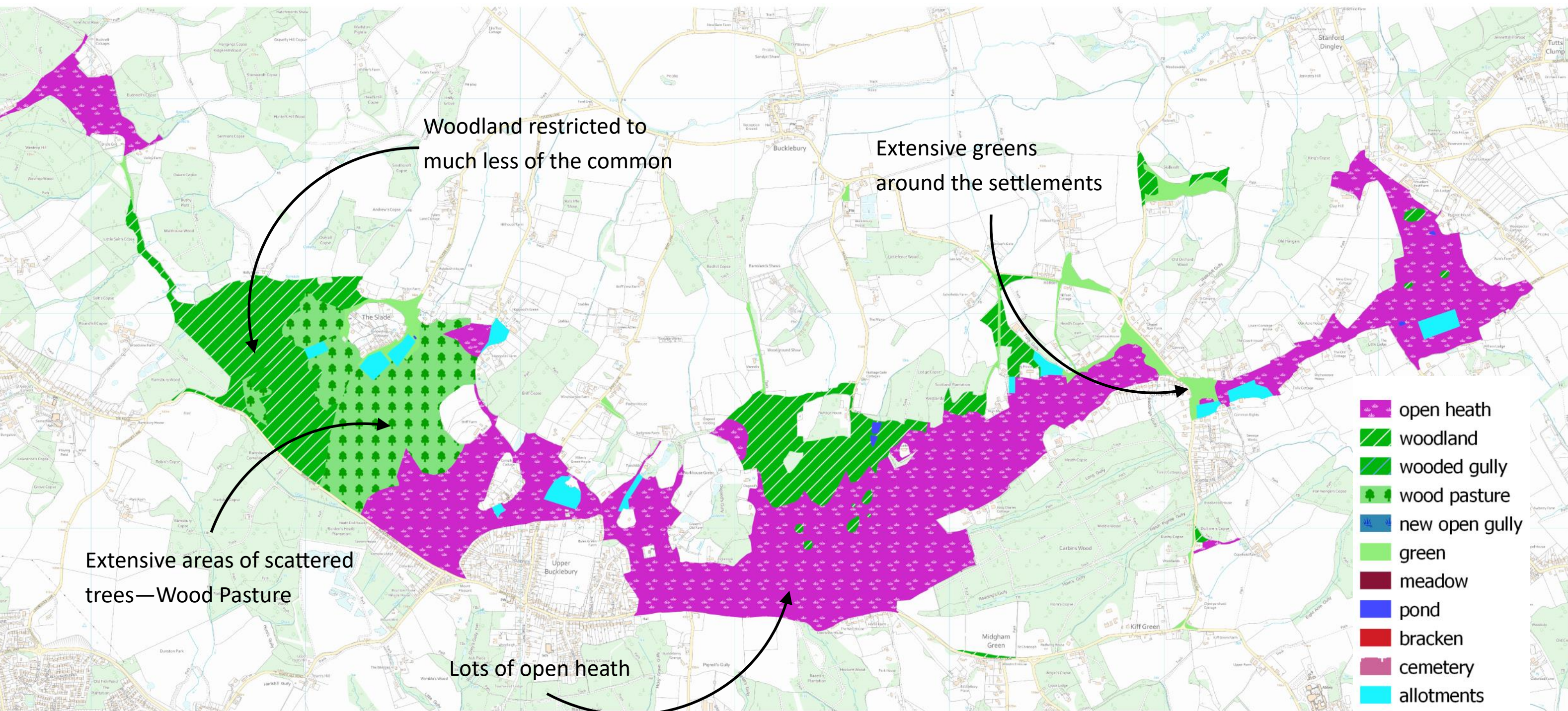
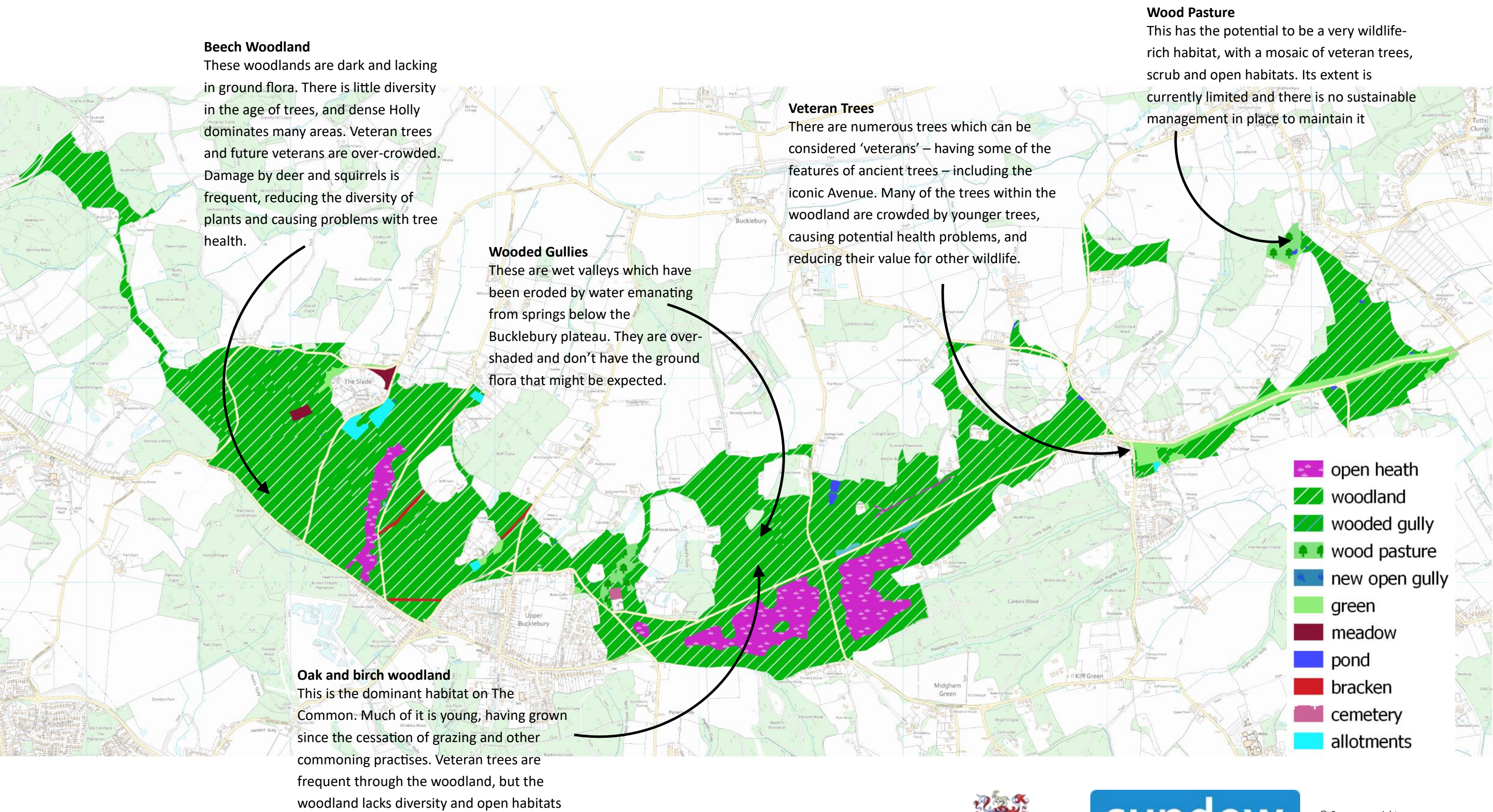


Bucklebury Common, 1900 condition



Bucklebury Common, 2022 condition (Woodland Features)



Bucklebury Common, 2022 condition (Other Features)

Greens

The greens around the areas of settlement lack plant species diversity and many are kept mown short for the whole year.

Access

The whole Common is subject to open access, and there are many public rights of way – it is a very important resource for local people. Some of these facilities are abused by antisocial offroad drivers, causing damage to localised areas of The Common. Some wildlife is prone to disturbance by walkers with dogs.

Ponds

Many of the ponds are full of silt and leaf litter. They are over-shaded by scrub and trees, and they don't support as much wildlife as they should.

Meadows

These areas of longer grass are becoming less species-rich and dominated by a few coarse grass species.

Allotments

These are important resources for local people, and an historic element of The Common. Their condition varies, depending on their use.

Historic features

There are numerous and varied features of interest, from medieval rabbit warrens to Second World War artifacts. Many of these are hidden by dense woodland, which can damage the historical interest. They also lack interpretation and investigation.

Open Heath

The remnants of open heath have been maintained in good condition by a dedicated group of volunteers. A sustainable way to control invasive birch and to create as much diversity as possible is desirable.

- open heath
- woodland
- wooded gully
- wood pasture
- new open gully
- green
- meadow
- pond
- bracken
- cemetery
- allotments



BUCKLEBURY ESTATE



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Bucklebury Common, Vision (Woodland Features)

boundaries of features are indicative

Beech Woodland

These woodlands will be more varied, in species composition and structure. Frequent clearings, rides and patches of dense scrub will be home to lots of wildlife including butterflies and birds. There will be plenty of dead wood, and veteran trees and veteran trees of the future will have space to thrive. Damage by deer and squirrels will be much reduced.

New 'Open' Gullies

These areas will be wildlife hotspots with lots of aquatic vegetation, dragonflies, and an enhanced ability to store water. Some of them will be more open, allowing the ground flora to flourish. The flow of water will be more complex, reducing downstream flooding and creating pools which will home to wildlife and store more carbon.

Veteran Trees

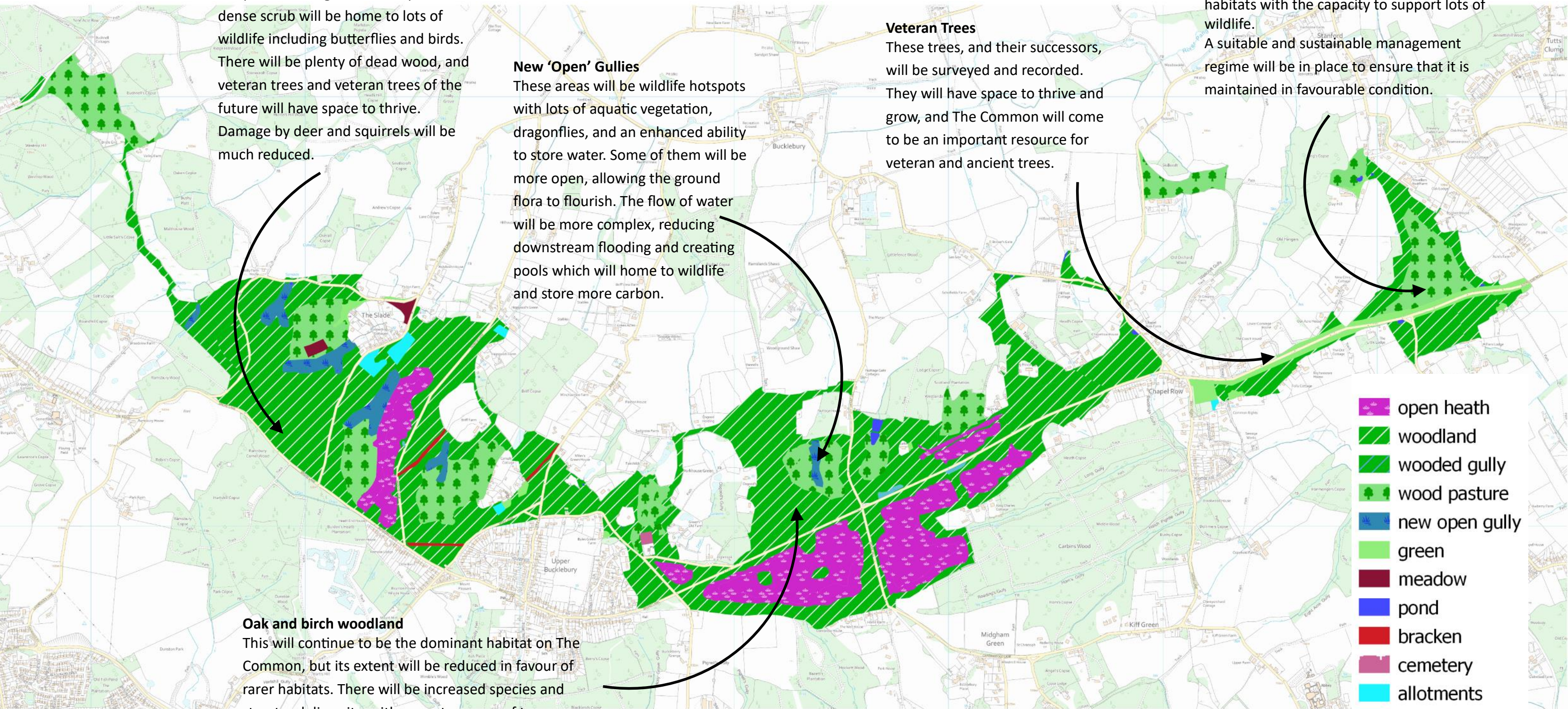
These trees, and their successors, will be surveyed and recorded. They will have space to thrive and grow, and The Common will come to be an important resource for veteran and ancient trees.

Wood Pasture

The extent of good-quality wood pasture will increase significantly. This habitat is a mosaic of veteran trees, scrub and open habitats with the capacity to support lots of wildlife. A suitable and sustainable management regime will be in place to ensure that it is maintained in favourable condition.

Oak and birch woodland

This will continue to be the dominant habitat on The Common, but its extent will be reduced in favour of rarer habitats. There will be increased species and structural diversity, with a greater range of tree ages and more clearings, rides, and dense understorey – all of which support lots of wildlife. Veteran trees, and their successors, will have space to thrive and there will continue to be lots of dead wood – an important habitat.



BUCKLEBURY ESTATE



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Bucklebury Common, Vision (Other Features)

boundaries of features are indicative

Greens

Some of the Greens will be more diverse in their plant species composition, supporting more pollinators and other insects. Others will continue to be important areas for people to picnic and enjoy the common. Where greens are home to veteran trees, these will be managed appropriately to ensure the future of the trees.

Meadows

The Meadows will become more diverse in plant species as suitable management is reinstated.

Allotments

These will continue to be important resources for local people and will be maintained in good condition.

Access

People will continue to enjoy visiting The Common for quiet recreation. Their visits will be enhanced by improvements to the infrastructure and interpretation, ensuring that their visit will have minimal impact on other people and the environment. Visitors will have a good understanding of the importance of the area for the environment.

Ponds

The ponds will be managed so that their ability to support wildlife is maximised. Some ponds will be desilted, and over-shading scrub removed. The aquatic vegetation and fauna will thrive, with dragonflies, amphibians and other wildlife increasing in abundance. New ponds will be created in suitable areas, creating a diversity of wetland resources across the landscape.

Climate change

The Common will be managed in a sustainable way to maximise its potential for carbon sequestration. Enhanced wetlands; thriving, dense woodlands; and good quality grasslands will all store more carbon.

Historic features

There will be a better understanding of the numerous and varied features of interest, and of the management required to maintain them in good condition. This is likely to involve the removal of trees from some of them to make them more visible and protect them from damage.

Open Heath

The heathland will continue to be a rich habitat full of uncommon and rare wildlife. The extent of open heath will be extended, and the structural diversity will be maximised, with 'early successional' stages (bare ground and young heather – the habitats which support lots of rare wildlife) being in abundance. Birch and pine invasion will be reduced and there will be a programme of sustainable management in place.

- open heath
- woodland
- wooded gully
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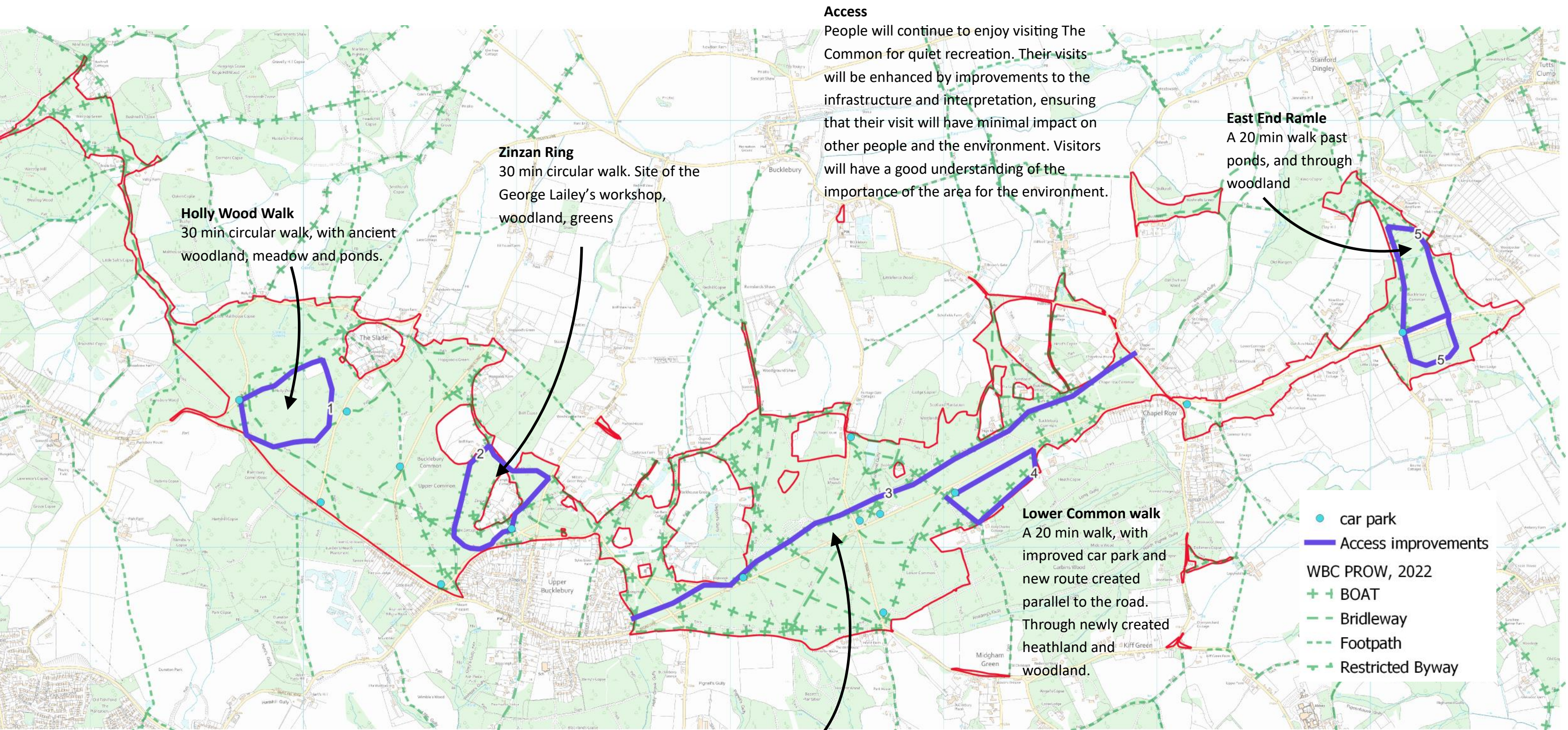
BUCKLEBURY ESTATE



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Bucklebury Common, Vision (Access Enhancements)

locations of features are indicative



Access
People will continue to enjoy visiting The Common for quiet recreation. Their visits will be enhanced by improvements to the infrastructure and interpretation, ensuring that their visit will have minimal impact on other people and the environment. Visitors will have a good understanding of the importance of the area for the environment.

Upper Bucklebury to Chapel Row off-road cycle route
Using existing tracks and creating a new routes where necessary, this will offer a safe route for cyclists away from the road.