

**TAMARISK, FERRY ROAD, HAYLING ISLAND,
HAMPSHIRE**

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

FOR: JOHN PARDEY ARCHITECTS

Final Document

October 2015

Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Phase 1 and 2 Surveys • NVC • EcIA • Management Plans • Protected Species Licensing
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species

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This report has been produced in accordance with Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing 2015¹. The Ecological Appraisal was undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit. Peterborough, UK
- Hundt L. (2012) Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines, (2nd Ed.), Bat Conservation Trust
- Bright et al. (2006) The Dormouse Conservation Handbook (2nd Ed.). English Nature, Peterborough, UK
- Froglife (1999) Reptile Survey: A Guide to Planning, Conducting and Interpreting Surveys for Snake and Lizard Conservation, Froglife Advice Sheet 10
- English Nature (2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough

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¹ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2015). *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*. Technical Guidance Series. <http://www.cieem.net/publications/23/ecological-report-writing>

TAMARISK, FERRY ROAD, HAYLING ISLAND, HAMPSHIRE

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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Map 1 Site Location

Appendix 1 Proposed Site Layout

Appendix 2 Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken during September 2015 at Tamarisk, Ferry Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0DG. As the site was deemed to provide suitability for reptiles, a Phase 2 reptile survey was subsequently carried out during September and October 2015. Plans for the site entail the demolition of the current housing and construction of a new residential building with associated hardstanding and vegetation.
- The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, comprising the Phase 1 survey and desktop study, was undertaken to ascertain the potential for protected habitats and species to be present within the site. The Phase 2 reptile survey was undertaken to establish the status of this species on the site. This report is based on the results of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and the Phase 2 reptile survey.
- The site is located on Hayling Island, Hampshire. The wider area consists of residential housing with Sinah Common to the south and The Kench to the east. The Solent dominates the majority of the surrounding area to the north and west of the site. It is bounded to the north by Langstone Harbour, to the south by Ferry Road and to the East and West by neighbouring houses.
- The site supports habitats of low ecological value. There is limited suitable habitat for nesting birds; the results of the reptile survey suggest reptiles are absent from the site. The site offers no suitability for any other protected species.
- The northern edge of the site is immediately adjacent to Langstone Harbour Ramsar site and SPA. Solent Maritime SAC, Langstone Harbour SSSI and the Kench LNR are within close proximity to the site.
- A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be employed during the construction stage of the scheme to ensure there are no construction related impacts (such as noise, vibration and pollution) on the nearby designated sites. The ecologist will provide input into this document.
- If works have not commenced by September 2017, it is recommended that the ecological assessment is updated. This is because many of the species considered during the current survey are highly mobile and the ecology of the site is likely to change over this period. If the proposals for the site change, the impact assessment and recommendations within this report may require updating to ensure that the information remains valid and appropriate.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been contracted by Simon Montague (private client) to undertake an Ecological Assessment at Tamarisk, Ferry Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 0DG. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 68865 00015 (**Map 1**).

This report presents the findings of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey, a desktop study and a Phase 2 reptile survey carried out by ECOSA during September and October 2015.

1.2 Aims and Scope of Report

This report is based on the findings of the surveys and desktop study; the data collated assists in assessing the suitability of the site and its immediate surrounds to support notable habitats and protected species. This information allows an initial assessment of the biodiversity value of the site to be made, potential constraints to be identified, and mitigation and compensation measures to be developed.

1.3 Site Setting and Description

The Tamarisk site is situated in the South Coast Plain & Hampshire Lowlands Natural Area, described by Natural England as follows²:

"The landscape of the South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands is split between the generally open, often featureless landscape of the coastal plain and the more varied landscape in the west. The Natural Area contains a number of nature conservation features. Although relatively small in extent, the south-facing slopes of Portsdown Hill support some high quality chalk grassland, and the chalk rivers of the Itchen and Test flow through the Natural Area, supporting fine examples of threatened habitat and several key species. The floodplains of the Rivers Test and Itchen contain some botanically rich neutral grassland and elsewhere in the Natural Area fen and fen-meadows occur, especially where chalk springs arise at the foot of the downs."

The site is situated at the south west tip of Hayling Island in Hampshire and is bounded by Ferry Road to the south and by Langstone Harbour to the north. Immediately to the west is the active Langstone Harbour Board boatyard. Further west lies the Harbour entrance, with Lock Lake and the residential development of Eastney on Portsea Island beyond. The Ferry Boat Inn public house lies immediately to the south and south-west across Ferry Road. Further south lies the golf course development on Sinah common

² Natural Areas are defined by Her Majesty's Stationery Office as 'biogeographic zones which reflect the geological foundation, the natural systems and processes and the wildlife in different parts of England, and provide a framework for setting objectives for nature conservation' (Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report, HMSO, 1995).

and the Solent beyond. Immediately to the east is a row of four detached two-storey houses also fronting onto Ferry Road. Further east are a group of fifty or so residential chalets and houseboats associated with the Kench (a Local Nature Reserve), with Sinah Warren holiday village and the residential development of west and south Hayling beyond.

The site comprises a single one-storey building and greenhouse, an extensive area of hardstanding (including a slipway extending onto the foreshore) and vegetation to the north and south of the site. A predominantly concrete sea wall forms the northern boundary. Concrete walls form the south site boundary and part of the north boundary with a chain link fence and access gate forming the south boundary.

1.4 Site Proposals

Site proposals entail the demolition of the current house in the northern side of the site and the subsequent construction of a new dwelling in the centre of the site. Proposals for landscaping include specimen trees in the south-west corner and shrubs and other suitable plants, incorporating native species where possible, in borders and raised planters in various parts of the site. The existing site entrance to the south will be re-used for the new dwelling. Planning permission is being sought during 2015 with construction commencing within 24 months of permission being granted. Details of the proposals are provided in **Appendix 1**.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

This section details the methods used during Ecological Assessment undertaken at Tamarisk, Ferry Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire.

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment Methods

2.2.1 Biological Records Centre

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) was consulted on 16th September 2015 for information on non-statutory designated sites and protected and notable species within a 1km radius of the site. Bat records were provided within a 2km radius of the site. Relevant protected species records are detailed in this report under the respective species/habitat sections.

2.2.2 Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)³ database was accessed on the 15th October 2015 in order to establish the presence of statutory designated sites located within the vicinity of the site. This included a search for all internationally designated sites such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsars within 1km of the site and a search for nationally designated sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) within 1km of the site.

2.3 Phase 1 Vegetation Survey Methods

An assessment was made of all areas of vegetation within the site using the standardised Phase 1 survey methodology⁴. This involved a walkover survey to identify broad vegetation types, which were then classified against Phase 1 habitat types. A list of characteristic plant species for each vegetation type was also compiled during the survey.

2.4 Phase 1 Bat Survey Methods

An assessment was made of the suitability of buildings and trees on the site and immediately on the site boundary to support roosting bats based on the presence of features such as loose or missing roof tiles or lifted lead flashing for buildings and holes, cracks, splits, loose bark and ivy cladding for trees. An assessment was made of the suitability of the site and the surrounding landscape to support foraging and/or

³ <http://defra.magic.gov.uk>

⁴ Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit – Field manual (2003), *Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)*

commuting bat species. The survey conformed to current Bat Conservation Trust guidelines⁵.

2.5 Phase 1 Badger Survey Methods

The survey involved a detailed investigation of the site to identify evidence of badger residence, foraging or territorial activity. Particular emphasis was placed on locating badger setts, paths, and signs of territorial activity such as latrine sites both on-site and within immediately adjacent areas where access was possible.

2.6 Phase 1 Dormouse Survey Methods

The assessment for the potential of the site to support dormouse was based on an assessment of habitat features that may indicate that dormice are present on the study area. This includes the presence of food sources such as common hazel *Corylus avellana* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. Additionally, the species requires a continuum of food supply so that habitat structure, diversity and connectivity to adjacent areas of woodland/scrub are important features for determining the potential presence of dormice.

2.7 Phase 1 Bird Survey Methods

The assessment of breeding birds and wintering birds on the site was based on the suitability of habitat present, evidence of nesting such as old or currently active nests and the presence of bird species that may potentially nest within the available habitat.

2.8 Phase 1 Reptile Survey Methods

The reptile survey was based on an assessment of the suitability of habitat present within the site to support a population of common reptiles. Reptiles particularly favour scrub and grassland interfaces and the presence of these is a good indication that reptiles may be present on-site. In addition, reptiles may utilise features such as bare ground for basking, tussocky grassland for shelter and compost heaps and rubble piles for breeding and/or hibernating.

2.9 Phase 1 Great Crested Newt Survey Methods

The assessment of the site to support great crested newts included establishing the presence of suitable aquatic habitats such as ponds within or adjacent to the site and the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat. Ponds that are densely shaded, highly eutrophic or that contain fish are likely to be less suitable for this species.

In addition, online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000 were used to identify the presence of ponds or other waterbodies within a 500 metre (m) radius of the site. The 500m is a standardised search radius to assist in the assessment of the

⁵ Hundt L (2012) *Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines*, 2nd edition. Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), London

potential of a site and its surrounding habitat to support this species, based on current Natural England guidance⁶.

2.10 Phase 1 Invertebrate Survey Methods

An assessment was made of the site for its potential value to support diverse communities of invertebrates or any Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or scarce species. The assessment was made based on the presence of habitat features which may support important invertebrate communities. These features include, for example, an abundance of dead wood, the presence of diverse plant communities, the presence of varied woodland structure and sunny woodland edges with a diverse flora, presence of ponds and water courses and the presence of free draining soil exposures. During the Phase 1 survey there was no attempt made to identify species present and where a site supports features that may be of importance to invertebrates then further Phase 2 surveys may be required to assess the importance of the site.

2.11 Other Notable Species Survey Methods

An assessment was made of the site for its potential value to support other notable species that do not have statutory protection, including United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species as well Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species, specific to the study region.

2.12 Phase 1 Survey Details

The extended Phase 1 ecological assessment was carried out by Simon Colenutt of ECOSA on 18th September 2015. The weather conditions were cloudy with approximately 80% cloud cover, an ambient temperature of 17°C and no wind.

During the Phase 1 survey the surveyor was equipped with a ladder, 10x40 binoculars, a high powered torch and a digital camera.

2.13 Phase 1 Survey Limitations

There were no limitations to the Phase 1 survey.

2.14 Initial Protected Species Assessment

Details of the assessment criteria used to determine the ecological value of on-site attributes during the Phase 1 survey is outlined below. During a Phase 1 survey the assessment criteria is based on the potential for the site to support the species considered, this is usually based on the on-site habitat features and their suitability for the species considered. However, in many cases Phase 2 surveys will be required to assess the status of species and hence the importance of a population at the site, therefore the assessment of value should be considered a provisional assessment.

⁶ English Nature (August 2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. Peterborough

2.15 Criteria used to Assess Ecological Value

The ecological values provided within this report are based around both professional judgement and current published relevant guidance, including information sources such as *A Nature Conservation Review*⁷ and *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom*⁸. Values provided are within the context of the site itself.

2.16 Criteria used to Assess Ecological Potential

Table 1 defines the criteria used to assess the potential of the site, its buildings and trees, to support protected species, based on the habitat characteristics of the site.

⁷ Ratcliffe, D. (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review*. Cambridge University Press

⁸ IEEM (2006) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK*

Table 1: Criteria used to assess ecological potential

	Bats⁹		Other Protected Species¹⁰
	Building Assessment	Tree Assessment	
Species Present	Evidence of bat presence confirmed during survey, which may include presence of live or dead bats, droppings, feeding remains or urine stains etc. Where possible, a provisional assessment of roost status is made.	In some instances, bat presence can be confirmed from trees e.g. where staining or droppings are visible; where roosting bats have been observed entering/emerging from a tree; or where roosting bats can be heard.	The presence of a protected species can sometimes be confirmed by evidence recorded, for example guard hairs or latrines for badger or hazel nuts gnawed in the characteristic style for dormice.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the status of the species present.		
High Potential	Buildings with features highly suitable for roosting bats, including gaps, hanging tiles or large lofts, etc. Often, but not always, buildings of more historic construction.	Trees with features such as loose bark, splits and deep or extensive holes suitable for roosting bats. High potential trees are generally large and/or mature specimens.	On-site habitat is of high quality for a species or species group. The site is within or near a geographic stronghold. Good quality surrounding habitat and good connectivity.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the presence/likely absence of the species.		
Medium Potential	Medium potential buildings have a moderate number of features that may be used by bats for roosting. These may include loose fascia, roof voids, etc.	This category includes trees with some interest for tree-roosting bats such as broken snags, some flaking bark, a covering of ivy or shallow holes.	On-site habitat is of moderate quality, providing most of the species/species group requirements. Limiting factors may include small habitat area or disturbance.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the presence/likely absence of the species.		
Low Potential	Buildings that provide limited bat roosting potential although some features that may be used by roosting bats may be present.	Low potential trees have some, although generally limited potential to support tree-roosting bats, or ivy may obscure roost features.	On-site habitat is of poor to moderate quality for the species or group. Presence cannot be discounted on the basis of distribution, isolation, surrounding habitats, etc.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the presence/likely absence of the species.		
Negligible Potential	Buildings that are extremely unlikely to support roosting bats due to the absence of suitable features.	Trees that provide few or no features with bat roosting potential.	Site includes very limited or poor quality habitat for the species /group; surrounding habitat is unlikely to support wider populations.
	Further Phase 2 surveys are unlikely to be required as species is unlikely to be present.		

⁹ The criteria are an attempt to qualify the potential for a given building or tree to support roosting bats and are to a degree subjective. Bats may make use of a single feature on an otherwise unsuitable building or tree and therefore an assessment of bat potential cannot solely be based on the quantity of potential roost features present.

¹⁰ Badger, dormouse, birds, reptiles, great crested newt, great crested newt (hsi), invertebrates, other notable species, vegetation

2.17 Phase 2 Reptile Survey

2.17.1 Survey Methods

The reptile survey consisted of distributing approximately 30 refugia, measuring approximately 0.5m x 0.5m in size in areas of suitable habitat within the site boundaries.

The refugia warm more rapidly than the surrounding environment and reptiles, being 'cold blooded', use the refugia to thermoregulate. Inspection of refugia is most effectively carried out in marginal weather conditions such as cold but sunny weather or hazy and somewhat overcast conditions, as this will maximise the thermal value of the refugia for basking reptiles. Inspections are generally ineffective in cold, wet conditions or in very hot, sunny weather. The use of such refugia is an effective way of surveying for all species of reptile and current survey guidance¹¹ states that seven inspections are sufficient to confirm presence/probable absence.

The refugia were placed on site in 22nd September 2015 within suitable habitat throughout the site which had been assessed as having potential to support species of reptile. The refugia were inspected for reptiles on seven subsequent occasions. During each survey visit the species, sex (if possible) and age of all reptiles encountered was recorded. In addition to inspecting the artificial refugia, any natural refugia on site was also checked and suitable features which could be used for hibernating reptile was recorded.

Details of dates and weather conditions for each Phase 2 reptile check are provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Phase 2 Reptile Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Survey Date	Temp	Weather Conditions
25 th September 2015	18°C	Sunny, clear, 0% cloud cover, no wind
28 th September 2015	17°C	Sunny, clear, 0% cloud cover, no wind
30 th September 2015	18°C	Sunny, clear, 0% cloud cover, light wind
2 nd October 2015	18°C	Sunny, clear, 0% cloud cover, gentle breeze
7 th October 2015	14°C	Overcast, clear, 100% cloud cover, gentle breeze
9 th October 2015	15°C	Sunny, clear, 0% cloud cover, no wind
12 th October 2015	16°C	Sunny, clear, 5% cloud cover, no wind

2.17.2 Phase 2 Reptile Survey Personnel

The Phase 2 reptile surveys were carried out by suitably qualified and experienced ECOSA surveyors, co-ordinated by Principal Ecologist Simon Colenutt.

¹¹ <http://www.froglife.org/>

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

This section details the results of the Ecological Assessment undertaken at Tamarisk, Ferry Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire during September and October 2015.

3.2 Desktop Study

3.2.1 Protected Species

Results from HBIC revealed a number of protected species records within a 1km radius of the site and a number of bat species within a 2km radius of the site. A large number of bird records were received from the records centre due to the close proximity of the Ramsar site, SAC and SPA. Relevant records to the site are discussed further within the relevant results section, below¹².

3.2.2 Statutory and Non-statutory Designated Sites

Consultation with HBIC and the MAGIC website revealed that there are six statutory and six non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation situated within a 1km radius of the site. The sites recorded include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Important Natural Conservation (SINCs). Details of these designations are provided in **Table 3** and **Table 4**. Further information on sites designated for nature conservation is provided in **Appendix 2**.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the site.

Designation	Name	Approximate Relative Location	Reason for Designation
Ramsar	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Adjacent to northern boundary of site	Chichester and Langstone Harbours are large, sheltered estuarine basins, comprising extensive mud and sand flats exposed at low tide. The Ramsar has a wide range of coastal and transitional habitats, with eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> species beds, large areas of mixed saltmarsh and extensive cord-grass <i>Spartina</i> species swards in an advanced state of degeneration. Fringing habitats include shingle spits, saline, brackish and freshwater lagoons, coastal grazing marsh and deciduous woodland. The Ramsar supports important plant and animal communities, and the site is of particular significance for over-wintering wildfowl and waders including: Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ; Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ; Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i> ; Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> ; Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ;

¹² The full data set is available on request from ECOSA.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the site.

Designation	Name	Approximate Relative Location	Reason for Designation
			Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ; Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ; Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> ; Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> ; Black-headed gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ; and Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> .
SPA	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Adjacent to northern boundary	Chichester and Langstone Harbours are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive sand- and mud-flats exposed at low tide. The two harbours are joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. Tidal channels drain the basin and penetrate far inland. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support extensive beds of algae, especially <i>Enteromorpha</i> species, and eelgrasses <i>Zostera</i> spp. The basin contains a wide range of coastal habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. The site is of particular significance for waterbirds, especially in migration periods and in winter. It also supports important colonies of breeding terns. Over winter, the area regularly supports 93,142 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>, bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>, dark-bellied brent goose, ringed plover, grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, redshank, little grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>, little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>, shelduck, curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>, teal <i>Anas crecca</i>, pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>, shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>, red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>, oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>, sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>, cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> and whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>.
SAC	Solent Maritime	Adjacent to northern boundary	Annex I habitats that are the primary reason for selection of this site: Estuaries; Spartina swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i>; and Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature: Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Coastal lagoons; Annual vegetation of drift lines; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; and Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes').

Table 3: Statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the site.

Designation	Name	Approximate Relative Location	Reason for Designation
			Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>.
SSSI	Langstone Harbour	Adjacent to northern boundary to site	The harbour is of international importance as a rich intertidal system supporting high densities of intertidal invertebrates and large populations of migrant and overwintering waders and wildfowl, dependent upon them and upon the extensive beds of eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> species. Farlington Marshes intrudes into the north-west sector of the harbour and embraces a variety of habitats – brackish marsh, fresh marsh, a large lagoon with associated reed <i>Phragmites</i> beds, <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> grassland and scrub. It is a vital high water wader roost for the Harbour and a major feeding ground for brent geese.
SSSI	Sinah Common	110m south	The site is notified for its coastal habitats including the following: pioneer shingle vegetation, maritime shingle grassland which includes dry acid grassland and lichen rich acid grassland, mobile dune, semi-fixed dune, dune heath and an associated small area of saltmarsh. The site is also notified for the chiding pink <i>Petrorhagia nauteuillii</i> an endangered plant which occurs at just two sites in Britain, and for its outstanding assemblage of nationally scarce plants including little robin <i>Geranium purpureum</i>, Nottingham catchfly <i>Silene nutans</i>, bulbous meadow-grass <i>Poa bulbosa</i>, bearded fescue <i>Vulpia fasciculata</i> subsp <i>ambigua</i>, dune fescue <i>Vulpia fasciculata</i>, suffocated clover <i>Trifolium suffocatum</i>, smooth cat's-ear <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>, stiff saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinella rupestris</i>, mossy stonecrop <i>Crassula tillaea</i>, toothed medick <i>Medicago polymorpha</i> and dotted sedge <i>Carex punctata</i>.
LNR	The Kench, Hayling Island	340m east	A small area of inter-tidal mud and saltmarsh within Langstone Harbour. This shallow tidal inlet alongside Ferry Road on Hayling Island is used by many birds as a feeding area while the tide is out and when it is high the shingle ridge between the inlet and the main harbour is used as a roost by waders.

Table 4: Non-statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the site.

Designation	Name	Approximate Relative Location	Reason for Designation
SINC	Sinah Warren Village Marsh	960m east	Semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats, including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, sand dunes, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands and site supports one or more notable species including golden-samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i> and sea wormwood <i>Seriphidium maritimum</i> .
SINC	Eastney Beach	870m south west	Semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands, site supports an outstanding assemblage of notable species including sea bindweed <i>Calystegia soldanella</i> , sea radish <i>Raphanus raphanistrum maritimus</i> , English stonecrop <i>Sedum anglicum</i> , Nottingham catchfly <i>Silene nutans</i> and suffocated clover <i>Trifolium suffocatum</i> and site is particularly valuable for environmental education purposes which are readily accessible and hold a significant range of species or habitats, or has species that are of particular educational interest.
SINC	Fort Cumberland	850m south west	Agriculturally unimproved grasslands and grasslands that have developed without herbicides or fertilisers and are composed of a mixed assemblage of indigenous species in essentially semi-natural communities, semi-improved grasslands which retain a significant element of unimproved grassland. semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands, site supports an outstanding assemblage of notable species including flattened meadow grass <i>Poa compressa</i> , sea radish <i>Raphanus raphanistrum maritimus</i> , wild clary <i>Salvia verbenaca</i> , Nottingham catchfly <i>Silene nutans</i> and Autumn lady's tresses <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> .
SINC	Land West of Fort Cumberland	680m south west	Semi-improved grasslands which retain a significant element of unimproved grassland., semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands, site supports an outstanding assemblage of notable species including dittander <i>Lepidium latifolium</i> , sea radish <i>Raphanus raphanistrum maritimus</i> and Autumn lady's tresses <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> and site is particularly valuable for environmental education purposes which are readily accessible and hold a significant range of species or habitats, or has species that are of particular educational interest.
SINC	The Kench Scrubs	495m east	Semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats, including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, sand dunes, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands and site supports one or more notable species including golden-samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i> , sea radish <i>Raphanus raphanistrum maritimus</i> and sea mayweed <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> .

SINC	The Kench Beach (East)	485m south east	Semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats, including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, sand dunes, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands and site supports one or more notable species including marram <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> , golden-samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i> and sea radish <i>Raphanus raphanistrum maritimus</i> .
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3.3 Phase 1 Vegetation Survey Results

The vegetation within the site is described here in general terms using Phase 1 habitat survey terminology and referring to dominant, characteristic and other noteworthy species in each vegetation type within the survey area. The habitat types on site consist of:

- Scattered scrub;
- Improved grassland; and
- Buildings

3.3.1 Scattered Scrub

Scrub comprises of typical garden species including rose *Rosa* species, conifer *Pinophyta* species, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Swedish whitebeam *Sorbus intermedia*, lavender *Lavandula* species, variegated privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium aureum* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1: Entrance to Tamarisk site with scrub species present either side of overgrown “driveway”

3.3.2 Improved Grassland

Located at the northern and southern ends of the site (**Figures 2** and **Figure 3**). The grassland is typical coastland sparse grassland with fibrous plant species. The species found here include sea couch *Agropyron pungens*, sea holly *Eryngium maritimum*, cats-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, buck’s-horn plantain *Plantago coronopus*, bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, Oxford ragwort *Senecio*

squalidus, sand sedge *Carex arenaria*, evening primrose *Oenothera* species, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, subterranean clover *Trifolium subterraneum* and dovesfoot cranesbill *Geranium molle*.



Figure 2: Grassland located towards the south of the site



Figure 3: Grassland located behind the house to the north of the site.

3.3.3 Summary

The site is dominated by the building and associated hardstanding. A small area of grass is located in the south of the site and of vegetation comprises of common and widespread habitats and species. It is considered to be of **low ecological value**.

3.4 Phase 1 Bat Survey Results

3.4.1 Bats - Building Assessment

The only building on site is the existing residential dwelling. This building is well sealed and supports no potential bat roosting features.

The results of the Phase 1 survey of the Tamarisk building are provided in **Table 5**.

3.4.2 Bats - Tree Assessment

The trees on site are immature and lack any potential bat roost features. The site is considered to have **negligible potential** for tree roosting bats.

3.4.3 Bats - Foraging and Commuting Habitat

The wider area provides good foraging and commuting resources for bats in the form of treelines and wooded areas located at Sinah Common, however the closest of these habitats to the site is over 700m away. The site has poor connectivity to off-site habitats and lacks any suitable habitat on the site itself. Three records of bat were returned within the desk study data but the location and nature of these records is sensitive and therefore no disclosed. The site is considered to have **low potential** for foraging and commuting bats.

Table 5: Building assessment – summary of features with bat roost potential and evidence of bat roost activity

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Evidence of Bat Roost Activity and Location	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
Existing Residential Dwelling	 Figure 4: The existing house on site	A plastic clad structure with a flat felt roof, no roof void and well-sealed (Figure 4). The structure is located in the north-eastern corner of the site.	This building does not support any potential bat roost features.	No evidence of bat roost activity was recorded during the survey.	Negligible

3.5 Phase 1 Badger Survey Results

No evidence of badger activity was recorded on site during the Phase 1 survey. The scattered scrub and grassland provide limited foraging opportunities for foraging badger, however the lack of connectivity to off-site habitats reduce the likelihood that badger would visit the site. The HBIC desk study returned no records of badger within 1km of the site and the site is assessed as having **negligible potential** for badger.

3.6 Phase 1 Dormouse Survey Results

The site does not support habitat suitable for supporting this species, comprising mainly hardstanding, a building and grassland. The site is also isolated from any other suitable habitat for dormouse. No records of dormouse within 1km of the site were returned from the HBIC desk study. The site is considered to have **negligible potential** for supporting dormouse.

3.7 Phase 1 Bird Survey Results

Due to the site's close proximity to the Langstone Harbour Ramsar site, SPA, SSSI and Solent Maritime SAC, a large number of bird species records were returned within the HBIC desk study for a search distance of 1km around the site. The site, however, offers no suitability for wintering birds.

A number of birds were recorded during the Phase 1 survey, passing over the site or associated with off-site habitat, comprising robin *Erithacus rubecula*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* and carrion crow *Corvus corone*. Species recorded off-shore during the survey, in proximity to the site, include cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* and redshank *Tringa totanus*.

The small area of scrub provides some potential for nesting birds but overall the site is considered to have **low potential** for supporting breeding birds. The site has negligible potential for waders/geese from the adjacent SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI.

3.8 Phase 1 Reptile Survey Results

The overgrown grassland habitat and scattered scrub provide some basking and sheltering opportunities for common reptile species. The HBIC desk study revealed no records of reptiles within 1km of the site. The site is assessed as having **low potential** to support common reptile species.

3.8.1 Phase 2 Reptile Survey Results

Despite the surveys being carried out during optimal weather conditions during the months of September and October, no reptiles were recorded at the Tamarisk site. No suitable hibernation features were recorded on the site and the lack of suitable adjacent

habitat, the coastal location of the site and nature of the habitats on site suggest that this species group is absent from the site.

3.9 Phase 1 Great Crested Newt Survey Results

No waterbodies suitable for great crested newt are present on site or within 500 metres of the site. Furthermore, the terrestrial habitat on site is unsuitable for great crested newts. No records of great crested newt within 1km of the site were returned from the HBIC desk study. Therefore the site is considered to have **negligible potential** for supporting great crested newts.

3.10 Phase 1 Invertebrate Survey Results

The site may support small numbers of common and widespread terrestrial invertebrate species given the low ecological value of the habitats present. A large number of invertebrate records were included within the desk study data for a search area of 1km from the site boundary although these species are associated with the designated sites rather than the site itself. The site is considered to be of **negligible potential** to support rare or notable invertebrate species or assemblages.

4.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the planning policy in relation to ecology and biodiversity within the Havant Borough Council administrative area.

4.2 Planning Policy

4.2.1 National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's requirements for the planning system in England. A number of sections of the NPPF are relevant when taking into account development proposals and the environment. As set out within Paragraph 14 of the NPPF *“At heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking”* however at paragraph 119 it goes on to state that *“The presumption on favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined”*.

The general impetus of the NPPF in relation to ecology and biodiversity is for development proposals to not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement. Paragraph 109 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by *“...minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible...”*

Paragraph 118 states that *“when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity”*. A number of principles are set out in Paragraph 118 including the principle that where harm cannot be adequately avoided then it should be mitigated for or as a last resort compensated for; where impacts occur on nationally designated sites the benefits must clearly outweigh any adverse impact; incorporating biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged; protection of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodlands and that those sites proposed as potential SPAs, SACs and Ramsars or acting as compensation for SPAs, SACs and Ramsar should receive the same protection as European sites.

In addition to the NPPF Circular 06/05 provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Paragraph 98 states *“the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat”* whilst paragraph 99 states *“it is essential*

that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before planning permission is granted”.

4.2.2 Local Policy

Local planning policy within Havant Borough is provided by the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011 with a single policy referring in part ecology and biodiversity:

- **Policy CS11:** Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough. This policy refers in part to biodiversity stating that planning permission will be granted for development that:
 - Protects and where possible enhances the borough’s statutory and non-statutory designated habitats and features of biological interest. Protection and enhancement will be achieved by appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures;
 - Has particular regard for nature conservation designations with international designations given the highest regard;
 - Supports an ongoing programme of survey of habitats, species and designations of SINCs;
 - Incorporates partnership working with conservation organisations to improve public understanding of biodiversity and to manage public access to designated sites, particularly associated with the coasts, in order to minimise harm;
 - Incorporates partnership working with landowners and developers to ensure land management practices restore, enhance and where appropriate create new valued landscapes, habitats and their soil structure, particularly the ancient woodland remnants of the Forest of Bere and coastal salt marsh;
 - Protects wildlife habitats and corridors to prevent fragmentation and to allow species to adapt to climate change; and
 - Responds to the emerging evidence from the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project and published recommendations and further research.

- **Policy DM9:** Development in the Coastal Zone. This policy refers to the protection of the coastal zone as defined on the Proposals Map. Permission will only be granted in the coastal zone where the following criteria are met:

-
- Has no harmful effects on nature conservation within the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SSSIs and SPA, Solent Maritime SAC and Ramsar site, or any SINC and Local Nature Reserves;
 - Maintains and enhances the appearance and distinctiveness of existing settlements and landmarks along the coast;
 - Contributes positively to the landscape and has regard to best practice on the design of new buildings in coastal locations;
 - Upgrades existing footpaths and ensures that public access is retained and provided to connect existing paths along the waterfront where appropriate;
 - Would result in improvements to or redistribution of moorings, marine berths or launch on demand facilities (dry berths) in the harbours;
 - Would not be detrimental to infrastructure for, and quality of, water-based recreation, or be detrimental to the safety of navigation; and
 - Provides recreational opportunities that do not adversely affect the character and appearance of the coast.

5.0 EVALUATION, IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section presents the conclusions of the Ecological Assessment. It provides an initial assessment of the likely ecological constraints to the proposed development and detailed recommendations for any further survey work or mitigation measures considered necessary. An outline of protected species legislation relevant to the findings of this report is provided in **Appendix 3**. Full details of the evaluations, impacts and recommendations relating to protected species at the site are contained in **Table 6**.

5.2 Site Evaluation

The site comprises poor improved grassland and scattered scrub vegetation that comprise of common and widespread species of low ecological value. The site has been assessed as having potential to support for breeding and overwintering birds and common species of reptiles. The site has been assessed as having negligible potential for supporting any other protected or notable species.

5.3 Potential Key Impacts of Development

The proposed developments entail the demolition of the house in the northern section of the site and the construction of a new modern replacement dwelling to be located in the central area of the site. The existing site entrance will be re-used. There are no plans for any external lighting of the new property. Depending upon the results of the flood risk assessment (underway at the time of writing this report), the sea wall forming the northern site boundary may need to be re-enforced. In the absence of mitigation, the potential ecological impacts of these works are:

- Potential disturbance and/or harm to breeding birds during construction works if undertaken during the nesting season;
- Potential disturbance to overwintering birds during the demolition and construction works if undertaken during the winter season;
- Potential disturbance to overwintering birds during the re-enforcement works to the sea wall (should this prove necessary); and
- Potential for construction related incidents (spillages, vibration, air/water pollution) during the demolition and construction phases of the works impacting on habitats and species for which the Ramsar site, SPA/SAC are designated.

5.4 Outline of Key Mitigation and Enhancements

The following main mitigation and enhancement measures have been designed to minimise the potential impacts and enhance the site for wildlife:

- It is recommended that vegetation clearance is carried out during September. This will avoid both the main bird breeding season and also the wintering bird season. Alternatively, if the clearance of the scrub vegetation is carried out during the summer months (March to August), an ecologist would check the vegetation first for any nesting birds; any active nests found would need an undisturbed 5-10m buffer left until nesting ends naturally. If clearance is carried out during the winter, hand tools would be used to avoid use of machinery on site and possible disturbance issues arising to overwintering birds within the adjacent Ramsar site, SPA, SAC;
- Due the location of the site in relation to the Ramsar site, SPA/SAC, it is recommended that all construction related works take place outside of the core wintering bird months beginning of October to mid-March. Timing the works outside of these months will avoid potential impacts of noise and vibration to birds which may be present near to the site within the adjacent Langstone Harbour. If this is not possible, suitable measures will be discussed and agreed with the LPA to ensure disturbance levels are kept to an acceptable level; and
- To ensure best practice is followed on site during all constructed related tasks (including vegetation clearance, demolition, construction), a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be written and approved by the local planning authority. This document will include information relating to the sensitive timing of work and pollution prevention control measures. An ecologist will provide the necessary information to feed into this document to ensure all appropriate measures are taken avoid impacts on the adjacent designated sites.

5.5 Evaluation Against Relevant Planning Policy

Given the impacts identified and the subsequent recommendations made it is considered that the proposals will accord with all relevant national and local planning policy (see **Section 4**).

Table 6: Evaluations, impacts and recommendations relating to protected species at the site

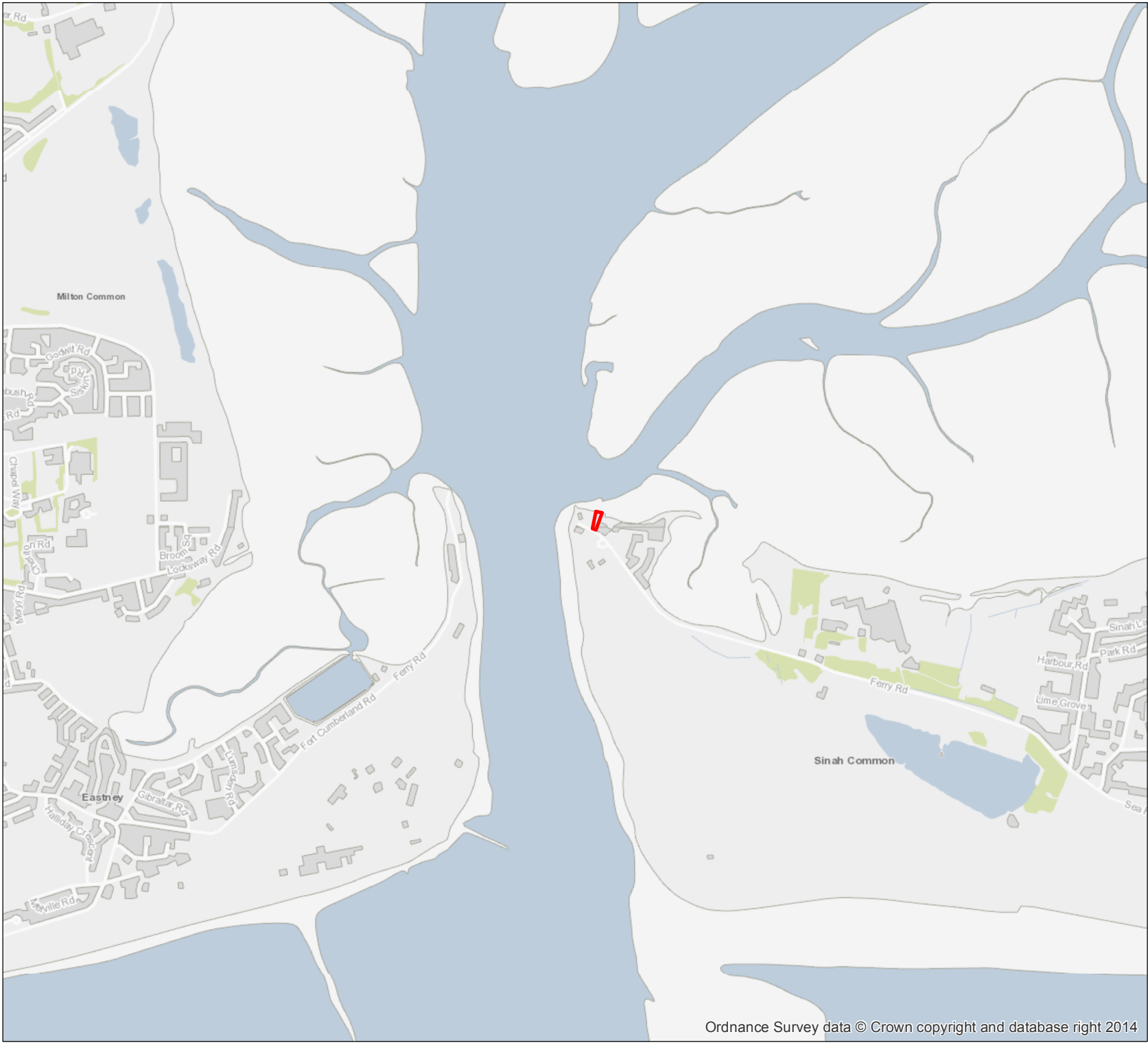
Ecological Feature	Summary	Potential Impacts of Development	Recommendations
Designated Sites	Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar site/SSSI and Solent Maritime SAC is situated adjacent to the northern site boundary. A large number of wintering bird records were included within the desk study data relating to the surrounding designated sites. A total of six SINC's are present within 1km of the site boundary, the nearest of which is approximately 485m away.	Demolition and construction work may create extra pollution and noise impacts associated with the works that may impact on adjacent designated sites. There are no anticipated impacts on SINC's due to their distance from the site and the relatively minor nature of the proposals.	A CEMP, with appropriate input from an ecologist, will be written and approved by the LPA before any vegetation clearance, demolition and construction works commence on site. The ecologist will be consulted on any repair work that may be needed to the sea wall along the northern site boundary and any sensitive timings/construction methodologies will be first agreed with the LPA and covered within the CEMP. If possible, all construction related works will be carried out outside of the wintering bird season (beginning of October to mid-March) to avoid disturbance of wintering birds. Otherwise, suitable mitigation will be discussed and agreed with the LPA to ensure no impacts arise from the construction phase of the scheme. There are no other recommendations considered necessary in relation to designated sites.
Vegetation	The site comprises of low ecological value poor improved grassland and a small extent of scrub vegetation.	The entire site will be cleared of vegetation. The loss of the vegetation on site will be permanent. There is little scope for any planting apart from a small number of trees and some planters.	Species appropriate to the location and nature of the site will be planted. These will be predominantly native species. An ecologist can provide further advice if needed.
Bats	The building and habitats on site provide negligible potential for roosting/foraging/commuting bats. The building does not offer any suitable roosting features for bats and the site's vegetation is restricted in size and sparse in nature, offering little in terms of any foraging habitat. The sites isolated nature and coastal location reduces the likelihood of bats commuting over/around the site.	No lighting will be introduced on site. There are no anticipated impacts on bats.	There are no recommendations for bats.
Badger	No evidence of badgers was recorded during the survey. No records of badger were returned from the desk study. The site offers limited foraging	There are no anticipated impacts on badger	There are no recommendations for badger.

Ecological Feature	Summary	Potential Impacts of Development	Recommendations
	resources and has poor connectivity to off-site habitats. The site is considered to have negligible potential for badgers.		
Dormouse	The site has been assessed as having negligible potential for supporting dormouse, lacking any suitable habitat and isolated from any suitable off-site habitat. Dormouse records were not present within the desk study data.	Given the absence of any suitable habitat no impacts on dormouse are anticipated as a result of the proposals.	There are no recommendations in respect of dormouse.
Breeding Birds	The small amount of scrub on site may provide some nesting opportunities for breeding birds and a number of bird species were recorded during the survey. Overall the site is considered to provide low potential for nesting birds.	Potential disturbance and/or harm to breeding birds during construction and extraction works if undertaken during the nesting season. All birds, their nests, eggs and young are legally protected, see Appendix 3 for details.	Vegetation clearance will be undertaken by hand if carried out during the winter months. If carried out during the summer, an ecologist will undertake a pre-clearance check to detect any active nests.
Reptiles	The findings of the Phase 1 survey suggested the site provided some suitability for reptiles and Phase 2 reptile surveys were carried out during September and October 2015. No reptiles were recorded during the surveys and reptiles are considered absent from the site.	There will be no impacts to reptiles arising from the site proposals.	There are no recommendations considered necessary in relation to reptile.
Great Crested Newt	There are no waterbodies present on site and no waterbodies were found within 500m during a review of aerial photography and OS mapping. The terrestrial habitat is of poor quality for great crested newts and has poor connectivity to off-site habitats. The site is considered to have negligible potential for this species.	There are no anticipated impacts for this species associated with the site proposals.	There are no recommendations in relation to great crested newt.
Invertebrates	The site supports low value habitats that are considered common or widespread. It has negligible potential for supporting rare or notable invertebrate species or assemblages.	There are no anticipated impacts for this species associated with the site proposals.	There are no specific recommendations for invertebrates. Planting on site will be minimal and comprise a few trees at the entrance and some planters. Species chosen should comprise those known to attract wildlife.

5.6 Updating Survey

If works have not commenced by September 2017, it is recommended that the ecological assessment is updated. This is because many of the species considered during the current survey are highly mobile and the ecology of the site is likely to change over this period. A change in the proposals for the site may also require the Ecological Assessment to be re-visited to ensure the impact assessment and mitigation proposals are relevant.

Map 1 Site Location



**TAMARISK, FERRY ROAD,
HAYLING ISLAND, HAMPSHIRE**

**PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL
APPRAISAL**

Map 1 - Site Location

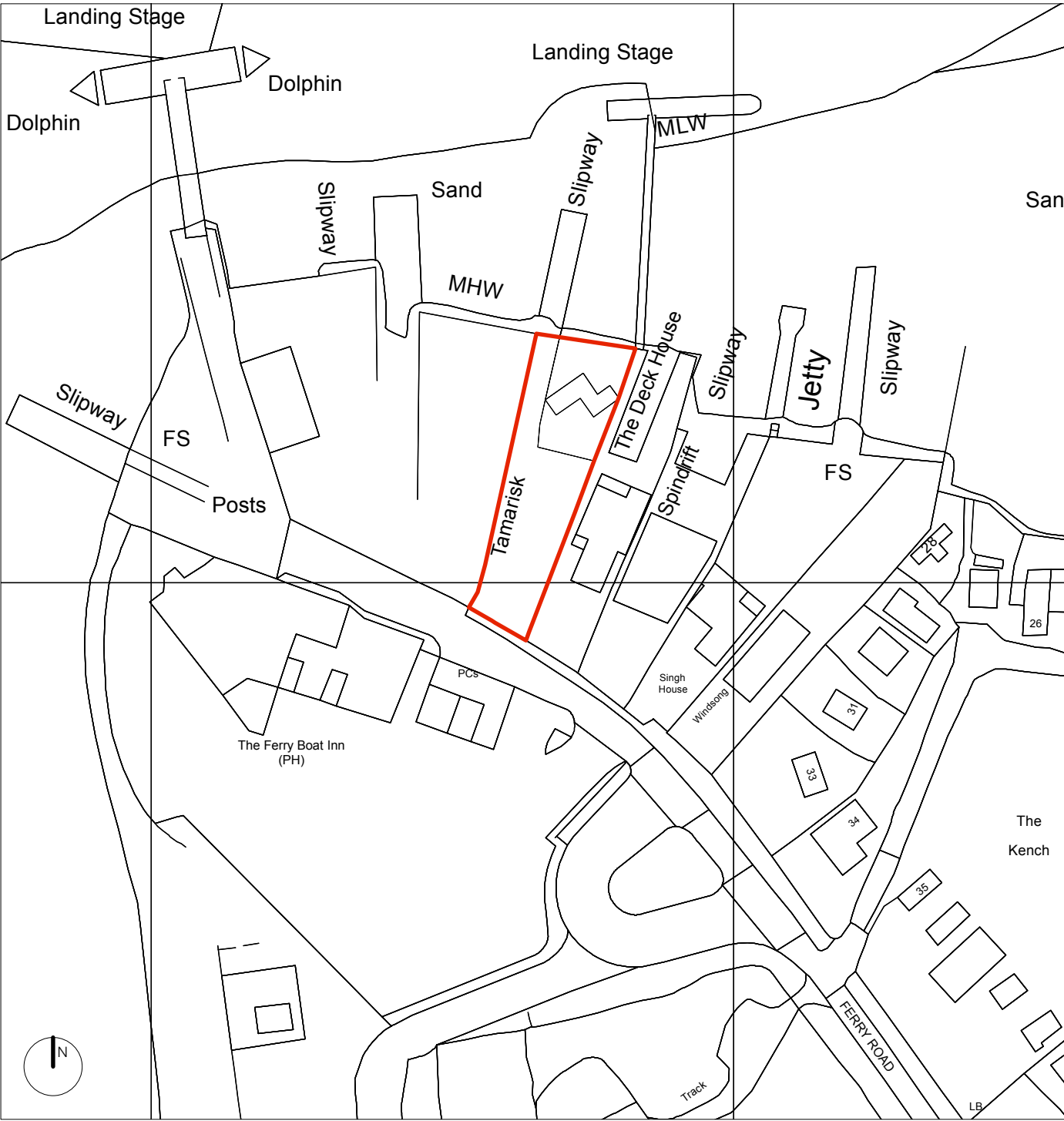
Client:	John Pardey Architects
Date:	October 2015
Status:	Final

KEY
 Site Boundary

Scale at A4: 1:15,000
0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Metres

ECOSA
Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited
ECOSA Ltd., Ten Hogs House, Manor Farm Offices,
Flexford Road, North Baddesley, Hampshire SO52 9DF
Telephone: 02380 261065
Email: info@ecosa.co.uk Web: www.ecosa.co.uk

Appendix 1 Proposed Site Layout



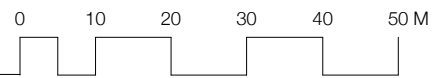
Licence & Data Information

Data provider : Ordnance Survey
Licence Number : 100031961
Licence Start Date: 25/09/2015
Licence End Date: 24/09/2016
Order ID: 1570459
Vendor: Xerocad
Customer Organisation: John Pardey Architects
Extract extent coordinates: min x, min y (468770.73,99900.07) to max x, max y (468970.73,100100.07)
Area Licenced: 4.0 ha
Supplied Data Format: DWG
Products: Maternap
Map units : Metres
Approximate last update of dataset : April 2015
Approximate update frequency of dataset : 6-8 weeks
Coordinate reference system : British National Grid (OSGB36/E)

Data provider copyright : © Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved.



SITE LOCATION PLAN
SCALE 1:1000



BLOCK PLAN
SCALE 1:200



KEY:

APPLICATION SITE BOUNDARY

STATUS: PLANNING-PRELIMINARY
SCALE: 1:1000 @ A1 & 1:200 @ A1

DATE: OCTOBER 2015

DRAWING NO: 1505-PP-100
TITLE: SITE LOCATION PLAN & BLOCK PLAN

PROJECT: TAMARISK, FERRY ROAD, HAYLING ISLAND PO11 0DG

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Appendix 2 Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Statutory Sites

Internationally Designated Sites - Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) form a network of protected sites across the European Union called Natura 2000. In the United Kingdom the primary legislative protection is afforded to these sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Ramsar sites are designated as wetlands of international importance which are afforded similar legislative protection to the Natura 2000 sites.

SACs specifically are sites which support internationally important habitats or internationally important assemblages or populations of species. SPAs are designated for supporting internationally important populations of birds listed in the annexes of the Birds Directive. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are generally also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest at the national level.

Under Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) there is a legal requirement that competent authorities, such as local planning authorities, need to consider whether plans or projects are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In the event that a likely significant effect cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information then the competent authority must undertake an “Appropriate Assessment” to fully assess the plan or project against the sites conservation objectives. Unless certain defined derogation tests can be met the competent authority may not authorise nor undertake any plan or project which adversely affects the integrity of a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.

Nationally Designated Sites – Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Such sites are designated to protect specific areas of biological or geological interest of national importance. Such sites also generally receive strict protection through the planning system.

National Nature Reserves (NNR) are also usually designated as SSSIs and area specifically managed for their wildlife value. They received legal protection through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As with SSSIs these sites generally receive strict protection through the planning system.

Locally Designated Sites – Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are designated by local authorities under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are generally designated not only for their local wildlife value but also for education, scientific and recreational purposes. These sites generally receive protection from development through the planning system.

Non-Statutory Sites

Locally Designated Sites

In addition to statutory designations local authorities often designate sites of nature conservation importance at the local level. Such designations are named differently by each local authority and may be referred to as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) amongst others. The exact level of protection afforded to these sites varies and is normally defined through local planning policy.

Appendix 3 Protected Species Legislation

Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions, 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, 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.

