

2. RESULTS

2.1 Identification of Local Wildlife Sites

The suite of LoWS been amended from those identified in the report in 1992 for the following reasons:

- Some sites (15 in total) have been de-selected on account of their decreased nature conservation value or failure to satisfactorily meet the revised and now more stringent selection criteria. Two sites are no longer in Essex, following changes to the district/county boundary;
- New, modified or previously overlooked sites have been identified and added to the register. In most instances, such changes involve alterations to the boundaries of existing sites, but 66 completely new areas have also been identified;
- SSSIs have been removed from the system;
- Some sites have been amalgamated where they lie next to each other or are otherwise sufficiently connected.

Probably the greatest single change for Epping Forest District is that areas designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI, included in the previous survey, are now no longer included in the LoWS network, in line with national guidance. With regards to Epping Forest District this removes (old SINC identification numbers are given for ease of reference):

- W1. Alder Wood, part of Waltham Abbey SSSI
- W50. Hainault Forest SSSI
- G1. Cornmill Stream and Old River Lea Meadow SSSI
- G8. Hunsdon Mead SSSI
- G11. Roding Valley Meadows SSSI
- G37 and G38 were two Essex County Council Special Roadside Verges that lie within the Epping Forest SSSI and are therefore not eligible for selection.
- M7. Epping Forest SSSI
- FW1. Hall Marsh Scrape – now part of Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI
- FW3. King George's Reservoir (most of this SINC transferred to Hertfordshire after a county boundary review, but a thin section remains in Essex within what is now called Chingford Reservoirs SSSI).

In addition, part of Site G9 has been added to Hunsdon Mead SSSI and so this section of grassland is removed from the remaining Site. FW2 (Hooks Marsh) was almost totally absorbed into the new Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI, leaving a section of river channel that has now been added to the new Lee Valley South Local Wildlife Site.

Site numbering has also been changed. Previously, sites were roughly grouped into habitat categories of Woodland, Grassland, Mosaic, Freshwater, Coastal or Heathland, with an appropriate letter code and sequential number. Given that this process was repeated across the 14 boroughs/districts in Essex, this means that the county had 14 “W1” Local Wildlife Sites i.e. the first woodland site in each local/unitary authority area. In order to make the county-wide system less complicated, a new system has been introduced whereby each site has a borough/district and number code, with all Epping Forest Sites now being prefixed “Ep” and with no indication of the habitat(s) present on the site.

The revised list of Epping Forest Local Wildlife Sites is included in Appendix 1 with the revised Local Wildlife Site Register in Appendix 2. Within the Register, each Site has a suitably scaled location map (N.B. the scale varies between maps), code number, name, area in hectares and central grid reference. The maps show the LoWS in question in green, with any other adjacent Epping LoWS shown in pale yellow, along with any potential LoWS (green hatching) and SSSIs (mustard yellow). The citation for each site then describes the characteristic vegetation, identifies key species and habitat qualities. Finally, the relevant selection criteria codes are listed (see separate document Annex 1 for the interpretation of these codes), along with an indication of any UK and Essex BAP habitats that are present and also details of when the site was first designated and then reviewed (if applicable).

2.2 Changes to Old SINC Network

The following table provides a brief summary of the original suite of SINC's identified in 1992, 1996 and 1998, noting if they have been deleted or been subject to any other amendments.

W1. Alder Wood, Waltham Abbey SSSI	SSSI removed from LoWS network
W2. Thompson's Wood	Boundary corrected
W3. Fernhill Wood	Amalgamated into Ep15 Carroll's Farm Complex
W4. Blind Lane Complex	Amalgamated into Ep15 Carroll's Farm Complex
W5. Wood, West Essex Golf Course	Unchanged
W6. Galleyhill Wood Complex	Minor boundary adjustments
W7. Aldergrove Wood	Unchanged
W8. Epping Forest - High Beach	Unchanged; different selection criteria apply

W9. Totwellhill Bushes	Minor boundary adjustment
W10. Ardmore Lane Wood	Unchanged
W11. Deerpark Wood	Minor boundary revision
W12. Epping Forest - Palmer's Bridge	Significant addition and deletion
W13. Brookmeadow Wood	Added to new Site Ep30 Warlies Park
W14. Scatterbushes Wood	Merged with W15 to form new Site
W15. Stocking Grove	Merged with W14 to form new Site
W16. Roydon Lock Wood	No longer in Essex
W17. Oxleys Wood Complex	Additional wood added
W18. Longcroft Grove/Claverhambury Road	Minor extension to link with Stocking Grove
W19. Conybury Wood	Minor boundary revision
W20. Copy Wood	Unchanged
W21. Brickfields Wood	Site modified by additions and deletions
W22. Green Lane	Enlarged, with two extensions
W23. Rookery Wood	Unchanged
W24. Spratt's Hedgerow Wood/Spratt's Hedgerow	Unchanged
W25. Gills Plantation	Unchanged
W26. Nabhill Grove	Unchanged
W27. Ballhill Wood	Unchanged
W28. Little Rookery Wood	Unchanged
W29. The Warren	Deleted – does not meet criteria
W30. Orange Field Plantation/Orange Peel	Unchanged
W31. Orange Wood	Unchanged
W32. Wood, Cobbin's Brook	Added to new, larger Site Ep48 Cobbin's Brook
W33. Griffin's Wood	Unchanged
W34. Jenkins's Plantation	Unchanged (name spelling corrected)
W35. Redoak Wood/Gaunt's Wood	Added to new Site Ep75 Theydon Bois Deer Park East
W36. Epping Forest - Piercing Hill	Boundary revised, slight additions
W37. High Wood	Significantly enlarged
W38. Broadfield Shaw	Unchanged
W39. Long Shaw	Unchanged
W40. Wintry Wood, Lindsey Street	Unchanged
W41. Wood, Chigwell Row	Some land transferred to new Site Ep86 Chigwell Heath and Wood
W42. Clark's Wood	Unchanged
W43. Hainault Forest Extension	Revised and renamed Ep86 Chigwell Heath and Wood
W44. Mark Bushes/Latton Park	Significant additions; renamed
W45. Wood, St. Margaret's Hospital	Joined with new wood into Ep89 High Wood/Ash Wood, Stonnard's Hill
W46. Alder Wood	Unchanged
W47. Soapley's Wood	Significant reduction in size, but with new land added
W48. Ape's Grove	Unchanged
W49. Harlow Park	Minor boundary amendments
W50. Hainault Forest SSSI	SSSI removed from LoWS network
W51. Barber's Wood	Adjacent lane added to site
W52. Redyn's Wood	Unchanged
W53. Hilly Spring	Addition at southern end
W54. Featherbed Lane	Significant addition of northern section
W55. Bishop's Moat	Unchanged
W56. Great Wood/Mutton Corner	Addition of hedgerow extension
W57. Marsh Lane Wood	Amalgamated into new site Ep109 Pincey Brook Meadows
W58. Roughtalley's Wood	Split into two sites, divided by railway line; northern side enlarged

W59. Foxburrow Wood/Lower Wood	Minor boundary amendments
W60. Ongar Park Wood Complex	Minor additions/deletions and renamed
W61. Beachet Wood	Minor deletion (removal of house and grounds)
W62. Hanging Spring West/East	Boundary unchanged; name revised
W63. Moorhall Wood	Unchanged
W64. Shales More	Unchanged
W65. Long Spring	Unchanged
W66. Ongar Park Wood I	Amalgamated into Ep129 Ongar Park Woods
W67. Ongar Park Wood II	Amalgamated into Ep129 Ongar Park Woods
W68. Ongar Park Wood III	Amalgamated into Ep129 Ongar Park Woods
W69. Northlands Wood	Unchanged
W70. Belsnam Wood	Unchanged
W71. Heathen Wood	Unchanged
W72. Bob's Barn Wood	Unchanged
W73. Wood, Nickerlands	Added to new Site Ep144 Byway 26, Stanford Rivers
W74. Reynkyns Wood	House and garden removed from site
W75. Wood, Berwick Farm	Unchanged
W76. Matching Park	Unchanged
W77. Knightsland Wood	Unchanged
W78. Twentyacre Wood	House and garden removed from site
W79. Miller's Grove	Unchanged
W80. Tenacre Wood	Unchanged
W81. Icehouse Wood	Unchanged
W82. The Gorse	Minor boundary corrections
W83. More Spring	Unchanged
W84. Dewley Wood	Unchanged
W85. Greensted Wood	Boundary revised
W86. Dolman's Spring	Unchanged
W87. Penson's Lane	Unchanged
W88. Pickle's Gardens	Unchanged
W89. Kettlebury Spring	Unchanged
W90. Enville Wood	Unchanged
W91. Brickles Wood Complex	Unchanged
W92. Little Wood	Minor boundary revision
W93. White's Wood	Unchanged
W94. Blackcat Green Lane	Unchanged
W95. Nor Wood	Minor boundary revisions
W96. Westlands Spring/Thistlelands Spring	Unchanged
W97. Butthatch Wood	Unchanged
W98. Long Edwells	Unchanged
W99. Hedge Rows North/South	Amalgamated with W100
W100. Whitney Wood West/East	Amalgamated with W99
W101. Wood, Willingale Airfield	Unchanged
W102. Elm Cottage Green Lane	Unchanged
W103. Spains Wood	Unchanged
W104. Windmill Farm Green Lane	Unchanged
W105. Berners Wood	Unchanged
W106. Bonsgrove/Lucas's Lane	Unchanged
W107. Rowe's Wood	Unchanged
W108. Bushey-Hays Spring	Unchanged
W109. Hardy's Plantation etc.	Unchanged
W110. Barn Hill Wood	Unchanged
W111. Wood, South of Barn Hill Wood	Unchanged
W112. World's End	Minor boundary amendments
W113. Steward's Green Lane	Unchanged
W114. Oak Spring	Minor boundary extension

W115. Round Spring	Unchanged
W116. Eighteenacre Spring	Southern extension added to Wren's Spring
W117. Langford Bottom	Unchanged
W118. Coleman's Lane	Revised with additions and deletions
W119. North Lane Byway	Unchanged
W120. Cannons Green Lanes	Unchanged
G1. Cornmill Stream and Old River Lea Meadow SSSI	removed from LoWS network
G2. Gilwell Park Meadow	Absorbed into larger Site
G3. Woodlands Farm Meadow	Unchanged
G4. Yardley Hill East Meadow	Deleted – deteriorated quality
G5. Oak Farm Meadow	Deleted – does not meet criteria
G6. Glasshouse Meadow	Deleted – deteriorated quality
G7. All Saints' Parish Churchyard, Nazeing	Southern area deleted
G8. Hunsdon Mead SSSI	SSSI removed from LoWS network
G9. Roydon Mead	Area of SSSI removed
G10. Roding Valley Meadows	Addition of some land not included within the Essex Wildlife Trust Reserve
G11. Roding Valley Meadows SSSI	SSSI removed from LoWS network
G12. Roding Meadow	Absorbed into Ep61 Roding Valley Meadows
G13. St. Mary's Churchyard, Chigwell	Reduced by habitat loss to lawn of building
G14. All Saints' Churchyard/Hay Meadow	Hay meadow removed from Site
G15. Lady Patience Meadow	Small area lost to golf course expansion
G16. St. Mary's Churchyard, Theydon Bois	Error correction to boundary
G17. Oaks Farm Meadow	Deleted – deteriorated quality
G18. Ivy Chimneys Complex	Unchanged
G19. Crabtree Hill Meadow	One paddock deleted, two remain
G20. Foster Street Roadside Verge	Deleted – does not meet criteria
G21. New Way Lane Special Roadside Verge	Minor boundary revision
G22. Heathen Wood Marsh	Unchanged
G23. Talbot Pub Meadow	Absorbed into larger Site Ep138 Tyler's Green Grasslands
G24. Magdalen Laver Special Roadside Verge	Deleted – does not meet criteria
G25. Newman's End Special Roadside Verge	Unchanged
G26. Dorkings Farm Meadow	Unchanged
G27. Crispins Meadow	Unchanged
G28. Matching Green	Minor boundary revision
G29. Blake Hall Meadow	Unchanged
G30. Matching Airfield Grasslands	Significantly enlarged
G31. Lampett's Marsh	Unchanged; renamed Ep194 The Moors
G32. Beauchamp Roding Special Roadside Verge	Some deletions; Site differs from Special Verge
G33. Norton Mandeville Churchyard	Unchanged
G34. Chevers Hall Meadow	Unchanged
G35. Beauchamp Roding Marsh	Deleted – deteriorated quality
G36. Theydon Mount Special Roadside Verge	Deleted – does not meet criteria
G37. Jack's Hill Special Roadside Verge	Deleted – lies within Epping Forest SSSI
G38. Special Roadside Verge	Deleted – lies within Epping Forest SSSI
G39. Nazeing Church Fields	Unchanged
G40. Swaines Green	Unchanged
G41. North Weald Flood Meadow	Boundary unchanged; renamed
G42. St. Andrew's Churchyard, North Weald	Unchanged
G43. Anchor House Paddock	Unchanged
G44. St. Andrew's/St. Christopher's Churchyards	Unchanged
M1. Holyfield Marsh	Deleted – no longer in Essex
M2. Fisher's Green	Significant boundary revisions; renamed Ep1 Lee Valley South

M3. Sewardstone Mosaic	Minor boundary revisions; renamed Ep3 Sewardstone/Osier Marshes
M4. Crooked Mile Mosaic	Deleted – insufficient evidence for criteria
M5. Nazeing Nature Reserve	Unchanged; renamed Ep33 Nazeing Triangle LNR
M6. The Brickfields, Roydon	Large area deleted; renamed Ep37 Roydon Brickfields North
M7. Epping Forest SSSI	SSSI removed from LoWS network
M8. Copped Hall Green	Unchanged
M9. Epping Long Green West	Additional land (field by Copy Wood) added, plus other minor boundary revisions
M10. Home Farm Lake	Deleted – insufficient evidence for criteria
M11. Epping Long Green East	Minor boundary revisions
M12. The Hermitage	Unchanged
M13. Hawksmere Spring	Unchanged
M14. Sheering Bridge Mosaic	Deleted – deteriorated quality
M15. Matching Pond/Ponds Spring	Slight enlargement; renamed Ep164 Chalybeate Spring
M16. Rectory Meadow	Deleted – deteriorated quality
M17. Clatterford End Plantation	Unchanged
M18. Birds Green Mosaic	Unchanged
M19. Linder's Field	Unchanged
M20. Carroll's Farm, Sewardstone	Amalgamated with W3 and W4 plus new land into Ep15 Carroll's Farm Complex
FW1. Hall Marsh Scrape	Deleted – now part of Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI
FW2. Hooks Marsh	Largely deleted (now SSSI) with small remnant added to new Site Ep1 Lee Valley South
FW3. King George's Reservoir	Deleted – most of this old SSSI is no longer in Essex and the remainder of new Chingford Reservoirs SSSI is removed from LoWS network
FW4. Roydon Lake	Deleted – does not meet criteria
FW5. Frog Hall	Deleted – now within curtilage of private residences (and current status uncertain)

2.3 **Additions**

Many existing Sites have had new areas of land added to them, but there are also many completely new Sites that are now added to the LoWS register for Epping Forest District.

These are:

Ep2 Northfield Marsh – river floodplain grassland

Ep5 Lee Valley Central – mosaic of open water, woodland and grassland

Ep8 Yardley Hill Meadow – dry grassland

Ep11 Sewardstone Green – roadside grassland, scrub and woodland corridor

Ep12 Sewardstone Green Paddock – unimproved grassland

Ep14 Lee Valley North - mosaic of open water, woodland and grassland

Ep18 Lippitts Hill Scrub – ancient roadside wood strip plus scrubby grassland

Ep20 Day Farm Paddocks – unimproved acid grassland

Ep21 Oak Farm Grassland – unimproved acid grassland

Ep24 High Beach Churchyard – unimproved acid grassland

Ep29 Roebuck Green – unimproved acid grassland and scrub

Ep30 Warlies Park – old parkland, woodland and hedged pasture

Ep42 Loughton Woods – ancient woodland fragments

Ep47 The Selvage – ancient wooded lane

Ep48 Cobbin’s Brook – natural river channel corridor (includes small area of former SINC)

Ep49 Parndon Wood – ancient woodland fragment

Ep50 Ash Green – detached part of Epping Forest

Ep57 Fitches Plantation – part of Copped Hall woodland mosaic

Ep59 Barnaby Way Wood – urban ancient woodland fragment

Ep62 Wood East of Fitches Plantation - part of Copped Hall woodland mosaic

Ep63 Pond Field Plantation - part of Copped Hall woodland mosaic

Ep64 Birch Hall Pastures – damp unimproved grassland

Ep66 Home Mead LNR – urban mosaic of grassland and wood

Ep68 Grange Farm Grasslands – species-rich grassland and scrub

Ep72 Theydon Bois Deer Park West – Veteran trees

Ep77 Broadfield Shaw Grassland – unimproved acid grassland and scrub

Ep84 Blunts Farm Wood – ancient woodland fragment

Ep87 Blunts Farm – brownfield invertebrate site

Ep92 Thornwood LNR – species-rich damp grassland

Ep93 Hainault Forest Meadow – species-rich damp grassland

Ep104 Hainault Forest Golf Course – acid grassland and wood

Ep107 Mill Street Green – old village green grassland

Ep112 Bush Grove – old/ancient woodland

Ep113 Hill Hall Park – old parkland

Ep115 Foster Street Burial Ground – species-rich grassland

Ep120 Spill Timbers Wood – ancient woodland

Ep124 Weald Common LNR – species-rich damp grassland

Ep127 Stapleford Abbots Meadow – old grassland

Ep128 Little Hyde Hall Wood – fragment of ancient wood

Ep130 Ongar Radio Station – mosaic of old grassland and wood

Ep132 Passingford Bridge Wood – wet woodland

Ep135 Housham Tye Green – old village green grassland

Ep137 Albyns Parkland – veteran trees

Ep143 Stapleford Abbots Elms – old Elms in woodland fragment

Ep146 Weald Bridge Meadow – unimproved grassland

Ep153 Berwick Ham – old woodland
Ep154 Pole Lane – ancient hedged lane
Ep155 Faggotters Lane Verges – important grassland flora
Ep157 Dog Kennel Spring – small fragment of old woodland
Ep161 More Spring West – possible ancient woodland
Ep165 The Gorse Wood – old woodland
Ep173 Watery Lane Verge, High Laver – important grassland flora
Ep174, Churchyard, Stanford Rivers
Ep177 Gunnets Green – ancient hedged lane
Ep181 Ongar Wood – ancient woodland fragment
Ep182 Ongar Oaks – veteran trees
Ep190 Hallsford Bridge Meadow – species-rich grassland
Ep193 Abbess Roding Hedgerows
Ep195 Norwood End Verges – important grassland flora
Ep197 Perryfield Lane – ancient hedged lane
Ep199 Fyfield Mill Meadow – unimproved grassland
Ep207 Sparks Farm Marsh – unimproved damp grassland
Ep209 Dukes Lane Verge – important grassland flora
Ep210 Ongar Road Verges – important grassland flora
Ep213 Norton Heath – wooded heathland
Ep217 Norton Heath Verges – grassland flora

2.4 Summary of Additions/Deletions

The starting point for this review was 189 SINC's, identified in 1992 with a few additions/deletions in 1996 and 1998. This review has seen a net increase of 33 Sites to give a new total of 222 Local Wildlife Sites. These LoWS are listed in Appendix 1, while Appendix 2 provides citation sheets for each site.

Losses have come from the removal of SSSIs from the system, the deterioration in several grassland sites and the failure of some sites to make the grade (albeit unchanged in quality) of the new and more stringent selection criteria.

Additions come from a variety of sources: there are several small fragments of ancient woodland that went undetected during previous reviews; several grasslands have been added, which have been surveyed at more favourable times of year than when previously reviewed or

were subjected to a better level of surveying afforded by the improved rights of access of this current study. A better appreciation of nature conservation issues and increased breadth of coverage of the selection criteria have seen the addition of areas of parkland (4 sites) or groups of veteran trees (3 sites), areas of brownfield land and sites where their urban context and use by the local community are important considerations. Sites such as Norton Heath have been added because their nature conservation value has increased since the first review, on account of positive conservation management.

2.5 Other Sites

In addition to those sites selected as Local Wildlife Sites, a number of Potential Local Wildlife Sites have been identified. They are sites for which further survey work may be required or a change in management needed (either more or less management). Obviously, virtually any piece of semi-natural vegetation has the potential to be improved for wildlife, which might make this list unmanageable, so the list of potential sites, given in Appendix 3, is restricted to those “near misses” that just failed to make it onto the full LoWS Register. Some of the Potential Sites are former SINC’s that have deteriorated in quality and need restorative management in order to be able to re-consider them in the future.