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Preliminary Ecological Assessment Land off New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hampshire



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Client:
Scottish & Southern Energy Power
Distribution

Prepared by:
ADAS UK Ltd
Richmond House
Avonmouth Way
Avonmouth
Bristol
BS11 8DE

Tel: 0117 2444000

Quality Assurance

Author (s)	Checked	Approved (*)
Emma Davis MSc GradCIEEM	Peter Hancocks BSc(Hons) MCIEEM	Peter Hancocks BSc(Hons) MCIEEM

* Denotes full membership to IEEM

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1. SUMMARY

ADAS UK Ltd was commissioned by Scottish & Southern Energy Power Distribution to undertake an Initial Ecological Assessment of land off New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hampshire.

- The site was dominated by semi-improved neutral grassland with a limited amount of dense and scattered scrub, tall ruderal and ephemeral / short perennial vegetation of negligible ecological value, as well as two fenced compound areas.
- A small area of broad-leaved woodland and scattered trees plus scrub was considered to be of Parish ecological value.
- The habitats on site provided potentially suitable features to support amphibians, reptiles, Hedgehogs, nesting birds and roosting bats.

1.1.Recommendations

- Conserve woodland, trees and dense scrub where possible.
- Initial excavations should ideally be undertaken outside of the period October/November to March inclusive. Initial ground work should be undertaken in a careful manner with a watching brief maintained for amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehogs.
- Any above ground vegetation clearance should ideally be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (which is considered to be March to August inclusive). If this is not possible the area should first be checked for any in-use nests.
- It is recommended that any mature trees that could be affected are safeguarded throughout the course of any works.
- Should an Italian Alder with Ivy or building in the Telecoms compound be affected by works, further assessment for bats will be required.
- Ecological mitigation should be co-ordinated across the larger site.
- Recommendations for ecological enhancement works are included within the report.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Background

On 24th September 2014 Emma Davis, an ADAS ecological consultant, undertook an Initial Ecological Assessment of land off New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hampshire (central Grid Reference: SU 750 063).

2.2. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the survey and supporting desk study was to review any ecological constraints at the site. The report includes the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and relevant legislation to identify ecological features within or near the site that could potentially pose a constraint to any proposed works and highlight any opportunities for incorporating biodiversity enhancements into the proposals.

The objectives of this report are:

- To identify designated nature conservation sites within the vicinity of the site;
- To identify any records and/or populations of protected, notable or scarce species in the vicinity of the site;
- To record habitats or features of ecological interest within or in immediate proximity of the site;
- To record the presence of, or potential for, protected or notable species;
- To make an ecological assessment and highlight potential ecological constraints;
- To outline any further survey work and potential protected species requirements if relevant; and
- To make suggestions for mitigation and compensation where appropriate.

2.3. Site Description

The site was an area of green space to the north of Emsworth between the railway (to the south of the site) and A27 (to the north). Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland immediately abutted the site to the north. There was a track to the east and green space to the west.

The site was predominately a semi-improved field with a pocket of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland along the southern boundary, scattered trees along the eastern boundary, dense and scattered scrub mainly along the western and northern boundary and areas of tall ruderal vegetation, particularly around an area of hard-standing near the eastern boundary. Two areas to the east of the site were fenced-off – one was an old gas compound which contained gravel, ephemeral / short perennial vegetation and tree-saplings. The other area contained a telecoms mast and a building surrounded by gravel.

2.4. Proposed works

The proposals include the building of a new sub-station with switch house, compound, fencing and access road.

2.5. Limitations / Constraints

The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment were conducted on a showery day during September 2014, following standard methodologies and survey protocols (JNCC, 2010). The survey effort, methodology and hence results are likely to provide an accurate account of the broad habitat types.

The two fenced-off compounds were not accessed and hence were only surveyed by looking through the fencing.

Where there is an appreciable delay in referring to this report, the survey results may be considered invalid and require updating.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1.Desk Study

A desk study was carried out to identify European Designated Sites within 7km of the site, UK statutory and non-statutory nature conservation designated sites within 5km and records of any protected or otherwise notable species within 1km of the site boundary. In addition any statutory sites that have a recognised impact area were also searched for. Two biological records centres were consulted.

The following sources were consulted:

- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (www.3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic)
- Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (www.sxbrc.org.uk)
- National Biodiversity Network (www.nbn.org.uk)
- MAGIC (www.magic.gov.uk)
- UK Species and Habitats of Principal Importance (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>)
- Hampshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (www.ukbap.org.uk)

3.2.Field Survey Methodology

An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment was conducted on the 24th September 2014 by Emma Davis, an ADAS Ecologist, using standard techniques and methodologies (JNCC, 2010) and the nomenclature of Stace (2005).

Habitats on site were recorded onto a field map and can be found in Appendix 1 and photographs in Appendix 2.

3.3.Assessment Methodology

The report and assessment follow standard CIEEM guidelines for preliminary ecological appraisals (Bennett, B, 2012).

The habitat and species value are described and assessed with reference to a five point scale from negligible, through low, medium and high, to very high,

as published under the guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (IEEM, 2006) and given in Appendix 3 and 4.

The trees on site were inspected and classified for roosting bats using the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (2012) as follows in Table 1.

Table 1: Value of Trees to Bats

Tree Category	Description
Known or confirmed roost	Self-explanatory
Category 1*	Trees with multiple highly suitable features capable of supporting larger roosts.
Category 1	Trees with definite bat potential, supporting fewer suitable features than category 1* trees or with potential for use by single bats.
Category 2	Trees with no obvious potential, although the tree is of a size and age that elevated surveys may result in cracks or crevices being found; or the tree supports some features which may have limited potential to support bats.
Category 3	Trees with no potential to support bats.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Desk Study Results

There were three European designated sites within 7km of the site (see Table 2 below), five nationally designated sites within 5km (see Table 3 below), and ten non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the site (see Table 4 below).

Table 2: Locations of European designated sites within 7km of the site

Site Name	Designation	Distance & Direction from site (km)	Description
Chichester & Langstone Harbours	SPA, Ramsar	0.77 S	Large, sheltered estuarine basins supporting bird populations of European importance.
Solent Maritime	SAC	0.77 S	A major estuarine system supporting <i>Spartina</i> swards & Atlantic salt meadows
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons	SAC	6.20 SW	Tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, lagoons, salt-marsh, pasture & steppes

SAC = Special Area of Conservation

SPA = Special Protection Areas

Table 3: Locations of designated and non-designated sites within 5km of the site

Site Name	Designation	Distance & Direction from site (km)	Description
Chichester Harbour	SSSI	0.77 S	Large estuarine basin and permanent pasture and woodland of particular significance for overwintering and breeding birds.
Warblington Meadows	SSSI	2.1 SW	Unimproved grazing marsh
Langstone Harbour	SSSI	3.87 SW	Large estuarine basin of particular importance for birds.
Eames Farm	LNR	1.25 SW	No information available
Brook Meadow	LNR	0.04 S	Five acres of grassland
Lumley Meadow	SNCI	0.22 SSE	Rare plants (Sedges)
Bridge Road, Emsworth	SNCI	0.35 SW	Road verge of Ecological importance
Westbrook Stream	SNCI	0.40 SW	Rare plants (Water Plantain)
Stream West of Emsworth Recreation Ground	SNCI	0.49NW	Rare Plants (Water Plantain)
Land West of Emsworth Recreation Ground	SNCI	0.64 NW	No information available
Emsworth Millpond	SNCI	0.89 SSW	Pond and recreation area
Nutbourne Pastures	SNCI	0.9 S	Semi-improved grassland & ditches of importance to overwintering birds
Slipper Mill Pond & Peter Pond	SNCI	0.67 SSE	Coastal lagoons
Thornham Point	SNCI	1.5km S	Saltmarsh
River Ems & Meadows	SNCI	1.8km NW	Neutral grassland, river & wet woodland

SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest

LNR = Local Nature Reserve

SNCI = Site of Nature Conservation Interest

There were a number of records of protected or notable species from within 1km of the site (see Table 5 below).

Table 4: Selected protected or notable species recorded within 1km of the site

Species	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site
Stag Beetle	UKBAP, S41, LBAP	0.92 SW
Common Toad	UKBAP, S41	0.22 ESE
Slow-worm*	WCA5, UKBAP, S41	On-site
Common Lizard*	WCA5, UKBAP, S41	On-site
Grass snake*	WCA5, UKBAP, S41	On-site
Starling	S41, Red listed	1.04 WSW
Noctule	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41	0.10 S
Soprano Pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41, LBAP	0.2 S
Natterer's	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41	0.3 S
Daubenton's	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41	0.3 S
Serotine	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41, LBAP	0.3 S
Myotis Species	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41	0.3 S
Brown Long-eared	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41	0.32 NNE
Common Pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41, LBAP	0.5 S
Whiskered / Brandts	EPS, WCA5, UKBAP, S41	0.98 NNE
European Water Vole	WCA5, UKBAP, S41, LBAP	0.2 S
European Hedgehog	UKBAP, S41	0.64 SE

EPS = European Protected Species (EU Habitats Directive)

WCA5 = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Species

UKBAP = UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species

S41 = Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

LBAP = Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Red list = Birds of Conservation Concern

* Record from previous survey work by Aluco Ecology

There were a number of coastal and estuarine bird species also recorded within 1km of the site.

4.2. Habitat Survey Results

The following habitats were present on site (for a habitat map see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 for photos):

- Broad-leaved Semi-natural Woodland and Scattered Trees
- Dense scrub
- Scattered scrub

- Semi-Improved Neutral Grassland
- Tall Ruderal
- Ephemeral / short perennial
- Fence
- Building & Hard-standing

There were no invasive non-native species seen during the site visit.

4.2.1. Broad-leaved Semi-Natural Woodland and Scattered Trees

Along the southern boundary of the site, immediately adjacent to the railway was a line of trees comprised of mature Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with a minimal understorey. There were scattered trees around two fenced-off compounds to the east of the site of mainly Willow (*Salix sp*) with the occasional Hawthorn and a mature Italian Alder, *Alnus cordata* covered in Ivy (*Hedera Helix*) (T1 on the Phase 1 map, Appendix 1) between the two compounds.

4.2.2. Dense Scrub

There were dense areas of scrub mainly along the western boundary of the site adjacent to the area of open green space and along the western edge of the northern boundary. This consisted of mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with occasional Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*).

4.2.3. Scattered Scrub

Scattered scrub was interspersed with tall ruderal vegetation along the eastern boundary and around two fenced-off areas as well as to the south of the field. This was mainly Bramble, with occasional Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

4.2.4. Semi-Improved Neutral Grassland

The majority of the site comprised short-cropped neutral, semi-improved grassland which had been used as a horse-paddock. The dominant grass species was Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with occasional Cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Perennial Rye-grass

(*Lolium perenne*) and Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Herb species within the sward included occasional Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) with Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) occurring rarely. Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) were also present in some parts of the field.

4.2.5. Tall Ruderal

Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) were present, mainly along the eastern boundary and around a patch of hard-standing to the east of the site, north of two compounds, which also contained occasional White Dead-nettle (*Lamium album*).

4.2.6. Ephemeral / Short perennial

Ephemeral vegetation including Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and Willowherb (*Epilobium sp*) was present within the gas compound.

4.2.7. Fence

The northern eastern, southern and part of the western boundary was fenced of wooden panels or barbed wire. There was also steel palisade fencing around a gas compound and wooden panel fencing around a Telecoms compound both to the east of the site.

4.2.8. Buildings & hard-standing

A single storey, fibre-glass cabin was located adjacent to the Telecoms tower within the northern compound on the east of the site. An area of hard-standing was located to the north of this compound.

4.3. Protected Species Survey Results

4.3.1. White-clawed Crayfish

There was no suitable habitat for White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) on site.

4.3.2. Great Crested Newts

There was suitable terrestrial habitat in the form of tall ruderal, scrub and woodland on and surrounding the site for Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*). Based on Ordnance Survey maps only one pond was identified within 250m of the site. This was approximately 30m to the south-east of the site. However this pond was completely dry at the time of the survey with no aquatic species in evidence so is unlikely to be suitable as a breeding pond. There are no records of Great Crested Newts (GCN) in the surrounding area hence they are considered unlikely to be affected by works.

4.3.3. Reptiles

There was suitable habitat on site for reptiles in the form of tall ruderal, scrub and woodland. Reptile refugia were also present on site and one Slow-worm was seen under a refugia mat (of which there was several on site) during the current survey.

Dedicated reptile survey work conducted by Aluco Ecology in 2008 (Aluco Ecology 2008)) recorded a medium or possibly high population of Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and low to medium populations of Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) on the site. It understood that considerably lower numbers of reptiles were recorded in 2012, following a period of intense grazing of the site by horses (Aluco Ecology pers. comms.).

4.3.4. Bats

The site had suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats; including woodlands, mature trees and open field areas. There was a mature Italian Alder tree which was covered by Ivy which had limited potential to support roosting bats (Category 2). The fibreglass building in the telecoms compound is unlikely to provide suitable roosting potential for bats, but was not assessed further at the time of the survey due to access limitations. It is understood that this structure will not be affected by proposed works.

There were nine bat records from within 1km; the closest record was 0.2km from the site boundary.

4.3.5. Birds

The woodlands and scrub provided suitable habitat for nesting birds. The site was unsuitable for the many coastal and estuarine birds recorded within 1km.

4.3.6. Hazel Dormouse

There was some dense scrub along the western and northern boundary connected to woodland to the north as well as broadleaved woodland to the south which could provide suitable habitat for Hazel Dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). It is understood that this will not be affected by proposed works; hence Hazel Dormice are unlikely to be affected. There were no records for Dormice within 1km identified during the desk study.

4.3.7. Water Vole

No watercourses / waterbodies were present on site therefore there was no suitable habitat for Water Voles (*Arvicola amphibious*).

4.3.8. Badger

There was no evidence to suggest Badgers (*Meles meles*) use the site. The dense scrub prevented a full survey to the west of the site, but this area is not to be affected by proposed works.

4.3.9. Otter

There was no suitable habitat for Otter (*Lutra lutra*) on site although they could be using the wider area. They are considered unlikely to be affected by proposed works.

4.3.10. Other

The site provides potential habitat for other UK Species of Principal Importance which have been recorded near the site, including:

A Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) which was found underneath a refugia during the current survey. Toads could use the tall ruderal, scrub and woodland.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) has have been recorded within 1km of the site could also use the grassland, scrub and woodland areas.

5. DISCUSSION & EVALUATION

5.1. Consideration of Designated Sites

The nearest European nature conservation designated sites were the Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA and Ramsar which were approximately 0.77km south of the site.

The primary reason for the designation of these sites is for their maritime and estuarine habitats and their role in supporting populations of overwintering and breeding wetland bird species.

There were also a number of other nationally and locally designated statutory and non-statutory designated sites identified within 5km and 1km.

Given the small-scale footprint of works and nature of the proposals, plus the lack of suitable habitat on site for the species of importance, it is considered that the development would have no impact on any of these designated sites.

5.2. Habitats

The majority of the site was semi-improved grassland which, given its common and widespread nature is considered to be of negligible value (definitions for the level of habitat value are provided in Appendix 3). Areas of tall ruderal vegetation, scrub and scrub margins provide suitable habitat for amphibians, reptiles and nesting birds as well as contributing to the functionality of the woodland and scattered trees and are considered to be of parish / neighbourhood value at best. The on-site woodland and trees are considered to be of parish / neighbourhood value as they provide links to surrounding woodland corridors in the wider area.

5.3. Species

The site provided opportunities for reptiles which are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and are UKBAP species. However as reptiles are widespread and fairly common and only a limited amount of scrub will be affected by works, the value of the site for reptiles is considered to be of parish / neighbourhood value (definitions of the level of species value are provided in Appendix 4).

The scrub also provided opportunities of nesting birds, but given the nature of the habitat on site it is considered unlikely to support any particularly rare or notable species and is considered to be of no more than parish / neighbourhood value for nesting birds.

The site provided only limited opportunities for bats in the form of the ivy-clad mature Italian Alder tree, which it is assumed will not be affected by works.

The site provided a small amount of habitat suitable to support Common Toads and Hedgehogs, both UK BAP Priority Species. Given the small extent of the suitable habitat and that other suitable habitat was present in the surrounding area; it is considered that the site was of negligible value to Toads and Hedgehogs in the wider context.

5.4. Ecological Corridors & Green Infrastructure

Ecological corridors are vital in linking high quality sites which have become fragmented over time but which “.... *collectively contain the range and area of habitats that species require and ensure that ecological connections exist to allow species, or at least their genes, to move between them*” (Lawton *et al.*, 2010).

In its current form, the site is likely to form a wildlife or Green corridor within the local area; the woodland, scattered trees and scrub around the margins provide links to the surrounding habitats in the wider area especially along the railway to the south and the A27 to the North.

Any opportunities to maintain connectivity on site by retaining the original trees and woodland will benefit local wildlife. Any opportunities to improve connectivity north to south would also be beneficial and are commensurate with the governments' commitment to developing 'Green Infrastructure' defined as:

'A strategic network of multi-functional green spaces, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life in sustainable communities'.

5.5.Potential for future ecological change

The site was being encroached upon by injurious weeds in places. In the absence of any change to the management regime or the implementation of enhancements, the ecological value of the site would most likely decrease as dense scrub established.

6. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ENHANCEMENT

6.1.Habitats

Although the habitats within the site were considered to be of at best parish / neighbourhood ecological value, the areas of dense scrub would likely provide a resource to a number of invertebrates as well as nesting and foraging birds and it is recommended that these be retained in the east of the site if possible.

Where vegetation clearance is required, it is recommended that the cuttings/logs be used to create discrete log-piles around the boundaries of the site, within shaded areas, if feasible. Such log-piles provide opportunities for a range of invertebrates as well as hibernation sites for reptiles, amphibians and Hedgehogs.

It is recommended that any mature trees that could be affected by works are safeguarded throughout the course of any works. Tree protection fencing should be installed where necessary to safeguard roots and to minimise the risk of damage to overhanging branches.

In order to potentially enhance the ecological value of the site and improve connectivity north to south, it is recommended that consideration be given to the provision of new native tree/shrub or hedgerow planting around the boundaries of the site, especially along the eastern boundary to the north and south of the current compounds. Planting should include native species of local provenance. The creation of an area of tall unmanaged grassland in the north-east part of the site next to the new sub-station could also serve to enhance the value of the site to wildlife in the long term.

6.2. Species

Toads, Reptiles and Hedgehogs: It is understood that a larger area to the east of the proposed substation site is to be subject to built development. Any ecological mitigation works proposed as part of the larger development should be co-ordinated with the currently proposed development e.g. any reptile translocation work should ideally include the sub-station area. It is understood that reptile translocation work may commence in spring 2015 (Aluco Ecology pers. comms.).

Ideally ground works should commence outside of the amphibian/reptile/Hedgehog hibernation period (i.e. outside of October/November to March inclusive). Initial ground works should be undertaken in a careful manner with a watching brief maintained for amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehogs. Should any animals be encountered, they should be removed to or allowed to disperse to an area outside of the zone of works.

Nesting Birds: Above ground scrub and tree clearance should ideally be undertaken outside of the main bird nesting period, considered to be March to August inclusive. Where this is not possible, clearance should be immediately preceded by a detailed inspection for in-use nests. Any active nests found would need to be left undisturbed until all chicks had fledged, or the nest was no longer in-use.

Bats: There is a low possibility that trees supporting a very dense covering of Ivy could be utilised by roosting bats. Should the mature Italian Alder tree or building in the Telecoms compound be affected by works, further assessment in respect to bats will be required.

It is recommended that any lighting during works be deflected away from the northern boundary, in order to prevent light-spill on to the nearby woodland, which could potentially be utilised by commuting bats.

6.3. Conclusions

Assuming that the recommendations within this report are adopted, it is considered that the proposals would not have any significant adverse impact on the ecology of the local area.

7. RELEVANT LEGISLATION & PLANNING POLICY

This section sets out the wildlife legislation and policy relevant (or potentially relevant pending further survey) to the proposed development based on the findings of the desk study and field survey. The information found here is a summary and intended for general guidance only. The original legal documents should be consulted for definitive information.

7.1. European Protected Sites

Habitats of European-wide importance (other than for birds) are listed under Annex I of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC (1992) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) (Ref. 8.5). Habitats designated under this Directive are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).

Habitats of European-wide importance for birds are listed under the EC Wild Birds Directive (1982) (Ref. 8.6). Habitats designated under this Directive are Special Protection Areas (SPA's).

7.2. National Biodiversity Action Plan

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework 2012 (UK BF) has recently succeeded the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) published in 1994, and updated in 2007. It is the government's mechanism for implementing strategies for conserving species and habitats in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK BF presents an action plan for a variety of priority species and habitats which is now more focussed at a country level. The UK BF still makes reference to the UK BAP list of priority habitats and species however and will still be referred to in this report as such. Local Biodiversity

Action Plans (LBAPs) were set-up to locally implement the national BAP and to identify targets for local action plans.

7.3. Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act (2006) places a duty upon all local authorities in England to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. Section 41 lists habitats and species of principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity. Fifty-six habitats and 943 species of principal importance are included on the Section 41 list.

These are all the habitats and species in England that have been identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). These species and habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.

7.4. National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of March 2012 replaced the previous planning policy for biodiversity conservation; Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9). Paragraph 117 of the NPPF states that to minimise impacts on biodiversity, planning policies should:

- Plan for biodiversity at the landscape scale, across local authority boundaries;
- Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles (paragraph 118):

- Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted; and
- Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.

7.5. Local Development Strategy

The Havant Borough Local Development Framework (HBLDF) will guide the future development of the borough up to 2026. The Core Strategy is the principal document setting out the broad detail and direction of development in the borough. The Core Strategy outlines policies relating to ecology and development; relevant policies are included below.

Policy CS11: Protecting & Enhancing the Special Environment & Heritage of Havant Borough. This policy recognises the need to consider the boroughs statutory and non-statutory designated landscape, habitats and features of biological, hydrological or geological interest. In addition *“Planning permission will be granted for development that: protects wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors to prevent the fragmentation of existing habitats and to allow species to respond to the impacts of climate change*

Policy DM8 Conservation, Protection & Enhancement of Existing Natural Features. *“Development will only be permitted where it protects and enhances local habitats and landscape distinctiveness and which protects natural features of nature conservation &/or amenity importance on the site, for example trees, woodlands, hedgerows, soils, streams, stream corridors, ditches or ponds from damage, destruction and a deterioration in quality.*

Policy DM9 Development in the Coastal Zone: *Planning permission will only be granted which “has no harmful effects on nature conservation within the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SSSI’s, and SPA, Solent Maritime SAC and Ramsar site, or any SINC’s and Local Nature Reserves.”*

7.6. Protected Species

7.6.1. Common Reptiles

Slow-worm, Adder, Grass Snake and Common Lizard are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). It is illegal to kill or injure them.

It is not illegal to capture, disturb or to damage their habitats. However, the reptiles themselves are protected so any works to damage their habitat could risk causing harm to reptiles and hence could be illegal.

7.6.2. Bats

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended). It is illegal to kill or injure bats, cause disturbance at their roosting places or to block access to, damage or destroy their roost sites.

7.6.3. Birds

Wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). It is illegal to take or harm them, their nests (whilst in use or being built) or their eggs.

Additionally for some species it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the adults while they are in and around their nest or intentionally or recklessly disturb their dependent young. Injurious Weeds

Five weeds are classified under the Weeds Act 1959: Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Curled Dock (*R. crispus*). It is not illegal to allow these weeds to grow on one's land; however they must not be allowed to spread to agricultural land, particularly grazing areas or land which is used to produce conserved forage.

8. REFERENCES

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- Lawton, J.H., et al (2010).** *Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network.* Report to Defra.
- STACE. C (2005).** *New British Flora of the British Isles.* Cambridge University Press.
- Town & Country Planning Association and the Wildlife Trusts, (2012)** *Planning for a Healthy Environment – Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity,*

APPENDIX 1: HABITAT MAP

See following page



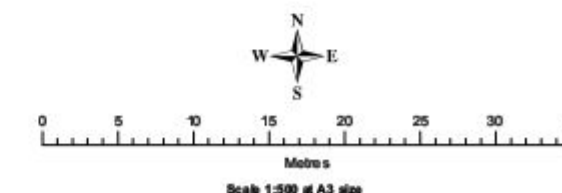
Scottish & Southern Electric

Emsworth Sub-Station

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland
- Dense scrub
- Scattered scrub
- SI** Semi-improved neutral grassland
- Tall ruderal
- Ephemeral/short perenial
- Building
- Hard standing
- Gravel
- Fence
- Scattered mature and semi-mature trees
- T1** Tree with category 2 bat potential

Drawn by Andy Frost 30/09/2014, Verified by Emma Davis 30/09/2014



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ADAS UK Ltd, Pendeford House,
Pendeford Business Park, Wobaston Road,
Pendeford, Wolverhampton, WV9 5AP.
Tel +44(0)1902 271300, Fax +44(0)1902 785574



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APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Semi-improved grassland field (photo taken at the north of the site looking south).



Photo 2 – Semi-improved grassland plus scrub (photo looking west).



Photo 3 – Woodland to the north of the proposed substation area.



Photo 4 – Scattered scrub along the northern boundary (photo looking north), dense scrub to the left of photo along the western boundary and trees to the right).



Photo 5 - Woodland and scrub to the south of the site (photo looking west).



Photo 6 – Tall ruderal & scrub next to eastern boundary to the south of the site (photo looking east).

APPENDIX 3: DEFINITIONS OF THE LEVEL OF HABITAT VALUE

Geographic level of Value	Examples
International value	Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, Biosphere Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation. Sites supporting populations of internationally important species.
National value	SSSIs or non-designated Sites meeting SSSI selection criteria, NNRs, Marine Nature Reserves, NCR Grade 1 Sites. Sites containing viable areas of key habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
Regional value	Sites containing viable areas of threatened habitats listed in a Regional BAP (or some Natural Areas), comfortably exceeding SINC criteria, but not exceeding SSSI criteria.
County / Metropolitan	Sites meeting the criteria for county or metropolitan designation (SINC, CWS, etc.). Ancient semi-natural woodland, LNRs or viable areas of key habitat types listed in county BAPs/Natural Areas.
District / Borough	Undesignated Sites or features considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource in the District or Borough.
Parish / Neighbourhood	Undesignated Sites or features which appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the Parish or Neighbourhood.
Negligible value	Low grade and widespread habitats.

APPENDIX 4: DEFINITIONS OF THE LEVEL OF SPECIES VALUE

Geographic Level of Value	Examples
International	Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. i.e. it is a UK Red Data Book species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) or of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National	Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see local BAP). A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species.
Regional	Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
County / Metropolitan	Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County/Metropolitan "red data book" or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a County/Metropolitan important species.
District / Borough	A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District / Borough important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
Parish / Neighbourhood	Species that are not threatened but are valued at a local level on intrinsic appeal.
Negligible	Common or widespread species.