

Survey Summary

Top Green 07/06/2017

Site Details

Grid Reference :	SU29202630	File Reference :	22-0128
Total Area :	2.5 ha		
Civil Parish :	Lockerley		
District :	Test Valley		
Vice-County :	11, South Hampshire		

Survey Details

Survey Type :	Phase II
Survey Date :	07/06/2017
Survey Time on Site :	8 (hrs)
Data Owned By :	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership
Data Recorded By :	Ian Ralphs, HBIC

Site Summary

Top Green is a village green, situated in the south-western borders of Hampshire. The Green is located on a gently sloping valley side site on the southern edges of the village of Lockerley.

Top Green is a good example of one of the rarest and most threatened habitats in the UK, a traditionally managed village green dominated by semi-improved and substantially unimproved pasture. This is a habitat facing severe threats in lowland Britain by a combination of tree planting, agricultural improvement and the conversion of village greens into regularly mown amenity lawns.

At the time of the survey Top Green was privately owned and managed by a local farmer, who takes a hay crop off the site late summer (pretty well the ideal management for the site). In recent times a local group has undertaken some management works, particularly associated with rotational scrub clearance, although there has also been some tree planting on the site. Unfortunately, tree planting may cause significant long term damage to the grassland habitats present.

During the survey (a quite superb) 133 species were recorded as present on the site, this included 5 old grassland indicator species and 5 species which have become so localised in the UK that they now carry a national designation. These were the IUCN (2014) England- Near Threatened and IUCN (2001) - Near Threatened *Plantago media* (Hoary Plantain), *Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil) and *Succisa pratensis* (Devil's-bit Scabious). The other two species being House Sparrow and Cinnabar Moth, now both UK BAP and NERC act 2006, Section 41 species.

Site Designations

Designation

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Features

<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
Damage	Loss Of Area (sections being treated as private lawn)
Features	Ant Hills
Geology	Bedrock - Clay, Silt And Sand
Geology	Superficial - Sand And Gravel
Management	Invasive Shrub Clearance (Rotational scrub clearance)
Management	Other (Cut for hay late season)
Usage	Amenity
Usage	Dog Walking
Usage	Managed For Wildlife

Priority Habitats

<u>Priority Habitats</u>	<u>Area</u>
Lowland meadows	50 %
Lowland dry acid grassland	20 %
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	2 %

Notable Species

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	NERC Act 2006, Sect 41 Birds of Conservation Concern: Red List
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	NERC Act 2006, Sect 41

Survey Details

Top Green
07/06/2017

Habitats Recorded

<u>Priority Habitats</u>	<u>Area</u>
Lowland meadows	50 %
Lowland dry acid grassland	20 %
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	2 %

<u>National Vegetation Classifications</u>	<u>Area</u>
MG5c, Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra grassland: Danthonia decumbens subcommunity	25 %
MG6b, Lolium perenne-Cynosurus cristatus grassland: Anthoxanthum odoratum subcommunity	25 %
U1, Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Rumex acetosella grassland	20 %
MG1, Arrhenatherum elatius grassland	15 %
MG7, Lolium perenne leys and related grasslands	10 %
W23, Ulex europaeus-Rubus fruticosus scrub	3 %
M23, Juncus effusus/acutiflorus-Galium palustre rush-pasture	2 %

Species Recorded

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notable</u>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	O	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	R/O	
<i>Agrimonia procera</i>	Fragrant Agrimony	R	
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	Velvet Bent	R	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	F/A	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O	
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion	R	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	OLF	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	A	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	R	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	OLA	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	R	
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	R	
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Lesser Soft-Brome	O	
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	R	
<i>Carex leporina</i>	Oval Sedge	R	
# <i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	R	
* <i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	R	
<i>Carex spicata</i>	Spiked Sedge	R	
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	OLF	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O	
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	OLA	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	R	
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	R	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	R	
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawk's-beard	O	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O	
# <i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	Heath-grass	R/O	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Carrot	R	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-Grass	R	
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	R	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notable</u>
<i>Epilobium</i>	Willowherb	R	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	R	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	R	
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	R	
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue	R/O	
<i>Festuca pratensis x Lolium perenne</i> = X	Hybrid Fescue	R	
<i>Festulolium loliaceum</i>			
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A	
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	R	
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goat's-rue	R	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	R	
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	OLF	
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	R	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	R	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	R	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	R/O	
<i>Helictotrichon pratense</i>	Meadow Oat-grass	R	
<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	Downy Oat-grass	O	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	R	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A	
* <i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	OLA	
* <i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort	R	
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	O	
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact Rush	R/O	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush	R	
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	R	
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	O	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	O	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	R	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	OLF	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	OLF	
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	R	
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush	F	
<i>Malus pumila</i>	Apple	R	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk-mallow	R	
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> agg.	Narcissus pseudonarcissus agg.	(R)	
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Fox-and-cubs	R	
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	R/O	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R	
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	R	Y
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	R	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	R/O	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	R/O	
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	R/O	
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	OLA	Y
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	R	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	R	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	R	
<i>Quercus</i>	Acorn	OLD	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	O	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	R/O	
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	R	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R/O	
<i>Rosa</i>	Rose	R	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose	R	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notable</u>
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	O	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	F	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	R	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	R	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	R	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Common Sallow	R	
<i>Scorzoneroideis autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	R	
# <i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort	R/O	
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	R	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	R	
*# <i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony	OLF	
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	O	
# <i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	R	Y
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	R	
<i>Taraxacum</i>	Dandelion Agg.	O	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	R	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	R	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	R	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	O	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	R	
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass	R	
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	R/O	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	R	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	O	
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	R	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	R/O	
* <i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	R/O	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	R	
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	O	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Notable</u>
<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell	P	
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	P	
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	P	
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon	P	
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven	P	
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carion Crow	P	
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	P	
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	P	
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	P	
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	P	
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	P	
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	European Rabbit	P	
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	P	Y
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	P	
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared Dove	P	
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	P	Y
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox	P	
<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-spot Burnet	P	

Species Summary

Total no. of species :	134
No. of woodland species :	52
* No. of AWVP indicators :	5
# No. of acid/neutral grassland indicators :	5

Notes

Habitat Classifications :

Priority: Habitats identified as the highest priority for conservation action in the UK

NVC: A system of classifying natural habitat communities according to species associations

Phase 1: A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping broad wildlife habitats including urban areas

Peterken: A stand type classification that describes woodlands by tree species

Indicators Species :

- * Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) - species most strongly associated with ancient woodland and are typical components of botanically rich ancient woodland communities
- # Acid/neutral grassland indicators - species which seldom occur outside of unimproved acid/neutral grasslands or are indicative of a long period of uninterrupted grassland management
- ~ Chalk grassland indicators - species characteristic of unimproved chalk downland or have a strong affinity to calcareous soil

Species Abundance:

Frequency: D=dominant A=abundant F=frequent O=occasional R=rare L=locally

Frequencies within brackets () indicate non-native occurrences

Habitat and Species designations and statuses:

Habitat designations/categories and species legislation/statuses are correct at the time the report was generated and may not necessarily reflect those applicable either at the time of survey or later than the generated date.

Top Green, Lockerley, 7th June 2017.



Heath Bedstraw a characteristic species of freely draining unimproved “acid” type grassland swards (1d).

sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

General description and management.

Top Green is a village green, situated in the south-western borders of Hampshire. The Green is located on a gently sloping valley-side site on the southern edges of the village of Lockerley.

Top Green is a good example of one of the rarest and most threatened habitats in the UK, a traditionally managed village green dominated by semi-improved and substantially unimproved pasture. This is a habitat facing severe threats in lowland Britain by a combination of tree planting, agricultural improvement and the conversion of village greens into regularly mown amenity lawns.

At the time of the survey Top Green was privately owned and managed by a local farmer, who takes a hay crop off the site late summer (pretty well the ideal management for the site). In recent times a local group has undertaken some management works, particularly associated with rotational scrub clearance, although there has also been some tree planting on the site. Unfortunately, tree planting may cause significant long term damage to the grassland habitats present.

During the survey (a quite superb) 133 species were recorded as present on the site, this included 5 old grassland indicator species and 5 species which have become so localised in the UK that they now carry a national designation. These were the IUCN (2014) England- Near Threatened and IUCN (2001) - Near Threatened *Plantago media* (**Hoary Plantain**), *Potentilla erecta* (**Tormentil**) and *Succisa pratensis* (**Devil's-bit Scabious**). The other two species being **House Sparrow** and **Cinnabar Moth**, now both UK BAP and NERC act 2006, Section 41 species.



View looking toward the northern tip of the site (1e).

Communities.

(1). Grassland habitats.

Top Green is an unusual grassland site for a number of reasons, not just because it has a traditional grassland management regime still in place. Geologically the site sits at a point where the Hampshire chalk dips down below the clays, sands and gravels (formerly known as the Reading Beds) of the River Test valley catchment, with a partial covering of lighter sandy soils (River terrace Deposits). So the site retains species characteristic of both neutral grassland and more freely draining acid grasslands, as well as a few species more normally

sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

associated with calcareous grasslands sites. This complex mix of soils and geology gives rise to a complex mosaic of grassland communities.



Moderate to fine grass dominated swards of (1e) type grasslands.

(1a). [MG1]: *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland.

Taller and ranker grassland swards, tending to dominate the slightly more eutrophic margins, with just the occasional patch on old disturbed ground more centrally. (IHS:-GNZ, GM22).

Flora :-	Moderate to locally quite dense sward, dominated by False Oat-grass, with Meadow Foxtail, Cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog, Red Fescue, Ribwort Plantain, Meadow Buttercup, Common Bent, Soft Brome and Lesser Stitchwort.
*Variant 1 :-	More transitional with (1e) locally.

(1b). [MG7]: *Lolium perenne* - *Plantago major* grassland.

Regularly mown amenity swards. Hard mown edges mainly used for parking. (IHS:- GI0, GM23).

(1c). Transitional community.

Recently mown [W23]: *Ulex europaeus* – *Rubus fruticosus* scrub. Now rather (1e) with locally abundant Gorse regeneration. (IHS:- GN1Z, SC2, GM2).

Canopy :-	Young standard Pedunculate Oaks.
Flora :-	As for (1e) with locally abundant Gorse regeneration.

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

(1d). [U1]: *Festuca ovina* - *Agrostis capillaris* - *Rumex acetosella* grassland.

Moderate to short and decently herb rich sward. Although grading into more [MG6d]: *Lolium perenne* - *Cynosurus cristatus* grassland; *Anthoxanthum odoratum* sub-community, locally. (IHS:- GA1, SC2, GM2).

Canopy :-	Scattered Pedunculate Oak standards.
Flora :-	Often Red Fescue and Sweet Vernal-grass dominated, with Common Bent, Cat's-ear, Tormentil , Field Woodrush, Black Knapweed, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Sorrel, Bulbous Buttercup, Autumn Hawkbit, Common Dog-violet, Honeysuckle, young Gorse, Creeping Soft-grass, Yorkshire-fog and Ox-eye Daisy.
*Variant 1 :-	More Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Tormentil , Heath-grass, Betony, Heath Bedstraw, Sheep's Sorrel, Common Dog-violet (material recalling Heath Dog-violet is present) Field Wood-rush and Devil's-bit Scabious locally.

(1e). Transitional sward.

A moderate open and often herb rich sward, occasionally tipping back into (1d) type patches. Predominantly a mix between [MG5c]: *Cynosurus cristatus* - *Centaurea nigra* grassland; *Danthonia decumbens* sub-community and [MG6b]: *Lolium perenne* - *Cynosurus cristatus* grassland; *Anthoxanthum odoratum* community (IHS:- GN1Z, SC2, GM2).

Canopy :-	Scattered Pedunculate Oak.
Flora :-	Moderate to open sward with open cover of False Oat-grass, Yorkshire-fog, Sweet Vernal-grass, Red Fescue, Cock's-foot, Hairy Oat-grass and Heath-grass, with Bird's-foot Trefoil, Black Knapweed, Sorrel, Hoary Plantain , Meadow Oat-grass, Field Wood-rush, Red Clover, Ribwort Plantain, Cat's-ear and Germander Speedwell.

(1f). [M23]: *Juncus acutiflorus* - *Galium palustre* rush pasture.

Small flush, not really large, or well developed enough, to be absolutely sure of the community type, however the presence of Compact Rush a variety of small blue-green sedge species, coupled with the fact the site lies on gently sloping ground, suggests [M23] rather than one of the denser rushy pastures. (IHS:- EM4Z, GM2).

Flora :-	Open cover of Compact Rush, with Red Fescue, Sweet Vernal-grass, Velvet Bent, Glaucous Sedge, Carnation Sedge, Oval Sedge, Meadowsweet, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil, Heath-grass, Ribwort Plantain and Tormentil .
----------	---

(2). Transitional community.

Recent scrub clearance. Community normally a [W21]: *Crataegus monogyna* - *Hedera helix* type scrub, currently largely replaced by an open phase and often ruderal herb dominated community, probably closest to [W24]: *Rubus fruticosus* - *Holcus lanatus* underscrub. (IHS:- WB2, WF11, WG2).

Canopy :-	Occasional young Pedunculate Oak trees (retained) with locally abundant regrowth of Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Gorse and Bramble.
Flora :-	Bramble, Fireweed, Oak saplings, Sweet Vernal-grass, Yorkshire-fog, Marsh Thistle, Nettle, Broad Leaved-dock, Cock's-foot and Creeping Soft-grass.

Ian Ralphs, Field Ecologist, HBIC.

sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.



Scale at A4: 1:1,500



Hampshire Biodiversity
Information Centre

HBIC Survey Programme 2017:

Top Green
SU29202630

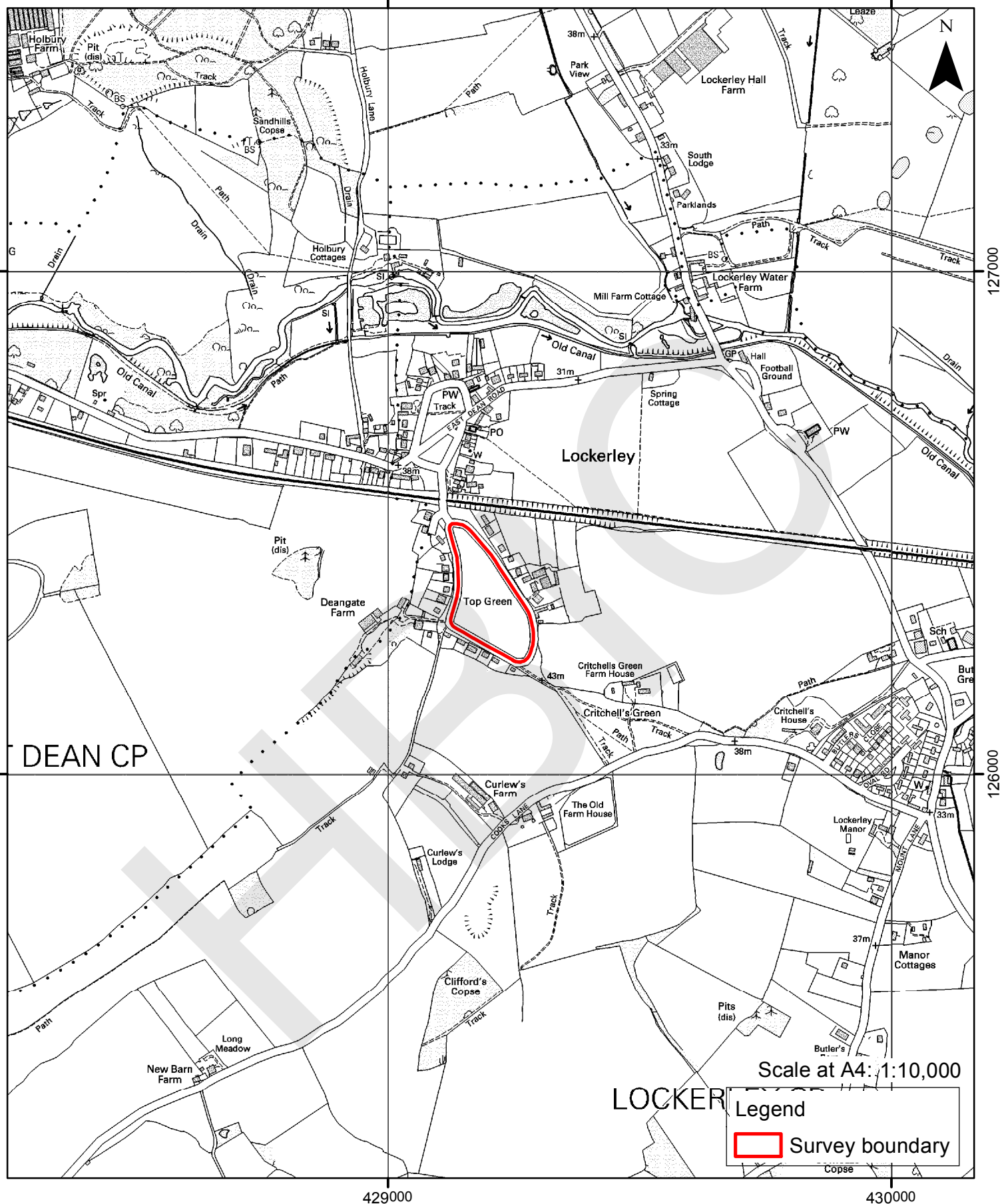
Legend

Survey boundary

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey [100019180]. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

429000

430000



429000

430000