SNCI Review Summary Sheet

Site name:	**Dene Fields**
Recorder number:	15076
Grid Ref:	TQ269573
Borough:	Reigate and Banstead
Ward:	Chipstead, Hooley & Woodmansterne
Date of previous surveys:	21/6/1995 11/8/2008
Date of last survey:	1/8/2013 & 7/8/2013
Date selected as SNCI:	2009
Previous reviews:	N/A
Date of last review: **(by Local Sites Partnership)**	28/1/2014
Previous status of site:	SNCI
Current status of site:	SNCI

Reason for Selection

The site is selected for its calcareous grassland habitat which supports a high diversity of species. 29 species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey have been recorded on the site. Dwarf Spurge, *Euphorbia exigua* (Nationally Scarce) has been recorded on the site. The site's position is important adjacent to Fames Rough, part of Chipstead Downs Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Changes at latest review

No change

Site Name:	**Dene Fields**
Recorder Number:	15076
Grid Ref:	TQ 269 573
Parish:	N/A
Ward:	Chipstead, Hooley & Woodmansterne
Area of SNCI:	30.6 ha
Previous SNCI surveys:	11/08/2008 ,Sue Cooper
Surveyor (s):	21/6/1995 M. Williams & A. Tutt
Date of current survey:	1/8/2013 & 7/8/2013,
Surveyor(s):	Sue Cooper

Site description

The site is located on the west side of Chipstead Valley adjacent to Chipstead Downs SSSI. It comprises chalk grassland, hedgerows and plantation. It is situated on a brown rendzina soil overlying the Upper Chalk crossing on to clay at the top of the site at approximately the 150m contour. Historically Big Field (Field 1 on fig. 1) was arable until about 1991, Top Field (Field 2) was thought to be woodland (as shown on Tythe map), this is clay with flints. There are frequent ant hills suggesting lack of improvement.

Previous reason for selection

The site was originally selected in 2009 for the chalk grassland flora and its position in the ecological unit adjacent to Fames Rough SSSI.

Ownership

The site is owned by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

Habitat description and target notes

A full National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey was not carried out, however where NVC communities are described these are those that, in the surveyor's opinion, best fit the habitats present at the site visit.

Throughout the descriptions, plants are referred to by their English names. For reference the full species list at the end of the report lists both English and Latin names.

Broad-leaved Plantation Woodland

This is shown as a white background with green diagonal lines on Figure 1.

There is a small wooded area on the south east side of the site known as "The Nuttery" due to the presence of Walnut and Hazel. This is mapped as plantation woodland as much of this is thought to have been planted. Trees include Walnut, Hornbeam, Silver Birch, Ash, Goat Willow, Rowan and Grey Alder. The centre is dense Hawthorn whilst Blackthorn is abundant on the west side. Other shrubs present include Dog Rose, Buckthorn, Elder, Spindle

and Rowan. White Bryony, Traveller's Joy and Hedge Bindweed are scrambling among the shrubs at the edges of the plantation. The field layer is dominated by Common Nettle over Ground Ivy. In a recently cleared area Creeping Buttercup is frequent.

Dense/continuous Scrub.
Shown as cross hatched green lines on Figure 1.

The area known as "The Plantation" in the centre-north of the site has been mapped as scrub because this comprises planted shrubs and juvenile trees, the largest of which reaching only 4-5 metres. Among the plantings are Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn, Hazel, Dogwood, Rowan, Silver Birch and Sweet Chestnut. Amongst these are scattered mature Pedunculate Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Silver Birch. The field layer, albeit sparse where scrub is thick, is dominated by Bramble; tussocky grasses including Cocksfoot, Yorkshire Fog and False Oat-grass, are largely confined to the margins of pathways and more open scrub. The area is surrounded by mature Pedunculate Oak trees with occasional Wild Cherry, Beech and Ash.

Scattered Scrub
Shown as green crosses on Figure 1.

This occurs within the "The Plantation" where trees and shrubs are less developed and where there are more open, grassy areas. Species present are similar to the above paragraph, (continuous scrub); planted Hazel and young Pedunculate Oak are the most frequent along with Hawthorn and more occasional Silver Birch, Rowan and Dogwood. Herbaceous species include frequent Wild Parsnip, Creeping Thistle, Rosebay Willowherb with occasional Common Agrimony, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Perforate St. John's-wort, Cat's-ear, Red Bartsia, Selfheal and Wild Marjoram.

Scattered Bracken
Shown as terracotta crosses on Figure 1.

A stand of Bracken present in the north-west of field 2 includes Bramble and Common Nettle amongst the Bracken.

Tall Ruderal
Shown as terracotta diagonal lines on Figure 1

Alongside the track leading west up the hill and along the eastern side of The Nuttery there is a deep layer of tall ruderals dominated by Common Nettle with Hogweed, Creeping Thistle, Bramble and locally abundant Rosebay Willowherb.

Semi-improved Calcareous Grassland
Shown as a white background with orange cross hatching and labelled SI on Figure 1.

The sward supports many species associated with calcareous grassland. However the NVC classification most closely resembles MG1d *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland *Pastinaca sativa* sub-community due to the constancy of False Oat-grass.

Field 1, known as Big Field is the most species rich of the three fields. It has been divided approximately in half and fenced for grazing.

Within the southern, ungrazed portion of Big Field, Wild Parsnip is very frequent and locally abundant. False Oat-grass, Common Knapweed, Ribwort Plantain, Wild Marjoram and Red Fescue are frequent. Cock's-foot, Basil, Hairy St. John's-wort, Smooth Hawk's-beard, Red Clover, Rough Meadow-grass, Common Agrimony, Beaked Hawk's-beard and Hogweed are also common components of the sward but less frequent than the above. Among the variety of other species present are Eyebright, Blue Fleabane, Selfheal, Common Centaury, Ox-eye Daisy, Wild Teasel, Small Scabious, Sweet Vernal-grass, Crosswort and Hairy Tare. Perennial Rye-grass, Red Bartsia, Black Medick and White Clover are also present, particularly associated with pathways. Between the Nuttery and road the sward is more rank with species such as Creeping Thistle, Common Nettle, Broad-leaved Dock, Hogweed and Creeping Buttercup frequent among the False Oat-grass and Yorkshire Fog.

The northern half of this field was cattle grazed at the time of the survey. This is similar to the ungrazed area but the sward is lower and False Oat-grass less abundant whereas Wood False-brome and Cock's-foot are prominent. The most frequent herbaceous species are Wild Marjoram, Wild Basil, Common Knapweed, Common Agrimony, Upright Hedge-parsley and Ribwort Plantain; Wild Parsnip is less frequent than on the lower slope. Fairy Flax, Small Scabious, Red Bartsia, Rough Hawkbit, Hedge Bedstraw and Beaked Hawk's-beard are occasional. Dogwood and Hawthorn occur within the sward and Traveller's Joy is scrambling among the ground flora.

Top field, (Field 2 on figure 1) supports a lower ratio of herbs to grasses than field 1 and the field (particularly to the west) is scrubbing over with Bramble, Hawthorn, Traveller's Joy and - along the south-west edge - self-sewn saplings of Pedunculate Oak. False Oat-grass is dominant with frequent Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent and occasional Smaller Cat's-tail. Wood False-brome is locally abundant over Red Fescue; Downy Oat-grass is present in the centre of the field.

Wild Parsnip is again very frequent together with Wild Marjoram, Ribwort Plantain and Red Bartsia. Common Knapweed, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Wild Basil, Hairy St. John's-wort and Spotted Medick are occasional; Wild Strawberry, Common Centaury, Hawkweed Ox-tongue, Smooth Hawk's-beard and Eyebright are rare. The northern portion of Top Field is also dominated by False Oat-grass with Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent, Red Fescue and Wood False-brome of variable frequency. Wild Parsnip, Creeping Thistle, Red Clover and Common Agrimony are the most commonly occurring herbs with occasional Wild Teasel, Perforate St. John's-wort, Wild Basil, Sweet Vernal-grass, Eyebright and White Clover. The northern edge is scrubbing over with

young Hawthorn and Ash along with Traveller's Joy, Rose species and Bramble spreading from the adjacent woodland.

Field 3, Lower Field This field is dominated by False Oat-grass with frequent Cock's-foot, Yorkshire Fog, Common Sorrel and Ribwort Plantain. Perennial Rye-grass is occasional. Red Clover, Common Agrimony, Traveller's Joy and Yellow Rattle are locally frequent. Red Bartsia, Wild Parsnip, Field Scabious, Marjoram, Hairy St. John's-wort, Wild Basil, Common Knapweed, Small Cat's-ear and Crosswort are constant throughout at relatively low frequencies.
The east is less species rich.

Native Species-rich Hedge and Trees
Shown as a straight green line with splayed green dashes on Figure 1

Thick mixed hedgerows at the field boundaries typically comprise Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn with occasional Dogwood, Field Maple, Spindle, Dog Rose and Elder. Trees are principally Peduculate Oak and Ash with rare Sycamore, Cherry and Grey Alder. The field layer is Common Nettle and Bramble.

Other non-plant species
A variety of butterflies were observed during the survey: Comma, Small White, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Brimstone, a Skipper and a Fritillary. A good number of insects and day flying moths were present among the grassland and a hunting Kestrel.

Does the site still support the features for which it was selected?
The site still supports the features for which it was originally selected, i.e. the chalk grassland flora and its position in the ecological unit adjacent to Fames Rough SSSI.

Does the site meet the SNCI selection guidelines as revised in 2008? Which of the criteria does it meet?

The site meets the SNCI selection guidelines under the following criteria;

6b. Calcareous Grassland sites which support a high diversity of species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey. As a guideline, sites which support 15 or more of the species listed in Table 1 including at least 2 of the species in bold are likely to be of SNCI quality.

The survey recorded twenty nine species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey.

24c. *Sites supporting a nationally scarce plant species*

Dwarf Spurge*, Euphorbia exigua* is a nationally scarce species. This species was last recorded in 2008.

See appendices 1 & 2.

The SNCI selection guidelines (Gibbs, 2008) state that "*sites that are close to, but do not quite meet the detailed habitat and species guidelines … may be considered for selection where they are judged as important using the general guidelines*" which are based on the Ratcliffe Criteria (Ratcliffe, 1977). Appendix 3 shows an assessment of the site against the general guidelines.

This site is particularly important for its position in the ecological unit being adjacent to Fames Rough SSSI.

Site Condition (surveyor's opinion)
Favourable

Additional information or surveys required
No additional information or surveys are required to reassess the site's SNCI status.

Boundaries
No boundary changes are recommended.

Signs of damage
No signs of damage were found.

Current Site Management
The site is managed by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and is grazed under the Surrey Downland Project.

Management advice
The site appears to be in good management. It is noted that scrub in the Top Field (field 2) is spreading and may need to be controlled.

Potential grant aid
It is not known if any grants are currently being claimed.

Environmental Stewardship
It may be possible to claim Environmental Stewardship for the land. This is an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England to deliver effective environmental management on the land.

Unfortunately the scheme is currently closed for new applications except in specific cases. The scheme is currently being reviewed. Up to date information will be available on the Natural England website.

References

Davies, R. (2011); *A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Surrey,* Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, Pirbright.

Gibbs, C (2008) *Guidance for the Selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in Surrey.* Surrey Wildlife Trust.

JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit.* JNCC, Peterborough

Ratcliffe, D (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review*. Cambridge University Press.

Rose, F (2006) *The Wild Flower Key*. Warne

Surrey Botanical Society (2011) *Draft List of Plant Species that are Rare, Scarce or of Conservation Importance, either nationally or Locally*. Unpublished data of the Surrey Botanical Society, in preparation.

Photographs

Photograph 1 Field 1

Photograph 2 Field 1

Photograph 3 Field 2

Photograph 4 Field 3

Photograph 5 The Plantation

Photograph 6 The Plantation edge

Photograph 7 The Nuttery

Higher Plant list

Abundance uses the DAFOR system;

(**L**ocally) **D**ominant, **A**bundant, **F**requent, **O**ccasional, **R**are

[Please note that plants ranked are 'rare' means that they were not found often over this site and does not necessarily indicate that they are a County rarity]:

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**DAFOR**	***Indicator Species**	****Ancient Woodland Indicators**	*****County Notable**	******Invasive species**
Acer campestre	Field Maple	R		√		
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	R				
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	F				
Achillia millefolium	Yarrow	R				
Agrostis capillaries	Common Bent	O				
Alchemilla mollis	Garden Lady's Mantle	R				
Alnus incana	Grey Alder	R				
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid	R	√			
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	R				
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal grass	O	√			
Arctium minus	Burdock	R				

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	F				
Artemesia vulgaris	Mugwort	R				
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	R				
Blackstonia perfoliata	Yellow-wort	O	√			
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Wood False-brome	LF				
Bromopsis ramose	Hairy Brome	R		√		
Bryonia dioica	White Bryony	R				
Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed	O				
Carex divulsa ssp. divulsa	Grey Sedge	R				
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge	R	√			
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	F				
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut	R				
Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	R	√			
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	O				
Chamerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb	LF				
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	R				
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	LF				
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	R				

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Clematis vitalba	Traveller's-joy	F				
Clinopodium vulgare	Wild Basil	O	√			
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	O				
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	R				
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	F				
Corylus avellana	Hazel	O				
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard	R				
Crepis vesicaria	Beaked Hawk's-beard	R				
Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort	O				
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	F				
Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel	R				
Dryopteris filix-mas	Common Male-fern	R				
Elytrigia repens	Common Couch	R				
Erigeron acer	Blue Fleabane	O	√			
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	R				
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	F				
Frafaria vesca	Wild Strawberry	R	√			
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	R				
Galium aparine	Cleavers	O				
Galium alba	Hedge Bedstraw	O				

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Geranium	R				
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	R				
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	R				
Glechoma hederacea	Ground Ivy	LF				
Hedera helix	Ivy	O				
Helictotrichon pubescens	Downy Oat-grass	R	√			
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	R				
Hieracium agg.	Hawkweed	R	√			
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	F				
Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St. John's-wort	O				
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St. John's-wort	R				
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	R				
Juglans regia	Walnut	LF				
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	LF	√			
Lamium album	White Dead-nettle	R				
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	R	√			
Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit	O	√			

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy	O	√			
Linaria vulgaris	Common Toadflax	R	√			
Linum catharticum	Fairy Flax	O	√			
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	O				
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	F	√			
Mattricaria discoidea	Pineapleweed	R				
Medicago lupulina	Black medick	O				
Mercurialis perennis	Dog's Mercury	R				
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia	F	√			
Origanum vulgare	Wild Marjoram	F	√			
Pastinaca sativa	Wild Parsnip	F	√			
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank	R				
Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail	O	√			
Pleum pratense	Timothy	R	√			
Picris hieraciodes	Hawkweed Oxtongue	O	√			
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine	R				
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	R				
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	R				
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass	O				

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass	R				
Potentilla anserine	Silverweed	R				
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil	R				
Primula veris	Cowslip	R	√			
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	O				
Prunus avium	Cherry	R				
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	LF				
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	LF				
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane	O				
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak	O				
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	R				
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	O				
Rhamnus cathartica	Buckthorn	R				
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow-rattle	O	√			
Rosa canina agg.	Dog Rose	R				
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	LF				
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	LF	√			
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock	LF				
Rumex sanguineus	Wood dock	R				
Sambucus nigra	Elder	R				
Sanguisorba minor	Salad Burnet	O	√			
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	R				

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Scabiosa columbaria	Small Scabious	O	√			
Senecio erucifolius	Hoary Ragwort	O				
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	R				
Silene latifolia	White Campion	R				
Solidago Canadensis	Canadian Goldenrod	R				
Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sow-thistle	R				
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	R				
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	R				
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	R				
Taraxacum agg.	Dandelion	O				
Torilis japonica	Upright Hedge-parsley	O				
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	LF				
Trifolium repens	White Clover	O				
Tripleurospermum inodoorum	Scentless Mayweed	R				
Tussilago farfara	Coltsfoot	R				
Ulmus procera	English Elm	R				
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	LF				
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell	O				
Veronica persica	Common Field-speedwell	R				

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	****Invasive species
Veronica serpilifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R				
Viburnum opulus	Guelder-rose	R				
Vicia hirsute	Hairy Tare	O	√			
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	O				
Total		**130**	**29**	**2**	**0**	**0**

Additional species of interest recorded on the site in previous surveys

Scientific Name	Common Name	*Indicator Species	**Ancient Woodland Indicators	***County Notable	Date recorded	Recorder
Bromus erecta	Upright Brome	√			August 2008	Sue Cooper
Centaurea scabiosa	Greater Knapweed	√			August 2008	Sue Cooper
Echium vulgare	Viper's-bugloss	√			August 2008	Sue Cooper
Euphorbia exigua	Dwarf Spurge			√	August 2008	Sue Cooper
Lathyrus nissolia	Grass Vetchling	√			August 2008	Sue Cooper

*Species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey (as listed in Guidance for the Selection of SNCIs in Surrey, May 2008)
**Ancient Woodland Indicator species (as listed for the Nature Conservancy Council South-East Region, see Rose 2006)

***Species that are Rare, Scarce or of Conservation Interest in Surrey (as listed on the Draft Surrey Botanical Society County Rare Plant Register Sep 2011)
****Species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)

Appendix 1: Habitat guidelines

SNCI selection Habitat Guidelines (Gibbs, 2008), summary of results and rationale with the rationale based upon the findings of the survey.

Habitat	Notes	Result
1) Woodland		
a) All sites containing over 5ha of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW).		Not present
b) Other ancient woodland including plantations on ancient woodland sites where there is a significant element of the original semi-natural woodland surviving.		Not present
c) Areas of woodland which are not themselves ancient but which are immediately adjacent to ancient woodland sites should also be considered for selection.		Not present
d) Other semi-natural woodland comprising important community types of restricted distribution in the county. This will include;		
e) Wet woodland falling within NVC types; W1, W2, W4c, W5, W6 and W7		Not present
f) Lowland Beech, Yew and Box Woodland falling within NVC types; W12, W13, W14 and W15		Not present
g) Wealden gill woodland		Not present
h) Sites supporting a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
2) Wood Pasture, Parkland and Veteran Trees		
a) Wood pasture and parkland over 2ha which can demonstrate 3 or more of the features defined in the selection guidelines (Gibbs 2008) should be considered for selection.		Not present
b) Groups of 3 or more ancient or veteran trees as defined in the selection guidelines (Gibbs 2008) within 0.25ha.		Not present
c) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
3) Traditional Orchards		
a) Traditionally managed orchards of biodiversity value, as defined in the selection guidelines (Gibbs 2008)		Not present
b) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
4) Neutral Grassland		

Habitat	Notes	Result
a) All sites supporting the following NVC communities; MG4, MG5 or MG8.		Not present
b) Grassland sites which support a high (> / = 15, including 2 of the species in bold) diversity of species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey.	See 6b	Not present
c) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
5) Acidic Grassland		
a) All sites supporting the following NVC communitiesU1, U2, U3, U4 or U20a.		Not present
b) Grassland sites which support a high (> / = 15, including 2 of the species in bold) diversity of species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey.		Not present
c) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
6) Calcareous Grassland		
a) All sites supporting the following NVC communities: CG2, CG3, CG4, CG5, CG6 or CG7.		Not present
b) Grassland sites which support a high (> / = 15, including 2 of the species in bold) diversity of species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey.	29 axiophyte species recorded	Present
c) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not known
7) Heathland		
a) All areas of heathland vegetation; including matrices of dwarf shrub, bare ground, grassland, valley mires and scrub should be considered. Heathland over 2ha would automatically qualify.		Not present
b) Areas of heathland which are heavily afforested or have succeeded to mature woodland with potential to be restored to heathland and either; • retain sufficient remnants of heathland or • are contiguous with, or form an integral part of an area of heathland.		Not present
c) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
8) Standing open water		
a) Any lake classified by the UK Lakes HAP joint steering group as Tier 1 or Tier 2 where not already covered by other designations.		Not present
b) Ponds which qualify under the criteria for UK BAP priority habitat.		Not present
c) Water bodies or clusters of water bodies which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
9) Wetlands		

Habitat	Notes	Result
a) All reedbeds over 2ha.		Not present
b) Reedbeds of between 0.25 and 2ha where they form part of a wider habitat mosaic.		Not present
c) Fens, mires, swamps and marshes over 2ha with flora characteristic of the following NVC communities: M6, M21, M24, M25, M27, M29, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S19, S22, S23, S26, S27, S28.		Not present
d) Fens, mires, swamps and marshes (NVC as above) of between 0.25 and 2ha where they form part of a wider habitat mosaic.		Not present
d) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
10) Floodplain Grazing Marsh		
a) All floodplain grazing marsh over 5ha that is not designated as SSSI.		Not present
b) Floodplain grazing marsh of less than 5ha where it forms part of a wider habitat mosaic of water-dependent habitats, or where it links SSSIs.		Not present
c) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present
11) Rivers, Canals and Streams		
a) Chalk stream.		Not present
b) River classed by the Environment Agency as Grade A within the GQA.		Not present
c) River with a HMS of 0 (classified as “pristine” by RHS).		Not present
d) River with a conservation evaluation of either “Critical” or “Important” within strategic RCS.		Not present
e) River which supports viable populations or spawning sites of animals listed in guidelines.		Not present
f) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance		Not present
12) Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land		
a) Open Mosaic habitat sites where; • 6 or more of the characteristic features are found • form part of a wider complex of similar areas, providing long term habitat opportunity • There is a significant invertebrate assemblage		Not present
b) Sites which support a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidelines.		Not present
13) Arable		
a) Meets criteria for Important Arable Plant Areas and not covered by other designation.		Not present
b) Supports a significant population of a species as discussed in the species guidance.		Not present

Habitat	Notes	Result
14) Scrub Communities *When selecting sites based on other habitats all areas of associated scrub should be identified and included within the SNCI boundary.*		N/A
15) Community and access a) sites which serve as Accessible Natural Greenspace within urban areas. *Sites which are close to but do not fully meet the habitat or species guidelines may be considered for selection if they meet this criteria.*	The site is open access and appears well used by the public.	Present
16) Geology and Geomorphology RIGS regarded as the geological equivalent of SNCIs.		Not present

Appendix 2: Species guidelines

SNCI selection Species Guidelines (Gibbs, 2008), summary of results and rationale based upon survey

Species	Notes	Result
17) Mammals Sites with known populations of:		
a) Dormouse		Unknown
b) Water Vole		Unlikely
c) Otter		Unlikely
18) Mammals – Bats		
a) Contains a 'significant' bat breeding roost or hibernation site.		Unknown
b) Any breeding roost or hibernation site used by multiple bat species concurrently.		Unknown
c) Foraging sites with more than 5 species recorded or used by Annex II species.		Unknown
19) Amphibians		
a) Supports populations of Natterjack Toad.		Unlikely
b) Regularly record 'good' or 'exceptional' breeding populations of Great Crested Newt.		Unlikely
c) Supports populations of four or more native amphibian species.		Unknown
d) 'exceptional' populations of any amphibian species.		Unlikely
e) 'good' populations of 3 or more native amphibian species.		Unknown
20) Reptiles		
a) Supports populations of Smooth Snake or Sand Lizard.		Unknown
b) Populations of 3 or more native reptile species.		Unknown
c) 'exceptional' population of a single reptile species or a 'good' population of Adders		Unknown
d) assemblage of species scoring at least 4 points.		Unknown
21) Birds		
a) Holds more than 10% of Surrey's breeding or wintering population of a species.		Unknown
b) Supports species on the conservation concern list for Surrey categories 1-3.		Unknown
c) Supports a breeding bird assemblage or wintering waterbird assemblage of county importance.		Unknown
22) Invertebrates		
a) Supports one or more nationally rare or declining species as listed in the latest national Red Data Books or lists.		Unknown
b) Supports an important assemblage or population(s) of a BAP priority species.		Unknown

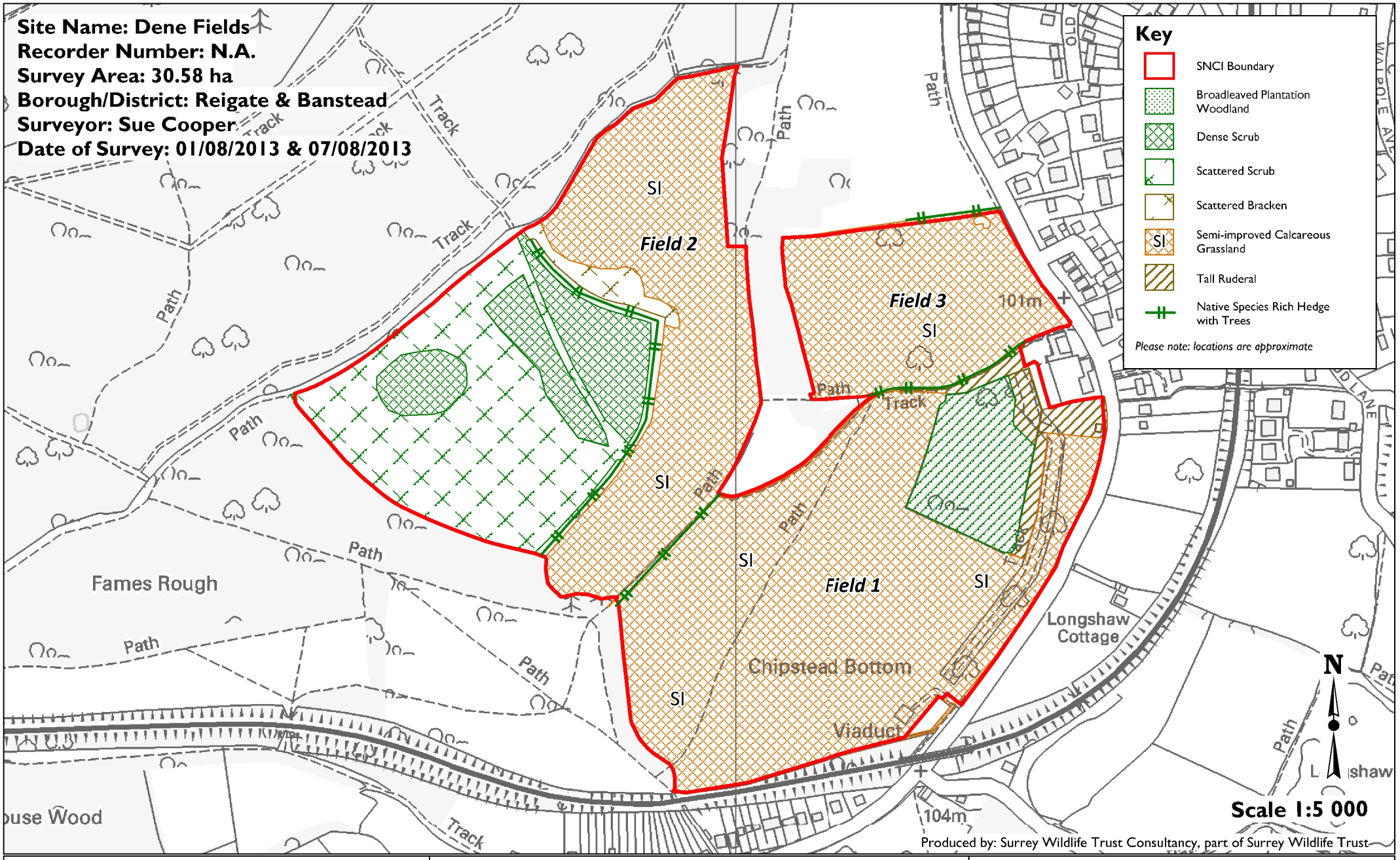
Species	Notes	Result
c) Supports an important assemblage or population(s) of a nationally scarce species.		Unknown
23) Additional Invertebrate Guidelines		
a) Meet the British Dragonfly Society criteria for Key Dragonfly Sites		Unknown
b) Supports a butterfly species within list A.		Unknown
c) Supports a locally notable population of four or more of the butterfly species within list B.		Unknown
d) Sites with a Species Quality Score of greater than 4 for Wasps, bees & Ants.		Unknown
24) Vascular Plants		
a) Supports one or more species included in the latest national Red Data List for plants.		Unknown
b) Supports an important assemblage or population(s) of a UK BAP priority species.		Unknown
c) Supports a nationally scarce species.	Dwarf Spurge, *Euphorbia exigua* was last recorded on the site in 2008.	Yes (last record 2008)
d) Supports species identified by Surrey Botanical Society as rare and notable within Surrey.		Unknown
e) Sites selected as Important Plant Areas by Plantlife.		Unknown
25) Lower Plants & Fungi		
a) Supports one or more nationally rare or declining species as listed in the national Red Data Books.		Unknown
b) Supports an important assemblage or population(s) of UK BAP priority species.		Unknown
c) Supports a nationally scarce species.		Unknown
d) Sites classified as Important Fungus Areas by Plantlife.		Unknown
e) Sites classified as Important Stonewort Areas by Plantlife.		Unlikely

Appendix 3: General Guidelines

Sites which are close to, but do not quite met the detailed habitat and species guidelines later in the report may be considered for selection where they are judged as important using the general guidelines below.

These general guidelines are based upon the Ratcliffe Criteria (1977), for assessing the nature conservation value of a proposed SNCI with the rationale based upon the findings of the survey.

Selection Criteria	Analysis of site against criteria
Rarity	Lowland calcareous grassland is a priority habitat.
Diversity	The site is considered to be botanically diverse, 130 species were recorded.
Size	The site is 30.6 ha in size which is relatively large
Naturalness	There has been some planting of non-native trees, for example Walnut and Grey Alder.
Typicalness	The habitat is fairly typical of the surrounding area.
Fragility	The site is adjacent to Fames Rough SSSI and therefore does not require a further buffer.
Replacability	Without active management the habitat would be lost to scrub and coarse grasses.
Position in ecological unit / Connectivity with the landscape	The site is important for its position adjacent to Fames Rough SSSI.
Educational value and value for the appreciation of nature.	It is not known whether the site is used for education activities. It does provide an opportunity for contact with nature since it accessible to the public.
Potential value	Current management is aimed at improving the conservation value of the site. There are no damaging activities.
Recorded history and cultural associations	There is thought to be knowledge of at least the recent history of the site.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey
with permission of HMSO Crown Copyright.
All rights reserved 100019613, 2013.
Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright
and may lead to civil proceedings.

Figure 1: Dene Fields
Phase 1 Survey Map

SURREY wildlife TRUST