

# **Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029**

## **Statement on Issues and Questions**

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### **Issue**

Should Ewer Common be shown on the proposals map as both a Park and Garden of Local Historic Interest and as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation?

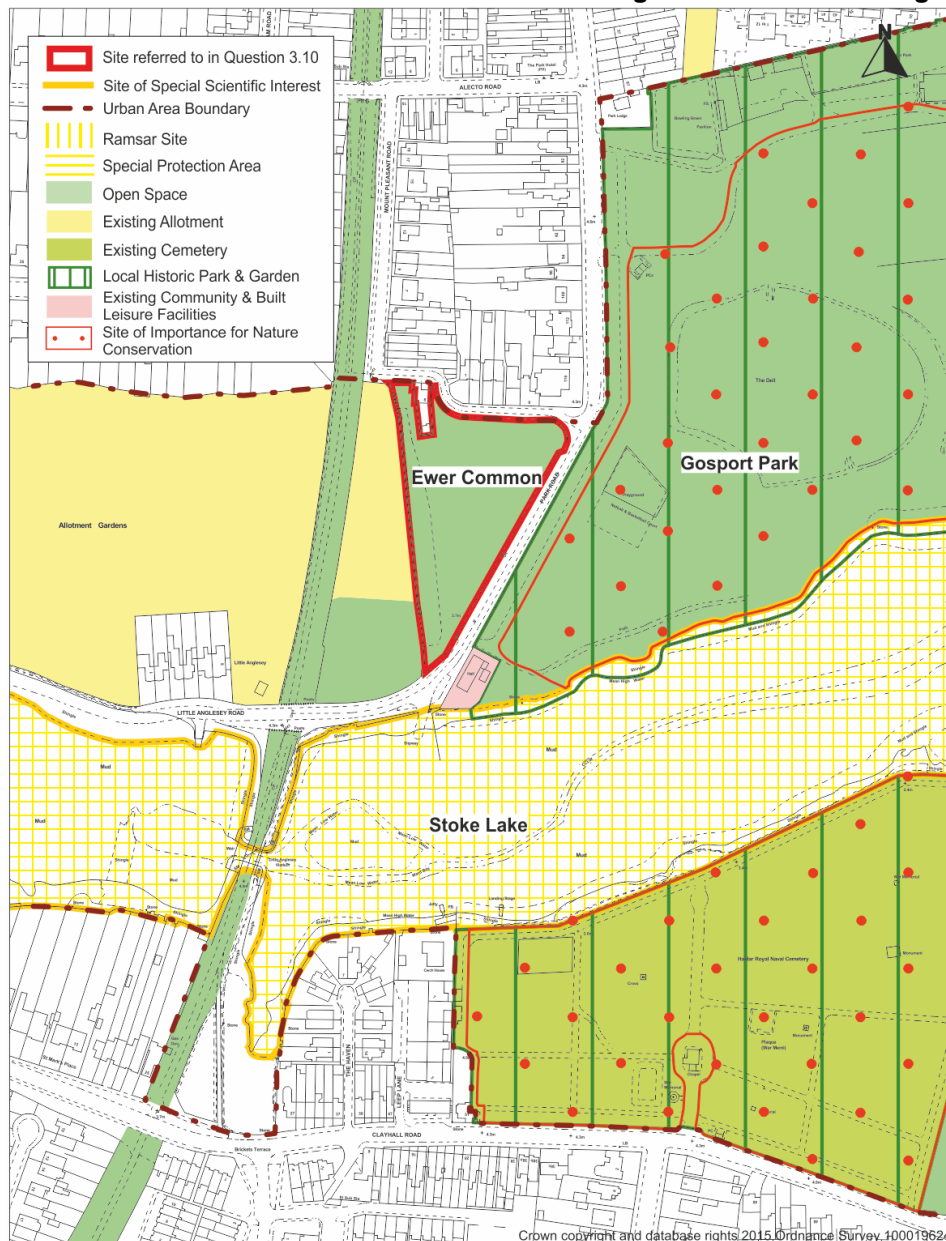
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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## 1.0 Background

1.1 Plan 1 identifies the Ewer Common site (0.68ha) on Park Road, Gosport. The site is shown on the Policies Map of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (GBLP) (Submission Library LP/A1/1/1) as an Existing Open Space and consequently Policy LP35 of the GBLP (LP/A1/1) is applicable. This policy subject to certain criteria seeks to safeguard such sites for open space functions. The site is identified in the Council's latest Open Space Monitoring Report (OSMR) (LP/E9/1) (p52) as an amenity greenspace type open space. In relation to the scoring criteria for this amenity greenspace it has been deemed to be of high value (as it contributes to the setting of the Anglesey Conservation Area) and of high quality in terms of an amenity greenspace (accessible, well-managed and includes a variety of features).

**Plan 1 Location of Ewer Common and surrounding area with GBLP designations**



1.2 The Council consider that the designation of this site as an ‘existing open space’ is therefore appropriate for this site; however it does not consider the following designations to be justified for reasons set out below:

- Park and Garden of Local Historic Interest.
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

## **2.0 Park and Garden of Local Historic Interest.**

2.1 There are 7 Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest (PGLHI) in the Borough. Such sites form part of the Borough’s Locally Important Heritage Assets and therefore afforded protection through Policy LP13 (p105) of the GBLP in accordance with their historic significance. The PGLHI’s have been designated following research by Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Gardens Trust and consequently have been identified on the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

2.2 Whilst the adjacent Gosport Park has been identified as a PGLHI no evidence has been forthcoming to suggest that the Ewer Common site should be included as part of this designation at this stage. However if evidence is forthcoming and the Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Gardens Trust consider the site is worthy of inclusion, Policy LP13 (point 4) would enable currently undesignated sites of local significance to be treated in the same way as designated sites.

2.3 If the Borough Council is satisfied that a site should be designated the Local Plan does make provision for additional sites to be added to its list of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest (as set out in Paragraph 8.65 of the GBLP) with further detail set out in Appendix 2 of the GBLP (p226).

## **3.0 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation**

3.1 There are numerous of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the Borough and these are updated and reviewed through an on-going survey programme undertaken by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), the local biodiversity records centre for Hampshire. If HBIC consider that any of these surveys would result in the designation of a new SINC, a change in boundary, a change in qualifying criteria or its deletion these would be forwarded to the SINC Panel which meets in February/March each year. The SINC Panel is made up of representatives from Hampshire County Council’s Ecology Unit, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and Natural England. The SINC criteria are set out in Appendix 1 of this Paper.

3.2 SINC’s are a local designation afforded protection by their inclusion in development plans. In the case of the GBLP such sites are afforded protection by Policy LP43 (p200) which has regard to the hierarchy of protection in relation to international, national and locally protected sites. These are designated in accordance with the NPPF (Paragraph 109) which requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by establishing coherent ecological networks. Paragraph 117 states that to minimise impacts on biodiversity planning policies should identify and map components of local ecological networks including a hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for

biodiversity. The national Planning Practice Guidance is also of relevance and contains advice on local ecological networks (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 12-009-20140306).

3.3 With regard to Ewer Common, following earlier consultation with the Ewer Common Conservation Group, the Council requested HBIC to undertake an ecological survey of the site. The ecological survey can be viewed in Appendix 2.

3.4 It was clear from this report that the site did not meet the qualifying criteria and consequently it has not been considered appropriate to designate the site as a SINC. To designate the site would dilute the ecological significance of other SINC's in the Borough and undermine the credibility of the local ecological network.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

4.1 Whilst safeguarding the site as an open space is considered appropriate the designation of the site as a Park and Garden of Local Historic Interest and/or a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is not appropriate for the reasons set out above.

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## Appendix 1: Criteria for selecting Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

### Woodland

- 1A Ancient<sup>1</sup> semi-natural<sup>2</sup> woodlands.
- 1B Other woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
- 1C Other semi-natural woodland if;  
(ii) they comprise important community types of restricted distribution in the County, such as yew woods and alder swamp woods
- 1D Pasture woodland and wooded commons, not included in any of the above, which are of considerable biological and historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> *Ancient - refers to woodlands which have developed particular ecological characteristics as a result of their long continuity. Those identified to date which are over 2ha are included on the Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (Provisional).*

<sup>2</sup> *Semi-natural - modified types of vegetation in which the dominant and constant species are accepted natives to Britain and that locality, and the structure of the community conforms to the range of natural vegetation types.*

### Neutral/acid/calcareous grassland

- 2A Agriculturally unimproved grasslands<sup>3</sup>
- 2B Semi-improved grasslands which retain a significant element of unimproved grassland.
- 2D Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery.

<sup>3</sup> *Agriculturally unimproved grassland - grassland that is composed of a mixed assemblage of indigenous species in essentially semi-natural communities which has been allowed to develop without the major use of herbicides or inorganic fertilisers.*

### Heathland

- 3A Areas of heathland vegetation; including matrices of dwarf shrub, acid grassland, valley mires and scrub.
- 3B Areas of heathland which are afforested or have succeeded to woodland if;  
(i) they retain significant remnants of heathland vegetation which would enable their recovery, or  
(ii) they are contiguous with, or form an integral part of an open area of heathland,

### Coastal habitats

- 4A Semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats, including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, sand dunes, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands.

### Wetlands

- 5A Areas of open freshwater (eg. lakes, ponds, canals, rivers, streams and ditches) which support outstanding assemblages of floating/submerged/ emergent plant species, invertebrates, birds or amphibians.
- 5B Fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions.

## Species

- 6A Sites which support one or more notable species<sup>4</sup>.
- 6B Sites which regularly support a significant population of a species which has a restricted distribution or has substantially declined in population or range. Such sites may be used seasonally or for only one part of a species life-cycle.
- 6C Sites which support an outstanding assemblage of species.

<sup>4</sup> *Notable species include Red Data Book species, Nationally Scarce species, species covered under Schedules 1,5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Annex 1 of the EC Bird Directive 79/409 and Annex II & IV of the EC Directive 92/43/EEC 'The Habitats Directive', and those covered by the Bern, Bonn and Ramsar Conventions. Notable species will also include species which are considered 'County Rare' or 'County Scarce'. County Rare = those species recorded in 1% or less tetrads in Hampshire or either of the two vice-counties (11 & 12) separately. County Scarce = 4% or less tetrads.*

## Social value

- 7A Sites of nature conservation interest which occur in areas otherwise deficient in such interest, and/or are known to be of particularly high value to local communities e.g. community wildlife sites.

Sites selected under this criteria will be rigorously confined to those which, if lost, would result in a considerable and demonstrable loss to the local community which would be very difficult/impossible to replace. Because of the widespread distribution of sites of nature conservation interest in Hampshire, and the high threshold used to define critical importance, only a limited number of sites are likely to meet this criteria.

## Geology and geomorphology

- 8A Sites which have been designated as Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)

Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites are sites of regional importance excluding SSSIs. RIGS are analogous to biological non-statutory sites.

Further guidance is available at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/biodiversity/hampshire/sincs.htm>

# Appendix 2: Ecological Survey of Ewer Common undertaken by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (June 2008)

## Survey Summary

### **Ewer Common 11/06/2008**

#### **Site Details**

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**Grid Reference :** SZ60799887 **File Reference :** 69-0004  
**Total Area :** 1.2 ha  
**District :** Gosport  
**Vice-County :** 11, South Hampshire

#### **Survey Details**

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**Survey Type :** Phase II  
**Survey Date :** 11/06/2008  
**Data Owned By :** Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership  
**Data Recorded By :** Ian Ralphs, HBIC

#### **Site Summary**

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Ewer Common is a small block of amenity grassland and some associated scrub woodland, situated on the western edge of Gosport Park, Alverstoke, Gosport.

#### **Site Designations**

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None recorded

#### **Site Features**

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<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
Geology	Plateau Gravel
Management	Mowing
Usage	Amenity
Usage	Dog Walking
Usage	Public Access

#### **BAP Habitats**

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Not determined at time of survey

#### **BAP/Notable Species**

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None recorded



**Survey Details****Ewer Common****11/06/2008****Habitats Recorded**

<u>National Vegetation Classifications</u>	<u>Area</u>
MG7, Lolium perenne leys and related grasslands	90 %
MG1, Arrhenatherum elatius grassland	10 %

**Species Recorded**

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notable</u>
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	O	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O	
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	R	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass	R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	A	
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	R	
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft-Brome	O	
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	R	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-Ear	O	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	R	
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-Tail	R	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-Foot	O	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-Leaved Crane's-Bill	R	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	OLF	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-Fog	R/O	
<i>Hyacinthoides</i>	Hyacinthoides	R	
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-Ear	F	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	R	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	R	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-Grass	A	
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	R	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	R	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F	
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-Grass	O	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-Grass	R	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	R	
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	R	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R	
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn	R	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	R	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel agg.	R	
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	R	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	R	
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	R	
<i>Taraxacum</i>	Dandelion Agg.	R	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	R	
<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	Tilia x vulgaris	R	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	R	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notable</u>
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Subterranean Clover	R	
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm	R/O	
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirrel-Tail Fescue	R	

### Species Summary

Total no. of species :	46
# No. of acid/neutral grassland indicators :	0

### Notes

#### Habitat Classifications :

BAP Priority: Habitats identified as the highest priority for conservation action in the UK

NVC: A system of classifying natural habitat communities according to species associations

Phase 1: A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping broad wildlife habitats including urban areas

Peterken: A stand type classification that describes woodlands by tree species

#### Indicators Species :

- \* Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) - species most strongly associated with ancient woodland and are typical components of botanically rich ancient woodland communities
- # Acid/neutral grassland indicators - species which seldom occur outside of unimproved acid/neutral grasslands or are indicative of a long period of uninterrupted grassland management
- ~ Chalk grassland indicators - species characteristic of unimproved chalk downland or have a strong affinity to calcareous soil

#### Species Abundance:

Frequency: D=dominant A=abundant F=frequent O=occasional R=rare L=locally

Frequencies within brackets ( ) indicate non-native occurrences

sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

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Hampshire Biodiversity  
Information Centre

## Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

### Ewer Common.

#### **General description and management.**

Ewer Common is a small block of amenity grassland and some associated scrub woodland, situated on the western edge of Gosport Park, Alverstoke, Gosport.

The grassland element of the site is regularly mown, while the scrub appears to be managed by locals, apparently for wildlife purposes.

#### **Communities.**

(1). [MG7]: *Lolium perenne* – *Plantago major* grassland.

Regularly mown amenity grassland. Unmown edges more [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland dominated locally. (IHS-G10).

Flora :- Rye-grass, Daisy, White Clover, Ribwort Plantain, Cat's-ear, Creeping Bent, Yarrow and Creeping Buttercup.



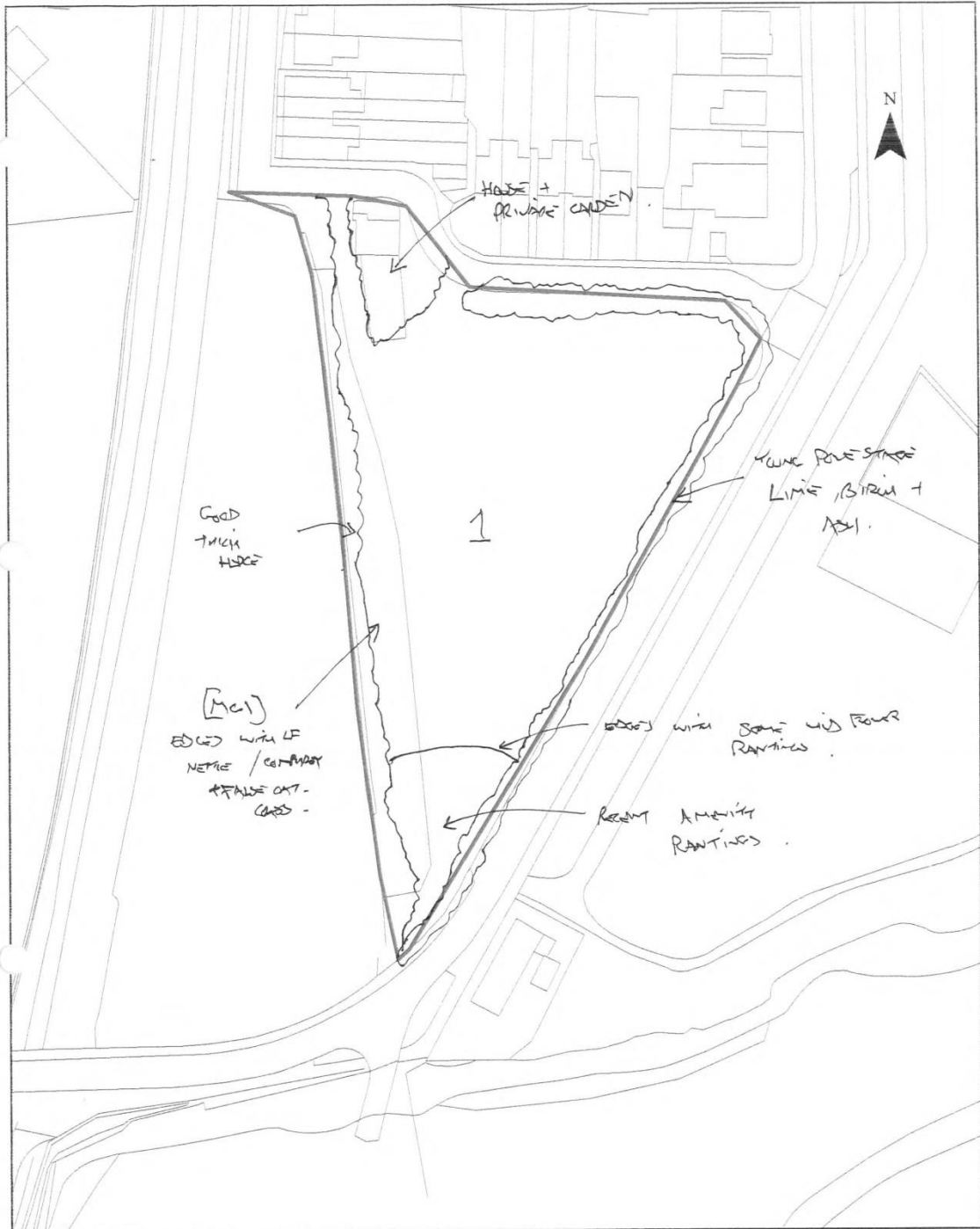
(A). View south across Ewer Common.

Ian Ralphs,  
Field Ecologist,  
HBIC.

*sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife*

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

**HbIC**  
Hampshire Biodiversity  
Information Centre



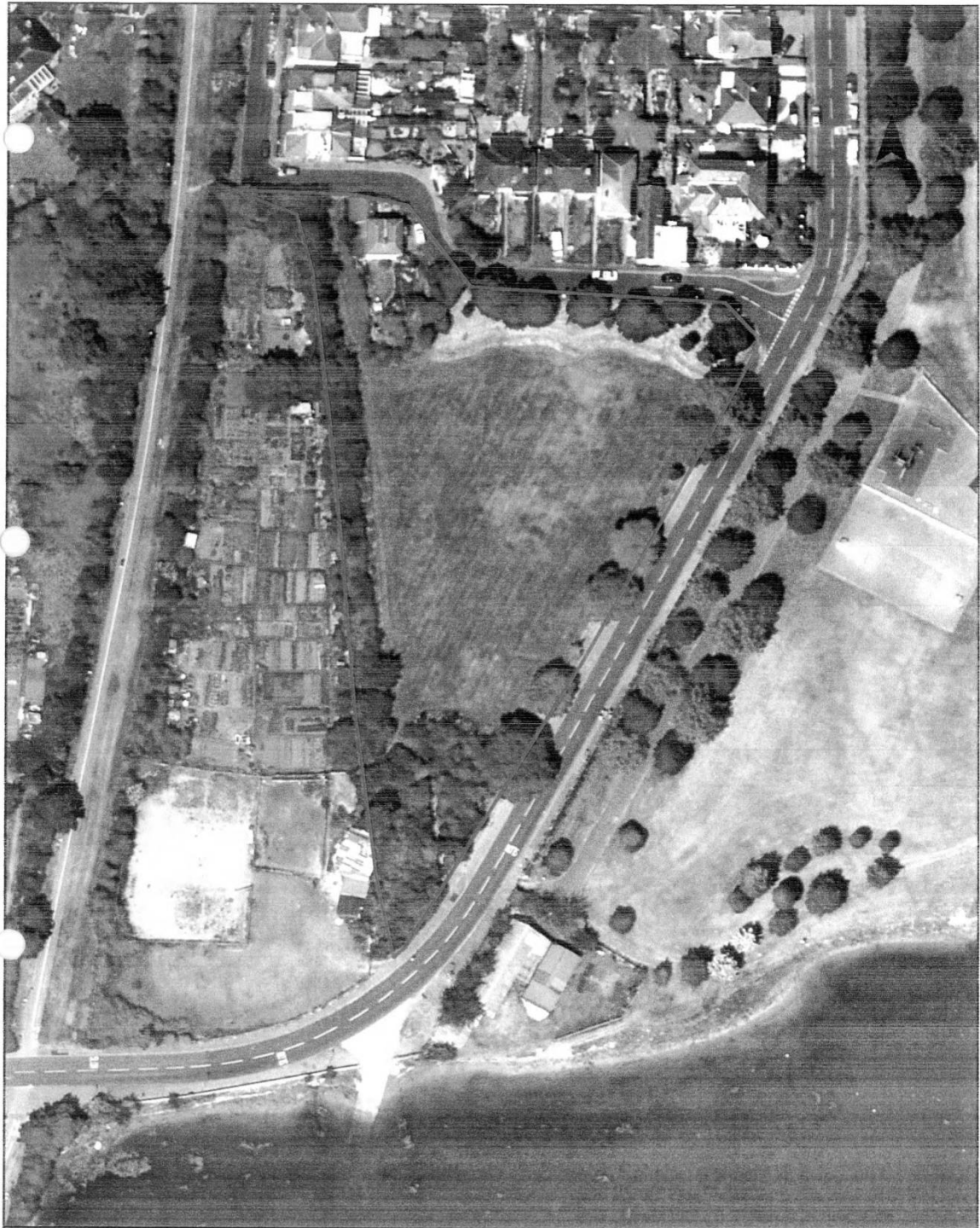
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Survey Programme 2008:  
Ewer Common  
SZ60769884

11/6/08

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