

Haddon Home Farm Breeding Bird Survey

Results and Analysis

March – June 2012



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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Breeding Bird Survey Methodology
3. Results
4. Systematic List of Bird Species
5. Conservation Management
6. Recommendation for Further Survey

Plans

1. Plan showing the route taken for the survey
2. Plans showing the distribution and bird species recorded.

Acknowledgements

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HADDON HALL ESTATE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

April to June 2012

1. Introduction

A proposal was received by the Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England in 2008 from Haddon Hall Estate to restore an area of c.15 hectares of the northern half of the estate, currently improved grassland and arable, to traditional parkland/wood pasture. This area included six fields immediately to the north of the central section currently managed as improved grassland which were proposed for reversion to an arable rotation. Further, fields north of Haddon Park Farm and adjacent to Bowling Green Farm were proposed as pasture and grazing.

In addition four areas of game crop were proposed; north of Haddon Park Farm along the southern edge of Little Cook Wood, along the south-west side of Shadyside Plantation north of Bowling Green Farm, along the north side of Parkside Wood and also to the east of Parkside Wood.

The orchard just east of the Hall is to be restored and a new orchard created in a croft south of Bowling Green Farm. A small area of recently planted Norway Spruce *Picea abies* north of Bowling Green Farm is to be retained for sustainable production of Christmas trees.

The area of existing parkland in the southern half of the estate between Sheep Bridge and Fillyford Bridge is to be maintained and managed through the HLS agreement.

Finally, the commercial shoot on the estate was suspended from January 2010.

Haddon Home Farm, as it is now called, is currently mainly traditional parkland with woodland and the River Wye in the southern half and arable with improved grassland in the northern half. The latter areas include boundary hedgerows and two farmsteads with agricultural buildings.

Parkland habitat and arable farmland are important habitats for a range of British bird species, many of which are declining throughout the United Kingdom and locally. Integrating parkland habitat with areas of mixed woodland, arable farmland and hedgerows managed for birds through Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and including the River Wye will provide a mosaic of habitats on the farm. This will benefit a broad range of bird species, providing essential foraging areas and breeding habitat with cover to increase productivity. It will help to expand populations of declining bird species, maintaining those which are relatively common and encouraging further species to colonise the area.

This will ultimately assist dispersal into suitable surrounding habitats by many species as the carrying capacity of the habitat on the farm is reached. This will hopefully provide a vehicle for population expansion and local recruitment in the surrounding area, to increase local biodiversity and assist in the reversal of population declines.

Following the above proposals a breeding bird survey was recommended to provide initial baseline data on bird species present and current populations. This would help to identify key areas and species which can be targeted and focussed upon with restoration options in order to increase local biodiversity.

2. Breeding Bird Survey Methodology

Common Birds Census (CBC) territory mapping methodology was used to provide full site coverage and generate robust data. On a site such as Haddon Home Farm CBC methodology is the most accurate and practical way of undertaking a complete census of birds during the breeding season. Results from the breeding bird survey will therefore help to inform on key areas or habitats of particular importance to species or groups of species.

An initial reconnaissance visit was made to the estate on 23rd March 2009 by Rebecca Penny (Senior Countryside & Economy Advisor), David Pearce (Peak Birds Project Officer) and volunteer Geoff Mawson, an experienced bird surveyor, who would undertake the breeding bird survey visits on behalf of the National Park Authority and the Haddon Estate. The site was walked and the bird survey methodology and restoration options were discussed.

Seven survey visits (denoted A to G) were made to the site between late April and the end of June. Daytime survey visits were spaced between 7 and 12 days apart over the period and the route taken was reversed each time to alleviate the effects of bias. All daytime survey visits were conducted from early morning onwards, avoiding the first hour after sunrise and activity related to the dawn chorus. Most visits were conducted in good weather, although some were made during light rain and showers which is acceptable.

In addition one evening/dusk visit was made during good weather in early June at the optimum time to record crepuscular species such as Woodcock and owls and also to locate additional registrations of species such as Song Thrush which often sing during the early evening.

Table 1. Breeding Bird Survey Visits

Visit	Date	Hours	Observer	
A	April	23/04/12	0800 - 1200	G.P.Mawson
B	April	30/04/12	0730 – 1200	G.P.Mawson
C	May	17/05/12	0530 - 0700	G.P.Mawson
D	May	24/05/12	Not recorded	G.P.Mawson
E	June	03/06/12	Not recorded	G.P.Mawson
F	June	12/06/12	Not recorded	G.P.Mawson
G	June	19/06/12	0630 - 1145	G.P.Mawson

On each visit bird registrations using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species and activity codes were made onto field maps at a scale of 1:3000 on A1 size paper covering the whole site and folded for ease of use in the field. An A3 site map and an aerial photographic view of the site were also provided to assist in planning survey routes and locating habitat on the estate prior to commencement of bird survey visits.

Once all the survey visits were completed field maps were returned to the National Park Authority. All mapping was provided by the National Park Authority under licence from Ordnance Survey.

3. Results

A total of 58 bird species were recorded during the breeding bird survey and breeding status includes; 21 species possibly breeding, 25 confirmed breeding and 12 species where no breeding activity occurred.

The following systematic list includes all bird species recorded during the breeding bird survey between 23 April and 19 June 2012. Nomenclature and sequence including recent changes to scientific names and order follows Dudley S.P et al (2006) The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (7th edition), Ibis 148: 526 – 563, British Ornithologists Union (www.bou.org.uk).

Following each species title the current national population status is given (BoCC) from Eaton M.A. et al (2009) Birds of Conservation Concern 3; The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, British Birds 102:296 – 341. This denotes each species conservation status; red (high conservation concern), amber (medium conservation concern) and green (species not qualifying for red or amber categories). Species were assessed against a series of quantitative criteria which assess various important aspects of population status in the U.K., Europe and globally.

This highlights bird species of higher conservation concern on the estate which should be focussed upon first when considering options for habitat management.

Following the letter D each species current status within the county of Derbyshire is given and follows James R.M.R (ed.) (2009) Derbyshire Bird Report 2008, Derbyshire Ornithological Society.

Under each species three paragraphs present results of the bird survey, analysis of results and any discussion or recommendations.

4. Systematic List of Bird Species

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

BoCC: Not assessed (Non-native species).

D: *Common resident breeding bird.*

Results

Six individuals were seen by the A6 on the 17th May. Two pairs were found by the River Wye on 24th May; one pair to the north of Riverside Plantation and one pair to the west of the Hall. Thirteen birds were seen to fly south-west over Housley Wood also on the 24th May.

Analysis

Two pairs were observed in suitable habitat but breeding did not occur.

Comments

This species has seen a rise in population to its current level, it is now starting to become increasingly seen as pest in agricultural situations. As no breeding has been witnessed and low numbers were present it is unlikely to become a problem soon but requires monitoring.

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)

BoCC: Not assessed (Non-native species).

D: *Fairly common resident mainly in the south and central areas.*

Results

One individual was seen on the River Wye west of the Hall on 17th May and a pair were spotted on the River Wye near to where the individual was seen on the 24th May.

Analysis

It is probable that there was one pair on the estate, although there is no proof of attempted or successful breeding.

Comments

Providing suitable nest boxes for this species may encourage breeding, although this is a very difficult species to monitor and a targeted study would be needed to confirm or disprove breeding attempts.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

BoCC: Amber listed (Non-breeding population decline).

D: *Common or abundant resident and winter visitor.*

Results

A pair was sighted on the River Wye, near to the weir, west of the Hall on 23rd April. On 17th May, 14 birds were seen, comprised of; one pair near to Sheep Bridge, one pair flying down the River Wye to the west of the Hall, one pair seen with young on the River Wye south of the Hall near to the footbridge, five individuals were seen to fly up river north west of Fillyford bridge, three birds were seen in flight south west from Bowling Green Farm. One pair were seen on the river south of the Hall on the 24th May.

Mallard contd...

Analysis

Breeding was confirmed with the sighting of young, there was evidence to suggest three breeding pairs; this is a conservative estimate of the breeding numbers on the estate. Difficult to judge productivity as no confirmed numbers of young.

Comments

This species will breed in any suitable habitat, may be hampered by predation particularly mammalian.

Quail (Coturnix coturnix)

Results

One bird seen on 19th July to the west of Shadyside plantation

Analysis

A single bird seen on one visit. Quail are known to arrive into the UK as late as July so this probably represents a migrating individual. Very little information known of breeding Quail in the UK, their stronghold is in the south. Unlikely to correspond to a breeding attempt.

Comments

Habitat is not suitable for Quail breeding and it is unlikely that there will be any breeding attempts. Special evening surveys would be needed to ascertain whether there are singing males present.

Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis)

BoCC: Amber listed (Moderate breeding population decline)

D: *Fairly common resident throughout the county; rare in the north-west.*

Results

One bird seen on 24th May to the south of Sheep Bridge on the River Wye.

Analysis

Only one sighting this year from a secretive and nervous species, so impossible to predict whether breeding was attempted.

Comments

Habitat appears suitable for breeding; predation may still be an influencing factor.

Common Buzzard (Buteo buteo)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Increasingly common resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Results

One bird was seen in flight on 23rd April to the west of Little Cook Wood, nest spotted and territorial behaviour observed in Little Cook Wood on 30th April, 12th June individual bird seen in flight again to the west of Little Cook Wood and on the 19th June adult bird seen with 2 juveniles.

Common Buzzard contd...

Analysis

Confirmed breeding with 2 juveniles seen with an adult. All sightings from area adjacent to the nest site therefore only one pair currently attempting breeding.

Comments

This species continues to expand breeding area and numbers are increasing, it is possible in future years that breeding could occur in another of the woodlands on site as Buzzards will nest in quite close proximity.

Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus)

Results

Birds seen in flight on 23rd April to the west of the Hall and on the 19th June to the north west of the Hall.

Analysis

Impossible to tell from these sightings whether breeding was attempted.

Comments

There is plenty of suitable nesting habitat and it is likely that breeding was attempted on the site or in the near vicinity. Specialist surveying would be needed to accurately record breeding attempts.

Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)

BoCC: Amber listed (Species of European Conservation Concern – SPEC).

D: *Fairly common resident and partial migrant.*

Results

One bird seen in flight on 17th May to the west of Haddon Hall.

Analysis

Breeding status unknown.

Comments

Habitat is suitable for breeding attempts, with open areas for hunting in. Kestrel nest in old crow nests and holes in trees, and will use man made boxes if made to suit their needs. Leaving dead trees and/or providing artificial nesting options may increase likelihood of breeding on site.

Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident.*

Results

One bird seen on the River Wye, south-west of Sheep bridge on 30th April.

Analysis

No recorded breeding attempts during the survey period.

Comments

Habitat is suitable for breeding and may have occurred. There is some information to suggest predation by mammals and rivalry with Coot may affect breeding attempts and success rate.

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident and winter visitor.*

Results

One bird seen on the River Wye on 24th May to the west of Haddon Hall.

Analysis

No recorded breeding attempts during the survey period.

Comments

Habitat is suitable for breeding and breeding may have occurred. As with Moorhen, may suffer from mammalian predation.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

BoCC: Red listed (Severe breeding population decline over 25 years/longer term).

D: *Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Results

12 individual birds were seen on the 24th April with a further 2 birds seen to be sitting on nests, all recorded in the fields to the north-east and east of Haddon Hall, one of the nests was situated in the centre of the large triangular field bordered by Park Lane, the other nest was in the next field to the west of the triangular field described previously. On the 30th April, 4 individual birds were seen, one in flight north-east of Haddon Hall, 2 together in a field south-east of Bowling Green Farm one of these was displaying territorial behaviour and one bird still on a nest from the previous visit. The nest in the large triangular field was presumed predated/abandoned by the time of this visit. The visit on the 3rd July produced 4 birds, 2 together just north of Housley Wood and a further 2 together in a field to the east of Bowling Green farm. On the final visit, 19th June, there were only 2 birds seen both in the fields due east of Haddon Hall.

Analysis

2 breeding attempts were made but it is presumed that these failed as the incubation period is 28 days and then fledging takes a further 35-40 days. No young were seen and no defensive behaviour typical of Lapwing with young was witnessed.

Comments

Lapwing are declining rapidly throughout the country due to many pressures, including loss of suitable habitat, mammalian and avian predation, land management and inclement weather during breeding season. Land management suitable for ground nesting birds such as Lapwing may help to aid bird's breed successfully, but predation is likely to remain an issue.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

BoCC: Amber listed (Breeding/non-breeding international importance).

D: *Fairly common resident.*

Results

One bird was seen in Little Cook Wood on 23rd April and 3 were seen flying north towards Shadyside plantation on 17th May.

Analysis

No confirmed breeding. It is likely that birds have bred on site in buildings and tree cavities.

Comments

Stock dove numbers have declined nationally and they are now amber listed, provision of dead trees with cavities and suitable nest boxes would help to increase breeding opportunities.

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Abundant resident and passage migrant.*

Results

8 birds seen flying north away from Bowling Green Farm on 17th May, 2 birds seen to the south-east of Haddon Park Farm and 16 birds seen flying east away from Haddon Park farm on 19th June

Analysis

Wood pigeon will breed almost anywhere so breeding will have taken place within the site, probably in excess of 10 pairs.

Comments

A common breeding bird and no additional provision is required.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Results

1 bird seen on 23rd April to the east of the wood yard in the far south-east corner of the survey area, 1 bird seen to the east of Sallowbed plantation on 3rd June.

Analysis

It is probable that one pair bred in the south-east of the survey area.

Comments

Barn owls are dependent on the small mammal population and weather conditions for feeding. Efforts to provide additional boxes in barns which provide breeding or roosting options can help, as can areas of rough grassland for small mammals

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common or common resident.*

Results

Two birds were seen on the 30th April, one flying North away from Haddon Hall and one seen near Bowling Green Farm. Two birds were seen on 24th May, one to the North of Haddon Hall and one to South-East of Sheep Bridge. A bird was heard to the South-East of Sheep Bridge on 12th June.

Analysis

Three pairs have attempted breeding based on the sightings reported. This is likely to under represent the number of breeding pairs on this site. There is plenty of suitable habitat and I would expect the actual number to be more than double the number suggested by sightings alone.

Comments

A common breeding bird with no current concerns. It is worth retaining dead wood to provide food and breeding sites.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Results

One bird seen to the west and one to the south-west of Bowling Green Farm on 23rd April. One bird was seen to the south of Haddon Hall on 17th May. Three individuals were seen on 19th June, two were in flight south-east of Sheep bridge and one was at the south-east edge of Deer Hole Plantation.

Analysis

It would appear that one pair were present on site during the breeding season. No confirmed breeding but it is likely that breeding was at least possible.

Comments

Dead trees should be left to provide nesting holes. Green Woodpecker is reliant on ants, so open short grassland is beneficial, although they can forage over reasonable distances.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)

Results

One bird was seen on 23rd April in the woodland between Haddon Hall and Bowling Green Farm.

Analysis

It is impossible to tell from one sighting whether breeding took place.

Comments

There is suitable habitat to suit breeding for this species, but there is pressure from Great Spotted Woodpecker. The two species require the same parkland and woodland management. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker has suffered a long term decline and it would be beneficial to provide more parkland habitat. Specialised surveys should be carried out before the leaves are on the tree's, to ascertain current populations of the three Woodpecker species.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

BoCC: Red listed (Severe long term breeding population decline)

D: *Common resident and passage migrant.*

Results

One bird seen on 24th May in the fields to the East of Haddon Park Farm.

Analysis

It is impossible to tell from one sighting whether breeding took place.

Comments

Within the arable management plan, special provision should be made for this species to provide breeding sites, feeding sites and over winter feeding options.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

BoCC: Amber listed (Species of European Conservation Concern – SPEC).

D: *Common summer visitor and passage migrant.*

Results

Unsurprisingly most recordings of this species were around the two farms; Haddon Park Farm and Bowling Green Farm.

Haddon Park Farm had one early returner on 23/04/12, with 4 on 30/04/12, only one bird seen on 17/05/12, then 3 birds on 03/06/12, 4 birds on 12/06/12 and 6 birds on 19/06/12.

Bowling Green Farm had 3 birds on 17/05/12 and one on 19/06/12.

Other sightings included 6 birds flying North-West to the West of Shadyside Plantation on 30/04/12, 4 birds flying South close to the South-East corner of Deer Hole Plantation on 30/04/12. 8 birds flying South-East along the River Wye South of Haddon Hall on 30/04/12. A single bird was seen at Haddon Hall on 30/04/12. A single bird was seen near to the wood yard to the South-East of Sallowbed Plantation on 17/05/12. A single bird was seen to the West of Shadyside Plantation on 24/05/12 and finally a single bird was seen to the South-West of Haddon Hall along the entrance track on 19/06/12.

Analysis

Probably a maximum of 7 breeding pairs shared between Haddon Park Farm and Bowling Green Farm. A small increase in the numbers at Haddon Park Farm suggests some fledged birds. It is also possible that this species was still incubating or with young yet to fledge at the end of the recording period.

Comments

This species chooses to nest in open buildings and with a preference for farm buildings. Farm buildings with animals provide suitable nesting and feeding opportunities, and allow the birds to have up to three broods per year.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

BoCC: Amber listed (Species of European Conservation Concern – SPEC, moderate breeding population decline over 25 years/longer term).

D: *Common summer visitor and passage migrant.*

Results

This species was only recorded at Haddon Park Farm, 4 birds were seen on 17/05/12, 3 birds were seen on 12/06/12 and 3 birds seen on 19/06/12. 7 nests were observed on 19/06/12.

Analysis

It is likely that 7 birds bred at Haddon Park Farm, birds were not seen at any other location at no other nests observed.

Comments

Where the birds continue to nest, efforts should be made to avoid disturbance to the nests all year round. Access to mud and insects help to provide favourable conditions for breeding.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)

Results

One bird seen between the dismantled railway and Sallowbed Plantation on 17/05/12

Analysis

This is likely to be a late migrant

Comments

Areas of rough grassland with suitable trees for song perches could provide potential breeding habitat.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

BoCC: Amber listed (moderate breeding population decline over longer term).

D: *Fairly common resident, breeding mainly in upland areas. Fairly common winter visitor to the lowlands.*

Results

Single birds were seen at three occasions along the River Wye. On the 24/05/12 on the weir near to Riverside Plantation, on the 12/06/12 a bird was seen flying West at Sheep Bridge and another was seen flying South-East on the River Wye due South of Haddon Hall. The two sightings on the 12/06/12 may refer to the same bird, but they were flying in opposite directions.

Analysis

It is probable that two pairs may have bred on or near to the River Wye.

Comments

Suitable habitat is available to support at least two pairs.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarelli*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident and passage migrant.*

Results

A single bird was seen at Bowling Green Farm on 17/05/12, single birds were seen at Bowling Green Farm, Haddon Park Farm and Haddon Hall on 24/05/12.

Analysis

It can be presumed that there were three pairs present; one pair at each settlement. No juveniles were seen to confirm breeding success.

Comments

This species will nest in many localities but the presence of a suitable food source (ie flies) around the farms make this a particularly desirable location.

Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common resident in most upland areas.*

Results

On the 23/04/12 and 30/04/12 one bird was seen near Sheep Bridge. On the 17/05/12 family groups were seen at Sheep Bridge and near the weir to the South-east of Haddon Hall, additionally single birds were seen in flight, one flying South away from Sheep Bridge and one flying South-East away from the weir that is to the West of Haddon Hall. On the 24/05/12 2 single birds were seen around Sheep Bridge, one was seen near to the weir South of Riverside Plantation, one was seen in flying North-West away from the weir to the West of Haddon Hall, one was flying South-East away from the entrance bridge to Haddon Hall and one bird was seen near the weir to the South-East of Haddon Hall. On the 03/06/12 the family group were seen near to Sheep Bridge. On the 12/06/12 single bird were seen at Sheep Bridge and one in flight along the river South of Haddon Hall.

Analysis

Two pairs confirmed as breeding by the sighting of family groups. It is possible that there was at least one more pair along the river although this was not confirmed. There are three suitable areas for breeding, Sheep Bridge, the entrance bridge to Haddon Hall and Fillyford Bridge.

Comments

This species will accept man made breeding tubes; these could be considered for the structures along the River. As long as the River remains clean and the birds are not disturbed unduly, there is no reason why they should not continue to breed relatively well.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Abundant resident.*

Results

Recorded throughout the reporting period and from all suitable habitat.

Wren contd..

Analysis

The results suggest at least 53 territories on the estate, highest densities were along the dismantled railway and in the area between Riverside Plantation and Haddon hall

Comments

Maintaining hedgerows will encourage birds to breed here and the addition of any further hedgerows would only increase the numbers further.

Dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*)

BoCC: Amber listed (moderate breeding population decline over longer term).

D: *Abundant resident.*

Results

Widespread; most records refer to hedgerows and scrub.

Analysis

Results suggest 21 territories. The highest densities are between Haddon Hall and Shadyside Plantation and Bowling Green Farm and Parkside Wood.

Comments

Maintaining hedgerows will encourage birds to breed here and the addition of any further hedgerows would only increase the numbers further.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Abundant resident.*

Results

Widespread; most records refer to hedgerows and scrub.

Analysis

Results suggest 42 territories spread thinly throughout the estate; there is no real density hot spots with territories evenly spaced in suitable habitat.

Comments

Maintaining hedgerows will encourage birds to breed here and the addition of any further hedgerows would only increase the numbers further.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

BoCC: Amber listed (Species of European Conservation Concern – SPEC).

D: *Fairly common summer visitor, mainly to the northern half of the county.*

Results

One bird was seen on 23/04/14 in a hedgerow between Housley Wood and Bowling Green farm, on the 30/04/12 four birds were seen; one on the West side of Deer Hole Plantation, one on the East of Deer Hole Plantation, one between Housley Wood and Bowling Green Farm and one at the South of Sallowbed Plantation. On the 17/05/12 7 birds were seen; one at the South-East corner of Deer

Common Redstart contd

Hole Plantation, two single birds were seen along the track between Haddon Hall and Bowling Green Farm, two singles were seen in the woodland East of Haddon Hall, one bird was seen close to the River Wye, South of Parkside Wood and the last bird was seen at the North-East corner of Parkside Wood. Two birds were seen on 03/06/12; one bird was towards the South-East corner of Deer Hole Plantation and one was to the East of Parkside Wood. On the 12/06/12 three birds were seen; one at the South-East corner of deer Hole Plantation and two single birds to the East of Parkside Wood. On the 19/06/12 five family groups were seen and one male was alarm calling; the family groups were in Deer Hole Plantation, two were between Haddon Park Farm and Bowling Green Farm, one was between Bowling Green Farm and Haddon Hall and the final family group was to the East of Parkside Wood, the alarm calling male was to the North-East of Housley Wood.

Analysis

The results suggest 7-10 territories on this site, definite breeding success from 5 nests were recorded.

Comments

Maintaining woodlands or even adding to them will help this species, the provision of nest boxes and the retention of dead wood will provide nesting sites and feeding opportunities.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Results

Widely reported, mostly from hedgerows and woodland edges.

Analysis

Records suggest 23 territories, birds were seen with food on 19/06/12 near Haddon Park Farm and near Haddon Hall confirm hatched birds. Highest density was recorded around Haddon Park Farm.

Comments

The retention of current parkland habitat and the suitable management of hedgerows would benefit this species. Access to orchards, open pasture and gardens provides feeding opportunities for this species.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

BoCC: Red listed (severe breeding population decline over longer term).

D: *Common resident and partial migrant.*

Results

Spread thinly across the estate, entirely within wooded or on the edge of wooded areas.

Analysis

The results suggest 31 territories on this estate. Highest densities were to the South of Haddon Hall and in/around Deer Hole Plantation.

Song Thrush contd

Comments

The retention of current parkland habitat and the suitable management of hedgerows would benefit this red listed species. Access to orchards, open pasture and gardens provides feeding opportunities for this species.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

BoCC: Red listed (severe breeding population decline over longer term).

D: *Common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Results

33 birds seen flying North-West on 24th May to the West of Sallowbed Plantation.

Analysis

These 33 birds were late returning winter migrants

Comments

This species requires parkland habitat with mature hedgerows, anything that can be done to preserve or restore these features will benefit this species.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

BoCC: Amber listed (moderate breeding population decline over 25 years/longer term).

D: *Fairly common or common resident.*

Results

Only one singing bird seen on 30/04/12 in the woodland to the West of Parkside Wood.

Analysis

It is possible that there was one breeding pair, although only one sighting and no proven breeding.

Comments

The retention of current parkland habitat and the suitable management of hedgerows would benefit this amber listed species. Access to orchards, open pasture and gardens provides feeding opportunities for this species.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common summer visitor and an uncommon winter visitor.*

Results

Recorded throughout the estate in suitable habitat. This migratory species was recorded on every visit and probably arrived towards the beginning of April.

Analysis

The reports suggest that there were 39 territories held, the highest densities were along the dismantled railway, along the river Wye from Haddon Hall to Sheep Bridge and North of Bowling Green Farm.

Blackcap contd

Comments

Retention of hedgerows and bramble/scrub on woodland edges will provide this species with further breeding and feeding opportunities.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common summer visitor.*

Results

First bird recorded on 30/04/12 which is a typical arrival date for this migrant. Spread thinly but consistently throughout the estate mainly in areas of woodland or scrub.

Analysis

Results suggest 13 territories on this site. Four around Deer Hole Plantation, three between Haddon Hall and Shadyside Plantation, one to the South-West of Haddon Hall, one to the South of Parkside Wood and four to the East of Parkside Wood.

Comments

Retention of hedgerows and bramble/scrub on woodland edges will provide this species with further breeding and feeding opportunities.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *An uncommon summer visitor mainly to the south and east.*

Results

Single singing males recorded in hedgerows along the track between Haddon Park Farm and Bowling Green Farm on 11th May and in scrub east of Parkside Wood on 11th and 20th May.

Analysis

Registrations probably relate to migrant birds as there were no subsequent records therefore no territories were located.

Discussion or Recommendations

As with Lesser Whitethroat, one of the key factors in encouraging and increasing populations of this species is the management of hedgerows. Allowing hedgerows to mature through longer thinning/trimming rotations, particularly alongside larger field buffer strips will increase insects for feeding and provide dense herbage for breeding sites. In addition, increasing areas of parkland and managing the existing parkland to include scrubby areas for feeding and breeding and also ensuring browsing from cattle, and deer if present, is not excessive will assist in increasing this species on the estate.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

BoCC: Amber listed (moderate breeding population decline over longer term).

D: *Fairly common summer visitor.*

Results

Two birds were recorded, one near Sheep Bridge on 17/05/12 and one between Haddon Hall and Bowling Green Farm on 03/06/12.

Analysis

It is possible that one pair attempted breeding, the record from 17/05/12 is almost certainly a returning migrant passing through. The latter record is very late for a migrant so might be a breeding bird.

Comments

The habitat on the estate doesn't really suit this species at present, large area of bramble, nettles and hawthorn are preferred by this species. If hedgerows are managed well it can provide nesting habitat but requires careful planning and execution.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common summer visitor and a scarce winter visitor.*

Results

Recorded throughout the reporting period, widespread throughout the estate in suitable habitat.

Analysis

At least 22 territories have been reported, densities peaked on the edges of Shadyside Plantation, Deer Hole Plantation and Sallowbed plantation, although there were a good number of territories in in Parkside Wood and along the dismantled railway.

Comments

Areas of scrub and bramble with rough grassland will provide nesting and feeding sites for this species, along with the management of mature, dense hedgerows.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

BoCC: Amber listed (moderate breeding population decline over 25 years/longer term).

D: *Common summer visitor.*

Results

Recorded throughout the reporting period, most sightings were in the strip that runs from Haddon Park through Haddon Hall and Parkside Wood and out to the North side of the dismantled railway.

Analysis

Reports suggest 12 territories on site. 6 in the area to the North of the dismantled railway, 3 to the East/South-East of Haddon Hall, 2 in Haddon Park and a final territory near in Shadyside Plantation.

Willow warbler contd.

Comments

Areas of scrub and bramble with rough grassland will provide nesting and feeding sites for this species, along with the management of mature, dense hedgerows.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident and winter visitor.*

Results

Five reports of this species, one on 30/04/12 to the North of Bowling Green Farm, two on 17/05/12; one in Little Cook Wood and one at the South end of Sallowbed Plantation and two sightings on 19/06/12; one at the south end of Sallowbed Plantation and one to the South-West of Haddon Hall.

Analysis

Tentative suggestion of four territories for this species on site. There is suitable coniferous habitat in the plantations around the estate to support this number of territories. This species can be difficult to record due to its size and propensity of flitting around the very tops of the trees.

Comments

The retention of coniferous elements in the plantations may encourage this species.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

Results

Two birds were seen on 17/05/12. One was between Haddon Hall and Bowling Green Farm and the other was seen to the South of Parkside Wood.

Analysis

These were almost certainly returning migrants passing through.

Comments

Providing suitable nest boxes will help this species as it faces competition for the tree holes it uses as natural nest sites. Management of park land will provide feeding opportunities, as would an increase in cattle grazing to supply more insects for the birds to feed on.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

BoCC: Red listed (severe breeding population decline over 25 years/longer term).

D: *Fairly common summer visitor.*

Results

First recorded on 11th May; singing male by the Hall. Few further records from only two locations with an active nest located just north-west of the Hall on 10th June, birds noted there on 18th and also near the River Wye on 30th. A second active nest was located west of Bowling Green Farm on 10th June but no further observations were made there.

Analysis

Despite suitable habitat being present, especially the wall along the south-west side of the Hall only two pairs were located on the estate.

Discussion or Recommendations

Increasing the area of parkland on the estate will eventually provide further habitat for this species which has declined seriously over recent years. Management of the existing parkland to include some grazing by cattle along woodland edges will help to increase insect populations and provide further sources of food. The siting of open-fronted nest-boxes throughout the existing parkland will increase breeding sites alongside natural cavities in older trees.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common resident.*

Results

Four observations during the reporting period. Two birds were seen to the South side of Riverside Plantation on 23/04/12. One bird was seen between Little Cook Wood and Shadyside Plantation and another bird was seen with food near the dismantled railway on 30/04/12. A family group was seen to the South-East of Sheep Bridge on 17/05/12

Analysis

Tentatively four territories held during the season. One family group seen to confirm breeding another bird seen with food in another confirms hatching in that locality.

Comments

Retention of hedgerows and bramble/scrub on woodland edges will provide this species with further breeding and feeding opportunities.

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Abundant resident.*

Results

Recorded on every visit and distributed widely throughout the estate in suitable habitat.

Analysis

25 territories were observed. 2 family groups were observed and three further birds were observed carrying food. Highest density was recorded in Deer Hole Plantation.

Comments

Good quality, well managed hedgerows and/or nest boxes provide suitable nesting options for this species. Breeding success is reliant on the provision of plenty of small insects especially caterpillars so woodland management is key. The newly created orchard should enhance their chances of success.

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident.*

Results

Spread thinly throughout the estate and recorded on most visits.

Analysis

14 territories were observed, one family group were seen to the West of Parkside Wood to confirm breeding.

Comments

Good quality, well managed hedgerows and/or nest boxes provide suitable nesting options for this species. Breeding success is reliant on the provision of plenty of small insects especially caterpillars so woodland management is key, the creation of an orchard would only enhance their chances of success.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident.*

Results

Four reports during the reporting season. One bird seen on 23/04/12 to the North West of Haddon Hall, one bird seen on 30/04/12 to the South-West of Haddon Hall close to the A6, one bird seen on 17/05/12 in the South-East corner of Sallowbed Plantation and one bird seen to the North of Bowling Green Farm on 24/05/12.

Analysis

A tentative 4 territories observed during the reporting period, birds were only reported on one visit in each territory. No confirmed breeding.

Comments

Will accept nest boxes, but prefers more coniferous woodland. Maintenance of coniferous elements within the plantations may encourage more breeding attempts from this species.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europeaea*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common resident.*

Results

Observations thinly spread throughout the estate in suitable habitat.

Analysis

Four territories were observed. One confirmed breeding success with a family group seen on 19/06/12 in Deer Hole Plantation. It is likely that there were two pairs around Deer Hole Plantation, one pair in the woodland to the North of Haddon Hall and one pair in Sallowbed Plantation.

Comments

Retention of dead wood provides feeding and nesting opportunities, this species will also take to nest boxes readily.

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common resident.*

Results

Two observations, one bird seen to the North-West of Haddon Hall on 12/06/12 and another bird seen to the South-West of Bowling Green Farm on 19/06/12.

Analysis

It is possible that two territories were held but with only two observations and no confirmed breeding success, this is a very tentative assumption.

Comments

This is a very secretive species and generally under recorded, their song and call are especially cryptic and outside of some recorders hearing range. This species nests in the gaps behind bark on dead or decaying trees, so retaining dead wood is essential for this species.

Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Results

Two birds observed both on 24/05/12, one in flight to the East of Bowling Green Farm and one between Haddon Park Farm and Shadyside Plantation.

Analysis

A secretive breeding bird, a probable breeder on site but no confirmed breeding.

Comments

This species is spreading rapidly and is blamed in part for the decline in some species. Nest in trees and scrub, but is notoriously secretive.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Fairly common resident.*

Results

Four observations during the reporting period. Two birds were seen 30/04/12; one flying North-West away from Haddon Hall and one flying North-East to the east of Haddon Hall. One bird was seen on 24/05/12 in the North-West of Shadyside Plantation and one bird was seen to the West of Haddon Hall on 19/06/12.

Analysis

It is likely that there was two territories, one close to Haddon Hall and one in Shadyside Plantation, although with only four observations it is impossible to tell for sure.

Comments

A very secretive breeder, with very few nests ever found for this species. Has a preference for Oak for feeding and nests in tree forks, sometimes in dead trees. Provision of preferred trees and retention of dead wood may benefit this species.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident*.

Results

Birds were observed on three occasions; on 23/04/12 two birds were seen with nesting material to the South of Riverside Plantation, 120 birds were seen flying North-West over the agricultural land to North of Parkside Wood on 17/05/12 and 4 pairs were seen in Deer Hole Plantation on 24/05/12

Analysis

The records suggest that there were 5 pairs on site, four pairs in Deer Hole Plantation and one pair in Riverside Plantation. This is probably an under representation of the birds present.

Comments

Jackdaws are opportunistic nesters, they will nest in tree holes, buildings and chimneys, so leaving dead trees will offer them breeding sites and allowing them access to abandoned buildings will help them to increase.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident*.

Results

Birds were seen on 6 occasions, one bird was seen flying North-East away from Haddon Park Farm on the 23/04/12, two birds were seen on 17/05/12 one to the North-West of Shadyside Plantation and one bird to the North of Parkside Wood, two birds were seen on 24/05/12, one to the North of Parkside Wood and one to the East of Haddon Park Farm and one bird was seen on 19/06/12 to the North of Parkside Wood.

Analysis

It is likely that there were two pairs on site, one near to Parkside Wood and one near in the area around Little Cook Wood.

Comments

This species is of no concern on a national scale so it is unnecessary to implement any encouragement measures. Local shooting probably controls numbers and dissuades this species from breeding.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Results

Widespread throughout the estate, liberally spread in most habitats and seen on every visit.

Analysis

Observations just at least 63 territories held, the highest densities recorded were in the area bordered by the dismantled railway, wood yard and Sallowbed Plantation but there were good numbers in any suitable habitat.

Comments

Though this species is very well represented, good hedgerow management and provision of more parkland habitat could increase numbers further. Winter stubble would provide an additional food source.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident.*

Results

Birds were seen on most visits, they tended to be clustered around four distinct areas, with a few other incidental sightings. They were observed around Haddon Park Farm, Bowling Green Farm, Haddon Hall and around the dismantled railway. There were incidental sightings on 17/05/12 of a single bird near Little Cook Wood, another single bird between Shadyside Plantation and Bowling Green Farm and 3 birds flying North-East over the agricultural land between Haddon Park Farm and Bowling Green Farm. All other observations were in the four areas specified above.

Analysis

There were probably 6 territories held; two at Haddon hall and near the dismantled railway and one each at Haddon Park Farm and Bowling Green Farm.

Comments

Similar requirements to Chaffinch, good hedgerow management and increased parkland habitat would benefit this species, as would an over winter food source.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common resident and partial migrant.*

Results

More numerous than Greenfinch but less than Chaffinch. Territories seem to be clustered around Bowling Green Farm and Haddon Park Farm.

Analysis

The observations suggest that there was 8 territories on this site; 3 at Bowling Green Farm, 2 at Haddon Park Farm, one each at Haddon Hall, Little Cook Wood and Deer Hole Plantation.

Comments

Similar requirements to Chaffinch, good hedgerow management and increased parkland habitat would benefit this species, as would an over winter food source. Goldfinch feast on the seeds produced by weeds in the late summer and autumn, so any areas that can be set aside for this will benefit this species particularly.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

BoCC: Green listed.

D: *Common winter visitor; scarce but regular breeder in the Peak District.*

Results

Only recorded on one visit (17/05/12), a single bird was seen to the South-West of Haddon Hall, two single birds were seen in the South-East corner of Sallowbed Plantation.

Analysis

It is possible that there was 1-2 territories in Sallowbed Plantation but no confirmed breeding.

Comments

Increasing the contingent of conifers within the plantations may encourage this species to breed, also over winter stubble and game crops will provide an essential food source during the winter months.

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

BoCC: Red listed (severe breeding population decline over longer term).

D: *Common resident and partial migrant.*

Results

Only two observations concerning three birds on the same visit; two birds were seen on the agricultural land to the East of Housley Wood and one bird was seen between the dismantled railway and Sallowbed Plantation.

Analysis

It is likely that there was a maximum of 1-2 pairs on site, with only 3 birds observed throughout the visits it is also possible that there was no breeding at all.

Comments

Similar requirements to Chaffinch, good hedgerow management and increased parkland habitat would benefit this species, as would an over winter food source. As with Goldfinch, Linnet feast on the seeds produced by weeds in the late summer and autumn, so any areas that can be set aside for this will benefit this species particularly.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

BoCC: Amber listed (moderate breeding population decline over 25 years/longer term).

D: *Fairly common resident.*

Results

Only three observations; one bird seen near Shadyside Plantation on 30/04/12, one bird seen to the South-West of Haddon Hall on 17/05/12 and a juvenile bird seen near to the A6 due West of Haddon Hall on 19/06/12.

Analysis

It is likely there were at least 2 territories on site, with confirmed breeding from the territory South-West of Haddon Hall. This is a very secretive species and is easily overlooked, therefore it is likely there were several more territories.

Comment

As with most finches good hedgerow management and provision of over winter food source will benefit this species. Bullfinch also require taller scrub to nest in, so the provision of taller Hawthorn, etc. would help them specifically.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*)

Results

Five observations were made during the reporting period, four birds seen on the first visit (23/04/12); one to the West of Bowling Green Farm and three on the agricultural land Housley Wood and Sallowbed Plantation, one bird was seen on 17/05/12 south of the dismantled railway near to the wood yard.

Analysis

It is unlikely that there were any breeding birds present, Yellowhammer is fairly conspicuous and its song is very distinct so I would have expected further observations if they were breeding on site.

Comments

Provision of well managed hedgerows and an over winter food source could help to encourage this species to breed.

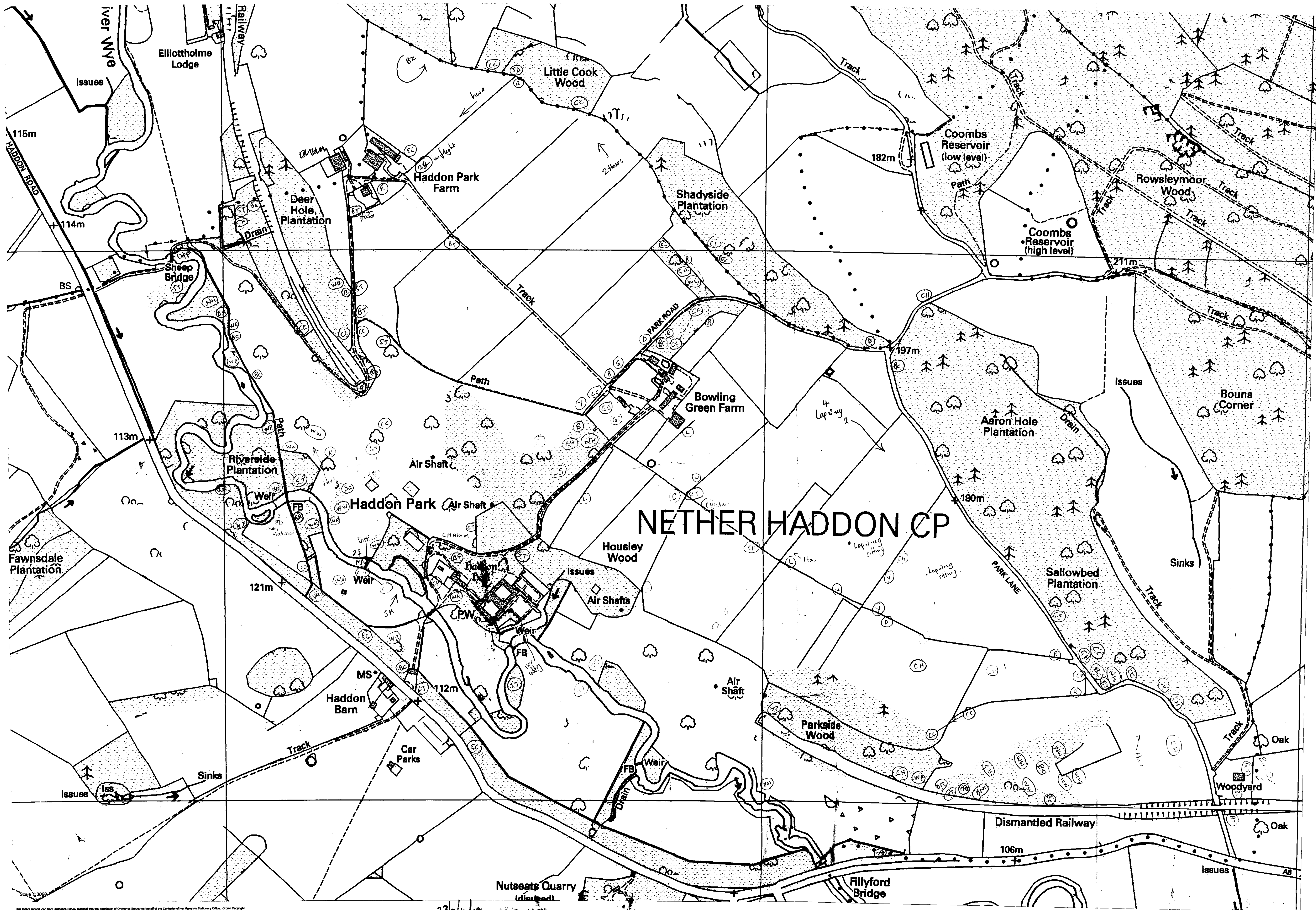
5. Management

The survey clearly shows the importance of several areas for breeding birds.

- Parkside Wood and the scrub on Nobby's Bank - important for willow warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap, lesser whitethroat, greenfinch and chaffinch.
- The hedges in the arable and grassland east of Bowling Green Farm - important for yellowhammer, redstart, dunnoek and chaffinch, particularly early in the breeding season.
- The arable fields - important for lapwing.
- The river - important for dipper, mandarin duck, little grebe and mallard.

These habitats will continue to be maintained and enhanced under the auspices of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

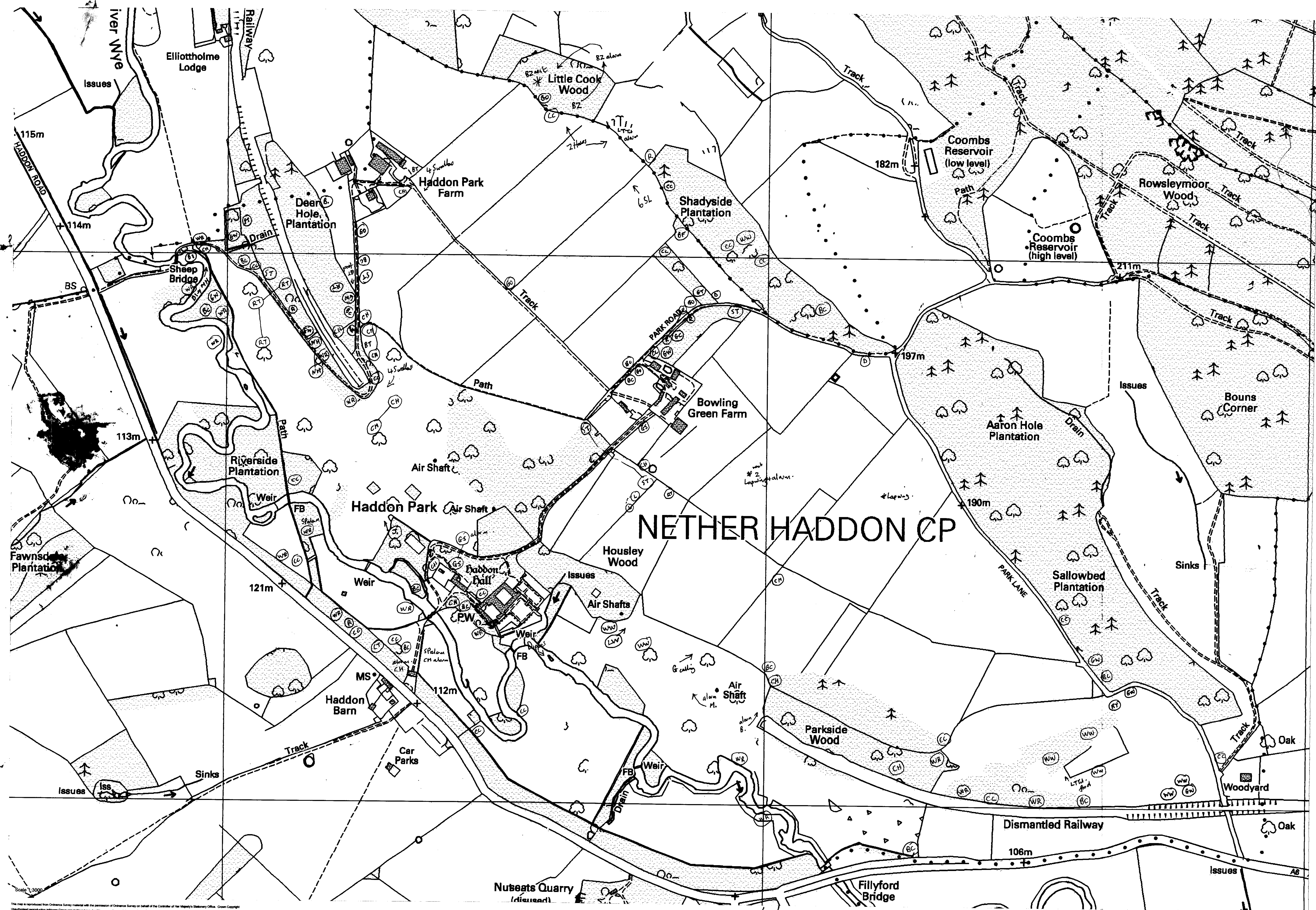
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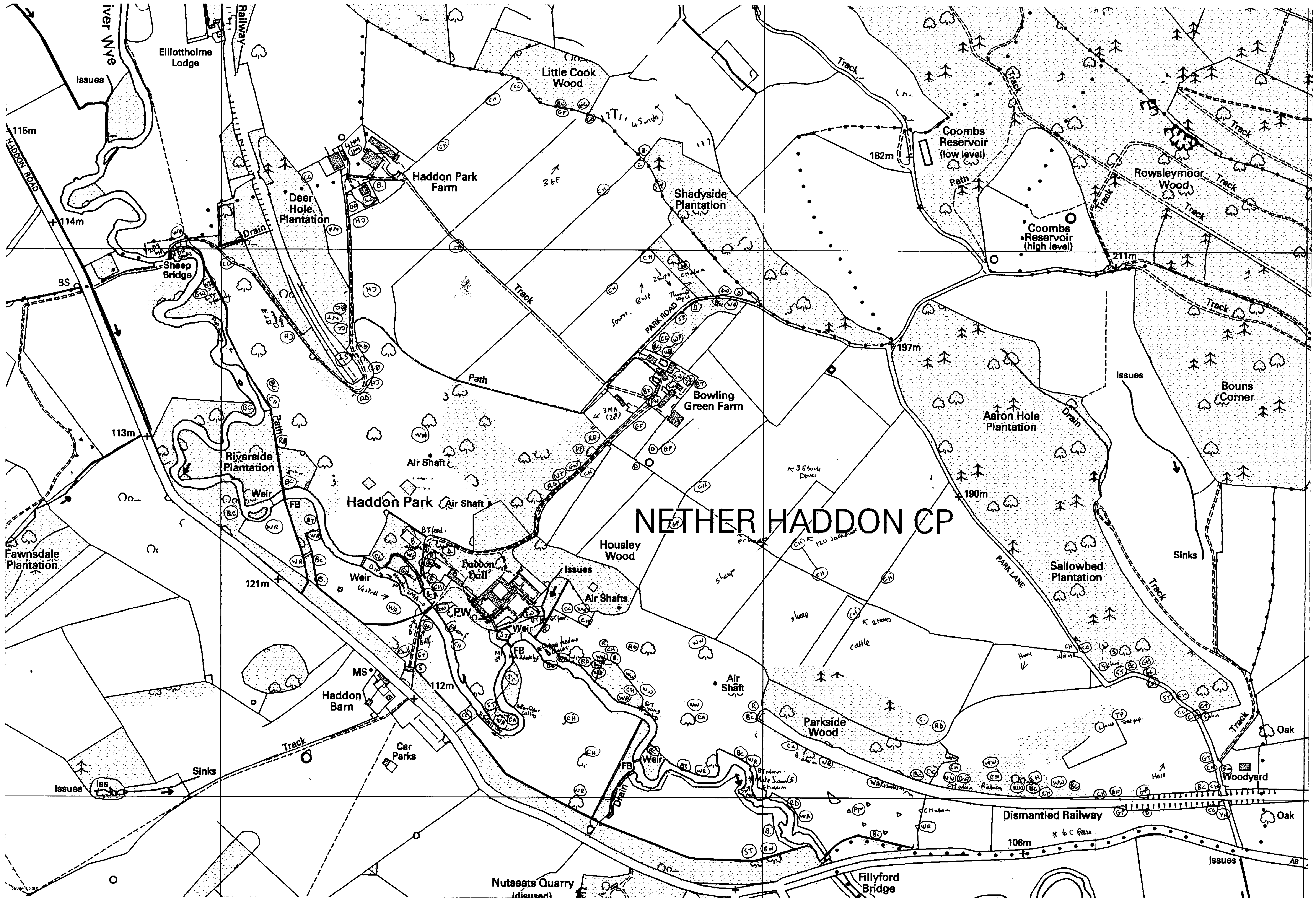
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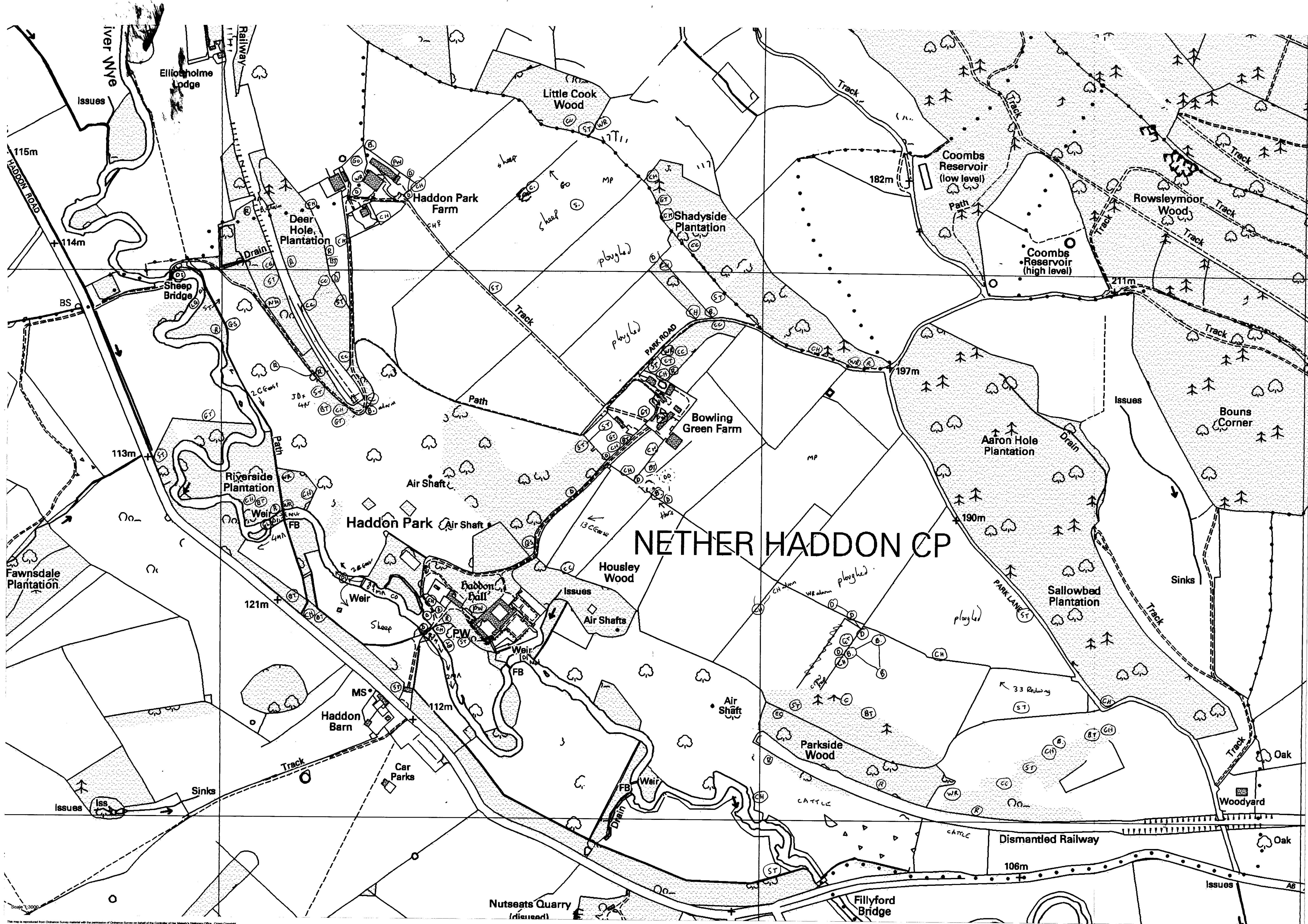
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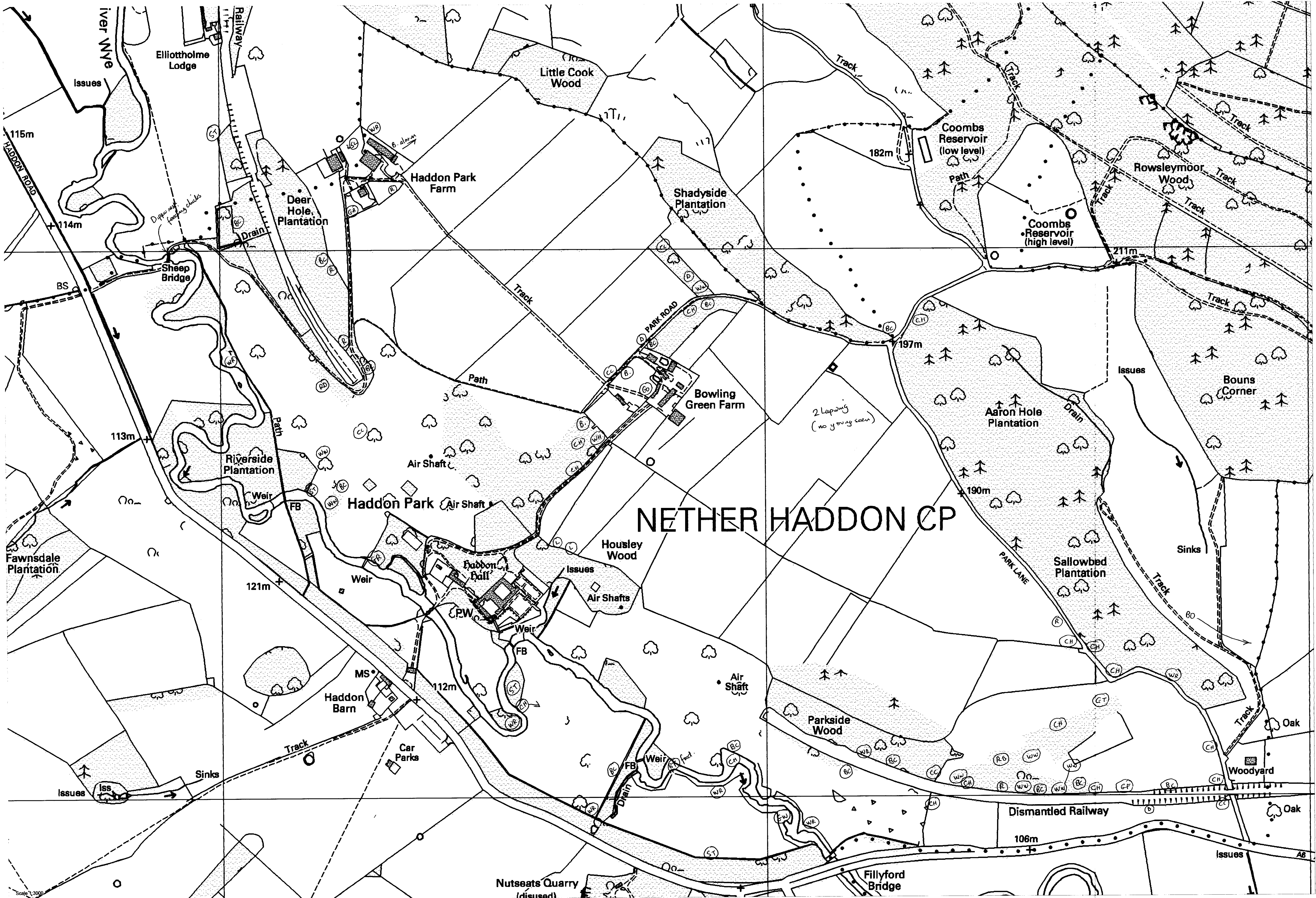
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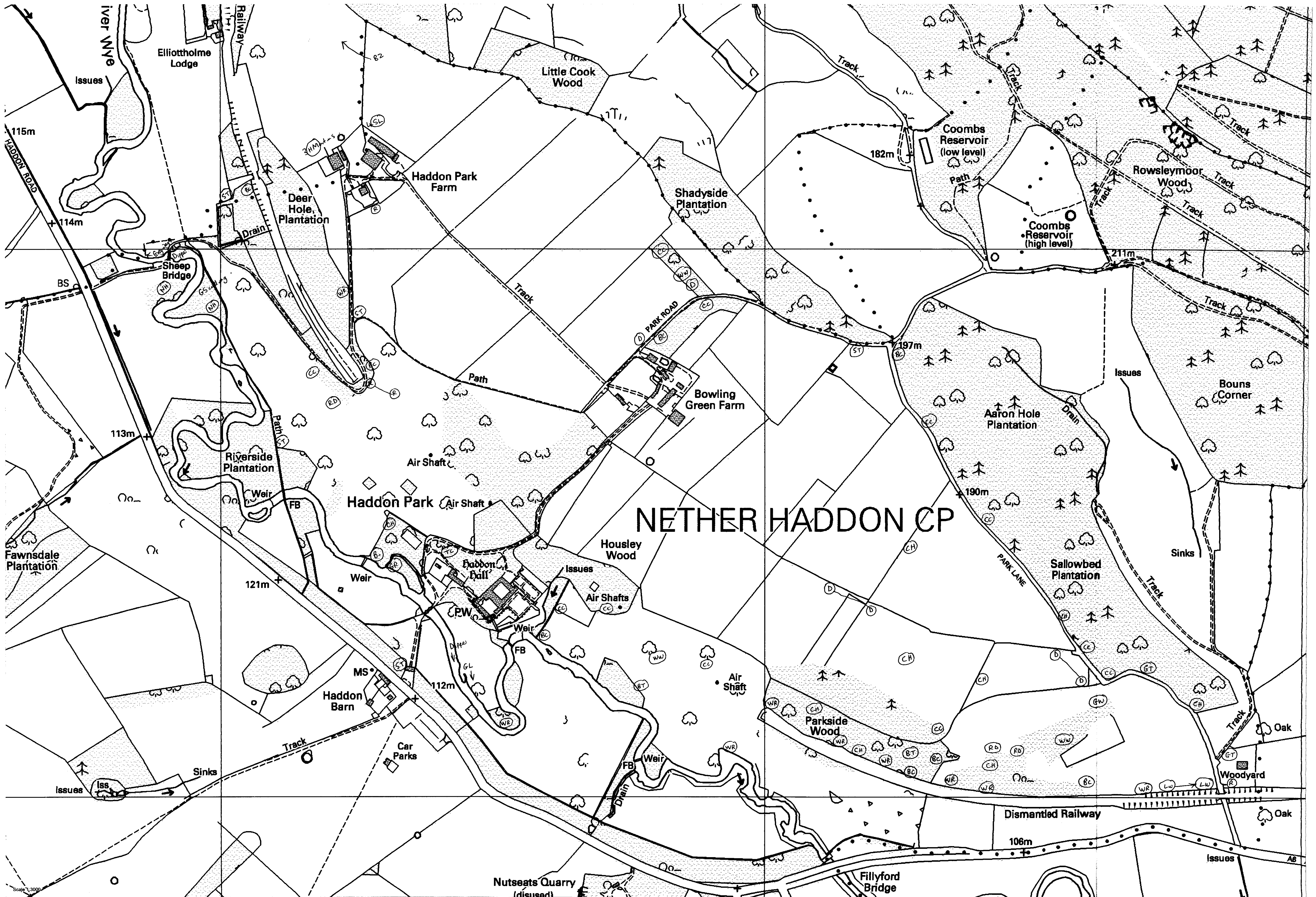
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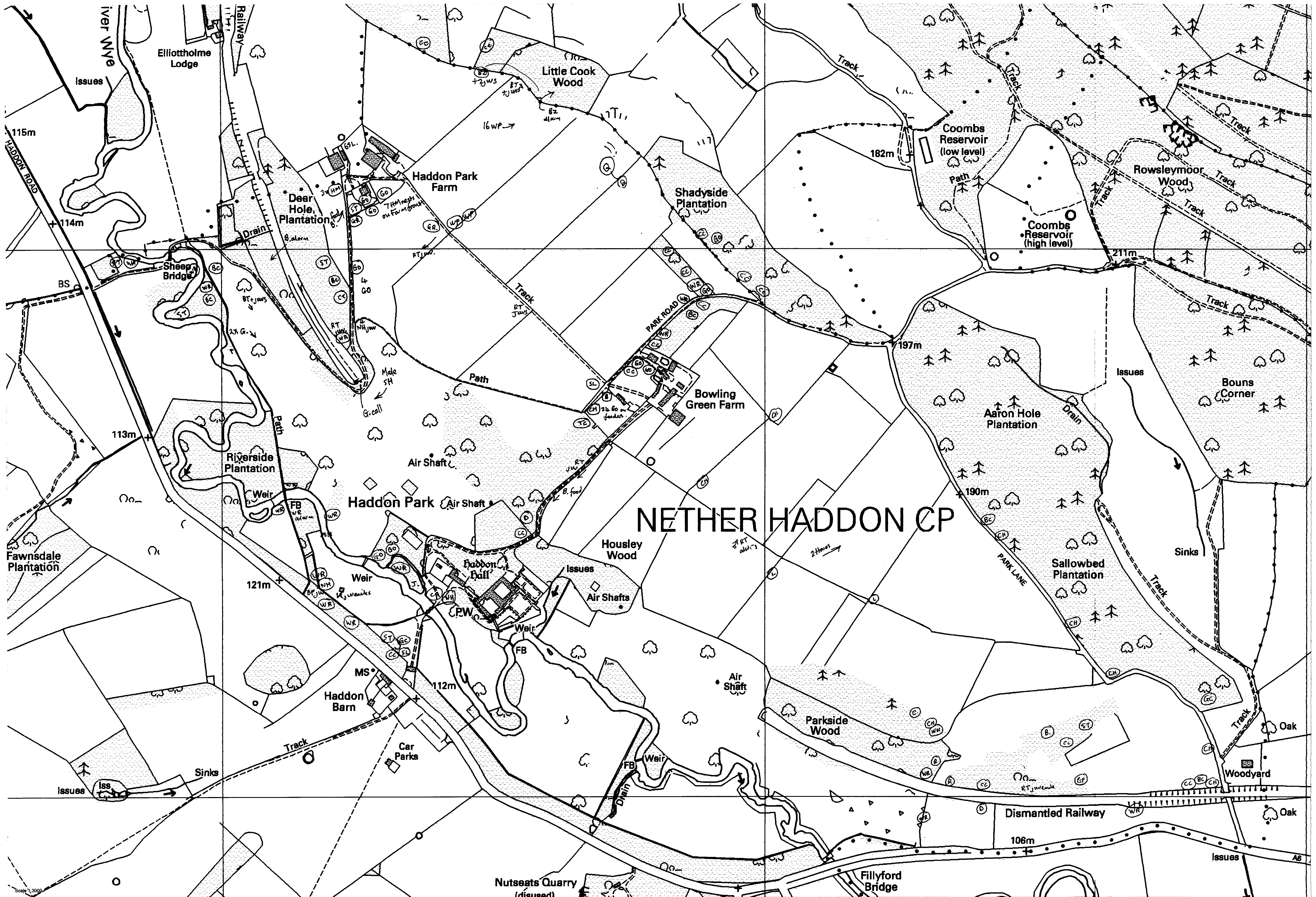
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3/6/12



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11/7/12

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