

**GARAGE COURT, LOCKERLEY ROAD, HAVANT,
HAMPSHIRE**

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Final Document

June 2021

Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Protected Species Surveys and Licensing • NVC • EclA • HRA • Management Plans
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Hazel Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species

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GARAGE COURT, LOCKERLEY ROAD, HAVANT, HAMPSHIRE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ecological Survey and Assessment Ltd (ECOSA) have been appointed by PDP Architecture to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment to support a planning application for the redevelopment of Garage Court, Havant. The site is located in the north of Havant and comprises a block of garages. The proposals entail demolition of the existing garage buildings and creation of a new car park.

The main findings of the Ecological Impact Assessment are:

- The only habitats present on site are buildings and hardstanding;
- The on-site buildings have negligible suitability to support roosting bats. The on-site buildings have suitability for breeding birds. The surrounds have low suitability to support foraging and commuting bats.
- Potential impacts include killing and injury of breeding birds during building demolition and increased lighting disturbance to bats as a result of new lighting;
- Mitigation measures include a sensitive lighting strategy and sensitive timings of building demolition;
- A bat box and bird box are also proposed to be erected onto a nearby mature tree;
- Given the impacts identified, and the mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures proposed it is considered that the proposals accord with all relevant local and national planning policy; and
- If the planning application boundary changes or the proposals for the site alter, a re-assessment of the scheme in relation to ecology may be required. Given the mobility of animals and the potential for colonisation of the site over time, updating survey work may be required, particularly if development does not commence within 18 months of the date of the most recent relevant survey.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been appointed by PDP Architecture to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment to support a planning application for the redevelopment of Garage Court, Lockerley Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2LD (hereafter referred to as the site).

1.2 The Site

The site is located in Havant, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 72280 07450 (**Map 1**).

The site covers approximately 0.1 hectares and comprises a block of garages and associated hardstanding. The site is located in a highly built-up area in Havant and is bounded by a playground to the north, St. Albans Road to the east, the Chichester House tower block to the west, and a car park and Lockerley Road to the south.

The surrounds comprise the residential areas of north Havant. A park is located immediately to the north-west, a playing field is located to the south-east with the remainder of the surrounds highly built up. A large industrial estate is located approximately 200 metres east.

1.3 Aims and Scope of Report

The information within this report is based on a field survey and desktop study carried out during June 2021. The report describes the habitats and species (hereafter referred to as ecological features) within the site's Zone of Influence (Paragraph 3.2), and provides a detailed assessment of potential ecological effects of the proposed development of the site. It identifies the need for any measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for significant adverse effects¹ on ecological features and outlines enhancements to the site's ecology to be implemented as part of the development. The objectives of the assessment are:

- To provide baseline information on ecological features within the site's Zone of Influence;
- To assess, characterise and quantify the effects on ecological features, including cumulative effects, and identify effects in the absence of any mitigation;

¹ For the purposes of this assessment a 'significant' adverse effect is one which will have an adverse effect on the ecological feature at the site level or higher.

- To set out measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate for significant ecological effects in accordance with the 'mitigation hierarchy'²; and
- To outline opportunities for enhancement in order to achieve a net gain for biodiversity.

1.4 Site Proposals

No detailed proposals plans were available at the time of writing, however it is understood that the proposals entail the demolition of the existing on-site garages and conversion of the site for use as a car park, with associated boundary fencing and lighting.

Planning permission is being sought during June 2021 with works proposed to commence soon after permission has been granted.

² In accordance with CIEEM Ecological Impact Assessment guidance (CIEEM, 2018) a sequential process is adopted to address impacts on features of ecological interest, with 'Avoidance' prioritised at the top of the hierarchy and 'Compensation/Enhancement' at the bottom. This is often referred to as the 'mitigation hierarchy'.

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section summarises the planning policy in relation to ecology and biodiversity within the Havant Borough administrative area. This information is then used to assess the compliance of the scheme in relation to relevant planning policy and where necessary used to inform the necessary mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures (see Section 5.0).

2.2 Planning Policy

2.2.1 National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's requirements for the planning system in England. The original document was published in 2012 with a revised NPPF published in February 2019. A number of sections of the NPPF are relevant when taking into account development proposals and the environment. As set out within Paragraph 11 of the NPPF *"Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development"*. However, Paragraph 177 goes on to state that *"The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site."*

The NPPF sets out that development proposals should not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement. Paragraph 170 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by *"...minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures..."*.

A number of principles are set out in Paragraph 175, including that where harm cannot be adequately avoided then it should be mitigated for, or as a last resort, compensated for. Where impacts occur on nationally designated sites, the benefits must clearly outweigh any adverse impact and incorporating biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged. Specific reference is also made to the protection of irreplaceable habitats³, including ancient woodland⁴. Where loss to irreplaceable

³ The NPPF defines irreplaceable habitats as *"Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen."*

⁴ Natural England defines ancient woodland as *"An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)."*

habitats occurs planning permission would normally be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and an adequate compensation strategy is in place. Paragraph 175 also states *“development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity”*. Protection of sites proposed as SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites or acting as compensation for SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, should receive the same protection as habitat sites.

In addition to the NPPF, Circular 06/05 provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Paragraph 98 states *“the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat”*. Paragraph 99 states *“it is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the Proposed Project Development, is established before planning permission is granted”*.

2.2.2 Local Policy

Local planning policy within Havant Borough is provided by the Havant Borough Core Strategy 2011, adopted March 2011. Three policies refer in part to ecology and biodiversity:

- **Policy CS11: Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough**

This policy refers to protecting and enhancing statutory and non-statutory designated sites, and features of ecological interest including wildlife habitats and corridors, through appropriate mitigation measures.

- **Policy DM9: Development in the Coastal Zone**

This policy refers to the protection of the coastal zone and states that permissions will only be granted in this zone where it can be demonstrated that there will be no harmful effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites.

Production of an updated Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 has been underway since 2016. The updated Local Plan 2036 was submitted for examination in February 2021, with adoption proposed to be in late 2021. Five policies within the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 refer specifically to ecology and biodiversity:

- **Policy E14: The Local Ecological Network**

This policy refers to protecting, conserving and enhancing internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites for nature conservation, and the requirement for a net gain in biodiversity.

- **Policy E15: Protected Species**

This policy refers to avoiding impacts on protected species and their habitats, with special reference made to Bechstein's bat.

- **Policy E16: Solent Special Protection Areas**

This policy refers to protecting SPAs within the Solent, and states mitigation measures required if significant effects on the SPAs are anticipated.

- **Policy E17: Solent Waders and Brent Goose Feeding and Roosting Sites**

This policy refers to protecting sites associated with the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS).

- **Policy E18: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland**

This policy refers to protecting important trees, hedgerows and woodland and the successful implementation of landscape and tree planting schemes.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Introduction

This section details the methods used during the field survey and desktop study carried out as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment. Any significant limitations to the assessment are also considered.

3.2 Zone of Influence

To define the total extent of the study area for this assessment (Zone of Influence⁵), the proposed scheme was reviewed to establish the spatial scale at which ecological features could be affected. The appropriate survey radii for the various elements of the assessment (i.e. desktop study and field survey) have been defined in the relevant sections below. These distances are determined based on the professional judgement of the ecologist leading the appraisal, taking into account the characteristics of the site subject to appraisal, its surroundings and the nature and scope of the proposals.

3.3 Scoping

Protected species considered within this appraisal are those species/species groups considered likely to be encountered given the geographical location and context of the site. As impacts of the proposed works are limited to within the footprint of the on-site buildings and hardstanding only species likely to occur within buildings have been considered within this appraisal. These are discussed within the results section (Section 4.0) of the current report. Where such a species is unlikely to be present on site a justification for likely absence is provided. Species considered likely absent from the site are not then considered in the assessment of ecological effects and mitigation measures section (Section 5.0) of this report.

3.4 Desk Study

A full biological record centre desktop study was not undertaken as part of this assessment. This was not considered necessary given the nature of on-site and surrounding habitats.

3.4.1 Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (DEFRA, 2021) database was reviewed on 15th June 2021 to establish the location of statutory designated sites located within the vicinity of the site. This included a search for all internationally and nationally designated sites such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves

⁵ The Zone of Influence (Zoi), as defined by CIEEM, is the area over which ecological features may be subject to significant effects as a result of the proposed project and associated activities.

(NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within one kilometre of the site. Where appropriate, the desk study search area has been extended to take account of any appropriate statutory designated sites which need consideration in terms of potential in-direct effects and which support particularly mobile species⁶. The Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) were also obtained from MAGIC, which are used to help guide and assess planning applications for likely effects on SSSIs.

Sites within two kilometres of the site boundary where European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licences have been granted were reviewed. This information allows a greater understanding of the potential for European protected species to be present in the local area.

3.4.2 Other Sources of Information

Online mapping resources, at an appropriate scale, were used to identify the presence of habitats such as woodland blocks, ponds, watercourses and hedgerows, in the vicinity of the site. These habitats may offer resources and connectivity between the site and suitable habitat in the local area, which may be exploited by local species populations.

3.5 Field Survey

The field survey broadly followed standard Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) and included a search for evidence of, and an assessment of the site's suitability to support, protected and notable species as recommended by CIEEM (CIEEM, 2017). The field survey covered all accessible areas of the site, including boundary features. Habitats are described in Section 4.0, and photographs are provided, where relevant.

3.5.1 Protected and Notable Species Appraisal

A preliminary appraisal of the site's suitability to support legally protected and notable species was carried out. The following species/species groups were considered during the appraisal.

Bats

The survey conformed to current Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Collins, 2016). An assessment was made of the suitability of buildings on the site and immediately on the site boundary to support roosting bats based on the presence of Potential Roosting Features such as loose or missing roof tiles or lifted lead flashing. A detailed external and internal inspection of accessible structures was undertaken to compile information

⁶ Search areas for bat records are based upon information contained within Collins, J. (Ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Third Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London. Relevant distances for consideration of impacts on SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites have been based on current published guidance available through web-based sources.

on potential and actual bat entry/exit points; potential and actual bat roosting locations; any evidence of bats found.

An assessment was made of the suitability of the site and the surrounding landscape to support foraging and/or commuting bat species. The assessment of the suitability of the site to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats is based on a four-point scale as detailed in **Appendix 3**.

Birds

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

3.6 Field Survey Details

The field survey was carried out by Richard Chilcott, Principal Ecologist of ECOSA and David Miller, Assistant Ecologist on 15th June 2021. The weather conditions were dry and overcast with approximately 50% cloud cover, an ambient temperature of 15°C and no wind.

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

3.7 Field Survey Limitations

Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year, migration patterns and behaviour. The field survey has therefore not produced a complete list of plants and animals and in the absence of evidence of any particular species should not be taken as conclusive proof that the species is absent or that it will not occur in the future.

Online mapping resources provide an indication of habitat features present in the wider area, but do not provide a detailed assessment of habitat types.

Due to some of the garages being locked or for health and safety reasons, it was not possible to access the interior of several of the garages. However, access was possible to the interior of the majority of the garages and therefore it is considered appropriate to assume that the interiors of the inaccessible garages would be broadly similar.

4.0 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

4.1 Introduction

This section details the results of the field survey and desktop study undertaken as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment for the site. It assesses the baseline ecological conditions of the site at the time the desktop study was completed and based on the ecological features recorded during the field survey carried out on 7th June 2021.

4.2 Scoping

As the site comprises only buildings and hardstanding, only species which may be present within the buildings have been considered in this assessment. There is no vegetation present on site and therefore species such as reptiles, badger, dormouse and great crested newt would not be present.

4.3 Statutory Designated Sites

There are no statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest situated within one kilometres of the site boundary.

Further information on sites designated for nature conservation are provided in **Appendix 1**.

4.4 Habitats

4.4.1 Desktop Study Results

Consultation with MAGIC returned no records of notable habitats on or adjacent to the site.

4.4.2 Field Survey Results

The only habitats present on site are buildings and hardstanding.

Buildings

The north and south of the site comprise three blocks of garages. Further details of the on-site building are provided in **Table 1**.

Hardstanding

The remainder of the site comprises hardstanding, including an access ramp to the south. three blocks of garages. Further details of the on-site building are provided in **Table 1**.



Figure 1: Hardstanding in centre of site



Figure 2: Access ramp

Relevant Off-site Areas

A number of scattered trees are located in the vicinity of the site, including two mature pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* immediately to the east.

The site is located on an area of split ground levels, with the ground level to the south substantially lower than to the rear. Consequently, below the site is a further set of off-site underground garages which are in frequent use.

4.5 Notable and Legally Protected Species

4.5.1 Bats

Desktop Study Results

Consultation with MAGIC returned one granted EPSM licence for bats within two kilometres of the site. This was granted in 2014 for the destruction of a resting place of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.

Building Assessment

The results of the building assessment are provided in **Table 1**.

Foraging and Commuting Habitat

Although there is no suitable foraging and commuting habitat on the site itself, there is suitable habitat in the surrounds in the form of the park to the north, scattered trees and nearby residential gardens. Overall, the site itself is assessed as having negligible suitability to support foraging and commuting bats, with the surrounding area having low foraging and commuting suitability.

Table 1: Building Assessment – Summary of Features with Bat Roost Potential and Evidence of Bat Roost Activity

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Evidence of Bat Roost Activity and Location	Assessment of Suitability for Roosting Bats
B1 – Northern Garage Block	 Figure 3: B1 in north of site  Figure 4: Roof of B1  Figure 5: Open interior of garage	B1 comprises a row of single-storey garages (Figure 3). The building is of brick construction, with a corrugated tin roof (Figure 4) the interior of which is sprayed with asbestos. Asbestos soffits are present along the front of the garages. The majority of the garages have metal doors with the remainder covered with chipboard panelling. Many of the garages are disused, with open doors resulting in significant light spill into the interior (Figure 5). Several garages are still in use with intact metal doors which are well sealed. No voids are present in the interior of the garage block.	Due to the open garage doors the majority of the garages are subject to significant light spill in the interior. Additionally, the tin and asbestos roofing results in unstable thermal conditions, particularly during warmer periods. Several of the garages are still in use and the site is situated in a highly built up area and is therefore subject to high levels of human disturbance. A number of streetlights are present in the vicinity of the site resulting in high levels of lighting disturbance on site. A small number of features are present in the form of crevices between the internal walls and roof (Figure 6). However, due to the reasoning laid out above it is considered highly unlikely that these crevices would be utilised by bats. Therefore, the building is considered unsuitable for use by roosting bats.	No evidence of roosting bats, such as droppings or feeding signs, was recorded during the survey.	Negligible

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Evidence of Bat Roost Activity and Location	Assessment of Suitability for Roosting Bats
	 Figure 6: Crevice between internal wall and roof				
B2 – South-western Garage Block	 Figure 7: B2 in south-western corner  Figure 8: Gap in asbestos soffit	B2 is of the same construction and condition as B1 but comprises just 2 garages located in the south-western corner of the site (Figure 7).	A gap in the asbestos soffit box at the front of B2 was recorded (Figure 8), however this leads only into the open roof which due to its construction lacks the suitable thermal conditions for use by roosting bats. This, combined with the reasons outlined in relation to B1 results in the building being unsuitable for use by roosting bats.	No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the survey.	Negligible

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Evidence of Bat Roost Activity and Location	Assessment of Suitability for Roosting Bats
B3 – South-eastern Garage Block	 Figure 9: B3 in south-east of site	B3 is of the same construction and condition as B1 and B2 and comprises a row of garages located in the south-east of the site (Figure 9).	The condition of B3 is analogous to that of B1. Similar crevices are present, however the same factors such as light spill, unstable thermal conditions, and disturbance make it extremely unlikely that these would be used by bats. Therefore, the building is considered unsuitable for use by roosting bats.	No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the survey.	Negligible
Underground garages below site	 Figure 10: Interior of underground garages below site	A set of underground garages are located below the site (Figure 10). Although the interior is dark when not in use, very bright lights activated by motion sensors turn on when in use. The garages are in near constant use with people and vehicles heading in and out, resulting in the frequent activation	No potential bat roost features were recorded and due to the high level of human and light disturbance, the underground garages are considered to be unsuitable for roosting hibernating bats.	No evidence of roosting or hibernating bats was recorded during the survey.	Negligible

4.5.2 Birds

Field Survey Results

No birds were recorded on site during the survey, with only feral pigeon *Columba livia domestica* recorded flying overhead.

No evidence of birds nesting on site was recorded during the survey. However, due to their disused state and open interiors a number of the on-site garages provide suitable opportunities for birds which nest within buildings. The wider area offers further suitable habitat for breeding birds in the form of scattered trees, residential gardens and further disused buildings.

4.6 Summary of Key Ecological Features

The following features are those with greatest ecological value that lie within the site's Zone of Influence:

- Suitability for breeding birds within on-site buildings; and
- Low suitability for foraging and commuting bats in the vicinity of the site.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION/COMPENSATION/ ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

5.1 Introduction

This section assesses the ecological effects of the proposed development scheme on the identified ecological features as identified in Section 4.0. Methods for addressing potential impacts and effects on ecological features have been approached in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy⁷ with avoidance of impacts prioritised where possible. Where significant adverse effects cannot be avoided other forms of mitigation are prioritised over compensation. Enhancement measures have been detailed, where relevant, in order to not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement in accordance with Paragraph 170 of the NPPF (Paragraph 2.2.1). It is anticipated that mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures will be secured through the planning process.

5.2 Scheme Design

No detailed proposals plans were available at the time the preparation of this report, however it is understood that the proposals entail the demolition of the existing on-site garages and conversion of the site for use as a car park, with associated boundary fencing and lighting.

The potential ecological impacts and effects of these proposals, in the absence of mitigation, are described for each ecological feature below. For each ecological feature, measures to mitigate and/or compensate for significant effects are described.

5.3 Designated Sites

5.3.1 Potential Impacts and Effects

No statutory designated sites are located within one kilometre of the site. Therefore, no potential impacts on designated sites are anticipated.

5.3.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

No potential impacts have been identified and therefore no mitigation measures are required.

5.3.3 Enhancement

No enhancement in respect of designated sites is required.

⁷ In accordance with CIEEM Ecological Impact Assessment guidance (CIEEM, 2018) a sequential process is adopted to address impacts on features of ecological interest, with 'Avoidance' prioritised at the top of the hierarchy and 'Compensation/Enhancement' at the bottom. This is often referred to as the 'mitigation hierarchy'.

5.4 Habitats

5.4.1 Potential Impacts and Effects

As the site comprises only buildings and hardstanding, no potential impacts or effects on habitats are anticipated.

5.4.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

No impacts are anticipated and therefore no mitigation in respect of habitats is required.

5.4.3 Enhancement

No enhancement in respect of habitats is required.

5.5 Bats

5.5.1 Potential Impacts and Effects

As the site has negligible suitability for roosting bats, no potential impacts on roosting bats are anticipated.

As the surrounds have low suitability to support foraging and commuting bats, the introduction of new lighting at the site has the potential to result in increased lighting disturbance to bats in the local area.

In England, bats and their habitat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 through inclusion in Schedule 5. In addition, all bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Refer to **Appendix 2** for details.

5.5.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

New external lighting will comprise hooded luminaires directed away from vegetation, particularly the nearby off-site scattered trees. Ideally the bulbs will be LED and at the warmer end of the spectrum (e.g. avoiding blue or white light). LED lights emit much lower levels of UV and therefore have a lower impact on wildlife. The lux level will be as low as possible to allow the function of the lighting to be carried out safely and effectively. Guidance on task related lighting levels and mitigation options as described within the Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK report will be followed (Institution of Lighting Professionals, Bat Conservation Trust, 2018).

5.5.3 Enhancement

As a form of enhancement, one Vivara Pro WoodStone bat box (or similar) will be erected onto a nearby mature tree in the control of the client. It is understood that a mature tree is located on the land immediately south of the site, which is also owned by the client. The bat box should be erected on this tree, located at least three metres high and located away from light sources.

5.6 Birds

5.6.1 Potential Impacts and Effects

As the on-site buildings are suitable for breeding birds, building demolition has the potential to result in the killing and injuring of breeding birds and their young.

All birds, their nests, eggs and young are legally protected, with certain exceptions, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Refer to **Appendix 2** for details.

5.6.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

Building demolition should be undertaken outside of the months of March to August, to avoid the nesting bird season. If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist will inspect the buildings immediately prior to demolition to check for the presence of active nests. Any active nests will be left undisturbed with a suitable buffer until the chicks have fledged, or the nest is no longer in use.

One VivaraPro Seville WoodStone nest box should be erected onto the nearby mature tree owned by the client (see paragraph 5.5.3). This should be erected two to three metres high and located away from artificial light sources.

5.6.3 Enhancement

No enhancement in respect of breeding birds is proposed.

5.7 Residual and Cumulative Effects

Given the mitigation and compensation measures outlined above, no significant residual effects are anticipated on any of the species considered. Therefore, there will be no cumulative effects on local populations as a result of the development.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Conclusion

The site comprises buildings and hardstanding. The on-site buildings have negligible suitability to support roosting bats. The surrounds have low suitability to support foraging and commuting bats. The on-site buildings have suitability to support breeding birds. Mitigation measures have been proposed, including a sensitive lighting strategy and building demolition undertaken outside the nesting bird season, or immediately after inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist. As a form of compensation and enhancement, a bat box and a bird box will be erected onto a nearby mature tree. Post-development, no residual or cumulative impacts are anticipated. Overall, it is considered that the proposals will accord with all relevant national and local planning policy in relation to ecology including Policies CS11 and DM9 of the Core Strategy, Policies E14 to E18 of the Local Plan and the NPPF (see Section 2.0).

6.2 Updating Site Survey

If the planning application boundary changes or the proposals for the site alter, a re-assessment of the scheme in relation to ecology may be required. Given the mobility of animals and the potential for colonisation of the site over time, updating survey work may be required, particularly if development does not commence within 18 months of the date of the most recent relevant survey.

7.0 REFERENCES

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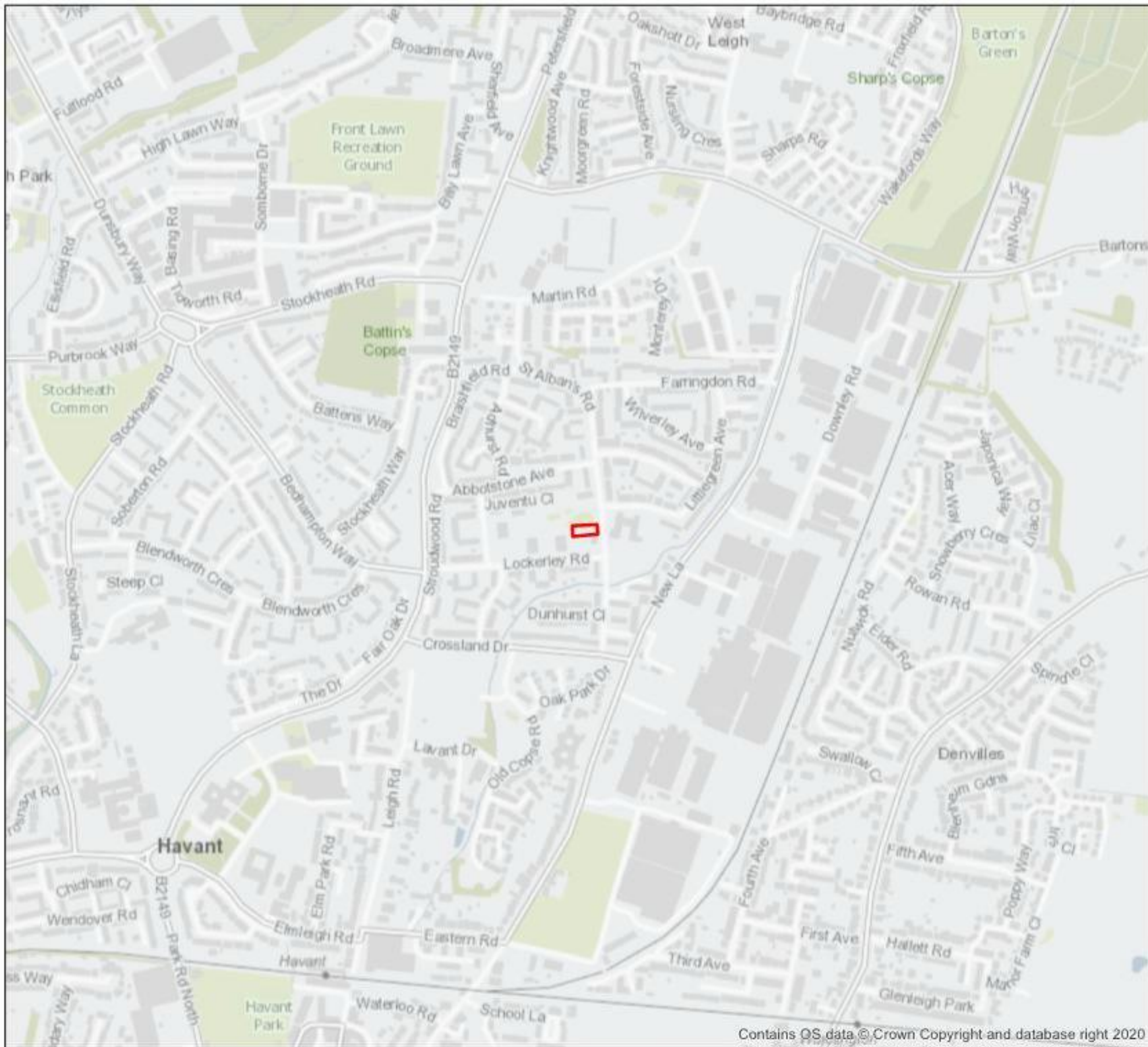
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Map 1 Site Location Plan



GARAGE COURT, LOCKERLEY ROAD, HAVANT, HAMPSHIRE

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Map 1 - Site Location Plan

Client:	PDP Architecture
Date:	June 2021
Status:	Final

KEY

Site Boundary



Scale at A4: 1:10,000
 0 100 200 400 Metres

Prepared by: DM	Date: 210621
Last amended by: N/A	Date: N/A

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Appendix 1 Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Statutory Sites

Internationally Designated Sites - Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form a network of protected sites across the European Union and United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom the primary legislative protection is afforded to these sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Ramsar sites are designated as wetlands of international importance which are afforded similar legislative protection to SPAs and SACs.

SACs are sites which support internationally important habitats or internationally important assemblages or populations of species. SPAs are designated for supporting internationally important populations of birds. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are generally also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) there is a legal requirement that competent authorities, such as local planning authorities, need to consider whether plans or projects are likely to have a significant adverse effect on SPAs, SACs or Ramsar sites, either alone, or in combination with other plans or projects. In the event that a likely significant effect cannot be ruled out, on the basis of objective information, then the competent authority must undertake an "Appropriate Assessment" to fully assess the plan or project against the site's conservation objectives. Unless certain defined derogation tests can be met, the competent authority may not authorise nor undertake any plan or project which adversely affects the integrity of a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.

Nationally Designated Sites – Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves

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

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

Locally Designated Sites – Local Nature Reserves

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

Appendix 2 Relevant Legislation

Bats

All UK bat species are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 43 of the Regulations. These make it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- Deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:
- To impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young;
- To impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any of these animals uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, five British bat species are listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. These are:

- Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*;
- Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*;
- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*;
- Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*; and
- Greater mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis*.

In certain circumstances where these species are found the Directive requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) by EC member states to ensure that their populations are maintained at a favourable conservation status. Outside SACs, the level of legal protection that these species receive is the same as for other bat species.

Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Therefore, it is an offence, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

These offences do not apply to hunting of birds listed in Schedule 2 subject to various controls. Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive further protection, thus for these species it is also an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.

Appendix 3 Appraisal Criteria for Bats

The criteria used to assess the suitability of roosting and foraging/commuting habitat for bats is based on industry guidelines and outlined in **Table 2**⁸.

Table 2: Criteria used to Assess Suitability of Roosting and Foraging/Commuting Habitat for Bats

Suitability	Description of roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
High	A structure or tree 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.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.
Moderate	A structure or tree 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.	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically/structure that does not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roost features but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerows or un-vegetated stream, but isolated (i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat). Suitable, but isolated, habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree or a patch of scrub.
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.

⁸ Table adapted from (Collins, 2016)