

4 SOUTH CLOSE, HAVANT

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT PHASE 1

4 South Close
Havant
PO9 2TD



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PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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Location	4 South Close, Havant, PO9 2TD	
Project	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)	
		<i>Completed</i>
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Natural England Licence No.	2017-31701-CLS-CLS - GCN 2017-32565-CLS-CLS – Dormice 2025-80158-SCI-CL18 - Bats	

PROJECT DISCLAIMER

The information and guidance provided in this report relates to factual survey results and current best practice guidance as listed in the reference section. While preparing this report all reasonable efforts have been made to provide accurate information as at the time of the surveys, which remains valid for 12 months. The report is confidential to the client and the author accepts no responsibility in respect of any matters outside the scope of the contract with the client. If the scope of works or timing of the project are altered the advice given in this report may not be valid.

Contents

Contents	2
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Location	4
1.3 Aims and Scope of Report	5
1.4 Site Setting and Description	5
1.5 Site Proposals	5
2 METHODS	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Desktop Study	7
2.3 Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey	7
2.3.1 Initial Protected Species Assessment - Bats	7
2.3.2 Initial Protected Species Assessment – Badger, Dormouse, Common Reptiles, Common Breeding Birds, Great Crested Newt	10
2.4 Survey Conditions	10
2.5 Survey Limitations	10
3 RESULTS AND ASSESSMENT	11
3.1 Desktop Study	11
3.1.1 Protected sites	11
3.1.2 European Protected Species Records	11
3.3 Phase 1 Bat Survey	13
3.4 Common Breeding Birds	13
3.5 Hazel Dormouse	13
3.6 Badger	13
3.7 Great Crested Newt (GCN)	13
3.8 Other Legally Protected Species	14
3.9 Legally Protected Habitats	14
4 Evaluation, Impacts and Recommendations	15
4.1 Introduction	15
4.2 Further Measures for Bats	15
4.3 Further Measures for Breeding Bird Protection	15
4.4 Further Measures for Great Crested Newts	15
4.5 Species requiring No Further Action	15
4.6 Updating Surveys	15
4.7 Precautionary approach	16

5	REFERENCES.....	17
6	Appendix.....	17
6.1	Appendix 1 – Land-Based Designations, with 2km buffer	18
6.2	Appendix 2 – Granted European Protected Species Applications with 2km Buffer.....	19
6.3	Appendix 3 – Details of Granted European Protected Species Applications	19

Figures

Figure 1 - Location Map.....	4
Figure 2 – Existing and proposed site plan	5
Figure 3 – Proposed elevations	6
Figure 4– Site north to south.....	12
Figure 5 – Site south to north.....	12
Figure 6 – Existing property to the south-west	12
Figure 7 – grass sward	12

Tables

Table 1 – Assessment criteria used for buildings or structures.....	8
Table 2 – Assessment criteria used for trees and woodlands	8
Table 3 - Recommended timings for presence/absence surveys.....	9
Table 4 - Weather conditions during the survey	10
Table 5 -Protect sites within 2000m of 4 South Close, Havant	11
Table 6 - Plants identified growing within the sward.....	12

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The author was contracted by Mr. G. Waterman to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Assessment at 4 South Close, Havant, PO9 2TD.

This report presents the findings of the Phase 1 Surveys carried out on the 15th August 2025.

1.2 Location

Property Name	4 South Close, Havant
Postcode	PO9 2TD
Grid reference	SU 72158 05790
Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities (GB)	Hampshire County
Parliamentary Constituencies (England)	Havant Boro Const

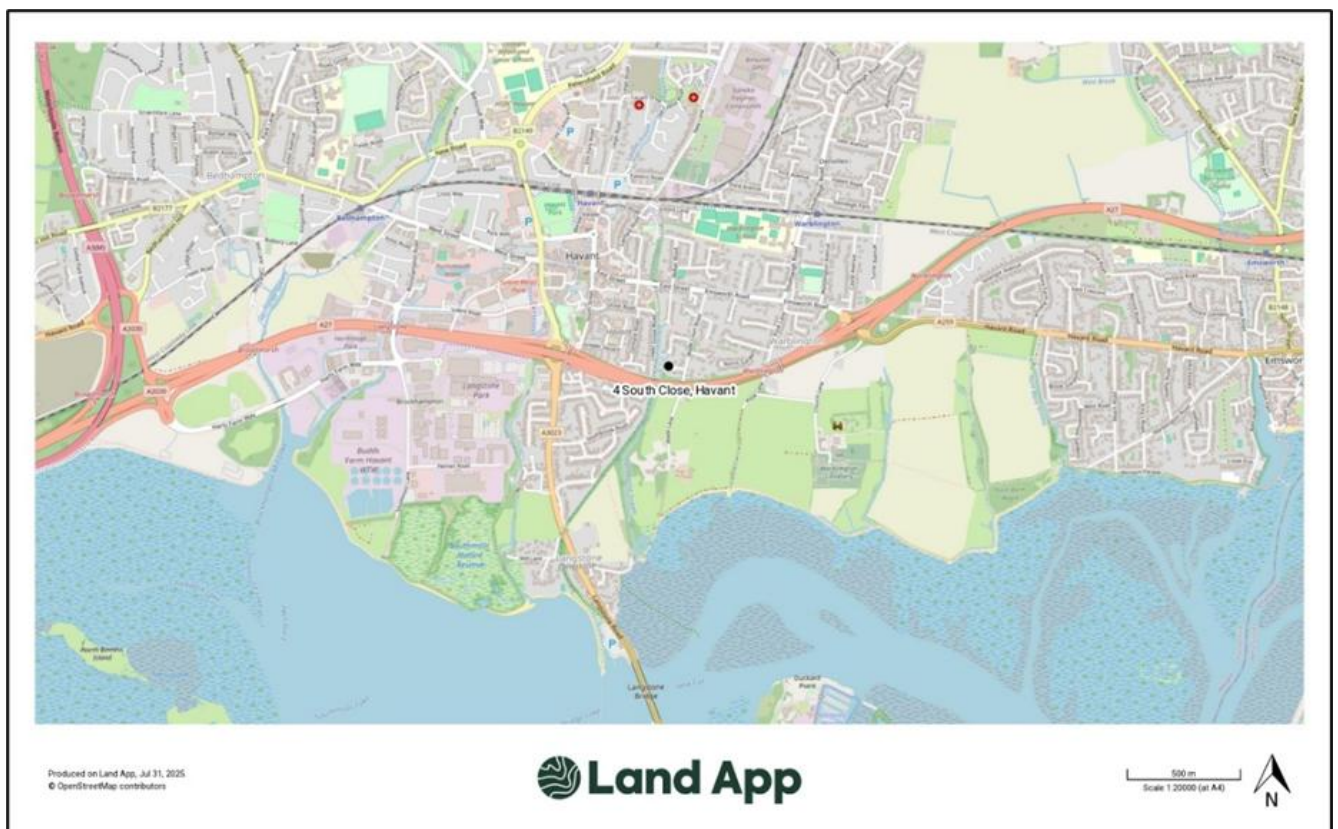


Figure 1 - Location Map

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1.3 Aims and Scope of Report

This report is based on the Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey aimed at establishing the potential of the site to support protected species and the impact on surrounding habitats. The assessment of the site is based on the evidence found during the surveys and the perceived potential of the habitats on the site to support protected species and review of available ecological records.

1.4 Site Setting and Description

The proposed site is in the garden 4 South Close, Havant and is current a residential garden.

1.5 Site Proposals

The proposal is to construct a new house in the garden of the existing property.

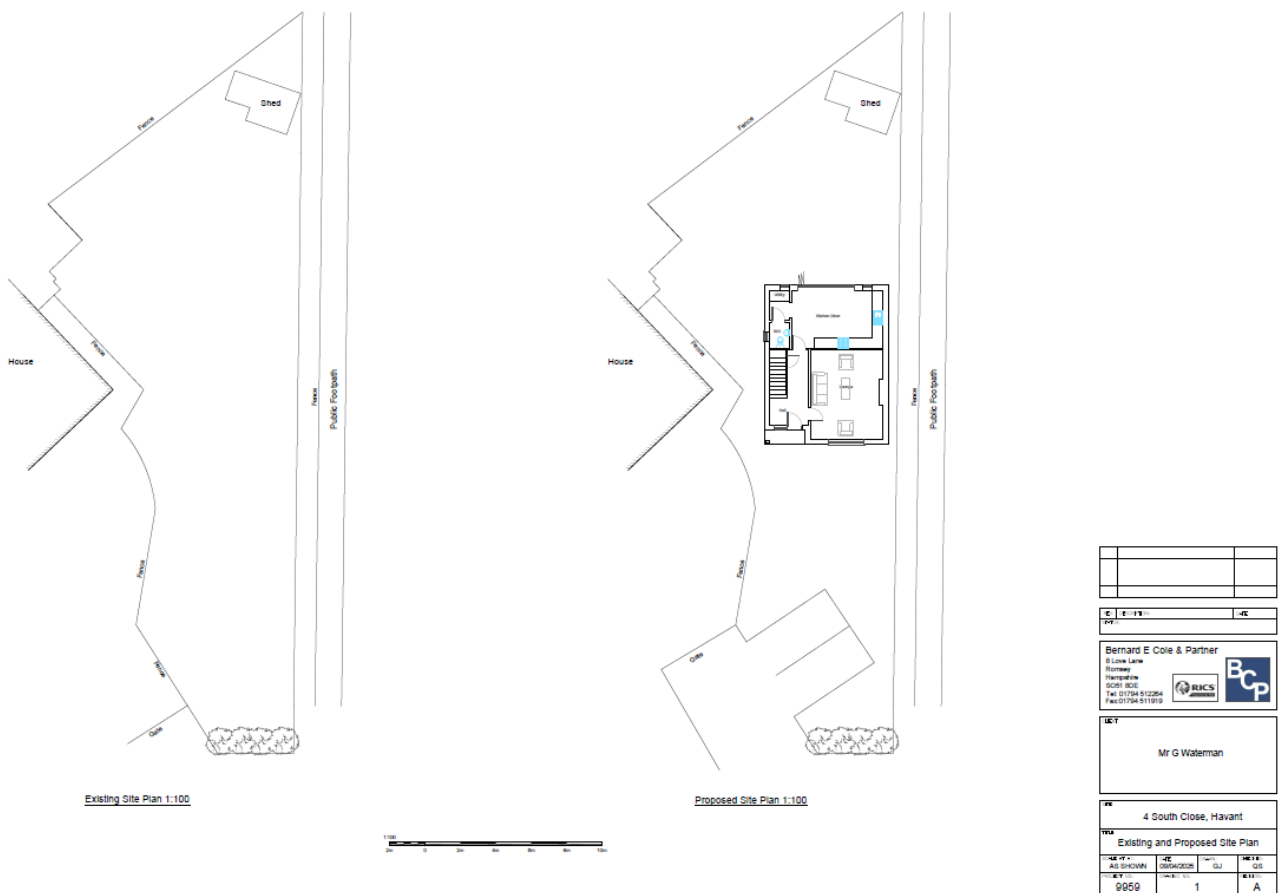


Figure 2 – Existing and proposed site plan



Figure 3 – Proposed elevations

SECTION 1

2 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

This section provides details of the methods used to assess the potential of 4 South Close, Havant to support protected species.

2.2 Desktop Study

The DEFRA Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was consulted for information on statutory site designations, protected species and granted European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licences in the area.

A search of the area was also conducted using LandApp to identify the location of any other significant features.

2.3 Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey

The Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey was carried out on 15th August 2025. The survey involved the examination of the area for evidence of the presence of protected species or habitats consistent with the presence of protected species. The survey involved a walkover of the site and inspection of the area to identify any habitat types present and to record evidence of protected species such as bats, badger (*Meles meles*), dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), breeding birds, reptiles and great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

2.3.1 Initial Protected Species Assessment - Bats

The assessment criteria used to determine the potential ecological value of the site for bats during the Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey are outlined below. These are 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.

The potential for on-site habitat to support bats is based upon the following criteria:

Table 1 – Assessment criteria used for buildings or structures

Potential	
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation).
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of year. However, there potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by large numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).

Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition) (2023)

Table 2 – Assessment criteria used for trees and woodlands

Potential	
HIGH	Woodpecker holes Fractured limbs and/or hazard beam cracks Large sections of loose or flaking bark Cavities / cracks / crevices either large in size or numerous in quantity. Crossing and rubbing branches. A hollow trunk, stem or branches Dense ivy cover with thick stems Tightly forked branch unions Bat, bird or dormouse boxes Mature, well established, profuse and thick epicormic growth.
MEDIUM	Some small cracks or crevices Low ivy cover Deadwood in canopy or stem Snagged branches
LOW or NEGLIGIBLE	No cracks or crevices, ivy cover, deadwood in canopy or stem and no decay cavities or hollows in the stem

Table 3 - Recommended timings for presence/absence surveys

Recommended timings for presence/absence surveys to give confidence in a negative result.		
Roost suitability		
Low	Moderate	High
May to August	May to September, with at least one survey between May and August	May to September, with at least two surveys between May and August
Recommended <u>minimum</u> number of surveys		
Roost suitability		
Low	Moderate	High
One dusk emergence survey (a)	Two separate dusk emergence surveys (b)	Three separate dusk emergence surveys (b)
<p>a) Structures that have been categorised as low potential can be problematic and the number of surveys required should be judged on a case by case-by-case basis. In some cases, more than one survey may be needed, particularly where there are several buildings in this category.</p> <p>b) Multiple survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period as possible, it is recommended that surveys are spaced at least three weeks apart, preferably more.</p>		
Table is an extract from the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition) (2023)		

2.3.2 Initial Protected Species Assessment – Badger, Dormouse, Common Reptiles, Common Breeding Birds, Great Crested Newt

The assessment criteria used to determine the potential ecological value for these species are as follows:

Badger: a detailed investigation of the site to identify evidence of badger residence, foraging or territorial activity is undertaken. Particular emphasis was placed on locating badger setts, paths, and signs of territorial activity such as dung piles.

Dormouse: an assessment of favourable habitat features for this species such as food sources including hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) is undertaken. Additionally, the structure, diversity and connectivity to adjacent woodland are considered.

Common Reptiles: an assessment of favourable habitat features for these species is based on the presence of dense or tussocky grassland with some open ground and good exposure to the sun.

Breeding Birds: an assessment of favourable habitat features for these species is based on the presence of suitable cover and feeding areas provided by trees, scrub or dense grassland.

Great Crested Newt: an assessment of favourable habitat features for this species include the presence of neutral or base-rich, fish free ponds, with suitable adjacent cover such as rough grassland, woodland, suburban gardens, or scrub.

2.4 Survey Conditions

Table 4 - Weather conditions during the survey

Temperature:	26° Celsius	
Cloud cover	0%	
Rainfall	None	
Wind & direction	Average windspeed	0.5 mph
	Average direction	N

2.5 Survey Limitations

Direct evidence of protected species may not be visible depending on the site conditions and the time of year. In these circumstances, the site assessment is based upon the apparent suitability of the habitat present.

3 RESULTS AND ASSESSMENT

3.1 Desktop Study

3.1.1 Protected sites

The DEFRA Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website shows that 4 South Close, Havant is situated to the north of Chichester and Langstone Harbours meaning that there are several protected sites within 2000m of the property. These sites are listed in the table below. A map of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) can be found in Appendix 1

Table 5 -Protect sites within 2000m of 4 South Close, Havant

Site Name	Designation	Description	Distance
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Special Protection Area	Internationally important site for wintering wildfowl and wintering waders.	C570m South
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	RAMSAR site	Combination of intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits.	C570m South
Solent Maritime	Special Area of Conservation	Designated due to presence of three Annex 1 habitats (estuaries, spartina wards and Atlantic salt marshes).	C570m South
Warblington Meadow	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Agriculturally unimproved grazing freshwater marsh and salt marsh.	C970 Southeast
Langstone Harbour	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Salt marsh and lagoons with assemblage of vascular plants, breeding birds, non-breeding birds and invertebrates.	C1050m Southwest
Chichester Harbour	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Designated due to range of important habitats and presence of both breeding and non-breeding birds.	C570m South
Hayling Billy	Local Nature Reserve	Local Nature reserve known for its rare plants.	C1620m South
West Hayling	Local Nature Reserve	Intertidal mudflats and marine invertebrate life which attract migratory seabirds.	C1800m South

3.1.2 European Protected Species Records

DEFRA Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) shows that there has only been one European Protected Species Mitigation (ESP) licence issued within 2000m of the site. This license permitted the destruction of a resting place for the Common Pipistrelle Bat in 2014.

3.2 Site Description

The grassland area has a low number of commonly occurring species, it has been regularly mown and is used as a residential recreation area.

Table 6 - Plants identified growing within the sward

Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Broadleaf plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>



Figure 4– Site north to south



Figure 5 – Site south to north



Figure 6 – Existing property to the south-west



Figure 7 – grass sward

Given the low species diversity and its current use the grassland area is classified as modified grassland and not considered of importance.

3.3 Phase 1 Bat Survey

Preliminary Roost Assessment - The garden area and trees were assessed for suitability to support roosting bats.

Evidence of bat presence found: NONE

Given the lack of direct evidence of bat presence and the lack of suitable roosting sites, it is considered that the **Potential** for supporting bats is **None**.

3.4 Common Breeding Birds

The trees and shrubs around the property are consistent with the nesting requirements of a number of common birds such as blackbird (*Turdus merula*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), great tit (*Parus major*), blue tit (*Cyanistes cyanus*), and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*). But no active nests were noted on the site area during the survey.

Accordingly, the area of the site subject to the development proposal is considered to be of **low Potential** for disturbing breeding birds.

3.5 Hazel Dormouse

The area around the building lacks any shrub species normally associated with dormouse. The wider area around the property is highly unlikely to support dormice given the lack of shrubby species. Accordingly, the site is considered to be of **negligible potential** for hazel dormouse.

3.6 Badger

No evidence of badger residence, such as setts or latrines, was found on the site, in the absence of any evidence of resident badgers, the site is not considered to provide a critical resource for this species. Accordingly, the site is considered to be of **negligible potential** for badger.

3.7 Great Crested Newt (GCN)

There are no waterbodies on the site. Lymbourne Stream runs along the eastern boundary of the property. LandApp data shows that there are several other suitable sites within 500m that are likely to be supporting GCN.

There are no records of license returns within 500m.

Accordingly, the site is considered to provide **low potential** for great crested newt.

3.8 Other Legally Protected Species

It is considered that there would be no detectable impact on any other protected species.

3.9 Legally Protected Habitats

There are no legally protected areas within 50 meters of the proposed development site.

4 Evaluation, Impacts and Recommendations

4.1 Introduction

The results of the Extended Phase 1 Survey have been used to provide a summary of the further survey needs of the site, if the development is to proceed.

The recommendations comprise two categories:

- Those species or issues for which further surveys or precautionary measures are deemed necessary;
- Those species or issues for which no further action is recommended.

4.2 Further Measures for Bats

Given the lack of direct evidence and suitable roosting sites no further survey work is recommended.

4.3 Further Measures for Breeding Bird Protection

There are trees and shrubs around the site that could possibly support common breeding birds, but the current development proposal does not include any removal or disturbance of this vegetation. If, at a later stage, it became necessary to remove any of this habitat this should be undertaken within the period September to February inclusive, to avoid disturbance of breeding birds.

Therefore at this stage no further survey work is recommended in respect of breeding birds.

4.4 Further Measures for Great Crested Newts

Given the lack of any wetland habitats or suitable refugia on site, the development proposal is unlikely to support GCN. Therefore, GCNs are not likely to be impacted and no further survey work is recommended.

4.5 Species requiring No Further Action

Based on the survey undertaken, the development site is considered to be of negligible ecological value for dormice, badgers and common reptiles. It is concluded that the work will have no deleterious impacts on these species, and no further surveys are considered necessary.

4.6 Updating Surveys

Due to the mobile nature of some of the species discussed above, it is considered there will be a requirement to update the current survey if the development work has not commenced within two years of the date of this report.

4.7 Precautionary approach

In the unlikely event that any protected species are found during construction all works must stop immediately and advice should be sought from the consulting ecologist.

Help in regard of bats can also be gained from Bat Conservation Trust or Natural England, National Bat Helpline 0345 1300 228, <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/help-ive-found-a-bat>

5 REFERENCES

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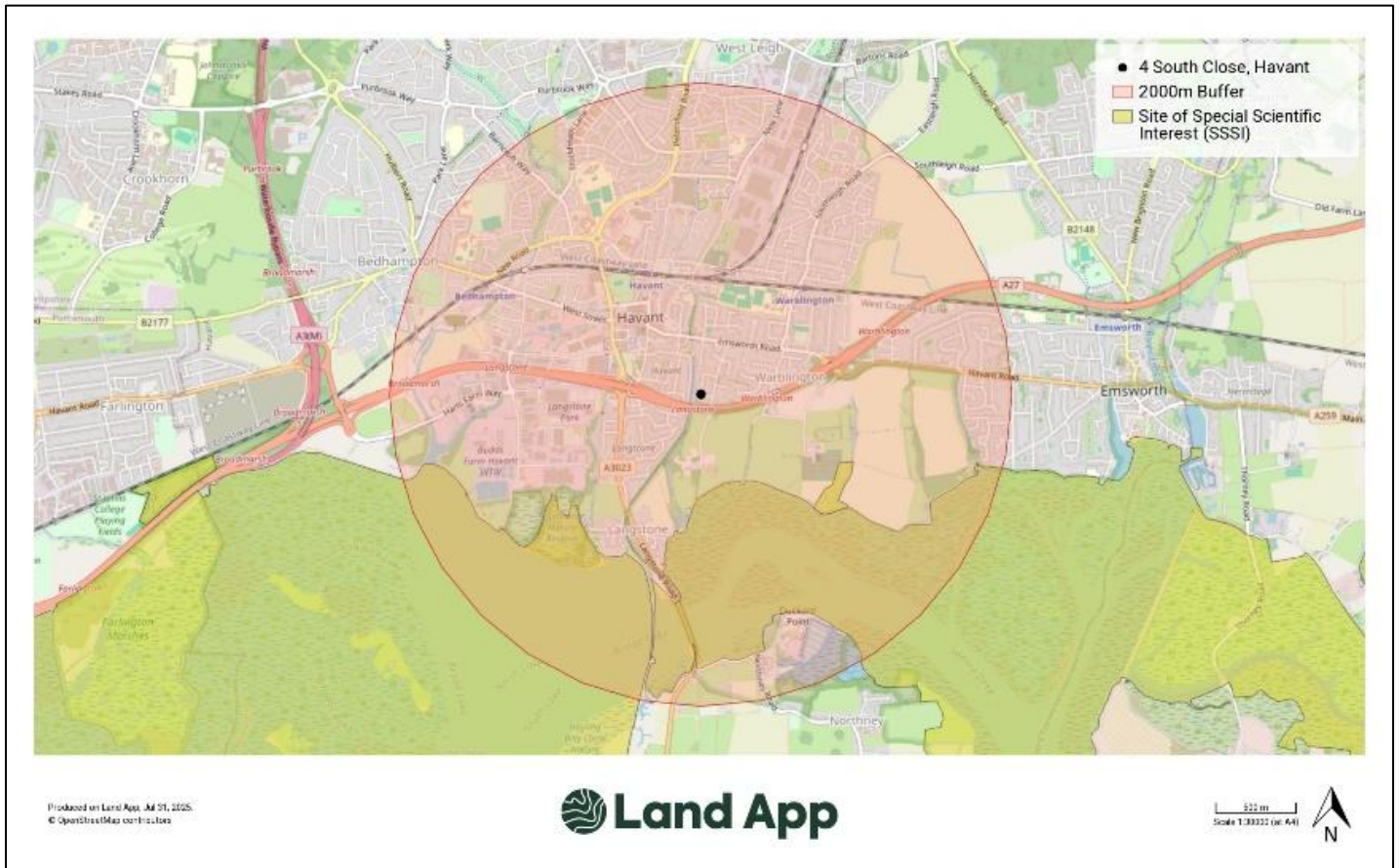
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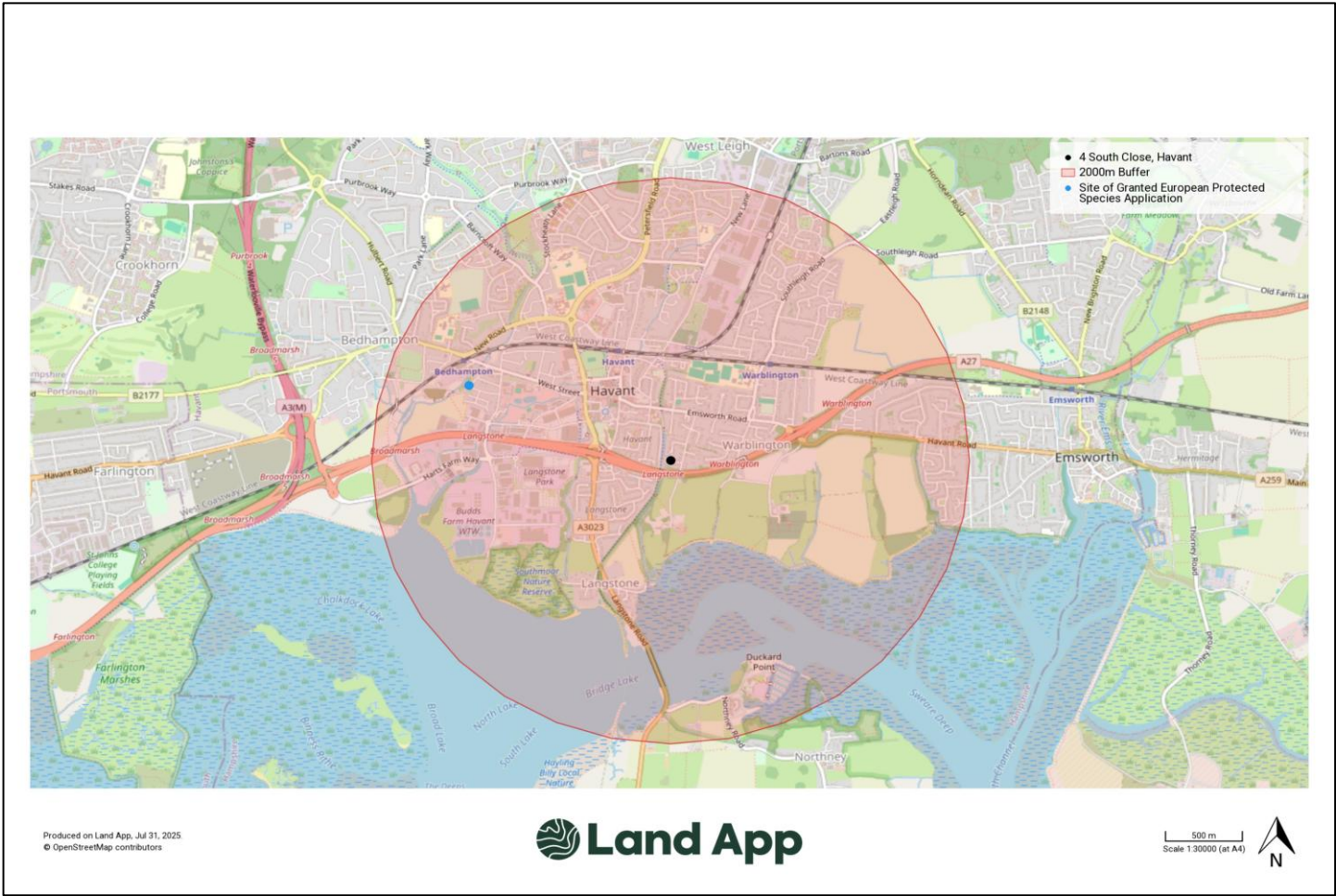
6 Appendix

6.1 Appendix 1 – Land-Based Designations, with 2km buffer



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6.2 Appendix 2 – Granted European Protected Species Applications with 2km Buffer



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6.3 Appendix 3 – Details of Granted European Protected Species Applications

CASE_REF	2014-1826-EPS-MIT
SPECIES_GR	Bat
SPECIES_DE	C-PIP
SITE_COUNT	Hampshire
LICENCE_ST	20/08/2014
LICENCE_EN	01/11/2015