



Improvement Plan for Great Crested Newts Westfield Common

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Woking Borough Council

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment
1	Dec 2016	Based on feedback: survey data, monitoring and work schedule all updated.

Non-Technical Executive Summary

Woking Borough Council is involved in a pilot project with Natural England which is based on a landscape-wide approach to great crested newt mitigation. The project aim is to achieve a net gain for – towards the favourable conservation status of - this species more strategically across the whole borough rather than by imposing ‘piecemeal’ mitigation strategies at numerous localised sites.

Westfield Common is located in the south of Woking, and has been identified as a suitable site for the pilot project. The project will require various elements including the enhancement and creation of ponds, enhancement of habitat connectivity within the wider borough, a monitoring strategy for great crested newt populations and habitat suitability at Westfield Common, and monitoring / managing the loss of suitable terrestrial habitat to development within the borough.

This Improvement Plan has been produced following the production of a previous management plan for Westfield Common. To address the requirements of the pilot scheme from a practical and site-focussed perspective, the plan sets out two objectives:

1. To establish and maintain favourable conservation status of great crested newts at Westfield Common; and,
2. To achieve favourable conservation status of great crested newts in the wider Woking Borough.

Collectively these objectives provide a means to manage Westfield Common in a manner which promotes the development of great crested newt populations whilst also providing a model decision-making tool to assess the impacts of development and identify key areas which will be important to the maintenance of a healthy and robust population of great crested newts across the borough.

If the works can be shown to achieve a positive outcome for great crested newts and the pilot results in establishing a mechanism which can be used in other areas to mitigate for the effects of development on great crested newts at a strategic level, then this approach could be used more widely.

1 Introduction

Westfield Common in Woking has been identified as a site of a pilot scheme for a landscape-wide approach to great crested newt mitigation. The scheme is a joint project between Natural England and Woking Borough Council. It is proposed that, following appropriate enhancement, Westfield Common will be managed, in part, for the benefit of great crested newts, with a focus on increasing the existing population and in the longer term, increasing connectivity with other populations in the wider area. The aim is to ensure that the favourable conservation status of this species is achieved more successfully within the whole borough rather than by imposing 'piecemeal' mitigation strategies at numerous localised sites. If successful, the Council will meet their obligations in respect of great crested newt conservation more successfully and more efficiently than with the currently-accepted means, and the approach could be adopted more widely.

In order to be able to deliver this project Natural England have issued Woking Borough Council with an organisational licence - WML-OR21, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) ('the 2010 Regulations'), and The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ('the 1981 Act'). The licence allows Woking Borough Council to undertake certain works in areas of known population of great crested newts that includes:

- *Surveying and monitoring of GCN in terrestrial and aquatic habitats.*
- *Collecting GCN for seeding or enhancing populations on Compensation Land.*
- *Pond creation, enhancement and management.*
- *Vegetation planting and management.*

(The above activities must only be undertaken in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licence).

1.1 Background to the Project

Great crested newts receive legal protection throughout Europe, and this protection extends to the animals themselves as well as their terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Where development is likely to result in an offence under this legislation, current derogation strategies are largely based on small-scale translocation of newts supported by localised habitat creation or enhancement. Mitigation is largely proportional to the scale of impacts and as such, there is concern that the majority of great crested newt mitigation strategies result in ever-increasing fragmentation of habitats and populations. Fragmentation leads to the degradation of habitats and erosion of populations, and ultimately a failure of the mitigation strategy in the long-term.

A possible solution to this problem is to adopt a landscape-wide approach to great crested newt mitigation and conservation, where resources from numerous development projects are focussed on an area of habitat of a significant size which is spatially separate from the developments.

In theory, this approach offers numerous benefits, as follows:

- *From a conservation perspective, it allows a larger area of land to be used, which in turn should make any population within that area much more robust and successful in the long-term;*
- *Use of larger areas of land for mitigation, as would result from a landscape-wide approach, would provide better protection from development;*
- *Spatially separate mitigation areas are also less likely to be significantly affected by anthropogenic disturbance, as is the case with small-scale mitigation areas which are usually adjacent to new development sites, such as new build housing estates; and*
- *From a developer point of view, the landscape-wide approach also streamlines the mitigation process because the licence can be held by the borough council, negating the need for each development to secure its own derogation licence from Natural England (Woking Borough Council 2016).*

Westfield Common is also proposed by the Council's Draft Site Allocations consultation document for future use as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), to mitigate the impacts of residential development arising for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).

1.2 Scope and Purpose of Improvement Plan

The purpose of the Improvement Plan is to fulfil the requirements of the pilot scheme for the new, landscape-wide approach to great crested newt mitigation in Woking. This document comprises the Improvement Plan, although it is expected to evolve throughout the implementation period.

Woking Borough Council has stipulated that the Improvement Plan requires the following elements:

- *Enhancement and creation of ponds;*
- *Enhancement of habitat connectivity with the wider metapopulation of great crested newts within the borough;*
- *A monitoring strategy to assess great crested newt population sizes and habitat quality at Westfield Common;*
- *Consideration of a monitoring strategy to assess the scale of loss of known 'great crested newt zones' to development and general population trends within the borough.*

In addition to the above elements, which are specifically included to be of benefit to great crested newts, the Improvement Plan has considered the following wider issues relating to Westfield Common:

- *A consideration of the site (or parts of the site) for recreational / public use as part of a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG);*
- *Benefits to other notable flora and fauna which occur or may occur at the Common; and,*
- *Management of invasive plants which are known to occur at the Common.*

The Improvement Plan is designed to add to the current existing Management Plan produced by Surrey Wildlife Trust (Surrey Wildlife Trust, 2014). The 2014 Management Plan identified five features associated with Westfield Common, which are: woodland, pond & ditches, grassland, community and monitoring. This Improvement Plan in effect adds a sixth feature: great crested newts. It is therefore anticipated that there will be some degree of overlap between the existing Management Plan and this Improvement Plan.

The scheme will be promoted within the local community, and this Improvement Plan is required to promote engagement with local non-government organisations as well as with conservation volunteers. The Improvement Plan is therefore designed to be written in a clear, accessible and easily-understood manner.

1.3 Consultation

As part of the process to provide a plan that meets the requirements and the aspirations of the stakeholders a series of meetings and communication has been held with stakeholders, these include the following: - Woking Borough Council, Natural England, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC), Surrey Amphibian Reptile Group (SARG), Local Resident groups, SERCO and British Horse Society.

2 Legal and licensing requirements

2.1 Registered Common

The entire Common is registered (Common Land registration number CL121). The byelaws associated with the common include (this is not an exclusive list):

- *No motor vehicles*
- *No wilful damage to any buildings, structures, plants, trees, site furniture, implements etc*
- *No removal of plants or property*
- *No horse riding except in places indicated by signs or at events organised by the council*
- *No grazing animals without consent of the council*
- *Where specifically sign posted dogs must be kept on leads*

The above points do not comprise the complete list which can be seen on the large Westfield Common signs.

In order to comply with the registered common status, Defra guidance identifies the following:

‘You should first consider whether the works you are proposing would have the effect of preventing or impeding access to or over the common. If they do not then, unless the works are for the resurfacing of land, they fall outside the scope of the restricted works described in section 38 and no consent is needed.’

However, Westfield Common is subject to a scheme under the Commons Act 1899, made by the former Urban District Council of Woking on 9 December 1924, and amended on 3 November 1983 (“the Scheme”).

Paragraph 3 of the 1924 Scheme (the 1983 amendment does not materially affect the Scheme for the purposes of the proposed works) provides under the heading “Protection and improvement of commons”:

“The Council may execute any works of drainage, raising, levelling or fencing, or other works, for the protection and improvement of the commons, and shall preserve the turf, shrubs, trees, plants and grass thereon, and for this purpose may, for short periods, enclose by fences such portions as may require rest to revive the same, and may plant trees and shrubs for shelter or ornament, and may place seats upon and light the common and otherwise improve the commons as places for exercise or recreation; but the Council shall do nothing that may otherwise vary or alter the natural features or aspect of the commons or interfere with free access to every part thereof, and shall not erect upon the commons any shelter, pavilion or other building without the previous consent of the person entitled to the soil of the commons”

Part of the plan is to install lengths of dead hedging for the benefit of great crested newt. This would be considered as being an “improvement” of the Common. On this basis, the Secretary of State’s consent under Section 38 of the 2006 Act would not be required, even if the laying of the dead hedging constituted “restricted works.”

However, it is our understanding that in subsequent years the new ponds could need consent, which will be prepared for the second year of the work programme if required.

2.2 Planning permission

Any new ponds proposed as part of the improvement plan will require planning permission. In such cases a lead in time will be required in order that this can be secured to ensure the works can be delivered at the appropriate time of year.

It has been advised as part of the pond work silt will be required to be spread and not banded. With materials being retained on site it is expected that there will be no net loss of gain of water storage across the common.

None of the other activities proposed under the current iteration of the Improvement Plan require planning permission.

2.3 Felling licence

The Improvement Plan proposes the removal of various trees throughout the Common, for which a felling licence will be required. At the time of writing a felling licence has been obtained from the Forestry Commission (licence number 019/389/16-17), which is valid until 23rd November 2021.

2.4 Contamination

Former land-uses of Westfield Common suggest that much of the area has the potential to contain contaminants within the substrate, due to historic uses of the land. However, contamination is a particular concern in the north of the site associated with pond SW12 and in the south at pond SW2 (refer to Appendix 1 for pond references).

As discussed with the Scientific Officer a discovery strategy “pointer poster” will be required for all contractors to be made aware of the issues.

In terms of works, in light of specific contamination, the removal of silt in pond SW12 will have to be undertaken with care to avoid inadvertently opening up contaminated issues.

3 Ecological Status of Westfield Common

3.1 General

Westfield Common is situated in the borough of Woking, between Mayford and Sutton, and covers an area of 24.16 ha. The majority of the common (21.68 ha) is within Woking Borough Council’s ownership (as shown in Appendix 1), with the remainder owned by several other parties such as the local golf course.

The common contains 18.4ha of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, 3.9ha of semi-improved neutral grassland, 0.6ha of standing water, 40.8m of species-rich hedgerow, 2,285m of ditches, and a total of 13 ponds (referred to as SW1 to SW13) (Surrey Wildlife Trust, 2014).

The common is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI¹). The interest features of the SNCI have been identified as:

- *Woodland, scrub, grassland (cricket pitch) and ponds;*

¹ Local Wildlife Sites or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) as they are known in Surrey are identified on account of the habitats and flora and fauna they support, and are of County or regional wildlife importance.

- *The Nationally Scarce plant species chamomile;*
- *Great crested newt which is present within two of the ponds; and*
- *Species-rich areas of wet woodland, drains and ponds.*

3.2 Current Site Management

The site is actively managed through implementation of priority actions of the 2014 Management Plan by Surrey Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Borough Council. This has involved creating a Friends of Westfield Common group and holding practical volunteer days with residents, as well as managing specialist suppliers where required.

Two years after the production of the Management Plan, some of the prescriptions have already been implemented. These include the creation of wildflower grassland, the development of a coppice area around Pond SW11, and the creation of a number of habitat piles and dead hedges made from wood and brash. These works will already have had a benefit to great crested newts on site.

In the wider areas of the common SERCO are employed to carry out the maintenance works which includes maintaining the amenity grassland areas and the removal of rubbish.

3.3 Great Crested Newts

3.3.1 Historical Information

Records indicate that great crested newts were found in the local area from at least 1995 (Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre 2013). The 1995 data indicate that there were at least two records recorded by the Woking Pond Survey within the local area of Westfield Common. One of the records was from Moor Lane Pond, which is located within Westfield Common itself and recorded in pond SW8.

A survey conducted in 2013 of Westfield Common, to establish a baseline for the Management Plan, recorded a small population (<10 individuals) present on site. The great crested newts were recorded from two ponds in the north of Westfield Common; these being SW11 (max. count of 4 GCN) and SW12 (max. count 1). Both ponds were confirmed as breeding ponds. SW11 and SW12 are located within 50m of each other and this would suggest that the great crested newts are part of the same metapopulation.

In 2015 Natural England collated survey information provided by the Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group and Surrey Wildlife Trust to establish the great crested newt population size in the Borough. In addition, eDNA surveys (which indicate the presence or absence of great crested newts) were also undertaken of fifty ponds across the borough of Woking, including those within Westfield Common. The results of this survey data confirmed that great crested newts were still present within SW11 and SW12 in the north of Westfield Common, as well as confirming their presence in a further two ponds (SW1 and SW2) in the south of Westfield Common. Due to the distance between the SW11 / SW12 records and the SW1 / SW2

records, the data suggest the presence of potentially two GCN metapopulations within Westfield Common.

Further records of great crested newt have been collected by the Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) in 2016. These surveys further clarified the presence of the newts on Westfield Common and confirmed an additional pond SW11a in Bonsey Wood. Their survey also picked up a pond to west of Westfield Common on the golf course, which may be a part of the southern metapopulation.

All the known records of great crested newt are plotted on a map (Appendix 2).

3.3.2 Site Management

The ponds on site have received little or no maintenance, resulting in many becoming heavily shaded and silted up. Due to the levels of shading there is typically very little marginal vegetation. These factors reduce the suitability of the ponds for breeding great crested newt.

Other negative factors include the presence of fly-tipping / litter (SW11a and SW12 – Photo 1, Appendix 3) and the presence of invasive non-native species most notably parrot's-feather in SW1 (Photo 2) and New Zealand pigmy-weed in SW10 (Photo 3). Only SW11 (Photo 4) has received any recent management, which has been in the form of willow coppicing along the banks. This was undertaken by the local volunteer group.

Due to the current condition of the ponds at Westfield Common and the resulting lack of breeding habitat, great crested newts are at risk of becoming extinct at the site. Conversely the terrestrial habitat, mostly in the form of broadleaved woodland, provides plenty of opportunity for great crested newts to forage. However, the woodland would benefit from the presence of more dead wood on the woodland floor. There has been some notable positive management in recent years by the local volunteer group in the creation of dead hedging around SW11 (Photo 5).

The existing Management Plan identifies a number of opportunities for pond restoration and the creation of new ponds. The prescriptions as identified in the 2014 Management Plan were designed to benefit amphibians and other broad species groups in general and therefore not specifically for great crested newts. Notwithstanding this, many of the prescriptions are of benefit to great crested newts and have been included within this Improvement Plan. Where this has been done, they have been complemented by additional prescriptions specifically for great crested newts and based on more up to date survey data, consultation and a better understanding of the site following two years of management (see Section 2.2).

In addition to the above a site walkover with a Natural England amphibian specialist on 25th October 2016 confirmed that the site has significant opportunity for improving the conservation status of great crested newts through clearance (to reduce shading), de-silting existing ponds (such as SW2 (Photo 6) and SW8

(Photo 7)), the creation of additional ponds (to achieve a minimum of one pond every 250m) and the creation of suitable habitat corridors across the common.

Further photos of ponds onsite are shown in photos 8 to 10 (Appendix 3).

3.4 Other Ecological Features

In 2013, Woking Borough Council began work with the Surrey Greenspace Project and Westfield Common Residents Association (WCRA) to ensure that the ecological components of Westfield Common are well-managed.

The Council commissioned Surrey Wildlife Trust to carry out surveys on Westfield Common and produce a detailed habitat management plan covering Westfield Common SNCI and a proposed SANG.

The broad findings of these surveys are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of ecology surveys undertaken to inform management plan for Westfield Common

Survey Type	Purpose	Timing	Summary of Findings
Botanical	Determine overall condition of site. Determine presence of invasive plant species.	April – June 2013	Eight semi-natural and four mosaic habitats detected. Three notably rare plants found. Eight Schedule 9 invasive plant species recorded.
Breeding birds	Identify bird species present at the site and map territories.	May – July 2013	30 species recorded, of which 21 are assumed to breed at the Common.
Bat survey	Identify bat species present and use as a basis for management recommendations.	June – September 2013	At least six species of bat present, although no confirmed roosts.
Dormouse (nut search) survey	Determine presence or absence of hazel dormouse at the Common.	September 2013	Inconclusive although no evidence of the presence of dormouse.

4 Local Community Engagement

The Management Plan produced in 2014 was presented to local residents and interested parties during a public consultation on 20th November 2013, feedback from which then informed the final Management Plan.

The public consultation identified the following as key priorities for Westfield Common:

- *Management of invasive species;*
- *Restoration of the ponds;*

- *Dealing with litter clearance;*
- *Opening up rides and glades; and*
- *Creation and enhancement of ecological green corridors.*

These priorities are all compatible with the management of the site for great crested newt. Other key points which are in keeping with a focus for great crested newt included the restoration of ponds particularly the one behind St Marks church (SW11) and the retention of some areas of long grass. In addition to these specific requirements residents also identified that any management of the site should be undertaken in a gentle and a gradual approach.

Further consultation was held specifically in relation to this plan on 5th December 2016. In broad terms residents were in favour of the restoration work, in particular with the restoration of existing ponds and new ponds to be positioned in known hollows, which are sites of potentially previously known to be waterbodies. Concerns were raised regarding the Common becoming a SANG, the legal position of the registered common, allowing strips of amenity grassland to be cut once annually, the location of some of proposed new ponds and the need for more emphasis on the ditches.

4.1 Accessibility

Recreational use of the common by local residents and by visitors is considered to be important and such use is and will continue to be promoted, for example through the proposed future use of the Common as a SANG.

However recreational usage also has the potential to negatively impact on the ecological aspirations set out in the 2014 Management Plan, and the objectives relating to great crested newts covered by this Improvement Plan. Such negative impacts can be in the form of trampling of sensitive habitats, fly-tipping, damage to floral communities and erosion from vehicular access, and disturbance / damage to habitats cause by dogs (particularly when they enter waterbodies). Therefore managing the works to benefit the Common to support great crested newts will also have to carefully consider how this impacts on access.

Currently it is understood that there is enough SANG provision for the current 5 year housing land supply and therefore no immediate requirement for the use of Westfield Common. However the Common is proposed for future SANG use through the emerging Site Allocations development plan document; for more information see www.woking2027.info/allocations

It should be noted that some parts of the common are excluded from the SANG considerations, for example Bonsey Wood (northern section of the common is excluded). For details see: <http://www.woking2027.info/allocations/allocationsdpdgb17gb23imp.pdf>.

The above document identifies a number of specific constraints to the Common becoming a SANG that include ensuring an adequate level of parking provision and accessibility, clear signposting, a circular walk

that starts and finishes at the car park; and unsurfaced paths that are well maintained and accessible; the SNCI designation and issues regarding an increase in dogs and walkers. In order for these issues to be fully addressed a SANG proposal and SANG Management Plan would need to be prepared. It is beyond the scope of the great crested newt Improvement Plan to address all of these constraints but to highlight the fact that they could potentially affect great crested newts if poorly undertaken and dependant on scale of the proposals. However a well sited path with good signage could take pedestrians away from sensitive areas of the Common and therefore provide a potential benefit.

5 Site Attributes

Westfield Common has several attributes which make it suitable for improvement for great crested newts. Firstly, the fact that great crested newts have been recorded at various locations across the Common confirms that the conditions are fundamentally suitable, as well as demonstrating that the population could potentially grow without the need to translocate great crested newts.

Furthermore, although the species is likely to be declining at the Common, the data suggest a clear and easily-corrected reason for this, which is the degradation of suitable breeding habitat throughout the site. While the degradation of waterbodies obviously impacts on the breeding suitability of each pond in itself, the loss of ponds through degradation also leads to effective fragmentation and the isolation of populations as newts typically only disperse up to 250m from breeding sites (Langton *et al.* 2001).

The terrestrial habitat throughout the Common is generally very good for great crested newts and with only minor improvements could be regarded as optimal. The clear requirements to improve the habitat suitability throughout the Common therefore make it an ideal site in which to encourage a larger population to flourish.

Finally, the presence of local volunteer groups who are keen to improve the overall ecology of the site and its level of use by great crested newts is also an invaluable tool by which the objectives of the management and improvement plans can be achieved.

6 Objective for Great Crested Newts

6.1 Objective 1

Based on the previous sections and the attributes of this plan the following objective has been set out to address the favourable conservation status of great crested newts on Westfield Common:

The favourable conservation status of great crested newts at Westfield Common will be achieved by establishing over the course of 25 years a large population of great crested newts across Westfield Common, forming a single metapopulation, which can act as a source for ponds in the wider landscape.

This objective is expected to be achieved if the following targets are met – with all capital works completed in the first five years of the plan commencing:

- *There will be a minimum of one pond every 250m across the Common;*
- *There will be at least two pond clusters, consisting of a minimum of three ponds each (a cluster is considered to be ponds no further than 150m apart). These are to be located in the north the and the south of the common;*
- *Ponds in each cluster will include at least one pond of 400m², with no ponds smaller than 200m²;*
- *The shoreline shade of each pond will be between 0 to 60%;*
- *Ponds to have a minimum depth of 0.5m between March and June;*
- *Each pond to have a minimum of 40% macrophyte cover (to include emergent, floating and submerged native plant species);*
- *Each pond to support a rich composition of native aquatic invertebrates including groups such as mayfly larvae and water shrimp;*
- *Pond clusters to be connected by a defined series of corridor habitat which will be a mix of dead hedging and ditches (excludes gaps created by roads) ensuring public access is not inhibited but enhanced;*
- *Dead wood in form of large timber (i.e. 2m long by 15cm wide) to be located every 20m around the perimeter of each pond. These will be in the form of hibernacula or scattered timber;*
- *Invasive non-native species to be removed from 90% of the ponds; and*
- *All ponds to be free of litter / fly-tipping and other non-natural debris.*

In achieving the above targets, there will also be benefits to the other features identified within the 2014 Management Plan, including woodland, pond & ditches, grassland, community and monitoring. In turn this will also benefit reptiles, bats, floral communities and the perception within the local community.

Perhaps the only feature that potentially may not directly benefit is hazel dormouse. However, there are no current records for this species on the Common. Also these targets exclude the management or the creation of standing deadwood.

6.2 Objective 2

Objective 2 is defined as follows:

To achieve a favourable conservation status for great crested newts in the wider Woking borough, which would be measured according to four separate parameters: range, population, habitat for the species and future prospects.

Unlike Westfield Common where the baseline data is fairly well established, the wider context requires a different approach to establish how the parameters can be measured in order that an effective model can be developed and used in decision-making.

Natural England have already undertaken a level of modelling for this purpose with an output showing areas of high suitability for GCN and good habitat connectivity across the borough. However, the modelling was based on limited ground intelligence and therefore not robust enough for decision making. The modelling was also based on raster data rather than a grid matrix. Both datasets have advantages and disadvantages, but the overall aim should be to create a decision making model that is robust and simple to apply. It must also be noted that there are other projects ongoing in the UK looking to achieve a similar output.

This objective is expected to be achieved if the following targets are met:

In the first 12 months:

- *Establish a range (which is considered realistic) to assess all the variables against that can be modelled;*
- *Collate the existing layers of data already available including data relating to soils, habitat, ponds and to include other layers such as land ownership ;*
- *Establish a survey methodology to consider the wider issues of habitat suitability, to be used to ground truth the local area – this is to link in with previous data collected in 2015 and the data and ongoing survey work being conducted by SARG;*
- *Compile and explore the current data relating to core habitat connectivity between Westfield Common and the wider landscape;*
- *Based on these initial findings establish areas that can provide ‘net contributions’ to the existing areas which support great crested newts;*
- *Establish a measure of suitable great crested newt habitat loss against net contribution in respect to Westfield Common and the wider borough;*
- *Create a risk register to identify the potential issues which may threaten great crested newt populations in the Woking borough; and*
- *Consider wider implications of managing new linkages, habitats and ponds (existing ponds) within a legal and funded framework.*

In the subsequent 24 months:

- *Taking the findings from the above establish a model/map showing the full potential range of the great crested newts within the whole Woking borough;*

- *Continue to refine the layers of data through ground truthing; and*
- *Identify all key net contribution areas across the borough that can be used to offset the loss of any great crested newt habitat to development.*

6.3 Factors Affecting Improvements

The following factors may hinder the achievement of the above objectives if not managed, these factors are to be incorporated into a risk register:

- *Chytridiomycosis – this is a fungal disease which affects amphibians and can lead to the decimation of populations;*
- *Disruption caused by dogs – dogs can damage terrestrial and aquatic habitats, particularly when they have just been created / enhanced and are therefore at their most vulnerable;*
- *Invasive plant species – invasive plants can quickly take over terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Aquatic species would be of particular concern and could directly result in the loss of egg-laying habitat in afflicted ponds;*
- *Vandalism and other anthropogenic disturbance – fly-tipping and other forms of anthropogenic disturbance are known to have affected the ecological condition of the site previously;*
- *Registered common and planning permissions – works will need to comply with the relevant legislation. This could lead to delays in works being delivered, or constrain the scope of such works;*
- *Land ownership – this may be a limiting factor in achieving habitat connectivity across the borough; and,*
- *Changes to or degradation of ponds under private ownership - in particular where they form a critical part of a meta-population.*

The above points are to be taken into consideration in relation to the prescriptions and work plan set out in this document.

7 Prescriptions

In order that the objectives can be achieved a series of prescriptions have been prepared. These have been written in order of priority starting with works in Year 1. All of the prescriptions in Year 1 are shown on the plan in Appendix 4. Prescriptions for later years are set out in Appendix 5 and broken down into years within the work programme (see section 8).

The prescriptions for Year 1 also have a bias towards the northern and southern sections of Westfield Common. This is due to the confidence that great crested newts are still present and breeding in these areas. The northern work will also support the current conservation works.

In terms of separating out the prescriptions the site has been divided into three sections, based on compartments devised by Surrey Wildlife Trust – Appendix 6.

North Westfield Common (Bonsey Wood): Compartment B

Central Westfield Common: Compartments C to J. This includes all the areas of amenity grassland associated with Westfield Common.

South Westfield Common: Compartments K to N

7.1 Prescriptions Year 1

7.1.1 North Westfield Common

NWC1 Open up and desilt pond SW11a. Open up scrub to the north of pond SW11a, by approximately 5 to 10m, located within Bonsey Wood. Desilt pond to a depth of 0.5m spreading silt and leaf litter to the north. Use arising to create an area of dead hedging to connect up to pond SW11. Clear any rubbish that has been dumped in the pond in the past.

NWC2 Coppice/pollard/ley of willow trees around Pond SW11. Promote the a pond with over 80% edges free from shading. Use brash to create dead hedges and control access to the pond. Use larger woody material to create suitable as refugia for great crested newts. Remove oaks to the east of the pond to reduce excessive drying and promote the wet woodland, whilst providing dead wood material.

NWC3 Remove and treat the ring of willow and remove leaf litter at Pond SW12. Remove the ring of willow around the edge of the pond. Any leaf litter to be deposited on the western side of the pond. Due to the concerns over contamination material to be removed by hand.

7.1.2 South Westfield Common

Ponds SW7 and SW8 are connected, information provided has indicated that these ponds support fish (sticklebacks) due to their connectivity with the surrounding ditch network and therefore not considered appropriate to support great crested newt breeding opportunities. Works are aimed at opening up the waterbodies and providing material to promote the surrounding terrestrial habitat.

SWC1 Thin holly and fell oak/willow around Pond SW8.

SWC2 Remove willows along the eastern edge of pond SW7.

SWC3 Coppicing and treatment of willow trees and removal of oaks and desilting at Pond SW2. Desilt the southern half of the pond to maintain depths of 0.5m to 1m during spring and summer. This is required to reduce shading, increase water volume and prevent excessive drying. Silt to be deposited along the western bank and covered in brash. Remove all the willow in and along the western edge. Remove oak trees as necessary to create a glade – timber to be set aside for future projects onsite.

SWC4 Desilt pond SW3, remove willow scrub and selected oaks. SW4 consists of a pond made of many hollows. Desilt the pond to a depth of between 0.5 and 1m to create a split pond providing additional edge habitat (in effect two ponds close to each other). Remove willow scrub and oaks as required to reduce excessive shading and to add to the corridor of dead hedging and habitat piles.

SWC5 Desilt pond SW4. Desilt the pond with depth of water of between 0.5 and 1m during the spring and summer months. Remove scrub and trees as required to reduce the impact from shading to less than 40% of the pond edge. Use woody material to create habitat piles.

SWC6 Dead hedge and glade creation. Create an interconnecting feature made up of brash linking the three ponds SW2, SW3 and SW4. Where possible divide areas of holly to increase areas of bare ground to allow for other plants to colonise.

7.1.3 Across Westfield Common

AWC1 Obtain a felling licence. In order for trees to be felled across the common a felling licence will need to be in place.

AWC2 Planning application. Obtain planning consent to undertake works to construct the new ponds across the common. In addition Section 38 consent may be required to undertake the works on a registered common.

AWC3 Trial holes to test for potential contaminates. Due to the area having the potential for contamination trial holes to be dug to investigate for any issues in preparation for future pond work.

AWC4 Access and signage. Throughout the delivery of the works appropriate signage interpreting the works being undertaken will be displayed for the general public.

7.1.4 Monitoring of Great Crested Newts

Monitoring efforts to be combined with Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG). The effort of the survey is to determine pond occupancy and breeding activity across Westfield Common and the wider borough. Some of the data for the ponds in the wider borough is to be provided by SARG.

MWC1 HSI assessments of all waterbodies within the Common and the wider borough. To assess the baseline of the ponds from previous HSI surveys. These should indicate a change due to practical works being undertaken or degradation due to works still to be undertaken. A target score of 0.7 is considered to be the benchmark.

MWC2 Great crested newt breeding and occupied pond. Only torch and egg searches to be undertaken to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species/diseases and due to the public nature of ponds. Two torch light visits to be undertaken to detect presence. Egg strips to be used to aid in obtaining evidence of breeding. Records of any counts will also be made.

MWC3 Establish the key variables. In order to establish the wider connectivity of the borough key variables are to be considered and a model produced to show how existing levels of data can be used to inform decision making to provide a means for future net contributions. In year 1 set the range to be considered at an achievable level.

MWC4 Habitat monitoring methodology. Establish a monitoring approach for terrestrial habitat that can be used to ground truth the area in around Westfield Common for data to be used to inform the modelling process.

MWC5 Risk Register. Create a register to consider all the factors that could have an adverse impact and establish control measures to order to reduce the level of risks.

MWC6 Landscape model and decision making tool. Create the first model based on the initial area surveyed to create a decision making tool to identify areas of net contribution.

7.1.5 Monitoring Crested Newt Zones

MGZ1 Great crested newt zones. Establish a mechanism to assess the level of newt habitat lost in respect to development to amount of required as a result of that loss to deliver net contribution.

MGZ2 Legal and future funding framework. Devise a means to deliver the net contributions in particular when they outside of the Woking Borough Councils land ownership.

MGZ3 Liaison with other landowners. Communication with other landowners to participate in the scheme to promote great crested newts across the Woking Borough.

7.1.6 Year End Review

Completion report Year 1. To be completed to identify all the capital works completed and tabulate the survey results of Year 1. Information to be used to inform year two of the Improvement Plan and to set year two's capital works programme.

7.2 Prescriptions Years 2 to 5

For each new year of the Management Plan the programme of works will be reviewed and a detailed work schedule for that year produced accommodating the views of the stakeholders. This should be completed by September of each year of the works programme.

7.2.1 North Westfield Common

On completion of the first five year of work a series of ponds will have been created within the woodland adding to the wet woodland features already present. In addition it will create a glade crossing from east to west. Removal of trees will also reduce the drying out of the waterbodies. Long-term the management will be such that coppice compartments can be managed by the local resident groups.

NWC4 Create a new pond. Create a pond with an approximate diameter of 20m across to a depth of 1m. Remove willow scrub and allow some of the willow to be pollarded. Plant with appropriate marginal plant species.

NWC5 Extend the dead hedge corridor. Continuing dead hedging to Westfield road. Dead hedging to include holly by breaking up solid blocks of holly to encourage other woodland flora and reduce sites which can attract anti-social behaviour.

NWC6 Coppice around Pond SW11 and newly create pond. Continue with the willow coppice compartments and extend out to the newly created pond to east.

7.2.2 Central Westfield Common

Two additional new ponds are proposed for the central section of the common, which were previously identified in the 2014 Management Plan. These ponds are to be positioned in already existing natural hollows where there is local evidence to suggest that these were the location of known waterbodies. These new ponds will create a new linkage up the eastern side of common to be interconnected with corridor features to include the ditch network and dead hedging.

CWC1 Create a new pond within at the end of the narrow dog-leg woodland north of Moor Lane. There is a natural hollow which is close to the ditch network running along the eastern boundary of the common. Pond will require the clearance of trees and rubbish. Pond to be dug down to a depth of one 1m and to a diameter of approximately 15m. Plant with appropriate marginal plant species. Trees and scrub to be removed from the perimeter of the pond and used to create habitat piles.

CWC2 Create a new pond to be created within a natural hollow of the woodland to the north of Balfour. There is a natural hollow within the woodland. Pond will require the clearance of trees and rubbish. Pond to be dug down to a depth of one 1m and to a diameter of approximately 15m. Plant with appropriate marginal plant species. Trees and scrub to be removed from the perimeter of the pond and used to create habitat piles.

CWC3 Open up ditch and create habitat piles. Create scalloped edges along the ditch network to remove woody vegetation. Scallops to be approximately 10m along the ditch and 5m back. Works should concentrate on removing/breaking up areas of dense holly. Woody material to be used to create habitat piles.

CWC4 Remove willow scrub and desilt pond SW9. SW9 sits outside of the Borough Council ownership and will require consultation with the neighbouring landowner (understood to be the local golf course). Works will require the removal of the willow with the stumps treated and stacked as a dead hedge to the west on top of any silt removed. To maintain a depth of between 0.5 and 1m during the spring and summer months.

7.2.3 South Westfield Common

Ponds are to be created providing the link in terms of future breeding habitat between the central and southern sections of the common. To the south of the common is a set of ponds that will be brought back into more permanence by the removal of trees and scrub and desilted and linked with a dead hedge.

SWC3 Desilt the second half of SWC2. Desilt the northern half of the pond removing silt to the western bank and covering brash. Remove further oaks as required.

SWC5 Widen pond SW4. Widen pond to 8 to 10m in diameter.

SWC6 Dead hedge and glade creation. Continue with the creation of an interconnecting feature made up of brash linking the three ponds SW2, SW3 and SW4. Where possible divide areas of holly to increase areas of bare ground to allow for other plants to colonise.

SWC7 Create a new pond with natural hollow in-line with the south of Rose Bank Cottages. A woodland pond to be created to the south of pond SW8. Remove scrub and trees surrounding the pond to create an opening between the woody vegetation and the pond edge of between 5 and 10m. Pond to be approximately 15m in diameter to a depth of 1m. Plant with appropriate marginal plant species. Use woody arisings to create habitat piles.

SWC8 Create a new pond located near to Beech Rose Cottage. Remove scrub and trees surrounding the pond to create an opening between the woody vegetation and the pond edge of between 5 and 10m. Pond to be approximately 15m in diameter to a depth of 0.5 to 1m during spring and summer months. Plant with appropriate marginal plant species. Use woody arisings to create habitat piles.

SWC9 Create a new pond between SWC7 and SWC8. Remove scrub and trees surrounding the pond to create an opening between the woody vegetation and the pond edge of between 5 and 10m. Pond to be approximately 15m in diameter to a depth of 0.5 to 1m during spring and summer months. Plant with appropriate marginal plant species. Use woody arisings to create habitat piles.

SWC10 Widen pond SW4a and remove surrounding vegetation. Widen pond to 8 to 10m in diameter. Remove scrub and trees surrounding the pond to the east and north to create an opening between the woody vegetation and the pond edge of between 5 and 10m. Use woody arisings to create habitat piles.

7.2.4 Across Westfield Common

AWC4 Utilise oak onsite for access furniture and wildlife features. Use the oak felled onsite to provide additional benefits to other wildlife on site and for access. The oak can be milled to create materials for the construction of benches, way markers, bat boxes etc.

7.2.5 Monitoring of Great Crested Newts at Westfield Common

MWC1 HSI assessments of all waterbodies within the Common and the wider borough. Maintain prescription from year one.

MWC2 Great crested newt breeding and occupied pond. Maintain prescription from year one

MWC4 Habitat monitoring methodology. Continue to ground truth existing habitat features.

MWC5 Risk register. Review and update the risk register.

MWC6 Landscape model and decision making tool. Establish for the whole Woking Borough.

7.2.6 Monitoring Crested Newt Zones

MGZ1 Great crested newt zones. Maintain prescription from year one.

MGZ2 Legal and future funding framework. Maintain prescription from year one.

MGZ3 Liaison with other landowners. Maintain prescription from year one

MGZ4 Seeding of great crested newt eggs in adjacent ponds. Dependant on the outcomes of the first year's surveys great crested newt eggs to be collected and moved to adjoining ponds within nearby pond cluster. Care will be required in order not to spread invasive species or disease.

7.3 Years 6 to 25

The main focus of this plan has been to achieve the prioritise for improving the site for great crested newts within the first five years (2016-2021). With this in mind the focus has been on improving the breeding habitat for great crested newts and connectivity in order that the objective can be met. On completion of the first five year maintenance is likely to be an increasing factor in order to maintain the features created. There will however be further opportunities, a list of which is provided below:

- *Removal of trees and creation of habitat piles around SW10. This pond was kept separate to the plan due to the presence of New Zealand Pigmy-weed.*
- *Expanding works to connect up smaller waterbodies that include SW5 and SW6 within the central part of the Common and SW13 to the north and SW1 to the south. SW1 has Parrots Feather present and again kept separate for the first five years of the plan.*
- *Improve connectivity within dead hedging to connect up the central and southern parts of the Common.*
- *Incorporating the wider ponds around the Common as part of the ongoing analysis of the wider metapopulations and assess the development of the great crested newt zones within the Borough.*

- *Many areas of the woodland are under managed leaving even stands of woodland with a poor structure. Over time management could lead to a more diverse structured woodland that would benefit a wide range of wildlife on site.*
- *Add areas of uncut grass to the amenity areas to add structural diversity and expand potential new areas of foraging habitat for great crested newts.*
- *Amphibian tunnels maybe a requirement as populations build.*

8 First Year Work Programme

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
NWC1 Open up and desilt pond SW11a	Remove scrub to depth between 5 and 10m to the north of the water body. Use arisings to construct a dead hedge (over bramble where possible) towards pond SW11.	Chainsaw, miniskid steer (photo 11)	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Desilt the pond to by approx. 0.5m and place all sediment on the northern edge (avoid creating bunds).	7.5 tonne digger on rubber tracks	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Dispose of any rubbish collected from the pond. Inform landowners that back onto the pond of the works.	Rubbish bags, collection service	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS, SERCO and WBC
NWC2 Coppice/pollard/ley of willow trees around Pond SW11	Coppice a compartment of willow as part of the ongoing rotation of works around pond SW11. Stack brash in dead hedges.	Hand-tools	December – February 2017	SWT
	Mark up willows to be pollarded (approx. 20) and willows to be leyd (approx. 10).	Tape/paint	December – January 2017	SWT
	Pollard approx. 20 willows. Most of the brash to be stacked in a dead hedge to the south of SW11 (dead hedge where possible to be stacked on bramble). Pollard to a height of approx. 1.5m. Any timber of a decent size of 15cm wide by 2m to be set to one side in piles around the perimeter of the pond.	Chainsaws	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
	Ley at least 10 willows – these should ideally be used to stack brash against to create discreet habitat piles.	Chainsaws	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Create hibernacula approximately every 20m around the perimeter of the pond. These should be a mix of log piles dug into the ground to a maximum depth of 0.5m (avoiding tree roots) and long piles set on the ground.	Materials set outside by the pollarding works. Hand tools.	January – February 2017	SWT
	Remove any oak trees to ground (approx. 6). Stack brash on the dead hedge. Retain any long lengths of timber for future use onsite.	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
NWC3 Remove and treat the ring of willow and desilting at Pond SW12	Coppice all the willow (apart from two large willows to be pollarded) around the perimeter of SW12 and treat the stumps. Stack all the woody vegetation along the eastern side of the pond on top of the brambles. Chip any excess material. Pollard the two willows to 1.5m high one on east and one on west side of pond.	Chainsaw	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Desilt the pond to by approx. 0.5m and place all sediment on the western bank on top of nettles. Where practical pull banks bank on the western edge to increase the pond size.	7.5 tonne digger on rubber tracks	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
	Note – there is potential that medicine bottles and even a pond liner are present. Works should proceed with caution and even stopped if necessary.			
SWC1 Thin holly, remove/pollard oak, around Pond SW8	Remove three semi mature oaks on the south edge of the pond. All brash to be stacked as a dead hedge on top of bramble. Lengths of oak to be set to one side to provide timber for future projects onsite. Thin and break up clumps of holly.	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
SWC2 Remove willows allow the eastern edge of pond SW7	Remove 3 to 4 crack willow along the eastern edge of pond SW7. Brash to be stacked on the dead hedge.	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
SWC3 Coppicing and treatment of willow trees and removal of oaks and desilting at Pond SW2.	Fell and treat willow stumps along the western edge of the pond and any overhanging willows. Brash to be stacked in a dead hedge along the southern boundary going west towards SW3. Where necessary remove holly to help break up the dominance of holly in the understory (retain species such as hawthorn).	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Fell approx. 20 oak trees (creating an open glade) on the western bank of the pond. Brash to be stacked in the dead hedge. Lengths of timber retained for future projects.	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
	Desilt half the pond to a depth of 0.5m. All silt to be deposited on the western bank – spread out and brash stacked on top.	7.5 tonne digger on rubber tracks	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
SWC4 Desilt pond SW3, remove willow scrub and selected oaks.	Fell selected oaks and willow which overhang or within the current waterbody. Brash to be stacked in a dead hedge to the east.	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Desilt the pond to a depth of 0.5m. Desilt in way to create in effect two ponds one to the south and a second to the north. All silt to be spread and deposited on the eastern and northern bank.	7.5 tonne digger on rubber tracks	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
SWC5 Desilt pond SW4.	Fell scrub along the southern, eastern and north banks and use to create a habitat pile adjacent to the pond on the eastern bank.	Chainsaw	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
	Desilt the pond to a depth of 0.5m. Desilt in way to create in effect two ponds one to the south and a second to the north. All silt to be spread and deposited on the eastern and northern bank.	7.5 tonne digger on rubber tracks	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
SWC6 Dead hedge and glade creation.	Use arisings for works undertaken around ponds SW2 and SW3 and remove holly to help break up the dominance of holly in the understory (retain species such as hawthorn).	Chainsaw, miniskid steer	January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
AWC1 Obtain a felling licence	Obtain a felling licence from the forestry commission in preparation of the felling works.		December 2016	RSK ADAS

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
AWC2 Planning application	Prepare planning documentation for a planning application and if required Commons consent.		April-July 2017	RSK ADAS, WBC
AWC3 Trial holes to test for potential contaminates	Undertake trial holes in the location of the new ponds proposed for construction in year 2 to assess for any contaminants.		January – February 2017	RSK ADAS
AWC4 Access and signage	Appropriate interpretation signage to be erected during onsite works. And to inform residents of the corridor features such as grassland margins. Wording to be confirmed by SWT And WBC		December- January 2017	RSK ADAS, SWT and WBC
MWC1 HSI assessments of all waterbodies within the Common.	Undertake an HSI assessment of the ponds on the common SW1 to SW13. Certain ponds are not under WBC ownership (SW1 and SW9). Confirmation of these ponds will be required from WBC. Works to be undertaken in accordance with SWT volunteers.		March – April 2017	RSK ADAS, SWT and WBC
MWC2 Great crested newt breeding and occupied pond.	Population class estimates will be undertaken using eight separate visits using torch light surveys and egg searches only. Bottle trapping and netting not used for bio-security and due to public access to the ponds.	Suitable torch, recording forms.	Mid-March – mid June 2017	RSK ADAS and SWT
MWC3 Establish the key variables.	Working with stakeholder groups to define the range of key variables.		April – October 2017	RSK ADAS, WBC, NE, ARC and SARG

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
MWC4 Habitat monitoring methodology	Create a robust methodology for assessing the terrestrial habitat.		March 2017	RSK ADAS
MWC5 Risk Register.	Create a risk register for Westfield Common and the wider borough. This will be produced in a tabulated format.		April – October 2017	RSK ADAS
MWC6 Landscape model and decision making tool	Works to bring the variables and ground truthing data together to produce a first practical and robust model/map that can be used to direct decisions.		April – October 2017	RSK ADAS, WBC, NE, ARC and SARG
MGZ1 Great crested newt zones.	Make an assessment of the borough in relation to GCN to assess the ongoing strategy within Woking Borough. Work with stakeholders to establish the mechanism to assess loss against net contribution.		April – October 2017	RSK ADAS, WBC, NE, ARC and SARG
MGZ2 Legal and future funding framework	Establish the legal framework and consider funding mechanisms to establish the programme of future connectivity work to areas of the common not owned by WBC and beyond the boundaries of Westfield Common		April – October 2017	WBC
MGZ2 Liaison with other landowners of the common.	Parts of the common are not owned by the WBC that include ponds SW1 and SW9. Liaison to be setup to establish potential working relationships for future works to be undertaken.		April – October 2017	WBC

Prescription number	Works required	Materials and equipment	Year 1 Timing	Responsible for implementation
Completion report for Year 1	Undertake a review of Year 1 and present a report to include the findings of all the survey work. This data to be used to update the Improvement Plan and to assess year 2 of the Work Plan.		September 2017	RSK ADAS

9 Year 2 to 5 Work Programme

The following work programme will be reviewed at the end of Year 1 (September 2017), with Year 2 being scheduled as per Year 1 in this plan.

Prescription number	Year of works (2 to 5)			
	2	3	4	5
Capitals works review	x	x	x	x
NWC4 Creation a new pond.	x			
NWC5 Extend the dead hedge corridor	x			
NWC6 Coppice around Pond SW11 and newly create pond	x	x	x	x
CWC1 Create a new pond within at the end of the narrow dog-leg woodland north of Moor Lane.		x		
SWC3 Desilt the second half of SWC2	x			
SWC5 Widen pond SW4	x			
SWC6 Dead hedge and glade creation	x			
SWC7 Create a new pond with natural hollow in-line with the south of Rose Bank Cottages		x		
SWC8 Create a new pond located near to Beech Rose Cottage			x	
SWC9 Create a new pond between SWC7 and SWC8.			x	
SWC10 Widen pond SW4a and remove surrounding vegetation	x			

Prescription number	Year of works (2 to 5)			
	2	3	4	5
AWC4 Utilise oak onsite for access furniture and wildlife features	x		x	
MWC1 HSI assessments of all waterbodies within the Common and the wider borough.	x	x	x	x
MWC2 Great crested newt breeding and occupied pond	x	x	x	x
MWC4 Habitat monitoring methodology	x	x	x	x
MWC5 Risk Register	x	x	x	x
MWC6 Landscape model and decision making tool.	x	x	x	x
MGZ1 Great crested newt zones.	x	x	x	x
MGZ2 Legal and future funding framework.	x			
MGZ3 Liaison with other landowners of the common.	x	x	x	x
MGZ4 Seeding of great crested newt eggs in adjacent ponds.		x		x

10 References

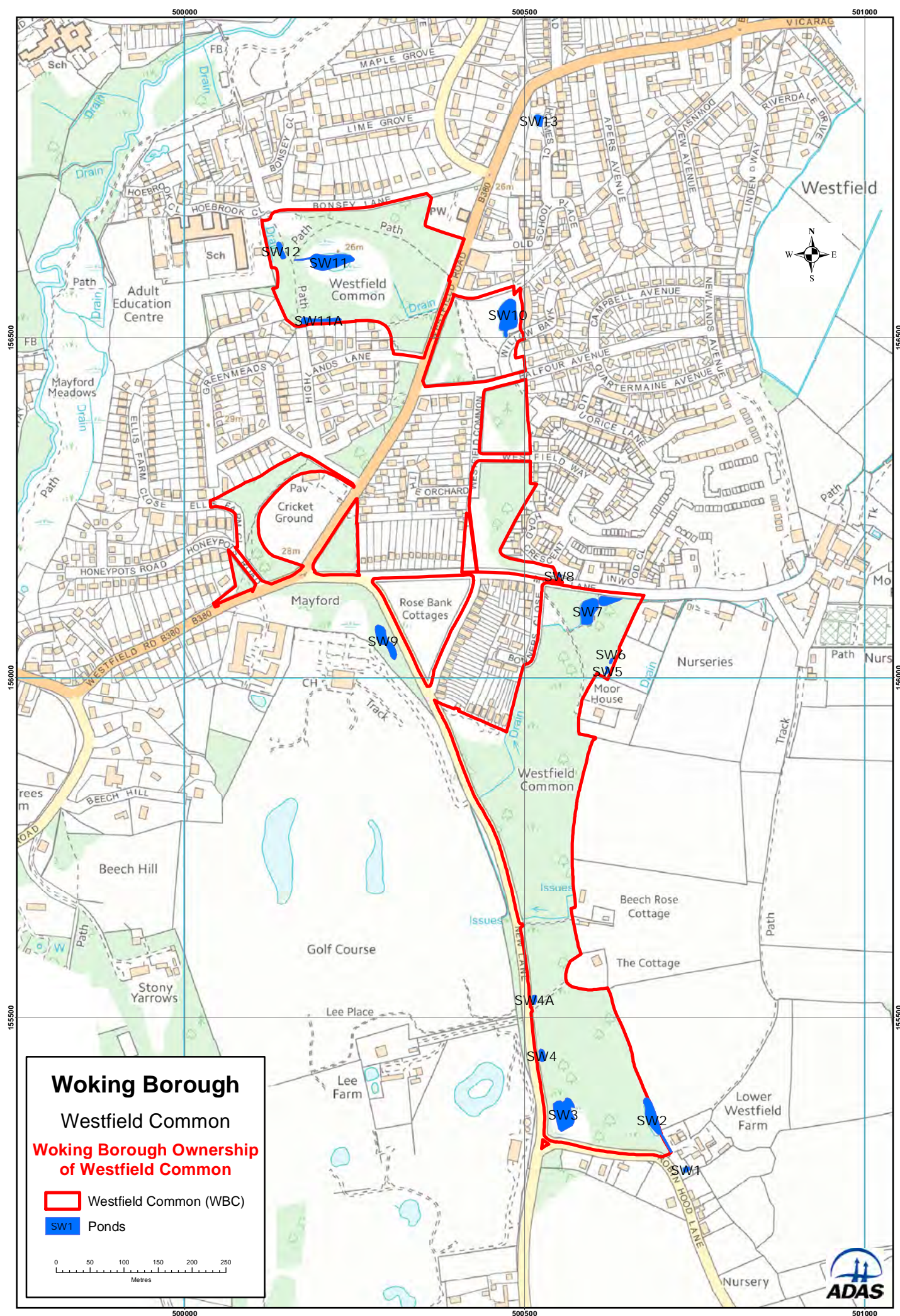
Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P. (2001) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife, Halesworth.

Surrey Wildlife Trust (2014) *Westfield Common Ecological Management Plan*.

Woking Borough Council (2016) Natural Woking Supporting Information – Appendix 10 - *Great Crested Newt*.

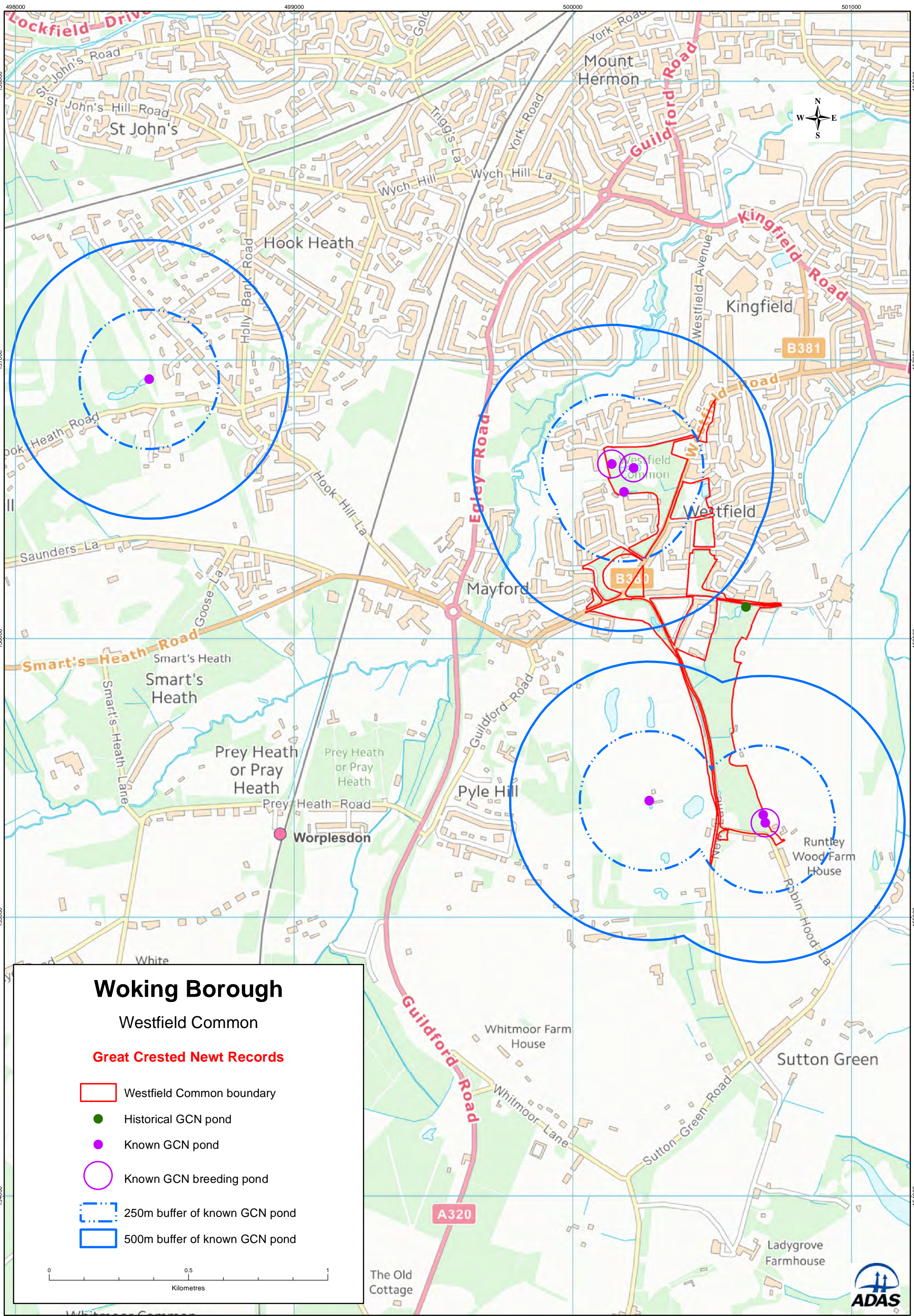
Appendix 1: Woking Borough Council Site Ownership

See following page



Appendix 2: Great Crested Newt Records

See following page

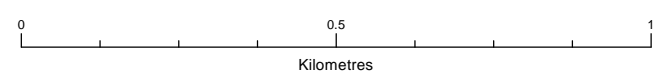


Woking Borough

Westfield Common

Great Crested Newt Records

- Westfield Common boundary
- Historical GCN pond
- Known GCN pond
- Known GCN breeding pond
- 250m buffer of known GCN pond
- 500m buffer of known GCN pond



Appendix 3: Site Photographs



Photograph 1. Pond SW12 to be desilted and perimeter willow to be removed. Known to support a breeding great crested newts in 2013.



Photograph 2. Pond SW1 located outside Borough ownership and cover in the non-native species parrots feather. .



Photograph 3. Pond SW10 which currently supports the invasive plant New Zealand pigmyweed.



Photograph 4. Pond SW11 which is currently being managed through the coppicing of willow compartments.



Photograph 5. Dead hedging work around pond SW11.



Photograph 6. Pond SW2 which was completely dried out in Oct 2016. Pond to be desilted and willow removed.



Photograph 7. Pond SW7 to be desilted.



Photograph 8. Pond SW4 to be desilted and widened.



Photograph 9. Pond SW4a to be desilted and widened.



Photograph 10. Pond SW11a to be desilted and scub removed along northern boundary.

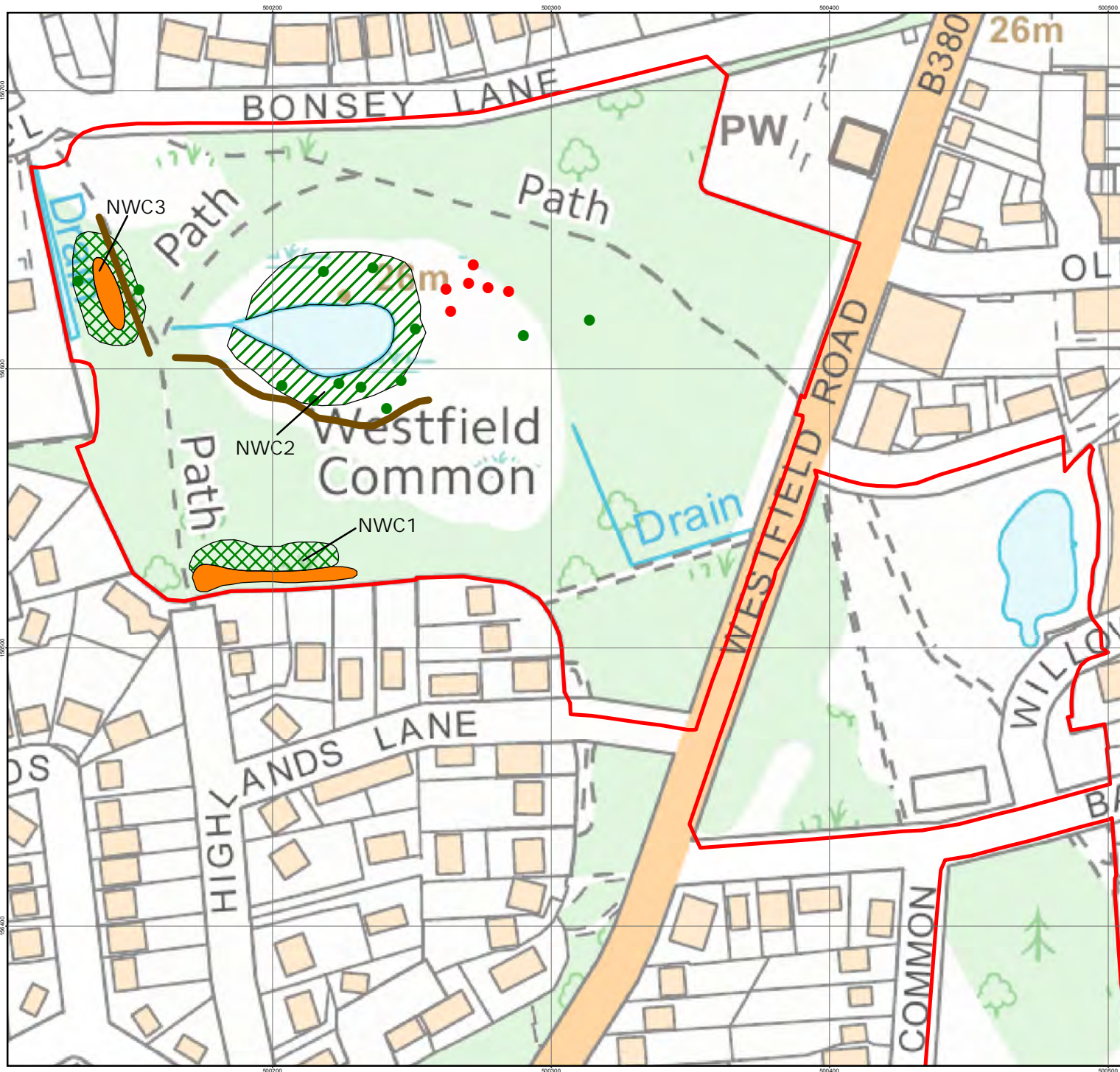


Photograph 11. Miniskid steer

Appendix 4: Year 1 Work Plan

See following page

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Woking Borough

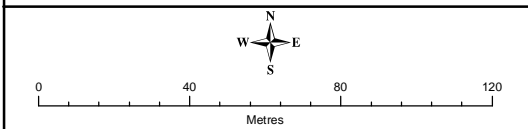
Westfield Common

Works for Year 1 Map 1 of 4

- Westfield Common (WBC)
- Pollard trees
- Tree removal
- Dead hedging
- Desilt pond
- Coppice willow compartments
- Dense scrub to remove
- NWC
CWC
SWC
AWC
- Prescription numbers

Note:
Pollarding and tree removal to be agreed with
Woking Borough Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust

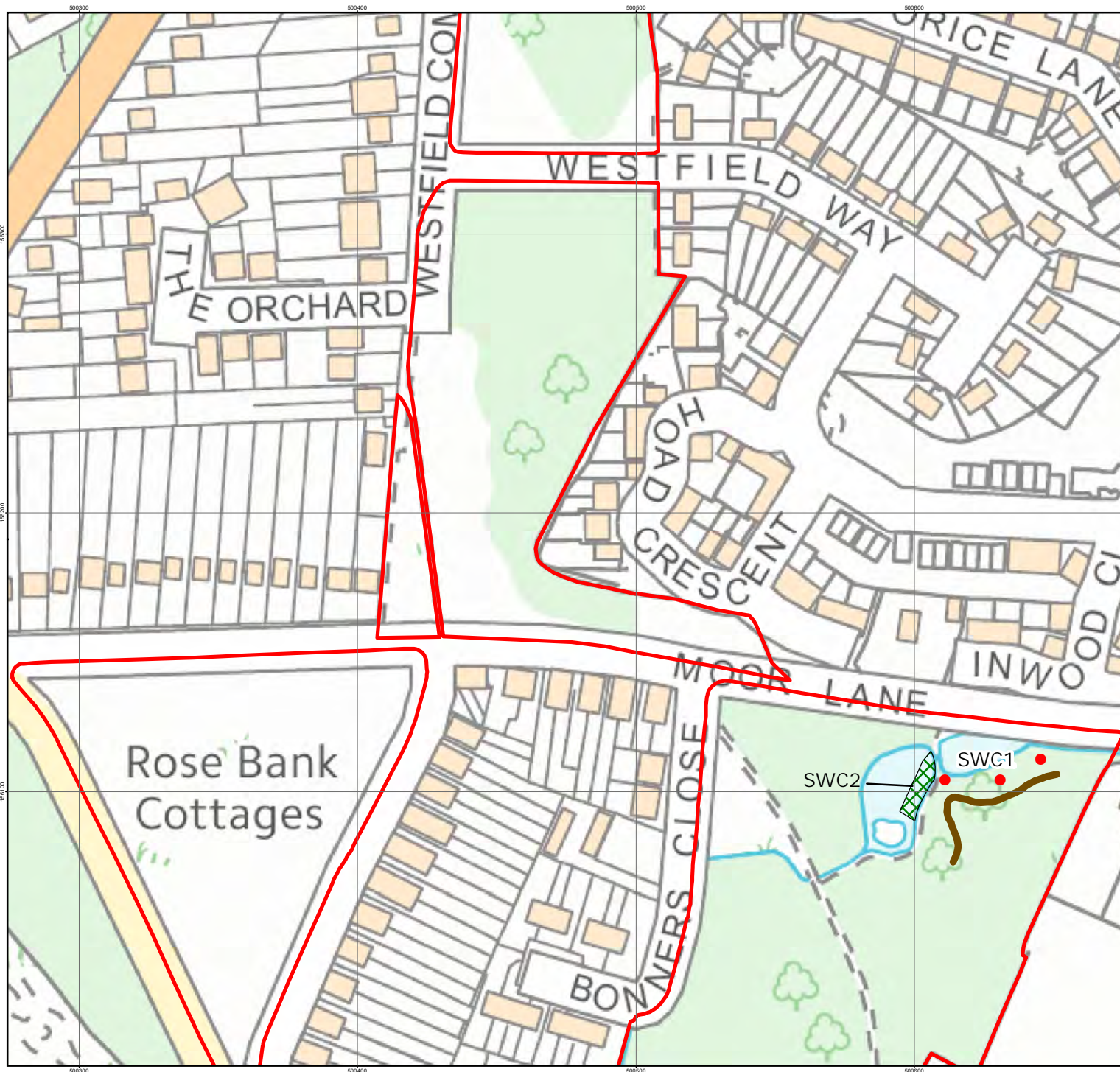
Drawn by Andy Frost 15/12/2016, Verified by James Simpson 15/12/2016



Scale 1:2,000 at A4 size
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Woking Borough

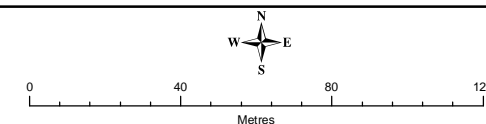
Westfield Common

Works for Year 1 Map 2 of 4

- Westfield Common (WBC)
- Pollard trees
- Tree removal
- Dead hedging
- Desilt pond
- Coppice willow compartments
- Dense scrub to remove
- NWC
CWC
SWC
AWC
- Prescription numbers

Note:
Pollarding and tree removal to be agreed with
Woking Borough Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust

Drawn by Andy Frost 15/12/2016, Verified by James Simpson 15/12/2016



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CEN2167

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Woking Borough

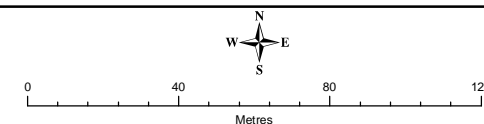
Westfield Common

Works for Year 1 Map 3 of 4

- Westfield Common (WBC)
- Pollard trees
- Tree removal
- Dead hedging
- Desilt pond
- Coppice willow compartments
- Dense scrub to remove
- NWC
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Note:
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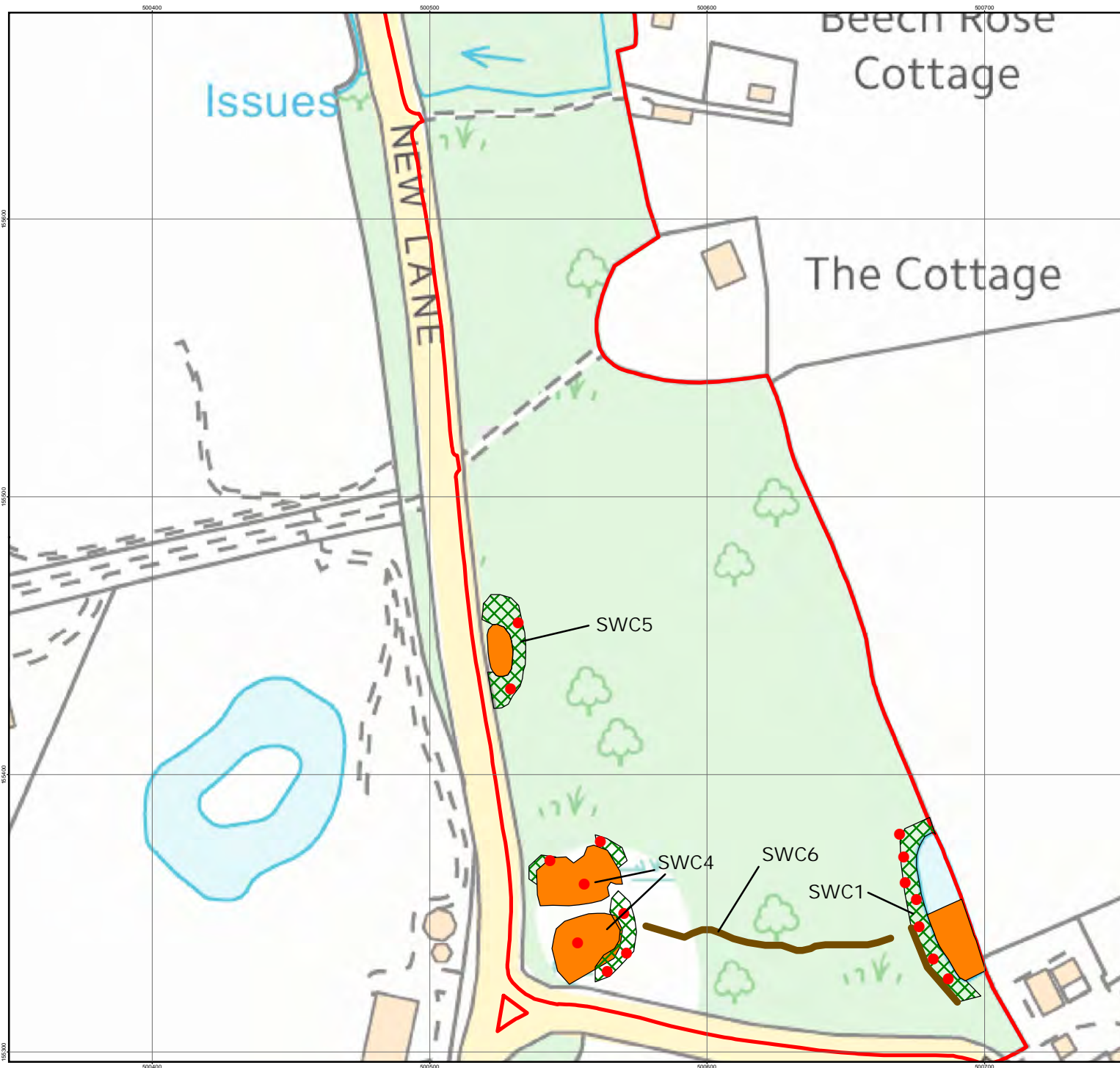


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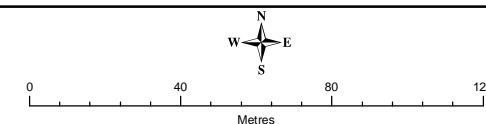
Westfield Common

Works for Year 1 Map 4 of 4

- Westfield Common (WBC)
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Appendix 5: Work Plan Years 2 to 5








See following page



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Westfield Common

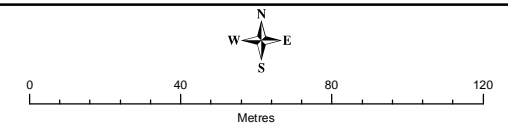
Works for Year 2 to 5 Map 1 of 4

-  Westfield Common (WBC)
-  Create new pond
-  Desilt pond
-  Extend pond
-  Coppice willow compartments
-  Dense scrub to remove
-  Dead hedging
-  Amenity grass margins to manage
-  Tree removal
- NWC
CWC
SWC
AWC

 Prescription numbers

Note:
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Woking Borough Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust

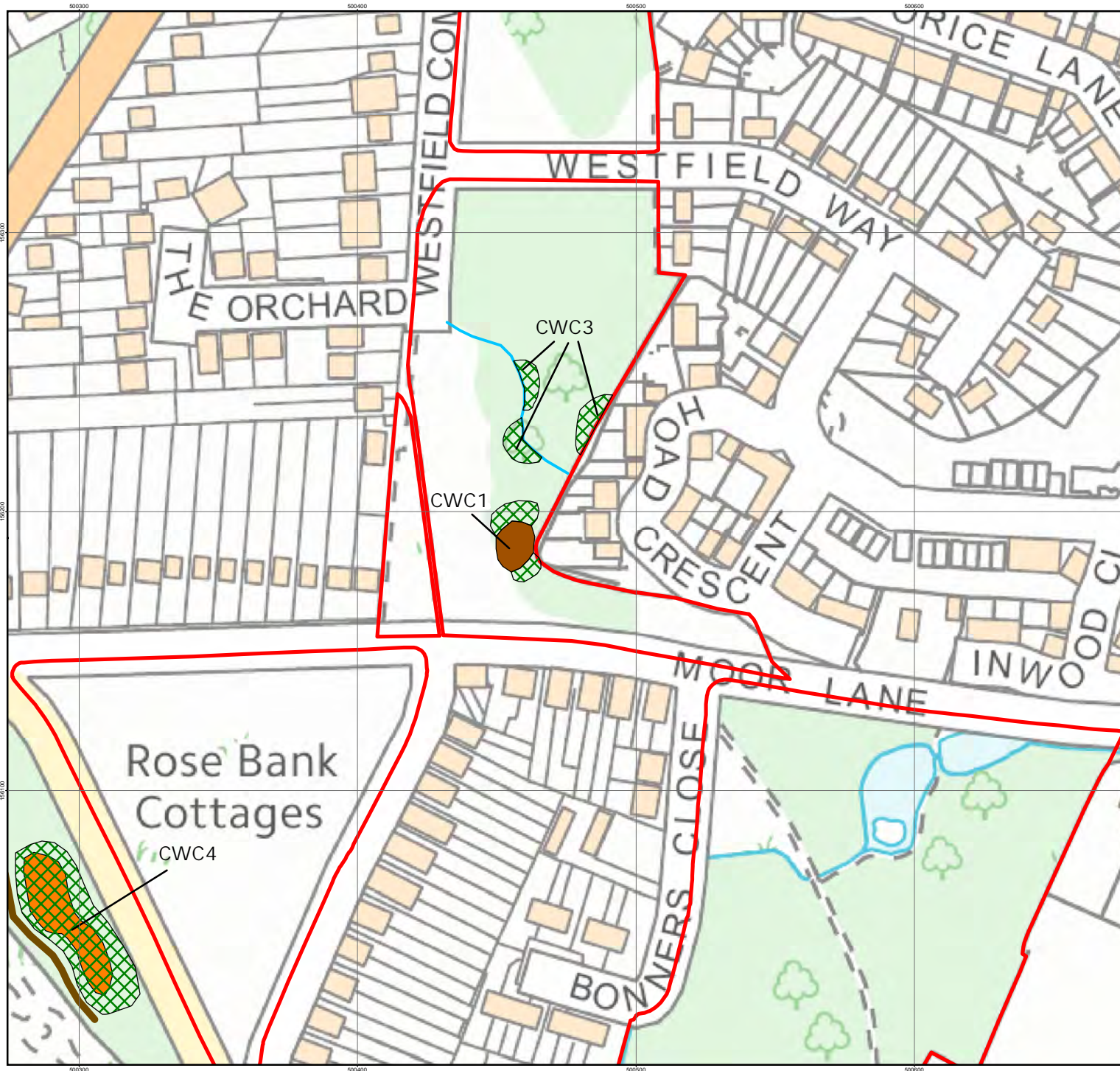
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Woking Borough

Westfield Common

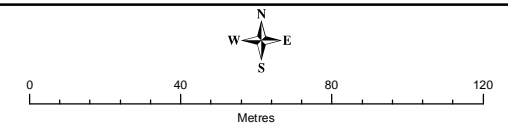
Works for Year 2 to 5 Map 2 of 4

- Westfield Common (WBC)
- Create new pond
- Desilt pond
- Extend pond
- Coppice willow compartments
- Dense scrub to remove
- Dead hedging
- Amenity grass margins to manage
- Tree removal
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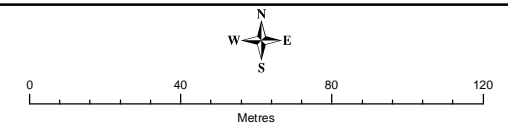
Westfield Common

Works for Year 2 to 5 Map 3 of 4

- Westfield Common (WBC)
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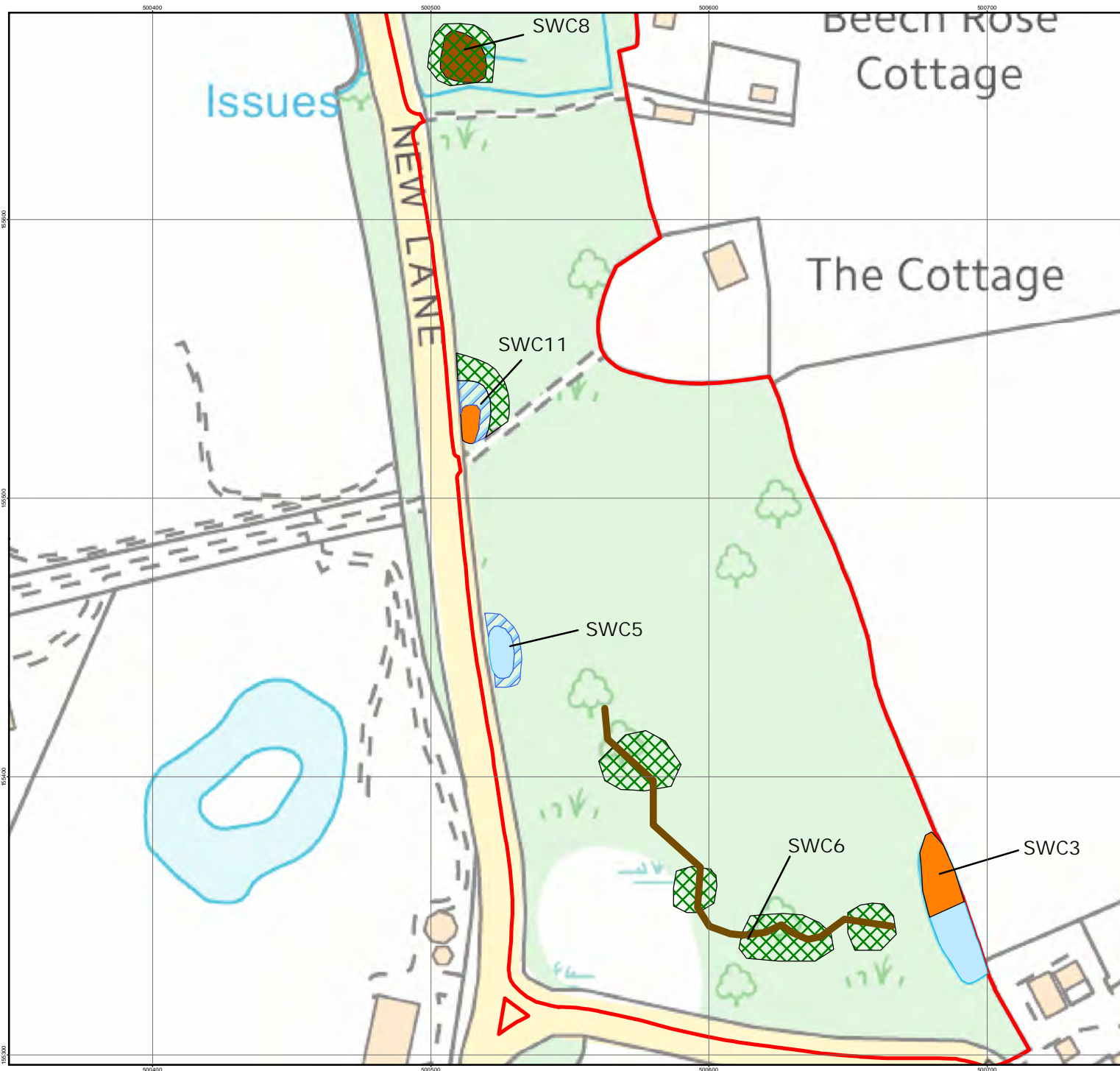


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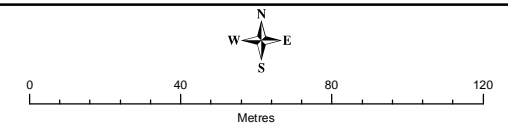
Westfield Common

Works for Year 2 to 5 Map 4 of 4

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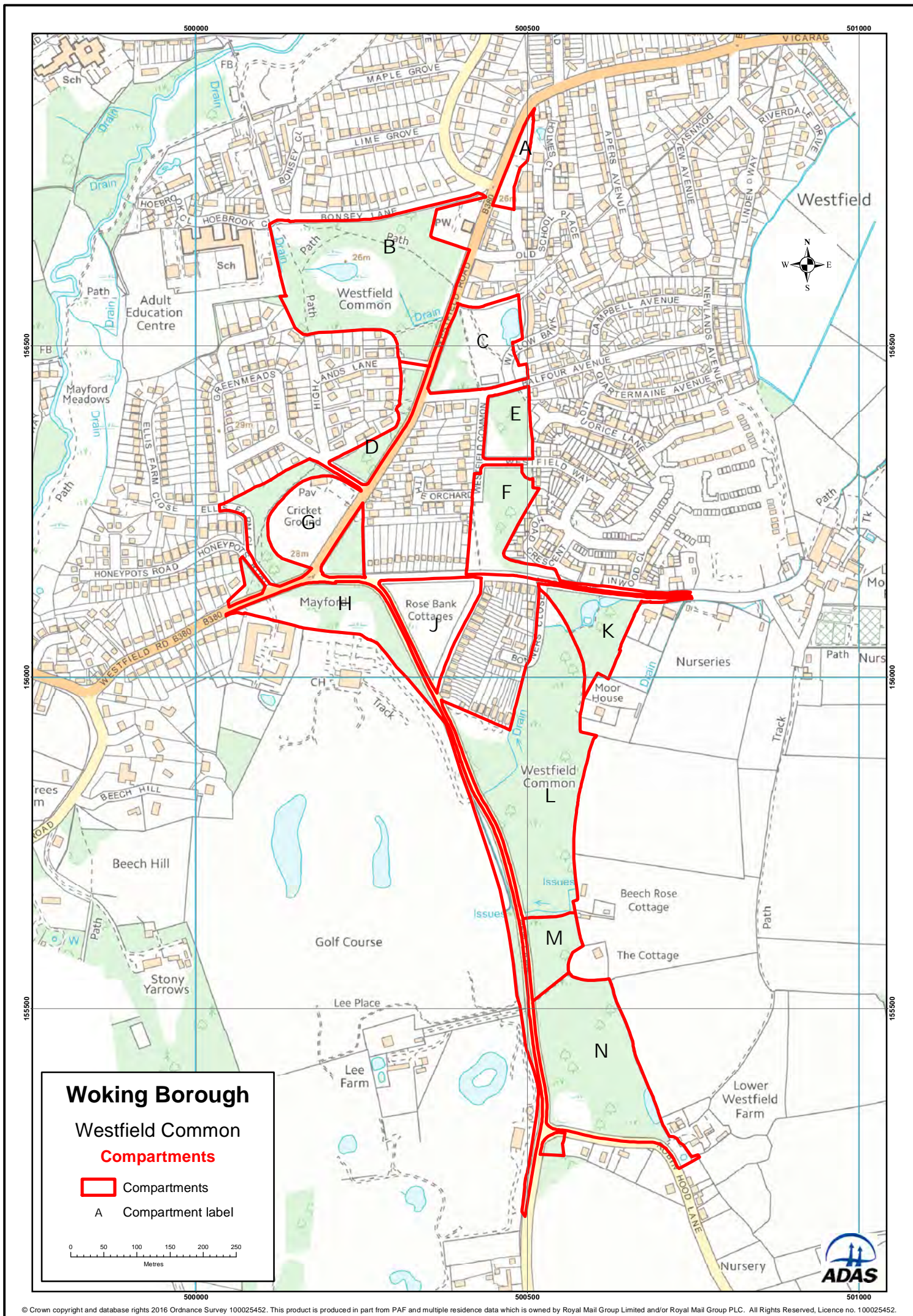
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Appendix 6: Compartment Map

See following page



Woking Borough

Westfield Common

Compartments

- Compartments
- A Compartment label

0 50 100 150 200 250
Metres