Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI
Kent

Notification under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Issued by Natural England's Kent Land Management Team on [insert notification date].

Contact points and further information

This notification document is issued by Natural England's Kent Land Management Team.

Our address for correspondence is:

Natural England
Ninth Floor
International House
Dover Place
Ashford
Kent
TN23 1HU

Telephone number: 0300 060 4782
E-mail: lorraine.smith@naturalengland.org.uk

Your contact point for enquiries relating to this notification is **Lorraine Smith**.

A second document (*Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI - supporting information*) is available on request from the address above. This contains information and extracts from relevant documents that have been used in the decision to notify this SSSI.

The date of notification of Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI is [insert notification date].

Contents

1. Summary 4
2. The legal background 4
3. Making representations 5
4. Reasons for notification 5
5. Interests that do not currently meet the SSSI selection guidelines 6
6. Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs 7
7. Management of the SSSI 7
8. Supporting information 8
9. Legal documents 8

Annex 1 Citation 9
Annex 2 Views about Management 12
Annex 3 List of operations requiring Natural England's consent 16
Annex 4 Map(s) showing the land notified 19

1. Summary

1.1 This document explains why Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill is notified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

1.2 Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI comprises a mosaic of habitats, including ancient and long-established semi-natural woodland, scrub, and neutral grassland. It is a nationally important site specifically by reason of the following biological features of special interest that occur within and are supported by the wider habitat mosaic:

- lowland ancient and long-established semi-natural woodland;
- unimproved neutral grassland;
- breeding nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos*; and
- assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with scrub habitats.

1.3 Chattenden Woods SSSI, covering 128.37 ha, was last notified in 1984 for its lowland semi-natural woodland, neutral grassland and assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with woodland. Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI includes Chattenden Woods SSSI and also enlarges the area notified to include substantial additional areas of special interest totalling 222.12 ha.

1.4 The annexes to this document comprise the legal papers that detail the interest and the management required to maintain that interest. You have a right to make representations or objections to this notification. Part 3 of this document explains how to do this.

1.5 Natural England's consent is required by owners and occupiers before any of the operations listed in *Annex 3* can be carried out. We will work closely with owners and managers, as well as other bodies, to ensure that existing operations and new works that are not considered likely to damage the special features of the SSSI can be carried out.

2. The legal background

2.1 Chattenden Woods SSSI is enlarged under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as inserted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and is now known as Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI. The Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI includes land within and extending beyond Chattenden Woods SSSI, as previously notified in 1984. With effect from the date of this notification under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the previous notification of Chattenden Woods SSSI given in 1984 ceases to have effect (section 28C(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).

2.2 Part 9 of this notification document contains the following legal papers required by section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:

- a citation detailing the reasons for notification (*Annex 1*)
- a statement of Natural England's views on the management of the SSSI (*Annex 2*)
- a list of operations requiring Natural England's consent (*Annex 3)*
- maps identifying the land subject to this notification (*Annex 4*).

2.3 This notification has several effects. The key ones can be summarised as follows:

- owners and occupiers must give Natural England notice before carrying out, causing or permitting to be carried out any of the activities in the list of operations at *Annex 3*;
- owners of land included in the SSSI have a legal obligation to notify Natural England within 28 days if the ownership or occupancy of the land changes;

- it is an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage the special features of the SSSI or to disturb any of the fauna;
- other public bodies must consult Natural England before carrying out or authorising any works that may damage the SSSI.

If you require any further information or advice on how this notification affects you, please do not hesitate to contact Natural England at the address shown at the beginning of this notification document.

3. Making representations

3.1 You have a legal right to make objections and representations about this notification. Any representations or objections should be made in writing by **[insert date]** to Natural England's Kent Land Management Team at the addresses shown on page 2. You may wish to seek legal or independent advice and your representative may wish to write to us on your behalf.

3.2 The Kent Land Management Team will consider your objections or representations and will try to resolve them. Any unresolved objections or representations will be considered by the Board of Natural England within nine months of this notification. If you wish to emphasise any of your objections or representations to the Board in person, you should tell us when you write to us. You will then be advised of the date and location of the Board meeting. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Board may confirm or withdraw all or part of this notification.

3.3 Natural England has a policy of openness, which reflects our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This legislation provides a legal right of access to information held by public bodies. This means that we will provide information on how we make our decisions on SSSIs to any person on request. This includes details of objections and representations received. We will assume, therefore, that your representation or objection can be made publicly available unless you indicate with clear and valid reasons which (if any) part(s) of these you wish to be excluded from this arrangement. However, you should be aware that the requirements of the legislation may mean that we cannot comply with your request that this information be withheld. We do, however, respect people's privacy and will take all reasonable steps to consult you before reaching a decision on disclosure of the information.

As an individual with an interest in Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI, your information will be stored and processed on a computer database that will be operated within the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act gives individuals the right to know what data we hold on them, how we use it and to which third parties it is disclosed. For the purposes of the Data Protection Act, the data controller is Natural England, Touthill Close, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

4. Reasons for notification

4.1 Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI comprises a mosaic of habitats, including ancient and other long-established semi-natural woodland, scrub, and neutral grassland. It is a nationally important site specifically by reason of the following biological features of special interest that occur within and are supported by the wider habitat mosaic:

- **Ancient and long-established semi-natural woodland**
  The extensive woodland represents one of the best examples of coppice-with-standards woodland on the London Clay. The dominant woodland community is of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type W10 pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* – bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* – bramble *Rubus fruticosus* woodland. Two sub-communities are represented: the W10a typical sub-community and the W10b wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* sub-community. The woodland is largely comprised of pedunculate oak standards with ash coppice of varying age structure. 'Lowland

mixed deciduous woodland', which includes the woodland communities present in Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI, is a habitat of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England[1].

- **Unimproved neutral grassland**
  Rough Shaw is an area of dense and scattered scrub on a north facing slope with tall-herb neutral grassland along its upper margin. The tall-herb neutral grassland includes stands of the unimproved nationally scarce NVC type MG5 crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* grassland, which conform mainly to the MG5b lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* sub-community. These grasslands form part of the 'lowland meadows' habitat, which is listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

- **Breeding nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***
  The SSSI supports a nationally important number of nightingales during the breeding season. Nightingales use coppice woodland and scrub throughout the SSSI. Nightingale is an amber-listed 'Bird of Conservation Concern'[2].

- **Assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with scrub habitats**
  The SSSI supports an assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with scrub habitats. At least 12 species comprise a breeding assemblage, including turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, nightingale, whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, lesser whitethroat *S. curruca*, garden warbler *S. borin*, blackcap *S. atricapilla*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, linnet *Carduelis cannabina*, greenfinch *C. chloris*, goldfinch *C. carduelis* and bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. The species making up this assemblage breed in scrub and woodland edge habitats throughout the site, and many will also forage more widely in the woodland and grassland habitats. Turtle dove, cuckoo and linnet are red-listed 'Birds of Conservation Concern', and whitethroat and bullfinch are amber-listed. Turtle dove and cuckoo are also listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

5. Interests that do not currently meet the SSSI selection guidelines

5.1 In addition to the reasons for notification described above, a number of other features have been considered because they appeared to be of some potential significance. None of the features described in this section is considered to be of special interest in its own right but they are presented here to give additional context to the notification and to document some of the wider biodiversity value of SSSI.

5.2 The site supports a range of woodland breeding birds including woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, stock dove *Columba oenas* and green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, all of which are amber-listed 'Birds of Conservation Concern'.

5.3 Recent records of invertebrates include the stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, a species listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England, and the nationally scarce[3] moths *Elegia similella*, *Sitochroa palealis* and *Dichomeris alacella*.

5.4 The site supports small numbers of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* and all four widespread British species of reptile: adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*. All four widespread reptiles

[1] The England Biodiversity List has been developed to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). This legislation requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of species of flora and fauna and habitats considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
[2] Eaton MA, Brown AF, Noble DG, Musgrove AJ, Hearn R, Aebischer NJ, Gibbons DW, Evans A & Gregory RD 2009. Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds* **102**: 296-341. http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u12/bocc3.pdf
[3] Recorded from 16-100 10km grid squares in Great Britain.

and great crested newts are listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

6. Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs

6.1 Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI lies on the Hoo Peninsula in north Kent, approximately 1 km north-east of Rochester. The site comprises several woodland blocks as well as associated areas of scrub and neutral grassland. The boundary has been drawn to include land supporting the features of special interest and those areas required to ensure the long-term sustainability of these features.

6.2 The SSSI extends northwards from the A228 in the south to include scrub lying to the south and west of Chattenden Barracks, alongside and between Upchat Road, Woodfield Way, Kitchener Road and Lochat Road. To the west and north of Lochat Road, the boundary includes the extensive complex of woodlands centred on Great Chattenden Wood but also including Stone Horse Wood, Ash Wood, Bingham Roughs, Ratley Hills Wood and Berry Court Wood. The SSSI encompasses Round Top Wood to the east of Lochat Road as well as land to the north of Lochat Road around Lodge Hill Camp. The SSSI boundary continues to the east beyond Lodge Hill Lane to include the whole of the former Lodge Hill Training Area and Deangate Wood, as well as areas of woodland and scrub along the northern edge of Deangate Ridge Golf Course. Finally, to the north-east of Berry Court Wood and Lodge Hill Lane, the SSSI extends north-east to encompass the scrub and neutral grassland in Rough Shaw, and on to Lodge Hill Wood and Wybornes Wood. The boundary also includes the hedgerow connecting Lodge Hill and Wybornes Woods, and the spur of woodland protruding southwards from Lodge Hill Wood towards Lodge Hill Training Area.

6.3 The boundary of the SSSI has been drawn to follow the nearest physical feature on the ground where possible. This usually follows existing walls, fence lines, ditches, drains tracks and roadsides. Further clarification of the precise location of the boundary in specific parts of the SSSI can be obtained from Natural England's Kent Land Management Team at the address on page 2 of this document.

6.4 As a general principle, the boundary follows management units, such as enclosure and property boundaries. Where the boundary follows a road, the inner edge of the road has been used and the road has therefore been excluded from the site. Where the boundary is drawn to a stream, ditch or drain, the outer bank has been used, therefore including the stream, ditch or drain in the site. Where there is no mapped feature that can be used to delineate the extent of an interest feature, the boundary has been drawn as a straight line from one point distinguishable on the ground to another.

6.5 The nearest SSSIs to Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI are Tower Hill to Cockham Wood SSSI, which lies approximately 300 m to the south (notified for its geological features, invertebrates and woodland), and Dalham Farm SSSI approximately 700 m to the north-east (notified for its geological features).

7. Management of the SSSI

7.1 This notification includes at *Annex 2* a statement of the management that Natural England considers is needed to conserve and enhance the features of special interest. Different management may be appropriate in different parts of the site and this statement is not intended to detail the exact requirements at specific locations. The statement is intended to explain how we can work with and support owners and managers in continuing to achieve positive management of the SSSI.

7.2 This notification also includes a list of the operations requiring Natural England's consent at *Annex 3.* The basis for the selection of these operations is set out in the supporting information document. Some of the operations may already be taking place and where

7.3 Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another public body a separate consent will not generally be required from Natural England. However, other public bodies are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.

7.4 In particular, we recognise the important roles of the owners and managers of the land in managing this site. We will work with them to develop means to secure the continued sustainable management of the Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI.

8. Supporting information

8.1 The detailed information, which has been used to assess the importance of this SSSI, is available on request from the address on page 2 of this document.

9. Legal documents

9.1 Attached at *Annexes 1 - 4* are the legal documents that are required by section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Annex 1

Citation

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document

Site name: Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI **Unitary Authority:** Medway

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as inserted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Local Planning Authority: Medway Council

National grid reference: TQ747734 **Area:** 350.49 ha

Ordnance Survey sheets: **1:50,000:** 178 **1:10,000:** TQ 77 SE, SW

Notification date: **[insert date]**

Reasons for notification:

Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI comprises a mosaic of habitats, including ancient and other long-established semi-natural woodland, scrub, and neutral grassland. It is a nationally important site specifically by reason of the following biological features of special interest that occur within and are supported by the wider habitat mosaic: ancient and long-established semi-natural woodlands, predominantly of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type W10 pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* – bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* – bramble *Rubus fruticosus* woodland; unimproved neutral grassland of the nationally scarce NVC type MG5 crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* grassland; breeding nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos*; and an assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with scrub habitats.

General description:

Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI lies on the Hoo Peninsula in north Kent, north-east of Rochester. The site comprises a mosaic of habitats, including long-established semi-natural woodland (areas of which are recorded as ancient semi-natural woodland), dense scrub and neutral grassland. The site is also of importance for its breeding birds.

Woodland

The extensive woodland represents one of the best examples of coppice-with-standards woodland on the London Clay. The woodland is largely comprised of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* standards with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* coppice of varying age structure. Other trees include field maple *Acer campestre*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and wild cherry *Prunus avium*. The non-native sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* is infrequent across the site. The shrub layer is varied with hazel *Corylus avellana* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* generally predominant but with other species such as silver birch *Betula pendula*, aspen *Populus tremula*, willow *Salix* spp., wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lantana* and the scarce wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* also present.

The field layer of the woodland is dominated by bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, with bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and other climbers, particularly dog-rose *Rosa canina* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. Several scarce plants are present including the early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine* and stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*.

Neutral grassland

Rough Shaw is an area of dense and scattered scrub of hawthorn, gorse *Ulex europaeus* and brambles on a north facing slope, with tall-herb neutral grassland along its upper margin. The tall-herb neutral grassland includes stands of unimproved neutral grassland. Typical herbaceous species present and that are typical of this grassland type include lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and red clover *Trifolium pratense*.

Breeding birds

The SSSI supports a nationally important number of nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* during the breeding season. Nightingales use coppice woodland and scrub throughout the SSSI. The extensive areas of woodland and scrub within the site will help to ensure that there is always sufficient area of habitat at a suitable stage of maturity to support breeding nightingales in nationally important numbers.

The SSSI supports an assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with scrub habitats. At least 12 species comprise a breeding assemblage, including turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, nightingale, whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, lesser whitethroat *S. curruca*, garden warbler *S. borin*, blackcap *S. atricapilla*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, linnet *Carduelis cannabina*, greenfinch *C. chloris*, goldfinch *C. carduelis* and bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. The species making up this assemblage breed in scrub and woodland edge habitats throughout the site, and many will also forage more widely in the woodland and grassland habitats.

In addition to the 'reasons for notification' described above, the site also supports a range of woodland breeding birds, including sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, tawny owl *Strix aluco*, green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* and nuthatch *Sitta europaea*. The site supports small numbers of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* and all four widespread British species of reptile: adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*. Recent records of invertebrates include the stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* and the nationally scarce moths *Elegia similella*, *Sitochroa palealis* and *Dichomeris alacella*.

Annex 2

Views about Management

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Views About Management

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28(4) as inserted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

A statement of Natural England's views about the management of Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This statement represents Natural England's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Natural England has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

This Statement does not constitute consent for any of the 'operations requiring Natural England's consent'. The written consent of Natural England is required before carrying out any of those operations. Natural England welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Background

Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI comprises a mosaic of habitats, including ancient and long-established semi-natural woodland, dense scrub, and an area of neutral grassland. The site also supports a nationally important number of breeding nightingales and an assemblage of breeding birds chiefly associated with scrub habitats. Many of these habitats and the species they support rely on fundamentally similar management whilst some have more specific requirements to maintain the interest features in favourable condition.

Management principles

Nightingales at Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI depend on a dense cover of shrubs in the form of coppiced woodland and scrub habitats. Both habitats require management to maintain their suitability for nightingales. Other habitats such as bare ground beneath mature trees and open rides may also be important, and it will be beneficial to create and manage coppice and scrub habitat adjacent to these features.

Broadleaved semi-natural woodland

There are many different ways in which broadleaved woodland can be managed to conserve its value for wildlife. The following gives broad views on a range of regimes that may be appropriate on your site.

A diverse woodland structure, with open glades, and in places a dense understory, and a more mature overstorey is important. A range of ages and species within and between stands is desirable. Ancient and veteran trees, must be retained as they support the greatest diversity of plants and animals due to the number of micro-habitats present on the trees themselves. Retention of dead and decaying wood, such as fallen logs, can provide habitats for fungi and invertebrates. However, work may be needed to make safe dangerous trees in areas of high public access. Both temporary and permanent open spaces benefit groups of invertebrates such as butterflies. They may require cutting to keep them open, and should be of sufficient size to ensure that sunny conditions prevail for most of the day.

Felling, thinning or coppicing may be used to create or maintain variations in the structure of the wood, and non-native trees and shrubs can be removed at this time. To avoid disturbance to breeding birds the work is normally best done between the beginning of September and the end of February. Work should be avoided when the ground is soft, to prevent disturbing the soil and ground flora. Normally successive felling, thinning or coppicing operations should be spread through the wood to promote diversity, but where there is open space adjacent plots should be worked to encourage the spread of species that are only weakly mobile.

Coppicing must be carried out regularly on a rotational basis to ensure that a sufficient area of dense, shrubby re-growth between 3-10 years old (depending on soil richness) is available for nesting and foraging birds. Standard trees should be managed to provide the open conditions necessary for vigorous coppice growth. Natural regeneration from seed or stump re-growth is preferred to planting because it helps maintain the local patterns of species and the inherent genetic character of the site.

Deer management and protection from rabbits or livestock are often necessary. Whilst light or intermittent grazing may increase woodland diversity, heavy browsing can damage the ground flora and prevent successful regeneration. Parts of a wood should be left unmanaged to benefit species that do best under low disturbance or in response to natural processes. Within these areas some trees will eventually die naturally and dead wood accumulate. Invasive species, such as *Rhododendron* or Himalayan balsam, should be controlled.

Scrub

Scrub habitats in the lowlands are low-growing communities where the main woody components are bushes or small trees, such as hawthorn, blackthorn and gorse. They can support a wide variety of species and ecological communities. In particular, the transitional zone between scrub and other habitats can be important for wildlife, especially invertebrates.

Often, scrub is a transitional stage that will develop into woodland if left unmanaged. Encouraging structural diversity and a mosaic of age classes within areas of scrub is important in maintaining the diversity of species. For example, blackthorn scrub supports the greatest variety of bird and insect species in the early and middle stages of growth. As scrub habitats mature they develop a tall, continuous cover which is unsuitable for nightingales.

Scrub should be managed by regular rotational cutting and/or layering, which should aim to maintain a mosaic of patches at different stages of growth, ranging from freshly cut to old closed canopy stands. Rotational cutting is necessary to create belts of low, dense, regenerating woody vegetation adjacent to older, taller scrub over bare ground, in a mosaic with open grassy areas. It is important that a sufficient area of scrub is available to retain existing numbers of nightingales in optimal habitats while adjacent areas are cut back.

Open spaces, either temporary gaps created by cutting or more permanent areas such as rides and glades, benefit invertebrates such as butterflies. They should be of sufficient size to ensure that sunny conditions prevail for most of the day. Rides and glades may require cutting to keep them open and a diverse edge structure is important for most species of invertebrates. Scrub can also be cut in small patches to create an intimate mixture of scrub and grassland.

Grazing is another method for managing scrub and on some sites may be a more suitable management tool than cutting. By its nature, grazing can help to create a patchy mosaic of scrub and other habitats. As with cutting, it can also help to maintain a range of age classes. However, stock levels do need to be carefully controlled. If grazing pressure is too high the structure of the scrub vegetation may become impoverished. Also, the scrub may not be able to regenerate naturally, leading to a loss of cover over time. Where the objective is to increase the area of scrub an initial period of fencing to control grazing may be required.

Neutral hay meadow and pasture

Neutral hay meadow and pasture requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest. In order to maintain a species-rich sward, each year's growth of vegetation must be removed. Otherwise the sward becomes progressively dominated by tall and vigorous grasses

which, together with an associated build up of dead plant matter, suppress less vigorous species and reduce the botanical diversity of the site.

In neutral hay meadows, the above objective is traditionally achieved by closing the fields to stock in the autumn and cutting the resultant growth as hay, usually in early July. The precise timing of the cut depends on local factors, including past management and current weather conditions, but should be after ground-nesting birds have fledged their young and any short-lived, characteristic plants have set seed. The aftermath is then grazed in late summer/autumn. Aftermath grazing is important for maintaining a species-rich sward, both through controlling competitive grasses and through hoof-prints providing suitable sites for seedlings to establish. Heavy poaching must be avoided, however.

On pasture land this management is achieved by grazing. The precise timing and intensity of grazing will vary both between and within sites, according to local conditions and requirements (such as, for example, type or availability of stock or the needs of individual plants or animals of conservation concern) but should aim to keep a relatively open sward without causing excessive poaching. Light trampling can be of benefit by breaking down leaf litter and providing areas for seed germination.

No other management should be routinely required. Any surrounding, well-managed hedgerows and scrub may considerably add to the habitat in providing shelter for invertebrates. Occasional dressings of lime may be acceptable.

<u>All habitats</u>

The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, applications of which should be avoided both within the site itself and in adjacent surrounding areas. Herbicides may be useful in targeting certain invasive species, but should be used with extreme care. Access to this site, and any recreational activities within, may also need to be controlled.

Date notified: [insert notification date]

Annex 3

List of operations requiring Natural England's consent

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Operations requiring Natural England's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b) as substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of **Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill SSSI**. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult Natural England, and you may require our consent.

It is usually possible to carry out some of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the SSSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities please contact a Natural England Adviser who will give you advice and where appropriate issue a consent. Please help us by using the 'notice form' (sent to you with the notification documents and available on request) to ask us for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible your Natural England Adviser will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, which would enable a consent to be issued. To proceed without Natural England's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to the Secretary of State.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
1.	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.
2.	Grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3.	Stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.
4.	Mowing or cutting vegetation and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from haymaking to silage).
5.	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime.
6.	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.
7.	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.
8.	Burning and alterations to the pattern or frequency of burning.
9.	Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred or domestic animal, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).
10.	Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any wild animal (including dead animals or parts thereof), or their eggs and nests, including pest control and disturbing them in their places of shelter.
11.	Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, fungus or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungal fruiting body, leaf-mould or turf.
12.	Tree and/or woodland management and alterations to tree and/or woodland management (including, planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition, and removal of fallen timber).
13.a	Draining (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).

Standard reference number	Type of operation
13.b	Modification to the structure of water courses (streams, springs, ditches and drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, regrading, damming or dredging.
13.c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes). Also the modification of current drainage operations (such as through the installation of new pumps).
15.	Infilling or digging of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
20.	Extraction of minerals including sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil and spoil.
21.	Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting, or regrading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hard-standing, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil and soft rock exposures or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22.	Storage of materials.
23.	Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
26.	Use of vehicles or craft.
27.	Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the features of special interest or their habitats.
28.a	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

Notes:

i. This is a list of operations appearing to Natural England to be likely to damage the special features of this SSSI, as required under section 28 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

ii. Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another authority separate consent will not be required from Natural England. However, other authorities are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.

iii. Any reference to ‘animal’ in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish, or invertebrate.

Date notified: [**insert notification date**]

National Grid reference: TQ747734

Annex 4

Map(s) showing the land notified

This is a legal document on which you have a legal right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Insert boundary map here – A3 landscape format in colour

Insert extension map here – A3 landscape format in colour