

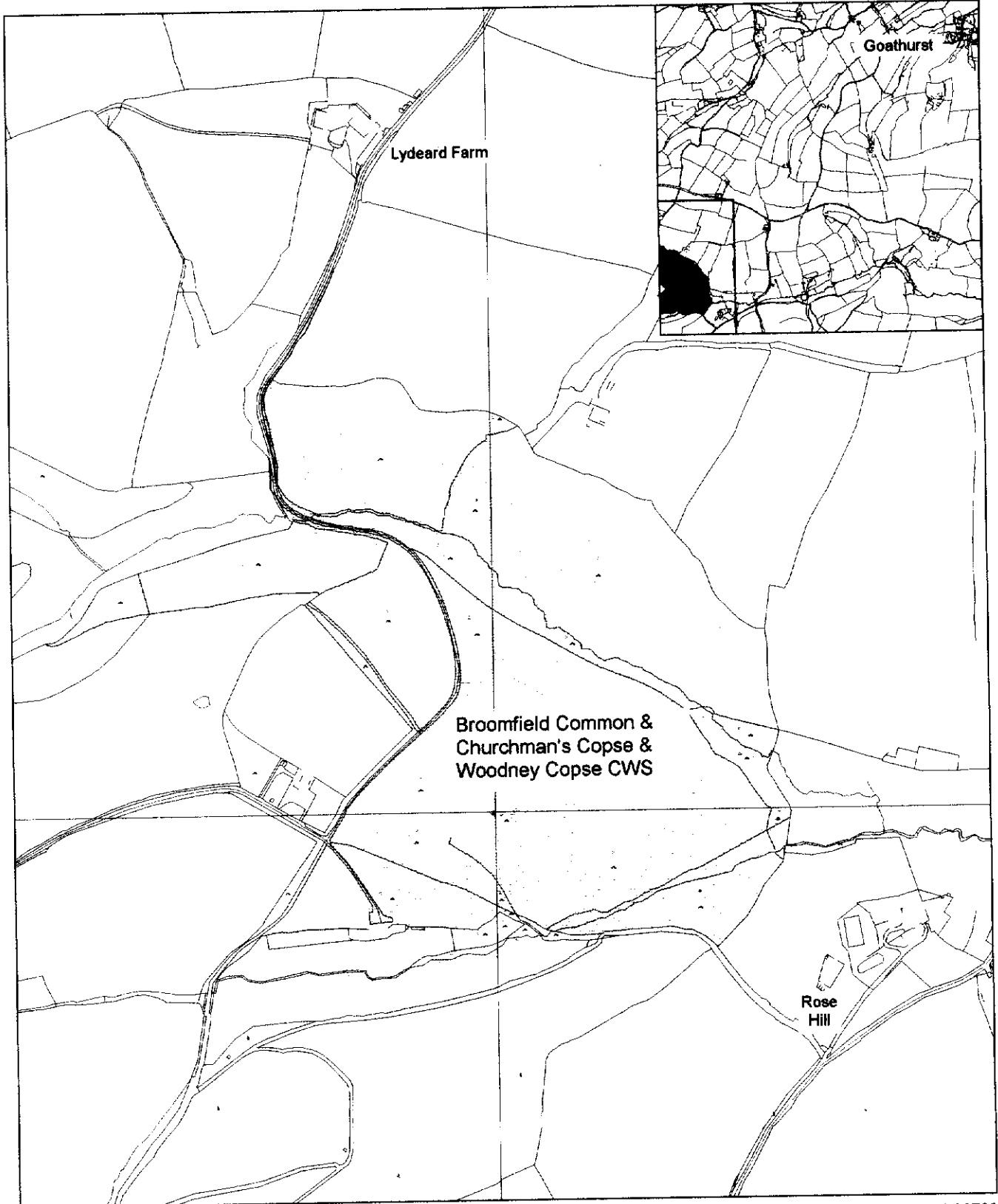


Broomfield Common & Churchman's Copse & Woodney Copse County Wildlife Site

Site No: ST23/006 at Grid Ref: ST230320

Owner: Broomfield Parish Council, c/o Mrs M.White,
Timbercombe, Broomfield, Bridgwater TA5 1AU.

Contact: June 1999 by Chris Smith



About your County Wildlife Site

Broomfield Common & Churchman's Copse & Woodney Copse is one of 1,800 **County Wildlife Sites** in Somerset that have been recognised by the Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) as being especially important for wildlife, including; plants, insects, birds, mammals and all "biodiversity." Unlike Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), County Wildlife Sites have no statutory designation. The implications and benefits of County Wildlife Site status for landowners are:

- recognition as a County Wildlife Site can attract grant aid to assist with management;
- free advice is available on site management for wildlife;
- no restrictions are placed on agricultural operations;
- landowners/managers control all land management decisions, hopefully in a way sympathetic to wildlife;
- other than local development plans, site details are not publicised and no rights of access are created;
- access is by permission of the land owner only;
- for substantial changes in land use on a County Wildlife Site, local authorities take wildlife importance into account, together with all other planning considerations.

Wildlife Importance of Broomfield Common & Churchman's Copse & Woodney Copse: This is an extensive area of mainly secondary broad-leaved woodland with former coppice and plantation. Species present include Ash, Spindle, Broom and Ivy, along with various mosses and fungi. There are also signs of Deer and Grey Squirrel.

Management of Broomfield Common & Churchman's Copse & Woodney Copse: General guidelines for the management of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland include:

- Non-intervention management, i.e. choosing not to undertake any management work in all or part of a woodland, is a recognised and acceptable form of management for wildlife;
- Coppicing of hazel can be re-introduced on a 5-7 year or longer rotation cycle, thus ensuring maximum sunlight penetration to ground vegetation, and encouraging woodland flowering plants;
- If dormice are present and management is to encourage these, then coups for coppicing should be small (clumps of 5-6 stools of hazel only) and scattered. This enables dormice to continue movement from tree to tree while still maintaining the age variation of the main food source and hence food supplies;
- Standing or already fallen dead wood is an excellent habitat for insects and the birds that feed on them, so leave in place wherever possible rather than burn, and resist over-tidiness;
- Ivy provides food and refuge for insects and birds and normally should not be cut from trees. If a tree becomes top-heavy with Ivy, then cut the largest stems of the Ivy and leave the smallest to grow on;
- Rides are important for the extraction of timber products, and the extra light entering the wood in rides and glades encourages ground vegetation, especially valuable for woodland butterflies;
- Create maximum canopy density by careful thinning; encourage natural regeneration of native species where possible;
- When thinning or felling (e.g. for fuelwood), select non-native and invasive species such as Sycamore if present, also remove Rhododendron and Laurel which shade out vegetation on the ground; and
- Rather than burning, unwanted trimmings/branches from felling/thinning or coppicing can be stacked to rot down, providing important refuge sites for insects and small mammals.

For additional information on your County Wildlife Site, the Wildlife Sites system or management advice, contact:



The Survey Manager, Somerset Environmental Records Centre,
Sandhill Park, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, TA4 3DE
(Tel: 01823 433889) e-mail: somerc@iname.com

If you should sell your County Wildlife Site, please pass this map to the new owner, together with a request to contact SERC for further information.

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