Rt Hon Lord Lloyd of Berwick

14th December 2011

Submission

This submission is based on the representations that I made to Wealden District Council in March 2011. It concerns an area of about 51/2 hectares of rough woodland north west of Berwick Station. The land is shown on the large scale OS map edged in blue (App 1), and on the smaller scale Designated Site and Habitat Maps prepared by the Sussex Biodiversity Centre showing Ardingly Reservoir and Ludlay Coppice (Apps 2 and 3).

The land is the site of a disused brickworks and associated excavations. It belongs to the Firle Estate. It has been the subject of a number of applications for planning consent for development over the years. But they have all been refused.

Biodiversity

The starting point is section 11 of the Coalition Agreement as follows:

> "We will introduce measures to protect wildlife and promote green spaces and wildlife corridors in order to halt the loss of habitats and restore biodiversity".

You cannot create biodiversity. But you can protect it. I do not suggest that the trees themselves deserve protection, although there are some fine trees. The point is that the land has been undisturbed for over 50 years, and has thus

become an important habitat for wildlife: see Apps 3,4an5. There cannot be many such sites in the Wealden District, certainly none on so large a scale. It thus presents an ideal opportunity to show that we really do care about the environment, and mean what we say about biodiversity. It would be a tragedy if this natural habitat were lost to development. Nor is there any need, having regard to other suitable and available land near Berwick station.

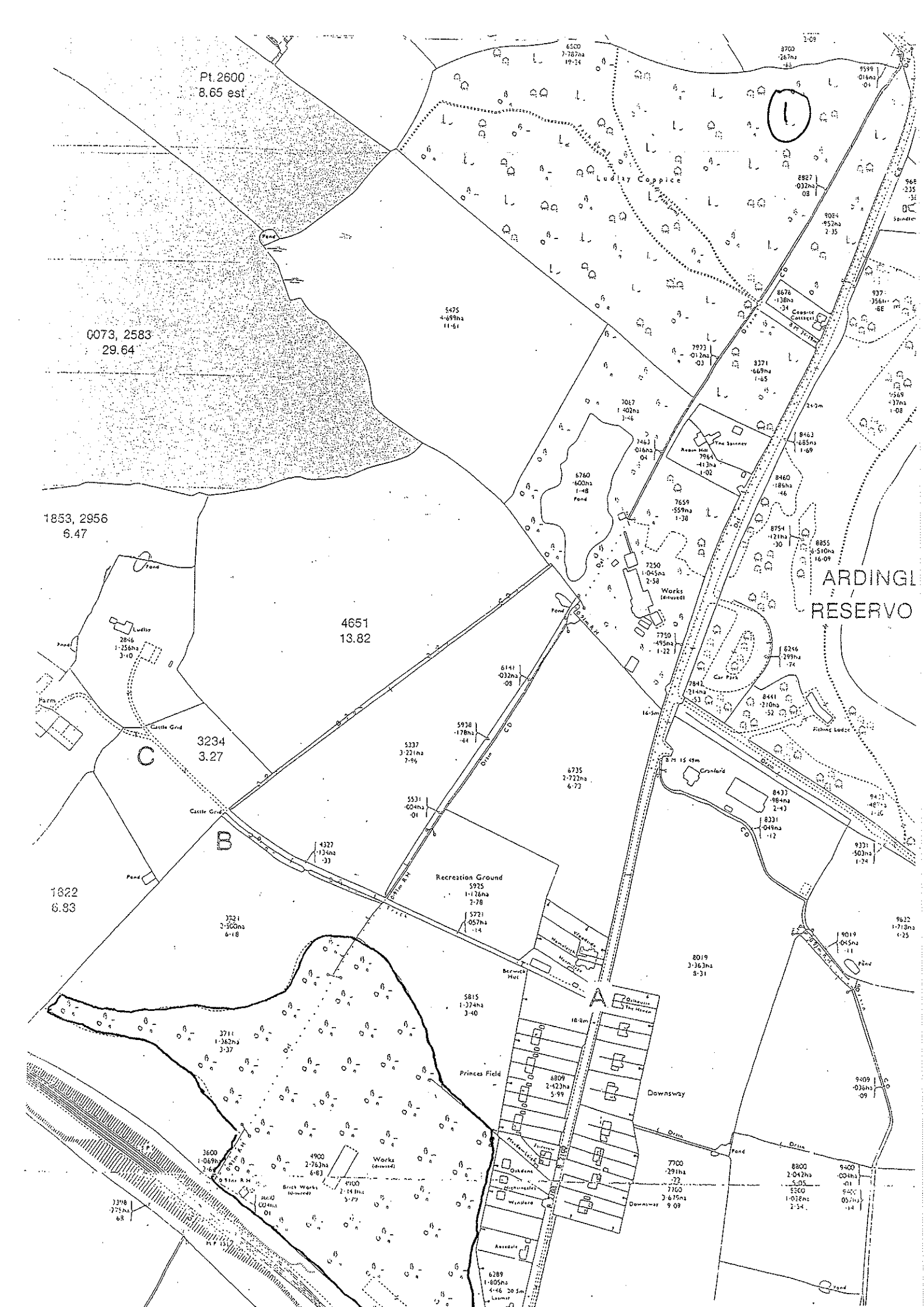
There is another important consideration. Mr Hawkins in his statement draws attention to the interdependence of habitats. I draw particular attention to his last paragraph in which he says in relation to Ardingly reservoir:

"The destruction of one element not only has a direct effect in reducing the range of biodiversity, but an indirect effect on others in reducing their use for shelter, food, roosting or breeding. This woodland cannot be destroyed without adverse effects on the whole area".

Conclusion

Inset Map no 3 in "Changes to the Adopted Proposal Map" shows the Development Boundary removed on the ground that Berwickk Station is now classified as a "Neighbourhood Centre". For the reasons stated above the boundary should be re-instated north-west of Berwick Station.

In addition I suggest that the land is included in Table 4 or 5 of BP5 (Biodiversity) appendix 1, or at the very least in Table 7.


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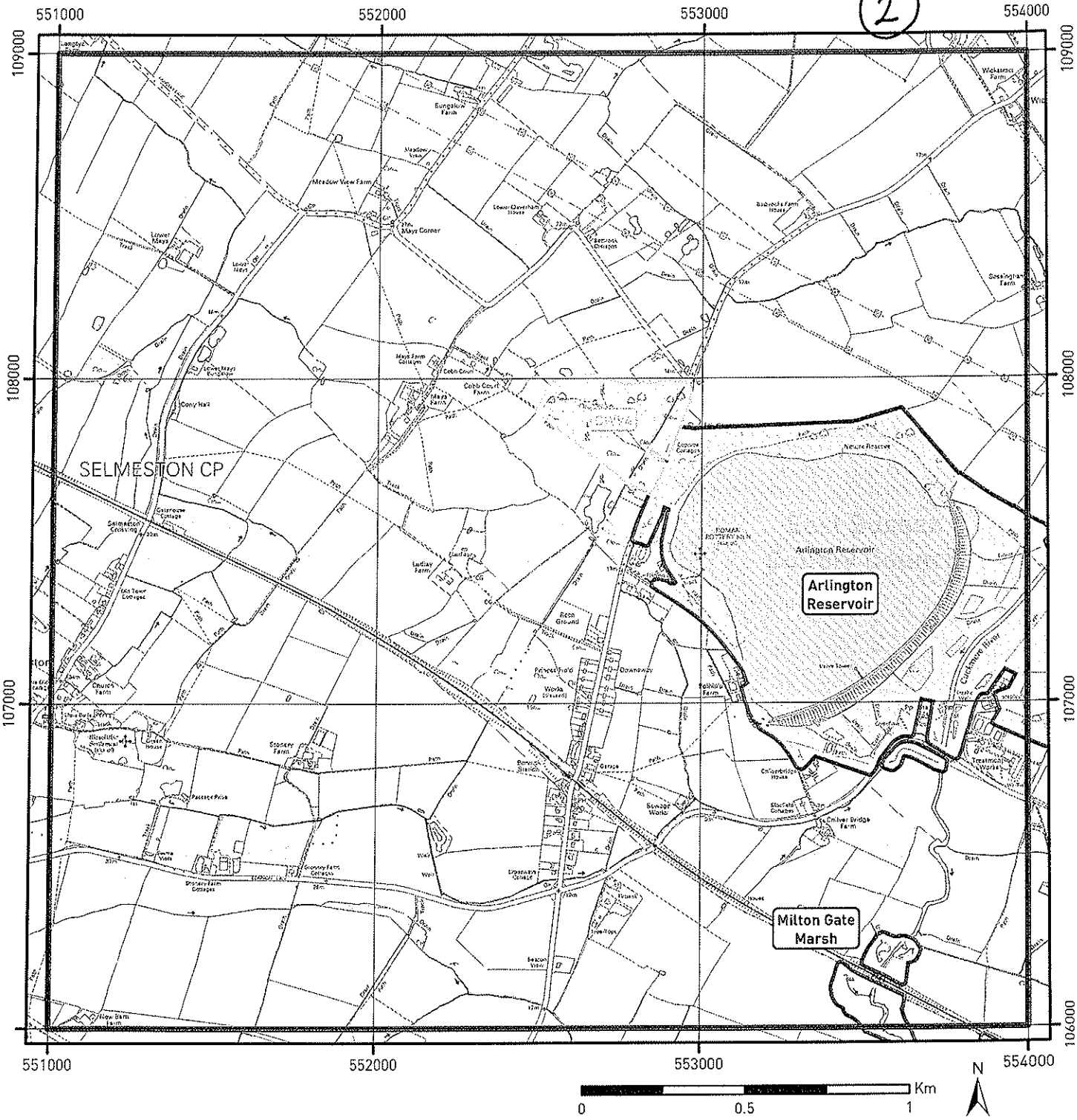
Designated Site Map (ESD/11/404):

Land at Berwick

Prepared for Lord Lloyd - 22/09/2011

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Key to Map:

- Enquiry Area
- SSSI
- SNCI
- LNR

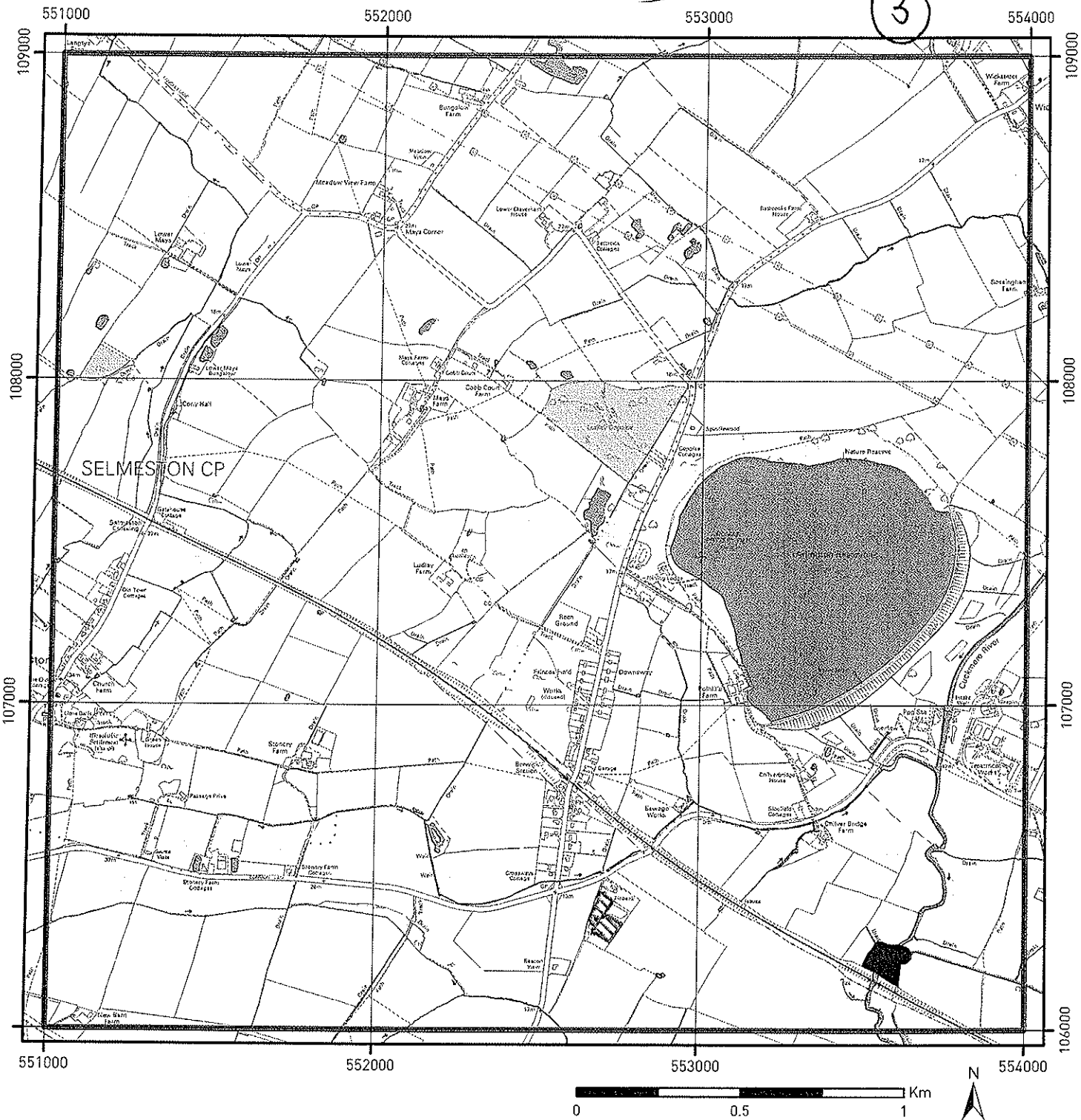
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Habitat Map (ESD/11/404):
Land at Berwick
Prepared for Lord Lloyd - 22/09/2011

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Key to Map:

- Enquiry Area
- Ancient/Veteran Tree
- Open Water
- Ancient Woodland
- Traditional Orchard

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Ancient woodland, traditional orchards, vegetated shingle and saline lagoon data reproduced with permission of Natural England. Revised coastal and floodplain grazing marsh data remains provisional and is also reproduced with permission of Natural England. Chalk grassland data supplied by Natural England and South Downs Conservation Board. Black Poplar data supplied by Sussex Otters & Rivers Partnership. Ghyll woodland data supplied by Dr Francis Rose. Reedbed data funded by Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council is provided by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and maintained by RSPB. Heathland data funded by West Sussex County Council, RSPB and High Weald AONB Unit. Ancient/veteran tree data derived from results of the Ancient Tree Hunt Project and the Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI). © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved 2011.

This map contains ancient woodland data revised under the Weald and Downs Ancient Woodland Program (2010) on behalf of Natural England. Whilst every effort has been made to make this revision as accurate as possible, the inventories contain limitations and remain provisional. Further revisions are also pending within East Sussex. Habitat data held by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) are created in-house or obtained from a variety of dataset providers. SxBRC continually strive to further improve and update these data wherever possible. However, this map should be treated as indicative rather than definitive: data may be generated from a range of field survey and/or predictive methods, each of which may have its own inherent limitations. In some situations a recent ground survey may be required to establish definitively the current status of a particular habitat at a specific location.

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21 March 2011

To whom it may concern.

Ludlay Coppice and woodland NW of Berwick Railway Station

Biodiversity statement

Broadleaved woodland is relatively scarce in the vicinity of the South Downs, compared with, for example, the Weald, and provides a habitat for many species of wildlife not found on the open downland. These particular stretches have the inestimable added advantage of being situated adjacent or very near to Arlington Reservoir. This extensive area of water has on its northern and western fringes bushes, shrubs, reeds and one or two pools. Together the three components– water, bushes and woodland– make a very valuable source of biodiversity in each complements and supports the others.

The Reservoir itself is a nationally renowned birdwatching site. Despite the presence of many dog-walkers and anglers, over a dozen species each of wildfowl and waders are recorded annually. There is also an extensive and varied gull-roost and little egrets visit frequently. Examples of recent sightings of rare or unusual Sussex birds are Temminck's stint, Bonaparte's gull, red-rumped swallow, goosander and goldeneye. Swifts and hirundines– swallows and house and sand martins– use the Reservoir in very large numbers in summer. Ospreys regularly pause on spring or autumn migration to feed and it is hoped that they will soon stay to breed. The surrounding bushes, reeds and pools are home to many species of resident, migrating and summer-visiting passerines and it is these which use the woodland as appropriate for shelter, roosting and breeding. These include woodland specialists such as treecreepers, nuthatches, green and great spotted woodpeckers, goldcrests, and a wide variety of tits, finches and warblers. Nightingales are regularly heard in the woodland. Wintering thrushes– fieldfares and redwings– use the trees for rest between periods of feeding in the adjacent fields. Birds of prey, especially kestrels, sparrowhawks and the increasingly common buzzard, are regular. Ravens are spreading to the area. It is not difficult to see forty or fifty species on any one day, and twice that figure through the year.

Besides the avian life, the woodland supports the expected wide range of insects. Of the more obviously visible ones, woodland moths are too numerous to particularize, but butterflies include speckled wood, orangetip, red admiral, brimstone, peacock, comma, wall brown, wood white, holly blue, various skippers, silver-washed and other species of fritillary, besides the occasional unusual hairstreak or white admiral. Most dragonflies prefer to stay close to water, but hawker species such as migrant and southern can be seen. Other insect species, especially beetles, can be numbered in the hundreds, possibly thousands.

Finally the woodland supports the expected variety of plant life, not only the obviously attractive woodland flowers, but also, since the area is low-lying and relatively damp, a variety

of mosses, lichens and fungi which colonise the decaying vegetation especially.

Apart from the universally recognised ecological value of woodland, what needs to be stressed is the interdependence of various habitats, of which this area is a prime example. The destruction of one element not only has a direct effect in reducing the range of biodiversity, but an indirect effect on others in reducing their use for shelter, food, roosting or breeding. This woodland cannot be destroyed without adverse effects on the whole area.

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Brickyard Cottage
Berwick

March 27th 2011

Dear Tony,

I would like to offer my full support to an objection to the proposed development of the brickyard here at Berwick Station.

I have, as you know, taken a very keen interest in the natural history of our parish and, during the eighteen years I have been fortunate enough to live here, I have spent a great deal of time exploring the woodland which runs adjacent to the railway line. This area supports an abundance of wildlife, rich in diversity and it is difficult to understand why it has been selected for development when the alternative sites identified could be developed with minimal impact to the plants, insects and animals which live here.

The flooded areas of the brickyard have become breeding habitats for prolific insect life which attracts so many of the songbirds which spend summer with us. Year on year healthy populations of nightingales reside here, together with many warblers. I have seen spotted flycatchers, too. Turtle doves nest in this woodland and interesting passage migrants such as ring ouzels have been seen passing through. Green and greater spotted woodpeckers are common. There are tree creepers, nuthatches and three varieties of finch living here. Tawny owls nest and in recent years barn owls have been seen hunting along the paths and bordering embankments of the area.

But it is not just the birdlife which makes this environment so interesting. Amphibians such as frogs, newts and toads are resident. Reptiles, too. I have seen grass snakes, adders, slow worms and common lizards. On one memorable summer evening's walk I counted twenty two glow worms along the path which runs by the side the railway line. There are several varieties of beetle, including cockchafers and many moths and butterflies breed here. The rich insect life supports good numbers of bats, as you would expect; chiefly pipistrelles. Other mammals abound. A vigorous population of rabbits attracts stoats and weasels. There are badgers, rather too many foxes and during the last several years roe deer have become a common feature of the woodland.

In short, the biodiversity of this site is such that it would be immensely damaging to develop it for building. I think that part of the problem regarding this particular site is that on maps and in plans, the brickyard is presented as 'brown area' – scrub and wasteland which is of little value to our community, or to the natural history of the area. In actual fact, over the many years in which the brickyard has remained derelict it has become populated with a rich and diverse concentration of plants and animals which only those of us who have explored it know about. The open grassland of the other identified sites present a much more acceptable prospect for development and I do hope that as the planning project for the parish is taken forward the wildlife of Berwick Station brickyard will remain undisturbed.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Carnie

Adrian (Douglas) Carnie

(6)

The Benefice of Arlington, Berwick
Selmeston with Alciston & Wilmington.

www.berwickchurch.org.uk

Rector: Revd Peter Blee

23rd March 2011

Dear Lord Lloyd

I have carried out a botanical survey of the site known as the Old Brickyards adjacent to the railway line at Berwick with Peter Smith. Railway lines act as wildlife corridors and the site is within a short distance of Ludlay Copse (Site of Nature Conservation Interest) and Arlington Reservoir (SSSI) and connected to these by open fields. The Old Brickyard is itself a mosaic of habitats as the species list indicates. However a habitat map has not yet been drawn up. There is a small area of woodland (which contains Butcher's Broom *Ruscus aculeatus* and Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), ponds, dry scrubby areas which have attracted Nightingales, and a significant area of damp willow carr in which the moss *Sphagnum fimbriatum* was found.

Berwick Parish Council also commissioned a botanical survey by R.C. Stern of the Botanical Recording Society and the combined species list of both our findings is attached. A local ornithologist, Charles Peverett, carried out a survey for Firle Estate.

Because of the presence of willow carr and the variety of habitats I believe an entomological survey may help to indicate further the conservation value of this site and have suggested this to Berwick Parish Council.

In itself and because of its context I believe that the Old Brickworks is of considerable conservation value and may well merit designation as a Local Nature Reserve or Site of Conservation Interest'

Yours

Peter Blee.

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Berwick Brickworks species list. Recorded by R.C.Stern on 06-08-09

Scientific name	English name
Acer campestre	Field Maple
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
Arctium lappa	Greater Burdock
Arctium minus agg.	Lesser Burdock
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat Grass
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort
Arum maculatum	Lords-and-Ladies
Aster agg.	Michaelmas Daisy
Ballota nigra	Black Horehound
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
Bryonia dioica	White Bryony
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly Bush
Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bittercress
Carex spicata	Spiked Sedge
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed
Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouseear
Chamerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
Conium maculatum	Hemlock
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard
Crocosmia x crocosmiflora	Montbretia
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot
Daucus carota subsp. carota	Wild Carrot
Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad Buckler-fern
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern
Epilobium ciliatum	American Willowherb
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb
Epilobium obscurum	Short-fruited Willowherb
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
Erodium cicutarium	Common Storksbill
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp Agrimony
Euphrasia nemorosa	Eyebright
Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Galium palustre agg	Marsh Bedstraw
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Cranesbill
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens
Glechoma hederacea	Ground Ivy
Gnaphalium uliginosum	Marsh Cudweed
Hedera helix	Ivy
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell

Hypericum androsaemum	Tutsan
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St. John's-wort
Hypericum tetrapterum	Square-stalked St. John's-wort
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Iris foetidissima	Stinking Iris
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling
Laurus nobilis	Bay
Lemna minuta	Least Duckweed
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild Privet
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil
Lycopus europaeus	Gipsywort
Malus domestica	Apple
Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint
Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury
Moehringia trinervia	Three-nerved Sandwort
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water Dropwort
Orchis mascula	Early Purple Orchid
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hartstongue Fern
Picris echioides	Bristly Oxtongue
Pimpinella saxifraga	Burnet Saxifrage
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Plantago major	Greater Plantain
Populus x canadensis	Italian Poplar
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil
Primula vulgaris	Primrose
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane
Quercus robur	Pendunculate Oak
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Reseda luteola	Weld
Ribes nigrum	Black Currant
Ribes rubrum	Red Currant
Rosa canina	Dog Rose
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock
Sagina procumbens	Procumbent Pearlwort
Salix caprea	Goat Willow
Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia	Rusty Sallow
Salix fragilis	Crack Willow
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Scrophularia auriculata	Water Figwort
Scrophularia nodosa	Common Figwort
Senecio erucifolius	Hoary Ragwort
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort
Silene latifolia	White Campion
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet
Stachys palustris	Marsh Woundwort
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort
Stachys x ambigua	Hybrid Woundwort

Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort
Syringa vulgaris	Lilac
Tanacetum vulgare	Tansy
Taraxacum agg.	Dandelion
Torilis japonica	Upright Hedge Parsley
Trifolium dubium	Lesser Trefoil
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Tripleurospermum subsp.inodorum	Scentless Mayweed
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein
Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell
Veronica persica	Common Field Speedwell
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Viburnum opulus	Guelder Rose
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch
Vinca major	Greater Periwinkle
Viola odorata	Sweet Violet
Viola riviniana	Common Dog Violet