Plumpton's wildlife habitats

A survey

Edited by Jacqui Hutson

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Cover photo: Chalk grassland above Plumpton©Jacqui Hutson

Photo: Bevern stream©Jacqui Hutson

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Photo: Lady's-smock©Jacqui Hutson

Foreword

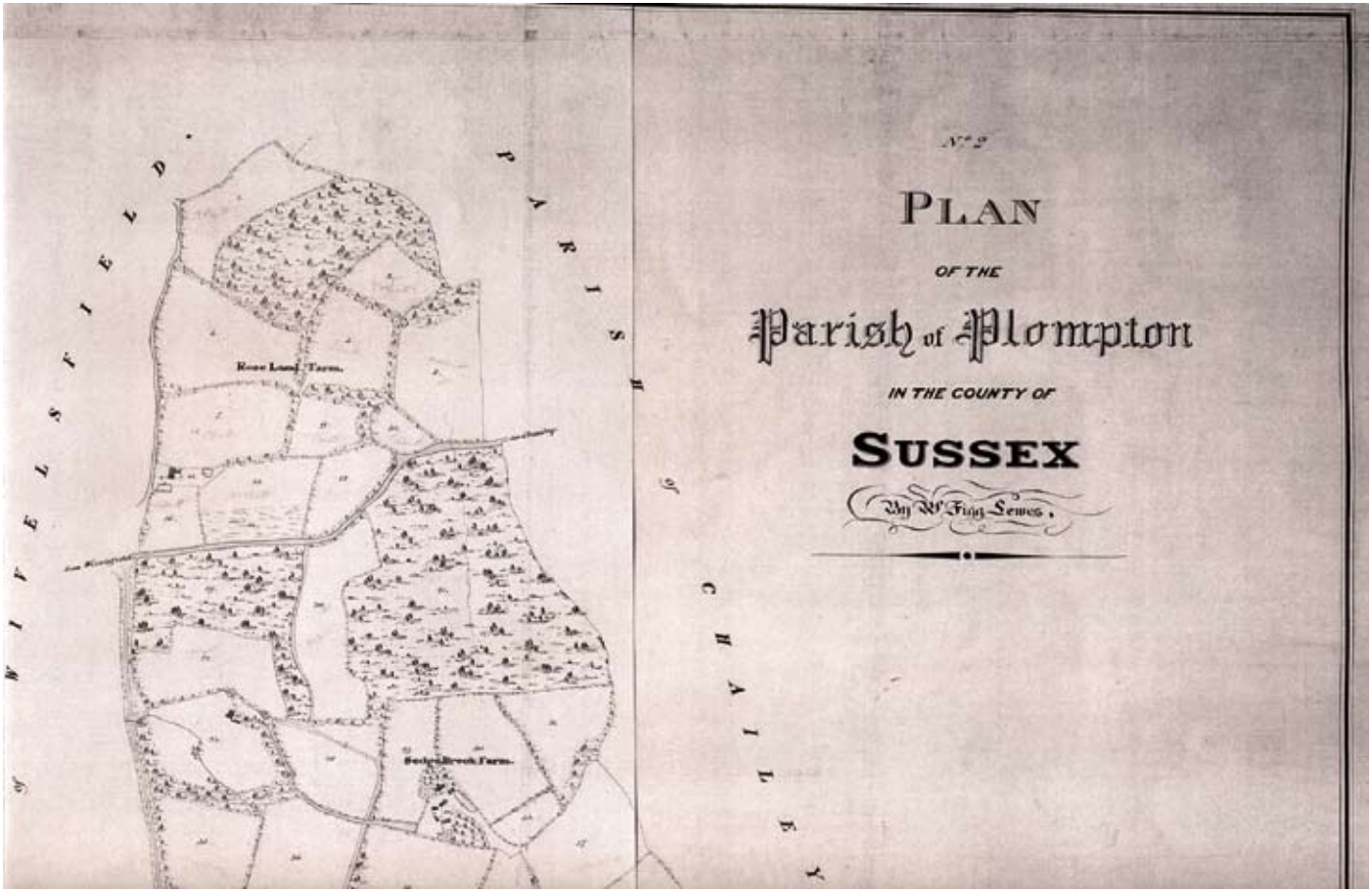
When I lived in Plumpton Green 40 years ago I used to regularly walk the fields between Chapel Road and the parish boundary. They were fascinating botanically as they clearly were old, unimproved, species-rich pastures typical of the Weald Clay and very similar to those found on old grazed village commons. The give-aways included strawberry clover and dyer's greenweed, although I never found adder's-tongue fern. The hedgerows were equally revealing, with wild service-tree in the parish boundary hedge. So it is good to see that those same fields can still be mapped as 'unimproved neutral grassland' and are still being grazed.

This publication is a great achievement and a first class example of what can be done of real value with dedicated local initiative. That such a professional survey has been produced by a consortium of local volunteers is remarkable. It is also particularly pleasing that it was achieved with the co-operation of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, who provided the training and the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

The publication admirably succeeds in the Plumpton Habitat Survey Group's ambition to produce a 'snapshot in time' of the wildlife habitats of the parish. The rate of change in the countryside shows no signs of slowing down, as the current debate on the National Planning Policy Framework only too forcefully reminds us. So surveys such as this not only provide us with a vivid account of the natural history of the parish at this point in time; they also provide the essential background that will permit more informed decisions about the future.

One of the things of which the fascinating maps serve to remind us is that habitats do not recognise parish boundaries. With landscape-scale conservation creeping up the political agenda, thanks largely to the prominence given to Sir John Lawton's recent review *Making Space for Nature*, it is becoming increasingly desirable for surveys such as this to be extended to cover as wide an area as possible. Perhaps one of the next tasks of what has become the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group might be to use the success of this survey to persuade their neighbours to embark on a similar project and to see how that might snowball. Finally, it's worth remembering that parish surveys are a deeply rooted tradition of English natural history, from Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne* to A.W.Boyd's *A Country Parish* in the New Naturalists series. Plumpton can now be added to this illustrious list!

David Streeter
President, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Part of the tithe map of Plumpton, 1841

Introduction

There are several sources of information about Plumpton's wildlife and habitats. A report, *Scarpfoot Parish: Plumpton 1830–1880*, edited by Brian Short and based on research conducted by a Sussex University adult education class in 1979/80, provides useful background information on the parish but is mainly historical in its focus. There is also unpublished information, such as the ecological and hedge surveys carried out by Plumpton College in 1980 and 1982. Plumpton sites, especially its chalk grassland and ancient woodland, are also recorded and described in various survey reports produced by English Nature (now Natural England), and the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre holds details of some species recorded in Plumpton. The Tithe Map of 1839 and the early Ordnance Survey maps also yield valuable information about land use in the parish.

However, there has been no single document bringing all this information together. As the millennium came and went, members of what is now Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group decided it would be interesting to compare the present land use with the tithe map to see how things had changed. We also thought that it would be useful to record the present land use, the wildlife habitats and the species found there as a 'snapshot' in time. It would, we felt, be valuable if there were any threats to habitats and species in the future. However it was not until 2004 that we had the opportunity and time to put at least some of our plans into action. We heard that the Sussex Wildlife Trust was co-ordinating habitat surveys in Sussex and that surveys were already under way or were completed in Selsey, Burgess Hill, Walberton and Mayfield. We published a short article in the parish newsletter to invite interested people to come to a meeting to discuss a way forward. A total of 16 residents turned up, and The Plumpton Habitat Survey Group was formed. These founding members were: Lynn Baxter, Victor Bricenco, Liz Halliday, Tony Hutson, Chris Manwaring, Christine and David Millum, Jacqui Morris, Eric and Linda Moquet, Jeanie Muddle, Mike Murphy, Carole and Paul Nicholson, Foye Ridley, Julie Russell, and Rosalie and Ivan Sinclair-Smith. Jacqui Morris was appointed chairperson/secretary and Carole Nicholson was appointed treasurer. Paul Nicholson gained funding of £250 from Plumpton Parish Council to cover costs and we were in business.

This booklet reports the findings of the survey. It comprises a short introduction to the history, geology, land management and areas with special conservation designations within the parish, a description of the survey method, an overview of what we found listed by habitat, and seven maps covering the parish, with accompanying survey notes.

Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group

Photo: View north across Plumpton parish from the Downs©Jacqui Hutson

Plumpton parish

Plumpton parish in East Sussex covers an area of *c*. 2450 acres (992 ha), of which 650 acres (263 ha) can be classified as Downland and 1800 acres (729 ha) as Wealden. It is 6.5 miles (10.5 km) long and 1 mile (1.6 km) wide at its widest point. The land lies at an altitude of between 90 and 700 ft (27–213 m); the highest point is the crest of the Downs, the lowest is at the Bevern stream in Plumpton Green.

Plumpton is one of a line of scarpfoot parishes, all rather long and narrow, that straddle the chalk of the South Downs and the Low Weald. Its name (meaning the farmstead where plum trees grow) can be traced back to Saxon times; tun is a Saxon place-name element applied to farms. In the Domesday Book of 1086 it is listed as Plumtone.

The Saxon settlement was at the foot of the Downs but over the centuries small farms were carved out of the woodland on the land to the north. The land in the extreme north of the parish remained remote and inaccessible for the longest time but was frequented by hunters and was eventually also occupied by small family farms.

The parish crosses 11 geological formations, from the Chalk of the Downs, through a series of sandstones and clays to the main body of Weald Clay and some areas of Tunbridge Wells Sand in the north. The varied geology gives rise to a variety of soil types and these in turn support a wide range of habitats: chalk grassland, woods, hedges and shaws (narrow strips of woodland separating fields), arable land and pasture. The northern part of the parish is predominantly heavy Weald Clay and is most suitable for pasture and timber; the lighter sandier soils of the southern part of the parish below the Downs are fertile, well drained and more suitable for agriculture. The geology is very complex, however, and there are sandier patches in the north, as well as bands of Paludina Limestone (Winklestone) in the Weald Clay, which temper its acidity. In the south, at the foot of the downland escarpment, is a band of 'maam' soil, where the soil washed down from the hillside above has mixed with the Chalk and Upper Greensand below to create the best farming soils in the parish.

While past and current land management has largely obscured the differences in soil type in the fields, the natural vegetation still yields clues to the underlying soils: patches of gorse and bracken in the hedges indicate lighter sandier soils, while traveller's-joy or old man's beard in the hedgerows indicate the influence of the chalk.

Parts of Plumpton parish have specific designations. The downland escarpment is part of the Clayton to Offham

Escarpment Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). SSSIs were established under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 and represent the finest wildlife sites in the UK, containing many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features. The Clayton to Offham Escarpment SSSI is extensive and supports nationally uncommon chalk grassland habitat as well as chalk scrub and woodland and a rich community of breeding birds. The grassland is rich in flowering species, including glaucous sedge, fragrant orchid, cowslip and round-headed rampion (Pride of Sussex).

The southern part of the parish falls within the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is a designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). It is now part of the South Downs National Park, which was established on 31 March 2010.

Ashurst Farm Meadows, Plumpton Wood (North) and Sedgebrook Marsh are all Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs). This is a designation that recognises sites as being of conservation importance at county level. While they have no legal protected status, these sites are often recognised in local authority development plans.

Grannie's Wood, Plumpton Wood, Riddens Wood, Letchmore Wood, Plumpton Wood (North) and Polecat Wood are listed in the East Sussex Inventory of Ancient Woodlands and the Lewes District revised inventory. Ancient woodland is land that has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and has been cleared only for underwood or timber production. It is identified by: its indication on historic maps; the presence of features such as boundary banks and ditches; its location – often on parish boundaries and steep slopes; the presence of coppice or pollarded trees; and the presence of plant species that are characteristic of ancient woodland (Ancient Woodland Indicator (AWI) species). Lists of AWI species have been compiled for each region of England; the list for the south east region (Kent, Sussex, Surrey, London and Hertfordshire) contains 100 species. Woods designated as ancient usually have more than 20 of these species.

The survey

The survey was based on Phase 1 Habitat surveys – a standardised national system for classifying and mapping wildlife habitats. The method was developed by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990 to assist local authorities in development planning and conservation.

We divided the parish into ten areas and our surveyors into groups of two or three. Each group chose an area to survey and, after some initial training from the Sussex

Wildlife Trust, spent the spring and summer walking their area and recording the habitats they found. Most surveys could be done from roads or the extensive network of public footpaths and bridleways within the parish. Permission was sought from landowners to survey inaccessible parts of the parish, and was given readily and without exception. Outline maps (1:10,000) were made available by East Sussex County Council.

As well as recording habitat type, using definitions in the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey, recorders noted any features of special interest. Once home, the surveyors entered their results on to clean copies of the outline maps and typed up their notes. We held regular meetings to monitor progress and discuss any problems or points of interest. The surveys were completed by the end of 2004.

What we found

Staff and volunteers at the Sussex Wildlife Trust and Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre produced a final digitised version of the map from our hand-coloured maps. The major habitat types found are described on pages 12 and 13.

English species names (where they exist) are used in the habitat descriptions that follow, and in the notes. The scientific names are listed on pages 33 and 34.

Clockwise from above:
Round-headed rampion (Pride of Sussex); cowslips, fragrant orchid. All these species occur in chalk grassland on the Downs in the south of the parish
Photos©Jacqui Hutson

Habitat type	Habitat description
Semi-natural woodland	Comprises all woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of the species generally reflects natural variations in the site and its soil. Both ancient and recent stands are included. Woodland with both semi-natural and planted trees is classified as semi-natural if the planted trees account for less than 30% of the canopy.
Plantation woodland	Includes all obviously planted woodland (except plantations more than 120 years old), orchards, and ornamental tree gardens.
Scrub	Vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5m tall, occasionally including a few scattered trees.
Unimproved grassland	Rare examples of species-rich grassland on neutral or calcareous soil that have not had sufficient applications of fertiliser or herbicide to significantly change the composition of the sward.
Semi-improved grassland	Grasslands on neutral or calcareous soil that have been modified by artificial fertilisers, slurry, intensive grazing, herbicides or drainage. They have fewer species than unimproved grassland but are still of some conservation value.
Improved grassland	Meadows or pastures that have been so affected by heavy grazing, drainage or the application of herbicides, inorganic fertiliser, slurry or high doses of manure that they have lost many of the species that one would expect to find in an unimproved sward. They have only a limited range of species.

Habitat type	Habitat description
Marshy grassland	Wet grasslands containing purple moor grass, rushes, sedges, meadowsweet and other species such as marsh marigold.
Open water	Ponds and lakes, varying in nutrient levels.
Running water	All streams.
Arable	Arable cropland, horticultural land, vegetable plots, freshly-ploughed land and recently reseeded grassland.
Amenity grassland	Intensively managed and regularly mown grasslands – lawns, playing fields etc.
Hedges	Range from species-rich, dense hedges with high conservation value to species-poor, gappy hedges.



From left: Sedgebrook Wood (semi-natural) with marshy grassland beyond; improved grassland and arable; Riddens Wood (semi-natural) Photos©Jacqui Hutson

Clockwise from above left: wood anemones; opposite-leaved golden saxifrage; broad-leaved helleborine. All these species are to be found in some of Plumpton's woodlands
Photos©Jacqui Hutson

Woodland

The woodland patches on the Downs are mainly beech, with some sycamore and sparse understorey. The woodland fringing Plumpton Bostall contains some Ancient Woodland Indicator species as well as some old beech trees.

On the slopes at the foot of the Downs the woodland contains mainly sycamore, ash, field maple, whitebeam, hazel, wayfaring-tree and dogwood.

Two woods on the clay to the south of the Greensand ridge – Plumpton Wood (4.88 ha) and Grannie's Wood (2.81 ha) – have been designated ancient woodlands. Both are largely hazel coppice with oak standards (trees that have not been coppiced but left to grow tall for timber). Plumpton Wood includes an area that has been replanted with Thuja and Norway spruce, and Grannie's Wood includes ash. Patches of alder occur in the wetter areas.

To the north of the Greensand ridge, the woodlands lie on Weald Clay and differ in character from those in the southern part of the parish. Hornbeam predominates, much of it old coppice that has assumed the stature of high forest. Both of our two native species of oak, pedunculate oak and sessile oak, are present, along with hazel, wild cherry, wild service tree and Midland hawthorn. Clumps of aspen grow in the damper areas.

Four woods in this part of the parish have been designated ancient. Riddens Wood is mostly old hornbeam coppice, with some introduced trees and shrubs on the site of an old garden within its boundaries. Plumpton Wood (North) (6.9 ha) is old hornbeam coppice with mature oak and ash, which a survey in 1986 (see bibliography) noted as having the largest list of ferns and flowering plants in the parish (at least 100 species), including 22 Ancient Woodland Indicator species. The other two designated ancient woodlands are Letchmore Wood and Polecat Wood, which are also mainly old hornbeam coppice with oak and other species.

Shaws are typical of the Sussex Weald. These narrow wooded strips between fields were left when the original woodland was cleared for cultivation. These abound in the parish and in places they connect woodland sites and may be important wildlife corridors. Some contain old coppice and in the spring, like the adjacent woodlands, are carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones.

Hedgerows

The parish contains many species-rich hedgerows, and at least some are of ancient origin. There is a popular belief that hedgerows with a large number of different woody species must be old and that you can date a hedge by counting how many there are in a 30 yard length. If a hedge has seven woody species, for example, it may be about 700 years old. This works for some hedges, but it does not always work in this part of Sussex. For example, some of the roadside hedges at the northern end of Plumpton Lane are rich in woody species – eight species in one of these hedges would make it 800 years old by the hedge-dating method. But these hedges are of recent origin, having been planted (probably using saplings of locally available shrubs and trees) when the road was reduced in width and treated with tarmac in 19th century. It is clear from the Tithe Map that these hedges were not in existence in 1841. So unless a hedge can be dated by using historic documents or maps, the species-dating method should be used with caution.

While most hedgerows are intact, their condition varies with the management of the land. On pasture, most are bare at the bottom with very little ground flora. Those surrounding arable fields or along roads have a more developed ground flora and are usually denser. While blackthorn and hawthorn are the most common shrubs in hedgerows, many other species occur, including hornbeam, holly, hazel, field maple, spindle, dogwood and even butcher's-broom.

Unimproved calcareous grassland

The steep northern escarpment of the Downs supports unimproved calcareous grassland with a good range of species, such as common spotted-orchid, cowslip, quaking grass, fairy flax and round-headed rampion (the Pride of Sussex).

Clockwise from above left:
marsh cinquefoil; marsh pennywort;
adder's-tongue
Photos©John Pilkington

Marshy grassland

Sedgebrook Marsh is a marshy meadow at the northern end of the parish adjacent to the north-east boundary and is surrounded by woodland. It is very wet underfoot and has a range of marsh plants, such as marsh pennywort, marsh cinquefoil, purple moor-grass and cottongrass. A survey by English Nature in 1990 considered that it is possibly the only example of a particular type of fen community in the county. There are some other patches of marshy grassland in the south and these merit further investigation.

Semi-improved grassland

There are substantial areas of semi-improved grassland throughout the parish. Much of this grassland type is used for grazing; some is cut for hay and silage. Species composition varies considerably and is dependent on soil type and management. Some of the grassland in this category contains species characteristic of old meadows, such as adder's tongue. Ashurst Farm Meadows SNCI once held species-rich grassland but this has been ploughed and is now managed to produce organic vegetables.

Improved grassland

Improved grassland occurs throughout the parish and has little wildlife interest.

Arable

Arable fields in the parish yield a variety of crops, including rape, wheat, barley and maize. There was some set-aside land immediately south of the railway that was designated as a conservation area by the landowner but this was leased to Plumpton College in 2010 and subsequently sprayed with herbicide and ploughed.

Standing water

There are numerous ponds in the parish. Some are old brickpits, sandpits and marlpits; others are old fishponds and ponds for watering stock. While many of them are overgrown and too shaded to be of high wildlife value, some support breeding amphibian populations and have good marginal vegetation.

Running water

The waterways in the parish are all tributaries of the Ouse. Sea trout spawn in some of the streams and bullheads (Miller's thumbs) are numerous. The latter fish is declining throughout its range in Europe and has been listed on Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive in an attempt to improve its conservation. The streams and their surroundings attract a variety of birds, including kingfishers, and insects, including dragonflies and damselflies.

Clockwise from above: meadow buttercup; common knapweed; grass vetchling
Photos 1&2©John Pilkington
Photo 3©Jacqui Hutson

Map 1: The far north

1 Mixed deciduous woodland with a stream. Trees include two mature wild service trees

2 World War 2 temporary airfield re-used for air shows in 1999 and 2004.

3 A wildflower meadow sown by the owner.

4 A clay-lined pond constructed by the owner in 2002.

5 Plumpton Wood (north) is an Ancient Woodland with 22 ancient woodland indicator species.

6 Scrub and young trees are encroaching on to fields from the woodland

7 A World War 2 pillbox surrounded by scrub.

8-9 Sedgebrook Marsh is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. The streams are red with iron-rich water. To the north the flora includes purple moor grass, rushes and marsh cinquefoil. This plant community is very rare in the county.

10 One of number of species-rich wide shaws bordering a ditch and including a wild pear tree.

11 A deep pool overshadowed with trees, mainly pedunculate oak, with one wild service tree.

12 The woodland bordering the Longford Stream has a wide range of deciduous trees and shrubs.

13 Mixed woodland with old hornbeam coppice, carpets of bluebells and dog's mercury.

14 Grassy Wood is mainly old hornbeam coppice, oak standards and birch.

15 This pond has alder and reedmace.

16 The parish boundary here includes a line of five old oaks on a ditch and bank.

17 This species-rich meadow includes musk mallow.

18 A species-rich meadow with devil's-bit scabious and tormentil.

The key to the maps can be found on page 30.
More detailed notes from the survey can be found on the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group website at http://plumptonwildlifegroup.yolasite.com/


Plumpton Parish - Phase 1 Survey.
Prepared for Plumpton Parish Group.
Our Ref: ESD/11/253.
09.06.2011.
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
Grassy Wood
Lambourn Farm
Heath Farm
Plumpton Wood
Polecat Wood
N
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Map 2: South of The Plough

19 An old drove road bordered by oak and hornbeam wood along its length in the parish. There is also a large yew tree, a wild service tree and some sessile oak. The track is sunken in parts, with steep banks.

20 This wood is on steep banks on either side of a boggy valley. Trees include sessile oak, hornbeam and elder.

21 There are three hedges in this area that contain considerable amounts of butcher's-broom.

22 The woodland round the industrial units includes oak and aspen and there is a shady, muddy pond.

23 The species-rich parish boundary hedge includes coppice ash and a ditch on the west side.

24 Mixed woodland, including coppiced ash and hazel, butcher's-broom, bluebells and wood anemones.

25 A flooded sandpit edged with gorse, young oaks and aspen. The woodland is species-rich and includes butcher's-broom.

26 See map 3.

27 Species-rich meadow, including some wetland plants in the damp centre.

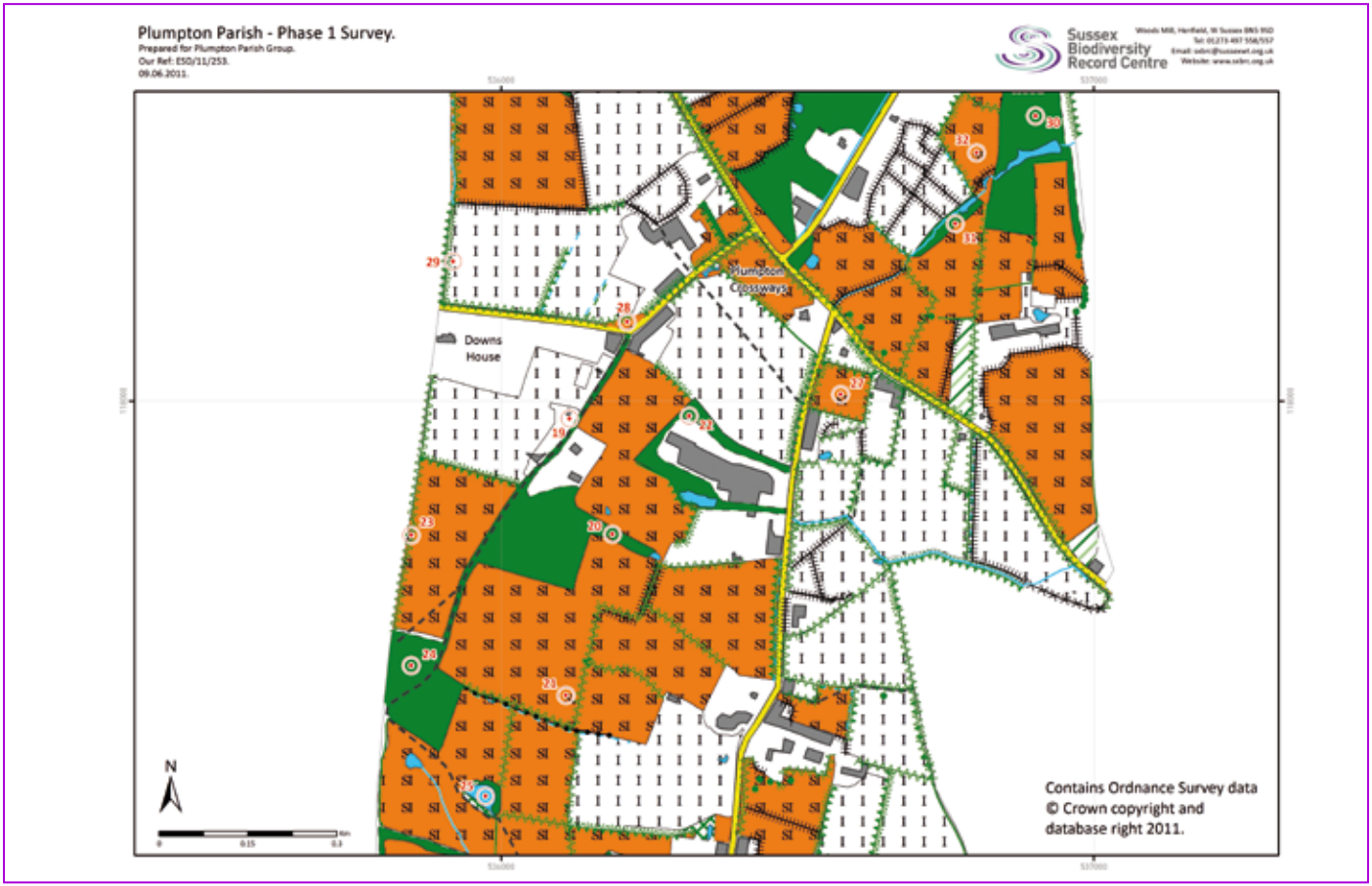
28 A broad roadside verge by a hornbeam hedge containing a very large dogwood. There are also bluebells, wood anemones, wood millet and lesser stitchwort.

29 A very large pedunculate oak on the parish boundary.

30 Polecat Wood (an Ancient Woodland) is mainly old coppiced hornbeam with oak standards. There is a wide range of other woodland flora, including a wild service tree, bluebells, and early-purple orchids. There is large ditch-fed pond in the centre.

31 A bluebell wood, with a wide range of woodland flora, a steep-sided ditch and a ditch-fed pond.

32 A flower-rich meadow with adder's-tongue fern.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Plumpton Crossways
Downs House
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Map 3: Plumpton Green central

26 Pond fenced and surrounded by scrub with a well-vegetated margin, attracting a variety of fauna.

33 This area was set aside as a Conservation Area at the time of the survey but is now leased to Plumpton College and is managed for agriculture.

34 A species-rich field where adder's-tongue fern grows. It is enclosed on all sides by shaws.

35 Riddens Wood (Ancient Woodland) is mainly old hornbeam coppice with oak standards. There are also wild service trees, sessile oak, Midland hawthorn, bluebells, bracken, wood anemones and moschatel.

36 A large oak on the village green, which was part of Little Inholmes Farm before the houses and village hall were built, in 1995.

37 A very large field maple by the stream.

38 Riddens Lane is bordered by flooded brick pits and a species-rich unmanaged hedge with young elm trees.

39 The hedge on the bank includes young elm and spurge laurel.

40 Woodland bordering the stream includes a large oak and several dead elms.

41 'Pocket Park', which was designated by the Parish Council with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, is a wood with oak, willow, meadowsweet and ramsons.

42 Alder grows here, and common spotted-orchids

43 The pond behind Woodgate Meadows was created from three smaller ponds on this old brickfield.

44 This former coal yard and field has a wide variety of grasses and wild flowers and a species-rich gappy hedge.

45 This area is liable to flooding and includes alder, field maple and pedunculate oak.

46 Woodland surrounding a ditch-fed pond that includes a variety of species, including wild service tree, wild pear, bluebells and orchids.

47 A species-rich meadow that has been uncultivated for at least 30 years.

48 Shelter belt newly planted with native broad-leaved trees, including ash, hawthorn and field maple.


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Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
Riddens Wood
Plumpton Green
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Map 4: South of the race course

49 Alder and spindle along the stream.

50 Following the 1987 storm, part of the wood was replanted with sweet chestnut.

51 A deep ditch with scattered trees of hazel, ash, willow and three Lombardy poplars.

52 A mixed wood containing many fallen trees dating from the October 1987 storm.

53 The gorse here indicates moderately acidic and infertile soil.

54 Ashurst Organic Farm grows organic vegetables on three fields.

55 Since 2001, a new outflow from the lake at Old Mill House links with Plumpton Stream.

56 Sea trout spawn in a pool at the foot of the weir and in Plumpton Stream at Upper Mill.

57 Plumpton Stream and its tributaries attract wildlife, including kingfishers, damselflies and dragonflies.

58 Several species of wetland bird are found on and around this artificial lake, including little grebe and little egret.

59 An iron-rich spring.

60 A pedunculate oak on the stream bank with a 5.97 m girth at 1.5 m is possibly 400 years old.

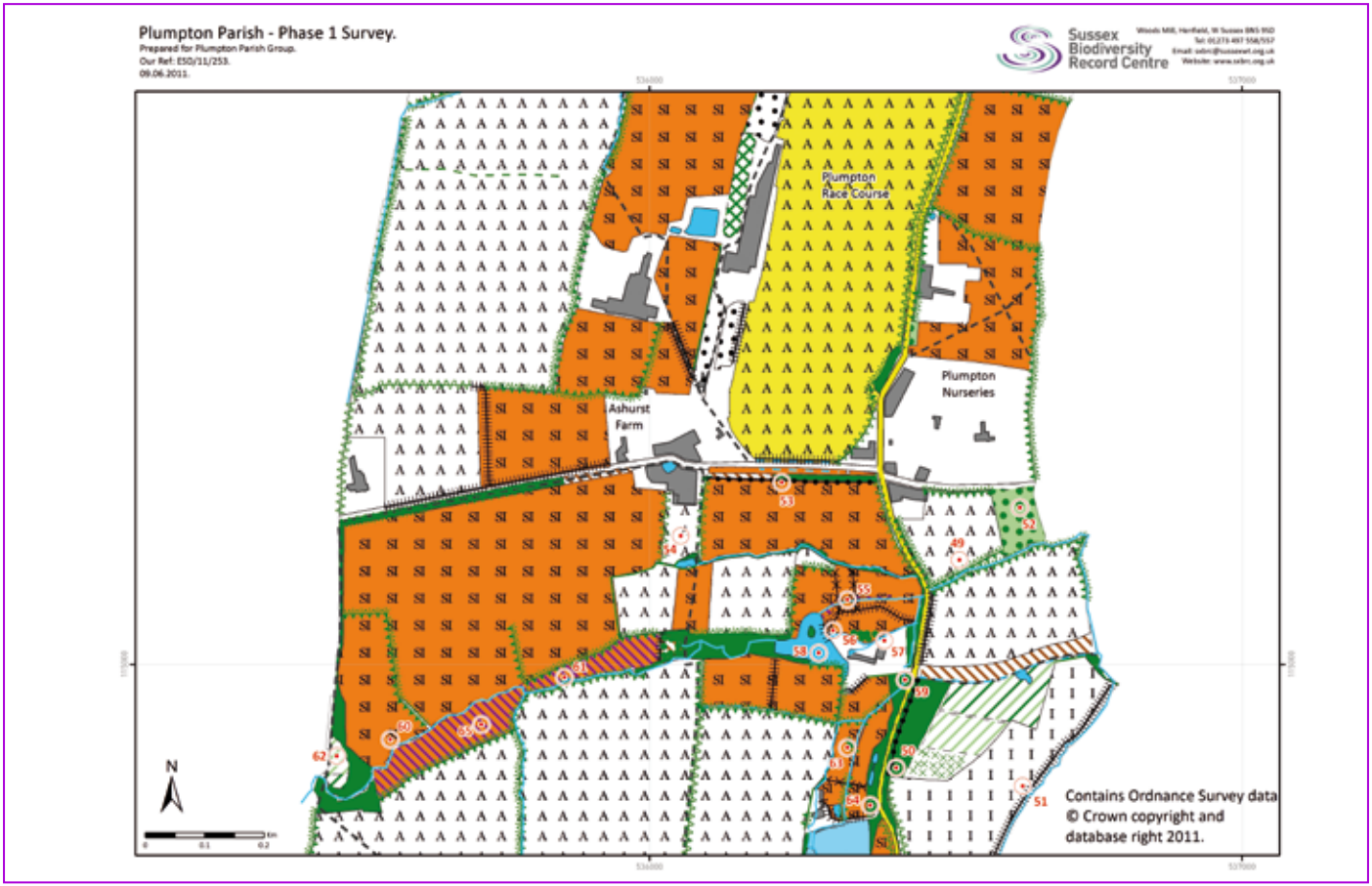
61 This stream is bordered in parts by carpets of opposite-leaved golden saxifrage.

62 A small plantation of Scots pine with bracken.

63 Species-rich pasture bounded by streams.

64 A former stream bed, now a deep wooded gulley with naturalised rhododendrons and pools of water.

65 A wet meadow with stream running though; part of Ashurst Farm Meadow Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).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Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
Plumpton Race Course
Plumpton Nurseries
Ashurst Farm
N
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Map 5: Plumpton and north from Plumpton College

66 Small pond bordered on north side by goat willow. Vegetation includes hemp-agrimony and white water-lilies.

67 Wild flowers in an uncultivated strip of field, including fleabane and scarlet pimpernel.

68 A former chalk quarry that was planted with a variety of trees in the 1950s. Now mostly scrub.

69 Previously a mill pond for Upper Mill. Now a wet marshland with alder, marsh-marigolds and yellow iris.

70 Plumpton Wood is an Ancient Woodland. It is listed as New Wood on the 1839 Tithe Map. Mostly oak with hazel coppice and bluebells. An area of Thuja in the centre was planted by Plumpton College.

71 Field known as 60 Acres. Plumpton College planted a new hedge running north to south along the track.

72 Pig Wood was once used by Plumpton College to rear pigs. It is a wide shaw that may once have been joined to Plumpton Wood. It is predominantly ash and oak, with sycamore, honeysuckle and bluebells.

73 A species-rich hedge – a good example of a number of similar hedges in the area.

74 Grannie's Wood (Ancient Woodland) is mainly oak and ash with hazel coppice, holly and bramble.

75 A young ash and oak plantation (1994) beside the remnants of a former golf course.

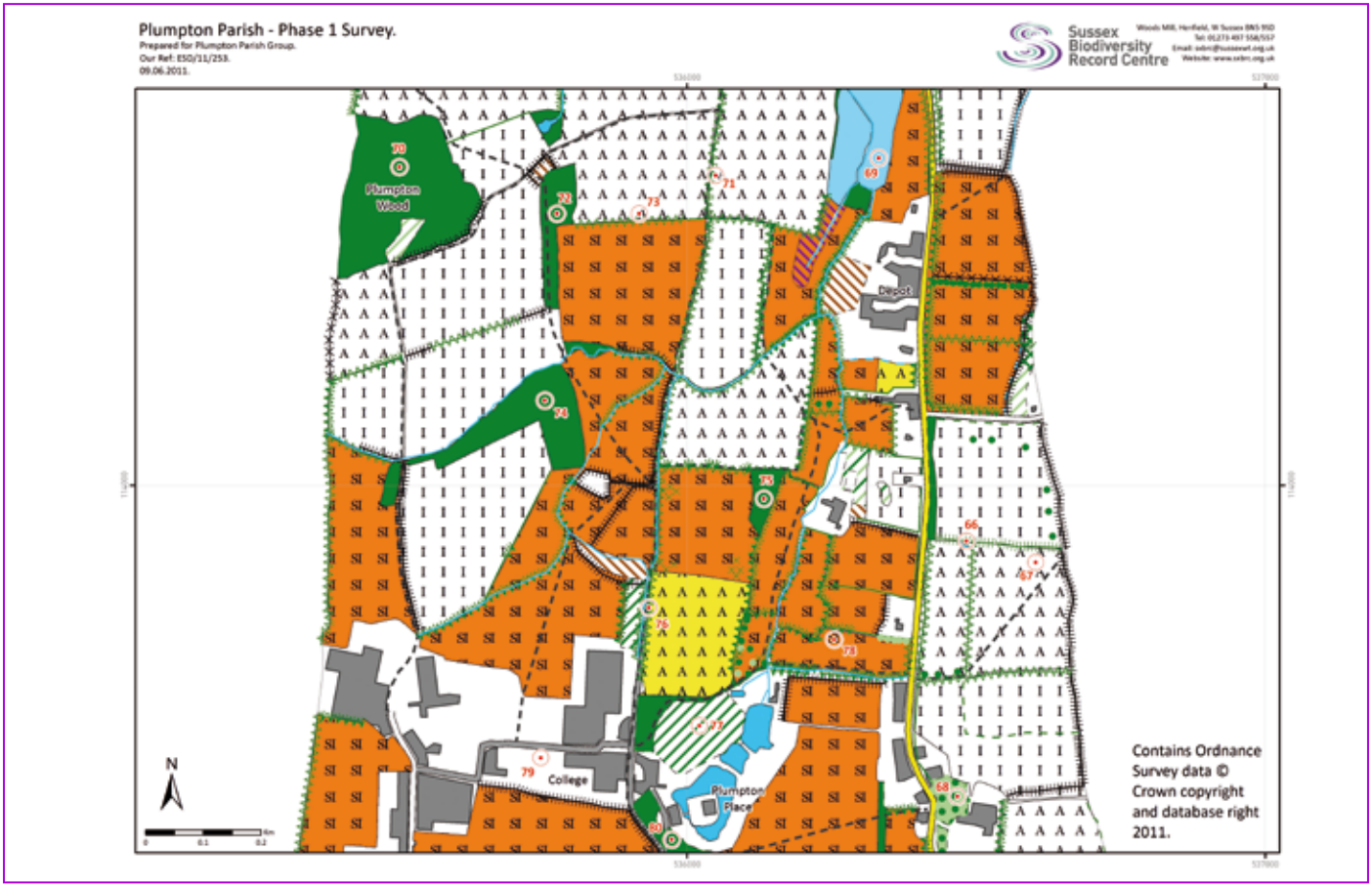
76 On either side of the north-to-south track are species-rich hedgerows, which are probably very old.

77 A large orchard.

78 Species-rich meadow. The northern boundary hedge is of mixed species and towards the eastern end is a number of Scots Pines.

79 Lawns, trees, vineyards and orchards, greenhouses and grazing for livestock.

80 A small shaw of trees, including holm oaks.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09.06.2011.
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
Plumpton Wood
Depot
College
Plumpton Place
N
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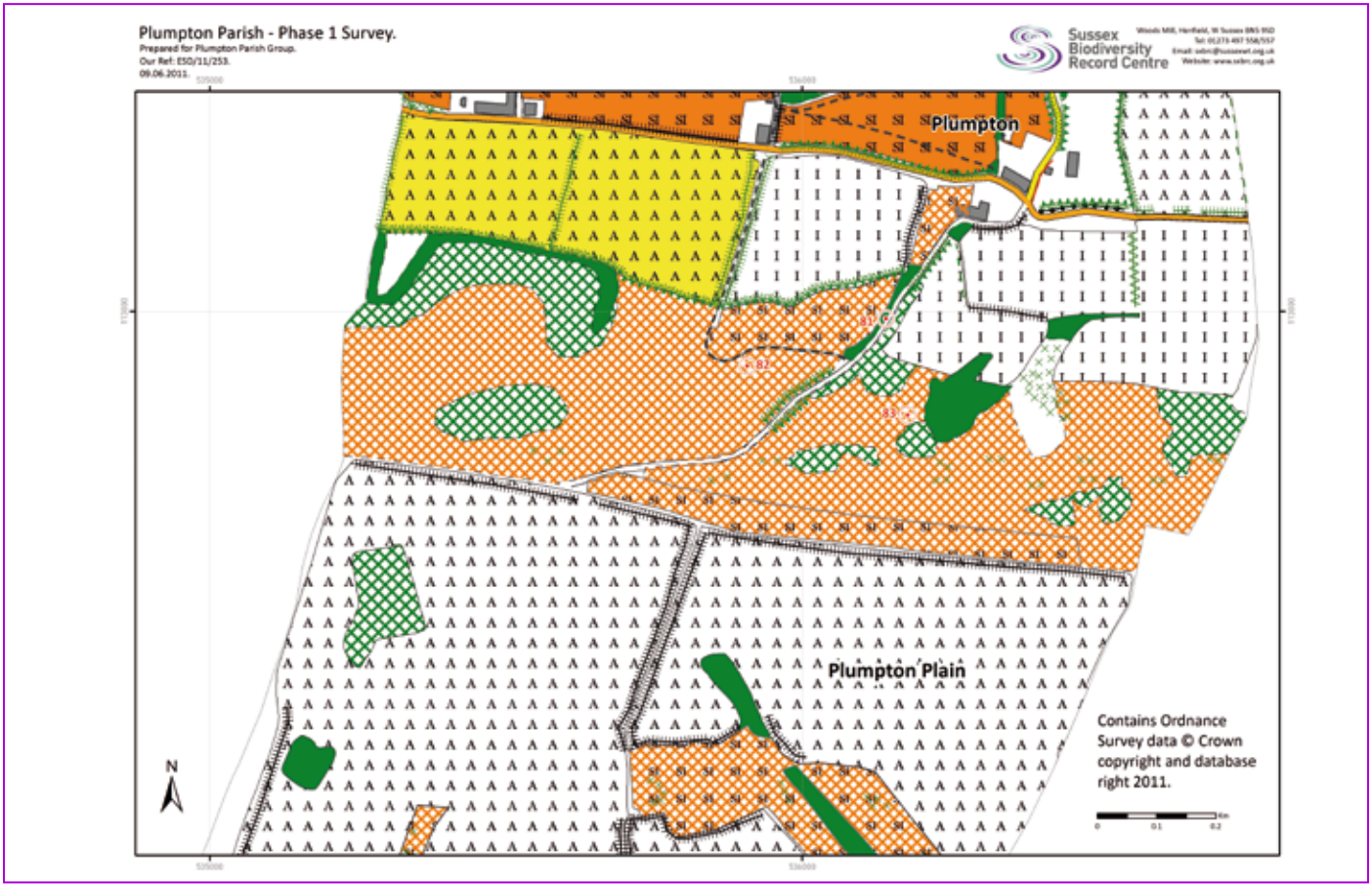
Photo: Plumpton Bostal©David Millum

Map 6: Plumpton Bostall and the downland scarp

81 Woodland fringing Plumpton Bostall includes ancient woodland indicator species, such as wild cherry and some old beech trees, yellow archangel, early dog-violet and bluebells.

82-83 Areas of species-rich, unimproved chalk grassland on the north-facing steep slopes (part of the Clayton to Offham Escarpment SSSI). Species include cowslips, round-headed rampion (Pride of Sussex) and orchids.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Plumpton Plain
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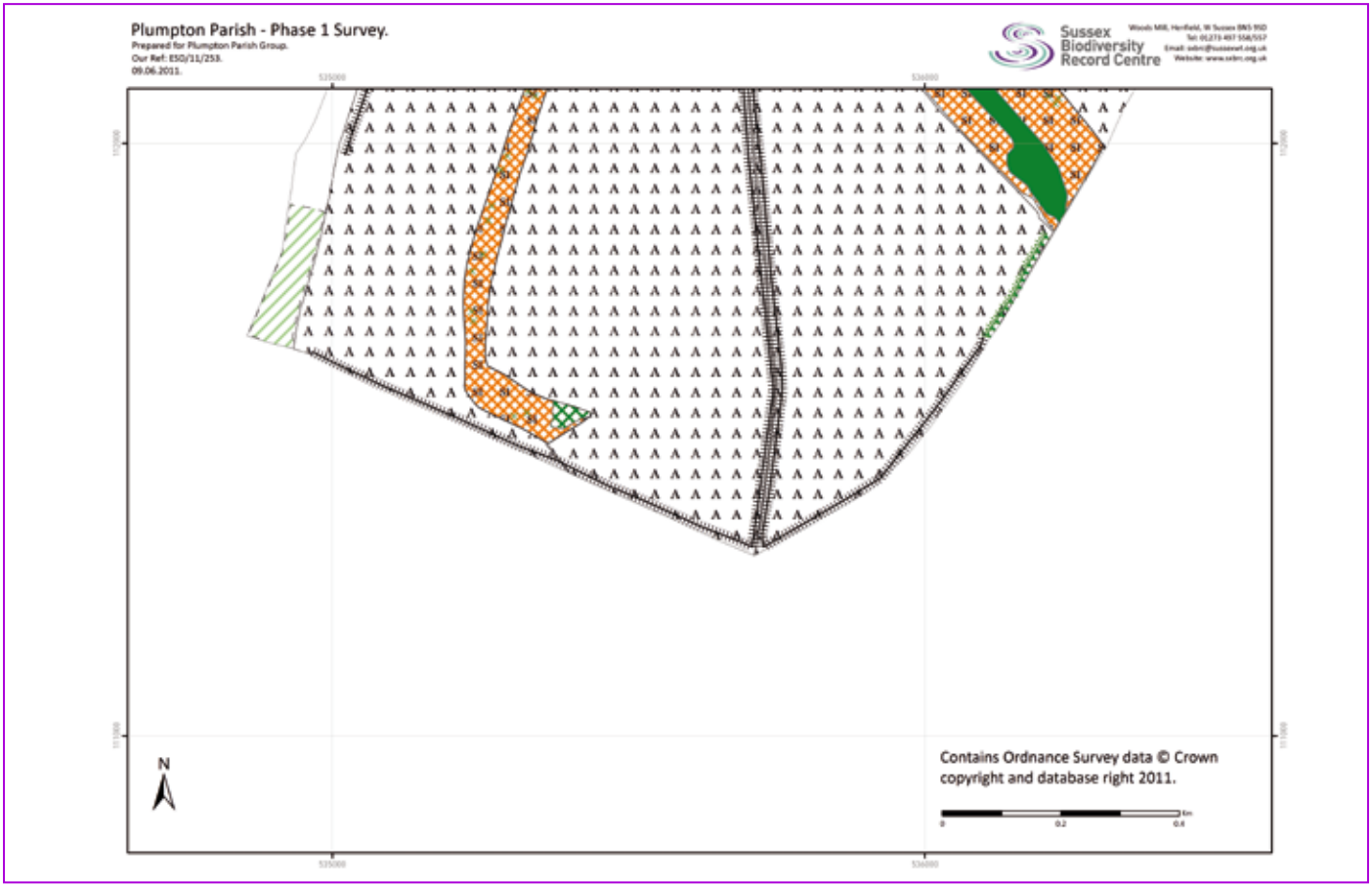
Map 7: Plumpton Plain

There are no notes to Map 7.

Key to maps

Path	J2.3.1 Species-rich hedge with trees	A1.3.1 Semi-natural mixed woodland	C1.2 Scattered bracken
Target note	J2.3.2 Species-poor hedge with trees	A1.3.2 Plantation mixed woodland	C3.1 Tall ruderal
A2.2 Scattered shrub	J2.4 Fence	A2.1 Dense/ continuous scrub	F1 Swamp
A3.1 Broadleaved scattered trees	J2.5 Wall	B2.1 Unimproved neutral grassland	G1 Standing water
A3.2 Coniferous scattered trees	J2.6 Dry ditch	B2.2 Semi-improved neutral grassland	J1.1 Arable
G2 Running water	J2.7 Boundary removed	B3.1 Unimproved calcareous grassland	J1.2 Amenity grassland
J2.1.1 Species-rich intact hedge	J2.8 Earth bank	B3.2 Semi-improved calcareous grassland	J4 Bare ground
J2.1.2 Species-poor intact hedge	A1.1.1 Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	B4 Improved grassland	
J2.2.1 Species-rich defunct hedge	A1.1.2 Plantation broadleaved woodland	B5 Marsh/marshy grassland	
J2.2.2 Species-poor defunct hedge	A1.2.2 Plantation coniferous woodland	C1.1 Continuous bracken	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Scientific names of species mentioned in the report

Names follow Streeter (2009).

English name	Scientific name
Adder's-tongue	*Ophioglossum vulgatum*
Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Aspen	*Populus tremula*
Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
Birch	*Betula sp.*
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*
Broad-leaved helleborine	*Epipactis helleborine*
Butcher's-broom	*Ruscus aculeatus*
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*
Common spotted-orchid	*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*
Cottongrass	*Eriophorum angustifolium*
Cowslip	*Primula veris*
Devil's-bit scabious	*Succisa pratensis*
Dog's mercury	*Mercurialis perennis*
Dogwood	*Cornus sanguinea*
Early dog-violet	*Viola reichenbachiana*
Early-purple orchid	*Orchis mascula*
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*
Elm	*Ulmus sp.*
Fairy flax	*Linum catharticum*
Field maple	*Acer campestre*
Fleabane	*Pulicaria dysenterica*
Fragrant orchid	*Gymnadenia conopsea*
Glaucous sedge	*Carex flacca*
Goat willow	*Salix caprea*
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
Grass vetchling	*Lathyrus nissolia*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Hemp-agrimony	*Eupatorium cannabinum*
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
Holm oak	*Quercus ilex*
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*
Hornbeam	*Carpinus betulus*
Lady's-smock	*Cardamine pratensis*
Lesser stitchwort	*Stellaria graminea*
Lombardy (or Italian) poplar	*Populus nigra italica*

English name	Scientific name
Marsh cinquefoil	*Potentilla palustris*
Marsh marigold	*Caltha palustris*
Marsh pennywort	*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*
Meadowsweet	*Filipendula ulmaria*
Midland hawthorn	*Crataegus laevigata*
Moschatel	*Adoxa moschatellina*
Musk mallow	*Malva moschata*
Norway spruce	*Picea abies*
Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage	*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*
Purple moor-grass	*Molinia caerulea*
Quaking grass	*Briza media*
Ramsons	*Allium ursinum*
Reedmace	*Typha latifolia*
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*
Round-headed rampion	*Phyteuma orbiculare*
Scarlet pimpernel	*Anagallis arvensis*
Scots pine	*Pinus sylvestris*
Sessile oak	*Quercus petraea*
Spindle	*Euonymus europaeus*
Spurge laurel	*Daphne laureola*
Sweet chestnut	*Castanea sativa*
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Thuja	*Thuga sp.*
Tormentil	*Potentilla erecta*
Wayfaring tree	*Viburnum lantana*
Whitebeam	*Sorbus aria*
White water lily	*Nymphaea alba*
Wild cherry	*Prunus avium*
Wild pear	*Pyrus communis*
Wild service tree	*Sorbus torminalis*
Willow	*Salix sp.*
Wood anemone	*Anemone nemorosa*
Wood millet	*Milium effusum*
Yellow archangel	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudacorus*
Yew	*Taxus baccatus*


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Lift
Latch