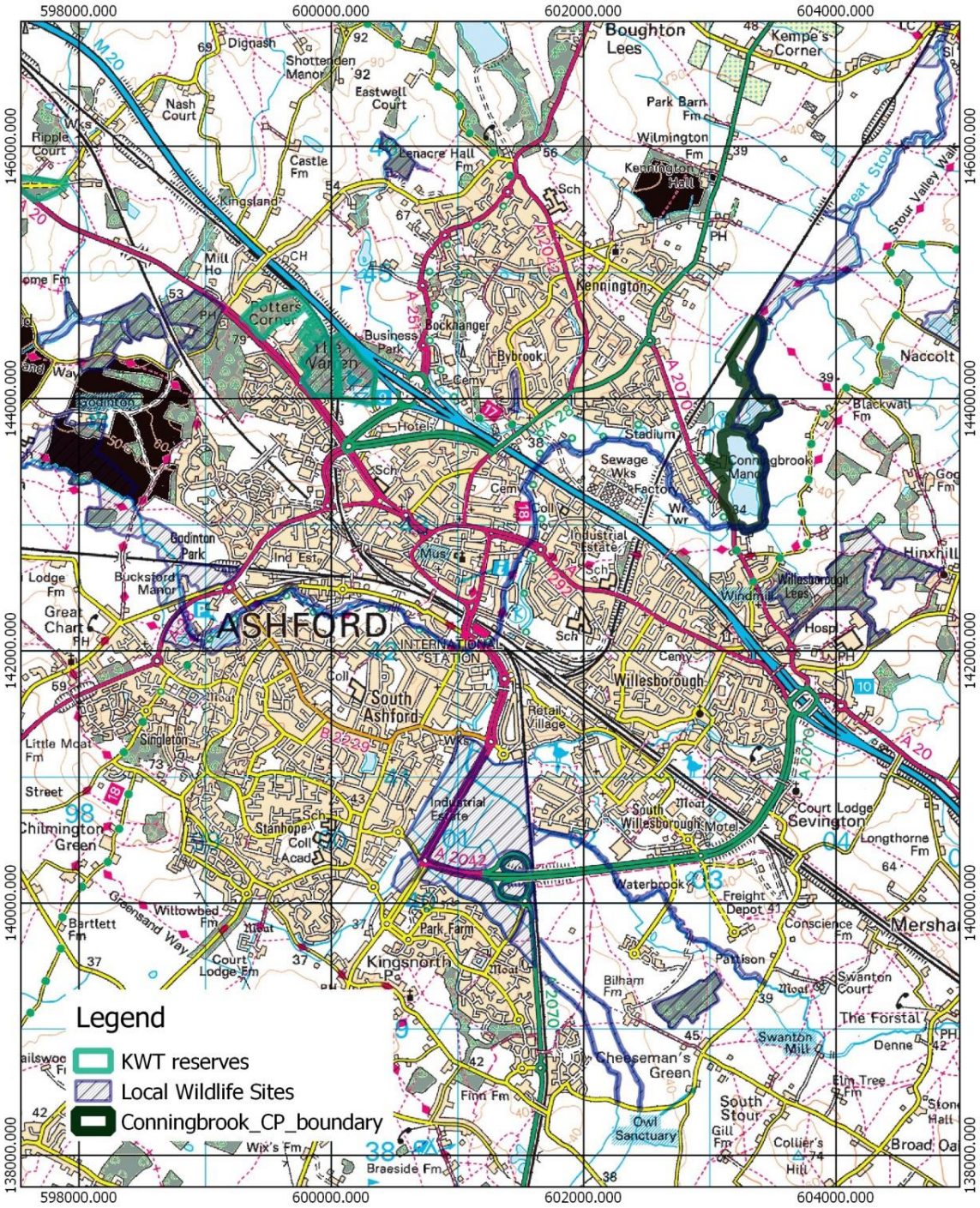
10. Appendices

10.1 Location map and historic map



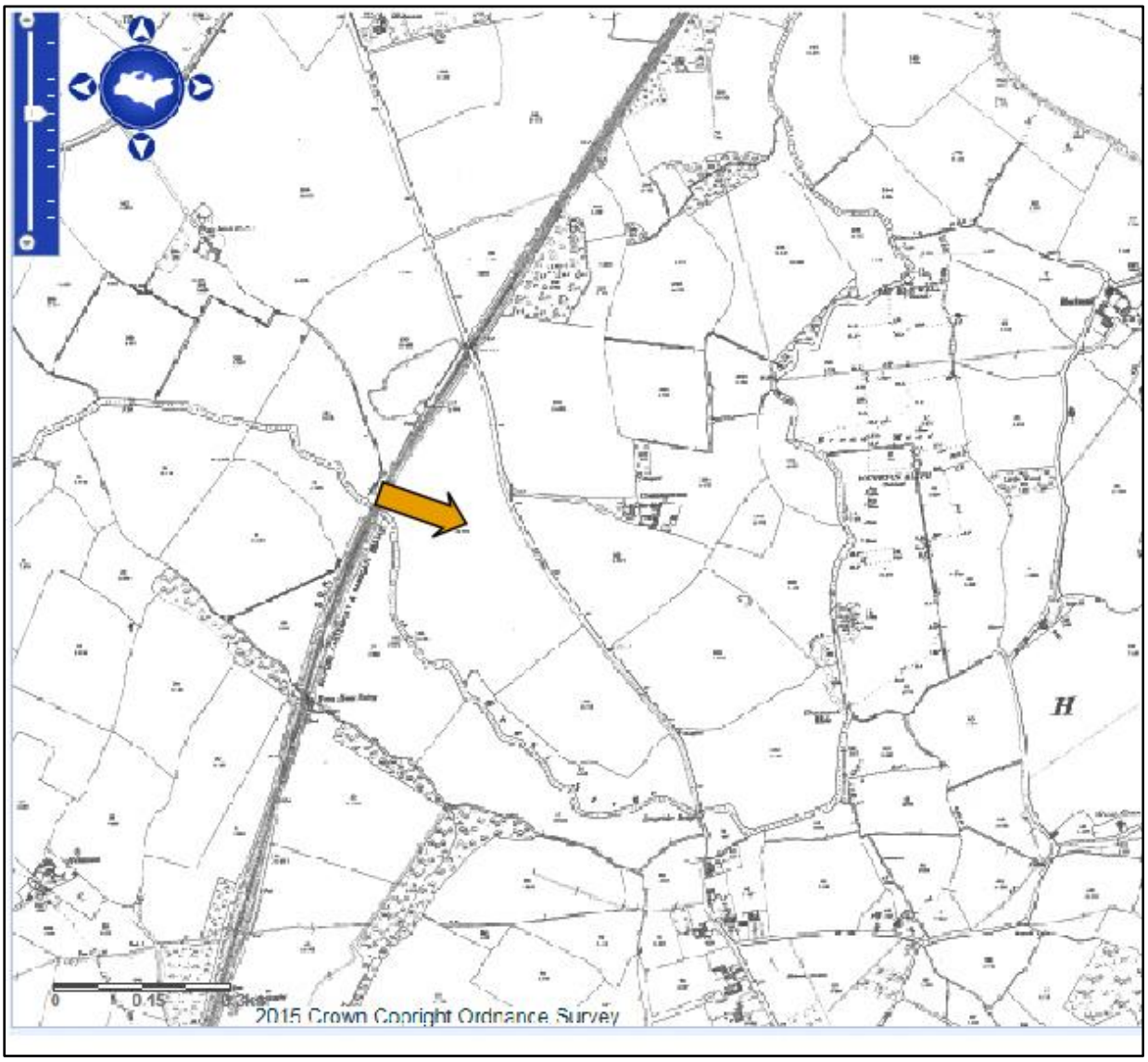
Kent Wildlife Trust 2016
Conningbrook Lakes Country Park
Location map

0 500 1000 m

Scale = 1:40000.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016. Ordnance Survey 100004919.

Map showing land north of Ashford in 1897-1900 (from Kent County Council's Historic Environment Records); the arrow indicates where the Country Park is now sited. 2015 Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey.



10.2 Local Wildlife Site AS27 citation and map

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

KWT File no: 988424

Site:	River Great Stour, Ashford to Fordwich	**Site Ref. No:**	AS27
LPA:	Ashford/Canterbury	**Grid Refs:**	TQ 988424 to TR 182599
Parish:	Boughton Aluph/ Chartham/ Chilham/ Crundale/ Fordwich/ Godmersham/ Great Chart with Singleton/ Sturry/ Thanington Without/ Westbere/ Wye with Hinxhill	**Category:**	Running water, standing water, grassland, woodland, parkland, scrub, marsh
Owner:	Private	**Natural Area:**	Wealden Greensand, North Downs, North Kent Plain
Area:	410 ha		
First notified:	1986	**AONB:**	Kent Downs
Last survey:	2005		
Last approved:	Oct 2006		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

This stretch of the River Great Stour is largely natural in character and supports a wide range of submerged, emergent and marginal aquatic plants including several which are rare and uncommon in Kent. It includes a substantial chalk river stretch between Wye and Chilham which supports stream water-crowfoot [1] *Ranunculus penicillatus* and brown trout *Salmo trutta*. Water quality is good throughout almost the entire length of the river within the Local Wildlife Site.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The boundary has been drawn to include areas of fen, marsh, swamp, wet woodland and wet grassland, and areas of standing open water which are contiguous with the river corridor. Where such habitats do not abut the river corridor, the boundary of the site should be taken to be a line 5m from the top of the river bank, or the outer edge of any semi-natural vegetation along the river, whichever is the shorter distance. Where the boundary runs along a wet ditch or dyke, the full width of the ditch or dyke should be included within the site.

DESCRIPTION

The large and varied complex along the floodplain of the River Great Stour between Ashford and Fordwich provides a valuable wildlife corridor which includes a variety of habitats. The most important of these is the river itself, which is almost without exception of good water quality, and well-vegetated with aquatic, emergent and marginal species throughout.

Associated habitats include areas of wet grassland, wet woodland and swamp, and a few areas of unimproved neutral and calcareous grassland. In addition, there is a series of open lakes which have resulted from from worked-out gravel excavations. These are present at Willesborough, below Chilham and at Sturry. The lakes are generally surrounded by secondary woodland, scrub and occasionally by marshy grassland. They provide valuable open water roosting areas and nesting

© Kent Wildlife Trust

refuges for resident and migrant birds and are important for invertebrates. Most are used by fishing clubs. The area at Sturry is managed as the Canterbury Nature Reserve and serves as an educational centre.

At Olantigh and Godmersham, the river passes through privately-owned parkland. The water is not fished in these areas and is particularly rich in aquatic plant life here. The grassland with mature parkland trees at Godmersham is sheep-grazed and the banks of the river at this point are also grazed. At Olantigh there is some unimproved grassland with mature trees.

Several small, damp alder copses and woods occur along the river by small streams and flushes. These are almost fen-like in character, with peaty soils flushed by basic minerals from the chalk. Opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* are common. On drier soils, small mixed broadleaved woodland occurs, with ash, hazel and field maple coppice with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* standards and common woodland herbs.

The river itself is of mainly lowland clay catchment character to Wye, but from Olantigh downstream, where it cuts through the North Downs, it has a well-developed, chalk-like character, and the flow is increased by substantial chalk springs. Hybrids between shining pondweed [1] *Potamogeton lucens* and perfoliate pondweed [1] *P. perfoliatus* have been recorded in the Godmersham area.

Through Ashford, the banks of the river are largely natural, with only a few stretches having hard embankments. As a result, the river through the town supports a good range of emergent and marginal plant species, as well as a good range of submerged aquatic plants. Long stretches of the river through Ashford have mature alders *Alnus glutinosa* and willows *Salix* spp. along the banks.

Where the river passes through Canterbury, the surrounds are more urban and industrial, though only relatively short sections of the river are hard-edged.

A rich variety of aquatic species occur throughout, even within the urban sections, with river water-dropwort [1] *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, shining pondweed [1], perfoliate pondweed [1], chalk stream water-crowfoot [1] *Ranunculus penicillatus* and unbranched bur-reed [1] *Sparganium emersum*, all species associated with rivers with good flow. Further downstream, below Canterbury, fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* is more common. Common aquatic species such as water-starwort *Callitriche* spp., waterweeds *Elodea* spp. and spiked water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* are frequent. Where the flow is lower, characteristic species such as yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, water-starwort, amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* are more in evidence. These species are also found in the open water of the lakes and, occasionally, in the floodplain ditches.

Marginal and emergent plants range from stands of tall species such as great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, branched bur- reed *Sparganium erectum*, water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum* and yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus* to smaller species such as water chickweed *Myosoton aquaticum*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, purple-loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, lesser water-parsnip *Berula erecta* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*. The lower-growing species are more in evidence where the banks of the river have been broken down by stock and also in the floodplain ditches.

Common meadow rue [2] *Thalictrum flavum* occurs in relict marshy scrub near Shalmsford Street and south of Wye at TQ 048467. The large colony is present in a marshy area/reedbed upstream from Wye.

The riverine moss *Fontinalis antipyretica* occurs in the section below Canterbury. This species has declined generally throughout Kent in recent years.

The invertebrate fauna of the river is very important, and includes some rare coleoptera. Five nationally notable diptera and one RDB2 species have been recorded from the Vauxhall Lakes area alone. The river also supports a good variety of dragonflies and damselflies, with the banded demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* abundant along its whole length within the site. Other species associated with still water are present in ditches and on lakes, with eleven species having been recorded in the area below Canterbury alone. In addition 82 insect species from nine orders were identified from one visit to Singleton Lake including the notable *Oscinella angularis* Collin.

Otters *Lutra lutra* [3,4] are known to occur along this stretch of the Stour, and water voles *Arvicola terrestris* [3,4,5,6] have been recorded recently, including within the urban area of Ashford. The white-clawed crayfish *Austropotambius pallipes* previously occurred between Wye and Canterbury, but is now mainly found in the river upstream of Ashford and at Chilham.

The river is important for fly-fishing, particularly downstream of Wye, and supports trout (including sea trout) *Salmo trutta* and small numbers of salmon *Salmo salar*.

The site is well recorded for birds, and the lakes and gravel pits along the river such as those at Conningbrook, Chilham and Chartham attract winter visitors including wigeon [7], teal [7,8], pochard [7,9], shoveler [7], gadwall [7], goosander and smew. Kingfisher [3,7], grey heron, breeding mute swan [7], grey wagtail [7] and yellow wagtail [7] are present. Bittern [3,4,10] has been observed occasionally. Other water birds recorded include snipe [7,8], water rail [7,9], great crested grebe and little grebe, together with good numbers of lapwing [7]. Other species recorded include nightingale [7,9], Cetti's warbler [7], goldcrest [7], bullfinch [4,6,10], marsh tit [10], reed bunting [4,6,10], corn bunting [4,6,10] and good numbers of linnet [4,6,10]. More unusual birds such as spotted crake [3,7] have been recorded very occasionally in recent years.

1 County Scarce. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.
2 County Rare. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.
3 Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.
4 Priority Species, UK Biodiversity Action Plan. 1998.
5 National Status RDB.
6 Kent Red Data Book Status 2. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
7 Amber List. Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007.
8 Kent Red Data Book Status 1. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
9 Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
10 Red List. Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007.

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Map showing the section of the LWS in which the Country Park is situated.

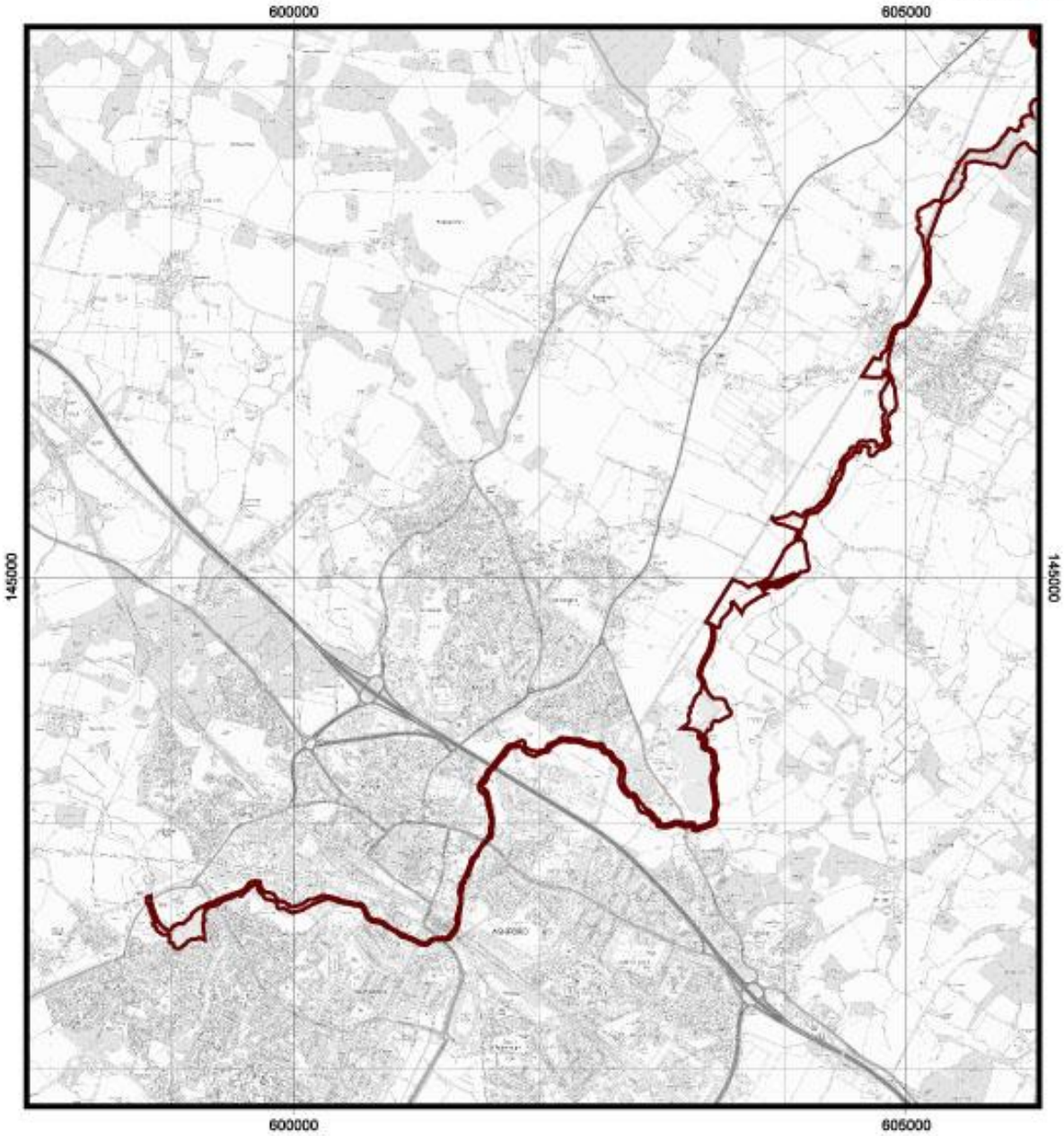
Plan 1 of 4

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site Ref No: **AS27**

Site: GREAT STOUR, ASHFORD TO FORDWICH

Map ref: TQ 987424
TR 051477



0 1 2 Kilometers

Kent Wildlife Trust © 2014

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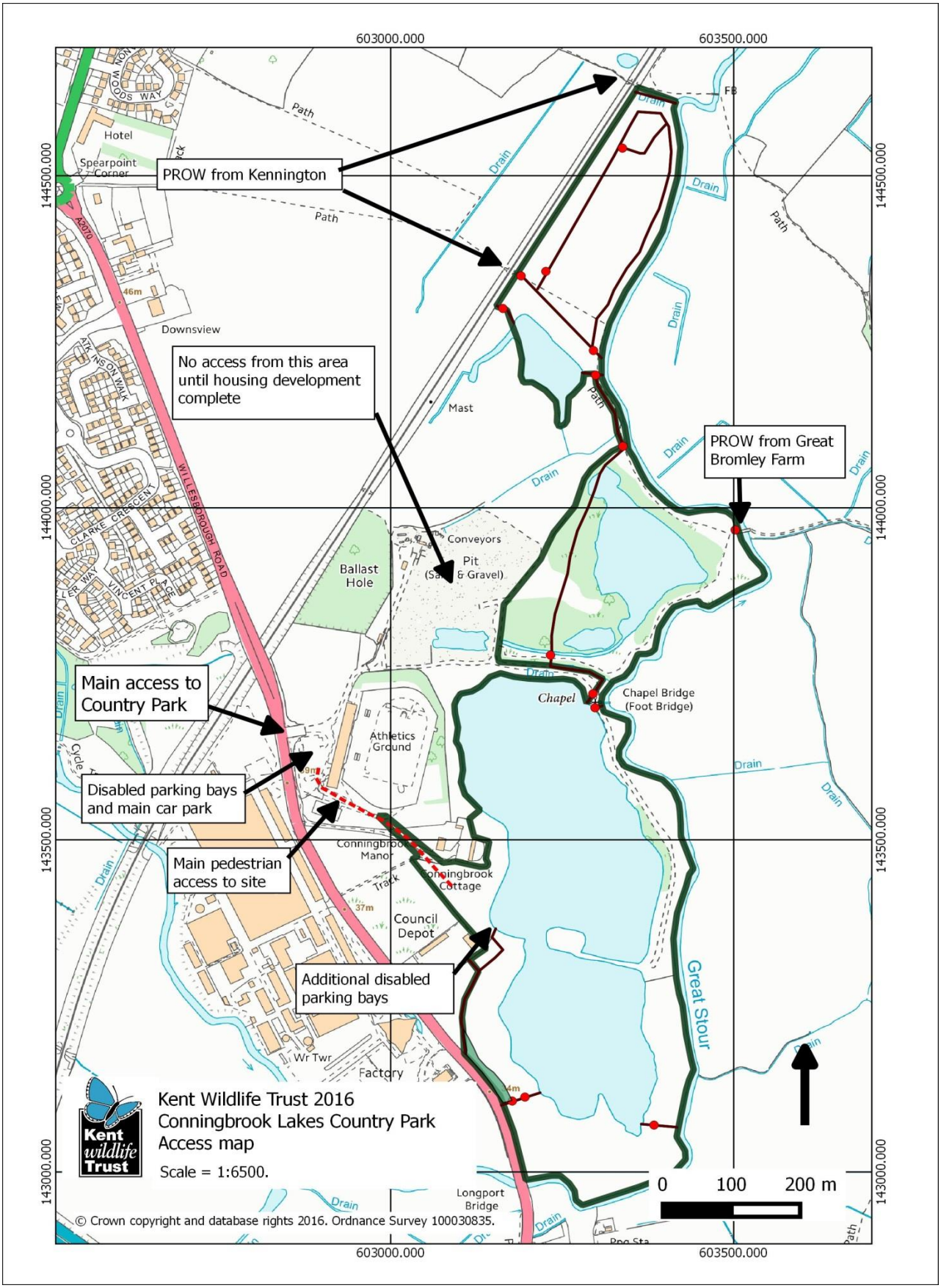
10.3 Access map



10.4 Dog Walking Policy

Kent Wildlife Trust views public access to the nature conservation areas within Conningbrook Lakes Country Park as an important means for people from the whole community to appreciate and value the native wildlife and countryside of Kent; it enables the Trust to engage with people, raise the profile of the Trust's work and the need for nature conservation.

Visitors, especially those with young children, can often be put off from visiting a location if they are likely to encounter dog waste and uncontrolled dogs. To make the Country Park attractive to all countryside visitors, we would like to welcome well-behaved dogs on leads, and ensure owners collect all their dog waste.

Further restrictions may be needed at times in nature conservation areas that are particularly sensitive. In particular, the Skylark Meadow within the Northern Meadow has been designed with a circular route, surrounding a central fenced off zone. This will be accessible to pedestrians, but not to dogs. This will give dog walkers a visual access across an area containing ground-nesting birds and other sensitive wildlife.

To make sure the Country Park stays a pleasant, safe and enjoyable place for all:

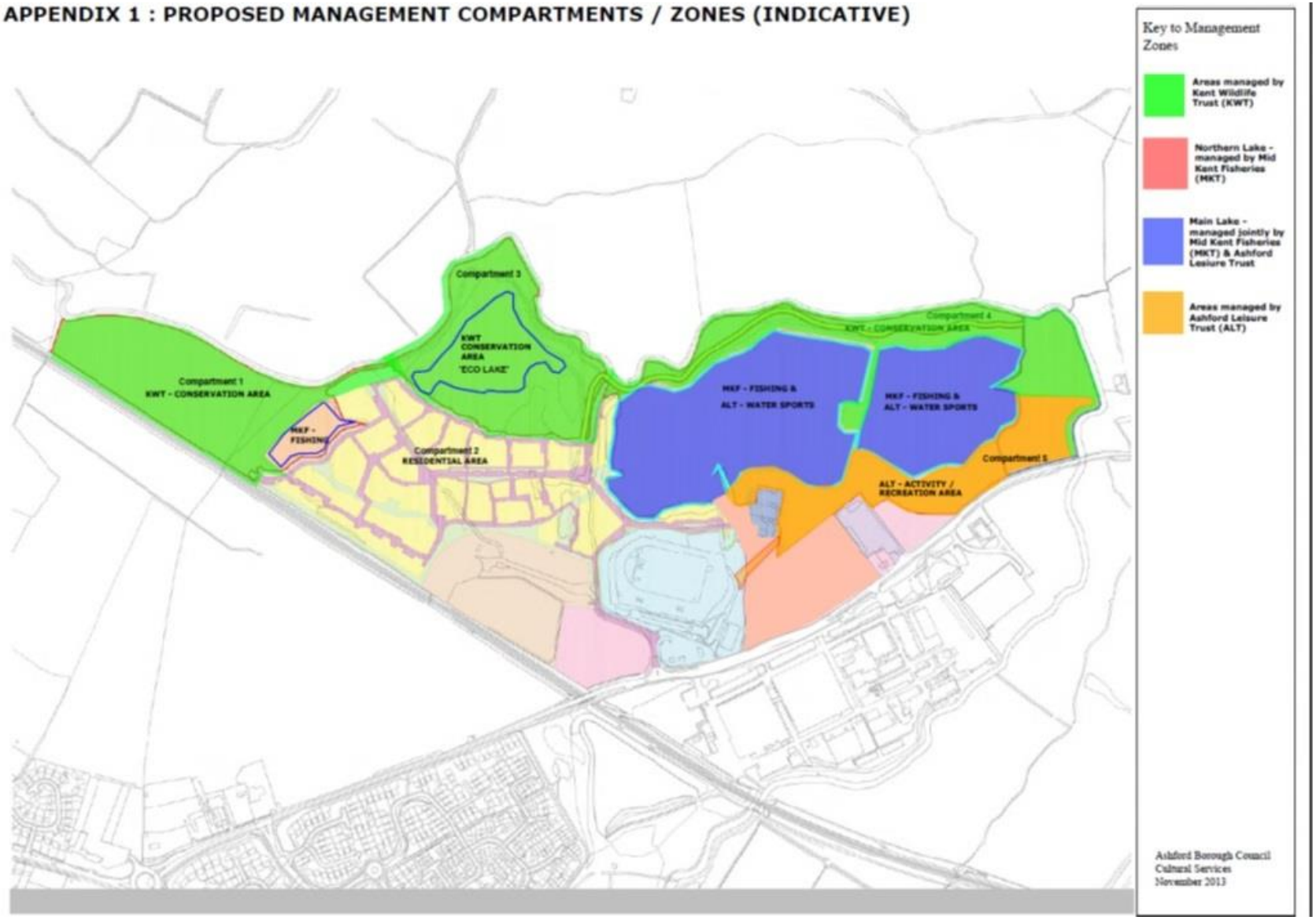
- Please clear up after your dog. Always make sure you have a suitable bag with you - BAG it, BIN it. Dog waste is not only unpleasant but can carry disease and, for wheelchair users, is easily transferred from wheel to hand. Children are particularly at risk from toxocariasis spread through dog faeces and this disease can also cause livestock foetuses to abort. Dog waste can be disposed of in the general waste bins found in the Country Park.

- Keep your dog on a lead and under control at all times. This will prevent dogs from disturbing wildlife, livestock and other users of the Country Park.

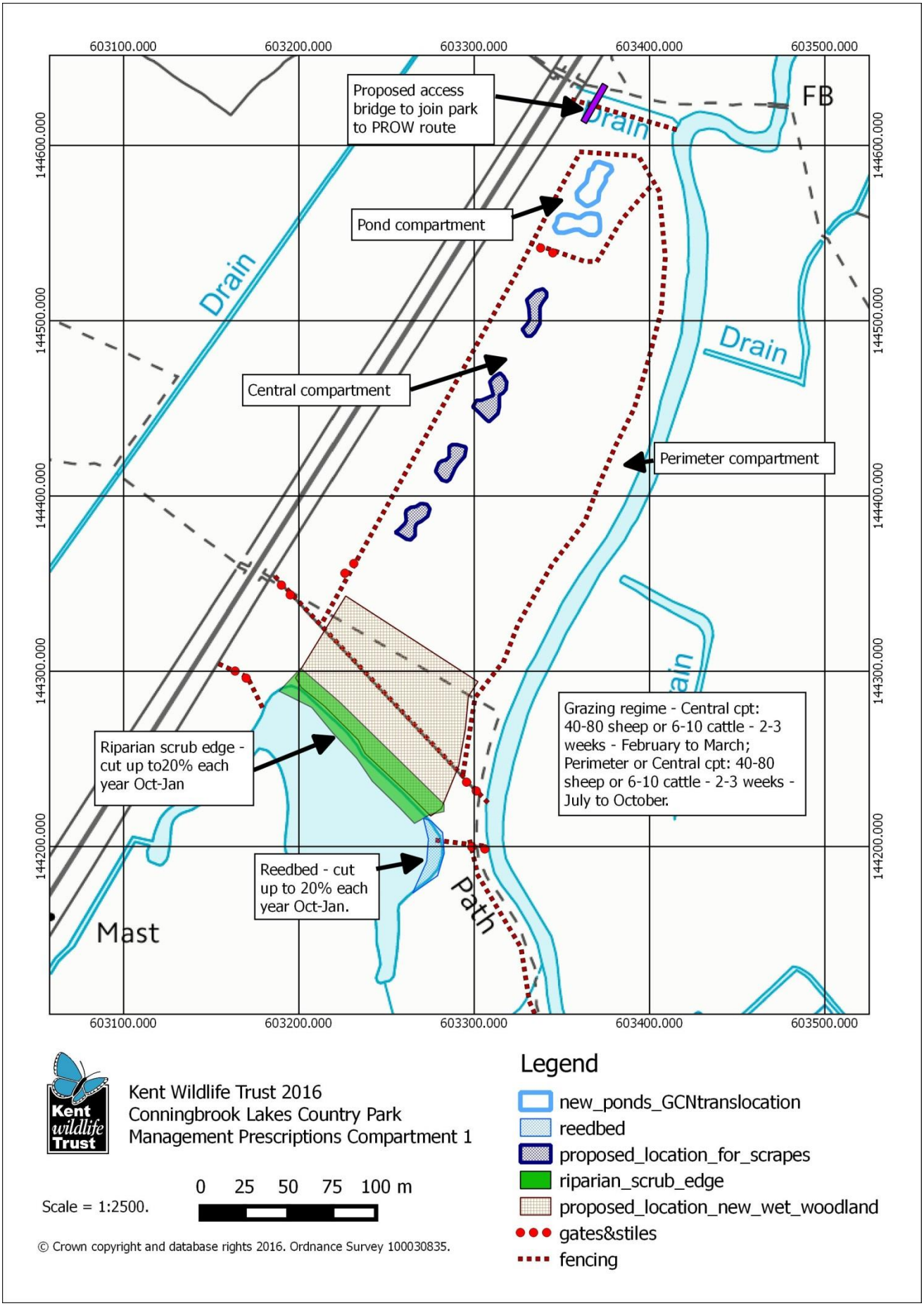
- Please don't assume that everyone likes dogs. Many people are fearful of dogs.

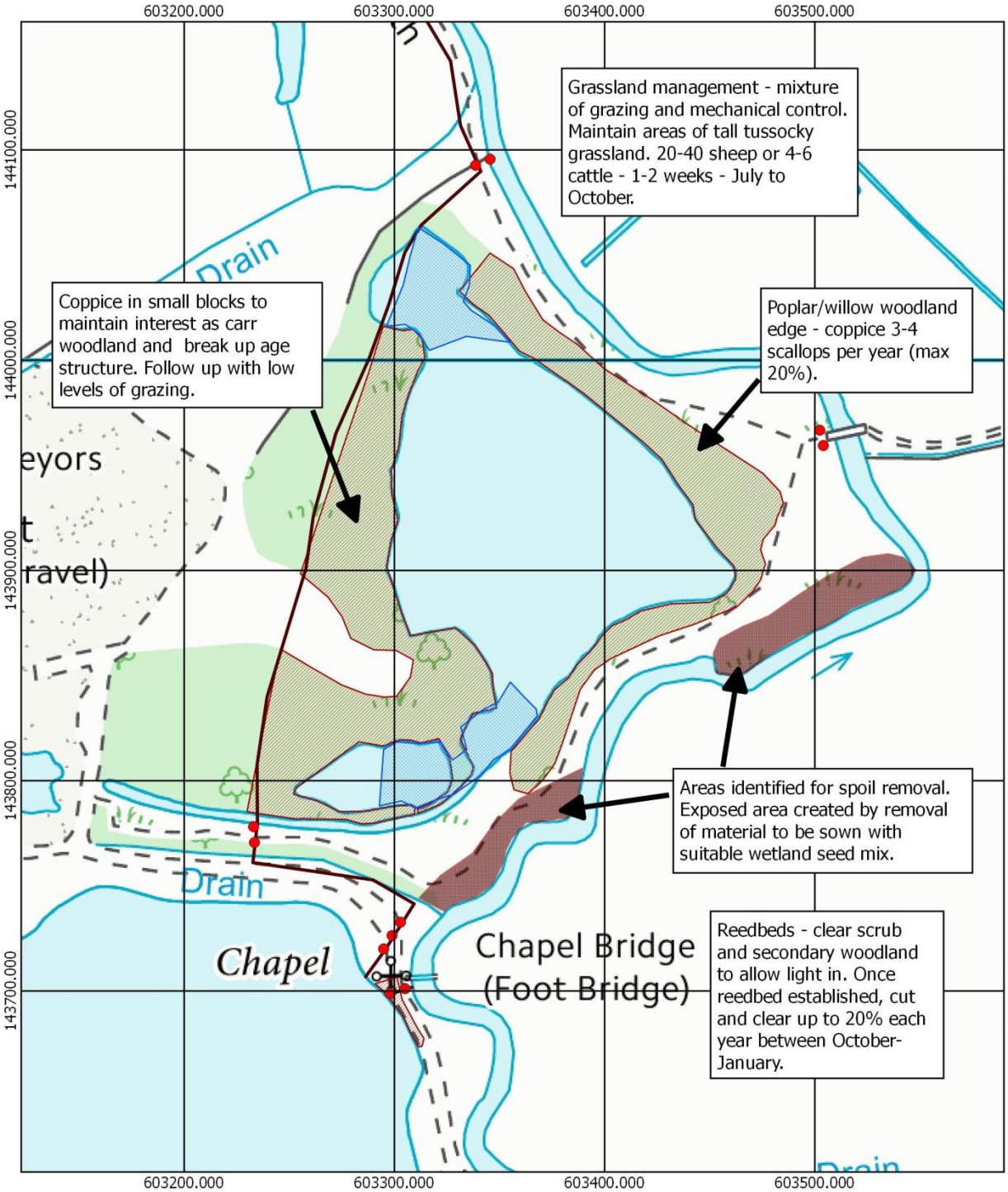
- Check notices on gateways in case certain areas are temporarily closed to dogwalkers (e.g. the Skykark Meadow).

10.5 Map showing Management Compartments



10.6 Desired State of Management by 2020





Kent Wildlife Trust 2016
Conningbrook Lakes Country Park
Management Prescriptions Compartment 3

Scale = 1:2500.

0 25 50 75 100 m

Legend

- reedbed
- proposed_location_spoil_removal
- gates&stiles
- fencing
- poplar, willow and alder coppicing

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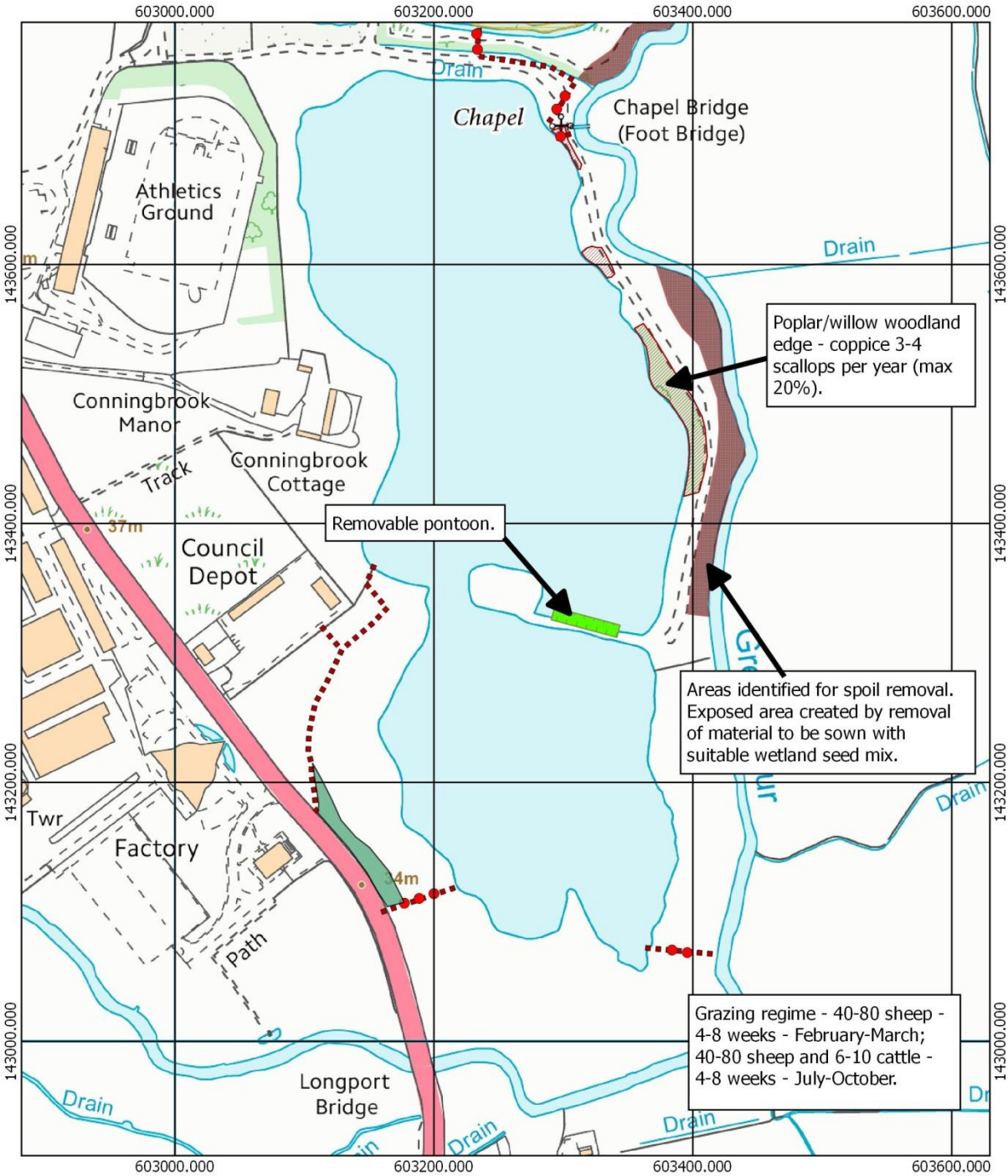

Kent Wildlife Trust 2016
Conningbrook Lakes Country Park
Management Prescriptions Compartment 4

Scale = 1:4000.

0 25 50 75 100 m

Legend

- tree planting
- proposed_location_spoil_removal
- gates&stiles
- fencing
- poplar/willow coppicing

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10.7 Ecological Indicator Species

Conningbrook Lakes Country Park

ANNUAL ECOLOGICAL INDEX

General Indicators

	Number of visits	Number individuals on transect	Number of species on transect
Butterflies			
Dragonflies / Damselflies			
Overwintering Birds			
Breeding birds			

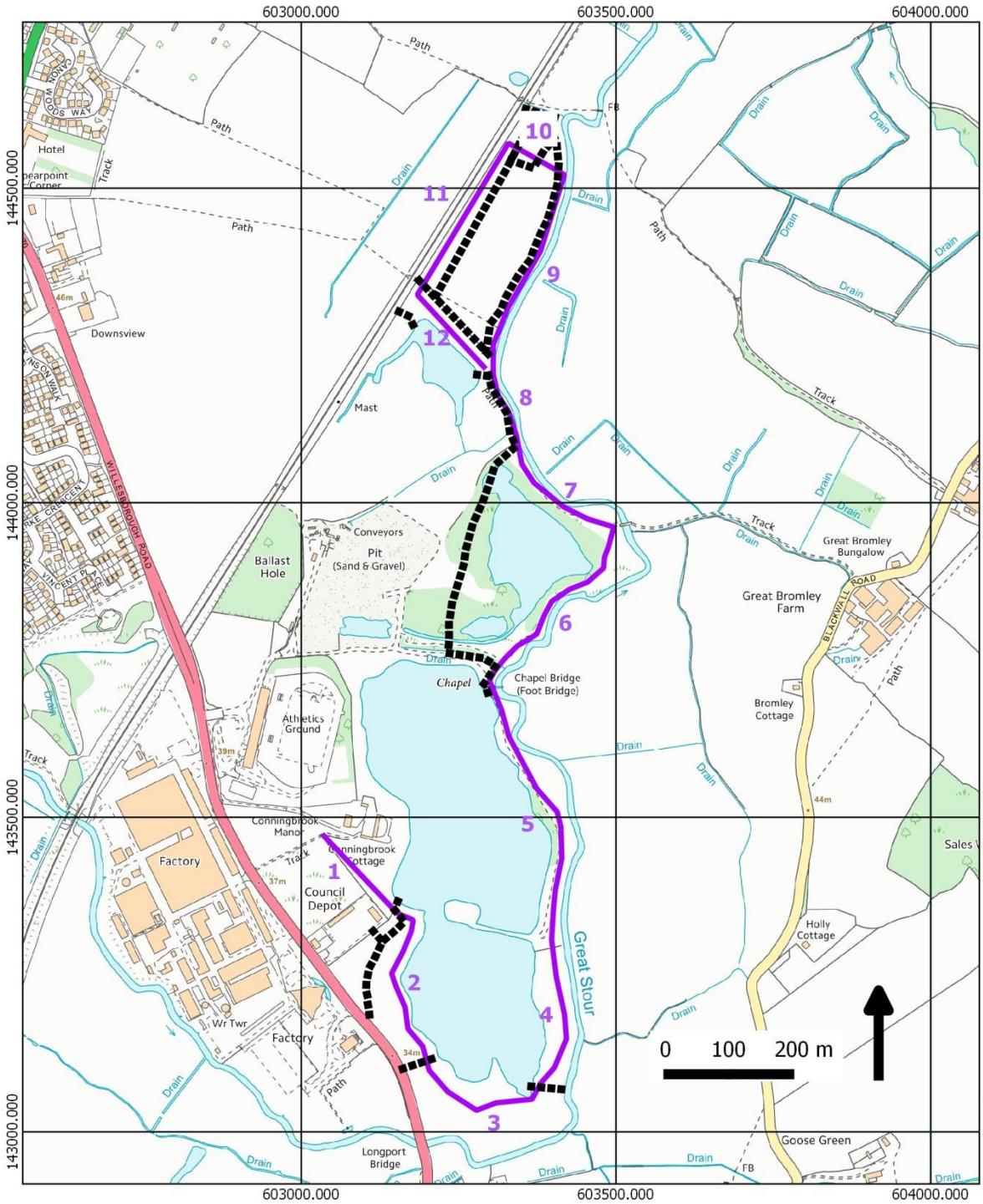
Specific Indicators

	Number Recorded during Survey	Other records (with date)		Number Recorded during Survey	Other records (with date)
Water Shrew			Grass snake		
Harvest Mouse			Great Crested Newt		
Water Vole					
Otter					
Mink					

Birds	Recorded during Bird Survey	Other records (with date)		Recorded during Bird Survey	Other records (with date)
Kingfisher			Shoveler		
Barn owl			Tufted duck		
Cuckoo			Gadwall		
Skylark			Wigeon		
			Pochard		
			Teal		

	Number of plants (approx)						Percent cover (approx) of entire cpt				
	Cpt1	Cpt2	Cpt3	Cpt4	Cpt5		Cpt1	Cpt2	Cpt3	Cpt4	Cpt5
Common Spotted Orchid						Himalyan Balsam					

10.8 Butterfly/Dragonfly transect route



Kent Wildlife Trust 2016
Conningbrook Lakes Country Park
Butterfly/Dragonfly transect

Legend

Fencing

Butterfly&dragonfly_transect

Scale = 1:7000.

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10.9 Risk Assessment: Emergency Site Information

Kent Wildlife Trust

Health and Safety at Work

Emergency Site Information

Assessed by Vicky Aitkenhead….. Date…26 November 2015……

This form is to record useful information and emergency details. Please make this information available to contractors or any persons responsible for work or activity on your site. (**A map of the site is copied on the reverse of this form to allow locations to be identified**.)

1 Name of site: **Conningbrook Lakes Country Park, Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford**

2 Post code: **TN24 9QX** **Grid ref. TR 028436**

3 Name, address and telephone number of main contact person(s)

A	B	C
Vicky Aitkenhead	**Ian Rickards**	**Terry Jones**
Kent Wildlife Trust	**Kent Wildlife Trust**	**Ashford Borough Council**
Tyland Barn	**Tyland Barn**	**Civic Centre**
Maidstone	**Maidstone**	**Ashford**
ME14 3BD	**ME14 3BD**	**TN23 1PL**
07805789019	**07889 737839**	**01233 331111**

Vehicle access/meeting place?

Julie Rose Stadium Car Park (P) **TN24 9QX** **Grid ref. TR 028436**

Main access indicated by black arrow on map.

Other emergency access points? **Red arrow on map.**

4 Where is the nearest phone? (indicate on map)

Phone 1 **Julie Rose Stadium reception (Ph1)** **Main entrance to stadium**

Phone 2 **House on site (Ph2)** **To the right of the stadium**

(If possible use a mobile phone. **Priority emergency No.112**

Mobile phone reception – **Good coverage**

Helicopter landing points (H)- **Compartment 4, far end of the lake on the grassland.**

Grid ref. TR 032430

5 What is the address of the nearest Hospital Accident and Emergency Unit?

Address: **William Harvey Hospital, Willesborough Lees, Ashford**

Postcode: **TN24 0LZ** Tel. **01233 633331**

Nearest Doctor: **Cemetery Lane, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 9JZ** Tel: **01233 624642**

6 What First Aid provision is available

First Aid box carried in Conningbrook Wardens Van

Julie Rose Stadium has first aid facilities

7 List below any particular features of the site which a visiting contractor or leader should be aware of (indicate on map)

Large expanses of open, deep water

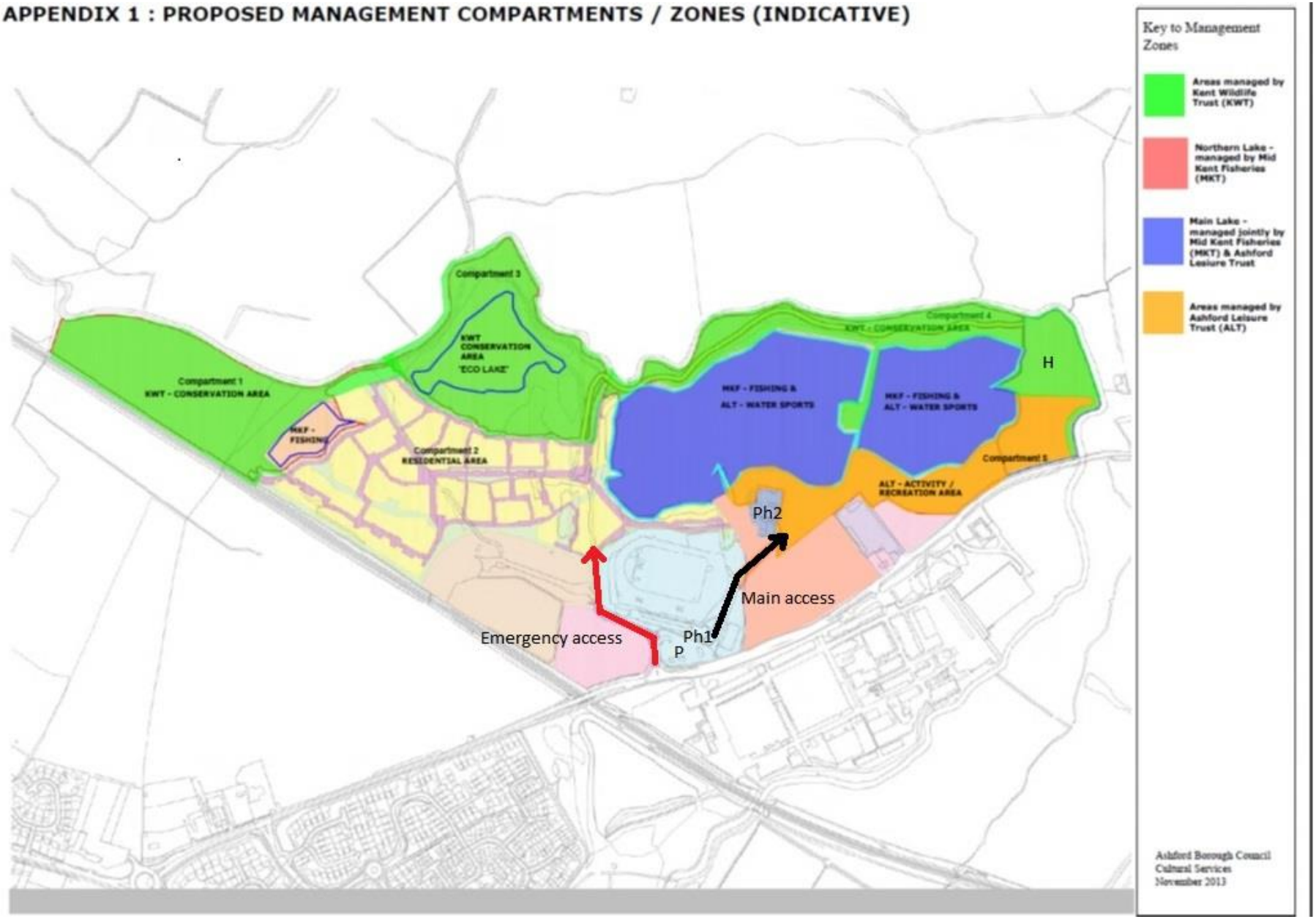
Watersport activities

Large areas of the site are extremely wet at all times of the year

Uneven ground, risk of grounding

Livestock may be on site

APPENDIX 1 : PROPOSED MANAGEMENT COMPARTMENTS / ZONES (INDICATIVE)



10.10 Risk Assessment: General Site Risk Assessment

Kent Wildlife Trust
Health and Safety at Work

Whole Site General Risk Assessment

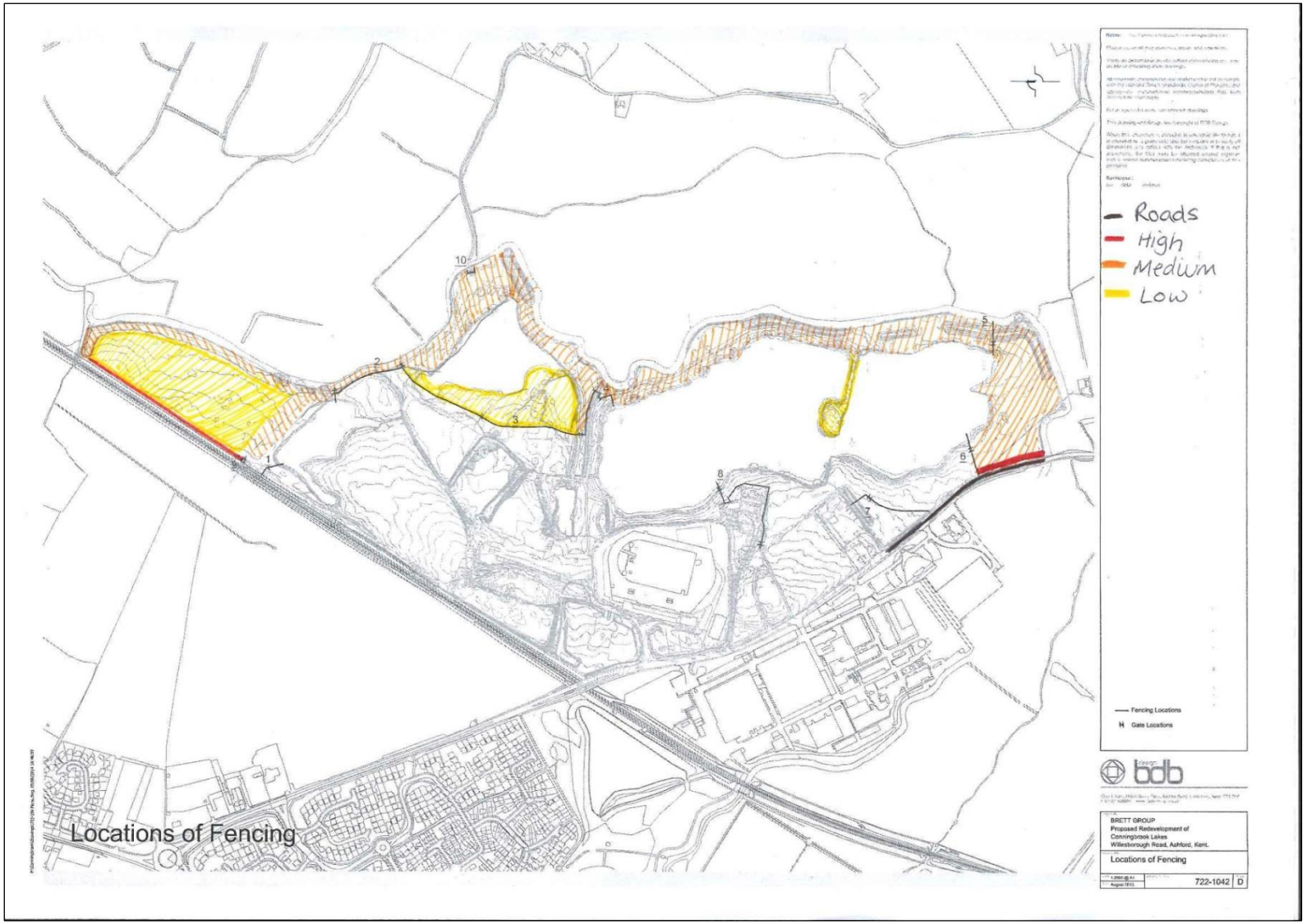
This form is for any member of staff or volunteer who is responsible for a Trust site (e.g.Warden, Honorary Warden, Centre Manager,Office Manager) or Trust activity (e.g. Work Party Leader, Event Organiser). You have a responsibility to assess the risks as explained in the Trust's Health and Safety Manual and this form is provided to help with this assessment and with precautions which will reduce significant risks.

Name of Site **Conningbrook Lake CP**..... *Date of Assessment*...**26th November 2015**..... *Assessed by*...**Ian Rickards**....

To be used in conjunction with the Emergency Site Information form.

Description of hazard	Who is at risk and from what?	What is the risk of serious injury: low, medium or high?	What action or precautions are needed? • See Health and Safety Manual incorporating codes of good practice.	Further action required, by who and when to be completed?
1 Trees: Dead, leaning, hung up.	Staff, volunteers, contractors the public from falling trees/ branches.	Low	Check large trees near paths for signs of causing danger to people. Follow KWT tree inspection process. Rope off/make safe/fell as appropriate. Wear helmets if working nearby.	*Annual tree inspection carried out by AAW*
2. Lakes and rivers	Staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors. Drowning	Med	Contractors, staff and volunteers to be alerted to presence of deep water in Risk Assessment and initial safety talks. If works carried out by KWT are adjacent to or within water bodies then Site Specific RA to be carried out. Refer to risk assessment if working near water. No lone working where access to water is required. If working on water see RA24.	Site Specific RA to be carried out, if working in or adjacent to water bodies.
3 Ditches and un-drivable paths– Vehicle overturn.	Staff, volunteers, contactors.	low	Warn volunteers and contractors when working. Make aware of locations and site safety form. Don't take vehicles round in wet conditions to avoid getting stuck. (*see codes of good practice*)	
4 Injuries caused by Livestock	Staff, volunteers, public, contractors	low	Place signs at all main entrances warn people that livestock are on the site and to keep dogs under control. If particular animals become problematic remove them from public contact.	
5 Collision with heavy machinery / plant from early year works / housing development.	Staff, volunteers, public, contractors	Med	Ensure staff and contractors are aware of the approved access routes onto site, avoiding development areas.	Issue **Emergency Site Information** form to contractors and staff working for KWT

10.11 Tree Inspection Zones



10.12 Protected Species guidelines

Amphibians. The great-crested newt *Triturus cristatus* is protected under all elements of Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is also protected under parts 1 and 2 of Regulation 39 of the Habitats Regulations 1994 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation taken together prohibits the following:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly, injuring, killing and capturing.
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturbing.
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly taking or destroying eggs.
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly destroying a breeding site or resting place or damaging or obstructing a resting place used for shelter or protection.
- Keeping, transporting, selling or exchanging; offering for sale or advertising.

Consequently, not only are the animals themselves protected, but so is their habitat and activities that damage or impede the use of this habitat are prohibited. Smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris*, palmate newt *Triturus helveticus*, common frog *Rana temporaria* and common toad *Bufo bufo* have partial protection under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act against sale only.

Good practice for managing woodland with great crested newts (Taken from "Guidance on managing woodlands with great-crested newts in England" produced by NE and FC.)
This good practice guidance for routine woodland operations should maintain or improve the habitat for great crested newts and minimises the risk of harming individuals or damaging their breeding sites or resting places. If you follow this good practice, and carry out the operations as described here, we would not expect you to require a protected species licence.

- ***Thinning/felling/tree surgery*** *– phase any work near a pond used by great crested newts over several years, so that within 100m of a pond only 25% of the area is affected in any one year.*
- ***Stacking*** *- within 100m of a pond, try to avoid stacking timber unless such stacks are to be left solely as habitat. If you do have to harvest and stack timber in close proximity to a pond used by great crested newts, remove the stacks within a few weeks and certainly before October.*
- ***Extraction*** *– where possible extract material using a forwarder rather than a skidder to reduce the risk of harming great crested newts.*
- ***Site preparation*** *– try to avoid scarification or burning up of brash where great crested newts use the woodland, but if it is necessary, ensure all site preparation is done before the area becomes suitable habitat – ideally within a few months of felling. Do not rake brash or scarify areas within 100m of a breeding pond.*
- ***Mowing regimes*** *– within 100m of a pond, modify the ride and glade mowing programme to ensure only a small proportion of the grassland habitat is cut in any one year.*
- ***Track construction or other ground-works*** *– avoid undertaking such activities within 100m of a pond*

Reptiles
The viviparous lizard *Lacerta vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, adder *Viper berus* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* have partial protection against killing, injuring and sale etc only under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Mammals

All British bats and their roosts are protected under Schedule 5 of the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act. They are also protected under Schedule 2 of the Habitats Regulations, 1994. This makes it illegal to kill, injure, capture or disturb bats or obstruct access to, damage or destroy bat roosts. Under the law, a roost is any structure or place used for shelter or protection. Because bats tend to reuse the same roosts, the roost is protected whether the bats are present at the time or not.

Good practice for managing woodland with bats
(Taken from "Guidance on managing woodlands with bats in England" produced by NE and FC.)

This good practice guidance for routine woodland operations should maintain or improve the habitat for bats and minimises the risk of harming individuals or damaging their breeding sites or resting places. If you follow this good practice, and carry out the operations as described here, we would not expect you to require a protected species licence.

- *Clearly mark and protect any trees that contain confirmed bat roosts.*
- *Retain a buffer or ring of trees and understorey around these roosts in order to maintain the environmental conditions of the roost; this will usually mean a ring with a width of one to two canopies around the tree. Ensure these trees do not become isolated from woodland, but maintain wooded 'corridors' or links to the wider woodland.*
- *Retain a similar buffer ring of trees and understorey around any underground structure or building likely to be used by bats, again ensuring that links are maintained to adjoining woodland.*
- *Where there are comparatively few trees with potential bat roosts avoid felling or disturbing any of them. Where there is an abundance of trees with potential roosts, ensure you are only felling a small proportion in any 10-year period.*
- *Where you are felling or thinning in woodlands with an abundance of trees with potential roosts, leave a significant proportion of the area entirely undisturbed in that 10-year period.*
- *Similarly, when planning felling coupes retain belts of trees, e.g. along watercourses, and avoid creating isolated blocks of woodland. Avoid opening up gaps greater than about 20m in any linear features. This will help free movement of bats within the woodland.*
- *Identify 'natural reserves' where areas of woodland are managed through very low intensity intervention (e.g. deer management) to allow woodland habitats to develop naturally for wildlife.*
- *Retain (and encourage) as much understorey as is possible, in particular where it directly shelters or shades a known roost.*
- *Coppice management is beneficial for a range of wildlife. However, where roosts of Bechstein's bats have been confirmed, try to avoid coppicing work in close proximity (50m) to the major roost site so as to reduce disturbance to their immediate flightlines and foraging area.*
- *Cut ride and/or trackside vegetation to sustain an insect-rich environment, but ensure that potential roosts in trackside trees do not become exposed.*
- *Ensure smoke and/or heat from managed fires does not affect roosts in trees or structures.*
- *Avoid major increases in the levels of noise and activity around confirmed roost trees (e.g. from rapid increases in recreational use or on-site wood processing).*