



LOWER BELLE CLIVE FARM, PENISTONE.

**PHASE I HABITAT AND PROTECTED
FAUNA SURVEY.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to construct a wind turbine on land to the east of Lower Belle Clive Farm just outside Penistone.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Phase I Habitat and Protected Fauna Survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works. At this time of year a number of plant species have died back and are not visible so a thorough identification of the species present could not be made.

1.3. The site survey was carried out on 19th January 2012 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix I of this report provide additional information on specific species and is designed to assist the reader to understand the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat surveys.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society:-

- * Badger setts.
- * Badger latrines or dung pits.
- * Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
- * Badger paths.
- * Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. All watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with the guidance in the Water Vole Handbook:-

- * Water vole burrows.
- * Water vole faeces and latrines.
- * Water vole feeding stations.
- * Water vole runs.
- * Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Water vole lawns.
- * Predator field signs.

2.5. All watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the National Rivers Authority guidelines:-

- * Otter prints in soft mud.

- * Otter spraints.
- * Otter Holts.

2.6. All mature trees and derelict buildings were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with the Bat Conservation Trust, Good Practice Guidelines by looking for the following signs:-

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat Droppings.

2.7. The land adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting and foraging potential including connective routes and flight lines.

2.8. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible the ponds were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.9. All watercourses and waterbodies within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish where safe to enter the water. The survey was carried out in accordance with the Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish.

2.10. The survey area was thoroughly searched for the presence of reptiles or suitable reptile habitats.

2.11. All surveys were carried out in line with the IEEM survey standards and advice.

2.12. This survey was carried out by Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MIEEM. Since 2001 Jenny has had experience in a professional capacity as a Wildlife Consultant carrying out Ecology Surveys and Phase 1 Habitat surveys. Jenny holds Natural England Survey Licences in respect of bats, great crested newts, crayfish and barn owls. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by IEEM, BCT and FSC in the relative protected species and in carrying out Phase 1 Habitat surveys.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A desktop data search was requested from Barnsley Biological Records Centre for records of protected species within 1km of the survey area.

3.1.2. There are no records of protected species in the data search that are relevant to the site.

3.1.3. A desktop data search was requested from Barnsley Biological Records Centre for records of statutory and non statutory nature conservation sites within 1km of the survey area.

3.1.4. There are records of three Natural Heritage Sites (NHS) within the area around the site. These are Brock Holes, Hartcliff Hill and Hollin and Spring Wood. The site is not located within any of these sites. Full information on these Natural Heritage Sites can be found in a separate document attached with this report. Appendix VI of this report contains maps showing the locations of the three sites.

3.1.5. Brock Holes is a Natural Heritage Site due to the improved and semi-improved grassland holding pockets of interesting plant communities. Traces of mire habitat (which is rare in this area) and lowland heath survive here. Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) (UKBAP, LBAP, Red List species), linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) (UKBAP, Red List species), yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) (UKBAP, Red List species) and green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) (Amber List species) have all been recorded in the area and are associated with the types of habitat found on this site

3.1.6. Hartcliff Hill primarily comprises dry acid dwarf shrub heath dominated by heather with increasing colonisation by tree growth. Two important species are present on the site, bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*). Brown hare and badger are also known in the area.

3.1.7. Hollin and Spring Wood comprises a series of woodlands on land sloping southwards to the Little Don River. Generally the area is native broad-leaved woodland, but large mature trees are not common and the woodland flora is not over diverse. The site is surrounded by farmland. Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*), bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), yellow

pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) are all considered to be indicators of semi-natural ancient woodland in South Yorkshire.

3.1.8. Appendix VI of this report contains maps showing the locations of each site.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

There are two proposed locations for a wind turbine as shown by the red circles on the aerial photograph below. The survey area covers these areas and the surrounding land.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix II of this report contains a map of the survey area. This has been annotated to show which habitats were present. Target notes have been used to identify specific features.

3.3.2. Habitats within the survey area have been described. Photographs have been included to act as visual aids.

3.3.3. The habitats on and adjacent to the site were:-

- Improved Grassland
- Neutral Grassland, Unimproved
- Scattered Trees
- Defunct Hedge, Species Poor
- Fence
- Wall

3.3.4. Improved Grassland: The two proposed areas for the wind turbine, (**T1 & T2**), both lie within grazing fields. Most of the surrounding land to the north, south and west is the same grazed fields. The main species are crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). A number of plant species have died back at this time of year and were therefore not identified. These fields have been heavily grazed and have recently had manure spread over them.

3.3.4.1. The survey area was classified as improved grassland because the JNCC Handbook states that improved grasslands are those meadows and pastures which have been heavily grazed and had slurry or manure spread over them so that they have lost many of the species which were once present.

3.3.4.2. The photograph below shows the western proposed wind turbine location.



3.3.4.3. The photograph below shows the southern proposed wind turbine location.



3.3.5. Neutral Grassland, Unimproved: The field (**T3**) to the west of one proposed location and the north of the other proposed location is classified as an SSSI due to the presence of species rich unimproved neutral grassland. The site comprises a fairly wet assemblage of grasses and herbs characterised by crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. A number of plant species have died back at this time of year and were therefore not identified. This field and the surrounding fields have been heavily grazed leaving the grass very short.

3.3.5.1. The fields surrounding the SSSI have recently had manure spread over them but the SSSI fields have not had manure spread on them. These fields are managed differently.

3.3.5.2. The photograph below looks north across the field classified as the SSSI.



3.3.6. Scattered Trees: The field boundaries have little vegetation growing but there are a few odd scattered individual trees, (**T4 & T5**), growing on some of the boundaries. These trees are mainly small semi-mature oak (*Quercus sp(p)*) with some hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

3.3.7. Defunct Hedge, Species Poor: The field boundaries are mainly dry stone walls but there are some areas where there are the broken remains of a hedge. The species present is mainly hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

3.3.8. Wall: The field boundaries within the survey area are mainly dry stone walls.

3.3.9. Fence: The field boundaries to the south are stock fencing with some areas of wall.

3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area.

There are badger setts in the surrounding area and they may forage on the fields but there were no well worn paths or snuffle holes present.

3.4.2. There are no watercourses within the survey area and therefore there is no habitat for otters, water voles or crayfish.

3.4.3. There are no ponds within 500m of the survey area and therefore there is no great crested newt habitat.

3.4.4. The few trees growing within the survey area are semi-mature and have no cracks or gaps and therefore they offer no bat roost potential.

3.4.5. Most of the field boundaries are walls with just a few individual scattered trees and broken hedgerows; therefore there are no continuous tree lines or hedgerows that would offer bats a flight path or a foraging area.

3.4.6. The site is on the top of a hill and is very windy and exposed to the weather; therefore there is little potential for foraging bats within the survey area. Abundant high value bat foraging habitat occurs in abundance in the valley bottom below the site.

3.4.7. No invasive non native species of plant were identified within the survey area.

3.4.8. There are very few opportunities for nesting birds as there are few trees and the area is very windy and exposed to the weather. However, there are some opportunities in the broken hedgerows and dry stone walls although no nests or birds were identified during this survey. There is some potential for ground nesting birds although this will be minimal due to the heavy grazing of the land. The survey was carried out outside the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September each year.

3.4.9. There is some potential habitat for reptiles within the survey area as the dry stone walls may provide refuges. Although, due to the exposed nature of the site and the heavy grazing it is unlikely that there will be reptiles present.

3.4.10. There is an SSSI located to the east of one proposed wind turbine location and to the north of the second proposed location. This is the Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadows SSSI. This is classified due to species rich unimproved neutral grassland. Appendix V of this report contains a map and the SSSI citation.

3.4.11. This area is grazed along with the surrounding fields and at the time of this survey all fields appeared the same due to a number of plant species having died back and are not visible.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified. There are known badger setts in the surrounding area and badgers may forage in the fields although there were no well worn badger paths and no snuffle holes on the site. Therefore, there are no badger issues within the survey area.

4.2. There are no watercourses within the survey area; therefore there are no otter, water vole or crayfish issues.

4.3. There are no ponds within 500m of the survey area; therefore there are no great crested newt issues.

4.4. There is no bat roost potential and little potential for foraging bats within the survey area. There are no continuous tree lines or hedgerows to provide flight paths and the site is on an exposed hill side with abundant high value foraging habitat in the valley below.

4.5. No invasive non native species of plant were identified within the survey area.

4.6. There are very few opportunities for nesting birds as there are few trees and the area is very windy and exposed to the weather. However, there are some opportunities in the broken hedgerows and dry stone walls although no nests or birds were identified during this survey. There is the possibility of ground nesting birds but these are likely to be deterred by grazing animals.

4.7. There is some potential habitat for reptiles within the dry stone walls on the site as they may provide refuges. However, due to the exposed nature of the site and the heavy grazing, it is unlikely that there will be reptiles present.

4.8. There is an SSSI located to the east of one proposed wind turbine location and to the north of the second proposed location. This is the Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadows SSSI. The SSSI is cited because of the ground flora and therefore this will not be affected by the proposed wind turbines.

4.9. There are records of three Natural Heritage Sites in the surrounding area. These are Brock Holes, which lies approximately 300m to the east of the survey area. Lapwings and Yellowhammer are important species within the Brock Holes site but there will be no issues with the proposed works as the birds are present in the NHS due to the habitat there. The fields in the area around the proposed wind turbine site are all well grazed making the presence of ground nesting birds like lapwing unlikely. Yellowhammers are hedge dwelling species.

4.10. The Hartcliff Hill site lies approximately 350m to the north of the surveyed area and the proposed works will have no impact on this site or any of the important species present on the site.

4.11. The Hollin and Spring Woods site lies approximately 850m to the southeast of the surveyed area and the proposed works will have no impact on this site or any of the important species present on the site.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. There is some low potential for nesting birds in the walls and broken hedgerows. It is recommended that any works that will directly affect the walls or hedgerows is carried out outside the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September each year.

5.2. If any works that will directly affect the walls or hedgerows is to be carried out during the nesting bird season, a thorough nesting bird survey must be carried out by a suitably experienced person immediately prior to works commencing. If any active nests are found they must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

5.3. If any works are to be carried out within the SSSI located adjacent to the two proposed locations, Natural England must be consulted before any works are carried out.

Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MIEEM

Natural England Bat Survey Licence Number: - 20114339
Natural England Great Crested Newt Survey Licence Number: - 20112763
Natural England Crayfish Survey Licence Number: - 20114401
Natural England Barn Owl Survey Licence Number: - 20114733

19.01.2012.

Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about the legal protection offered to nesting birds in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

Part 1.-(1) Of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

- (a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
 - (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
 - (c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,
- he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

- (a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- (b) disturbs dependant young of such a bird,

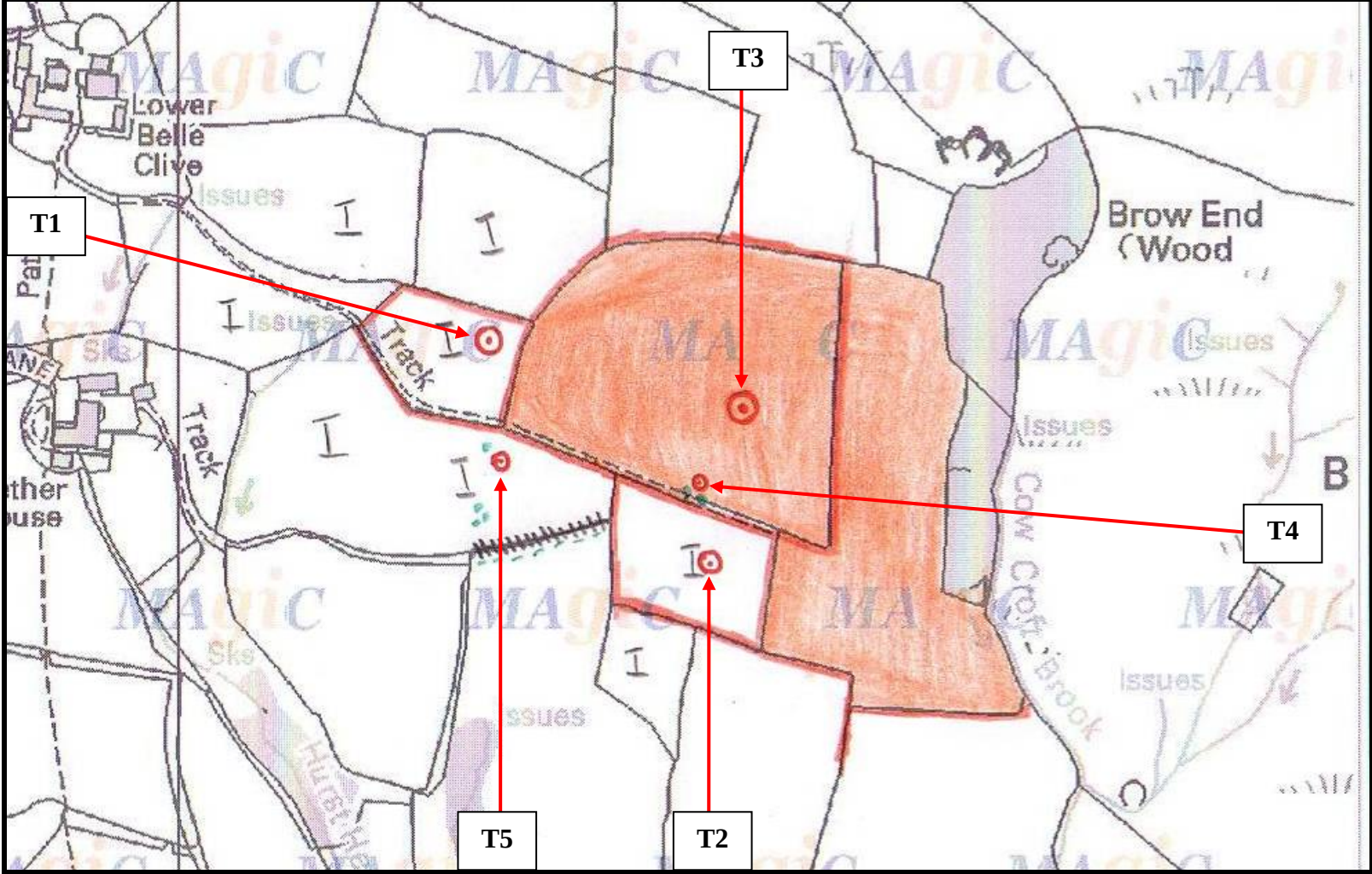
he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub but others are ground nesting.

The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

[illegible]

Key.



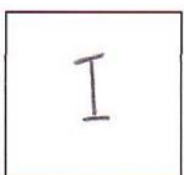
Neutral Grassland,
Unimproved



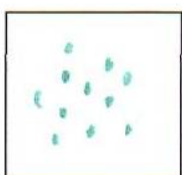
Fence



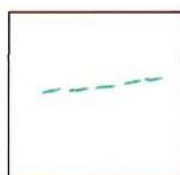
Wall



Improved
Grassland



Scattered Trees



Defunct Hedge,
Species Poor

Appendix III. TARGET NOTES.

T1 – This is a proposed location for a wind turbine.

T2 – This is a proposed location for a wind turbine.

T3 – This is the Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadows SSSI.

T4 – This is two semi-mature oak trees located on the field boundary.

T5 – This is a number of small and semi-mature scattered oak trees.

Appendix IV. DATA SEARCH RESULTS.

Date	Location	Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	BAP Species	Wildlife and Countryside Act and Badgers Act	Red and Amber birds
05/02/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	0	1	1
08/04/1995	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	0	1	1
05/11/1995	Little Don Valley Langsett-Midhopestones, BMBC	bird	Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	0	1	1
05/11/1995	Valley of River Little Don between Langsett & Midhopestones, SMDC side	bird	Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	0	1	1
28/12/1982	'BARNSELEY MBC'	terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
15/06/1986		terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
05/11/1995		terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
05/11/1995		terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
16/11/1997	'BARNSELEY MBC'	terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
16/11/1997	'BARNSELEY MBC'	terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
22/04/2001	Hartcliffe Hill	terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
22/04/2001		terrestrial mammal	Meles meles	Badger	0	1	0
05/11/1995	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	1	0	1
06/06/1997	fields between Hartcliffe and Green Moor	bird	Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	1	0	1

22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	1	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	1	0	1
21/02/2003	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1	0	1
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1	0	1
05/02/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	1	0	1
01/03/1998	Hartcliff Hill nr Penistone	bird	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	1	0	1
20/06/1998	Hartcliff Hill nr Penistone	bird	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	1	0	1
01/03/2002	Cubley	bird	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	1	0	1
01/03/2002	Cubley	bird	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	1	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	1	0	1
			terrestrial				
21/01/1996	Langsett Reservoir, BMBC side	mammal	Lepus europaeus	Brown Hare	1	0	0
			terrestrial				
02/06/2002	Langsett Reservoir, BMBC side	mammal	Lepus europaeus	Brown Hare	1	0	0
			terrestrial				
02/06/2002	Langsett Reservoir, BMBC side	mammal	Lepus europaeus	Brown Hare	1	0	0
31/05/1996	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Alauda arvensis	Skylark	0	0	1
20/03/1998	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Alauda arvensis	Skylark	0	0	1
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Alauda arvensis	Skylark	0	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Alauda arvensis	Skylark	0	0	1
			fields between Hartcliffe and Green Moor				
06/06/1997		bird	Carduelis cannabina	Linnet	0	0	1
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Carduelis cannabina	Linnet	0	0	1
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Carduelis cannabina	Linnet	0	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Carduelis cannabina	Linnet	0	0	1
21/12/1994	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	0	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	0	0	1
18/10/1995	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Falco tinnunculus	Kestrel	0	0	1
05/11/1995	Brock Holes, Langsett Valley	bird	Falco tinnunculus	Kestrel	0	0	1
27/04/2011	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	0	0	1
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Hirundo rustica	Swallow	0	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Hirundo rustica	Swallow	0	0	1

05/02/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Larus argentatus	Herring Gull	0	0	1
22/01/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Larus ridibundus	Black-Headed Gull	0	0	1
21/01/1996	Hartcliff Brow, between Hartcliff & Penistone	bird	Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	0	0	1
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	0	0	1
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	0	0	1
05/11/1995	Brock Holes, Langsett Valley	bird	Picus viridis	Green Woodpecker	0	0	1
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Prunella modularis	Dunnock	0	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Prunella modularis	Dunnock	0	0	1
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Sturnus vulgaris	Starling	0	0	1
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Turdus merula	Blackbird	0	0	1
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Turdus merula	Blackbird	0	0	1
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Turdus merula	Blackbird	0	0	1
02/03/2003	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	0	0	1
22/01/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Accipiter nisus	Sparrowhawk	0	0	0
02/03/2003	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Accipiter nisus	Sparrowhawk	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Carduelis chloris	Greenfinch	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Carduelis chloris	Greenfinch	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Brock Holes, Langsett Valley	bird	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Valley of River Little Don between Langsett & Midhopestones, SMDC side	bird	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Little Don Valley Langsett-Midhopestones, BMBC	bird	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carrion Crow	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Brock Holes, Langsett Valley	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carrion Crow	0	0	0
21/01/1996	Hartcliff Brow, between Hartcliff & Penistone	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carrion Crow	0	0	0

22/04/2001	fields between Hartcliff & Penistone	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carriion Crow	0	0	0
02/03/2003	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carriion Crow	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carriion Crow	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Corvus corone subsp. corone	Carriion Crow	0	0	0
22/01/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	0	0	0
05/02/1990	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Little Don Valley Langsett- Midhopestones, BMBC	bird	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Valley of River Little Don between Langsett & Midhopestones, SMDC side	bird	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	0	0	0
01/04/2010	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	0	0	0
22/04/2011	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Corvus monedula	Jackdaw	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Dendrocopos major	Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Erithacus rubecula	Robin	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Erithacus rubecula	Robin	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Erithacus rubecula	Robin	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	0	0	0
16/11/1997	Ecklands, Don Valley, Penistone to Dunford Bridge	bird	Garrulus glandarius	Jay	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Garrulus glandarius	Jay	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Motacilla alba subsp. yarrellii	Pied Wagtail	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Motacilla alba subsp. yarrellii	Pied Wagtail	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Parus caeruleus	Blue Tit	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Parus major	Great Tit	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Phasianus colchicus	Pheasant	0	0	0
26/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	Phasianus colchicus	Pheasant	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Hartcliff nr Penistone	bird	Pica pica	Magpie	0	0	0

21/01/1996	Hartcliff Brow, between Hartcliff & Penistone	bird	<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	0	0	0
22/04/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared Dove	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Valley of River Little Don between Langsett & Midhopestones, SMD C side	bird	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	0	0	0
05/11/1995	Little Don Valley Langsett-Midhopestones, BMBC	bird	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	0	0	0
30/05/2009	'BARNSELEY MBC'	bird	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	0	0	0
13/11/1977	Langsett Reservoir, BMBC side	terrestrial mammal	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Field Vole	0	0	0
13/11/1977	LANGSETT RESERVOIR	terrestrial mammal	<i>Sorex araneus</i>	Common Shrew	0	0	0
05/11/1995	'BARNSELEY MBC'	terrestrial mammal	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Mole	0	0	0
21/01/1996	'BARNSELEY MBC'	terrestrial mammal	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Mole	0	0	0

Appendix V. SSSI CITATION AND MAP.

Site Name: Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadows **County:** Yorkshire

District: Barnsley

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Local Planning Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

National Grid reference: SE229005 **Area:** 16.84 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 110 **1:10,000:** SE20SW

Notification Date: 29 November 2005

Reasons for Notification:

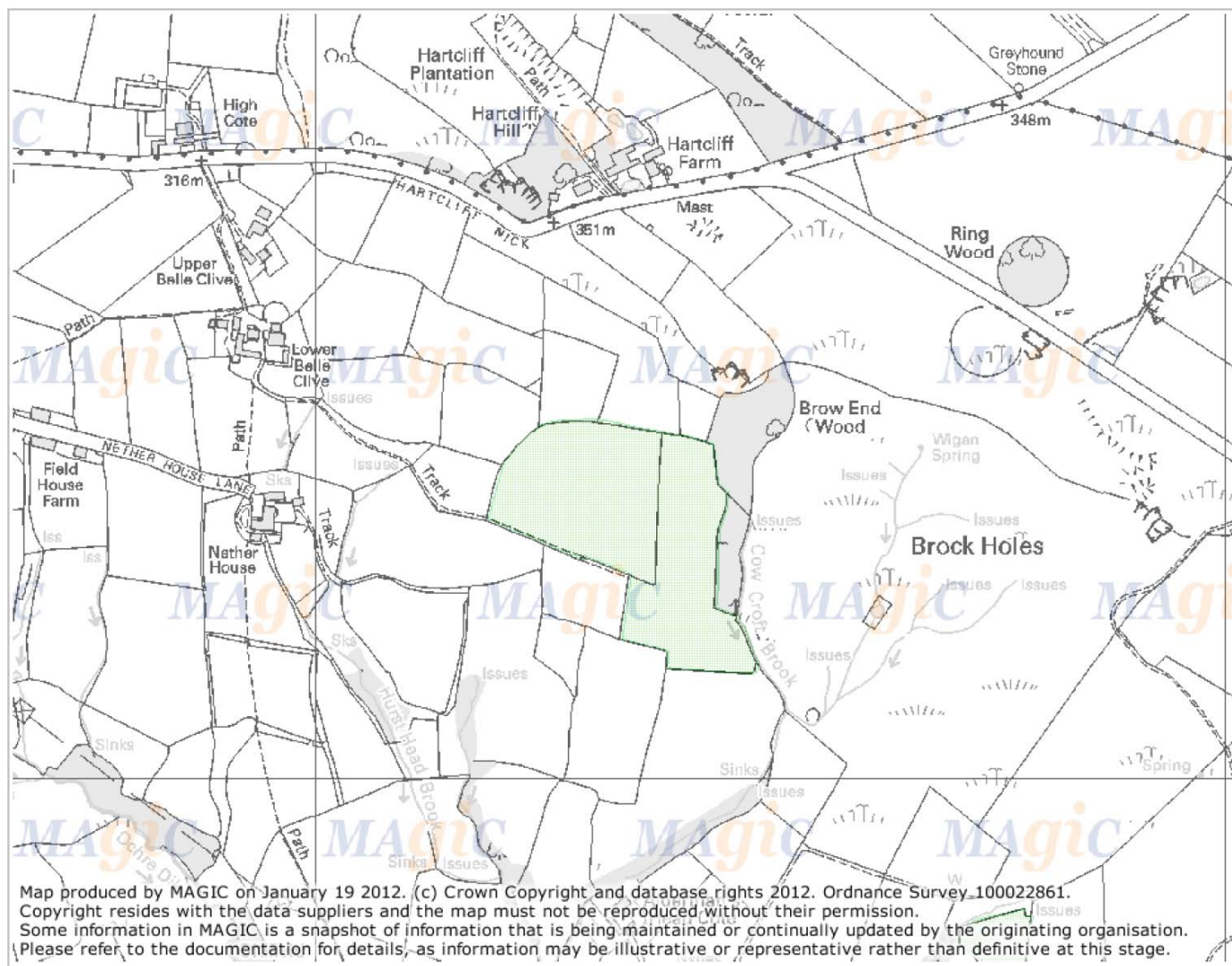
Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadows is nationally important for its areas of species-rich unimproved neutral grassland. The site comprises a fairly wet assemblage of grasses and herbs characterised by crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*.

General description:

Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadows is a complex of eleven hay meadows traditionally managed for many years through late summer hay-making. The site is located on the western edge of the Coal Measures, approximately 3 kilometres south of Penistone, at around 220 metres above sea level on the south-western facing slope of the Upper Little Don Valley. The meadows are in two blocks, separated by areas of improved grassland, and form the largest and finest example of traditionally managed unimproved neutral hay meadows in south Yorkshire.

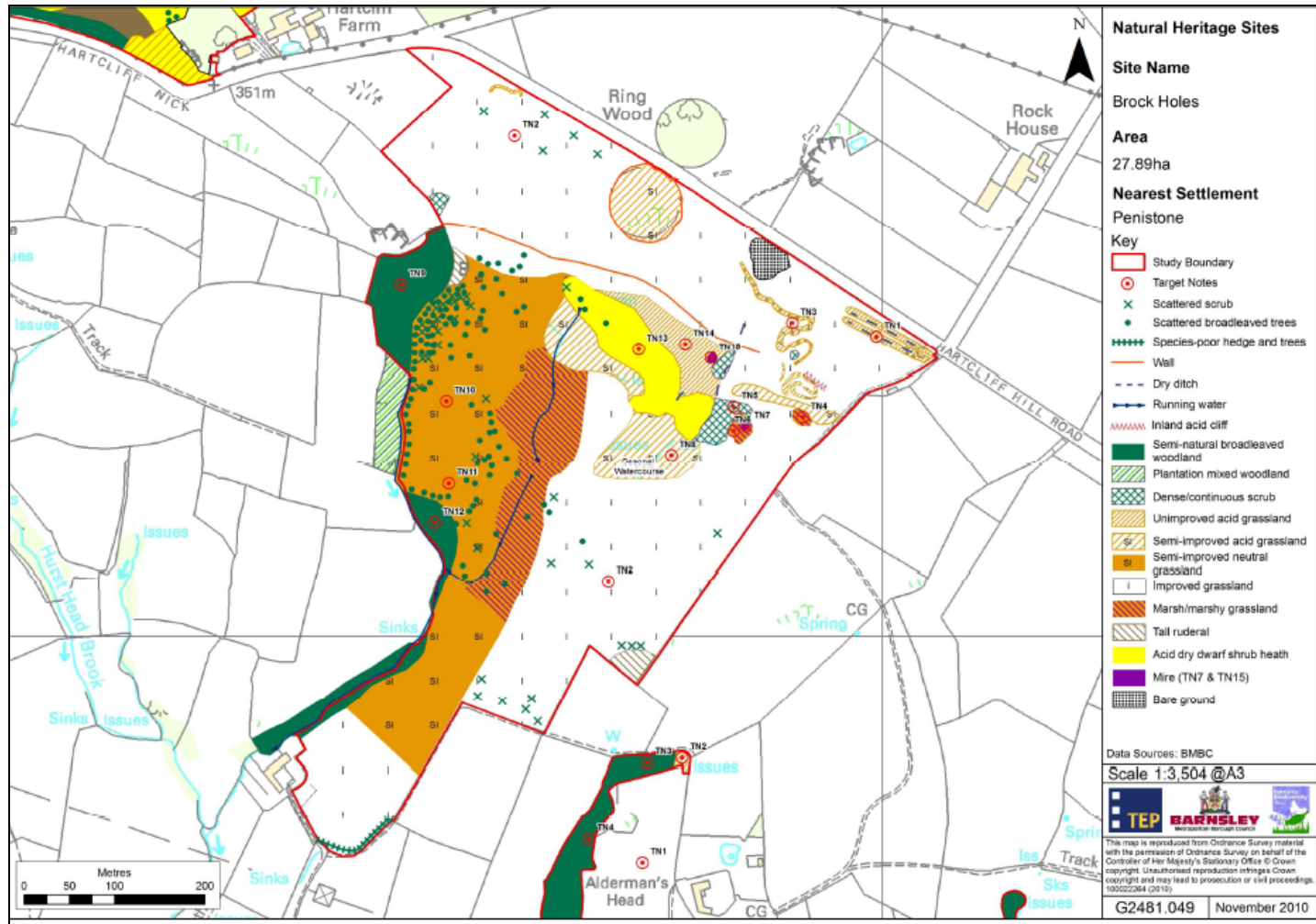
The flower-rich meadows support the neutral grassland type characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. A rich variety of grasses form a major part of the sward, including crested dog's-tail, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, with lesser amounts of common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and smaller cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii*. There are locally abundant patches of oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, bitter-vetch *L. linifolius* var. *montanus*, autumn and rough hawkbits *Leontodon autumnalis* and *L. hispidus*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and the local rarity brown sedge *Carex disticha* stand out against a background of even more abundant herbs such as ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata* and selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* which are found throughout all the meadows. Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* is locally abundant in two meadows. Occasional species include eyebright *Euphrasia* sp., lady's-mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris* agg., and trailing tormentil *P. anglica* which are all scarce in south Yorkshire, whilst harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, spring-sedge *C. caryophyllea* and quaking-grass *Briza media* also occur.

Underground springs seeping down the slopes have created damper areas that support species preferring moister conditions such as marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, common spotted-orchid *D. fuchsii*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* and soft-rush *Juncus effusus*. A small area of acid grassland on steeper slopes around Alderman's Head adds diversity to the site.

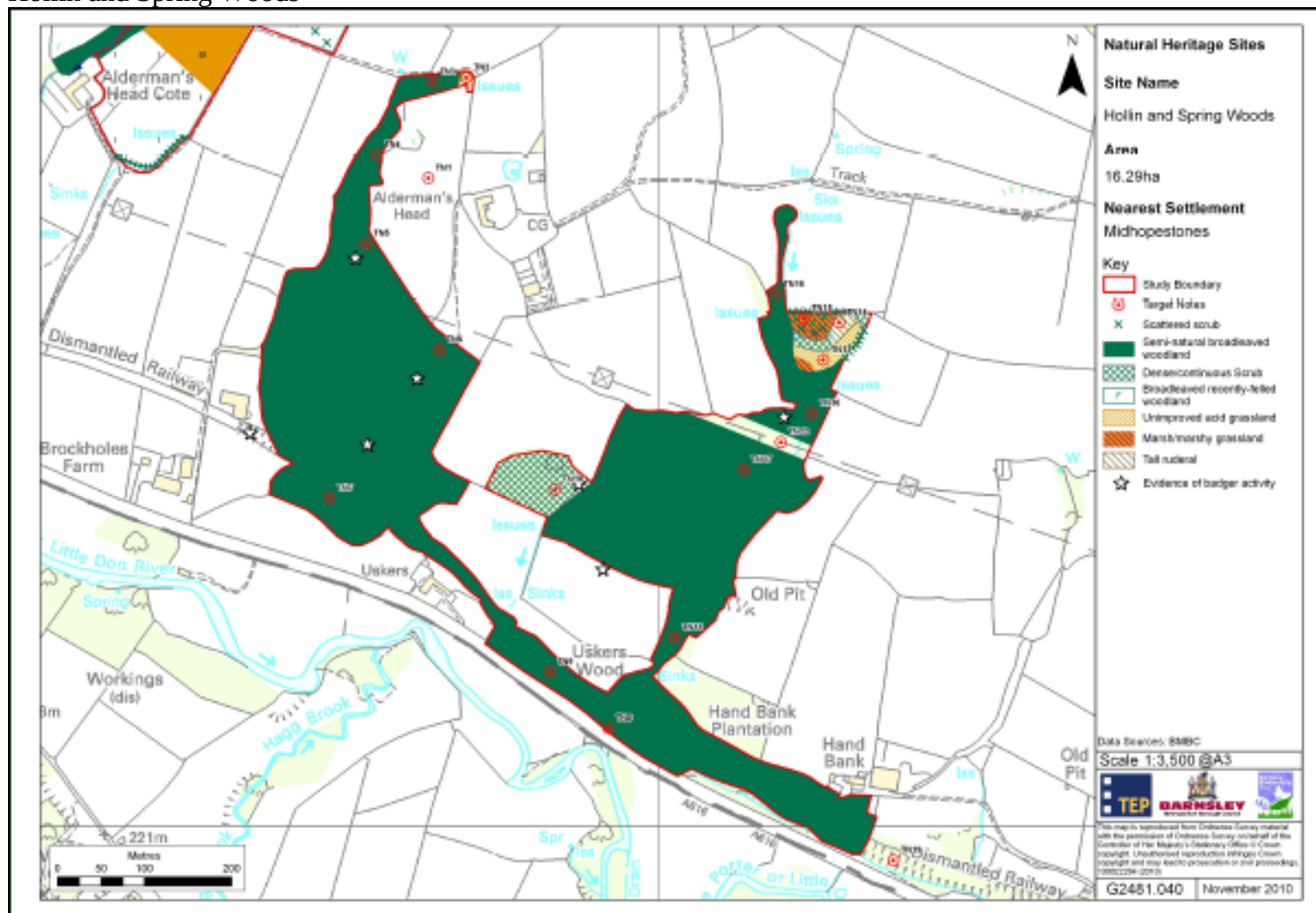


Appendix VI. NATURAL HERITAGE SITES LOCATION MAPS.

Brock Holes



Hollin and Spring Woods



Hartcliff Hill

