



**Liss Village Neighbourhood Development Plan
Making the Plan:**

Biodiversity

Submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority

Liss Parish Council

November 2016

Evidence supporting the Biodiversity Policy

1. The Liss Landscape Character Assessment provided a detailed analysis of the biodiversity associated with each of the four identified Landscape areas. This is detailed in Wheatham Hill and the Western part of the Rother Valley 6A10, the Eastern part of the Rother valley 7A13 -7A19, Longmoor and Liss Forest, Hillbrow Ridge and Rake 8B11- 8B16, and 9A11-13.
2. The most important areas are protected through the national designation of the Wealden Heath Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and also local designations of a Local Nature Reserve, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) and recognised sunken lanes. Section 3 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Pathway of Impact - Recreational Pressure and Disturbance describes the general position in Liss Parish and in particular the constraints around any development which could impact on the SPA.
3. The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, is a partnership led initiative hosted by the County Council, and is the principal source of biodiversity information in Hampshire (see www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic). It records the boundaries and purpose of all the statutory designations in Hampshire, and maintains additional records of protected and important species which have been recorded in the Liss area, many of which are outside the designated protected areas. They have identified the SINCS which are non-statutory on the basis of detailed survey information. Appendix 1 is a table of SINCS within Liss Parish. Local people have also identified areas which are special for wildlife and plants. This information has been drawn on in assessing the suitability of the proposed housing development sites. In addition, a biodiversity audit was carried out for each of the proposed housing sites which had been found to be potentially suitable to ensure that development would not have a significant effect on biodiversity. Particular features such as mature trees, hedges or banks which were important for biodiversity and which needed to be protected from building by buffer Zones were identified on the selected sites.
4. The Village Design Statement, which has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the South Downs National Park Authority, has policies to protect the Wealden Heaths SPA and the SINCS in Liss (policy 3.2), and protect the River Rother (policy 3.3). Policy 3.5 encourages the improvement of biodiversity in any development.
5. The biodiversity policies of the Liss Village Neighbourhood Development Plan draw on and expand the VDS policies, particularly in respect of requirements of developers to maintain and improve biodiversity, and the steps that should be taken to protect the SPA by providing alternatives to the use of the SPA for recreation for the increased population.

6. These policies are complemented by a requirement that the biodiversity on any development site should be assessed before development can begin. This is set down in the development brief for each site. It is an assumption underlying the plan that development must conform with national legislation and guidance on these designations in making those assessments.
7. The strategy of the plan, particularly the location of potential sites for housing, has been informed by biodiversity requirements. Throughout Liss this has meant avoiding sites which either have a biodiversity designation on the site, or which adjoin a designated area and appear likely to impact on that site. In the case of the SPA, however, as described in the HRA, development within 400m would be strictly limited and development up to 5km requires impact to be assessed through an HRA. This covers all of Liss Forest, which is the area closest to the SPA, where the strategy seeks to restrict development anyway to prevent coalescence and reinforces the strategy in this area. Other sites are assessed by the HRA which concludes that there is no likely significant effect on the European sites, such as the SPA.

Appendix 1 Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the search area (Liss Parish):

Please see [Criteria for SINCs in Hampshire](#) at the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre for more information on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire.

Status	SINC Ref	SINC Name	Central Grid Ref.	SINC Criteria	Species supported that meet Section 6 of SINC Selection Criteria	Area (ha)
SINC	EH0313	Foot of Wheatham Hill	SU74802720	1A/6A		1.03
SINC	EH0314	Naps Copse	SU74802770	1A		1.10
SINC	EH0315	Hazel Holt Copse	SU74802780	1A		0.94
SINC	EH0316	Roundabout Copse, Oakshott	SU74802790	1A		1.50
SINC	EH0321	Wheatham Woods	SU74902760	1A		7.79
SINC	EH0375	Berry Grove Copse	SU76302840	1A		2.06
SINC	EH0385	Adhurst Woods & Big Moor	SU76502530	1A/1Cii		58.58
SINC	EH0394	River Rother	SU76682566	5A		11.61
SINC	EH0402	Alder Carr North of Stodham Bridge	SU76902630	1Cii/6A	Chrysosplenium alternifolium (Alternate-Leaved Golden-Saxifrage) [CR]	6.37
SINC	EH0408	U211 Tankerdale Lane	SU77042603	6A	Melittis melissophyllum (Bastard Balm) [NR]	0.10

Status	SINC Ref	SINC Name	Central Grid Ref.	SINC Criteria	Species supported that meet Section 6 of SINC Selection Criteria	Area (ha)
SINC	EH0422	Liss Tree Nursery Tracks	SU77702820	6A	Sphaerocarpos texanus (A Liverwort) [s41]	2.45
SINC	EH0427	Liss Forest Site 1135	SU77902890	1A		1.19
SINC	EH0428	Moor Park Farm Woodland (North & South of Railway Line)	SU77902900	1Cii		6.18
SINC	EH0432	Liss Railway (disused)	SU77922867	1B/1Cii		10.59
SINC	EH0434	Moor Park Farm Meadow 3	SU78002910	2A		1.81
SINC	EH0446	Wylde Green North Meadow	SU78352815	2B		1.26
SINC	EH0447	Field by Evangelical Church, Liss Forest	SU78362848	2A/5B		1.08
SINC	EH0448	Wylde Green Central Meadow	SU78402810	2A		0.80
SINC	EH0449	Wylde Green Woodland	SU78502800	1A		1.67
SINC	EH0458	Warren Hill Meadow	SU78702910	2D		2.44
SINC	EH0471	Mint Road Meadow & Carr	SU79102870	6A	Equisetum sylvaticum (Wood Horsetail) [CS] Stellaria neglecta (Greater Chickweed) [CS]	0.84
SINC	EH0477	St. Patrick's Copse	SU79502760	1A		5.69
SINC	EH0482	Reeds Lane Road Verge	SU79802870	6A	Bartramia pomiformis (A Moss) Reboulia hemisphaerica (A Liverwort)	0.79
SINC	EH0489	Newlands Field	SU80102810	6A	Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold) [NR] Misopates orontium (Weasel's Snout) [NR]	5.30
SINC	EH0493	Primrose Lane Road Verge	SU80202760	6A	Geranium rotundifolium (Round-Leaved Crane's-Bill) [CS]	0.12
SINC	EH0501	Wood/Bog North-West of Langley	SU80502940	3A		3.47
SINC	EH0559	The Mint	SU78802870	1Cii/6A	Potentilla palustris (Marsh Cinquefoil) [nHS]	1.94