

**Target Notes: Sandford Park, Newbury.**

**Site visit: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010**
























**Personnel: Anna Senior, HDA Ecologist**

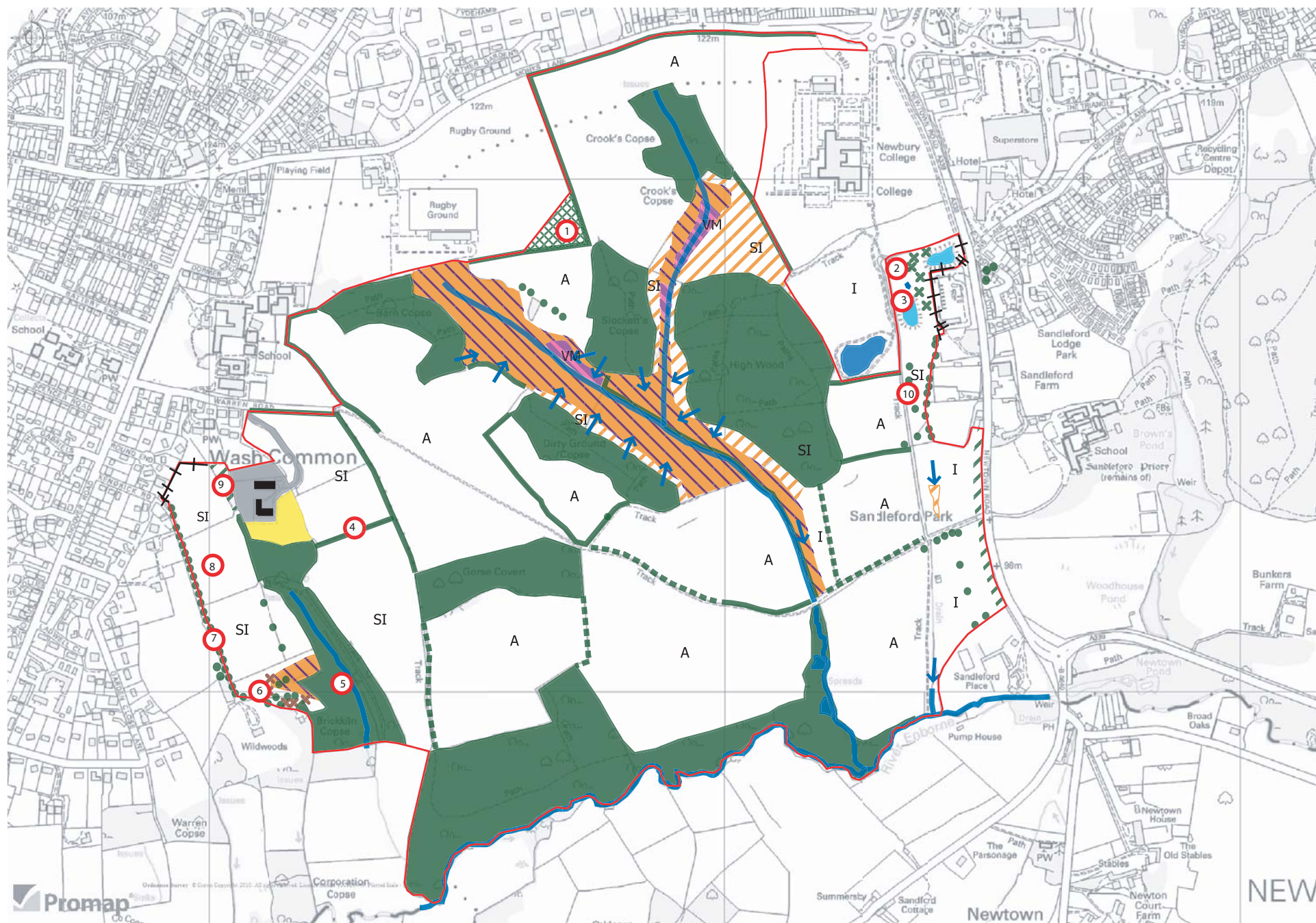
1. A patch of Bramble-dominated scrub at the edge of a rugby ground complex. Abundant species within the patch include Silver Birch saplings and Thistle sp. The area is apparently used for dumping of vegetation cuttings etc from the adjacent rugby ground.
2. Heavily shaded pond within a group of Oak, Ash and Hawthorn trees, almost dry at time of the site visit.
3. Two steep-sided (approx 45°) balancing ponds, about 10m diameter, 2.5m high sides, dry at time of the site visit. Banks dominated by Cocksfoot, Dock sp. and Thistle sp. Reeds and sedges at the base of the pits indicate periodical inundation. The surrounding area has been recently planted (saplings approximately two years old) with a band of trees including Hawthorn and Oak, possibly for screening of the adjacent waste transfer station. Beneath the planting the vegetation comprises regenerating grassland and ruderal plants, including Cocksfoot, False Oat-grass, Creeping Thistle and Greater Willowherb.
4. Intact species-poor mature hedge comprising a number of large trees, located between areas of semi-improved grazing pasture. Dominated by Ash, other species include Sycamore and Hawthorn.
5. Brickkiln Copse, a 6.2ha area of mature broadleaved woodland with a stream running north-south through its centre. Towards the north, the woodland is drier and contains a high density of Sycamore with some outgrown Hornbeam standards and Beech coppice. Hazel and Holly are found within the understory and the ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury. Further south the woodland becomes damper and the canopy is dominated by Alder; the ground flora in this area is dominated by stands of Remote Sedge, Creeping Soft-grass, Tufted Hair-grass and Hedge Woundwort with occasional Yellow Pimpernel.

The woodland structure is complex with a mixture of mature and younger trees, a dense understory in places and abundant deadwood. The woodland has suffered relatively recent storm damage and several fallen windblown trees and outgrown coppice stools lie *in situ*. This has opened up a number of glades which give rise to areas of dense ground flora dominated by Common Nettle, Cleavers and Foxglove.

Barbed-wire fencing surrounds the woodland and splits the area into several different ownership boundaries.

6. An area of semi-improved marshy grassland sloping down to the south and interspersed with patches of dense Bracken and scattered broadleaved trees. Damp flushes are found across the area, giving rise to patches of marshy grassland dominated by Soft Rush, with abundant Marsh Thistle and occasional Ragged Robin.
7. A line of mature trees associated with a fence along the field boundary. The tree line is dominated by Pendunculate Oak and also includes occasional Rowan, Hawthorn and Holly.
8. A series of species-poor semi-improved grassland fields used for horse grazing, the fields slope down towards the east. The grassland is dominated by Cocksfoot and Yorkshire Fog, with abundant Rough Meadowgrass. The grassland also comprises frequent stands of Common Nettle, Chickweed, Yarrow and Creeping Buttercup, with occasional Creeping Thistle and Ribwort Plantain.
9. A band of planted mature Common Lime trees.
10. A dry pond heavily shaded by adjacent mature Oak and dense scrub. Surrounding area comprises species-poor mesotrophic semi-improved grassland surrounded by grasses including Meadow Foxtail, Cocksfoot, Creeping Bent, Timothy and Yorkshire Fog. Herbs include Creeping Buttercup, Common Sorrel, Creeping Thistle and Scented Mayweed.

- KEY**
-  Site boundary
  -  Broadleaved woodland
  -  Plantation woodland
  -  Dense scrub
  -  Scattered scrub
  -  Scattered trees
  -  Semi-improved acid grassland
  -  Improved grassland
  -  Marshy grassland
  -  Scattered bracken
  -  Valley mire
  -  Swamp
  -  Standing waterbody
  -  Running water
  -  Spring and seepage points
  -  Arable land
  -  Amenity grassland
  -  Hardstanding
  -  Buildings
  -  Intact species-poor hedgerow
  -  Defunct species-poor hedgerow
  -  Fence
  -  Target note



CLIENT:  
White Young Green

PROJECT:  
Sandleford Park

TITLE:  
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

SCALE AT A3: 1:10,000 at A3      DATE: August 2010

1310.01 / AS

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The Stables, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Wallingford, OX10 8BA  
t 01491 838175 e consult@hda-enviro.co.uk w www.hda-enviro.co.uk

