

Unconsented operations in Chichester Harbour SSSI

Unit 3 Tournerbury Woods



9th September 2022

Baseline data collection

- Basemaps: OS Vector Map District; OpenStreetMap
- Aerial photography: 1946;1974;1981;1999;2007;2009;2011;2015;2016;2018; 2019; 2022 from Historic England, NCAP, Bluesky, Environment Agency, Google, Bing
- Environment Agency: LIDAR 2005; 2007; 2013; 2016; 2018; 2020 (DSM and DTM)
- MAGIC: Designation boundaries: SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar
- Natural England: Priority Habitat Inventory; Ancient Woodland
- Forestry Commission: National Forest Inventory Woodland
- Crown Estate: Foreshore and Estuary map
- Historic England: Scheduled Monuments
- Tournerbury Estate: maps of camping/ parking in Appendix B within CHICHESTER_HARBOUR_CONSERVANCY_S_RULE_6_STATEMENT-1526247.pdf
- English Nature: Site Management Statement 1997

Technical platform

- QGIS 3.26.1
- Connection to datasets published live on environment.data.gov.uk via
 - WMS
 - WFS
 - ArcGIS REST
- Aerial photo imagery at 25cm/ 12.5cm pixel resolution with world files
- Published shapefiles
- Digitisation of new shapefiles from georeferenced aerial imagery
- Ellipsoidal area calculation

Timeline of development 1976



- Tournembury Woods 6 yrs after 1970 designation
- Long ride cut for electricity cable (A)
- No lake in woods; Wood Field (B) clear of trees
- Woods Cottage (C) surrounded by trees
- Low, flat, open back beach area along creek (D) later subject to dumping



Timeline of development 1999



- 2 years after SMS agreement with Nat Eng
- Electricity cable ride still open
- Extensive damage X in 1987 storm replanted
- Lake excavated in wood since 1981
- Wood Field infilled by new tree growth
- Woods Cottage trees significantly thinned
- Large dump of rubble SW of Woods Cottage



Timeline of development 2007



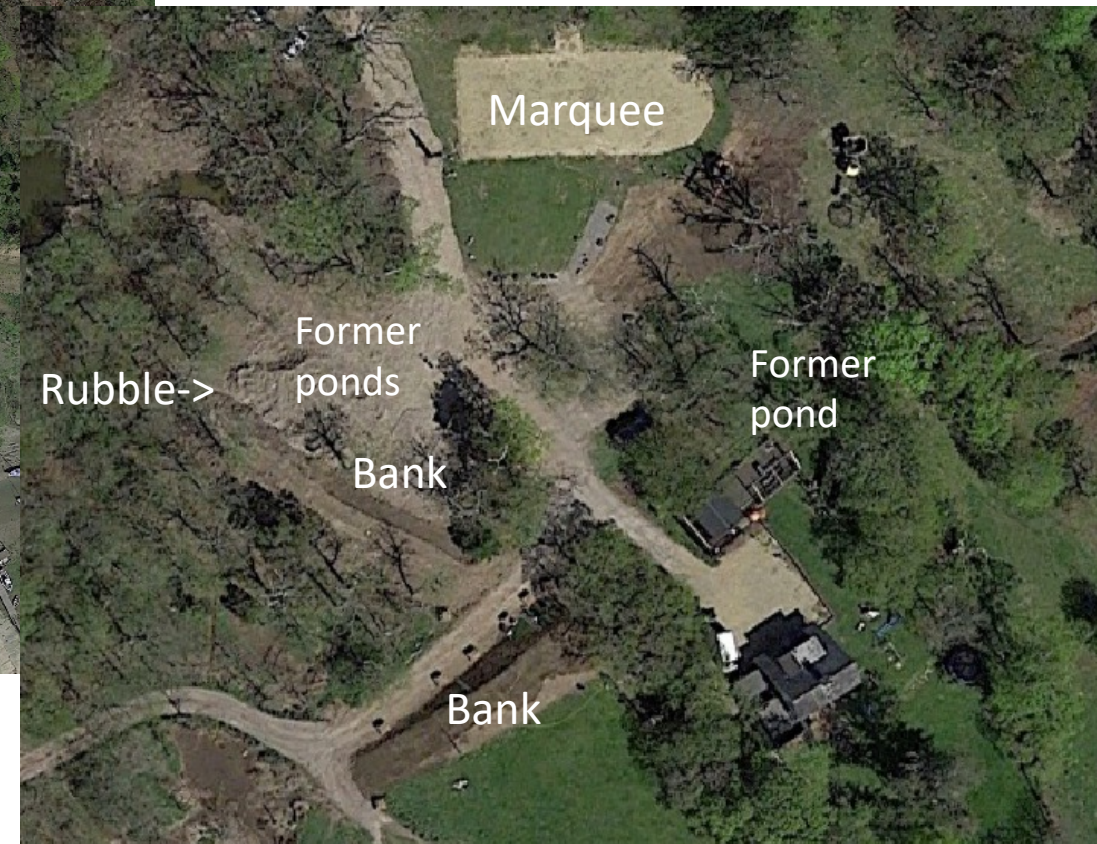
- Electricity cable ride growing over
- Wood Field mostly infilled by new growth
- 2 new lawns laid on rubble by Woods Cott
- Dumping new rubble NW of Woods Cottage
- 2 ponds of 100 sq. m have been infilled
- Trees have disappeared in Woods Cott area



Timeline of development 2015



- Large pond infilled N of Woods Cottage
- Dumping new rubble NW of Woods Cottage
- 80m of watercourse infilled under car park
- Two ponds 16 & 85 sq. m have been infilled
- Foundation for new marquee
- Bulldozed bank W of car park / N of lawn



Timeline of development 2019



- Marquee erected and reinforced as permanent structure
- New deck structure erected over former pond
- Extensive camping areas laid out in woods



ORNEC 1 & 5: cultivation/ mowing



Consent required to undertake:

1. "Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding"
5. "Mowing or ... cutting vegetation"

Lawns area labelled in m2 shown left over 2019 satellite image

Lawns 1367 & 834 were created by tipping builders waste to raise the surface level and covered in imported earth, then seeded in: 1999 (lawn 834); and 2001-2 (lawn 1367)

Lawn 2495 was created by spring 2015 when the Marquee base was already in place.

Dated ground photos used to validate.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT

ORNEC 8 & 21: dumping of materials



Consent required to undertake:

8. "Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials."

21. "Construction... of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks"

Earthworks area labelled in m2 shown left over 2015 satellite image showing gravel spreading under way

The earthworks in the map left were created by dumping builders' rubble, covering it with earth and seeding it on the following dates:

- 1690 between 1999 and 2002
- 1367 is a raised lawn created in 2001/2
- 251/ 301 and 90 were created in spring 2015 when the marquee base was already in place

The dimensions of these earthworks are also visible in EA LIDAR DTM data. Dated ground photos also used to validate.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT

ORNEC 18: Infilling of... dykes...ponds



Consent required to undertake:

27. "Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes"

Comparing waterbodies and watercourses clearly shown on 1999 satellite images with what can be seen in the 2019 image shows:

- watercourses 80m long have been infilled
- pools totaling 380 sq. m have been infilled



The infilling work was undertaken between 2013 and spring 2015.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT

ORNEC 25: construction



Consent required to undertake:

25. “Construction... of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks”

1997 SMS says: “Woodland tracks: these are mainly earth tracks and where waterlogging and rutting occurs, limited infilling with rubble is acceptable... Gradual upgrading of tracks is not acceptable from a nature conservation point of view”

Map left shows current tracks: orange are upgraded gravel tracks in breach of the SMS , yellow are mainly earth tracks. 2015 satellite image.

Track marked ‘A’ from Tournurbury Farm to Wood Cottage was upgraded throughout its length in summer 2001, a distance of 804m in total. Track B is also an upgraded gravel track 460m long.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT

ORNEC 25: construction



Consent required to undertake:

25. “Construction... of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks”

The gravel area of 3167 sq m has been created by importing scalplings to make a large car park between 2013 and spring 2015

Gravel parking area labelled in m2 shown left over 2019 satellite image.

Tournerbury Estate planning submission says that they have spaces for parking by 124 vehicles.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT

ORNEC 27: Erection of structures



Consent required to undertake:

27. "Erection of permanent or temporary structures"

Buildings on wedding site shown left over 2019 satellite image. Purple area is domestic curtilage of Woods Cottage.

The marquee is a permanent structure with internal steel reinforcements. Photos available on the planning portal show this. The gazebo is also a permanent structure. The SMS does not consent these structures.

The deck area extends outside the domestic curtilage into an area of an infilled pond and is not consented.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT

ORNEC 27: Erection of structures



Consent required to undertake:

27. “Erection of permanent or temporary structures”

Camping areas shown at the left from Tournerbury planning submission over 2019 satellite image are used by overnighting guests at weddings.

The total area covered by camping pitches is 13379 sq. metres within the SSSI.

NO NATURAL ENGLAND CONSENT