



**Land adjacent 93 Winterslow Drive, Havant,
Hampshire, PO9 5DZ**

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

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1.0 Summary

The proposals are to build two houses on site. There is little in the way of vegetation on the site which was previously part of the garden of no.93, this had been cleared at the time of survey. A dry ditch is located along the western boundary, however this has been fenced off from the proposed construction area. If external lighting is planned, it will be pointed down to where it is needed and not up onto bat roosting areas or onto the surrounding vegetation. A bat roosting feature, a sparrow or swift box, hedgehog fencing and tree/hedge planting will be incorporated into the proposals to enhance the wildlife value of the site in line with local and national policies.

2.0 Introduction

Background

- 2.1 Peach Ecology was commissioned in April 2019 to carry out an Ecological Assessment of the proposals at Land adjacent 93 Winterslow Drive, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 5DZ (central Grid Reference: SU 71342 08990). The site location is shown in Appendix A, with a layout plan shown in Appendix B. This report has been produced to support the planning application to Havant Borough Council for permission to construct the two new dwellings as shown in Appendix C. This report describes the existing ecology based on the findings of a site visit, a protected species data search and review of local and national policies.

Description of site and surrounding area

- 2.2 The site is part of the existing garden of No.93, it is currently used for storage of building materials and has been cleared of most of the vegetation. The site is in a residential area on the northern boundary of Havant, housing is located immediately to the east and south. To the west and north are hedgerows and shrubs connecting into small areas of woodland nearby and other hedgerows. A large expanse of grassland and areas of scrub are present to the north outside the site boundary.

Brief

- 2.3 To carry out an ecological assessment of the site and proposals, and to inform the clients of any ecological implications associated with the current proposals.

3.0 Methodology

Desk Study

- 3.1 Ecological data relating to European Protected Species licenses from within 2km was gathered using Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), a DEFRA-run website. The results of this are shown in **Appendix D**. Ordnance Survey maps and aerial images were assessed to check for other relevant data on notable habitats and species nearby including wildlife corridors where the site connects into the surrounding area.

Site Assessment

- 3.2 A site assessment was carried out on 29th April 2019 by Davog McCloskey MCIEEM.

Bats

- 3.3 The site was surveyed in accordance with current bat survey guidance (BCT, 2016) for roosting features that could support bats. These typically include crevices in buildings and signs of bats such as droppings, insect feeding remains, worn entrances, staining and gaps in wooden beams. Trees can also provide crevices for bats to roost in.

Birds

- 3.4 The site was surveyed for signs of breeding birds and any nesting activity was noted along with birds in the area. Signs looked for included nesting material, droppings, pellets and streaking.

Badgers

- 3.5 Any areas that could be used for foraging or could potentially contain a badger sett were surveyed and any signs noted. Signs include active or disused setts, digging, latrines and dung pits, foraging signs ('snuffle holes'), footprints, hairs and mammal tracks.

Dormice

- 3.6 The suitability of the site was assessed for dormice in terms of the trees and shrubs, along with the site's connectivity into the wider landscape. Any small mammal feeding signs were checked and assessed. These include teeth marks on hazel nuts and other nuts and any evidence of nest building.

Great Crested Newts

- 3.7 Any ponds within the vicinity of the site were noted and the potential of the land to act as a commuting route, shelter or foraging resource for great crested newts (GCN) was assessed.

Reptiles

- 3.8 Habitat features suitable as hibernacula, foraging or basking areas were noted. Extant refugia were all carefully examined to look for reptiles or evidence of reptiles, including shed skins.

Hedgehogs

- 3.9 The site was searched for signs of hedgehogs, including looking for areas of suitable habitat, searching for mammal tracks and droppings.

Stag beetles

- 3.10 Any stag beetles found during the survey were noted.

4.0 Results and Discussion

Desk study

Protected sites

- 4.1 There are no statutory designated sites within 2km.
- 4.2 The Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) is located just under 4km to the south. The Solent supports internationally significant numbers of overwintering waders and wildfowl, in particular dark-bellied brent geese. Development outside of the physical extent of the designated site has the potential to impact on the SPAs and the species they support. In particular, recreation caused by an increased population can threaten the ability of SPA species to effectively feed over the winter, due to disturbance. Local authorities across the Solent, in collaboration with Natural England and other organisations have developed a robust evidence base regarding the collective impact of new development on the Solent's Special Protection Areas. This specifically relates to the increase in recreation that takes place as a result of population rise due to new development. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) prepared an Interim Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy - an interim framework to mitigate the impact of increased visitor pressure arising from housebuilding - which was endorsed and published by Partnership of Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) in December 2014. This was followed by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) which was endorsed by the PUSH Joint Committee in December 2017 and approved by the Council's Cabinet in February 2018. In line with the other LPA members of the SRMP Havant Borough Council started implementing the strategy from 1st April 2018. This strategy revised the financial contribution required to be paid by developers to an equivalent of £564 per dwelling, charged on a sliding scale calculated from the number of bedrooms. Indexation will be applied on 1 April each year following. The money raised is then used to:
- Raise awareness and understanding of the Solent's birds and the threats they face to encourage positive changes in the behaviour of coastal visitors via the Bird Aware Solent Ranger Team through various methods;
 - Encourage responsible dog walking to avoid bird disturbance via a dedicated member of staff and other communication methods;
 - Develop Codes of Conduct in conjunction with user groups and clubs for both water-based and land based recreation activities; and
 - Implement site-specific visitor management and bird refuge projects to better manage visitors while providing secure habitats for the birds
- 4.3 The habitats nearby are all susceptible to changes in water quality and levels. The in-combination effects of different developments can have a significant effect on rivers and lakes and therefore it is important that pollution and drainage are considered early on to minimise or eradicate potential negative effects of the development.

Site Assessment

- 4.4 The site is currently a garden although it is currently used for storage of building equipment (Photo 1), the land has been cleared of shrubs and trees (as noted by previous checks of past aerial images) and a new boundary fence was being erected at the time of survey (Photo 2). The ground is mostly bare earth (Photo 3) however some vegetation remains closer to the boundaries and at the site entrance (Photo 4). Beyond the site boundary on neighbouring land are dense areas of scrub/hedgerow

composed of bramble, hazel, blackthorn and willow (Photo 5). A dry ditch is located along the western boundary (Photo 6).



Photo 1: Building material being stored on site



Photo 2: Boundary fence being erected



Photo 3: The site is mostly composed of bare earth



Photo 4: Vegetation at the site boundary



Photo 5: Areas of scrub surrounding the site



Photo 6: The ditch along the western boundary

Bats

- 4.5 No European protected species licences for bats or have been granted within 2km of the site.

- 4.6 No evidence of bats or potential roosting habitat on site was found and therefore no further surveys are required. The site itself has low bat roosting and commuting/foraging potential however habitats just outside the site boundary to the north and west are suitable for commuting and foraging and therefore these will need to be protected from external lighting associated with the proposals.
- 4.7 Incorporating a feature for roosting bats into the new development would be an enhancement in line with local and national planning policy guidance.

Birds

- 4.8 Birds identified during the survey include wood pigeon, jackdaw, great tit, black bird and blue tit. There was no suitable vegetation in site suitable for nesting birds however the proposals represent an opportunity to plant some trees and undertake landscaping to enhance the site for nesting and foraging birds.
- 4.9 Incorporating a nest box for birds into the proposals would be a simple enhancement in line with local and national planning policy guidance.

Reptiles

- 4.10 No signs of reptiles or suitable reptile habitat were found on site, the rubble piles were too recently created, dense and active to be of value to reptiles within the wider area and there is ongoing disturbance on site so it is unlikely to be colonised by reptiles during construction.

Great crested newts and other amphibians

- 4.11 There are no ponds on site and there are no records of ponds nearby, the closest waterbody is a lake approximately 500m to the north-east. A record for Great Crested Newts is present just over 2km to the north-east - 2014-3400-EPS-AD2. It is unlikely that the small scale proposals will cause a significant impact on amphibians locally.

Dormice

- 4.12 There are two European Protected Species licence records for Dormice approximately 1.5km to the west of the site (2014-456-EPS-MIT and 2016-21182-EPS-MIT) and another approximately 2km to the south-west (2014-3156-EPS-MIT). The surrounding habitat is connected into areas of woodland that appear suitable for dormice however there is no suitable woody vegetation on site that is suitable for this species. No signs of dormice were found on site and it is unlikely that the proposals will impact this species.

Badgers

- 4.13 There were no signs of badger hairs, tracks, footprints, foraging or setts recorded on site at the time of the survey. Due to the site's lack of connectivity to the nearest countryside it is therefore deemed unlikely that badgers will be impacted by the proposals.

Hedgehogs

- 4.14 Although no signs of this species were noted at present, hedgehogs are able to enter and leave the site. If a new boundary fence is to be incorporated into the new development, it will make provision for hedgehogs by creating suitable gaps or holes underneath to allow the free movement of hedgehogs in and out of the site.

Stag beetles

- 4.15 No stag beetles were found during the survey or habitat suitable for them.

5.0 Requirements and Recommendations

Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy

- 5.1 This strategy revised the financial contribution required to be paid by developers to an equivalent of £564 per dwelling, charged on a sliding scale calculated from the number of bedrooms. Indexation will be applied on 1 April each year following. Further consultation will be required with Havant Borough Council to agree appropriate mitigation.

Bats

- 5.2 Any new external lighting must be avoided wherever possible. Where it is necessary, it should be pointed downwards and away from any retained trees, hedges and any new features installed for bats and birds.
- 5.3 A bat roosting feature will be included into the roof of one new dwelling as part of the new proposals (**Appendix E**).

Birds

- 5.4 A sparrow nest terrace or swift nest box will be incorporated into the proposals (**Appendix E**).

Hedgehogs

- 5.5 Although no signs of this species were noted at present, hedgehogs are able to enter and leave the site. If a new boundary fence is to be incorporated into the new development, it will make provision for hedgehogs by creating suitable gaps or holes underneath to allow the free movement of hedgehogs in and out of the site.

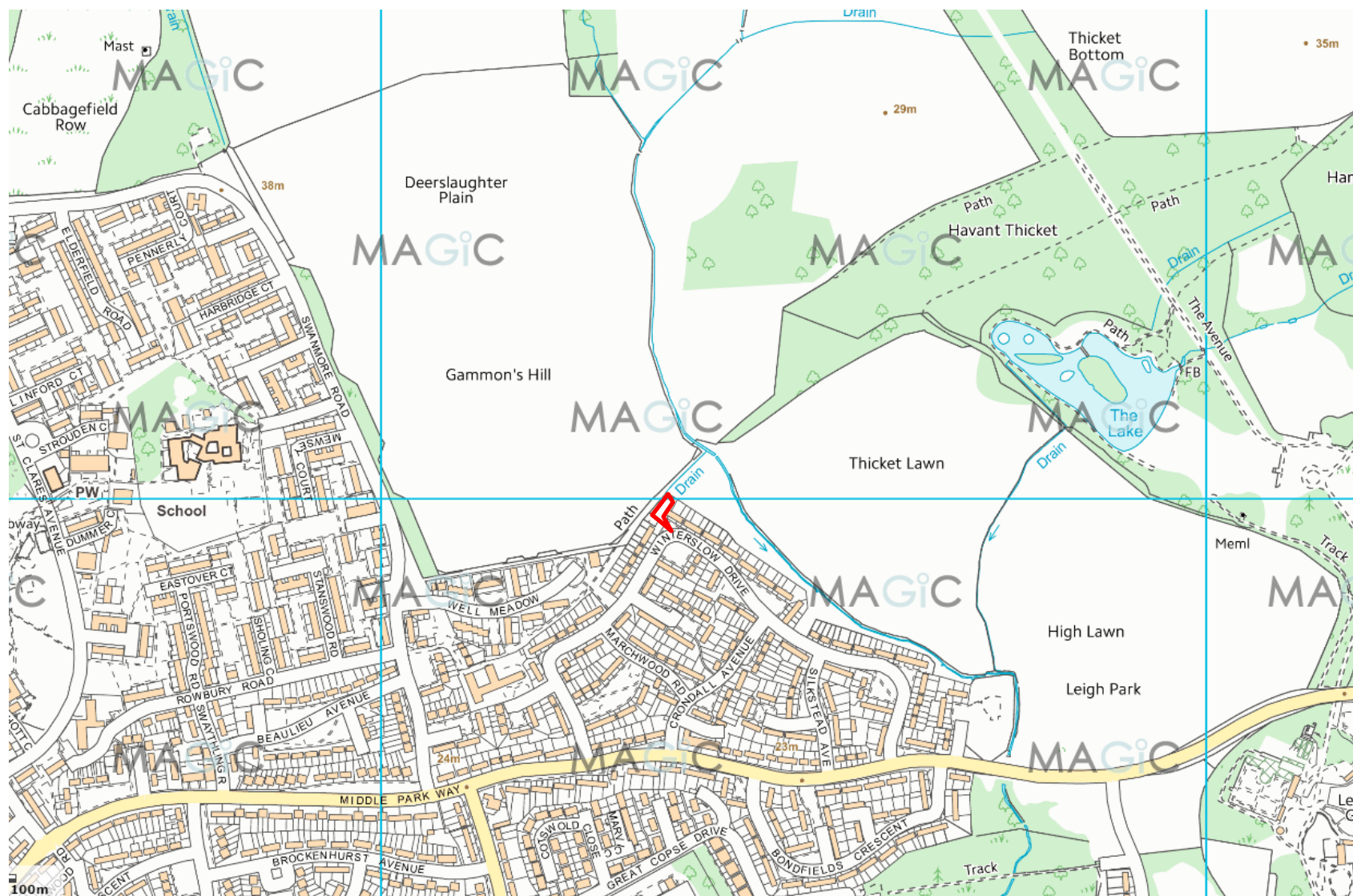
Pollution prevention and drainage

- 5.6 It is important that the proposals follow appropriate pollution prevention guidelines (PPG 6) and drainage guidelines (Defra guidelines for Sustainable Urban Drainage) to protect the nearby watercourse and other habitats connected hydrologically.

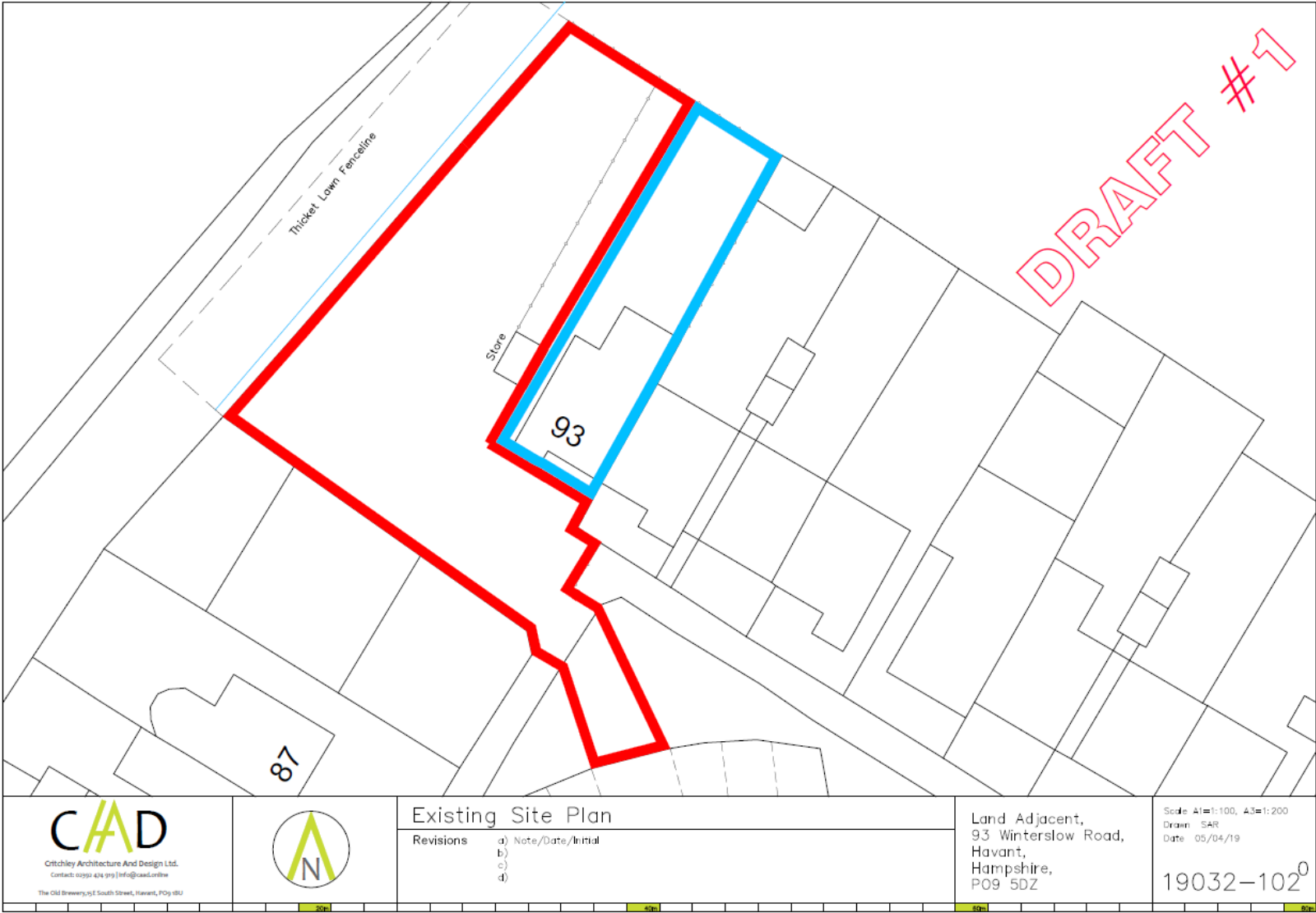
Landscaping

- 5.7 Four new trees with wildlife value (native or fruit trees) and at least 4m² of new wildlife beneficial shrubs will be planted on site.

Appendix A: Site Location



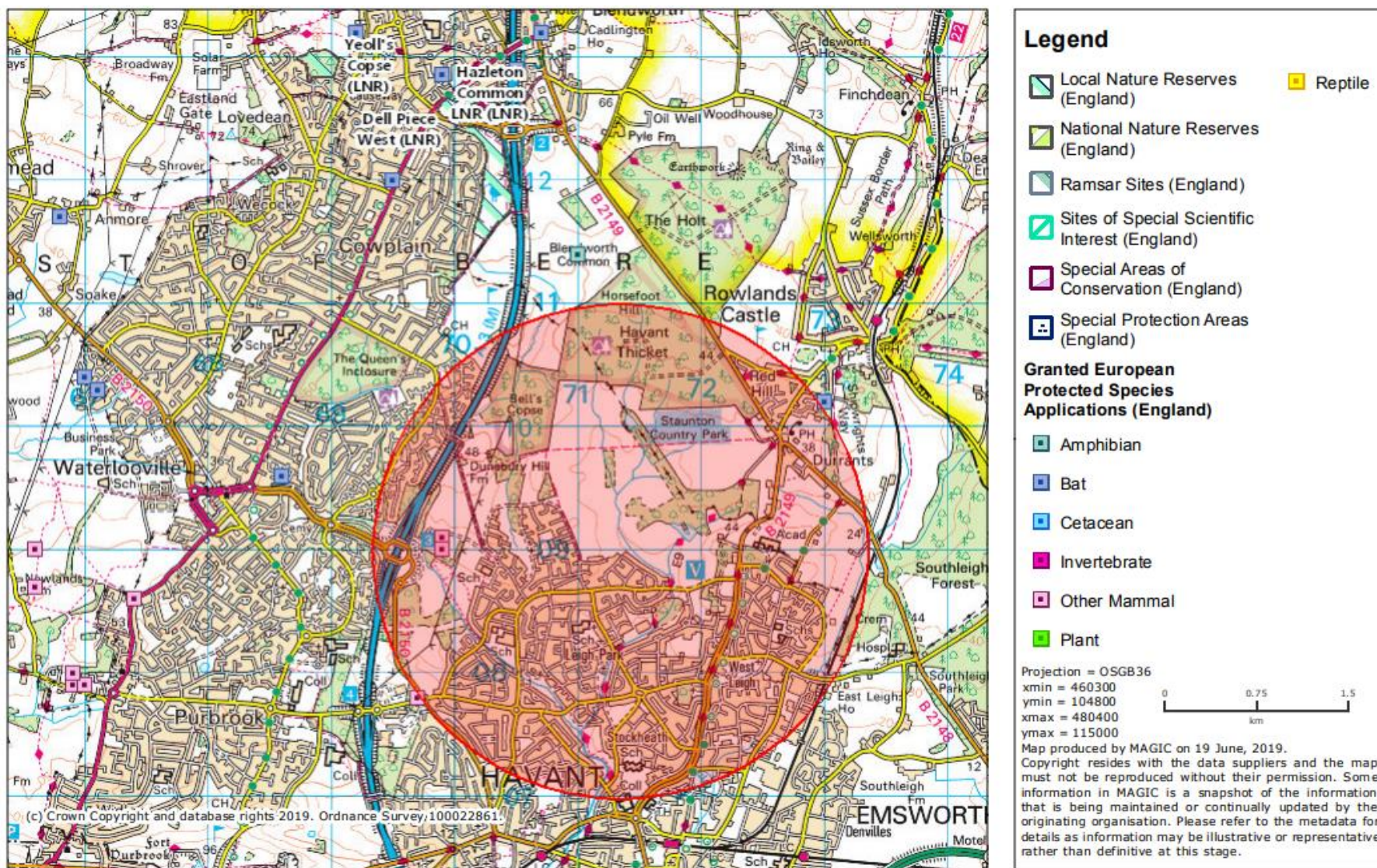
Appendix B: Existing Layout



Appendix C: Proposed Plans



Appendix D: Statutory Designated Sites and Granted European Protected Species Applications Within 2km



Appendix E: Mitigation and Enhancements



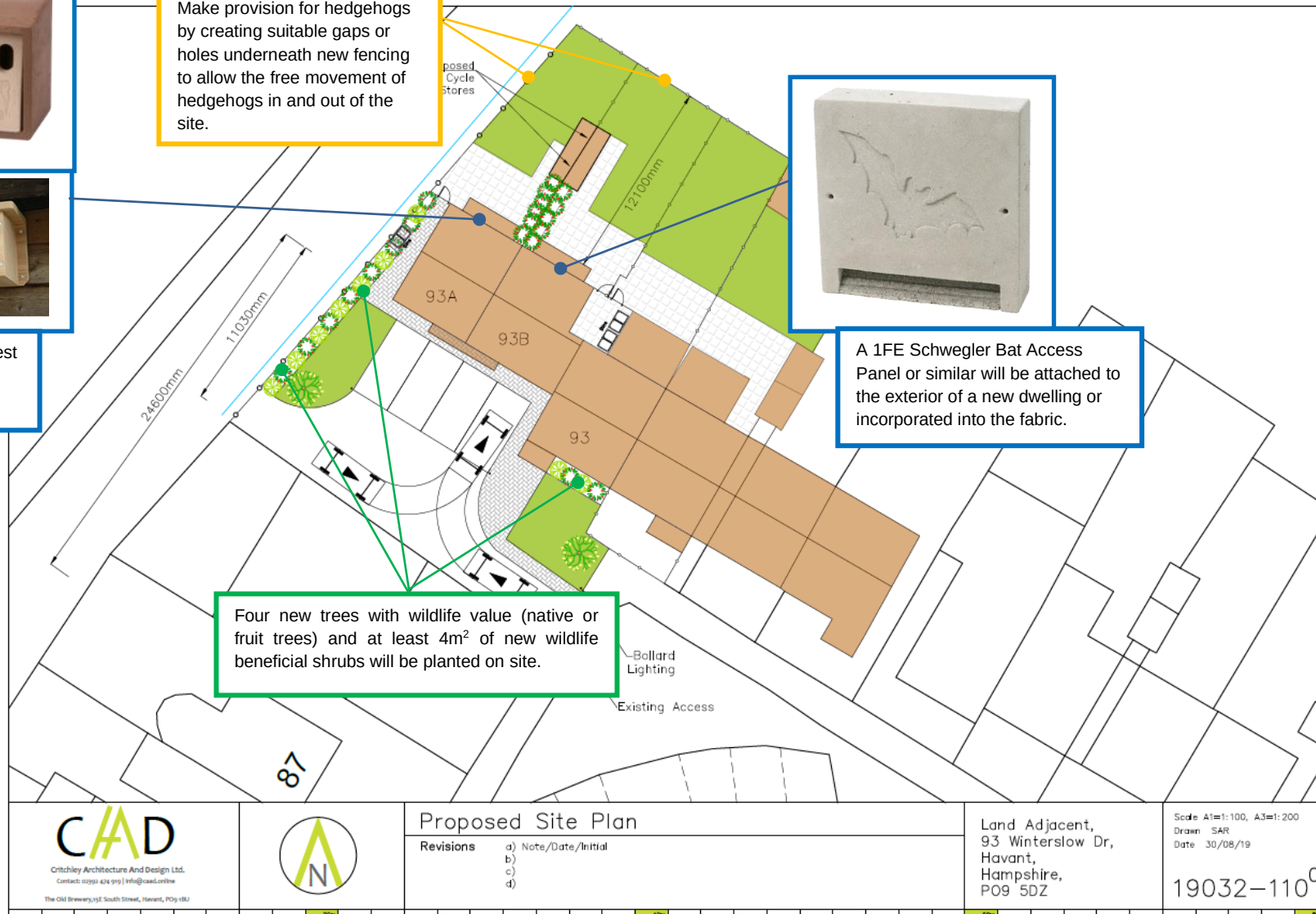
Make provision for hedgehogs by creating suitable gaps or holes underneath new fencing to allow the free movement of hedgehogs in and out of the site.



One house sparrow nest terrace or swift box located under eaves.



A 1FE Schwegler Bat Access Panel or similar will be attached to the exterior of a new dwelling or incorporated into the fabric.



Four new trees with wildlife value (native or fruit trees) and at least 4m² of new wildlife beneficial shrubs will be planted on site.

CAD

Critchley Architecture And Design Ltd.
Contact: 01994 424 915 | info@cad.co.uk
The Old Brewery, 151 South Street, Havant, PO9 1BU



Proposed Site Plan

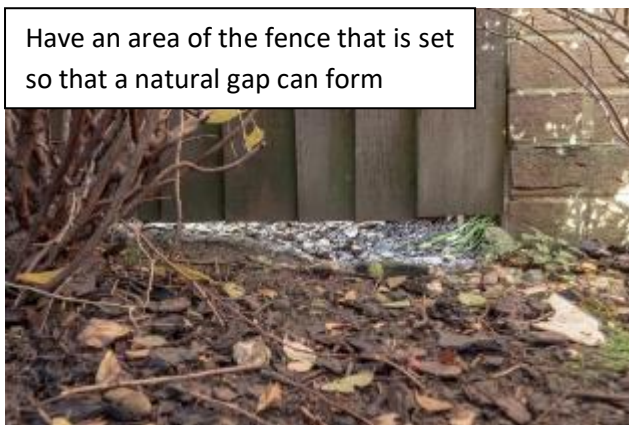
Revisions
a) Note/Date/Initial
b)
c)
d)

Land Adjacent,
93 Winterslow Dr,
Havant,
Hampshire,
PO9 5DZ

Scale A1=1:100, A3=1:200
Drawn SAR
Date 30/08/19

19032-110⁰

Appendix F: Hedgehog and Reptile Access



Appendix G: Protected Species Legislation

European Protected Species

Bats

These species are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 41 of the Regulations. These make it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:
 - to impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young;
 - to impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
 - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species; or
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any of these animals uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, five British bat species are listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. These are:

- Greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*);
- Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*);
- Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*);
- Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*);
- Greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*).

In certain circumstances where these species are found the Directive requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) by EC member states to ensure that their populations are maintained at a favourable conservation status. Outside SACs, the level of legal protection that these species receive is the same as for other bat species.

Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), European otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

These species are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 41 of the Regulations. These make it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:
 - to impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young;
 - to impair its ability to hibernate or migrate.
 - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species; or
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any of these animals uses for shelter or protection.

Nationally Protected Species

Badger (*Meles meles*)

The *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* consolidates previous legislation (including the *Badgers Acts 1973 and 1991 Badgers (Further Protection) Act 1991*). It makes it a serious offence to:

- kill, injure or take a badger;
- attempt to kill, injure or take a badger; or
- to damage or interfere with a sett.

The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.

Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions¹, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by section 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). Therefore, it is an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

These offences do not apply to hunting of birds listed in Schedule 2 subject to various controls.

Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive further protection, thus for these species it is also an offence to:

- intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.

Reptiles

The four widespread² species of reptile that are native to Britain, namely common or viviparous lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and grass snake (*Natrix natrix helvetica*), are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and are afforded limited protection under Section 9 of this Act. This makes it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- intentionally kill or injure any of these species.

Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)

The water vole is listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and is afforded limited protection under Section 9 of this Act. This makes it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- intentionally kill, injure, or take (handle) any a water vole (in England only);
- intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which water voles use for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles while they are using such a place.

Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

The stag beetle is legally protected from sale in the UK. It is also classed as a 'protected species', listed on Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*.

¹ Some species, such as game birds, are exempt in certain circumstances

² The other native species of British reptile (sand lizard and smooth snake) receive a higher level of protection under the *Habitats Regulations 1994* and (in England and Wales only) the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). However, the distribution of these species are restricted to only a very few sites. All marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae) are also protected.