

Approach to the Designation of Areas of Biodiversity Importance
October 2014



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1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This Report has been prepared to explain the processes the Environment Department has gone through in order to designate Areas of Biodiversity Importance in the Island Development Plan. It has informed the production of the Island Development Plan, under the provisions of The Land Planning and Development (Guernsey) Law 2005, whilst complying with the States' Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) 2011. This report provides the evidence base for the designation of Areas of Biodiversity Importance in the Island Development Plan. It should be read in conjunction with the report 'Approach to the Designation of Sites of Special Significance, October 2014'.

2 Background

- 2.1 A core objective of the Strategic Land Use Plan is that new development is provided for, but is also balanced with the conservation and enhancement of the countryside, landscape character and historic environment. Policy SLP27 of the SLUP states that: "The distinctive qualities and features of Guernsey's countryside should be retained and enhanced. The Development Plans will provide an overall analysis of the Island's landscape character and will identify priority areas for the maintenance, enhancement and/or restoration of that character and circumstances where change can be accommodated without significant adverse impact".
- 2.2 The Strategic Land Use Plan requires the Island Development Plan to contain policies that resist the unnecessary loss of significant areas of biodiversity. Policy SLP30 of the SLUP requires: "Through the preparation of the Development Plans the Environment Department will provide measures to maintain biodiversity¹ through the protection and enhancement of key habitats and landscapes". This policy is set in the context of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey, which was commissioned by the Environment Department in 2010. This document recognises there has been some loss of biodiversity in Guernsey since the previous survey in 1999.
- 2.3 The Land Planning and Development (Guernsey) Law, 2005, which was enacted in 2009, made provision for the designation of Sites of Special Significance (SSSs) through Development Plans or Subject Plans. There are currently no SSSs designated in Guernsey. It is proposed to designate SSSs through the Island Development Plan. The most comparable current designations are the Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) identified in the Urban Area Plan (UAP) and the Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) in the Rural Area Plan (RAP).

¹ Biodiversity is the diversity of life and can be defined as the totality of genes, species and ecosystems of a region and includes the variety of life forms found at all levels of biological systems. The interdependence between living things, rocks and soils and water and air all interact to create a range of conditions that favour life on earth. Biodiversity underpins the fabric of the natural environment and is a crucial component of what makes Guernsey attractive to Islanders and visitors.

- 2.4 These SNCIs are areas of different habitat types that are of greatest significance to nature conservation in the Island. SNCI is a non-statutory designation in that there is no specific law either requiring their designation or affording them protection. SNCIs are at present a planning constraint, i.e. a reason for refusing planning consent, within Development Plans.
- 2.5 Reviews have been carried out in the past of the SNCIs which included recommendations about which sites may be worthy of Site of Special Significance designation. The Reviews have also recommended which other existing SNCI sites should be provided some (lesser) policy protection from development that would adversely affect their biodiversity value. This report sets out which of these sites should be incorporated into the Island Development Plan as 'Areas of Biodiversity Importance'. This is a new designation created for the purposes of the Island Development Plan.
- 2.6 As part of the evidence base for the designation of Sites of Special Significance (SSS) the Environment Department commissioned Environment Guernsey to carry out a survey, set against guidelines and criteria, of the existing Sites of Nature Conservation Interest / Importance. The findings of the survey provided evidence that informed the Environment Department when considering the designation of SSSs and Areas of Biodiversity Importance. The detailed methodology, findings and recommendations of Environment Guernsey are set out in a separate report 'Appraisal of Sites of Special Significance' Gilmore and Hooper, 2014.

3 What are Areas of Biodiversity Importance?

- 3.1 Areas of Biodiversity Importance are areas of different habitat types that are of significance to nature conservation in the Island. The identification of these areas takes account of the need to ensure the survival of as many species as possible of Guernsey's native wildlife, and to conserve representative examples of the Island's natural and semi-natural habitats whilst balancing this with the need to provide for the social and economic needs of the Island in land use terms.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Island Development Plan will include a two-tier system of protection for sites of biodiversity importance in the Island. Guernsey's most important sites for biodiversity would be identified as Sites of Special Significance (SSS) and the policies in the Island Development Plan and the Planning Law would afford a high level of protection in these areas (see the report 'Approach to the Designation of Sites of Special Significance, October 2014' for further information).
- 3.3 Designation as a Site of Special Significance (SSS) applies significant constraints to development in those areas. In particular, the potential exists to 'trigger' the requirement for an Environment Impact Assessment and the meaning of development can be extended so that planning permission is required in many more circumstances

in SSS than would otherwise be the case. The designation of SSSs therefore has to be proportionate and the criteria for designation set at a high level.

- 3.4 There are a number of other sites that do not have a sufficiently high level of special interest to be designated as a Site of Special Significance (where there will often be significant constraints on development opportunities) but nevertheless contribute significantly to the biodiversity of the Island. These sites/areas are proposed to be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance. The designation of Areas of Biodiversity Importance provides a mechanism to offer some protection and enhancement of such sites when development proposals are being considered through policy in the Island Development Plan. It also provides for the two-tier system of protection recommended by Environment Guernsey in their report and the possibility of enhancement through development advocated by the Biodiversity Strategy Project Group.
- 3.5 The primary difference between the two levels of protection would be that Sites of Special Significance (SSS) selected for biological, zoological or scientific reasons will normally be designated only where they are important for the conservation of habitats or species of national or international significance, whereas Areas of Biodiversity Importance would be designated because they support habitats or species of regional/Channel Islands or local importance or have a particular local biodiversity importance which is not of sufficiently high value to be designated as a SSS but is nonetheless important.

4 Why designate Areas of Biodiversity Importance?

- 4.1 Sites are proposed to be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance for three principal reasons:
- 1) To provide buffer land for Sites of Special Significance
- 4.2 Buffer land may be required to protect habitats and wildlife within the Site of Special Significance. Some habitats are vulnerable to 'edge' and 'overspill' effects from neighbouring land such as spray drift of pesticides, wind-blow of fertilisers or atmospheric ammonia from surrounding farmland. In addition, wet ground habitats are often influenced by the hydrology of a much larger area than the site itself, and drainage operations on the surrounding land can have negative impacts such as drying or inflow of fertiliser. Buffer land may also be required to support animals within the Site of Special Significance. For some animals, the Site of Special Significance may be the breeding or roosting area, but surrounding farmland may provide the principal feeding areas.
- 2) To provide habitat corridors for Sites of Special Significance
- 4.3 Habitat corridors are a form of buffer, but in this case creating a bridge between two areas of good habitat. The aim of this is to provide a link so that potentially both animals and plants can move between the areas to reduce genetic isolation and

improve the chances of maintaining viable populations. Corridors will increase the effectiveness of the best areas, even where the corridors themselves are not good quality habitats but where protection is ensured. Corridors are also likely to increase in their diversity where appropriate management is put in place and maintained, thus further increasing their importance.

- 4.4 The aim of buffer lands and habitat corridors is to ensure that Sites of Special Significance are less fragmented than the existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance that they replace, and that they form larger continuous sites (compound sites) with much greater resilience to change and to give wildlife the best chance to survive and thrive.
- 4.5 In its Report 'Appraisal of Sites of Special Significance, 2014', Environment Guernsey recommended that sites providing this support for areas of high nature conservation value, also be included within the Site of Special Significance (SSS) designation. However, the Environment Department was aware of the significant constraints that designation as a SSS can legally apply to a site and did not consider that it was proportionate or reasonable to impose such constraints on areas which, in themselves, did not have a sufficiently high level of special interest to be designated as a SSS (see the report 'Approach to the Designation of Sites of Special Significance, October 2014' for further information). It is considered that designation of these as Areas of Biodiversity Importance provides the second tier of protection recommended by Environment Guernsey whilst offering some flexibility for development.

3) Sites previously recognised for their biodiversity interest

- 4.6 Some Areas of Biodiversity Importance have also been identified because of their particular local biodiversity importance. These sites do not have a sufficiently high level of special interest to be designated as a Site of Special Significance but nevertheless contribute significantly to the biodiversity of the Island. These sites are identified through being designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance/Interest in the current Rural Area Plan and Urban Area Plan. However, it is noted that there are some differences to the extent of the Areas of Biodiversity Importance compared to the Sites of Nature Conservation Importance within the 2002 Urban Area Plan. This is due to a review of Sites of Nature Conservation within the Urban Area Plan, carried out in 2006 (by La Société Guernesiale and Environment Guernsey), which recommended omitting some existing areas and extending others to reflect changes in the value of the land from a nature conservation perspective. The Areas of Biodiversity Importance reflect the recommendations from the 2006 Review. Descriptions of the areas (in appendix 2) have been drawn from the 2006 Review and also from the April 2003 'Review of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in the Revised Rural Area Plan' that was carried out by La Société Guernesiale.

5 Identification of Areas of Biodiversity Importance

- 5.1 An 'Appraisal of Sites of Special Significance' by Environment Guernsey in 2014, assessed the Island's most important Sites of Nature Conservation Interest / Importance to see which would meet the criteria for designation as a Site of Special Significance (SSS). For the purposes of designation in the Island Development Plan only areas of botanical, scientific or zoological interest have been considered. The biodiversity importance of sites was assessed using the Ratcliffe criteria, including typicalness, fragility, size, diversity, naturalness, rarity, ecological coherence, potential value and recorded history (of management). The Environment Guernsey report sets out in detail the guidelines and criteria used for selection of SSS and Areas of Biodiversity Importance sites.
- 5.2 Where appropriate, suitable 'buffer land' and 'corridors' have been identified, incorporating other Sites of Nature Conservation Interest / Importance in some cases, and land not previously designated, in order to support the Site of Special Significance (SSS) areas and ensure that the integrity of the habitats and populations of associated wildlife remains viable. Such land adjacent to SSSs should be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance in the Island Development Plan
- 5.3 The Sites of Nature Conservation Interest / Importance of biodiversity importance, remaining following the identification of the Sites of Special Significance, should be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance in the Island Development Plan, subject to the recommendations of the 2006 Review for amendments, additions and omissions. This accords with the feedback received at the second stage of public consultation on the review of the Island Development Plan where respondents felt that there should be no reduction in the level of protection afforded by existing Development Plans.
- 5.4 A map in Appendix 1 shows the proposed Areas of Biodiversity Importance (and for information the Sites of Special Significance). The sites proposed to be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance are listed in Appendix 2 with the reason for the proposed designation. In total it is proposed to designate 83 Areas of Biodiversity Importance.
- 5.5 Unlike Site of Special Significance designations which may have a high level of constraint applied, buildings and their curtilages are proposed to be included within Areas of Biodiversity Importance designations as the planning policy relating to these areas will be less restrictive to development potential.

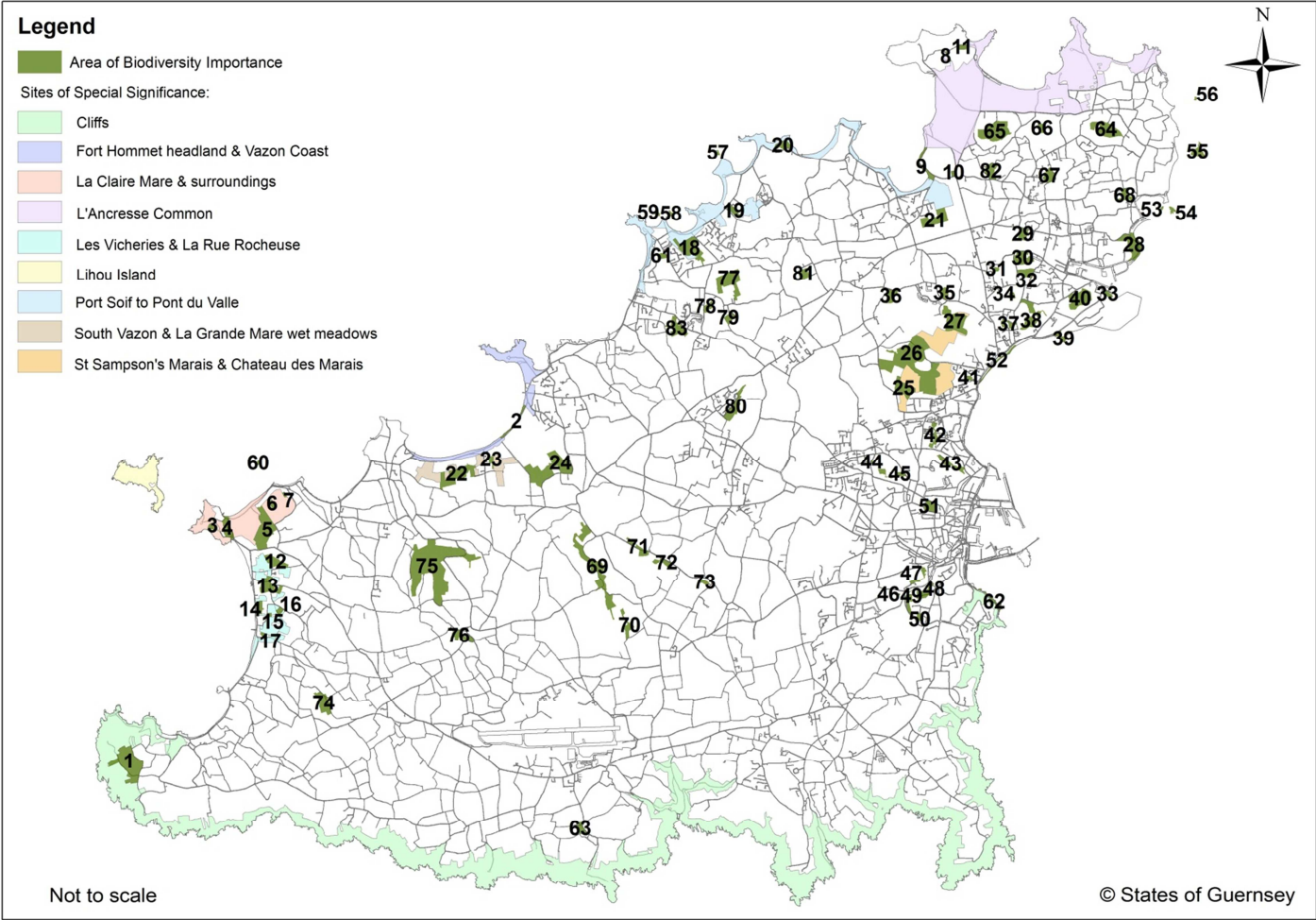
6 Policy requirements for Areas of Biodiversity Importance

- 6.1 Areas of Biodiversity Importance, by definition, do not have a sufficient level of special interest to be designated as a Site of Special Significance (SSS) (where it is proposed that there will be significant constraints) but nevertheless contribute significantly to

the biodiversity of the Island and in some cases have a valuable role in supporting the areas of higher conservation value identified as SSSIs. The designation of Areas of Biodiversity Importance provides a mechanism to offer some protection and enhancement of such sites when development proposals are being considered and allows for enhancement through development.

- 6.2 Policy should ensure that any development proposed within an Area of Biodiversity Importance is carefully assessed in order to secure protection and, where appropriate, positive enhancement of biodiversity through that development, and to minimise any negative impacts. Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation should be sought.
- 6.3 If it emerges following the adoption of the Plan that other sites have sufficient interest to be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance, these could be designated via a Local Planning Brief or a Subject Plan which will be subject to a Public Inquiry.
- 6.4 The Environment Department has published a draft Biodiversity Strategy that will help to set a framework within which Guernsey's biodiversity can be protected and enhanced. Once published, the Biodiversity Strategy should be taken into account by the Environment Department when considering proposals for development that may affect an Area of Biodiversity Importance. This needs to be reflected in the policy.

Appendix 1: Map of Areas of Biodiversity Importance and Sites of Special Significance



Appendix 2: Sites proposed to be designated as Areas of Biodiversity Importance

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|--|----------|---|--|
| 1. Areas of Biodiversity Importance to provide buffer land and habitat corridors for the proposed Sites of Special Significance | | | |
| 1.1. Cliffs | | | |
| Pleinmont | 1 | Site mainly consists of fields of improved grassland and arable land, some of which are parts of the historic strip field system, with some dense scrub and coastal grassland. The presence of low banks acts as corridors for species where the intervening land is farmed. Pleinmont is important as a stopping off area for migrating birds. Over 150 species of birds have been recorded in the area. | Based on the recommendations of the Cliffs SSS appraisal, and on SNCI no. 14 in the RAP. |
| 1.2. Fort Hommet Headland & Vazon Coast | | | |
| Vazon coastline | 2 | Site mainly consists of bare ground and shingle but it operates as a corridor between adjacent SSS along the coast. | Based on the recommendations of the Fort Hommet headland & Vazon Coast SSS appraisal. |
| 1.3. La Claire Mare, La Rousse Mare, the rest of the Colin Best Nature Reserve, Lihou headland & L'Eree shingle bank | | | |
| Rue du Braye | 3 | Amenity grassland field and dense scrub operate as a buffer zone and corridor for the surrounding SSS. | Based on the recommendations of the La Claire Mare, Lihou and L'Eree SSS appraisal, and on SNCIs no. 8 and 9 in the RAP. |
| Rue de la Vallee Cateline | 4 | Site consisting of Headland, arable land and improved grassland fields and dense scrub operates as a corridor for the adjacent SSS. | |
| La Claire Mare | 5 | Field of mainly improved grassland with some dense scrub operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. | |
| Route de la Rocque | 6 | Improved grassland field operates as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. | |
| Rue de la Haute Banque | 7 | Field operates as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. | |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|---|----------|---|---|
| 1.4. L’Ancresse Common | | | |
| Quarry at Les Hures | 8 | Amenity grassland field and dense scrub operates as a corridor between the quarry and the rest of the SSS to the south. | Based on the recommendations of the L’Ancresse Common SSS appraisal and on SNCI no. 1 in the RAP. |
| La Garenne coastline | 9 | Coastal strip including coastal grassland and dense scrub operates as a corridor between adjacent SSS. | |
| L’Abbaye | 10 | Car park and improved grassland to east of Vale Church operates as a corridor for the adjacent SSS. | |
| Les Hures | 11 | Site consists of dune scrub and dune grassland which operates as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. | |
| 1.5. Les Vicheries & La Rue Rocheuse (extending to La Saline & Rocquaine Sand Dunes) | | | |
| Rue Rocheuse | 12 | Site mainly consists of fields of varying quality grasslands and dense scrub which operates as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. The site would contribute towards the creation of a larger and more effective ‘safe’ area for wildlife. | Based on the recommendations of the Les Vicheries & La Rue Rocheuse SSS appraisal, and on SNCIs no. 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the RAP. |
| Rue des Marais | 13 | Site mainly consists of amenity grassland and improved grassland fields with some abandoned areas. The site operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS and contributes towards the creation of a larger and more effective ‘safe’ area for wildlife. | |
| Route du Grand Port | 14 | Area of amenity grassland which operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. The site would contribute towards the creation of a larger and more effective ‘safe’ area for wildlife. | |
| Rue des Salines | 15 | Area of amenity grassland which operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. The site would contribute towards the creation of a larger and more effective ‘safe’ area for wildlife. | |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|---|----------|--|--|
| Rue de la Pomare | 16 | Area of improved grassland which operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. The site would contribute towards the creation of a larger and more effective 'safe' area for wildlife. | |
| Rue du Douit du Moulin | 17 | Site mainly consists of amenity grassland which operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. The site would contribute towards the creation of a larger and more effective 'safe' area for wildlife. | |
| 1.6. Lihou Island | | | |
| No ABIs within or adjacent to the SSS | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1.7. Port Soif to Pont du Valle (including Vale Pond & extending to Cobo) | | | |
| Port Soif sports ground | 18 | Site mainly consists of amenity grassland and dense scrub which acts as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. | Based on the recommendations of the Port Soif to Pont du Valle SSS appraisal, and on SNCIs no. 2, 3 and 16 in the RAP. |
| Les Prins Lane | 19 | Site mainly consists of amenity grassland which acts as a corridor between the adjacent SSS. | |
| Pulias Headland | 20 | Site mainly consists of improved grassland fields which operate as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. | |
| Braye du Valle | 21 | Site mainly consists of fields of semi-improved grassland and semi-improved marshy grassland which operates as a buffer zone for the adjacent SSS. | |
| 1.8. South Vazon & La Grande Mare wet meadows | | | |
| Rue du Marais | 22 | Lowland area behind the sand dunes along Vazon Bay. Site mainly consists of improved grassland field which operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. | Based on the recommendations of the South Vazon/La Grande Mare Wet Meadows SSS appraisal, and on SNCIs no. 6 and 7 in the RAP. |
| Rue du Gélé | 23 | Lowland area behind the sand dunes along Vazon Bay. Site mainly consists of fields of improved grassland and semi- | |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|--|----------|---|---|
| | | improved marshy grassland which operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. | |
| La Grande Mare | 24 | The site includes wet meadows, woodland and grassland fields of varying quality. | |
| 1.9. St Sampson's Marais & Château des Marais | | | |
| St Sampson's Marais South | 25 | Forms part of a relatively large area of low-lying grassland. The site consists mainly of improved grassland and dense scrub and operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. | Based on the recommendations of the St Sampson's Marais/Ivy Castle SSS appraisal, and on SNCI no. 16 in the UAP. |
| St Sampson's Marais | 26 | Forms part of a relatively large area of low-lying grassland. The site consists mainly of grassland fields of varying quality and operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. | |
| St Sampson's Marais North | 27 | Forms part of a relatively large area of low-lying grassland. The site consists mainly of improved grassland fields and operates as a buffer zone and corridor for the adjacent SSS. | |
| 2. Areas of Biodiversity Importance – previously recognised for nature conservation interest in the Urban Area Plan | | | |
| Vale Castle/Rue Des Barras (SNCI no. 1 in UAP) | 28 | The Vale Castle stands on a hill on the north side of the entrance to St Sampson's harbour. The ABI also includes the strip between the coast road and the sea, the field to the north and the recently planted wood to the north west. The site is good for birds generally as a nesting and foraging area for common species and as a migrant stop-off. | Former UAP SNCI. Extended slightly to west following 2006 UAP SNCI review (see No. 1 in 2006 review for details). |
| Braye Road (SNCI no. 2 in UAP) | 29 | This is a species-rich wet meadow which, until the draining of the Braye du Valle, was unenclosed land, partly saltmarsh and partly sandy or muddy seashore. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Grosses Hougues (SNCI no. 3 in UAP) | 30 | This is a typical worked out quarry. The surrounds have been allowed to turn to scrub, and the quarry has filled with water and is used as a reservoir by Guernsey Water. There is no | Former UAP SNCI. |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| | | shallow water so the flora and fauna of the water body is limited. The scrubby surrounds are important as breeding, feeding and roosting habitat for birds. | |
| Rue Jacques (SNCI no. 4 in UAP) | 31 | A small quarry with shallow water surrounded by narrow strip of deciduous woodland. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Franc Fief (SNCI no. 5 in UAP) | 32 | These are marshy fields having a typical wet meadow flora, now very scarce in the island outside nature reserves. At some point drains have been dug from west to East across the fields, and these drains have the majority of the wetland species. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Mont Crevelt (SNCI no. 7 in UAP) | 33 | A small hill surmounted by a 'pre Martello Tower' and fort at the South entrance to St Sampson's Harbour. Supports coastal grassland and scrub. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Robergerie (SNCI no. 8 in UAP) | 34 | An interesting wood in an old quarry rich in bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Baubigny Quarry (SNCI no. 9 in UAP) | 35 | A water-filled quarry with sheer, ivy-covered cliff sides, and no shallow water. This is a good area for birds. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Les Effards (SNCI no. 10 in UAP) | 36 | Two fields, both of which have streams running across them and on parts of their boundaries. Contain plant species which are indicative of a wet meadow flora. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Delancey Lane (SNCI no.12 in UAP) | 37 | Woodland and standing water. The site includes a long-abandoned quarry pond and rock face with semi-natural scrub and woodland, and is in a good position for birds following the East Coast on migration. | Former UAP SNCI. Small parcel of land to west omitted following 2006 UAP SNCI review (see No. 8 in 2006 review for details) |
| Delancey (SNCI no. 13 in UAP) | 38 | Planted and semi-natural Woodland and areas of Delancey Park which are being mowed less frequently and developing to coastal grassland and scrub. The site is in a good position for birds following the East Coast on migration. | Former UAP SNCI. Extended to north following 2006 UAP SNCI review (see No. 8 in 2006 review for details). |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|--|-----------------|---|--|
| Bulwer Avenue & Spur Point (SNCI nos. 14 & 25 in UAP) | 39 | Coastal grassland and pebble ridge above high tide level, including small areas of coastal rocks, and scrub. The area around Spur Point is important for roosting sea birds. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Longue Hougue Quarry (SNCI no. 15 in UAP) | 40 | A large water filled quarry surrounded by scrub with some mown areas. There are areas of inaccessible, seasonally flooded grassland vegetation. The quarry is important for gulls as a fresh-water bathing and drinking area. The scrub is important for feeding and nesting birds. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Ivy Castle Lane (part of SNCI no. 16 The Marais in UAP) | 41 | Vestigial area of reed bed (Swamp) and medieval drainage ditches. Previously neglected, but now being actively managed to restore and conserve the swamp habitat. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Mont Arrive (SNCI no. 17 in UAP) | 42 | Site mainly consisting of planted and regenerated broadleaved woodland or scrub. These areas are good for nesting and foraging birds and allow mixed feeding parties into the heart of Town. | Former UAP SNCI. Omit area to the west of Mont Arrive – Guelles Lane (see below and No. 13 of 2006 UAP SNCI review for details). |
| Rope Walk (SNCI no. 19 in UAP) | 43 | Site mainly consisting of planted and regenerated broadleaved woodland or scrub. These areas are good for nesting and foraging birds and allow mixed feeding parties into the heart of Town. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Fosse Andre (SNCI no. 20 in UAP) 44 Foss Andre West 45 Foss Andre East | 44-45 | Site mainly consisting of planted and regenerated broadleaved woodland or scrub. These areas are good for nesting and foraging birds and allow mixed feeding parties into the heart of Town. | Former UAP SNCI. Field to north of Fosse Andre omitted following 2006 SNCI Review (see No. 13 in 2006 review for details). |
| Charroterie Valley (SNCI no. 21 in UAP) 46 Charroterie Valley West 47 Charroterie Valley North | 46-49 | Small, but undisturbed areas of woodland and grassland, providing shelter for animals and birds, almost in the middle of Town. | Former UAP SNCI. |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|---|----------|--|--|
| 48 Charroterie Valley East 49 Charroterie Valley South | | | |
| Les Vardes (part only) (SNCI no. 22 in UAP) | 50 | Small, but undisturbed area of grassland, surrounded by tree belts, providing shelter for animals and birds, almost in the middle of Town. | Former UAP SNCI. A field adjacent to junction between Colborne Road and Les Vardes omitted following 2006 SNCI review (see No. 16 in 2006 review for details). |
| Candie Cemetery (SNCI no. 23 in UAP) | 51 | Grassland over 150 years old and may be much older if enclosed from previously existing grazing land. It has an impressive range of grasses and grassland herbs, making the Cemetery a major hotspot of diversity in the urban area. It is also part of a network of feeding and roosting/nesting sites for invertebrates and birds. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| Les Banques (SNCI no. 24 in UAP) | 52 | Coastal grassland and pebble ridge above high tide level, including small areas of coastal rocks, and scrub. | Former UAP SNCI. |
| 3. Areas of Biodiversity Importance – previously recognised for nature conservation interest in the Rural Area Plan | | | |
| Offshore islets: 53 Hommet 54 Hommet Benest 55 Houmet Paradis 56 Homptolle 57 Le Noir Houmet 58 Port Soif 59 Houmet Jerbe 60 La Capelle | 53-60 | The offshore islets variously include Dune and Coastal Grasslands, Hard and Soft Cliffs and Shingle banks. They provide relatively undisturbed areas of these coastal habitats with important bee and bird nesting sites but are vulnerable to unregulated recreational activity. | Former RAP SNCIs. |
| Field to west of Grandes Rocques Road (part of SNCI | 61 | Semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland and dense scrub. Historically, these were carrot-growing fields, divided by | Former RAP SNCI. |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|--|----------|---|------------------|
| no. 4 Portinfer, Port Soif and Grandes Rocques in RAP) | | Tamarisk hedges. Many of the hedges remain, and the field areas are now largely undisturbed grass land, of importance for birds, invertebrates and many other species. | |
| La Vallette (part of SNCI no. 14 Cliff and Cliff Valleys in RAP) | 62 | Area consists of deciduous woodland and scrub cliffs, and managed parks and verges. Although biodiversity interest is diminished within roadside and recreational areas, the cliff woodlands and natural sections of coastline within the ABI, which includes some Green Lizard territory, are of similar biodiversity value to the Cliffs SSS. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Les Villetts (SNCI no. 15 in RAP) | 63 | Consists of a small area of reed-bed in one field and two marshy fields; much of which are dominated by Yellow Flag. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Le Grand Pre (SNCI no. 17 in RAP) | 64 | Contains one of the largest reed-beds in the Island. The area also has a swamp and ponds with a field at the east end that is grazed. It is managed by La Société Guernesiasise as a nature reserve. It is very important for birds and there are a number of scarce reed-bed moths and other insects found here. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Le Marais (SNCI no. 18 in RAP) | 65 | Several marshy fields with a large pond. Some of the fields contain unimproved / semi-improved marshy grassland with orchids. The area is very important for birds. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Les Mielles (SNCI no. 19 in RAP) | 66 | A marshy field. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Cuckoo Lane (SNCI no. 20 in RAP) | 67 | This area consists of some marshy fields bounded to the North by a flooded quarry surrounded by trees. To the west is a drier area mostly covered with scrub. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Bordeaux (SNCI no. 21 in RAP) | 68 | Consists of three marshy fields with brackish influence lying behind Bordeaux beach. The stream here flows inland at high spring tides and there is a brackish pond, a very rare habitat in | Former RAP SNCI. |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|--|----------|--|------------------|
| | | Guernsey. | |
| Fauxquets Valley (SNCI no. 22 in RAP) 69 Fauxquets Valley North 70 Fauxquets Valley South | 69-70 | A stretch of the Fauxquets Valley including two fields at the South still used for grazing, a long stretch of woodland on the steeper slopes of the valley and the valley floor in the centre which has marshy grassland, woodland and ponds. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Talbot Valley (SNCI no. 23 in RAP) 71 Talbot Valley North 72 Talbot Valley 73 Talbot Valley South | 71-73 | A series of marshy fields in the Talbot Valley and areas of woodland on the sides of the valley. One of the fields is a particularly diverse orchid field. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Quanteraine (SNCI no. 24 in RAP) | 74 | This is a part of a valley with a mill pond, douit, meadows and woods. Orchids and a good diversity of plants are present in the unimproved grassland. It is managed as the Silbe Nature Reserve by La Société Guernesiale and is open to the public. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| St Saviour's Reservoir (SNCI no. 25 in RAP) | 75 | Contains the largest area of fresh water in the Island, it is important for birds, and is surrounded by woodland. Most of the woodland is planted with coniferous trees but some contains native broad-leaved trees such as oak. To the east is an area of scrub. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Sous l'Eglise (SNCI no. 26 in RAP) | 76 | There are several fields here; most of which have been abandoned long enough for sallow scrub and woodland to have developed. There is a small pond. The north-west end is the area where the German occupying forces dumped the spoil from the tunnels under St Saviour's Church. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Vingtaine de l'Epine (SNCI no. 27 in RAP) | 77 | A series of marshy fields, most of which have been 'improved'. They are often important as feeding and roosting site for wintering and migrating birds. | Former RAP SNCI. |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|---|----------|--|--|
| La Hougue Du Pommier (SNCI no. 28 in RAP) 78 La Hougue Du Pommier West 79 La Hougue Du Pommier East | 78-79 | Three marshy fields. A typical orchid meadow. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Le Villocq (SNCI no. 29 in RAP) | 80 | A series of marshy fields next to Le Villocq estate. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| La Garenne d'Anneville (SNCI no. 30 in RAP) | 81 | This is a medieval rabbit warren enclosed by a ditch. Managed, together with some adjoining land, as a nature reserve. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Les Hougues Peres (SNCI no.31 in RAP) | 82 | This is a hillock, mostly wooded, containing some old water-filled quarries with interesting flora and fauna. The woodland is diverse for a wood in Guernsey. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| Heritage Walk (SNCI no. 33 in RAP) | 83 | An area of parkland once belonging to Lord de Sausmarez. | Former RAP SNCI. |
| 4. Former Rural Area Plan Sites of Nature Conservation Interest omitted | | | |
| South Entrance to Beaucette Marina | | Chosen on geological criteria. The diorite here contains several unusual features. | Former RAP SNCI. Omitted as outside of L'Ancrese Common SSS and not consistent with criteria for an ABI. |
| 5. Former Urban Area Plan Sites of Nature Conservation Importance omitted | | | |
| Brock Road (SNCI no. 6 in UAP) | | Three small areas of woodland and scrub to the north of Delancey Park. Two of the woodland areas have been gardened and converted to areas of lawn surrounding the trees. The area of scrub is very small and has been recently rotovated. | Omitted following 2006 SNCI Review (see No.8 in 2006 review for details). |
| Hougue Nicolle (SNCI no. 11 in UAP) | | Two fields near Les Nicolles. One is dominated by Pampas Grass (Cortaderia selloana), and the other has been overgrazed by horses. | Omitted following 2006 SNCI Review (see No. 12 in 2006 review for details). |

| Areas of Biodiversity Importance | Map ref. | Description | Justification |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| Delancey Lane (SNCI no.12 in UAP) | | A small area north of the quarry that is a garden. | Omitted following 2006 UAP SNCI Review (see No. 8 in 2006 review for details). |
| Mont Arrive (part only) (SNCI no. 17 in UAP) | | Small area of land that was originally elm woodland but is now almost entirely Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>). | Omitted following 2006 SNCI Review (see No. 13 in 2006 review for details). |
| Neuve Rue (SNCI no. 18 in UAP) | | Two fields that have been improved agriculturally and most of the interesting wetland flora have been lost. | Omitted following 2006 SNCI Review (see No. 13 in 2006 review for details). |
| Fosse Andre (part only) (SNCI no. 20 in UAP) | | A field that has been developed as a garden. | Omitted following 2006 SNCI Review (see No. 13 in 2006 review for details). |
| Les Vardes (part only) (SNCI no. 22 in UAP) | | Small field mown as a lawn. | Omitted following 2006 SNCI review (see No. 16 in 2006 review for details). |