



PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

**HAVANT ACADEMY, WAKEFORDS WAY
HAVANT, PORTSMOUTH**

OCTOBER 2025

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Havant Academy, Wakefords Way
Havant, Portsmouth

A report for

Wates

A report by



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 REASON FOR SURVEY

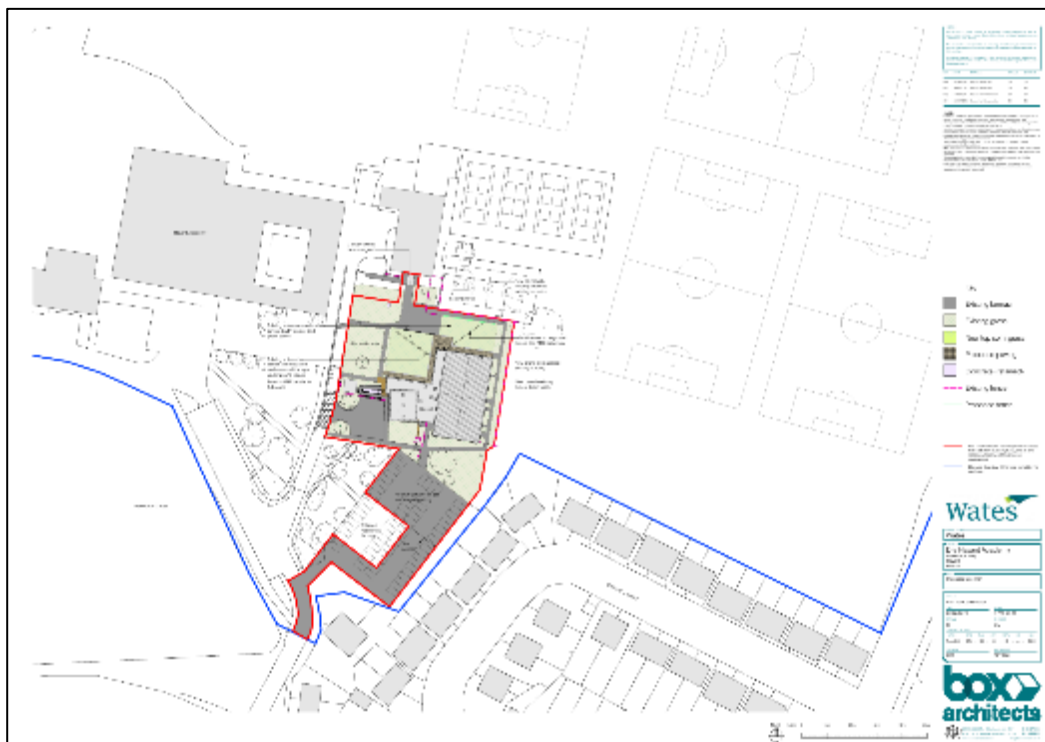
PENNINE ecological were commissioned by Wates to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land within Havant Academy, Wakeford's Way, Havant, Portsmouth, PO9 5JD (Figure 1.1 illustrates the approximate red line boundary subject to survey).

The assessment is required to support the submission of a planning application that will see the demolition of an existing building which will be converted into grassland (Figure 1.2 illustrates the site proposals). All impacts from the current proposals are confined to the building on site and no other habitats are considered to be affected by the works.



Figure 1.1: Surveyed area at Havant Academy, Portsmouth

Figure 1.2: Proposed Site Plan (2025) Box Architects



The study includes the following elements:

- UK Habitat Classification Survey.
- Badger Survey and Evaluation.
- Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment.
- Breeding Bird Survey and Evaluation.
- Great Crested Newt Evaluation.
- Scoping for other protected or notable species potentially present within the site.

The study also includes a full evaluation of the ecological significance of the survey findings, and recommendations/precautions where appropriate.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located in a predominantly urban environment along Wakeford's Way, Havant, Portsmouth, PO9 5JD. The immediate surroundings comprise residential estates with associated back gardens to the east and south and woodland and playing fields dominate the habitats immediately north and west.

The central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference¹ for the site is SU 72604 08998.

¹ Ordnance Survey National Grid reference used throughout the report.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The methodologies relating to desk-based searches and field surveys undertaken in September and October 2025 are outlined below.

2.1.1 Desk Based Study

a) Local Records Centre Data Request

A full data search from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) was undertaken on the 06/10/2025 for an area up to 1km from the proposal site. Records older than 10 years are also not included, unless they have ecological significance (e.g. historic bat roost or historic presence of GCN within a pond).

b) MAGIC

The Multi Agency Geographical Information Centre www.magic.gov.uk was referred to in respect of statutory sites, priority habitats, GCN licence returns, and European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) issued in respect of GCN and bats.

It should be noted that species records over 500m of the site are not reproduced here as they are considered to have no association with the site and are beyond the sphere of influence of the proposals. Records older than 10 years are also not included, unless they have ecological significance (e.g. historic bat roost or historic presence of GCN within a pond).

2.1.2 UK Habitat Classification Survey

A UK Habitat Classification (UKHabs) survey (UKHab Ltd, 2023) of the habitats within the red line boundary was undertaken on the 30th of September 2025.

2.1.3 Badger Survey

A badger survey was undertaken to identify evidence of badger utilising the site and up to 50m from the site. Surveys were undertaken in accordance with 'Surveying Badgers', Harris et al., (1989) and 'Badger', Roper (2010).

2.1.4 Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Evaluation

A daytime survey was conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined in Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn) Collins, J. Bat Conservation Trust (2023).

The site contains one building and five trees which were inspected for suitable roosting features (e.g. missing/dislodged roof tiles, gaps between soffits and fascia's, knot holes, peeling bark etc.).

During the survey the surrounding habitat was evaluated in relation to bats as very often roost selection is closely correlated with the surrounding habitat.

2.1.5 Bird Survey and Evaluation

The site was assessed for its potential to support breeding birds. This included identifying any evidence of current or historic nesting within the site (i.e. within buildings, trees and hedgerows).

2.1.6 Great Crested Newt Evaluation

The site was evaluated by means of desk study and the surveyor's specialist knowledge of the species, in particular its terrestrial habits and breeding requirements. There are no ponds located on site or within 250m of the site.

The closest pond to this site is located approximately 425m north west of the site and was subject to a HSI in 2019 scoring a below average suitability for GCN. The central grid reference of this pond is SU7243 0944.

The main road, 'Durrants Road' runs between the site and the pond creating a terrestrial barrier. It is considered with reasonable certainty that GCN are absent from the site and locally. GCN will not be considered further within this report.

2.1.7 Scoping of Other Protected and Notable Species

Consideration was given to other protected and notable species potentially present within the site. The following species / species groups have been scoped out for further assessment, with reasoning provided below:

- Riparian Mammals – There are no watercourses on the site. There are no watercourses within 100m of the site. The site does not contain any habitats which could support riparian mammals (otter and water vole). Therefore, riparian mammals are considered absent from the site and locally.
- Reptiles – The closest record of a reptile was for a common lizard which was approx. 300m west of the site boundary. The site comprises hard standing and small areas of amenity grassland which are suboptimal habitats for reptiles. The site is very isolated from any suitable habitats and adjacent habitats comprise urban habitats such as car parks, roads, dwellings which will act as a barrier to any reptile movements towards the site. Therefore, given the sub optimal habitats on site and the isolated location, reptiles are considered absent from the site and are highly unlikely to be encountered.
- Invertebrates – The site is comprised primarily of amenity grassland and developed land and supports few of the habitat elements indicating elevated site value for invertebrates (Dobson & Fairclough, 2021). The site is considered unlikely to support notable invertebrate assemblages.
- Other notable mammals – Whilst it is accepted that species such as hedgehog may potentially be present locally, the site is not considered capable of supporting significant populations of any notable mammal species. No observations were recorded during the survey. Standard precautionary working measures would avoid impacts on individual mammals.

These species are not discussed further within this report.

2.2 SURVEYOR EXPERIENCE

The survey was conducted by Luke Pilling who is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM. Luke's key skills include;

- Experience of writing technical reports including Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Preliminary Roost Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain reports.
- Experienced bat surveyor of three years undertaking Preliminary Roost Assessments and dusk emergence surveys.
- Experience in Ecological Clerk of Works.
- Experienced in a wide range of ecological surveys including great crested newts, reptiles, badger, and riparian mammals.

The results and report were verified and reviewed by Stuart Macpherson, who is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and has over 15 years' experience in land management, ecological survey and evaluation.

Key skills include the following:

- Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey / UKHabs Survey on both small planning applications and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- Licensed bat surveyor (2021-10079-CL18-BAT) and Named Ecologists on bat mitigation licences.
- Licensed barn owl surveyor (CL29/0477).
- Licensed great crested newt surveyor (2015-16213-CLS-CLS).
- NPTC qualified tree climber (Units 206 and 306 Tree climbing and Aerial Rescue).
- Proficient field botanist.
- Breeding and wintering bird surveyor on a range of habitats including coastal, farmland and moorland habitats.
- Mammal surveys including badger.
- Riparian corridor and mammal surveys.
- Ecological Evaluation and Impact Assessments in association with large scale infrastructure project.

2.3 SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

The surveys were undertaken on 30/09/2025 in optimal weather conditions. Whilst outside of the optimal botanical survey season, given the habitats recorded on site (refer to Results section) the timing of the survey is not seen as a constraint to the findings and/or recommendations made within this report.

There are considered to be no additional survey constraints, and an appropriate evaluation of the site has been completed.

3. RESULTS

3.1 RESULTS SUMMARY

- There is one statutory designated site within 2km; this is the South Downs National Park which is approx. 1.6km to the north east.
- There are 11 non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the site. All sites are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).
- The proposal site is a school with the majority of habitats confined to developed land and buildings with small areas of amenity grassland.
- The building and trees were inspected and found to have no potential roost features for bats. The immediate surrounding habitats are of limited value for foraging/commuting bats, however, in the wider landscape there are habitats, notably woodland that will be of more value.
- No evidence of current or historic bird nesting was recorded on site. The individual trees provide localised bird nesting and foraging habitat.
- There are no ponds or watercourses within 250m of the site.
- No evidence or sightings of other protected / notable species was recorded within the site.

3.2 DESK BASED STUDY

A summary of the desk study records provided by HBIC and MAGIC are provided below.

a) Local Record Centre Data

The data from HBIC was received on the 29th of September 2025.

The data is summarised in Table 3.1. If required, the full data set can be made available upon request.

Table 3.1: Summary of HBIC desk study data for Havant Academy, Portsmouth

Non-Statutory Sites:	
On site:	Off site:
None.	<u>Within 1km:</u> There are 11 SINCs within 1km of the site. Full SINC details can be found in Appendix A, Figures 1 and Table 1.

Notable and Protected Species:	
On site:	Off site:
32 of the 52 different bird species included within the data set have been recorded flying over the site.	<p>Within 1km:</p> <p><u>Bats</u></p> <p>There are 160 records of bats accounting for 17 species / species groups. NB: there are records of pipistrelle sp, <i>Myotis</i> sp. long-eared sp. etc. The closest record was approx. 200m from the site to the west with no further additional information provided.</p> <p><u>Mammals</u></p> <p>There are 11 records of hedgehog. The closest record is approx. 250m to the south east of the site within an residential area.</p> <p><u>Reptiles</u></p> <p>There are 11 records of amphibian and/or reptiles including five different species which are: Slow-worm, Common Toad, Grass Snake, Adder and Common Lizard. The closest record was for a common lizard 300m from the site.</p> <p><u>Birds</u></p> <p>There are 149 individual records of 52 species of birds.</p> <p><u>Plants</u></p> <p>There are six higher plant records including three different species which include: Butchers broom, Box and Lesser spearwort.</p> <p><u>Invertebrates</u></p> <p>There are 58 records of invertebrates accounting for 12 species.</p> <p>There are 11 records of terrestrial mammals (non-bats) all of which records relating to hedgehog.</p>

b) MAGIC

Statutory Designated Sites

There is one statutory designated site within 2km of the site's red line boundary, this is the South Downs National Park. The site is located approx. 1.6km to the north east of the site.

European Protected Species Licences

There are no granted European Protected Species Licences within 1km of the site's red line boundary.

3.3 HABITATS

3.3.1 UKHabs Classification Survey

The following habitats were recorded within the survey area (refer to Figure 2 in Appendix A):

- u1b5 Building
- u1b6 Other developed land
- g4 Modified grassland
- N/A Individual trees

The site is a school which comprises mostly developed habitats such as buildings and tarmac with small areas of modified grassland present. There are five urban trees within the site.

The modified grassland was fenced off at the time of survey (but was accessible for the survey) and was strongly suspected to be subject to regular mowing and use from the academy's students. As such it was of little to no ecological value.

The trees recorded on site were semi-mature and weren't suspected to be subject to any regular management and/or pruning regime. These trees were inspected for features that could potentially support roosting bats and/or nesting birds with no evidence of either recorded. Tree species noted were two silver birch and three sycamore.

3.4 PROTECTED SPECIES

3.4.1 Badger

(i) Setts

The survey found no setts on site or within 50m of the site.

(ii) Foraging Signs and Pathways

No sign of badger activity was found on site or within 50m of the site. Therefore, it can be concluded that the species is not using this area for foraging or commuting.

(iii) Boundary Search

All of the boundaries of the site were walked and examined for potential runs, pathways, and latrines. The search found no evidence to suggest badger activity along any of the site boundaries.

The absence of any activity signs indicates that badgers are not entering the site. The absence of latrines indicates a lack of territorial activity in the near vicinity of the site.

3.4.2 Bats

(i) Preliminary Roost Assessment

One building is within the application boundary and will be impacted on by the proposals. The building is constructed from red brick in a stretcher bond construction with UPVC fascia boards and a flat roof. The building is in very good condition with no suitable cavities or gaps identified from the external assessment.

The building has no loft space and has a raised ceiling which is exposed. No suitable features were identified during the internal inspection.

The building is considered to provide '**none**' bat roost suitability.

There are five trees within the application boundary with no suitable features recorded for roosting. These trees will not be impacted on by the proposals.

Overall, the trees on site are considered to provide '**none**' bat roost suitability.

(ii) Bat Habitat Suitability

The site provides very limited foraging opportunities with the majority of habitats present being urban habitats. However, the woodland located to the west of the site offers valuable foraging and/or commuting habitat for bats.

Overall, the habitat associated with the site is considered to be of '**low**' suitability for bats

3.4.3 Birds

No evidence of bird nesting was recorded during the survey.

Bird activity within the site and locally was low with the following bird species heard or seen within or adjacent to the site. Where applicable, bird species are coloured coded based on their UK conservation status²:

Wren, blackbird, swallow.

The site itself has very limited opportunities for birds with only five trees present on site and the remaining habitats being modified or urban habitats. However, the immediate further landscape comprises woodland which is considered to be more suitable for breeding birds.

Overall, the habitat associated with the site is considered to be of low suitability for birds.

² Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (2021) – Red, amber, green status.

4. ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The following section discusses the significance of the survey findings. It should be noted that this part of the evaluation relates to habitats and species and includes reference to the following statutory/non-statutory instruments.

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and later amendments), with particular reference to protected species listed in Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the above act.
- Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- Section 41 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- Reference to any relevant Red Data List/Book species and Nationally Scarce species not covered by the above or any other lists / schedules of species rarity or importance.

The evaluation is based on the commissioned surveys and desk study only.

The following statements are relevant in respect of the above.

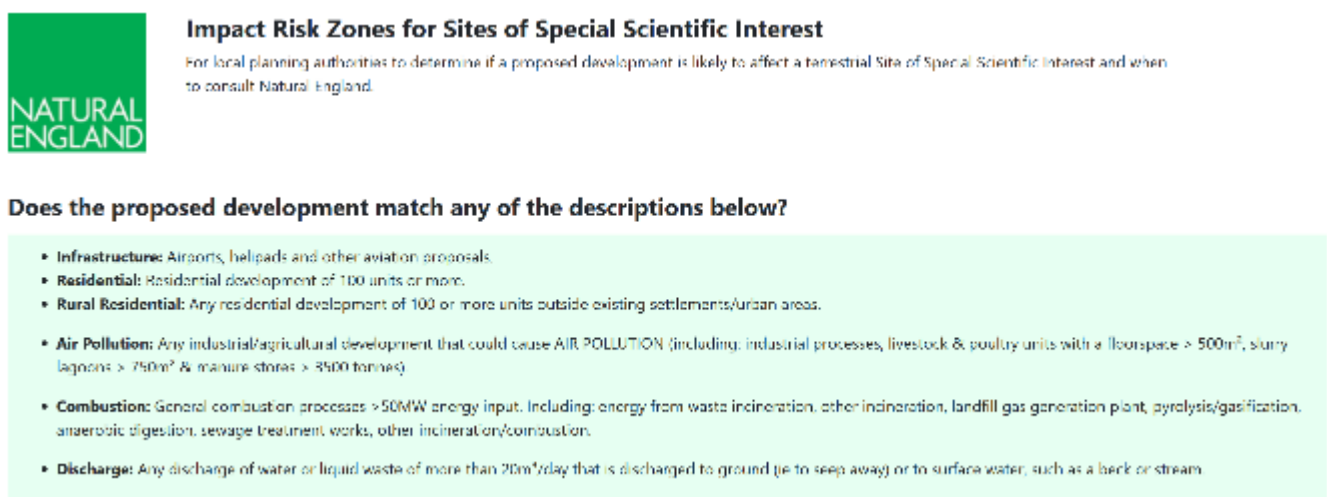
4.1 DESK STUDY

4.1.1 Statutory Sites

There is one internationally or nationally statutory designated sites within 2km of the site. The South Downs National Park is approx. 1.6km from the site.

The Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones³ (IRZ's) has been reviewed (see Figure 4.1 below).

Figure 4.1: IRZ summary for Havant Academy, Portsmouth



³ The Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make an initial assessment of the likely risk of impacts on SSSIs posed by developments.

It is considered that the proposal site does not match any of the descriptions outlined in the IRZ.

4.1.2 Biological Heritage Sites / Non-statutory Sites

There are 11 SINC's identified within 1km of Havant Academy. Full details of SINC's are found in Appendix A, Figure 1 and Table 1. The closest SINC to Havant Academy is Wakeford's Copse, which is approximately 75m west of the site. This site of nature conservation is an ancient & semi-natural woodland.

There are no direct/indirect impacts to the designated sites anticipated from the development proposals. The only habitats impacted from the current proposals are developed habitats such as buildings and hard standing surfaces.

4.1.3 Section 41 NERC Act 2006 Habitats and Species

There are no confirmed S41 habitats or species within the survey area.

4.1.4 Nationally Scarce/County Red Data List Species

There are no Nationally Scarce/County Red Data list plant species on the site

4.2 HABITATS

The existing habitats on site are of very low to medium distinctiveness (in accordance with the BNG metric calculation tool). The majority of the site comprises u1b5 and u1b6 (Other developed land and buildings). The site also included small areas of modified grassland with several individual trees.

The current proposals only have impacts relating to urban habitats (u1b5 & u1b6). There are to be no temporary or permanent impacts relating to modified grassland or individual trees.

The section of the building subject to demolition will be taken down within the building's footprint and stock piles of demolition spoils will be stored within the adjacent building or on the nearby tarmac car park (shown in Figure 4.2 below).

Figure 4.2: Proposed stock pile locations.



Based on the size and condition of the habitats on site, the value of the current site's habitats cannot exceed 'site' ecological value.

Due to the scale and nature of the proposals, impacts are not anticipated beyond the land directly affected by the proposals.

4.3 PROTECTED SPECIES

4.3.1 Badger

No evidence of badger activity was found within the site or the wider area during the survey.

It is concluded that badger are absent on site and locally.

4.3.2 Bats

The building and trees on site were found to have 'none' bat roost suitability.

The sites habitats are considered to be of 'low' suitability for bats.

The woodland in the wider landscape is a more suitable area for roosting and foraging bats.

Based on the size of the site and habitats present within the site, the value of the site for bats does not exceed 'site' ecological value.

Due to the scale and nature of the proposals, impacts to bats are not anticipated to extend beyond the land directly affected by the proposals.

4.3.3 Birds

No evidence of current or historic bird nesting was recorded on site. The five individual trees provide localised opportunities for common and widespread birds.

Based on the sites size and habitats present, the value of the site for breeding birds does not exceed 'site' ecological value.

Due to the scale and nature of the proposals, impacts are not anticipated to extend beyond the land directly affected by the proposals.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section outlines any mitigation or precautions required in respect of the survey findings.

5.1 DESK STUDY

5.1.1 Statutory Sites

No further assessments or precautions are required.

5.1.2 Non-Statutory Sites

No further assessments or precautions are required.

5.2 HABITATS

The existing habitats on site are of very low to medium distinctiveness. The current proposals do not exceed 25m² of any habitat removal. As per the exemptions set out in 'paragraph 17 of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990' and the 'Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024', the application would be exempt on the following grounds:

- Development subject to the de minimis exemption. Development that does not impact a priority habitat and impacts less than 25 square metres (e.g. 5m by 5m) of onsite habitat, or 5 metres of linear habitats such as hedgerows.

BNG is not required for the current proposals. There are no requirements for further surveys and/or assessment.

5.3 PROTECTED SPECIES

5.3.1 Badger

There are no requirements for any further surveys or assessment.

5.3.2 Bats

There are no requirements for any further surveys or assessment

5.3.3 Birds

There are no habitats with any ecological value for birds subject to removal from the current proposals.

There are no requirements for further surveys or assessments.

REFERENCES

- Buglife (2015) *Good planning practice for invertebrates: information sheets on surveys and mitigation*
- CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn) Bat Conservation Trust.*
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- Roper, T. J. (2010) *Badger*. New Naturalist Library – Collins.
- UKHab Ltd (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

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- Joint Nature Conservancy Council - DEFRA (2006) Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. DEFRA/Natural England - <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/> latest access 07/10/2025.
- Google Earth. Accessed various dates. Latest access 07/10/2025.
- Natural England – MAGIC. Accessed various dates. <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> Latest access 07/10/2025
- Hampshire county Council – Search Planning Applications - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Search/Results>. Accessed various dates. Latest access 07/10/2025

Appendix A - Figures

Figure 1: Statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 1km of Havant Academy (received from HBIC 29/09/25).

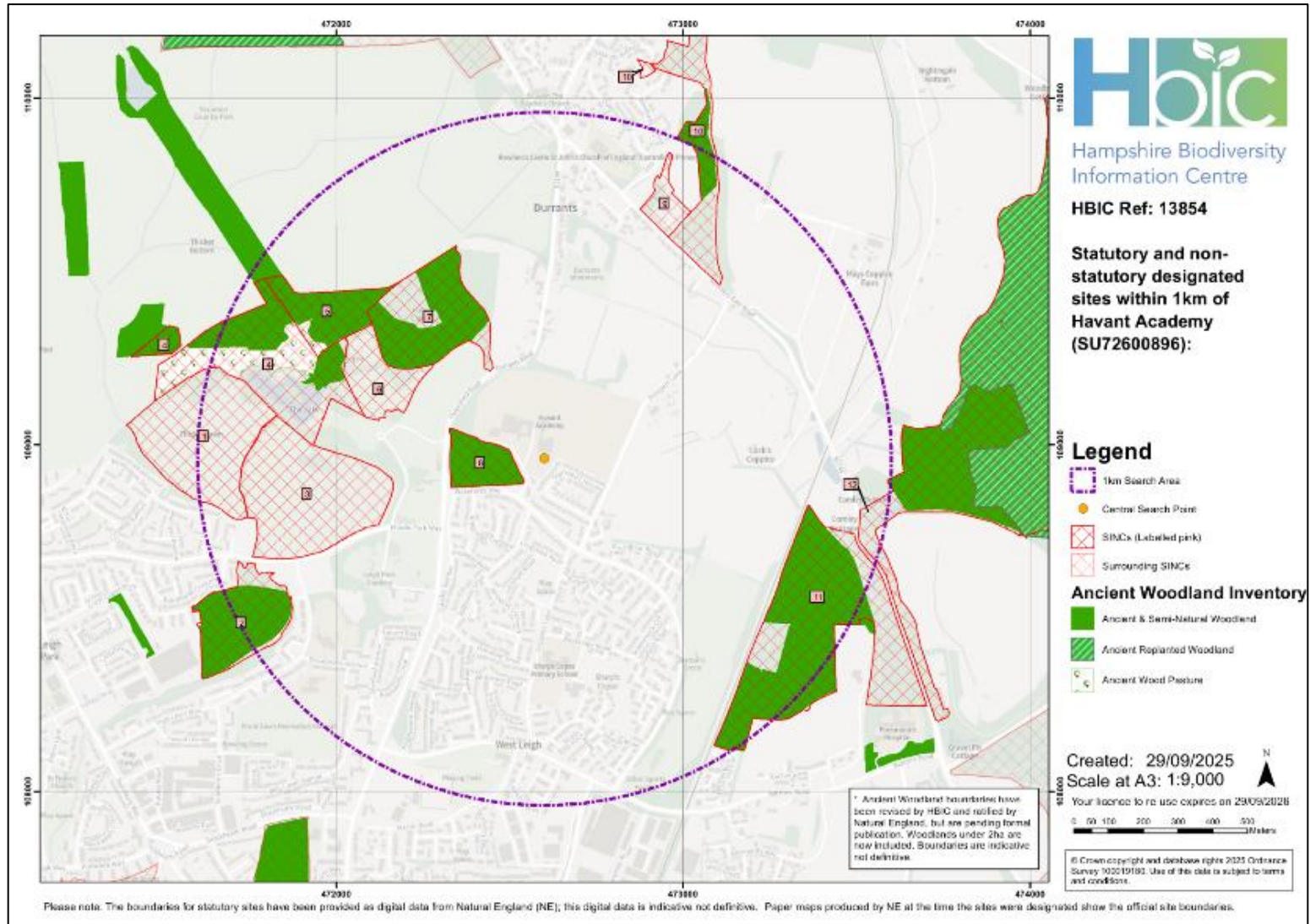


Figure 2: UKHabs Baseline Map (Pennine Ecological, September 2025).



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Table 1: Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the search area (1km of Havant Academy):

Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the search area:

Map Label	Status	SINC Ref	SINC Name	Central Grid Ref.	SINC Criteria	Species supported that meet Section 6 of SINC Selection Criteria	Area (ha)
1	SINC	HV0070	Thicket Lawn	SU71600900	2B/5B		10.56
2	SINC	HV0077	Great Copse, Havant	SU71800840	1A		5.71
3	SINC	HV0081	High Lawn	SU71900890	2B/5B		11.74
4	SINC	HV0082	Thicket Bottom Woods & Lake	SU71900930	1A/6A	Myotis bechsteinii	11.66
5	SINC	EH0211	Thicket Bottom	SU71950936	1D		3.71
6	SINC	HV0086	Lower Beacon Field	SU72110919	2B/5B		3.54
7	SINC	EH0221	Hammond's Lands Copse	SU72300940	1A/6A	Myotis bechsteinii	7.64
8	SINC	HV0089	Wakeford's Copse, Havant	SU72400890	1A		2.53
9	SINC	EH0242	Land at Oaklands House	SU72900970	2B/6A	Ranunculus flammula (Lesser Spearwort) [RDB]	1.38
10	SINC	EH0247	Oaklands Woodland	SU73100990	1A/1B		5.40
11	SINC	EH0252	Barton's Copse & The Slip	SU73400850	1A/1D		18.04
12	SINC	EH0294	Southleigh Forest	SU74400930	1D/6A	Illecebrum verticillatum, Apatura iris, Myotis bechsteinii	79.40

Appendix B – Photographs



Photograph 1: View of South facing elevation of building.



Photograph 2: View of East facing elevation of building.



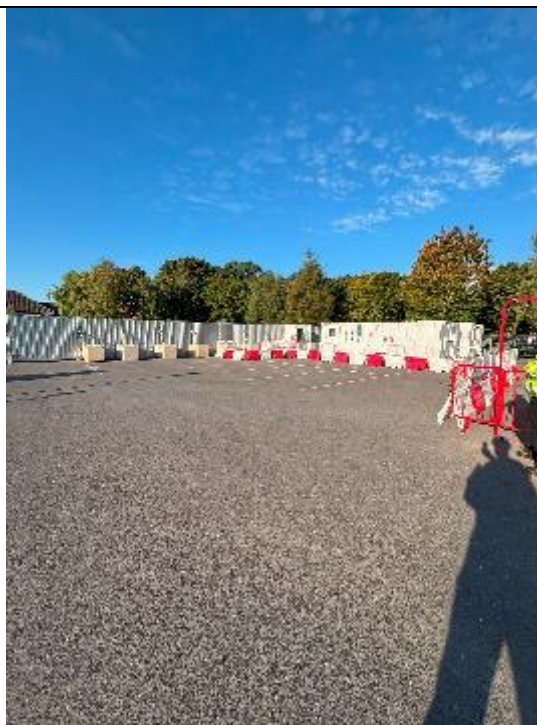
Photograph 3: North facing elevation of building.



Photograph 4: West facing elevation of building.



Photograph 5: View of internal inspection ceiling. Material to be stored within the building.



Photograph 6: area on which material will be stored.



Photograph 7: View of small area of grassland with four individual trees.



Photograph 8: View of western area of the site.

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Photograph 9: View of northern area of the site.



Photograph 10: View of northwestern area of the building subject to demolition.



Photograph 11: View of northwestern area of building subject to demolition.



Photograph 12: View of northern boundary of the site.