 2001.
SPG must be made publicly available	3.15	Copies of the SPG are available from Development Planning, 68 Grove Road, Eastbourne BN21 4UH.
Status of the SPG should be made clear	3.15	This is explained in the introductory comments.
Consultation should be undertaken with the general public, business and other interested parties with their views being taken into account before the SPG is finalised.	3.16	This draft SPG was sent to individuals and companies with an interest in one or more of the sites or with an interest in land adjacent to a site of nature conservation importance. In addition letters were sent to 24 interested organisations.
A statement of the consultation undertaken, the representations received and the local authorities response to those representations must be made available with each copy of the SPG.	3.16	Details of the comments received and the Council's response are set-out in the report to Planning and Licensing Committee of 11 December 2001. A copy of this report is available on request from the Development Planning Section (address as above).
SPG must be subject to a council resolution to adopt it as supplementary planning guidance.	3.16	The SPG has been formally adopted by the Borough Council On 16 April 2003.

Purpose of the Document

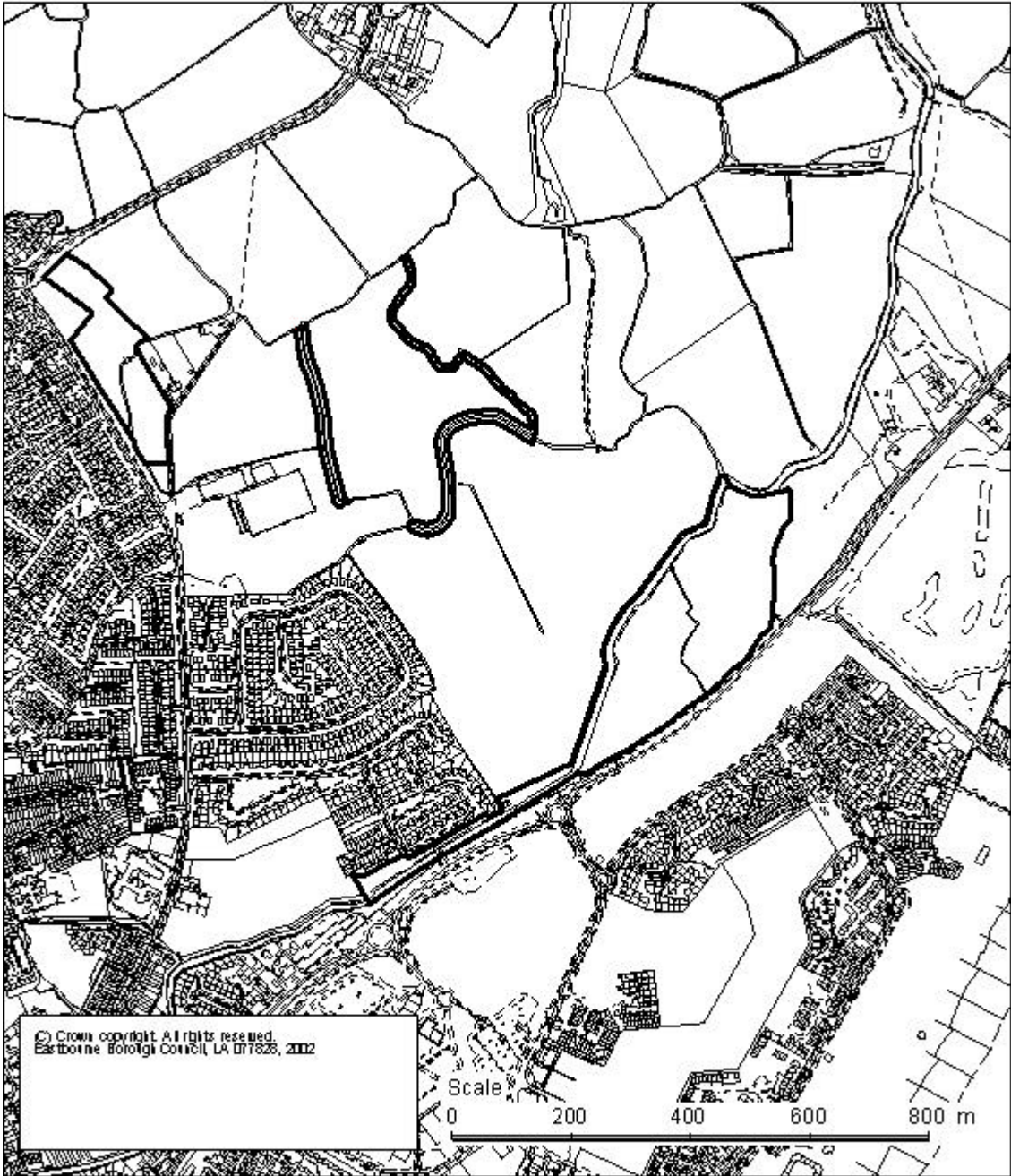
- 4.1 The purpose of this document is to present a summary description of each of the Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) so that any proposal for development on, or within the vicinity of an SNCI, can take into account the nature conservation value of the site at an early stage. In considering planning applications for developments on SNCI the Council will have regard to policy NE20 of the Adopted Borough Plan 2001-2011 which is set out below. It should be appreciated that the boundaries of the sites have been drawn to identifiable features on the ground. Therefore it does not mean that all of the site is of nature conservation importance, only that the importance is contained within the curtilage identified.

Policy NE20 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

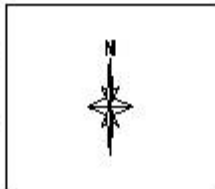
Development which has an unacceptable adverse effect, directly or indirectly, on the nature conservation interest of a site identified as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance will not be permitted. Where proposals are permitted the Planning Authority will require the proper conservation management of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance. (See Policy NE22).

- 4.2 Where development is proposed on a Site of Nature Conservation Importance applicants are strongly advised to consult the full Biodiversity Survey before submitting a planning application. Where development is proposed in Eastbourne Park and the planning authority has reason to believe that the nature conservation value of the site may be affected by the proposal, applicants may be required to supply details of an independent specialist nature conservation survey as supplementary information.

SNCI :E1
Langney Levels



Scale 1:10000	
Drn. By	Date
Drg.	



Legend

SITE NAME	LANGNEY LEVELS	GRID REF. TQ 637033
SITE No.	E.1	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

Langney Levels consist of a network of drainage channels within a field system. The overall character is very similar to the coastal wetlands elsewhere in Sussex and Kent. The grassland varies in species composition, and the ditches vary depending on how recently they have been dredged. At the optimum point in the clearance cycle they are rich in higher plants both in the channel itself and on the banks. Some of the grassland is agriculturally improved and of low intrinsic nature conservation value but is included to act as a buffer zone. The fields in the south are drier and support fewer species. They are nevertheless fine examples of mature unimproved pasture.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The most mature and typical unimproved pasture is dominated by Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). In late summer the Meadow Brown Butterfly (*Maniola jurtina*) is abundant.

The greatest interest in the site is in its ditch system. It is rich in scarce waterside plants which include Narrow-leaved Water Plantain (*Alisma lanceolatum*), Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*) and Upright Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*). Truly aquatic plants are also well represented, and include the pondweeds *Potamogeton crispus* and *P. pusillus*. Although few species of dragonfly were recorded when the site was surveyed, the clean water here has excellent potential for both dragonflies and other aquatic insects.

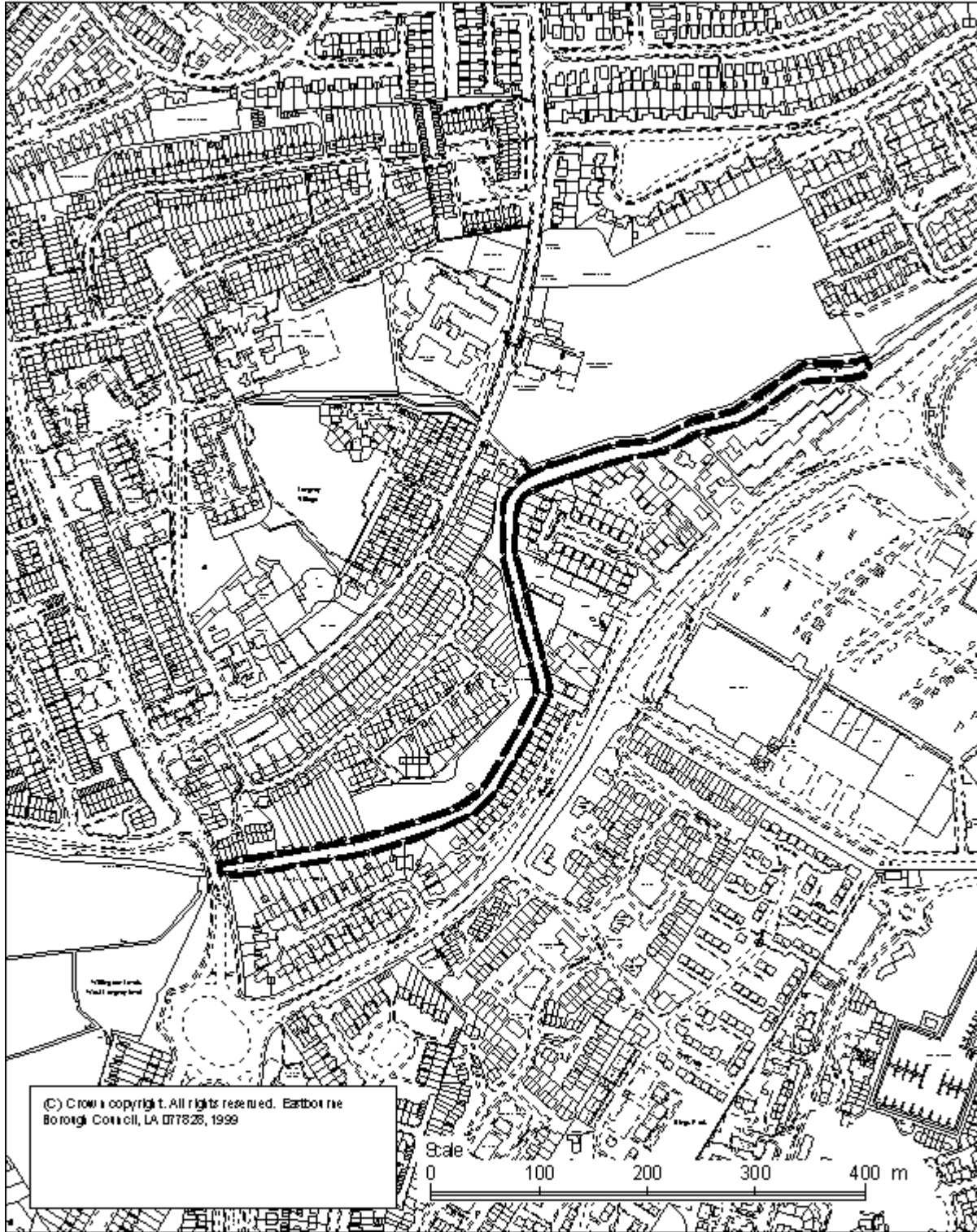
MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Without proper management, drainage channel systems become choked with vigorous species such as Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Immediately following dredging, drainage channels have a limited range of species. It is therefore very important that the drainage channels are dredged in a rotation system so all stages of development are represented.

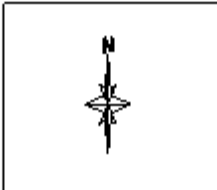
Currently, the water quality of the ditches is good, but in an area so close to Eastbourne, it is important to be sure that no pollution spillages take place. It is also important that concentrated cattle slurry is kept well away from the best ditches.

It is of great importance that the grazing regime on the pastures is maintained. Moreover, the current character will be lost if the grazing is improved by the over use of fertilisers. It is also important that the pasture is not over-grazed.

SNCI E4. LANGNEY SEWER



Scale 1:5000	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	LANGNEY SEWER	GRID REF. TQ 634022
SITE No.	E.4	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

The Langney Sewer SNCI consists of a water channel which runs from east to west from the Borough boundary to Eastbourne Park. Of great importance is a record of the Red Data Book species Sharp-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton acutifolius*).

The most important part of the sewer is in the rural section in the east. Here it is particularly attractive, being carpeted by the Fringed Water-lily (*Nymphoides peltata*). As the channel enters urban Eastbourne, so the interest declines somewhat until it reaches Eastbourne Park where the quality improves once more.

SITE DESCRIPTION

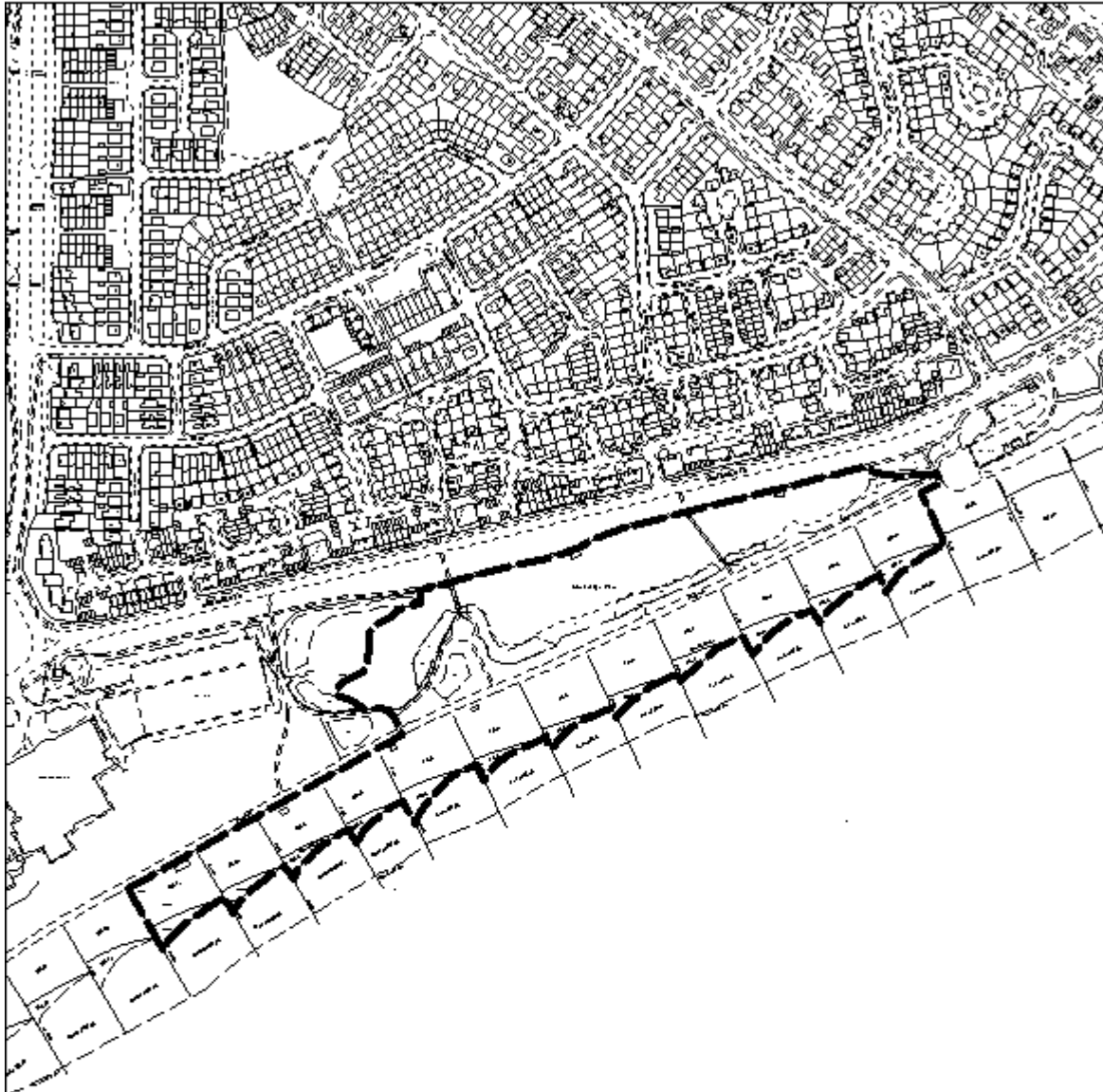
Langney Sewer is a broad waterway with a rich aquatic and bank flora. In its rural sections it is unpolluted but the water quality appears to be lower in the built-up areas. In the former, the bank flora supports species such as Upright Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*) and Tubular Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*) as well as species less associated with wetland such as Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). It also supports a good aquatic flora, including species like Rigid Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), Spiked Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and Fennel Pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*).

Although few insects were seen during the survey, it is excellent habitat for birds such as Reed Warbler and a range of dragonflies should occur.

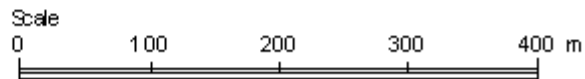
MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Water quality is by far the most important factor in determining the quality of this habitat. In the rural section it is important to control any of the run off effects from cattle grazing such as eutrophication from grazing improvement and slurry. Similarly, any addition of contaminated water in the urban section must be controlled. Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) is very nutrient demanding, and acts as a good adverse indicator of water quality. In the urban sections where grazing does not take place, the bank vegetation should be controlled to prevent the dominance of grasses such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). As the water is deep and the flow is moderate, there is little danger of choking by reed here.

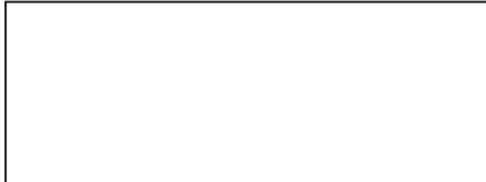
SNCI E7. PRINCE WILLIAM PARADE



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Borough Council, LA 077828, 1999



Scale	1:5000
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	PRINCE WILLIAM PARADE	GRID REF.	TQ 362009
SITE No.	E.7	DATE:	JUNE 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY		

SUMMARY

The shingle separating Prince William Parade from the sea is the main remnant of the extensive shingle bank system which was the Crumbles before it was developed. Shingle is a rare habitat not just in Britain, but in mainland Europe. In a small section, the original shingle ridges may still be seen. It is a very important site for a range of plants including lichens and mosses.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The eastern section of Prince William Parade contains a series of shingle ridges. As well as important maritime plants of shingle such as Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*) and the nationally scarce Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*), these have a more mature capping of vegetation which supports rare lichens such as the nationally-scarce dog lichen species *Peltigera canina* as well as locally scarce lichens such as *Cladonia furcata* and *Coelocaulon aculeatum*. The pebbles also support a range of tiny crustose lichens, and there is potential here for the lichen *Aspicilia verruculosa* which occurred on Sussex chalk and coastal shingle in the past. This species has not been seen in Britain since the nineteenth century.

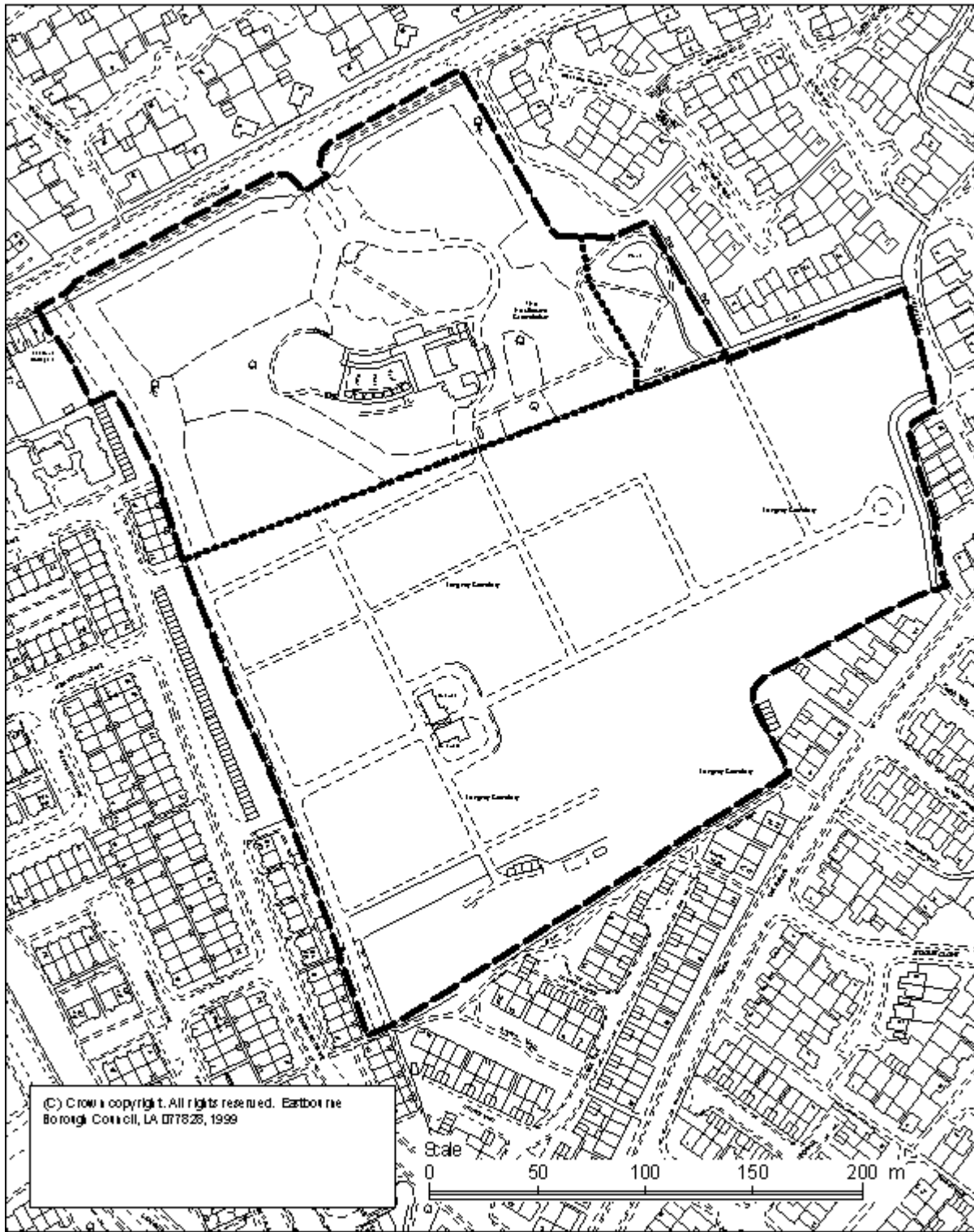
The foreshore has the greatest variety of plants for this habitat within the borough. Plants include Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*) as well as Ray's Knotgrass (*Polygonum oxyspermum*) which is only in two or three Sussex sites. Maritime grasses are also a feature and include scarce species such as Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca filiformis*) and Sea Fern-grass (*Catapodium marinum*).

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

The upper layers of pebbles are poor in plants nutrients and allow species intolerant of competition to survive. Any disturbance allows aggressive ruderal species to invade. Shrubs have extensive root systems which can find nutrients at depth beneath the shingle surface. Having become established, wind-blown soil is trapped, and more competitive species become established.

This site is in considerable danger of being over-run by invasive species such as those which have been planted between the shingle banks and the foreshore. Already, Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) has become established, and this could invade the whole area rapidly as could other planted shrubs. Such colonization should be rigorously controlled before it becomes established. Any removal of shrubs in the future would cause disturbance which would ruin the habitat for a long period. Already the nationally scarce Red Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*) has been lost.

SNCI E14. LANGNEY CREMATORIUM



Scale 1:2500	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	LANGNEY CREMATORIUM	GRID REF. TQ 629032
SITE No.	E.14	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

Langney Crematorium is a large site which contains extensive areas of mature neutral grassland. Lack of treatment with weed killers and fertiliser has allowed a species-rich sward to develop. The site also contains a ditch in the east which supports a number of wetland species.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The lawns which surround the crematorium have received the same management for many years. As a result, a rich neutral grassland flora has developed. With the possible exception of Autumn Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*), there are few exceptional species present. The importance of this site lies in the history of management which has allowed an association of flowering plants characteristic of neutral grassland to develop. Continuous mowing has also influenced the make up of the sward.

Characteristic plant species which, although not rare, make up the variety of the grassland here are Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*) which is particularly abundant, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).

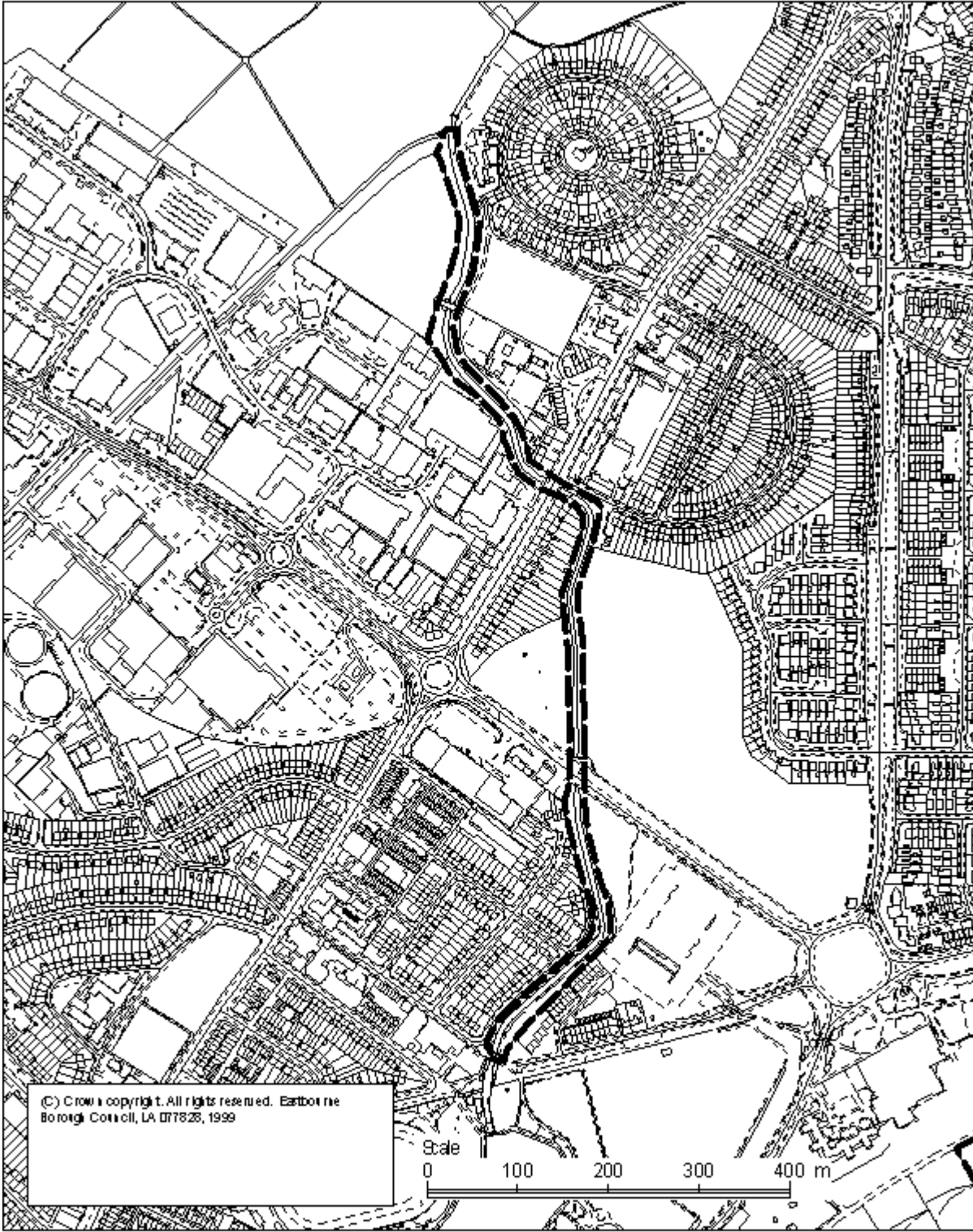
The ditch in the east supports a range of wetland plants species and provides clean water for aquatic invertebrates. A nymph of the increasingly scarce bush cricket Short-winged Conehead (*Conocephalus dorsalis*) was seen here. This species is characteristic of tall rushes.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

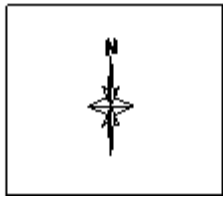
At present, the grassland of Langney Crematorium is very uniform. Greater diversity could be achieved quite rapidly if a different mowing regime were established in parts of the site less visited by the public. If part of the sward were to be left unmown between the end of April and mid September, a rich insect fauna would become established, and the ground flora would become even richer.

It is also important that the arisings are always removed from the site and to monitor the ditch to ensure that it does not become overgrown with invasive aquatic species. Occasional dredging may be necessary in the future.

SNCI E18. THE CRUMBLES SEWER



Scale 1:6000	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME **CRUMBLES SEWER**

GRID REF. TQ 628012

SITE No. **E.18**

DATE: **SEPT 2000**

SURVEYOR: **PHILIP MASTERS**

SUMMARY

Eastbourne is unusual in that it contains a number of waterways which are unromantically called sewers. These have great potential as habitats for wildlife. The Crumbles Sewer is not, at present, particularly species-rich but still provides habitat for aquatic species and breeding birds such as moorhen and reed warbler. It is a significant part of the network of wetland habitats in the eastern side of Eastbourne.

DESCRIPTION

The importance of the Crumbles Sewer is potential rather than actual. Currently, the banks support a dense vegetation dominated by grass species such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) as well as vigorous invaders such as Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*). Parts of the channel itself is choked by species such as Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) although there are small areas of Fringed Water Lily (*Nymphoides peltata*) and much open water at the southern end. It is possible that water quality is affected by fertiliser run off or drainage from adjacent development.

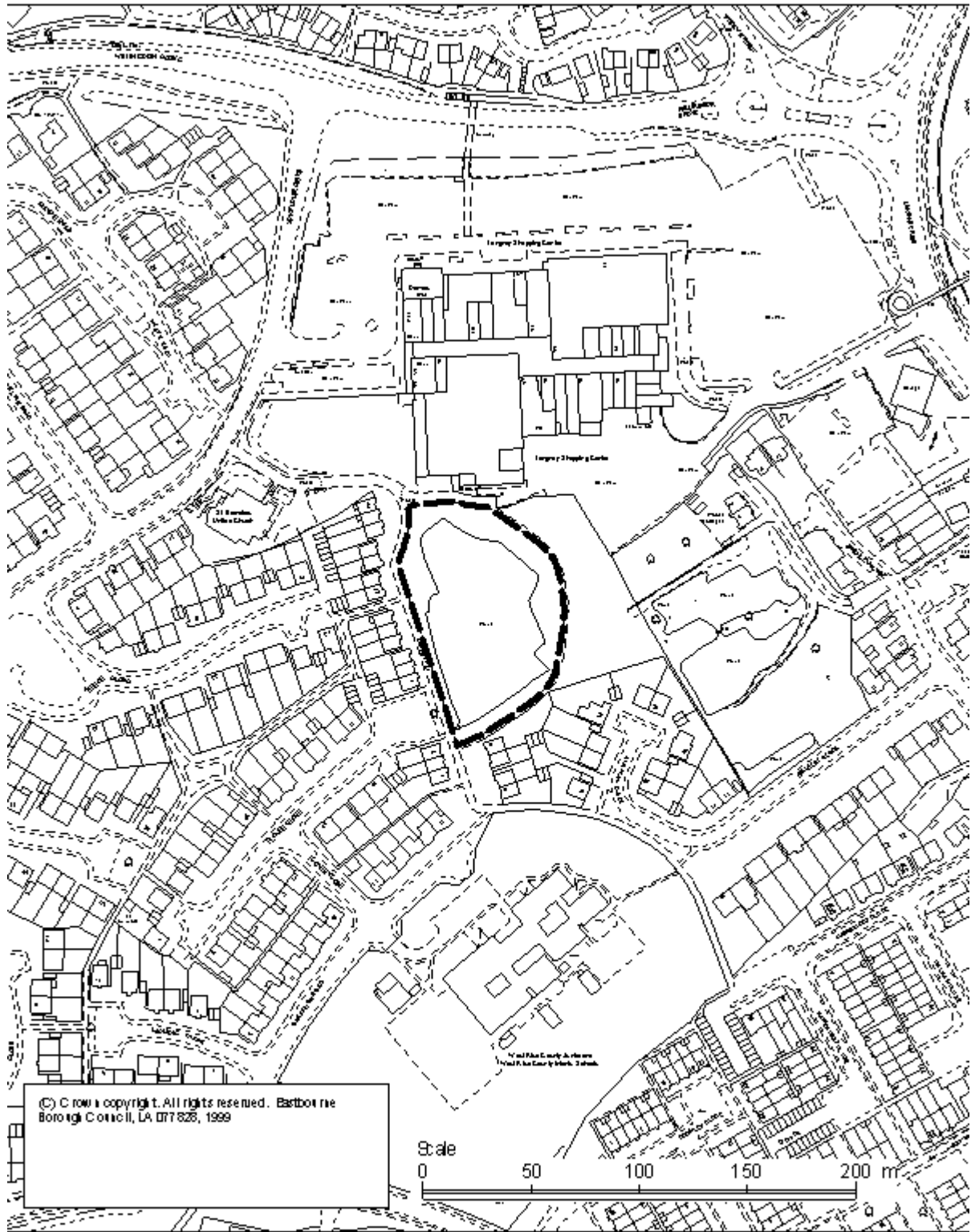
Currently, the ground around the sewer in the area supports a range of common species, but the presence of Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*) which is an indicator of mature grassland demonstrates some continuity.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Currently, the greatest importance is for breeding birds. The nature conservation interest would be considerably improved if the channel were cleared of vigorous vegetation, and the banks and slopes above the channel cut on a regular basis. The soils here are enriched, and a diverse flora will not become established unless all cut material is removed and disposed of elsewhere. The channel itself should also be dredged regularly.

The water quality in part of this sewer is suspect, and if any aquatic invertebrates are to become established, the reasons for poor water quality must be identified and controlled.

SINCI E21. LANGNEY CENTRE POND



Scale 1:2500	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	LANGNEY CENTRE POND	GRID REF. TQ 625029
SITE No.	E.21	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

Langney Centre Pond has a long history as a duck pond. The wildlife interest lies in the bank and marginal vegetation. As a duck pond, the water is opaque and enriched to a point where most aquatic plants and insects cannot survive. Much of the surrounding area is protected from human disturbance by being boggy and waterlogged. It provides excellent habitat for breeding birds.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The surrounding vegetation of the Langney Centre Pond is diverse and includes many common wetland species such as Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) and Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*). White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) has been planted and enhances the attractiveness of the pond as does the presence of Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) and Almond Willow (*Salix triandra*).

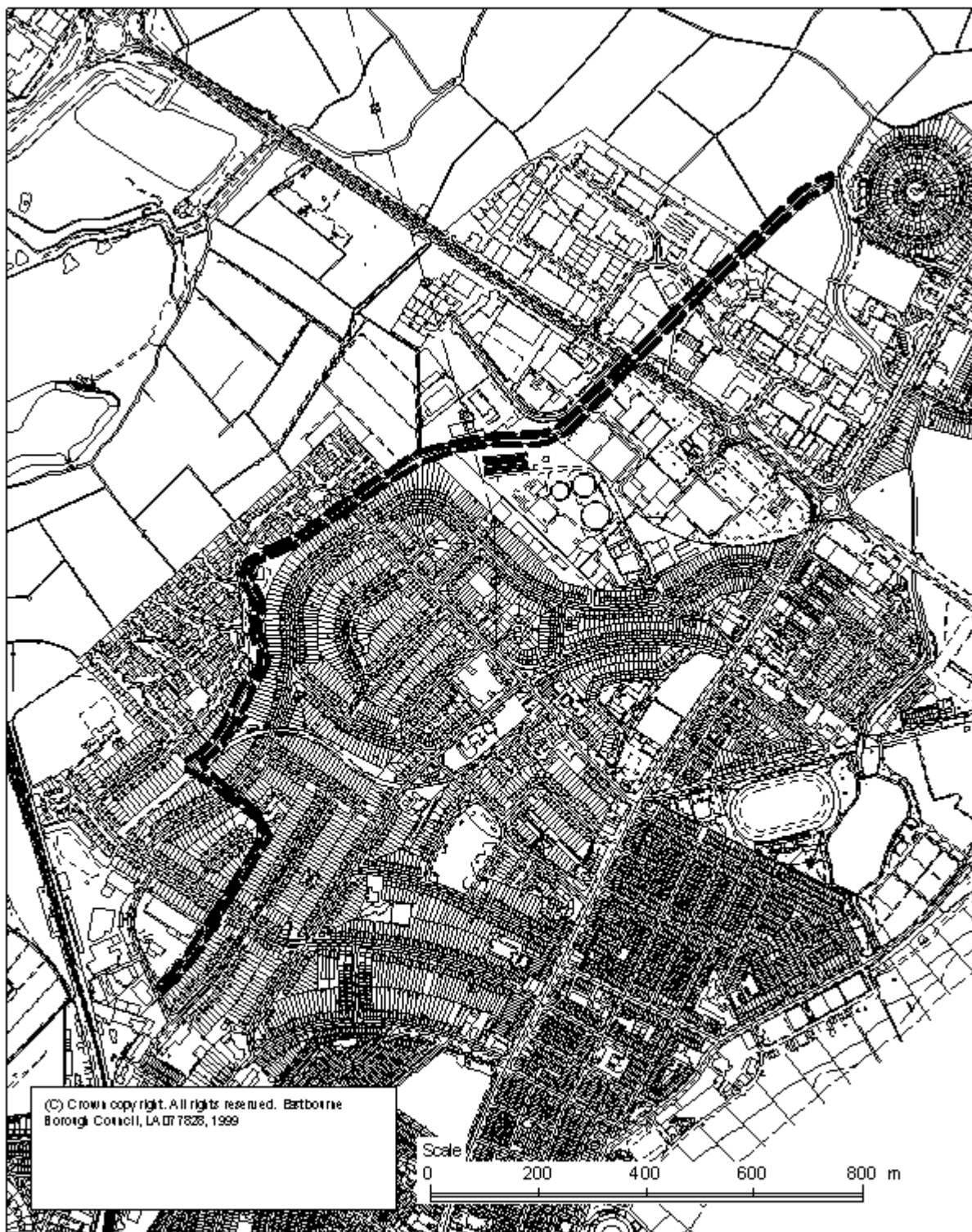
Although enrichment of the water prevents most aquatic wildlife from becoming established, Common Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) and Common Water Starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*) manage to survive.


The weather at the time of the survey was overcast and wet, and few insects were observed. However, it is likely that the undisturbed vegetation surrounding the pond supports an interesting insect fauna.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Once a pond such as this one becomes enriched, the substrate becomes so impregnated with nutrients that no amount of management will improve the situation. However, the vegetation surrounding the pond is quite varied. The interest would be increased if the more aggressive marginal plants could be controlled.

SNCI E29. HORSEY SEWER



Scale 1:10000			
Drn. By	Date		
Drg. No.			

SITE NAME **HORSEY SEWER**

GRID REF. TQ 619010

SITE No. **E.29**

DATE: **JULY 2000**

SURVEYOR: **SIMON DAVEY**

SUMMARY

Eastbourne is unusual in that it contains a number of waterways which are unromantically called sewers. These have great potential as habitats for wildlife. At the time of the survey, the banks and slopes of the waterway were dominated by a tall sward of a limited number of vigorous species such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). The channel supports some aquatic plant species, and, being an extensive waterway with quiet stretches, it is an excellent habitat for breeding birds.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The tall bank vegetation and Reed Canary-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) makes observation of the wildlife of the channel itself difficult. Species such as Common Water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*) and Fennel Pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*) were recorded. The water's edge supports some interesting littoral species such as Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) and False Fox Sedge (*Carex otrubae*).

The banks of the waterway currently support a dense vegetation cover which includes a limited number of species. Of some interest however, is the presence of Fiddle Dock (*Rumex pulcher*) and Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*) with its attractive, orchid-like flower spikes.

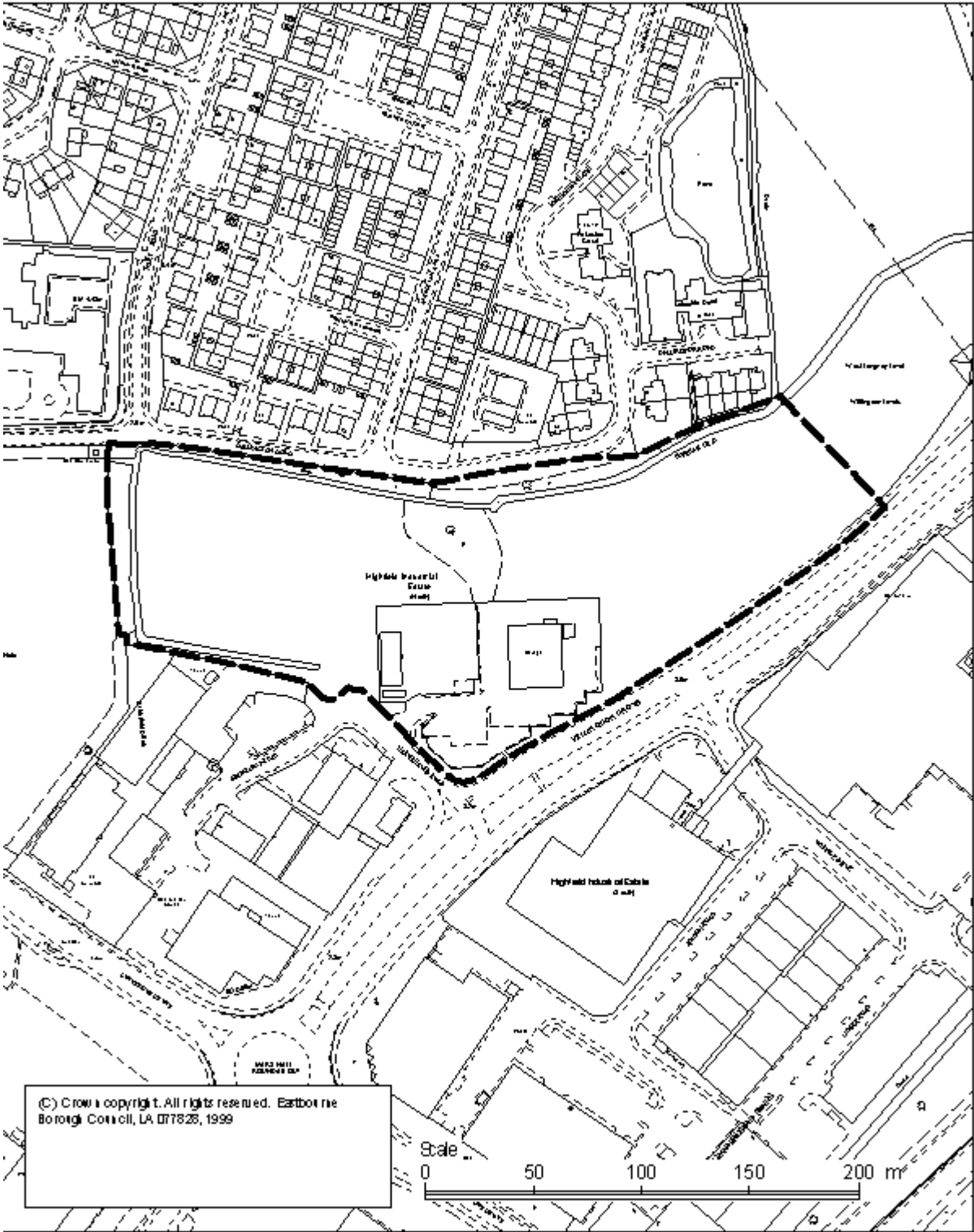
In places, the waterway is overhung by shrubs such as Osier (*Salix viminalis*) which provides perching places and breeding sites for birds.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

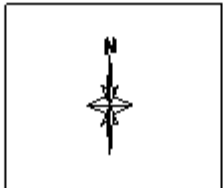
The bank-side vegetation of Horsey Sewer is still diverse, but unless the vigorous plants are controlled, this diversity will diminish steadily. The banks should be cleared of vegetation when it becomes rank, and the material removed and disposed of elsewhere. Currently the soils are too rich in plant nutrients to support a diverse flora unless the more competitive species are kept in check.

Although some aquatic plant species persist, the fact that the channel is being choked in places by Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) is not a good sign. This indicates water enrichment which should be located and monitored. The channel should also be dredged on a regular cycle to encourage diversity.

SNCI E38. HIGHFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



Scale 1:2500	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	HIGHFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	GRID REF. TQ 112021
SITE No.	E.38	DATE: AUG 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

The site supports a flora typical of damp ground. It has a good assemblage of wetland plants which includes some which are not common. The area is used as hunting ground by several dragonfly species which breed in the area, and the bush cricket Long winged Conehead (*Conocephalus discolor*), which became established in southern England comparatively recently, has a strong colony here.

SITE DESCRIPTION

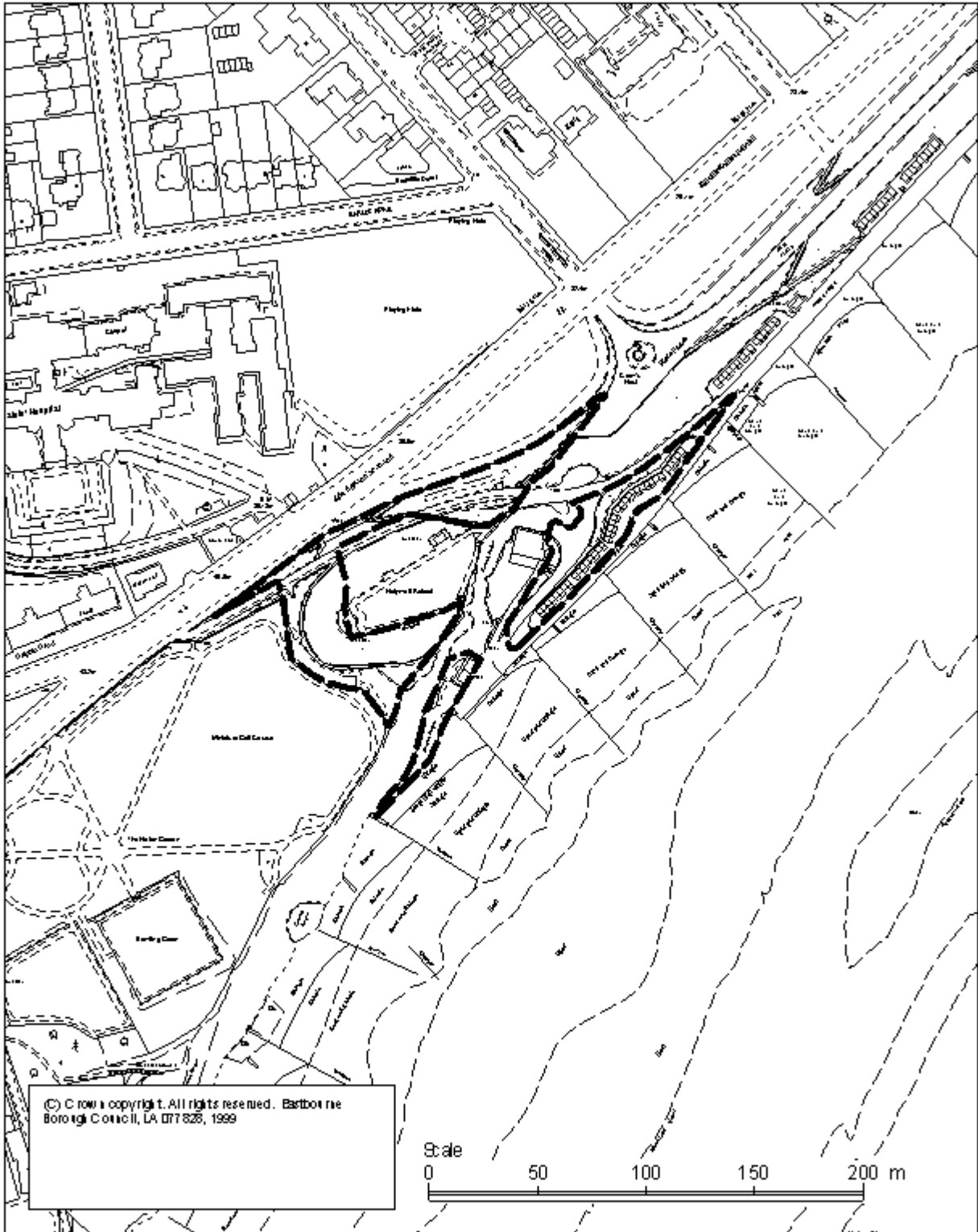
The site consists of low-lying land which is surrounded by a recently built road and housing estates. It supports diverse wetland vegetation. Of interest is Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*) which is scarce in the borough as is Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) which is commonly associated with bogs. The site also supports several interesting sedge species.

Within easy reach of the area, there is habitat for a number of dragonfly species. These use the site for foraging. Amongst them are the Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly (*Orthotrichum cancellatum*) and the Common Darter Dragonfly (*Sympetrum striolatum*). The site also attracts a good range of butterflies and other insects.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

This site is surrounded on all sides by development. The greatest danger to it is from the effects such as run off from roads, and pollution from industrial activities within the area. There are a number of open areas within the site which consist of bare, un-colonised mud. Without control, vigorous species may eventually invade, to the detriment of less common ones.

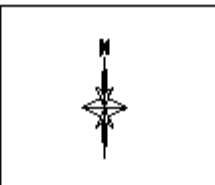
SNCI E77. HOLYWELL AND CROWS NEST STEPS



Scale 1:2500

Drn. By _____ Date _____

Drng. No.



SITE NAME	HOLYWELL AND CROWS NEST STEPS	GRID REF. TV 603973
SITE No.	E.77	DATE: AUG 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

This site consists of small areas of steep grassland between paths and steps sloping down to the sea. Being south facing, they receive a great deal of sunshine which encourages a good population of sun loving insects and plants. Although it has been invaded by, and planted with, a number of alien species which are well established, it also supports a species characteristic of well established chalk downland turf.

The extreme south west of this site includes part of the cliffs which are included in site E.78. This is an important habitat for plant species typical of chalk cliffs

SITE DESCRIPTION

The grassland on the site supports large quantities of alien species such as Sweet Scabious (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*) and Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*). These provide nectar and habitat for sun-loving insects such as the migrant Hummingbird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) which arrives in Britain in small numbers every year.

As well as this alien flora, a good number of species typical of ancient downland occur. These include Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*) and Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*).

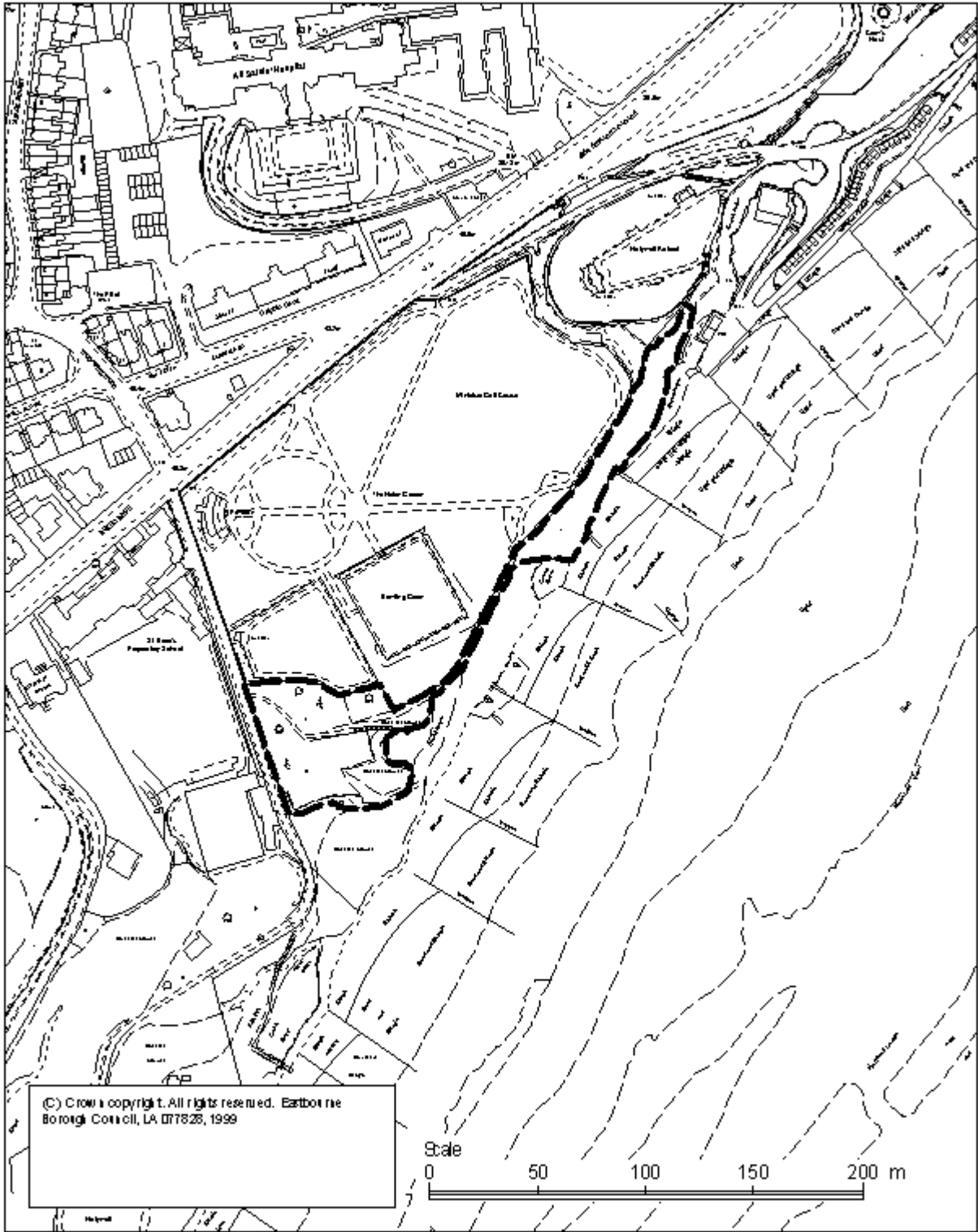
On top of the cliffs, the short turf is ideal for spring ephemeral species such as clovers. At the time of the survey Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*) was well established here.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

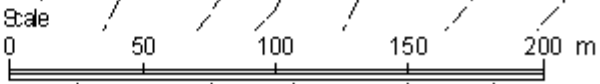
In almost any other SNCI, some control of the alien species present here would be proposed. However in this site, they have formed a balance with the native species which is beneficial to the wildlife interest of the site. They provide an attraction and food for a wide range of invertebrates.

The native flora of the site includes several species such as Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*) which is characteristic of short downland turf. Currently, it survives on the edges of tall vegetation. Some control of this vegetation, perhaps only over certain areas, would be desirable.

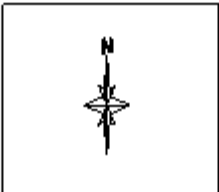
SNCI E78. CLIFFS BELOW THE HELEN GARDEN



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Scale 1:2500	
Drm. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	CLIFFS BELOW THE HELEN GARDENS	GRID REF. TV 602973
SITE No.	E.78	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

This site comprises the cliff edge and the chalk cliffs below. Along the cliff edge there is a strip of vegetation typical of chalk grassland. The cliffs themselves support an important flora including a Red Data species in the Near Threatened category, *Limonium binervosum* ssp *binervosum*, which is one of the many species of Rock Sea Lavender.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The cliff edge between the putting green and the cliff face supports tall plants typical of chalk downland close to the sea. These include Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*) and Sea Radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* ssp *maritimus*).

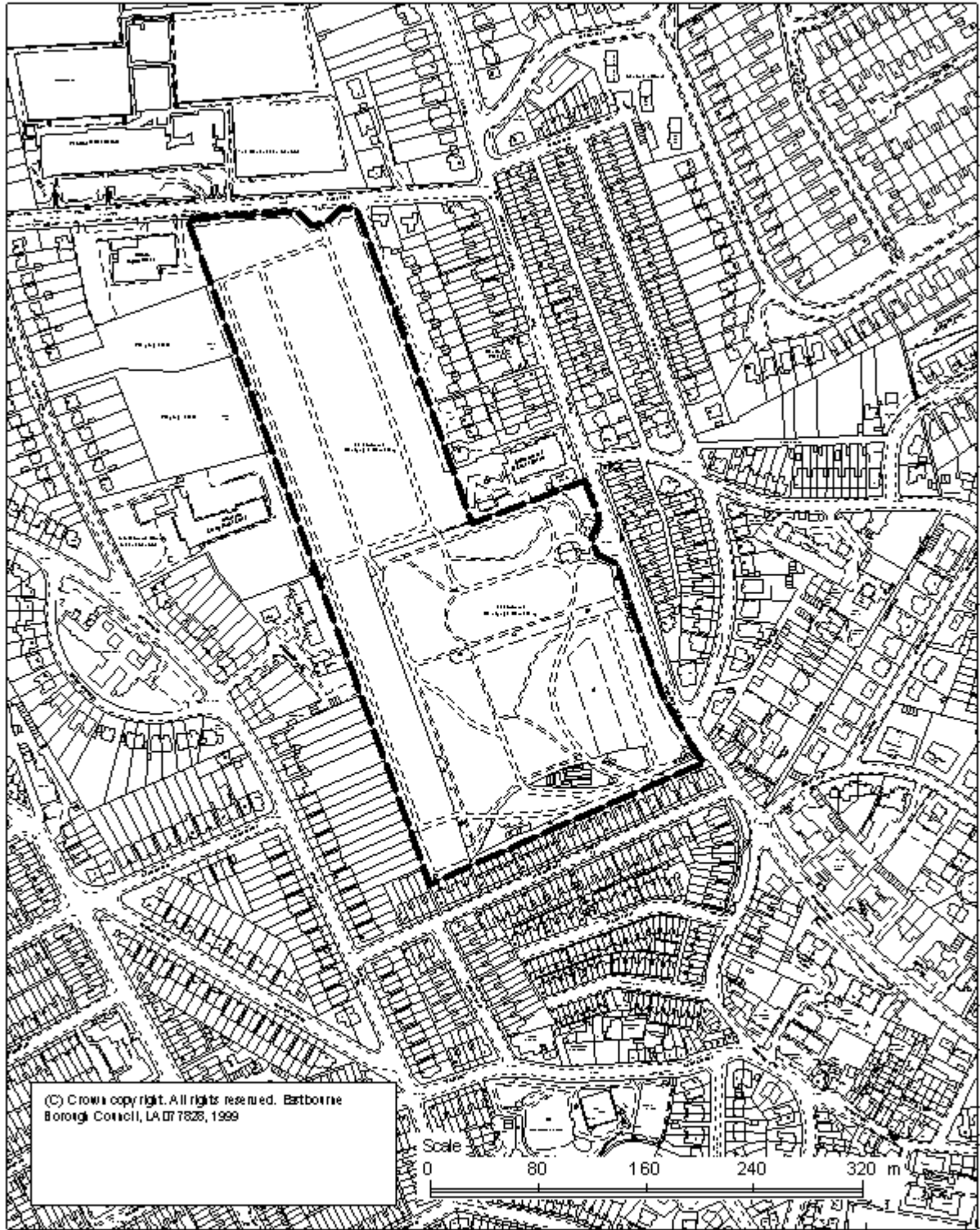
The cliff face below supports a good colony of *Limonium binervosum* ssp *binervosum*. This is the characteristic species of chalk cliffs in East Sussex and Kent. It also supports several other species of regional importance such as Sea Stock (*Matthiola incana*) and Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*). The cliffs are awkward to survey, and much was done with binoculars. It is probable that other scarce species not mentioned here have colonised the cliffs.

Also of some interest is a strong colony of the primitive wingless insects which is closely related to the domestic Silver Fish, *Petrobius maritimus*.

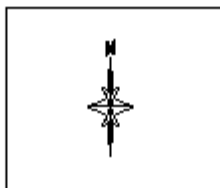
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

There are no active management proposals which can be suggested for this SNCI.

SN CI E86. OCKLYNGE CEMETARY



Scale 1:4000	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.	



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SITE NAME	OCKLYNGE CEMETERY	GRID REF.
SITE No.	E.86	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

The management of this area of has increased the number of chalk grassland plant species present over recent years. The site also has considerable potential for attracting a range of downland insects.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Since this site was first surveyed ten years ago, its interest as an area of chalk grassland has increased considerably. Because there is plenty of such habitat surrounding Eastbourne to act as a colonising source, it is most probable that this improvement will continue. Typical chalk downland species which have become established include Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), Quaking Grass (*Briza media*) and Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*). Apart from this, there is a good range of common chalk downland species.

There is every reason to expect this improvement to be matched by a similar increase in insect species. The site is already ideal for such insects as burnet moths and butterflies such as Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*). A good colony of Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) present.

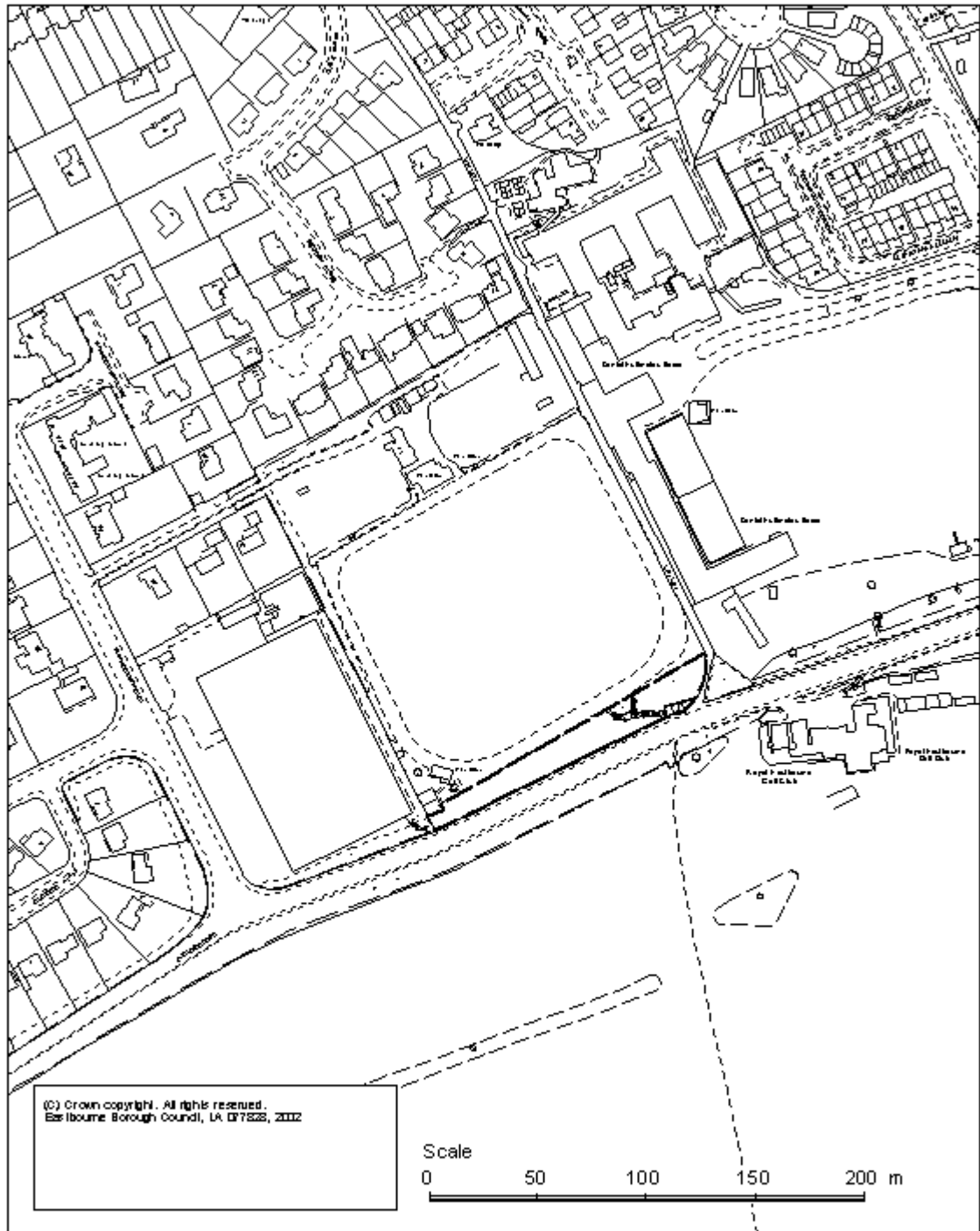
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

As it has obviously been successful, the management of this site can continue broadly along the lines which are already in place.

To obtain the best from a grassland site, it is best to restrict the mowing regime. The best grassland sward results from a cut in the spring, leaving the sward until the autumn. This will result in fairly tall grassland but the insects which feed on the vegetation will be able to complete their life cycle and the flowering plants to set seed.

Species-rich chalk grassland results from a soil which is impoverished. The biodiversity of this site will increase so long as no fertiliser is used to improve the grassland sward and all the cuttings are removed and disposed of elsewhere.

S NCI E89. EASTBOURNE COLLEGE WAR MEMORIAL FIELD



Scale 1:2500			
Drn. By	Date		
Drg.			

- + **Boundary of Designated Site of Nature Conservation Importance.**
- Area of greatest nature conservation importance.**

SITE NAME EASTBOURNE COLLEGE WAR
MEMORIAL FIELD

GRID REF. TV 599989

SITE No. E.89

DATE: JULY 2000

SURVEYOR: SIMON DAVEY

SUMMARY

The southern section of the banks around Eastbourne College Memorial Field supports a rich chalk downland flora. The area of greatest interest is small, but the range of important chalk grassland species is impressive. The bank also supports mature wych elms of considerable stature.

SITE DESCRIPTION

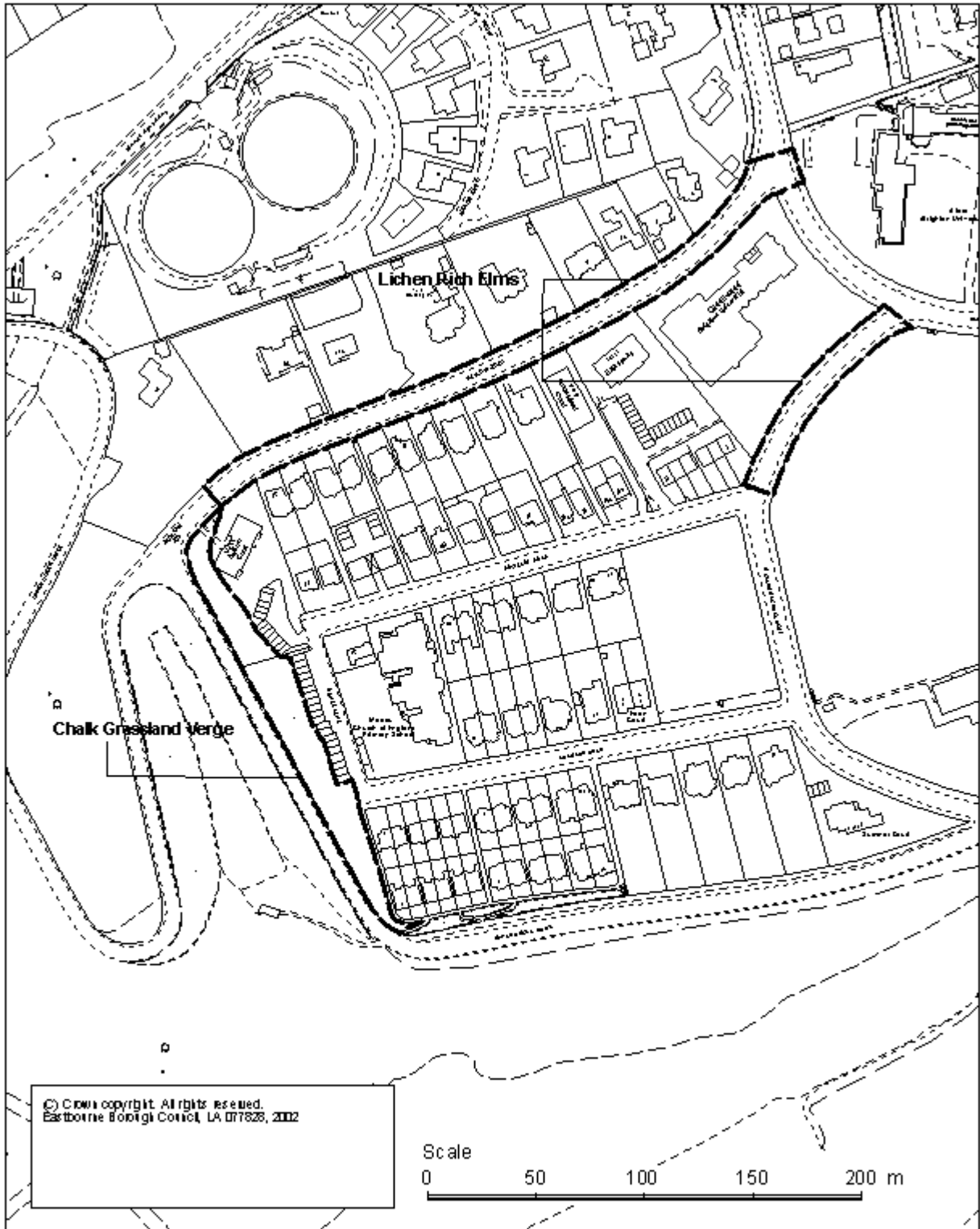
Close to the steps which enter the Eastbourne College War Memorial Field from Paradise Drive, there is a steep bank which supports a short sward chalk grassland flora of great richness. Of greatest importance here is a colony of at least a hundred plants of the Round-headed Rampion (*Phyteuma orbiculare*). Although not infrequent in the Eastbourne area, this species is as nationally scarce, and is restricted to south-eastern England.

Other species which make up this important assemblage of chalk grassland plants include Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) which is a good indicator of mature grassland. Also present and typical of rich calcareous turf are Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Purging Flax (*Linum catharticum*), Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*) and salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*).

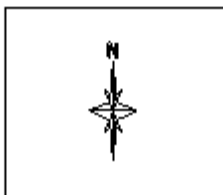
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The soils here are already impoverished and form a thin covering over the chalk. For this reason, the site is probably mown very infrequently in any case. However, mowing should certainly be restricted and preferably avoided during the summer months. It is quite possible that grazing by rabbits in the area is sufficient to keep the sward healthy.

SNCIE94. UPPERDUKE'S DRIVE



Scale 1:2500	
Drm. By	Date
Drg.	



SITE NAME	UPPER DUKE'S DRIVE	GRID REF. TV 595972
SITE No.	E.94	DATE: JUNE 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

The main element of interest is a west-facing roadside bank which supports an interesting downland flora, as well as the lichen rich trees in neighbouring streets.

SITE DESCRIPTION

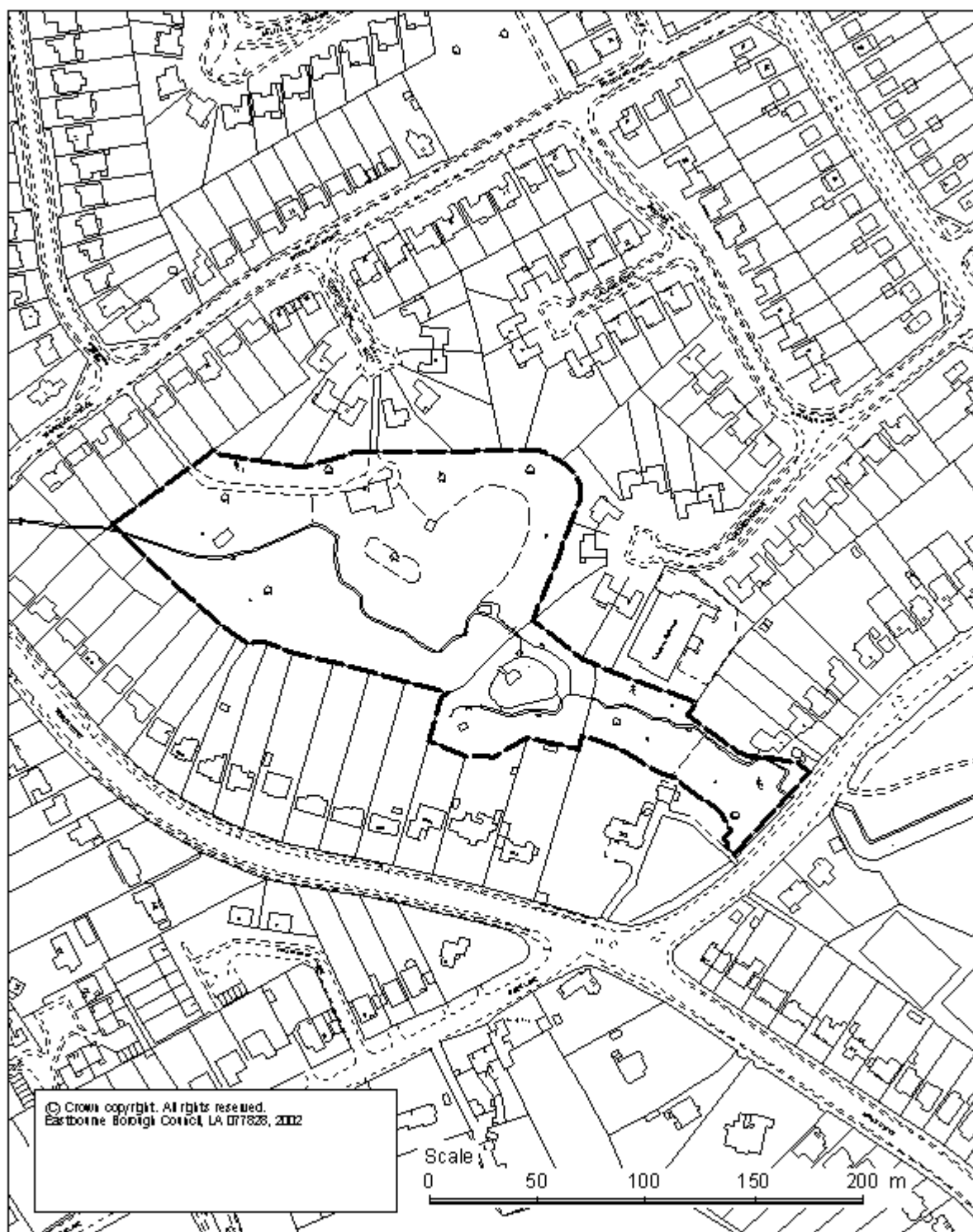
The bank on Upper Duke's Drive supports a viredd chalk grassland flora. Species of importance include Quaking-grass (*Briza media*), Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*).

Referring to the trees, particularly those in Baslow Road, interest here consists of a row of plicate elms which support a rich lichen flora. It is important to note that it is not only in Baslow Road that lichen on this sort of elm is found. The presence of *Parmelia sulcata* in its fertile state is remarkable in any urban area and bears witness to the very pure air in Eastbourne. Most of the plants of this species are fertile here.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Since the 1990 survey, the shrub development above the chalk bank on Upper Duke's Drive have developed, and are shading the flora of the chalk bank. This has resulted in the apparent loss of several species including Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*). Some control of this scrub development is therefore recommended.

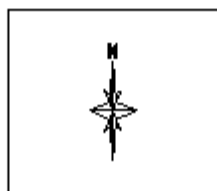
SNCI E96. THE COPPICE



Scale 1:2500

Drn. By	Date
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Drg.



SITE NAME	THE COPPICE	GRID REF. TQ 535972
SITE No.	E.96	DATE: SEPT 2000
SURVEYOR:	PHILIP MASTERS	

SUMMARY

This site comprises the grounds of three residential properties, the largest part of which is The Coppice. At the centre is a former decoy pond, now filled in to form a lawn, with the remainder of the area being woodland and a stream. The interest of the site lies in the variety of habitats present within an urban area including a quite varied woodland ground flora.

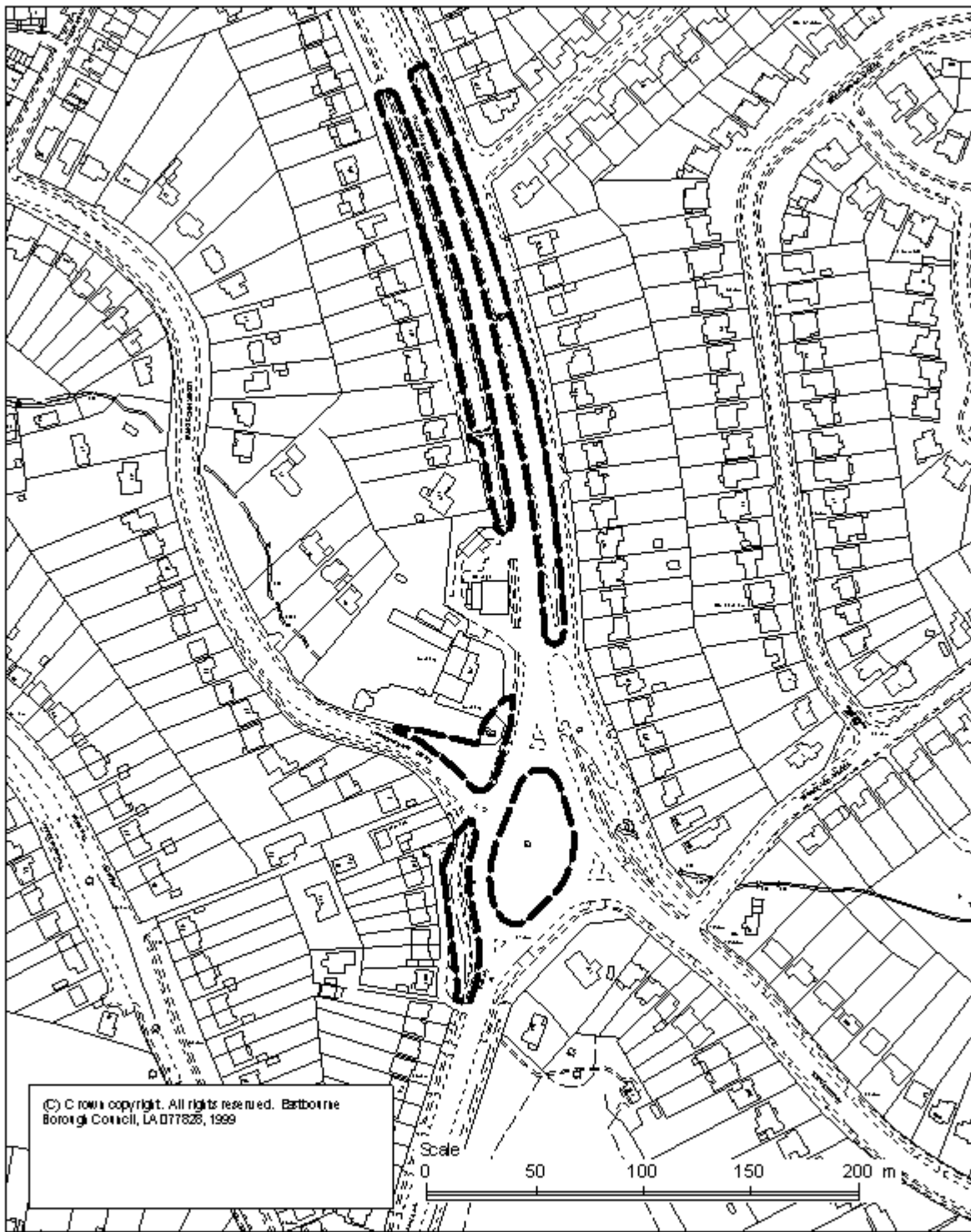
SITE DESCRIPTION


The woodland ground flora includes abundant ferns such as Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and Soft Shield Fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*) as well as species characteristic of ancient woodland like Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*). The tree cover is dominated by young Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) but there are mature Oak (*Quercus robur*) in some parts. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is abundant everywhere. Where the canopy is sufficiently open plants like Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) are found along the stream. In the east the tree cover becomes very dense with very little field layer but there are open areas and hard surfaces around a pond.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

The scope for management is restricted by the wishes of the owners to maintain a dense screen around the properties. Where possible coppicing should be introduced to the woodland to encourage greater variety of birds and invertebrates. Clearance alongside the stream is also of importance, and some control of sycamore is already in hand.

SNCI E98. WILLINGDON ROUNDABOUT



Scale	1:2500		
Drn. By	Date		
Drg. No.....			

SITE NAME	WILLINGDON ROUNDABOUT	GRID REF. TQ 592020
SITE No.	E.98	DATE: JUNE 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

For many years, the aesthetic and nature conservation importance of Willingdon Roundabout has been recognised. Every year during the late spring and continuing well into the summer, the roundabout produces a fine display of orchids. To the north, and to a lesser extent, surrounding the roundabout there are road banks which also support a fine population of orchid species and other chalk grassland plants. The origin and ecology of the roundabout and banks is different, and this is reflected in their floristic make up.

SITE DESCRIPTION

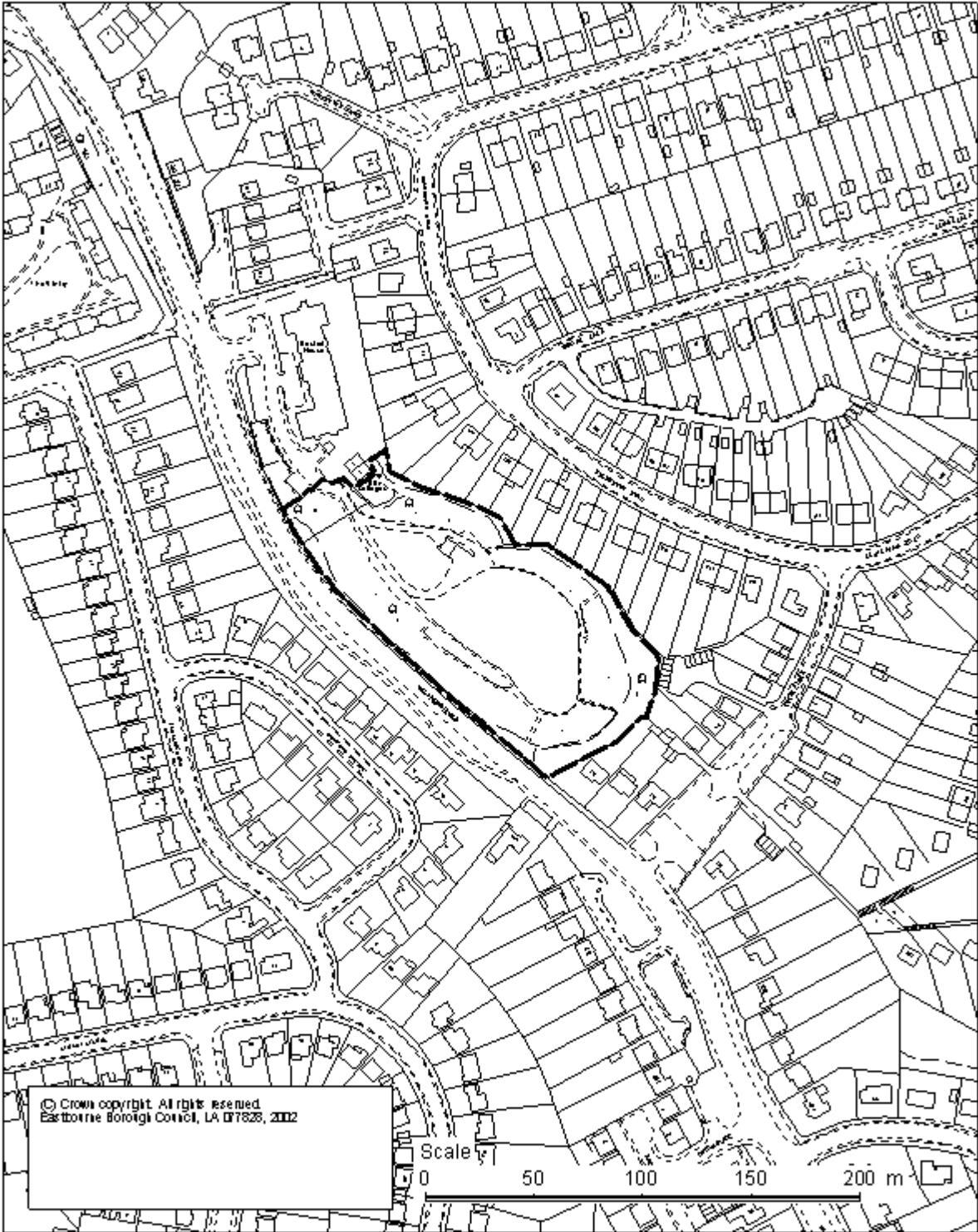
The display of Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) each year on the roundabout consists of many hundreds of flower spikes. Later in the year, its place is taken by the equally attractive Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). The roundabout also supports a range of other chalk grassland species of interest which include Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), Quaking Grass (*Briza media*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*).

The road banks are equally important and although the display of orchids is usually not as flamboyant, there is a greater range of plant species. Species of importance include Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) whose population tends to fluctuate from year to year. Chalk grassland species on these banks are numerous. They include Purging Flax (*Linum catharticum*), Stemless Thistle (*Cirsium acaule*), Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*) and Wild Thyme (*Thymus praecox*).

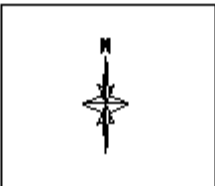
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The care and management which has taken place over many years at this site is reflected in the splendour of the display of orchids and chalk grassland plants which appears every year. So long as this management is continued, the site's richness should continue indefinitely.

SNCI E101. O CKLYNGE CHALK PIT



Scale 1:2500	
Drn. By	Date
Drg.	



SITE NAME	OCKLYNGE PIT	GRID REF. TQ 594009
SITE No.	E.101	DATE: JUNE 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

Ocklynge pit is a disused chalk pit. On the steep sides of the pit woodland has developed dominated by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Beneath these canopy trees, there is a considerable, and in many cases dense, understorey which provides habitat and a breeding area for both mammals and birds.

The floor of the pit and the lower slopes supported a rich downland flora in the past, but lack of rabbit grazing and the spread of vigorous plants and scrub in recent years has diminished the interest of this area.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The woodland surrounding Ocklynge Pit supports such plants like Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*). It is relatively dense, and its inaccessible nature provides excellent undisturbed habitat for breeding birds.

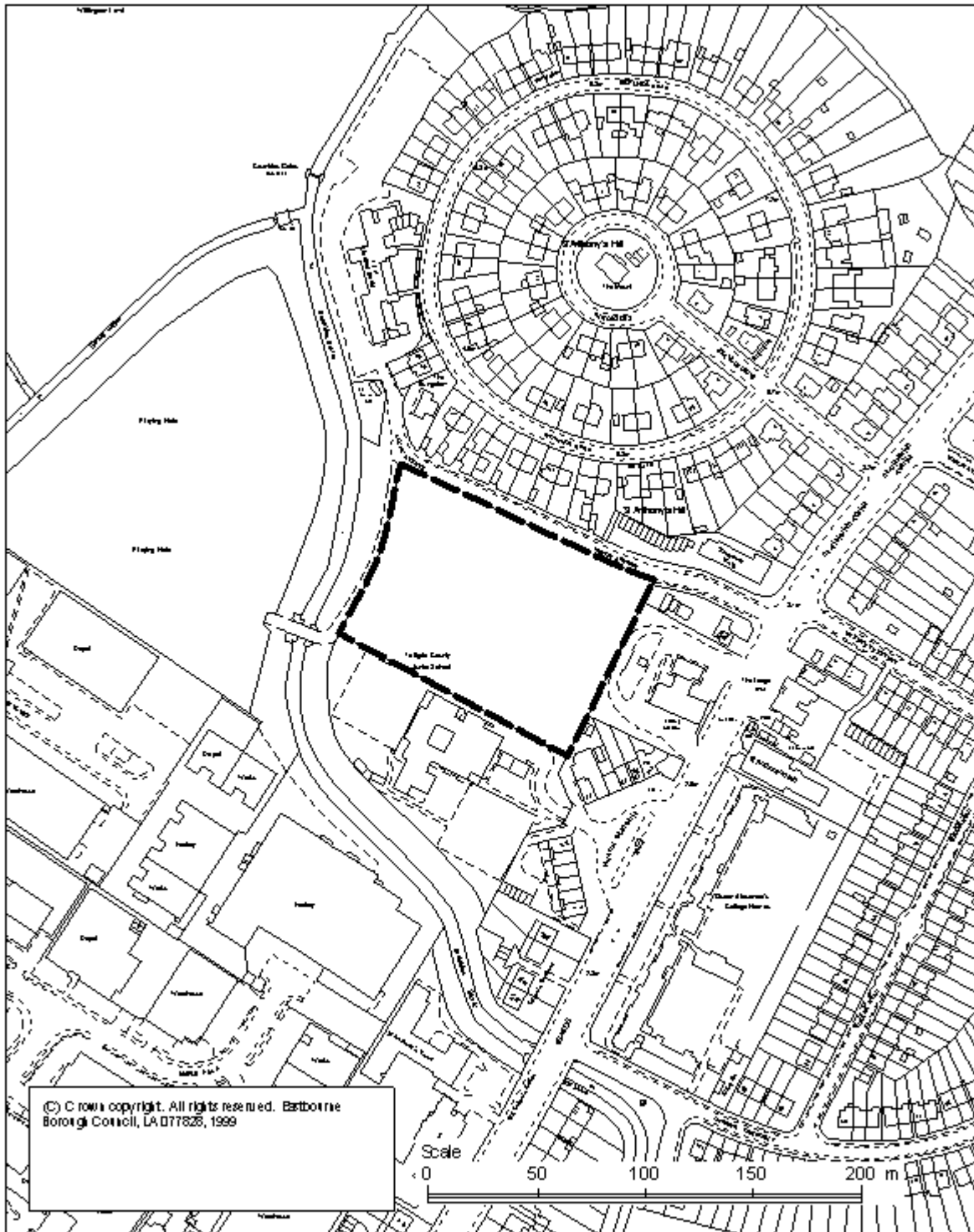
The floor of the pit used to support a much richer assemblage of chalk downland flowering plants in the past. There were also a considerable number of bryophyte species present. In recent years, due to encroachment of plants like Buddleia and Bramble, the interest has declined. However, many flowering plants still occur here.

The site is of some interest for insects. The rather unusual hoverfly *Criorhina ranunculi* as well as the bee-mimicking hoverfly *Volucella bombylans* were both recorded here. Recent butterfly records include the Comma Butterfly (*Polygonia c-album*).

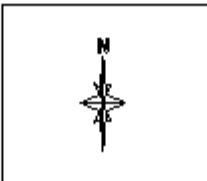
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The ecology of Ocklynge Pit would be greatly enhanced if tall vegetation which includes Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) on the quarry floor can be controlled.

SNCI E116. LEEDS AVENUE REEDBED



Scale 1:2500	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



SITE NAME	LEEDS AVENUE REED BED	GRID REF. TQ 627014
SITE No.	E.116	DATE: JULY 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

Adjacent to the Crumbles Sewer, there is a reed bed which has survived unaltered for many years. Although the reed bed itself is dominated by a single species, it is surrounded by a wetland with greater variety.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site provides habitat for birds such as Reed Warbler and Reed Bunting. Reedbeds are not so unusual in an urban setting. Reed is a remarkably tolerant species, and most urban reed beds are extremely polluted. However, this particular reed bed has not been subject to this sort of abuse. It is therefore likely to support the rich invertebrate fauna and breeding habitat for birds typical of rural reed beds.

As well as being a fine example of a reed bed, the fringes of the site support a rich wetland flora. Of particular interest is the presence of Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) which is abundant. Other species in this assemblage include False Fox Sedge (*Carex otrubae*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*).

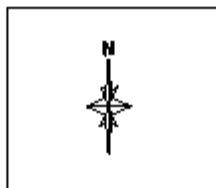
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The site is in good condition at present but is vulnerable to changes in water quality and quantity. Although free of rubbish there is always the potential in an area of high-density housing for it to become a dumping ground.

SNCI E117. HAMPDEN PARK AND HAMSHAW



Scale 1:5000	
Drn. By	Date
Drg. No.....	



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SITE NAME	HAMPDEN PARK AND HAM SHAW	GRID REF.	TQ 600020
SITE No.	E.117	DATE:	AUG 2000
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY		

SUMMARY

Hampden Park and Ham Shaw are woodland areas with open access to the public. They consist of typical broadleaved woodland and some of the species present indicate continuity of woodland cover. For a site so close to a large urban area, the epiphytic lichen and bryophyte flora is remarkable. The site also supports an impressive range of higher plant ancient woodland indicators.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Hampden Park and Ham Shaw are areas of similar woodland separated by the road which passes through the Park. They consist of mature Oak and Ash trees with a good range of less frequent native species. Hampden Park supports at least eleven ancient woodland indicator species while Ham Shaw supports at least ten.

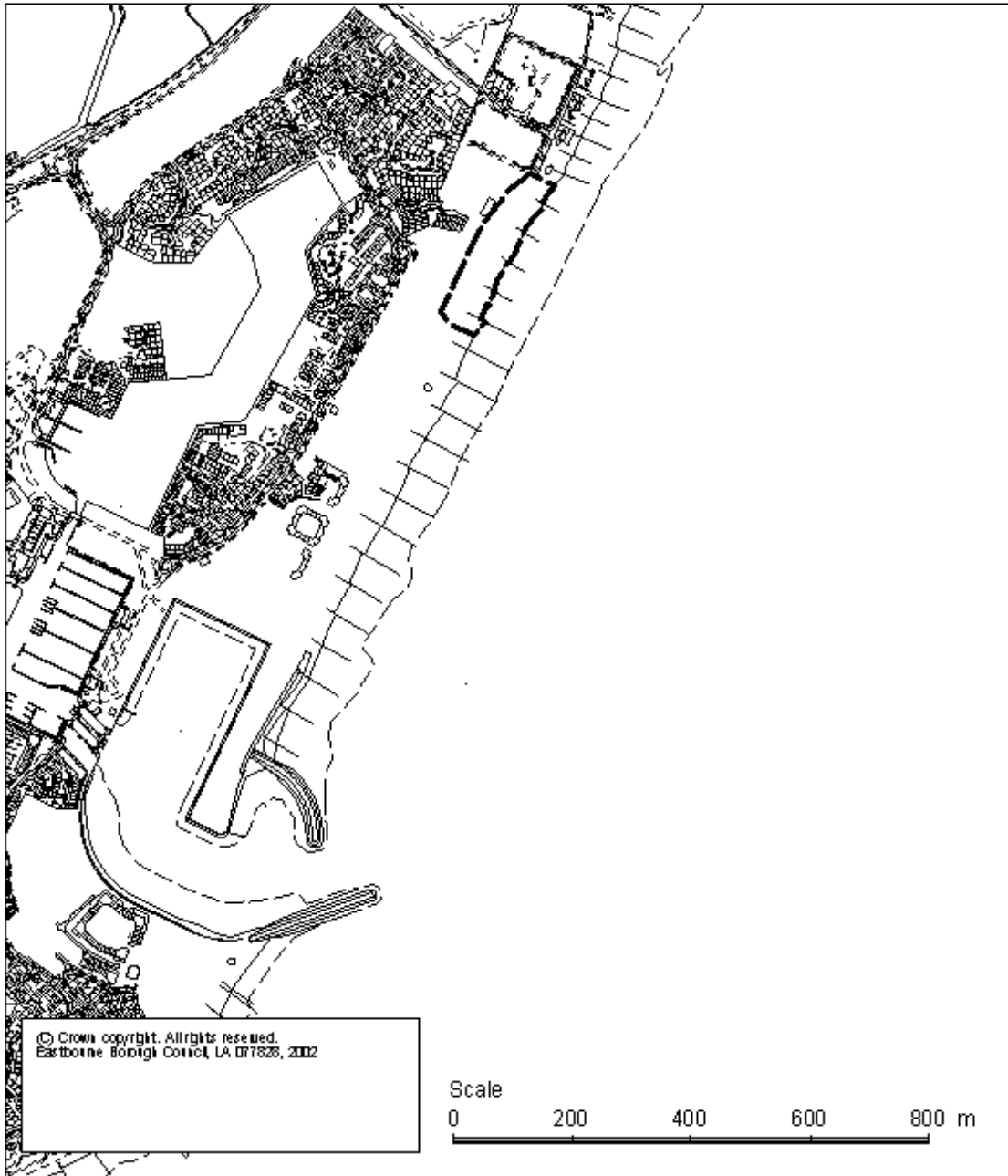
Most remarkable is the lichen flora. Hampden Park supports 21 species of lichen, of which *Enterographa crassa* is an ancient woodland species. Ham Shaw supports 24 species. The presence of *Normandina pulchella* in Hampden Park is remarkable and *Opegrapha corticola* which occurs in Ham Shaw is an ancient woodland species which was once considered nationally scarce. The woodland also provides good habitat for breeding birds and habitat for invertebrates as well as woodland fungi.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

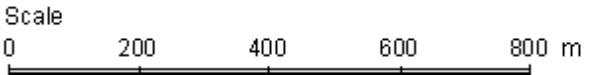
The site is rich in epiphytic lichens and bryophytes. The greatest threat to these is shade. The woodland is not grazed, and therefore unrestrained regeneration of canopy species could take place. Similarly, the understorey and shrub layer could develop, leading to an impenetrable tangle of bramble, holly and rose. Trampling and the creation of paths will control woodland floor vegetation, allow light into the canopy and prevent unwanted canopy species regeneration.

Consideration should be given to scrub clearance or coppicing in certain areas, but it is importance that any resulting vegetation should be removed and disposed of elsewhere.

SNCI : E118
Sovereign Harbour Beach



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Eastbourne Borough Council, LA 07828, 2002



Scale 1:10000

Drn. By

Date

Drg.



Legend

SITE NAME	SOVEREIGN HARBOUR BEACHES	GRID REF. TQ 630010
SITE No.	E.118	DATE: June 2002
SURVEYOR:	SIMON DAVEY	

SUMMARY

The Eastern section of the beach retains some of the plant species and habitat which once existed extensively over the shingle system of the Crumbles. Although development of the Crumbles has caused considerable pressure and alteration to these sites, they still retain much of the character of shingle close to the sea.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site consists of shingle with limited soil deposits. It supports a number of typical shingle species such as Sea Fern-grass (*Catapodium marinum*), Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*), Sea Kale (*Crambe maritime*) which is nationally scarce and Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*). In the past, the Crumbles was renowned for its invertebrate fauna. It is possible that some of this has survived the development.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

During the development of the Crumbles, these areas have been put under great stress. No lichens survive, although the original Crumbles supported a rich flora. This designation should increase the biodiversity of this important and threatened habitat.

NB: the expert panel overseeing the selection of the designated sites of nature conservation importance have indicated that with appropriate management the area of beach to the west of the SNCI, extending as far as the harbour mouth, should recover significant wildlife value and should be reviewed for SNCI status in approximately five years.