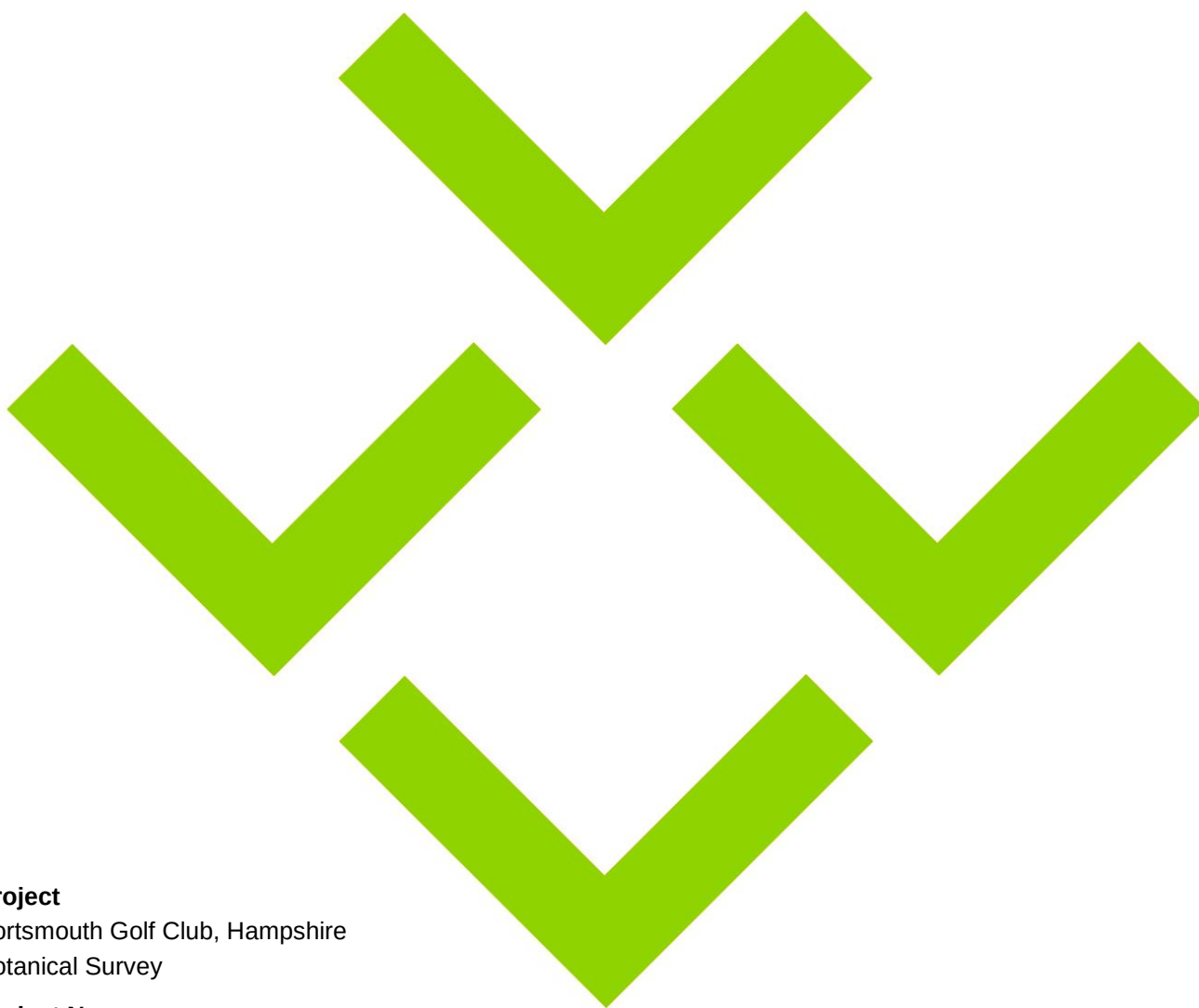




Project

Portsmouth Golf Club, Hampshire
Botanical Survey

Project No

E328

Client:

Parkwood Consultancy Services

Date

May 2012

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Portsmouth Golf Club, Hampshire
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Summary

Enims Ltd have been commissioned to carry out a Botanical Assessment of a site at Portsmouth Golf Course, Hampshire. Plans are currently being developed for the landscaping of a defined area within the golf course, to provide an enhanced playing surface with better drainage characteristics. The centre of the site lies at national grid reference SU 68273 06666.

A desktop study and site survey were undertaken during November 2011. Notable and protected species records from the last 10 years were obtained from the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), and all statutory and non-statutory land designations within 2km of the site were also identified using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website. A site visit was then made, during which habitat types within the proposed works area were recorded and assessed for their potential to support protected species. Habitats surrounding the proposed site were also inspected.

Residual impacts were identified to the Portsmouth City Golf Course Copse Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, which due to its botanical interest was surveyed in greater depth as the basis of this report. The survey undertaken in May 2012 identified no specimens of Fly Orchids *Ophrys insectifera* within the SINC. Works should take care to avoid the Ancient Woodland site designated as a SINC but it is unlikely that the current proposed works will impact the designation features.

1 Introduction

1.1 Site Location & Surroundings

Portsmouth Golf Course is located just north of the city of Portsmouth, Hampshire, south of the outlying town of Waterloo. The course's centre lies at national grid reference SU 68273 06666. The surrounding landscape is urban residential in nature, with a scattering of agricultural fields immediately around the course. There is very little connectivity to semi-natural habitats and rural landscape due to the locally dense road network (Appendix 1).

1.2 Site Description

'Area 5' within Portsmouth Golf Course is designated as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) for containing Fly Orchids *Ophrys insectifera*. The area consists of woodland surrounding two close-mown amenity grassland strips, with a section of scrub separating the two grass patches.

1.3 Project Overview

Plans are currently being developed for the re-landscaping of five defined areas within the golf course, to provide an improved playing surface with better drainage characteristics. This will likely involve the import of inert material to raise levels, however no buildings or further course facilities (such as artificial lighting) are currently proposed.

2 Methodology

2.1 Personnel

The site survey was completed by Peter Newbold MEnvSci. Pete holds a Master in Environmental Science from the University of Southampton. He has three years' experience in the survey and impact mitigation of protected species and their habitats. Pete holds a Natural England disturbance licence for smooth snake, sand lizard and dormice.

2.2 Site Survey

The site survey included a botanical survey to the National Vegetation Classification Guidance as proposed by the Joint Nature Conservancy Council.

The site survey was conducted in the afternoon of the 19th May 2012. Meteorological data are listed below.

Cloud Cover	0-10%
Temperature	18°C
Wind	Nil
Precipitation	Nil

3 Results and Assessment

Due to the presence of Fly Orchids *Ophrys insectifera*, the optimum time of year for this species (late May to June) was chosen for this survey. All of the accessible area was surveyed and the dominant flora, standard trees, presence of water bodies and other features of interest were noted. Evidence of flowering and non-flowering *O. insectifera* were searched for but no specimens were identified.

Three main homogenous habitat types were identified during this site visit; grassland, woodland, and scrubland. Within each habitat five quadrats were surveyed at random (Appendix 2) and all vascular plant, bryophyte and lichen species were identified down to species level where possible (see document 'NVC results')

The results were then processed to classify the vegetation into the standard National Vegetation Classification as produced by the JNCC.

The vegetation type (area highlighted red, figure 1) previously known as woodland was classified as W8 – *Fraxinus excelsior* – *Acer campestre* – *Mercurialis perennis* woodland.

The vegetation type (area highlighted blue, figure 1) previously known as scrubland was classified as MG7 – *Lolium perenne* ley (this area, although currently dominated by *L. perenne* is on the verge of becoming classed as woody scrub dominated by *F. excelsior* as above).

The vegetation type (area highlighted yellow, figure 1) previously known as grassland was classified as MG7 – *Lolium perenne* *Plantago lanceolata* grassland.

Please see Appendix C for species recorded.



Figure 1: Habitat classification map

4 Recommendations and Mitigation

4.1 Summary of Impacts

It is anticipated that the proposed works will have a minor negative effect to the Portsmouth City Golf Course Copse SINC. This impact is thought to be minor due to the absence of priority botanical species such as Fly Orchid within the area to be affected by works. A total of 4150m² of the SINC (which covers an area of 1.99 ha). Furthermore the proposals have the potential to negatively impact designated ancient woodland.

4.2 Summary of Mitigation

Following the required cut and fill works within this area, replanting should be carried out to ensure that the botanical communities present are unchanged in the long term.

Loss of ancient woodland is undesirable and it is recommended that no clearance of ancient woodland takes place. Tree features to remain should be protected during works through the use of root protection zones as described in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment carried out by enims for the site.

4.3 Summary of Time Constraints

The removal of features with the potential to support nesting birds should be completed during the months of October to February where possible. Removal of such features during the nesting season of March to September will require a nesting bird check within 24 hours prior to removal.

5 References

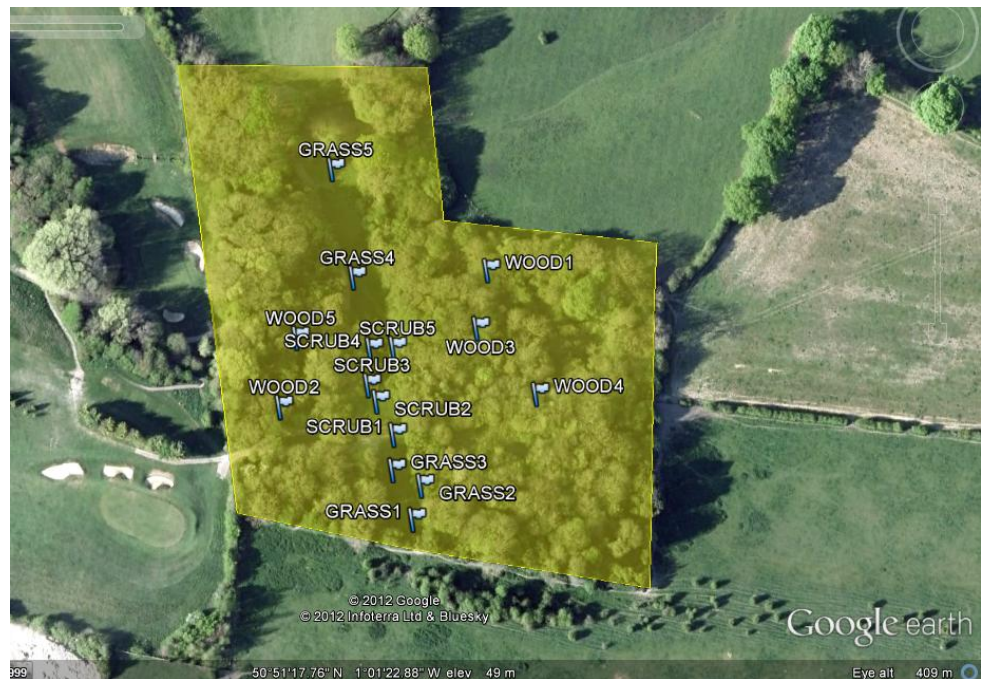
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC – www.jncc.gov.uk)

Appendix A: Location of 'Area 5' within Portsmouth City Golf Course.



Survey area bordered in red

Appendix B: Aerial Photograph of the Survey Area '5'



Survey area highlighted in pale yellow with all NVC quadrats marked with a flag.

Appendix C: Survey Results

Woodland - Trees	Scientific Name	Domin
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	3
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	5
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	5
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	5
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	2
Hawthorne	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	2
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	2
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	1
Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	2
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	1
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	1
Woodland 1	Scientific Name	Domin
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	1
Dogs Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	9
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	4
Goosegrass	<i>Galium aparine</i>	4
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	9
Woodland 2	Scientific Name	Domin
Moss Sp 1		4
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	9
Dogs Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	9
Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	2
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	1
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	2
Woodland 3	Scientific Name	Domin
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	1
Moss Sp 1		5
Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	1
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	3
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	8
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	2
Early Dog Violet	<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	4

Woodland 4	Scientific Name	Domin
Goosegrass	<i>Galium aparine</i>	5
Wood Sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	2
Dogs Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	5
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	3
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	8
Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	1
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	1
Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	3
Woodland 5	Scientific Name	Domin
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthus non-scriptus</i>	4
Dogs Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	8
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	7
Moss Sp 1		5

Scrubland 1	Scientific Name	Domin
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	6
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	4
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	6
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	4
Goosegrass	<i>Galium aparine</i>	1
Wayfaring-tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	4
Dandelion Sp.	<i>Taraxacum Sp.</i>	2
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	5
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	10
Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	2
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	1
Scrubland 2	Scientific Name	Domin
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	7
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	2
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	1
Moss Sp 1		1
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	9
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	5
Greater Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	1

Scrubland 3	Scientific Name	Domin
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	2
Moss Sp 1		4
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	1
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	1
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	2
Perforated St Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	1
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	1
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	1
Wayfaring-tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	3
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	1
Greater Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	1
Wood Sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	2
Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	1
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	5
Dandelion Sp.	<i>Taraxacum Sp.</i>	2
Goosegrass	<i>Galium aparine</i>	2
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	1
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	4
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	5
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	5
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	1
Scrubland 4	Scientific Name	Domin
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	8
Wayfaring-tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	2
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	7
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	5

Scrubland 5	Scientific Name	Domin
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	2
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	3
Wayfaring-tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	2
Greater Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	4
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	1
Wood Sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	2
Dandelion Sp.	<i>Taraxacum Sp.</i>	3
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	3
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	2
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	4
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	5
Bramble	<i>Rubus Sp.</i>	1
Perforated St Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	1
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	2
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	3
White Dutch Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	2
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	2
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	5
Moss Sp 1	-	5
Moss Sp 2		1

Grassland 1	Scientific Name	Domin
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	3
Black Medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	1
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	2
Dandelion Sp	<i>Taraxacum Sp.</i>	1
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	3
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	2
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	2
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	4
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	1
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	7
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	6
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	7

Grassland 2	Scientific Name	Domin
Moss Sp 2		9
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	4
Black Medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	3
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	1
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	4
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	2
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	2
Dandelion Sp	<i>Taraxacum Sp.</i>	1
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	1
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	8
Grassland 3	Scientific Name	Domin
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	4
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	3
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	2
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	1
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	2
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	8
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	9
Grassland 4	Scientific Name	Domin
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	7
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	5
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	1
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	2
Dandelion Sp	<i>Taraxacum Sp.</i>	2
Grassland 5	Scientific Name	Domin
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	6
Black Medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	5
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	1
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	1
Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	8