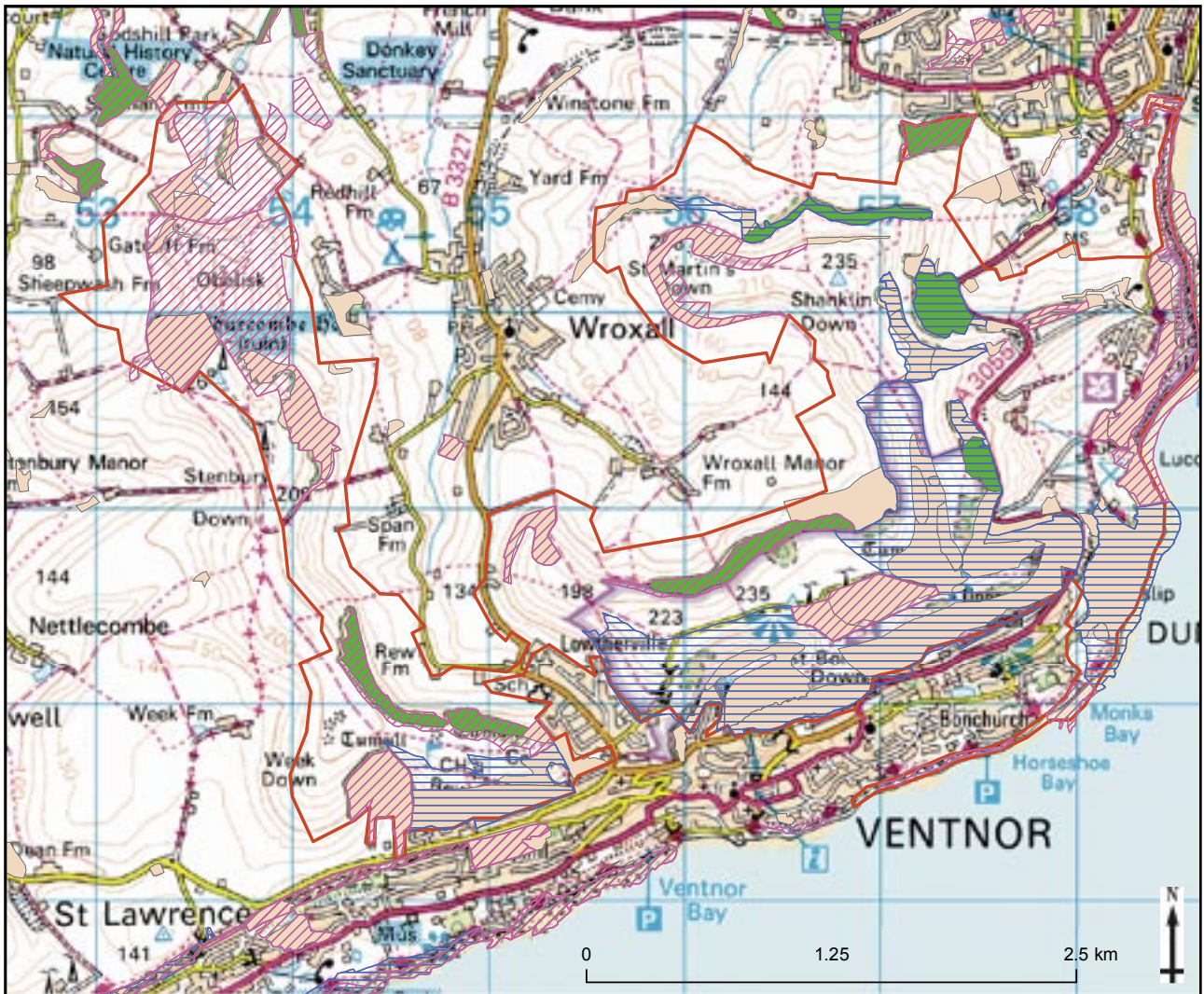








Isle of Wight Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Southern Uplands



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- Key**
-  Southern Uplands
 -  SINC
 -  SSSI
- Terrestrial habitat**
-  <all other values>
 -  Ancient woodland
 -  AncientWoodPlant

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Southern Uplands



Opportunity area description

The high ground to the north of Ventnor and south west of Shanklin, extending as far north as the Appuldurcombe estate and including the coast from Ventnor to Shanklin Chine.

Joint Character Area

Landscape descriptive unit

Isle of Wight Joint Character Area: Chalk downs, The Undercliff, traditional enclosed pasture.

Landscape types

Rolling chalk downs with some heathland, sandstone hills and wooded slopes. Extensive holm oak woodland above Ventnor on the Undercliff.

Geology (bedrock)

Chalk overlying sandstones, which are exposed on the northern edges. Landslip.

Geology (superficial)

Clay with flints. River gravels.

Topography (landform)

Steep south facing slopes.

Biodiversity (BAP habitat, Designated sites

UK BAP Species)

SSSIs: Rew Down, Ventnor Downs, Greatwood & Cliff Copses, Bonchurch Landslips

SINCs: Appuldurcombe Down, Rew Copse, Watcombe Bottom, Pitts Farm Down, Wroxall Copse, Ventnor Radio Station, St Martin's Down, Hungerberry Copse, Lynch Copse, Luccombe Chine, Monk's Bay, Bonchurch Undercliff

BAP habitat

- Lowland calcareous grassland.
- Heathland.
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland.
- Maritime cliffs and slopes.

UK BAP Species

Woodland bats; Early gentian; Adder; Red squirrel; Small blue; Grizzled skipper; Suite of soft cliff invertebrates including Chestnut click beetle and Glanville fritillary; White helleborine.

Access

Open access over part of the area.

Targets – main opportunities

- Restoration and recreation of chalk grassland.
- Coastal scrub management.