

Appendix 3 – Detailed Geographical Features

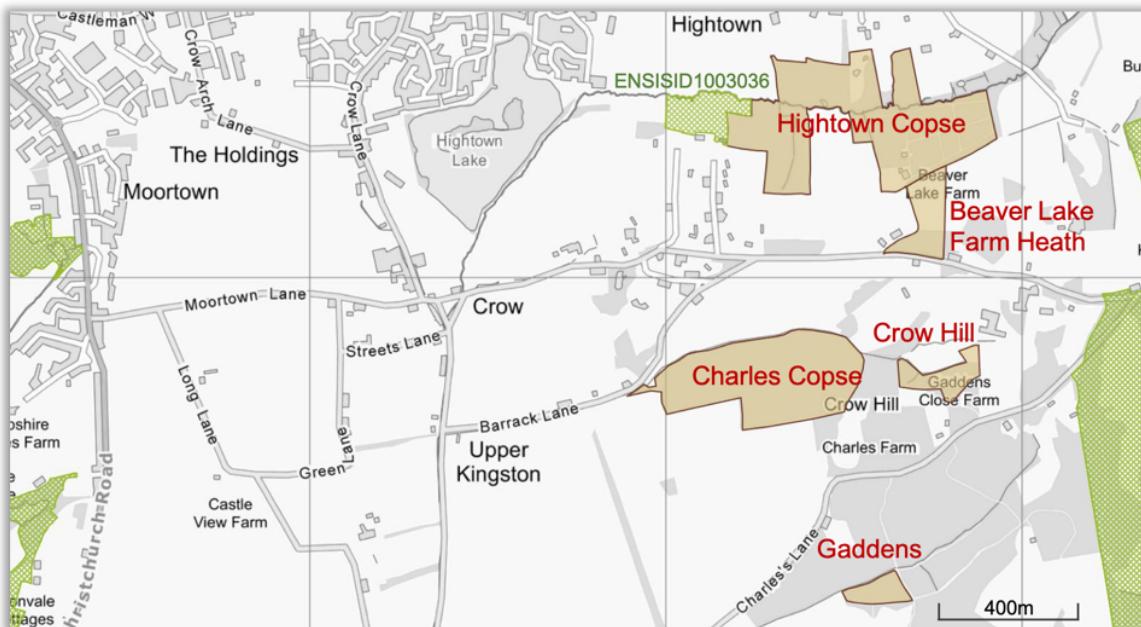
The Northern Corridor

The HBIC map below shows the broad habitats⁶² of the area. It is mostly agricultural with the large brown ‘unidentified habitat’ area to the west being the Long Lane sports facilities. There is an extensive woodland area to the east.



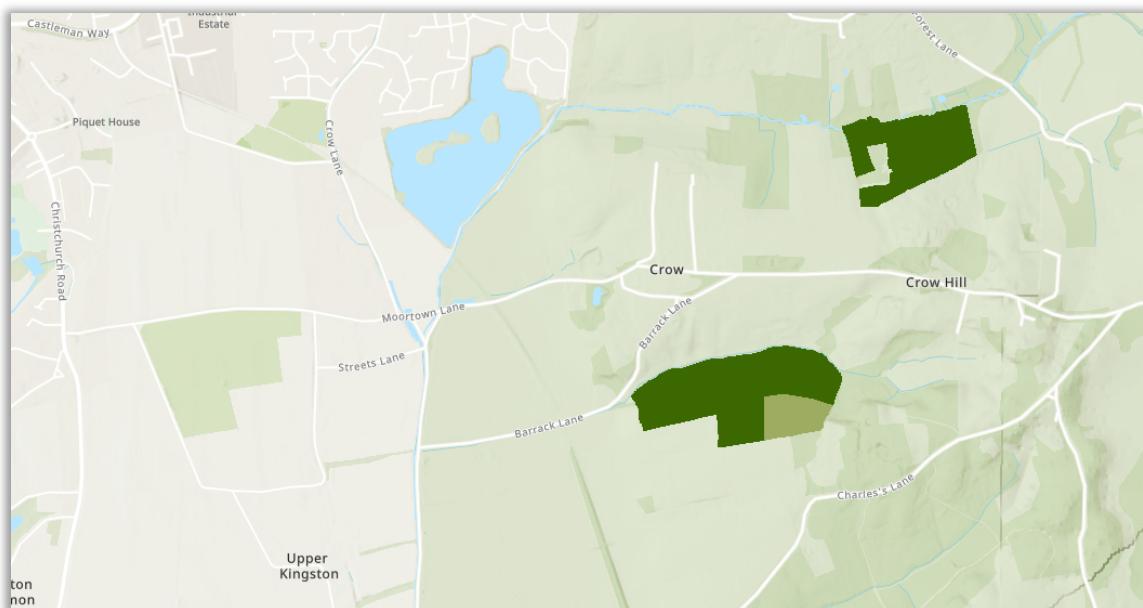
To the west is the Avon Valley SSSI and to the east is The New Forest SSSI, which are considered herein as ‘Core Areas’ as described in the NPPF, paragraph 79.

The map below from ‘Parish Maps’ (Version 9, accessed September 2022)⁶³ lists Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC sites in brown) in the area and an SSSI (ENSIDID1003036) situated adjacent to Hightown Copse. SINC areas are considered herein as ‘Stepping Stones’ as described in the NPPF, paragraph 79.



The SSSI is the same ENSISID as the New Forest as a whole. For the SINC sites, Hightown Copse is an area where there is ‘a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving’, Beaver Lake Farm Heath retains ‘significant remnants of heathland vegetation which would enable their recovery’, Charles Copse and Gaddens are ‘ancient semi-natural woodlands’ and Crow Hill is an ‘area of heathland vegetation including matrices of dwarf shrub, acid grassland, valley mires and scrub’. All the SINCs and the SSSI are within the NFNPA controlled area. Running along the north edge of the SSSI area, the south east edge of Hightown Lake and then south alongside Crow Lane is the Crow Stream. This joins the stream running past the Gaddens SINC further south in the parish and eventually these join the Avon near Tyrrell’s Ford. The mix of woodland, heath and wet areas is similar then to the types of habitat that can be found in the New Forest and are stepping-stones for the corridor.

The ArcGIS map (Ancient Woodland England)⁶⁴ below does not mark up all the SINC areas as ancient woodland, only Hightown Copse and Charles Copse.

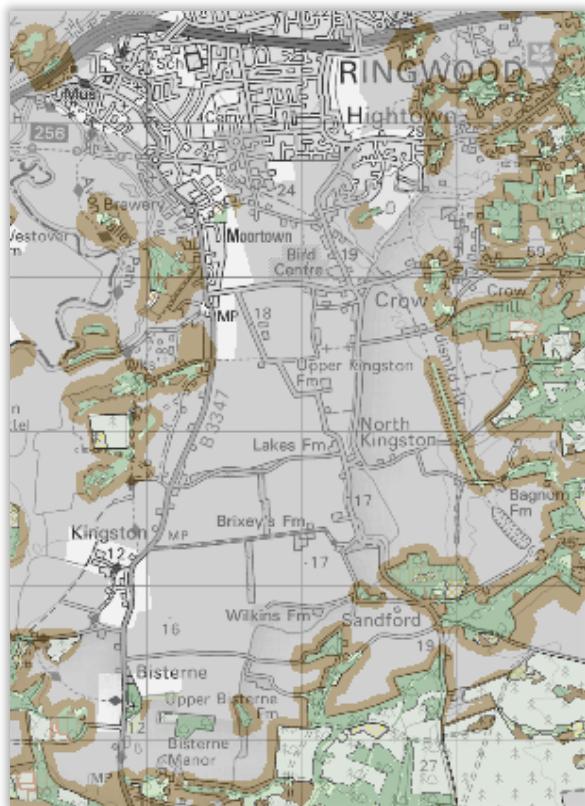


OS Six Inch maps from the 1888 to 1913 era⁶⁵ clearly show Charles Copse (then named Crow Copse), Hightown Copse and Gaddens as wooded areas.

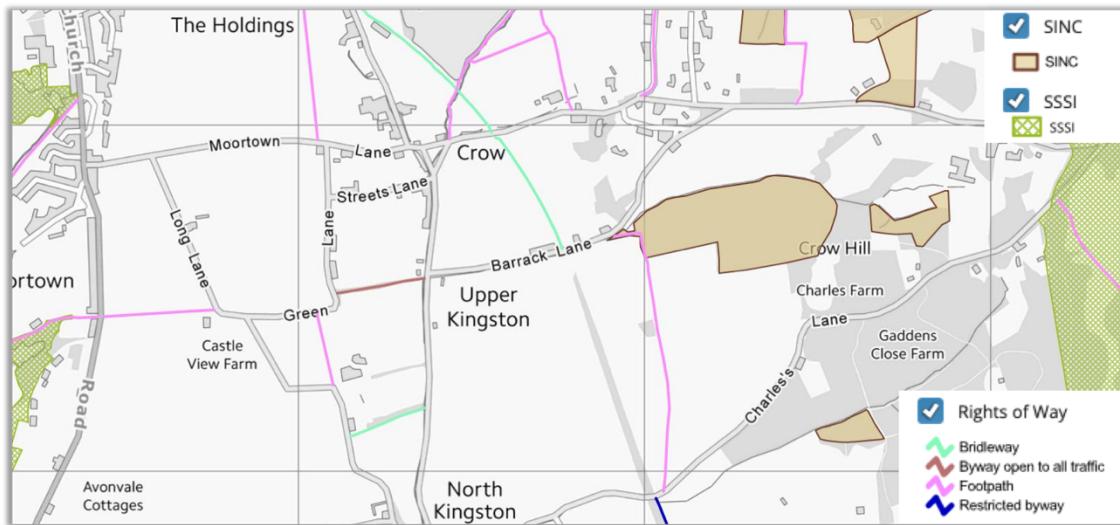
The DEFRA Countryside Stewardship⁶⁶ scheme currently. (September 2022) “gives incentives for land managers to look after their environment”. This includes ‘Wildlife Offers’ that incentivise, in particular, diversity of wildlife and water quality. In the Defra ‘New farming policies and payments in England’ leaflet (July 2022), it states that ‘Local Nature Recovery’ will replace Countryside Stewardship.

The MagicMap⁶⁷ to the right shows 'High Spatial Priority' 'Woodland Priority Habitat Network' sites in brown and woodland areas in variations of green depending on the category. Most of the grey area in the map south of Crow is in the Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship Agri-Environment Scheme.

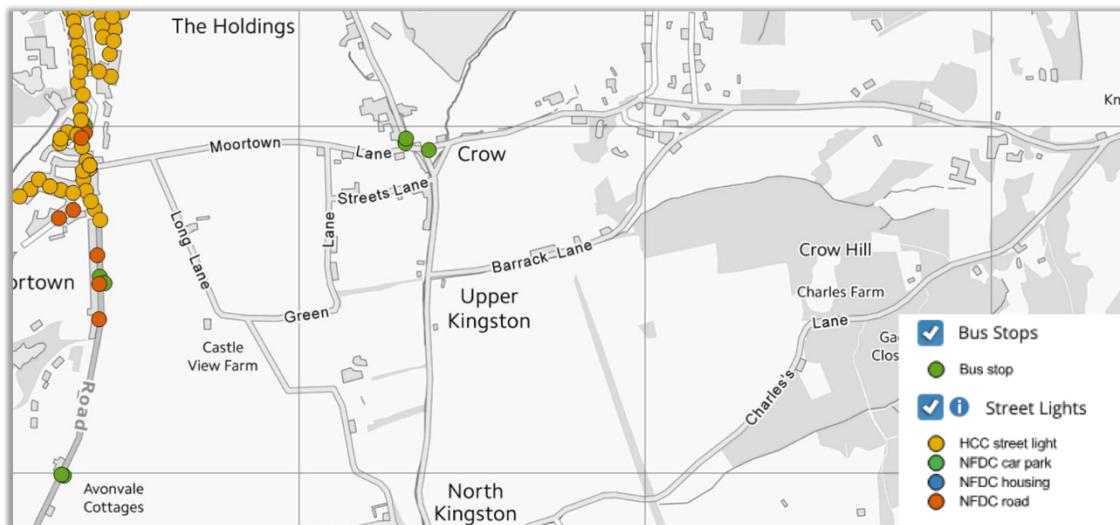
The HBIC hedgerows⁶⁸ map obtained in 2021 shows the basis of connectivity and is shown below with some of the Tree Council funded planting complete as of July 2022. Thousands more saplings for hedgerows and copses are planned to be planted around the parish in 2022 and 2023, many of which will be in the corridor areas. Hedgerows are considered herein as 'Corridors', as described in the NPPF, paragraph 79. The map also shows a part of an Ordnance Survey map from over a century ago, which shows the hedges now being reinstated west of Long Lane.



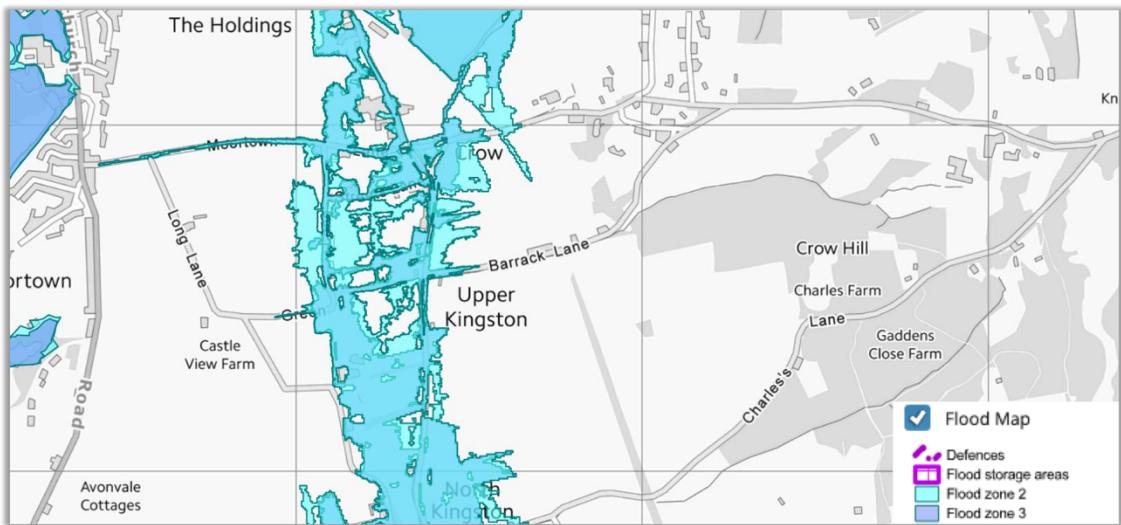
The next map shows the same area, includes SSSI and SINC areas and Rights of Way.



The next map of the same area shows the position of street lighting and bus stops. The Christchurch Road area around and north of Hampshire Hatches Lane has significant street lighting.



The next map shows the flood zones according to 'Parish Maps', which is included here as it suggests areas where wet tolerant hedging or copses would be preferred.



The flood zones are linked to the HBIC Priority Habitats map below, where flood risk zones broadly align with Floodplain Grazing Marsh areas. The dark green lines are priority hedgerow habitat.



The map on the next page is an overlay of the modified HBIC hedgerow map laid over the 'Parish Maps' satellite view (accessed September 2022) and shows the existing forested areas to the east as well as the hedgerows. A core part of the policy is the measurement of the hedgerows to assess their current state and to inform the improvement plans. The methodology for the assessment will be based on methodology outlined by the People's Trust for Endangered Species⁶⁹ or similar. Assessment of the condition of certain of these hedgerows will require permission of the landowner, which is being progressed⁷⁰.

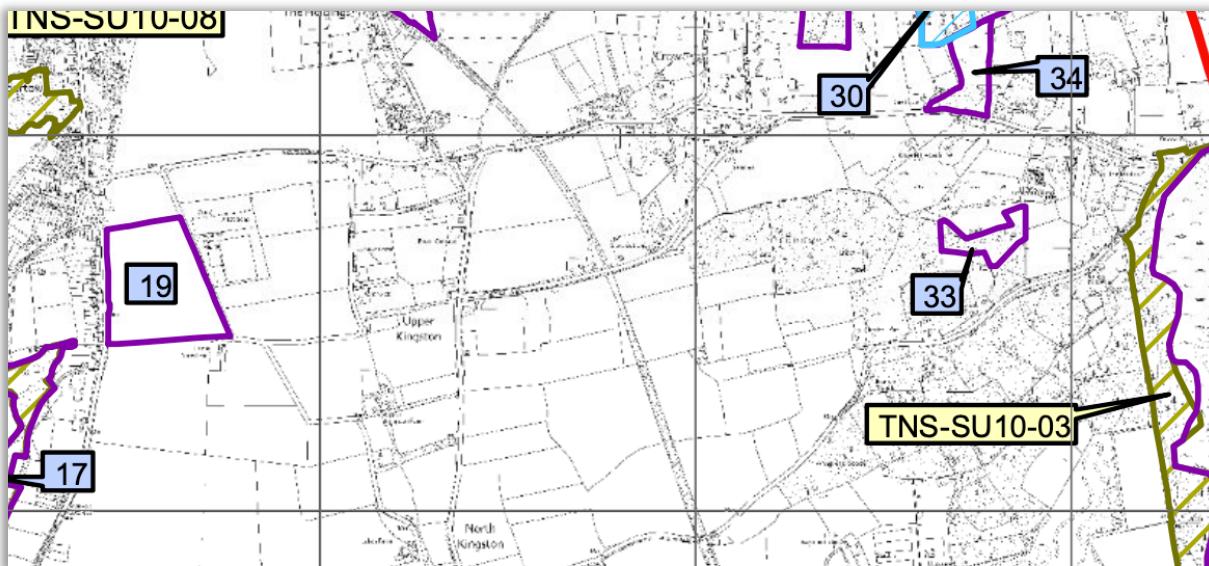


The next map shows the proposed Green Corridor feature boundaries. On the north edge, which follow existing hedgerows or woodland areas, it starts at the Avon Valley SSSI to the west (Easting 415344; Northing 103446⁷¹), goes along Kingston Common to and across Christchurch Road, along the footpath with recently planted hedging to Long Lane, continues east along Long Lane and then Green Lane to the Upper Kingston byway, east on the byway to Ringwood Road, across and along Barrack Lane to the junction with Crow Hill and then east along Crow Hill to The New Forest SSSI (418234; 103942). On the southern edge, it starts at the Avon Valley SSSI (415170; 103080), goes due east to the edge of the Gaddens SINC woodland (417576; 103080), then on to The New Forest SSSI (418250; 103080).



Hedgerows, SINC's and water courses within the area bounded by the yellow lines and SSSI's are Green Corridor features, as referred to in, and protected by, the putative policies. It is recognised that this corridor does not incorporate the small SSSI area and adjacent SINC at Hightown Copse: integration could be part of a future extension to this plan. Note also that the corridor is over 200m at its narrowest point, in accordance with Natural England 'rule of thumb' guidance for wildlife corridors⁷².

Within this area, there are two Biosites outside of the SSSI areas as shown in the HBIC Biosites map below. '19' refers to Upper Kingston Farm Arable Field, where field margins were found to contain corn spurrey and some weasel's snout, an amber status plant that is vulnerable or near-threatened⁷³.



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

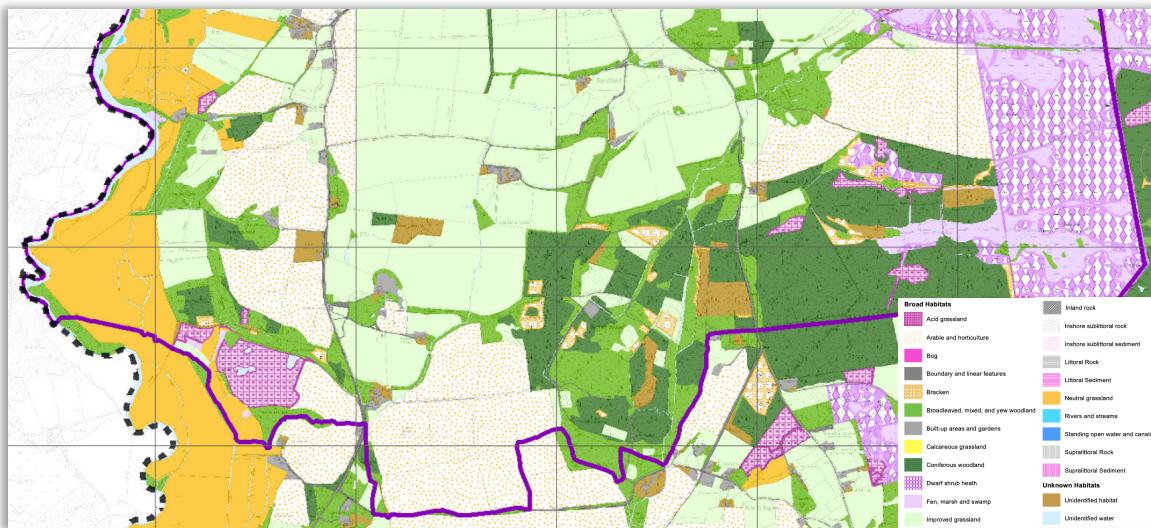
Details of Biosites (sites which HBIC holds biological survey information for) within the search area:

Map Label	Biosite Ref	Biosite Name	Central Grid Ref.	Biosite Type	Area (ha)	Last Phase2 Survey	Last Brief Survey	Last Other Survey
19	10-0148	Upper Kingston Farm Arable Field	SU15560362	Site	8.21	31/08/2016		
33	10-0079	Crow Hill	SU17700370	Site	1.67	27/08/1986		

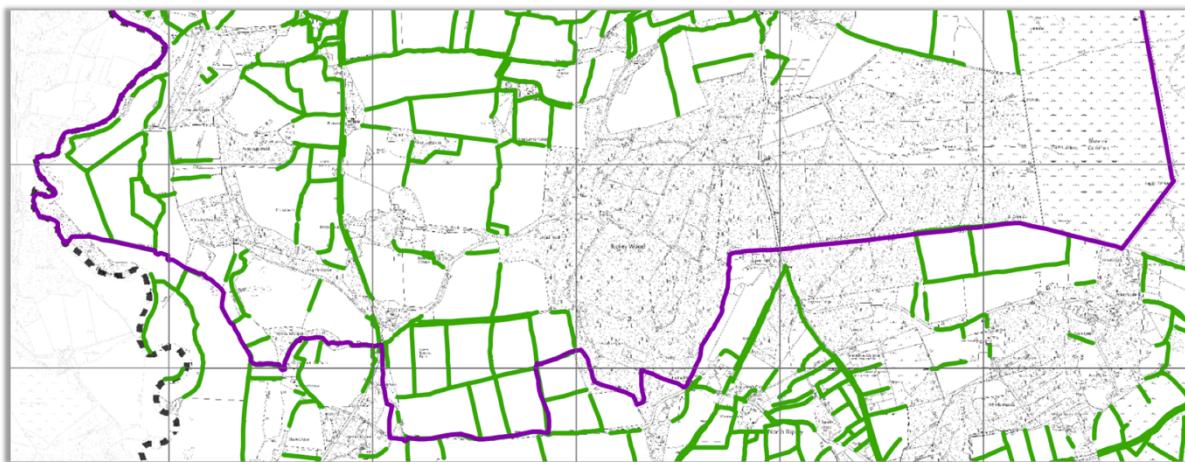
'33' refers to Crow Hill. The Crow Hill area is a SINC based on criteria 3A "Areas of Heathland Vegetation including mosaics of dwarf shrub heath, acidic grassland, valley mire and scrub"⁷⁴.

The Southern Corridor

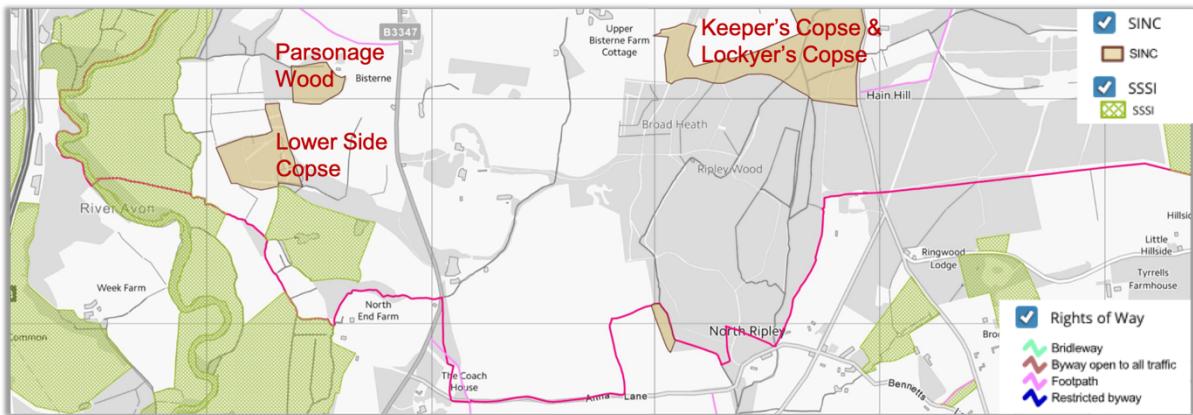
The first map in this section is taken from the HBIC Broad Habitats map and shows the southern part of the parish.



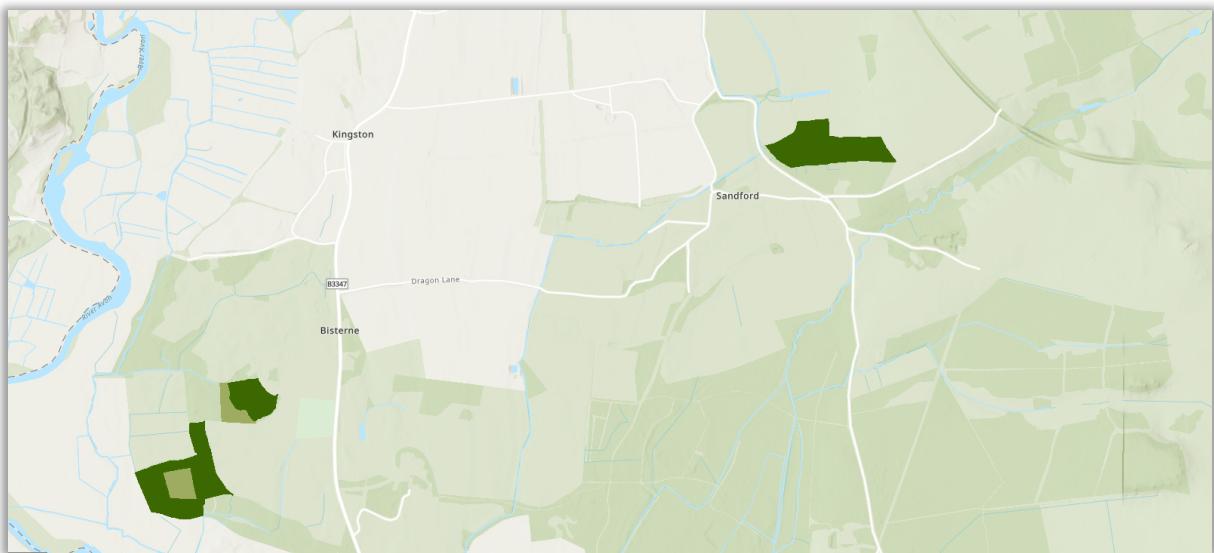
Between the Avon Valley and NFNPs protected areas, there are a number of SINCs which are all 'ancient semi-natural woodlands'⁷⁵. In between there are large areas of woodland, such as Ripley Wood, farmland and the privately owned Bisterne Estate, which includes eighteen miles of ancient hedgerows. The HBIC hedgerows map shows the basis of connectivity. Assessment of the condition of certain of these hedgerows will require permission of the landowner, which is being progressed. Note that the map doesn't show two SINC's that are just off it to the north, Sandford Copse and Bagnum Wood. These 'Stepping Stones' could be included in a subsequent expansion of the corridor areas.



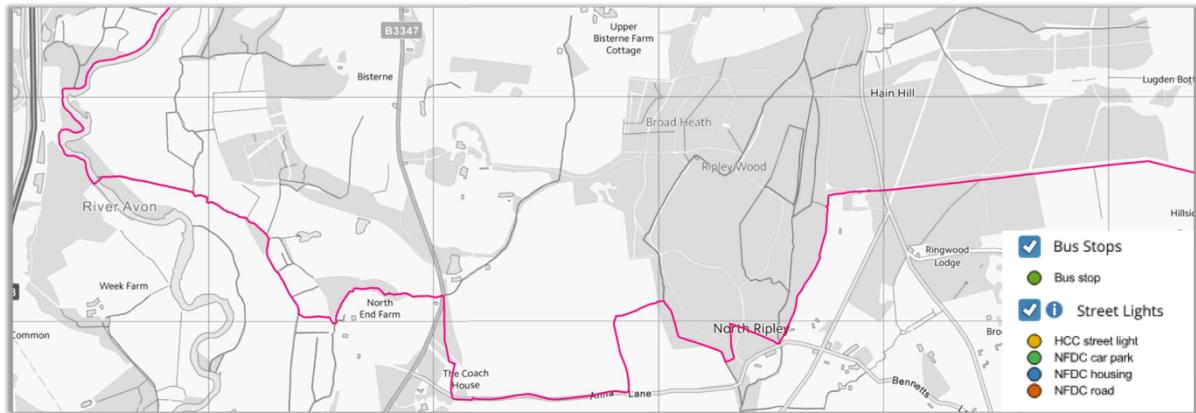
The next map shows the SSSI, SINC and Rights of Way.



The ArcGIS map (Ancient Woodland England) below shows a wider area than the maps above. It does not mark up all the SINC areas as ancient woodland, only Lower Side Copse, Parsonage Wood and an unnamed area that corresponds with Sandford Copse further north. OS Six Inch maps from the 1888 to 1913 era clearly show Bagnum Wood (then named Bagnum Copse), Sandford Copse, Keeper's Copse and Lockyer's Copse, Parsonage Wood (then named Parson's Wood) and Lower Side Copse as wooded areas.



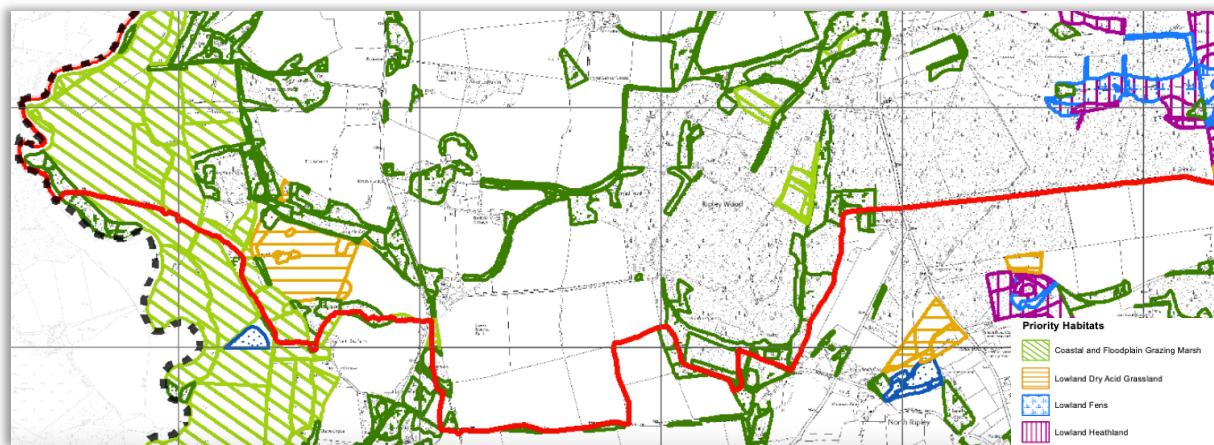
The next map is somewhat redundant in that there are no street lights or indeed bus stops marked on 'Parish Maps' in the area.



The flood prone areas are shown in the next map.



The HBIC Priority Habitats map below shows the same area and there is some alignment of Floodplain Grazing March areas and flood zones. The dark green lines are priority hedgerow habitat.



The next map is an overlay of the modified HBIC map over the 'Parish Maps' satellite view (Version 9, accessed September 2022) and shows the extensive existing forested areas to the east and patches of forested areas to the west beyond just the SINC areas, as well as the hedgerows.



The next map shows the proposed Green Corridor feature boundaries. To the south is the Ringwood Parish Boundary. To the north is a west-east line that runs from the Avon Valley SSSI (413870; 101100), goes through Parsonage Wood and Keeper's Copse SINCs to The New Forest SSSI (418229; 101100). At its narrowest point, the corridor is about 350m wide, in accordance with Natural England 'rule of thumb' guidance for wildlife corridors.



Hedgerows, SINCs and water courses within the area bounded by the yellow line, the SSSI's and the Parish Boundary are Green Corridor features, as referred to in, and protected by, the putative policies.

The HBIC Biosites map has no sites recorded within the proposed Green Corridor.