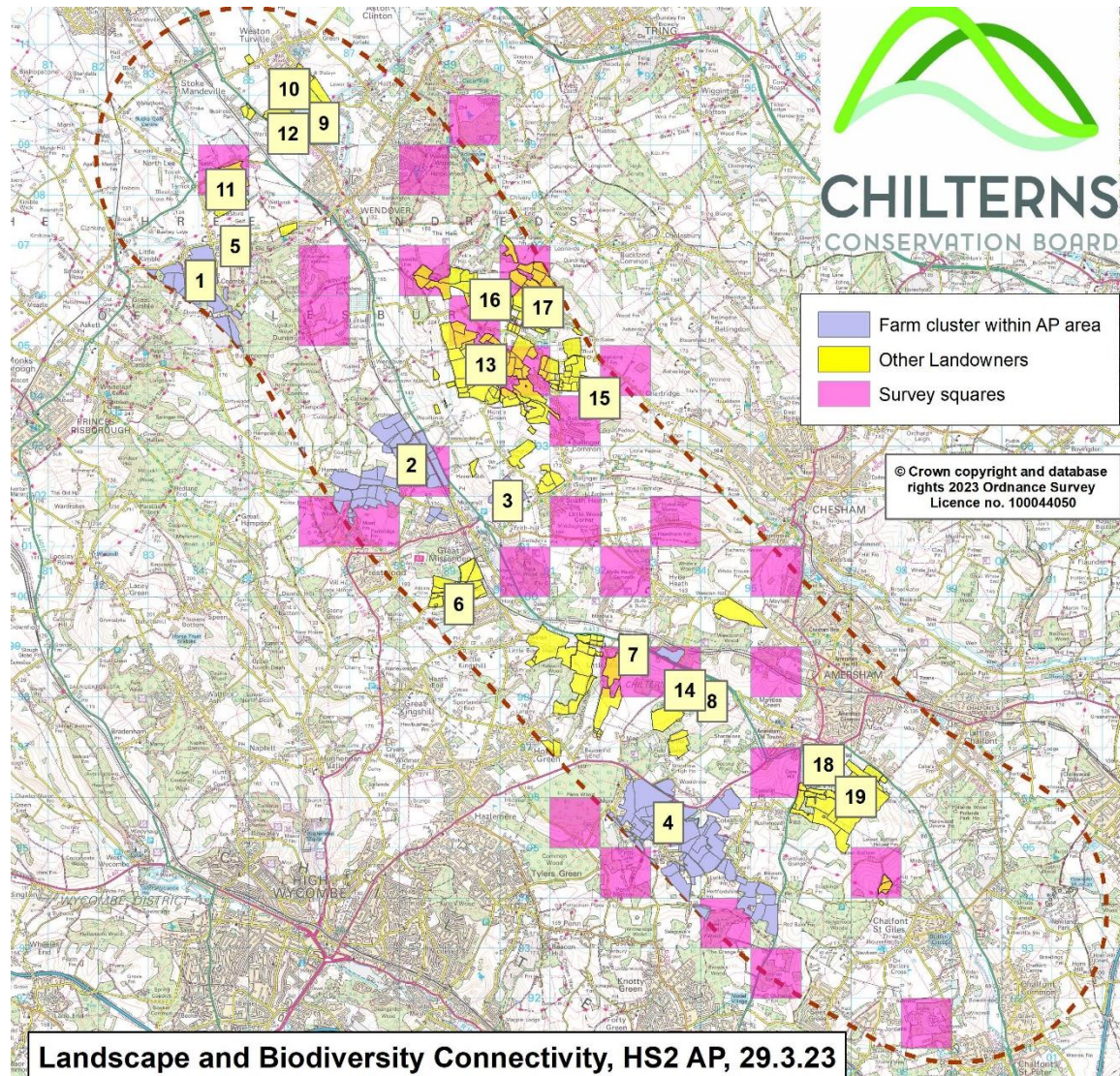


HS2 Additional Projects

Landscape and Biodiversity Connectivity Project

Nov 2022-March 2023 Update



The map above shows locations for site specific project work.

Headlines across collaborative projects:

Work has been coordinated by Nick Marriner and supported by Harriet Bennett through the Chalk Cherries and Chairs LPS project. In future, the project will also benefit from working with the River Chess Smarter Water Catchment Project and a further farm cluster being developed within this area:

- **Hedgerow work – phase 1 FiPL cluster project** – planting at Road Farm and Penn Street Farm has been surveyed and losses replanted. The long drought in spring 2022 had a negative impact on planting success, but these were minimised with watering where it was possible. For subsequent years it is planned that wood chips will be applied to new planting to maximise retention of soil moisture and minimise competition for water with other plants.

- **Hedgerow work - phase 2 of the FiPL cluster project** - work was carried out at Broomfield Farm and Penn Street Farm (400m new hedge and 150m coppicing).
- **Hedgerow work – AP farms** - Work at Home Farm and Bassibones Farm amounted to 1km of new hedge being planted, 1km of hedge coppiced and 2.5km of new associated protective fencing.
- **Supplementary feeding** - seed has been mixed and distributed to all the participating farmers for winter feeding in 2022/23 (7 x .5t bags to 6 farms each year)
- **Winter bird ringing project** – Regular bird ringing sessions have been carried out at Penn Street farm and Road Farm
- **Wildlife monitoring** - Bird, butterfly and plant surveys have been carried out across several 1km squares in the HS2AP area as part of the Tracking the Impact project. This was originally set up with 50 squares within the Chalk Cherries and Chairs LPS project but has been expanded this year to include an additional 22 squares within the River Chess Smarter Water Catchment project. The map on the first page of this report shows the squares within the AP project area. Volunteers have been trained in survey methodology and species ID. A reporting, mapping and analysis brief has developed which will enable us to measure biodiversity improvements within the corridor.
- **Farm bird surveys** have been carried out across 4 farms for 4 years, bird ringing has taken place across 3 farms for 3 years, reptile surveys across 3 farms for 2 years and small mammal surveys on 1 farm.

Headlines across individual farms and sites (work during this period in black font, previous work in grey).

- 1. Buckmoorend Farm - within CCC farm cluster:**
 - a. New Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship Agreement agreed.
 - b. Contractor appointed for SSSI restoration project. Planning well underway and work will begin in September 2023.
 - c. Barn owl and kestrel boxes installed.
- 2. Road Farm - within CCC farm cluster:**
 - a. 8 further orchard trees planted.
 - b. Mid-tier Countryside Stewardship Agreement agreed.
 - c. New mob grazing project underway (funded by FiPL).
- 3. Broomfield Farm - within farm cluster**
 - a. Coppicing and gapping up completed.
- 4. Penn Street Farm - within farm cluster:**
 - a. Hedge planting & gapping up project phase 2 project completed
 - b. New farm conservation nursery completed (FiPL funded, future AP capital funding), official opening 29th March.
- 5. Ellesborough Golf Club:**
 - a. Chalk grassland Management Plan completed
- 6. Sedges Farm:**
 - a. Farm Hedgerow Survey completed
 - b. Pond restoration advice given
- 7. Limes Cottage:**
 - a. Willow pollarding completed

- 8. Shardeloes Lake:**
 - a. Willow pollarding report completed
- 9. Weston Turville Reservoir**
 - a. Initial project proposals not going ahead as a project at this time.
- 10. Church Farm:**
 - a. Four further orchard trees planted.
- 11. Springfield Farm:**
 - a. Whole Farm Plan completed
 - b. New SFI submitted & being delivered
- 12. Lindengate:**
 - a. Orchard creation project. Site has been cleared, grassland created, fruit trees planted and training programme for volunteers started
- 13. Kingswood Lodge and Dowson Fields:**
 - a. Saplings lost to drought replaced and new hedge planted.
- 14. Kennel Farm:**
 - a. Hedge planting and fencing project completed
- 15. Bassibones Farm:**
 - a. Hedge planting, gapping up, coppicing and fencing project delivered.
 - b. Wild flower plugs planted along hedge margins.
- 16. Home Farm:**
 - a. Hedge planting & gapping up project phase 2 completed.
 - b. New Nature Reserve plans being developed - future AP capital funding
- 17. Dundry Manor Farm:**
 - a. Whole Farm Plan completed
 - b. Options for delivery being developed (possible Biodiversity Net Gain project)
- 18. Amersham wetland:**
 - a. New hedge planting and fencing project completed
- 19. Oaklands Farm:**
 - a. Whole Farm Plan completed
 - b. Options for delivery being developed - future AP capital funding

Neil Jackson,
Conservation and Landscape Officer,
Chilterns Conservation Board,
March 2023