

## Wet and Wadery

“Ecological enhancements of RSPB Pulborough Brooks through the installation of 4 hydrological control structures, replacing or complementing existing ones.

**Planning Application ref: SDNP/24/02058/FUL**

As part of the Downs to the Sea project funded by the  
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

Little Whirlpool Ramshorn snail (*Anisus Vorticulus*)

Mitigation Statement

February 2025



*Anisus vorticulus* is an aquatic snail found in only three locations in the country. One of these is RSPB Pulborough Brooks. Until recently this snail was not found in any of the ditches where work will be carried out as part of this planning application. However, results from surveys in autumn 2024, which were received on 18/02/2025, revealed they have spread into new ditches. They are now present in part of a ditch where one of the structures will be installed (ditch 65 on Figure 1), and in two ditches adjacent to a ditch where a structure will be installed (ditches 81 and 52 on Figure 1).

The following mitigation will be put in place:

- In ditch 65, the snail was found in samples from the western part of the ditch in an area which can be separated from the eastern part of the ditch where the sluice is being installed. These parts of the ditch are separated by a culvert. We will immediately cap this culvert to prevent movement of the snail into the area where the works will take place (See Figure 2). Once works are complete, the cap will be removed to allow the snail to freely move.
- Ditch 81 can be isolated from the sluice ditch using culverts. 2 culverts will be immediately capped to prevent movement of the snail into the work area (See Figure 3). Once works are completed, the caps will be removed to allow the snail to freely move.
- Ditches 51/52 cannot be isolated from the ditch where the sluice is being installed. However, only 5 specimens were found in these ditches showing a very small population. They are also on the periphery of the core population and samples could have been taken up to 250m from the work site.
- In all locations, the ditch will only be impacted in the immediate area around the where the structures will be installed. This will be at a maximum a 20m length of ditch. The remainder of the ditch will be left completely untouched for the remainder of the year. This will provide refuges for the snail while works are completed.
- All machinery, tools and footwear will be thoroughly cleaned before work begins on site to prevent transfer of any material that may impact the snail population.
- The works will be factored into ditching plans going forwards to ensure the population in impacted ditches will have time to recover before any further work is done on them.

The impact of the works outlined have a very small footprint. As a result, the impact on the snail population should be minimal and there will be plenty of areas of refuge for the snail while works are being carried out. In the long run, the increase in water control on site, provided by the new structures, will greatly benefit the snail; allowing us to maintain the target water levels for *Anisus vorticulus* to enable it to achieve Favourable Condition (as determined by Natural England). This will support the current population and continue to encourage its spread.

Figure 1 – Maps showing ditch numbering system.

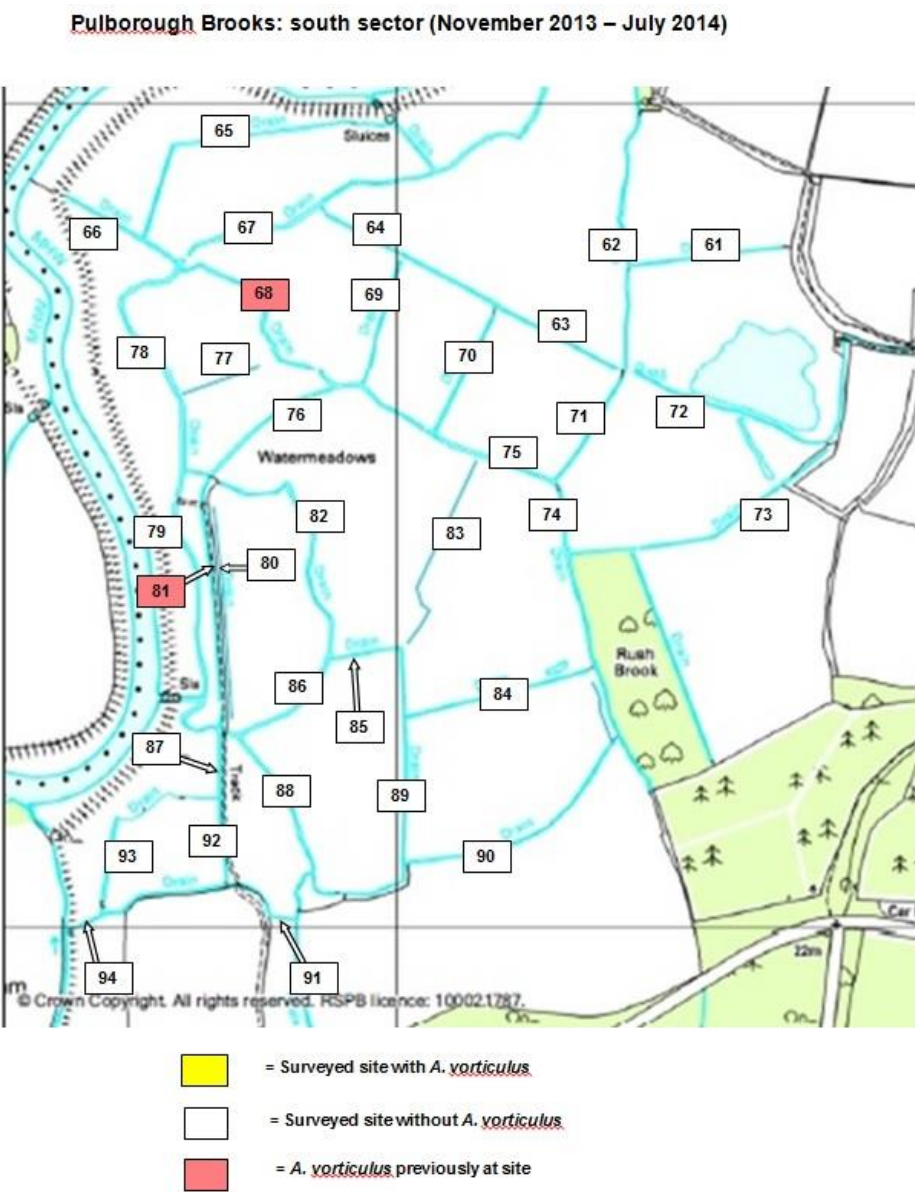
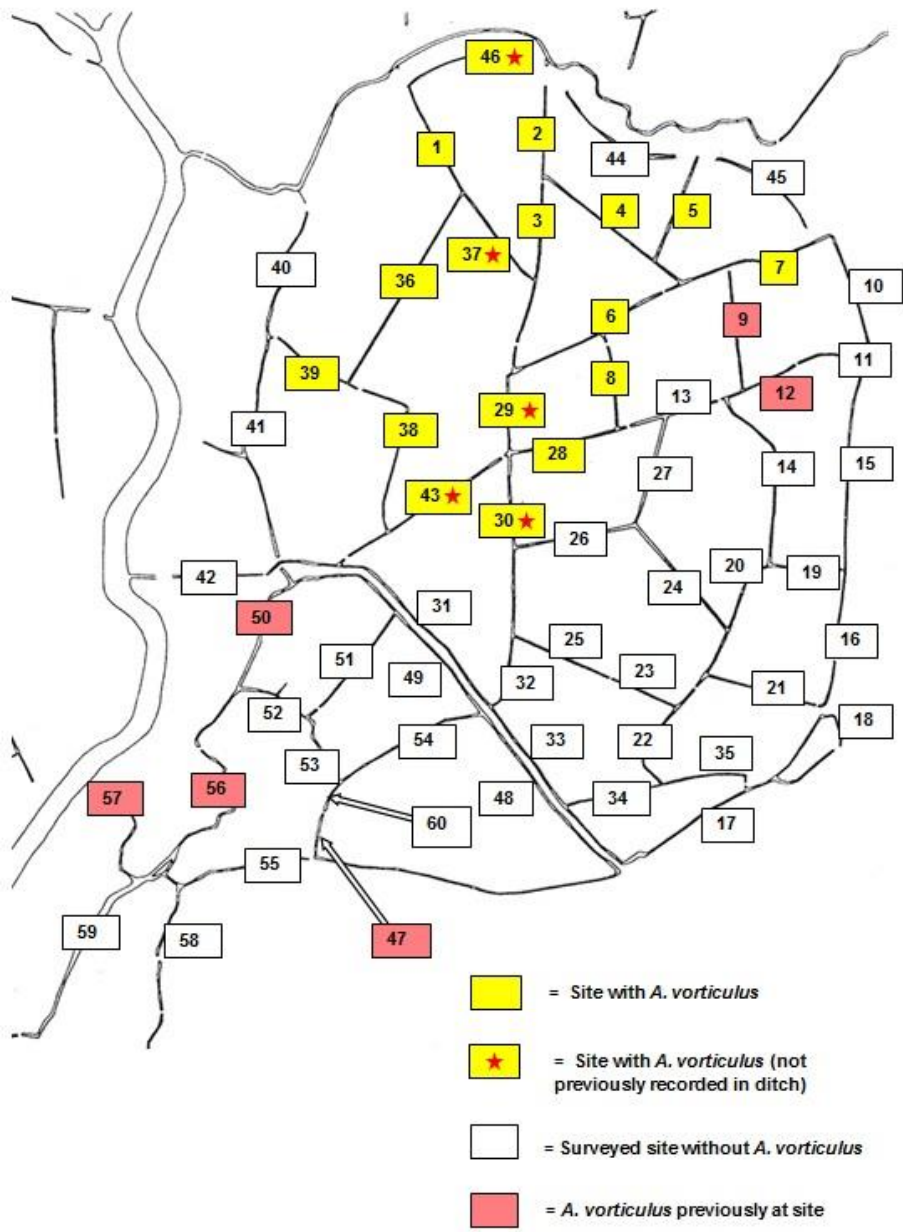


Figure 2 – Mitigation for ditch 65





Figure 3 – Mitigation for sluice near ditch 81

