



Environmental Statement

Mill Lane Flood Defences,
Langstone

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Report	Environmental Statement (Ecology)
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Ecosupport Ltd was instructed by Robert Carrell to undertake an Environmental Statement (ES) to support the proposed flood defence at the parcel of land off Mill Lane, Langstone (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

The proposed flood defence is a small section of the proposed wider-scale flood defence at Langstone by Coastal Partners. The coastline was divided into seven frontages (1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). Frontages 1B and 6 are currently excluded from their proposals (submitted a pre-application under reference APP/25/00162) as funding has not been secured for these aspects. The proposed flood defence within this western parcel falls under a small section of Frontage 1B which is excluded from the Coastal Partners scheme above.

Coastal Partners have kindly provided survey information and reports relating to the wider scheme. With permission from Coastal Partners, survey data has been included within this report where relevant to aid in the preparation of this Environmental Statement.

1.2 Scoping

A formal scoping request has not been sent to Havant Borough Council. However, through discussion with the council, it has been considered that based on the small scale of works a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required as the majority of aspects can be scoped out since impact and scale will be minimal for this proposed development. The following aspects have been considered and scoped out:

- Transportation and Highways – no impact on roads;
- Landscape and visual – Development only impacts the landowners with no visual impacts to the wider area and from the sea impacts will be temporary during construction only;
- Drainage & Water Quality – A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced to address potential contamination from construction (impacts on ecology have been considered however) and drainage will be continued to be permitted through the embankment through a French drain so no expected impacts;
- Archaeology & Historic Environment – Site is limited scale and has no potential impacts on archaeology;
- Air Quality – Limited scale of proposed works will not impact on air quality in the wider area (impacts on ecology have been considered however); and
- Socio-economic – There will be no effects outside the site.

It should be noted that the above list is non-exhaustive but it has been considered that it is unlikely that additional aspects would be scoped in due to the limited scale of this development.

This Environmental Statement is focused on Ecology and considers all relevant ecological information. This report has been produced by Senior Project Ecologist Darrelle Moffat BES (Hons) PGCert ACIEEM, with 10 years' experience in ecology.

1.3 Objectives

The Objectives of this ES report are:

- To describe the proposals;
- To identify the potential impacts of the proposed scheme during the construction and operational phases;
- To assess the likely significant impacts of the scheme on features of the environment;
- To describe the mitigation measures to reduce the potential impacts of the proposed scheme on the environment;
- To assess any residual impacts following implementation of mitigation measures;
- To identify other schemes that may result in cumulative impacts; and
- To conclude whether the proposed development will result in any significant impacts.

1.4 Site Description & Location

The site is a parcel of land located off Mill Lane, Langstone, Havant, PO9 1RX (centred on OS grid reference SU 71473 04903) (**Fig 1**). The site is bound by a residential property to the east, by Mill Lane to the north and the remainder of the field and coastal habitats to the southwest and south. In the wider environment, the site lies within the southwest corner of Langstone village on the edge of Langstone Harbour.

Figure 1. Location of the site (Google, 2025)



1.5 Proposed Development

The proposals entail the construction of a bund within the east of the field for flood defence purposes to a crest level of 3.85m and the installation of a small number of PU12 section piles at the southeast

corner. In addition, a drain will be created under the bund to take water from the field through a French drain discharging to an existing ditch to allow the field to continue to drain (**Fig 2**).

1.5.1 Description of wider scheme

The site is a small section of the proposed wider-scale flood defence at Langstone that was prepared by Coastal Partners. The coastline was divided into seven frontages (1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). The current proposed Coastal Partners flood defence is currently under consultation (Ref APP/25/00162) and covers Frontages 1A, 2, 3, 4 & 5, seen in **Fig 3**. Frontages 1B and 6 are currently excluded from their proposals as funding has not been secured for these aspects. The information for Frontage 1B was provided by Coastal Partners to the local landowners. This site is proposed by one of the landowners to construct their portion of the project. Frontage 1B is located to the west of the wider project and connects further east into Frontages 1A & 2.

The site covers the western-most part of Frontage 1B (**Fig 4**), which extends further southeast from this site. The section along 9 Harbourside has been submitted as a separate proposal by the same landowner as part of Frontage 1B (Ref APP/24/00822); however at this time there are no further proposals by landowners although it may be taken forward in future.

Figure 3. Location of frontages for proposed Langstone FCERM Scheme submitted by Coastal Partners (2025) compared to the site (Project reference: LDW42220 Rev 01. Coastal Partners, 2023).

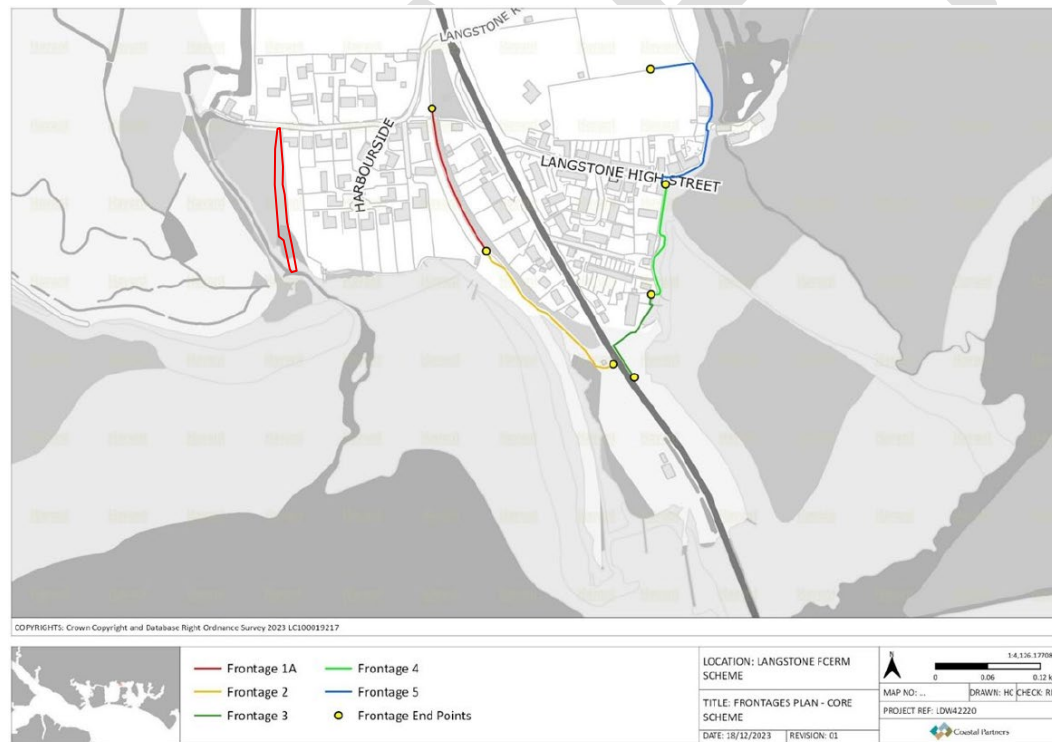
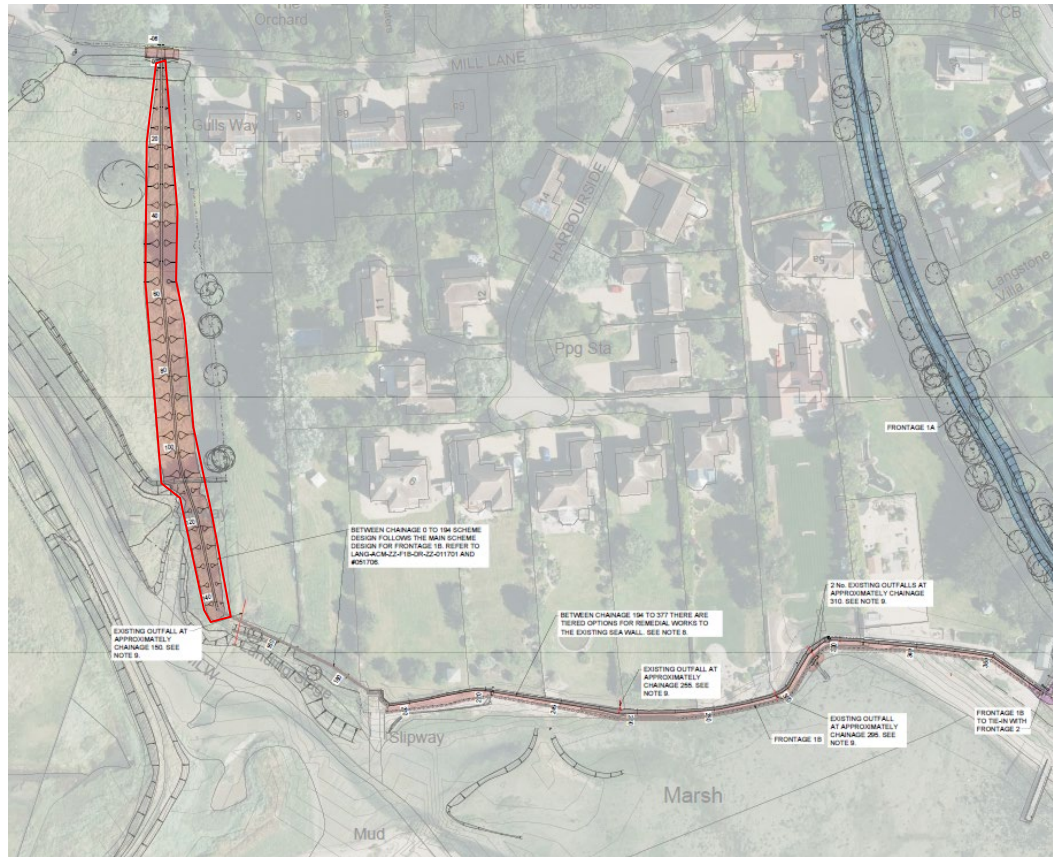


Figure 4. Location of site highlighted within wider Frontage 1B proposed scheme, which has been provided by Coastal Partners to the local landowners (Coastal Partners, 2023). *NB small section north of site is not included in the current project*



1.6 Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process is to ensure the decision maker is able to make a decision in the knowledge of any likely **significant effects** on the environment. Typically, appropriate impact assessment criteria are provided by specialist consultants on a number of topics identified throughout the EIA process. In this case, it is considered that all topics except Ecology have been scoped out and therefore methodologies are based on CIEEM's *Guidelines for Ecological Assessment in the UK* (CIEEM, 2018).

The ES makes predictions of environmental impacts upon receptors identified. The baseline environmental conditions are considered, with value of receptors assessed and the baseline conditions are compared with the predicted conditions from the proposed development. To evaluate and interpret likely significant effects of the project, the EIA process uses an evidence-based approach based on standard guidance.

To determine significant impacts, the following aspects are considered:

- Nature of the impact (e.g. direct/indirect, short/long-term, permanent/temporary, etc.)
- Extent and magnitude of the impact
- Probability of the impact
- Value/sensitivity of the receptors

- Duration and frequency of the impact
- Reversibility of the impact
- Mitigation measures that may be used to avoid, mitigate or offset significant adverse impacts.

1.7 Report Structure

The ES report is outlined as follows:

- **Methodology** – Details how the baseline condition data was determined and assessment methodology.
- **Baseline Conditions** – The baseline habitats, species, and designated sites relevant to the site are outlined. Results of survey work and previous survey data are included.
- **Potential Impacts** – Details the impacts the proposed scheme could have on the above baseline aspects in the absence of mitigation.
- **Mitigation & Residual Impacts** – What mitigation is being proposed to minimise identified impacts and what the remaining impacts are.
- **Cumulative Impacts** – Consideration of other proposals in the wider area that could have a cumulative impact.
- **Conclusion** – Confirms whether the full works are considered to be acceptable.

1.8 Relevant Ecological Legislation & Policies

The relevant ecological legislation and policies are included in **Appendix 1**.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Previous Baseline Information

The proposed scheme is a development that has been reduced from a wider scheme initially developed by Coastal Partners. This site is part of Frontage 1B, which was removed from the wider scheme due to costs. However, a lot of the information gathered as part of the wider project which included the site area can be considered useful in examining this site. Therefore, survey information submitted as part of the wider scheme has been used as part of this assessment with permission from Coastal Partners.

2.2 Ecological Desk Study

2.2.1 Data Request

A search for designated sites, priority habitats and protected species data within 1km of the site was undertaken using freely available online resources.

2.3 Ecological Field Survey

2.3.1 Habitats

The field survey work which forms the basis of the findings of this report was carried out by Project Ecologist with Ecosupport Ltd Darla Brown BSc (Hons) and Assistant Project Ecologist Laura Hardy BSc (Hons) AMRSB on the 4th September 2025.

Habitats on site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey, using Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). This was chosen as an appropriate habitat categorisation system as it fits within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation. Where appropriate primary habitat codes were used although for some habitat types, the use of secondary habitat codes was necessary as well.

2.4 Methodology of Assessment

2.4.1 Introduction

The methodology for the assessment of the likely ecological effects of the proposed development is based on CIEEM's *Guidelines for Ecological Assessment in the UK* (CIEEM, 2018).

The assessment of ecological impacts as part of the Environmental Statement is outlined as follows:

- **Baseline Conditions** – The baseline habitats, species, and designated sites relevant to the site are outlined. Results of survey work and previous survey data are included.
- **Potential Impacts** – Details the impacts the proposed scheme could have on the above baseline aspects in the absence of mitigation.
- **Mitigation & Residual Impacts** – What mitigation is being proposed to minimise identified impacts and what the remaining impacts are.
- **Cumulative Impacts** – Consideration of other proposals in the wider area that could have a cumulative impact.
- **Conclusion** – Confirms whether the full works are considered to be acceptable.

The EIA measures significant effects based on criteria of value of the environment, the magnitude of the impacts and the significance is based on a balance of these. These measures are outlined below.

2.4.2 Value

Value is considered to be the importance of a site and provides an indication of the resilience of an environment and its adaptability to impacts. Ecological value is based on a geographical context. The scale of value is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Scale of value of resources

Scale of Value	Description	Example of Receptors
International	Very high importance and rarity at the international scale	Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Ramsar sites, or supporting populations of internationally important species
National	High importance and rarity at the national scale	Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, sites supporting breeding populations of Red Data Book species.
Regional	Medium to high level of importance and rarity at the regional scale	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, Ancient woodland or veteran trees, major watercourses, sites supporting breeding populations of Nationally Scarce species or critical habitats
Local	Low to medium importance and rarity at the local scale.	Priority habitats, sites supporting breeding populations of key BAP or rare species, Local Nature Reserves, high quality habitats within the neighbour such as species-rich hedgerow or trees
Negligible	Very low importance and rarity, widespread habitats	Habitats of negligible or site value (e.g. modified grassland, developed area)

2.4.3 Magnitude

Magnitude is used to measure the expected scale of change that impacts may have on the baseline conditions. The scale of magnitude considered is shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Scale of magnitude.

Magnitude of Impact	Description
High	Large-scale or major change on baseline quality with severe undesirable / desirable consequences that will result in a significant change to the integrity of the feature.
Medium	Effect resulting in a discernible change in baseline conditions with undesirable / desirable consequences that can be tolerated, with a change or partial loss/damage to key aspects but that do not lose the integrity of the feature.
Low	Effect resulting in a discernible change in baseline conditions with undesirable / desirable consequences that can be tolerated, such as a measurable change in quality of the feature but that does not affect its integrity.
Very low / Negligible	No likely discernible change in baseline environmental conditions or such a small scale that the impact may not be measurable

2.4.4 Characterising Ecological Impacts

Additional ecological impacts may also consider other characteristics as required. This includes:

- Positive or negative impacts
- Extent (the spatial extent of potential changes/impacts)
- Duration (short-term vs long-term impacts in the context of ecological timeframe)
- Frequency and timing (how often activities will occur)
- Reversibility (Can it be counteracted by mitigation and in what timeframe)

These can help give context to significance where a range may be present and can also potentially influence the magnitude of impacts above.

2.4.5 Significance

The overall significance of each effect is determined by assessing its magnitude against the value of the environmental receptors (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Matrix of significance assessment.

Value of feature	Magnitude			
	High	Medium	Low	Very low / Negligible
International	Critical	Critical	Major	Moderate-Negligible
National	Major	Major	Major-Moderate	Minor-Negligible
Regional	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor-Negligible
Local	Moderate-Minor	Moderate-Minor	Minor	Negligible
Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Where significant adverse impacts have been identified, potential mitigation measures are included to avoid or minimise impacts. Following this, residual impacts are determined and the scale of significance following mitigation is applied.

2.5 Limitations

2.5.1 Habitats

The survey was carried out late in the season for the identification of botanical interest species and therefore it is possible that some species found only earlier in the season may have been missed. However, given the nature of the species and habitats identified, it is not considered this was a significant limitation. Further, the botanical survey data of the site (collected June / July 2021) has been provided by Coastal Partners (2021) which has also been examined to inform the assessment and that survey was carried out in the optimal season. Therefore, this is not considered a significant limitation.

This survey does not constitute a full site assessment for invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*).

3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 Designated Sites

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

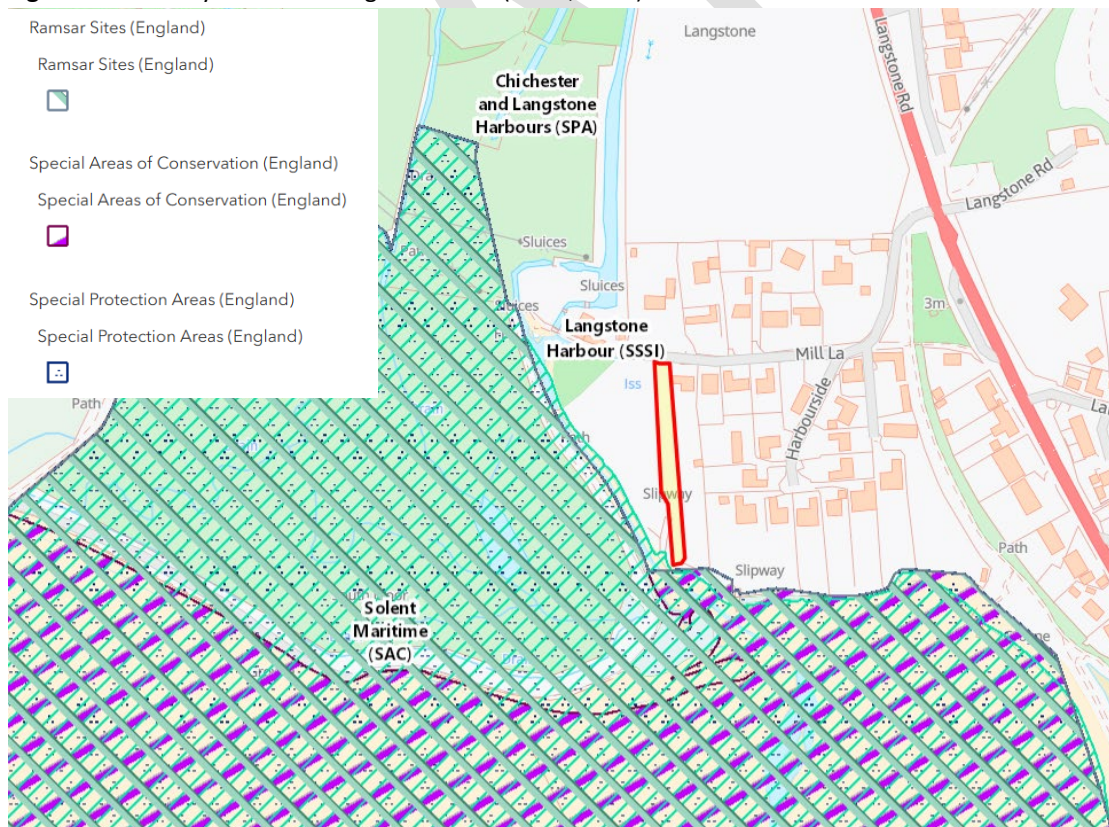
The following statutory designated sites were identified within 1km of the site (**Table 4, Fig 5**).

Table 4. Statutory designated sites within 1km of the site

Designated Site	Distance / Direction	Qualifying Features / Designated for:
Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	6m south	<p>Annex I habitats (primary reason for selection): 1130 Estuaries, 1320 <i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>), 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Annex I habitats (not a primary reason for selection): 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, 1150 coastal lagoons, 1210 annual vegetation of drift lines, 1220 perennial vegetation of stony banks, 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand, 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i></p> <p>Annex II species (not a primary reason for selection): 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)</p>
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA)	6m south	<p>Breeding populations of Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) and Little Tern (<i>Sterna albigifrons</i>)</p> <p>Non-breeding populations of Dark-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>), Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>), Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>), Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Common Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) and Ruddy Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage.</p>
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar	5m south	<p>Breeding populations of Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) and Little Tern (<i>Sterna albigifrons</i>)</p> <p>Non-breeding populations of Dark-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>), Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>), Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>), Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Common Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) and Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage.</p>
Langstone Harbour Site of Special	6m south and west	Aggregations of breeding birds: Common Tern, Little Tern, Sandwich Tern

Scientific Interest (SSSI)			<p>Aggregations of non-breeding birds: Bar-tailed Godwit, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Curlew, Dunlin, Grey Plover, Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser, Redshank, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Shelduck, Shoveler, Teal, Turnstone and Eurasian Wigeon.</p> <p>Invertebrate assemblage M311 saltmarsh and transitional brackish marsh</p> <p>Habitats: Lowland neutral grassland (MG5), Saline coastal lagoons, SM4-28 Saltmarsh</p> <p>Vascular plant assemblage</p>
Chichester Harbour SSSI	Harbour	0.37km SE	<p>Aggregations of breeding birds: Common Tern, Little Tern, Sandwich Tern and mixed.</p> <p>Aggregations of non-breeding birds: Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Curlew, Dunlin, Greenshank, Grey Plover, Redshank, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Shelduck, and Teal.</p> <p>Habitats: Coastal vegetated shingle (SD1-3), littoral sediment, lowland fens, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland neutral grassland (MG5), sand dunes (SD1-6) and SM4-28 saltmarsh.</p> <p>IA Coastal Geomorphology</p>

Figure 5. Proximity of site to designated sites (Defra, 2025).



NB: The client has been informed by Natural England the designated sites are meant to be at the Mean High Water Springs line but this has only been updated on Magic Maps for the SSSI.

The SSSI boundary, which is closer to the site has been considered the correct boundary for all overlapping sites.

3.1.2 Non-statutory Designated Sites

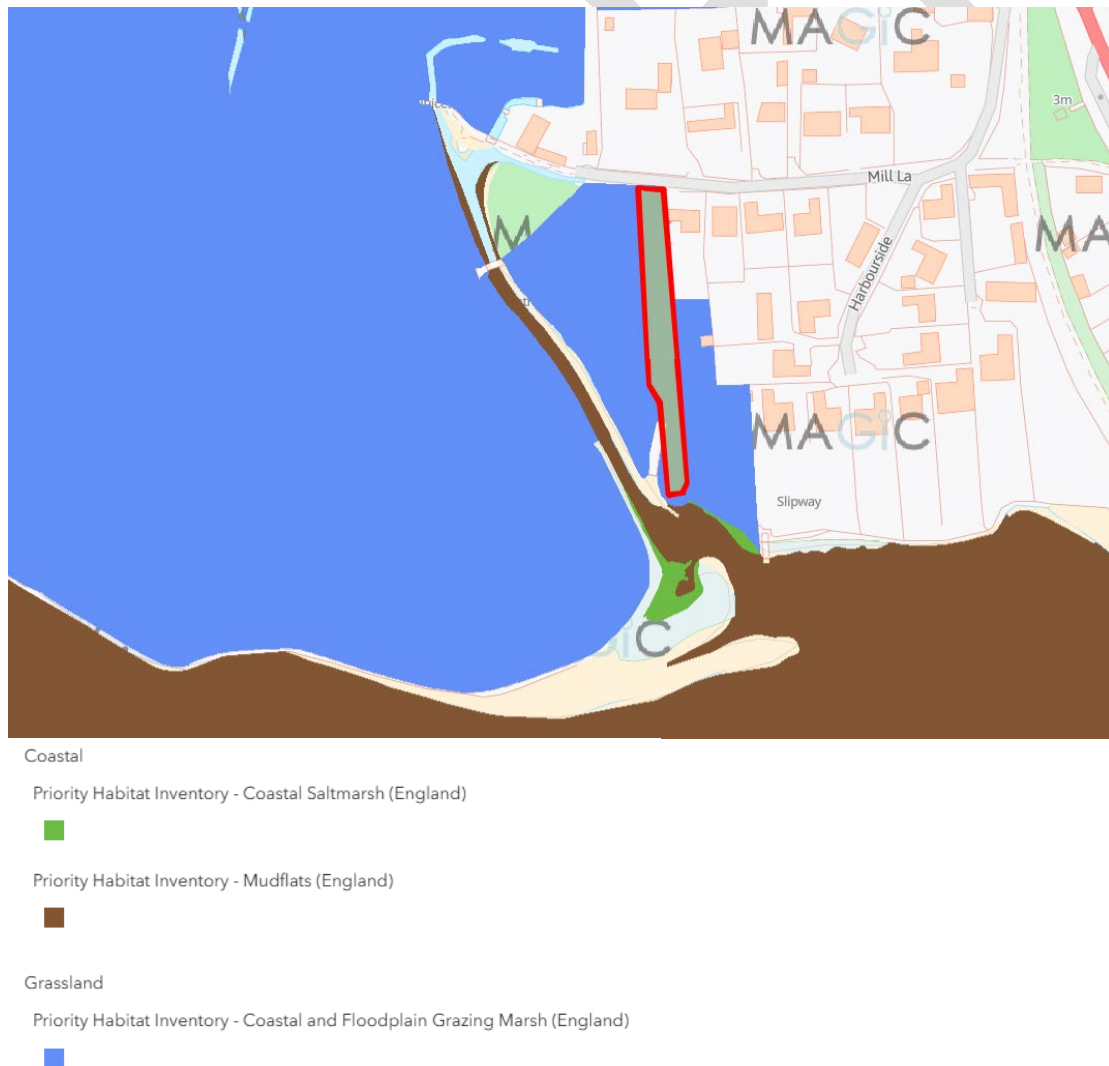
A search for Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) was carried out using the Havant Policy Map. There are no SINCs within the immediate vicinity of the site. The closest SINC is Southmoor Reserve (HV0058) located 0.20km northwest with other nearby sites including Southmoor-Big Field (south edge) (HV0054) and Langstone Mill Pond (HV0084), located 0.42km west and 0.49km east, respectively.

3.2 Habitats

3.2.1 Desktop survey

A search for priority habitats was carried out using freely available resources. This identified nearly the entire site as priority coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (**Fig 6**). In addition, offsite there is priority saltmarsh habitat to the south and southeast and priority mudflat to the south, southeast and southwest of the site.

Figure 6. Priority habitats within the vicinity of the site (Defra, 2025).



3.2.2 Field Survey Results

The vegetation within the site has been described below using the UK Habs Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). The below species noted should not be considered an exhaustive list and instead refer to dominant, characteristic and other noteworthy species associated with each community within the survey area. A habitats map is appended to this ES in **Appendix 2**. The habitat types on site comprise:

- g4 – Modified grassland with secondary codes: bare ground (secondary code 510), ruderal / ephemeral (secondary code 81) and scattered scrub (10)

3.2.2.1 g4 Modified grassland with bare ground (secondary code 510) , ruderal / ephemeral (secondary code 81) and scattered scrub (10)

The field is modified grassland. Species noted during the October 2025 site visit include Crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), Shepherd's needle (*Scandix pecten-veneris*), Bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*), Cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), White Poplar (*Populus alba*) saplings, Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), Silverweed (*Argentina anserina*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

At the far south of the site, the area has been disturbed where a previous permission for a bund along the western area of the field has recently been maintained. This area largely comprised of bare ground and ruderal vegetation. Species noted in this section include Bristly oxtongue, Bramble, Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*). In addition, where the piles are proposed to the southeast of the bund there is a patch of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub, of which only approximately 4m² are within the site and therefore has been considered as scattered scrub rather than a separate habitat.

Although the site was identified as priority habitat coastal floodplain and grazing marsh in the desktop study, it is not considered any part of the site meets the criteria of this habitat. It was dry at the time of the survey (although anecdotal evidence suggests it floods on occasion) and it is understood the site is currently managed through haycut and there were no indicator species of this habitat present.

Figure 7. Modified grassland in the area proposed for the bund (taken October 2025)



Figure 8. Disturbed bare ground and ruderal vegetation colonising on the bank recently maintained as part of a previous permission with Blackthorn scattered scrub to the southeast



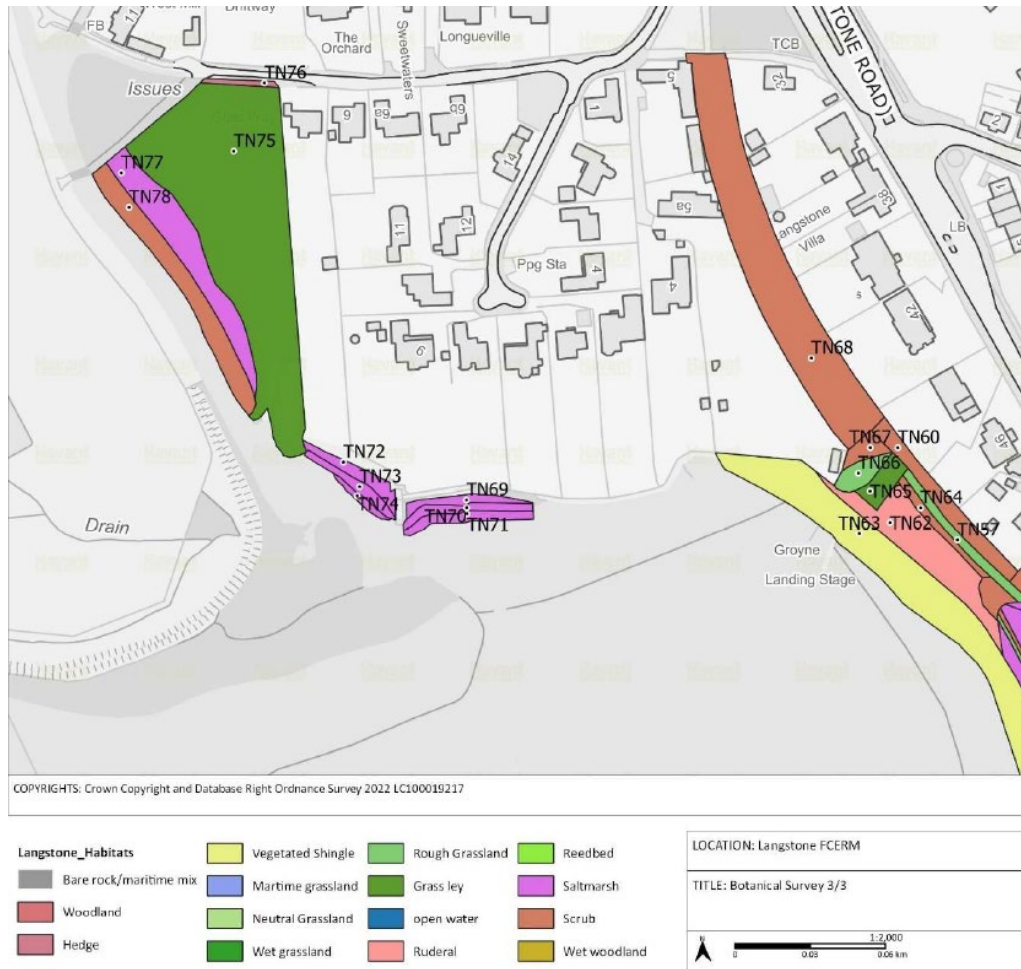
3.2.3 Botanical survey data

Botanical survey data provided by Coastal Partners (2021) has been examined. Surveys were carried out in June-July 2021 to identify NVC communities. The entire site was identified as MG7 mature grass ley (**Fig 9**). The botanical survey confirmed this corresponds with UKHab code g4. The description of the field states (Coastal Partners, 2021):

MG7 mature ley. The western field at TN75 is comprised of an open sward dominated by Yorkshire Fog and bent grass species with abundant false oat-grass, frequent cock's-foot and occasional herbs of yarrow, and hogweed. Perennial ryegrass was only visible at the gateway

although this may well be dispersed through the field. This grassland is suggested to have low affinity with a MG7 ley, being mature and with coarse grasses now dominating the sward.

Figure 9. Botanical survey plan relevant to the site (from Coastal Partners, 2021).



3.3 Bats

There are no trees, buildings or other structures within the site that would support roosting bats. The habitats within the site are considered to be of **negligible value** for foraging and commuting bats based on the poor species diversity within the grassland. However, within the wider field there are trees and scrub present around the perimeter. Therefore, it is possible for low numbers of commuting bats to be present in the area.

3.4 Badgers & Other Terrestrial Mammals

No evidence of Badgers was noted on site. Given the site's coastal location, it is not considered highly suitable to support setts. However, rabbit holes were noted to the east of the site along the fenceline and agricultural fields can provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for badgers and other terrestrial mammals such as Hedgehogs. Therefore, it is considered there is **low potential** for foraging and commuting badgers and other terrestrial mammals.

3.5 Reptiles

The habitats within the site are considered relatively unsuitable for reptiles. The grassland field appears regularly managed and lacked structures / tussocks favoured by reptiles. In

addition, it is understood the field is occasionally flooded. As such, it is considered there is **negligible potential** for reptiles within the site.

3.6 Great Crested Newts

Using freely available online resources, the only nearby waterbody within 250m is a small garden pond located at 7 Harbourside approximately 95m east of site. However, it appears to be a small ornamental pond surrounded by brick edging and unlikely suitable for GCN. As no other ponds were identified and the site is highly coastal in the area of impact with no suitable terrestrial habitats, it is considered there is **negligible potential** for GCN on site.

3.7 Hazel Dormouse

There is no suitable habitat for dormice within the site. While there is Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub adjacent the south edge of the site, it is sub-optimal and isolated from the wider habitat and considered to have **negligible potential** for dormice.

3.8 Birds

3.8.1 Breeding birds

The site is considered largely unsuitable for breeding birds. There are no trees / shrubs within the site and the grassland is managed and floods on occasion and unlikely to be suitable for ground-nesting birds. Therefore, the site is considered to be of **negligible potential** for nesting birds.

Breeding bird surveys were previously carried out by Coastal Partners in 2021 of the wider site, which included coverage of the site. Surveys identified the site falls within a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) territory and the edge of Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) territories present based around the houses in the neighbourhood (**Fig 10**). Therefore the site may form part of territories for breeding birds in the wider area, although it does not have nesting habitat for these species.

Figure 10. Deduced home ranges of species of conservation concern identified during 2021 breeding bird surveys (Coastal Partners, 2022).



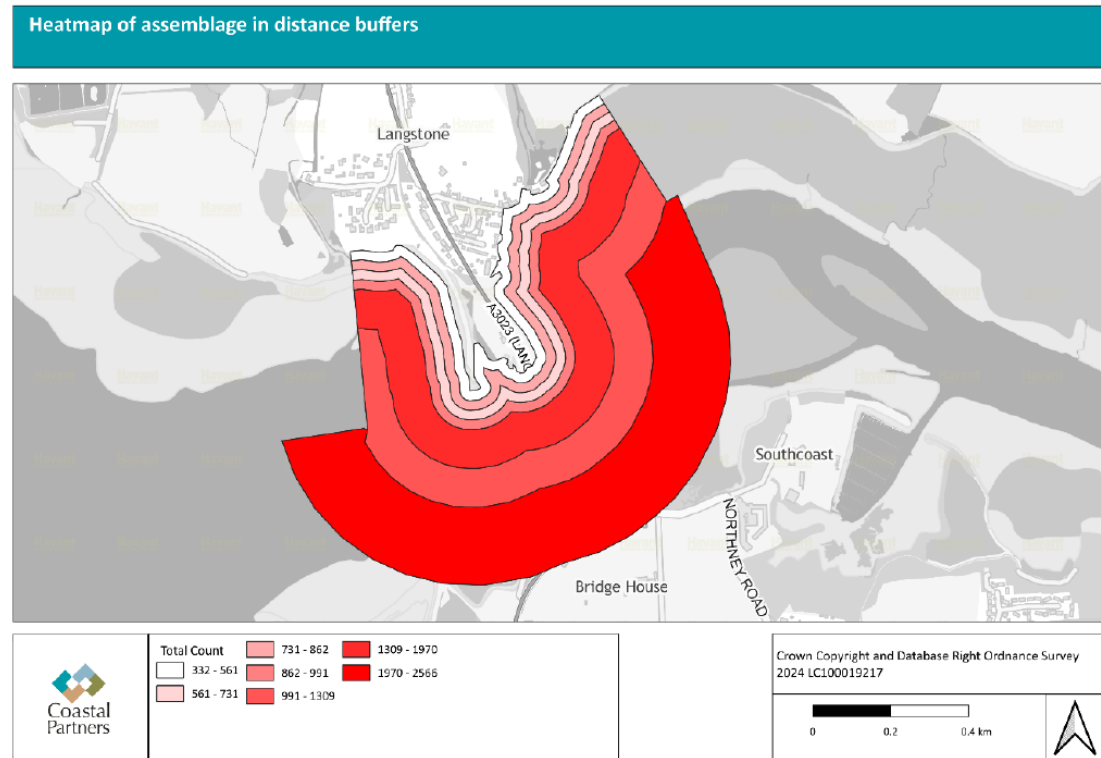
3.8.2 Overwintering birds

The site is within close proximity to internationally and nationally designated sites that are designated for assemblages of overwintering birds. There are important habitats for these birds such as large areas of mudflat and saltmarsh nearby that can support foraging opportunities for waders. There are a number of sites identified in the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy in the wider area, although none are closer than the SPA (**Fig 11**).

Figure 11. Site in proximity to several sites identified in the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy Network (HIWWT, 2025)



Overwintering bird surveys were carried out by Coastal Partners (2025) in 2020-21 and 2021-22 including both daytime and night-time surveys and at high and low tides. A total of 41 species were recorded in the study site including 13 wildfowl, 13 waders and 6 gulls. The most records were of feeding birds, with the majority recorded at high tide. **Fig 12** shows the heat map produced of where SPA assemblage birds were identified along the survey area. The highest numbers of birds and waders were further from Langstone towards Hayling Island but smaller numbers were still noted within the vicinity of the site. It is worth noting that the area did not extend to include the site area or the habitat southwest of site although it is also considered suitable for these species.

Figure 12. Heatmap of SPA bird assemblage with distance buffers (Coastal Partners, 2025).

During the recent walkover survey in October 2025 by Ecosupport Ltd, no bird species were noted on or in the vicinity of the site.

Improved grasslands such as the one present on site are considered suitable for supporting overwintering birds such as Brent Geese. While none were noted on site and the wintering bird surveys did not note the site to be of used by overwintering birds, it is considered the site has **low potential** to support overwintering birds. In addition, based on the nearby SPA / Ramsar and the above wintering bird survey data, it is considered there is **high potential** for notable overwintering birds to be present in the vicinity of the site.

3.9 Otter & Water Vole

As identified by Coastal Partners (2020), no records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) were identified within the vicinity of the proposals. The site is considered to be unsuitable for Water Voles (*Arvicola amphibius*). Therefore, it is considered there is **negligible potential** for these species.

3.10 Invertebrates

The habitats within the site are unlikely to support rare or notable species as they are largely modified grassland. While bare ground can support invertebrates such as *Hymenoptera* species, the bare ground on site is due to recent management of the constructed bund and considered temporary. Habitats are likely to regrow quickly over the bare ground.

3.11 Marine Species

3.11.1 Fish & aquatic species

The site is above the MHWS and therefore considered to be **negligible potential** for fish and other highly aquatic species. However, there may be fish and other aquatic species nearby the site within the aquatic habitat.

3.11.2 Other species

As above, the site is above the MHWS and most shellfish that inhabit aquatic and intertidal habitats are unlikely to be present within the site. Given the improved grassland habitat on site, it is considered the site has **negligible potential** for other notable marine species that may inhabit coastal habitats.

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4.0 POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS IN ABSENCE OF MITIGATION

4.1 Introduction

The potential impacts of the proposals should be considered in absence of mitigation. In order for a significant adverse effect to occur, the feature being affected must be at least of local value. However, in some cases, features of less than local value may be protected by legislation and/or policy and these are also considered within the assessment. Although significant effects may be identified at this stage of the assessment, it is often possible to provide appropriate mitigation.

4.2 Identification of Effect Pathways

4.2.1 Summary of proposed works

The proposals entail the construction of a bund within the east of the field for flood defence purposes to a crest level of 3.85m and a small number of piles installed at the southeast corner of the bund. In addition, a drain will be created under the bund to take water from the field through a French drain discharging to an existing ditch to allow the field to continue to drain.

4.2.2 Summary of impact pathways

A summary of the potential impact pathways are shown in **Table 5**. Those that have been scoped in are described in further detail in the sections below.

Table 5. Potential impact pathways and justification

Potential impact pathway	Scoping Decision	Justification
Damage to habitats	Scoped in	Priority habitats are identified nearby the site and may be subject to impacts from pollution
Damage or disturbance to designated sites	Scoped in	Designated sites are identified within and immediately adjacent the site and may be subject to impacts from pollution and disturbance created during construction
Disturbance to roosting bats	Scoped out	No potential for roosting bats within area of impact
Disturbance to foraging and commuting bats	Scoped out	The works will result in minimal loss of habitat with no likely disturbance to nocturnal species
Disturbance to reptiles or loss of reptile habitat	Scoped out	No potential for reptiles within the area of impact
Disturbance to badgers	Scoped out	While foraging and commuting badgers could be present, works will be during the day and will involve minimal groundworks with no deep excavations
Disturbance to Great Crested Newts	Scoped out	No potential for GCN on site
Disturbance to terrestrial invertebrates	Scoped out	No likely notable or rare terrestrial invertebrates within the site
Disturbance to breeding birds	Scoped out	No suitable habitat for nesting birds within the site and will unlikely impact birds with territories nearby the site
Disturbance to non-breeding birds	Scoped in	Aggregations of non-breeding birds are confirmed to be present in the vicinity that could be impacted by noise and visual disturbance during works

4.3 Impacts During Site Preparation and Construction

4.3.1 Impacts to Habitats

4.3.1.1 Direct impacts

The proposals will involve loss of part of the modified grassland due to construction of the embankment and the patch of scattered scrub for installation of the piles. However, the habitat is of limited value. Therefore, there is a **significant adverse impact** on a habitat at the **site level** due to loss of the modified grassland with scattered scrub.

4.3.1.2 Indirect impacts

There are a small number of trees outside the site area that have been identified. The edge of the root protection area of one encroaches into the site. In the absence of mitigation, these trees could be subject to indirect impacts through root compaction and/or accidental impacts from machinery during works. This could have a **minor adverse impact** to habitats of **local value**.

In addition, priority habitat mudflat and coastal saltmarsh have been identified in close proximity to the south of the site. These habitats would be considered Annex I habitats that are qualifying features of the SAC and therefore of the highest sensitivity. These habitats may be subject to pollution from the development, mainly air pollution from machinery and dust created during creation of the embankment and aquatic pollution from run-off or machinery leaks/spills as there are no barriers to prevent runoff in the event of rain or flooding. However, based on the scale of works with limited machinery expected on site, it is unlikely any impacts of a large magnitude would occur.

It is considered the indirect impacts from construction are to habitats of **international value** with a **low** magnitude of impact. The extent of impacts will be limited based on the scale of works to the immediate area relatively close to the site and will be temporary/low frequency during construction only. Therefore, indirect impacts to habitat will have a potential **major significance** in the absence of mitigation.

4.3.2 Impacts to Designated Sites

While there are no designated sites on site, there are multiple designated sites within the vicinity of the site. There also appear to be qualifying features of the SAC (i.e. mudflats / saltmarsh) within close proximity of the site. Qualifying feature bird species of the SPA / Ramsar / SSSI have also been identified within close proximity of the site. The construction works could result in noise and visual disturbance of non-breeding SPA waders and the habitats could be subject to pollution created during construction. Works are of a relatively limited scale and expected to be temporary conducted in a short time period (with piling conducted over a single day due to the limited number)

It is considered the designated sites are of **international value** with a **low** magnitude, resulting in a **major significance**.

4.3.3 Impacts to Non-breeding birds

The nearby SPA / Ramsar / SSSI is designated for aggregations of non-breeding birds and the site also has low suitability for overwintering birds to use. Survey work by Coastal Partners identified aggregations within the vicinity of the site (although larger numbers were found to be further away). These birds are highly sensitive to disturbance.

The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit (Cutts, Hemingway & Spencer, 2013) has been used to inform potential disturbance. **Fig 13** shows the rough levels of disturbance based on types of activity. This work will involve a 16T excavator and a 5T dumper. It is expected this would largely involve regular noise with a single machine inland for the construction of the bund and noise would largely be below 50db with only occasional irregular noise above this due to dumping soil. However, there will also be piling at the southeast corner of the site with a Movax grip hammer, which is expected to occur over a single day for the very small number of piles being installed. Therefore, it is considered the majority of works would be low disturbance, with potential for temporary moderate to high disturbance.

Figure 13. Considered levels of disturbance based on types of activity (Cutts et al, 2013)

Personnel and plant on mudflat:	High (and should be restricted at all times)
Third party on mudflat:	High (but difficult to restrict)
Personnel and plant on seaward toe and face:	High to Moderate
Intermittent plant and personnel on crest:	High to Moderate
Third party on bank:	High to Moderate
Irregular piling noise (above 70db):	High to Moderate
Long-term plant and personnel on crest:	Moderate
Regular piling noise (above 70db):	Moderate
Irregular noise (50db - 70db):	Moderate
Regular noise (50db - 70db):	Moderate to Low
Occasional movement of crane:	Moderate to Low
Noise below 50db:	Low
Long-term plant only on crest:	Low
Activity behind flood bank (inland):	Low

Brent Geese, one of the more sensitive qualifying features of the site and identified in proximity of the site, are very sensitive to noise and visual stimuli and require consideration within 400m of works. Other qualifying feature species have similar or lower sensitivity disturbance potential. Therefore, it is considered there is **international** value for non-breeding birds with a likely **low** magnitude, with temporary impacts due to the limited scale of works, resulting in a **major significance**.

4.4 Site Operation

4.4.1 Impacts to Habitats

It is expected that following completion of works there will be no further direct or indirect impacts as the habitats will be reinstated with the same habitats, which will be managed similarly to previous habitats. Coastal Partners have confirmed that the tidal flooding comes

from all directions at this location and therefore completing only part of the 1B frontage flood defence will not have any impacts on habitats in the nearby frontages.

Coastal squeeze has also been considered at this location. The existing permission for the flood defence running along the west of the site (Ref 98/63172) is for a bund built to 3.95m OD height above sea level. This proposed bund is for a flood defence built to 3.85m height and therefore at a smaller height than the existing one. Further, the entirety of the existing bund is within the same footprint or to the west of the site and closer than the proposed bund. As such, it is considered that the existing flood defence is the one causing the coastal squeeze and the proposed bund is likely to have a **negligible** impact beyond the baseline.

While this development will prevent coastal encroachment east of the field in the case that the existing bund is lost, this is unlikely to occur as it is being maintained by the landowner. The proposed embankment has been proposed as far east in the field as suitable to allow plenty of room remaining in the field to allow for coastal expansion with approximately 20-60 metres gap to the west that may be encroached before arriving to proposed embankment. As such, even in the case the existing bund fails, the design has allowed plenty of room for coastal expansion through its chosen location and the magnitude of potential impacts of **negligible significance**.

4.4.2 Impacts to Designated Sites

As above, following the completion of works there will be no further direct impacts on the designated sites. The increased flood defence will be of negligible magnitude compared to the baseline and as above, the existing embankment provides a more significant barrier with the new embankment either overlapping or much further away than the existing bund and at a higher height and therefore the magnitude of this is **negligible** compared to doing nothing and therefore of **negligible significance**.

4.4.3 Impacts to Non-breeding birds

As above, following completion of the works there will be no change in use and therefore no further disturbance or change in habitat that will affect birds in the area. Therefore, the proposed development is considered to be of **negligible significance** during site operation.

4.5 Summary of Impacts

A summary of expected ecological impacts in the absence of mitigation is shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6. Summary of expected ecological impacts in the absence of mitigation.

Feature	Significant Impacts during Construction	Significant Impacts during Operation
Habitats	Major (from indirect impacts)	Negligible
Designated Sites	Major	Negligible
Non-breeding Birds	Major	Negligible

5.0 MITIGATION & RESIDUAL IMPACTS

5.1 Introduction

The below sections outline proposed mitigation and compensation that is appropriate and proportionate. In addition to this, measures are outlined to protect the existing features of value and provide enhancements post development.

5.2 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

A CEMP has been prepared by Cowan Consultancy (2025) for the development. The CEMP identifies the sensitivity of the designated sites and habitats and includes sensitive measures to protect them. The following measures have been included:

- The site compound and store will be at the northeast corner of the field by the entrance (as far as possible from the designated sites) using hardstanding works already present from previous works;
- All soils will be imported clean soil certified from the supplier via a WAC certificate;
- Measures taken to avoid pollution incidents during construction including provision of spill kits and appropriate storage of materials and machinery away from the water course with no storage of materials allowed adjacent to designated sites;
 - Fuel for machinery will be stored in a bunded area within the works compound with all refuelling in this area;
 - Machinery will be parked in the compound outside working hours to reduce risk of leakage;
 - In the unlikely even of soil contamination by oil, the soil will be carefully excavated and removed from site for appropriate disposal;
 - Use of plant nappies and methods to prevent contaminants included where suitable;
- All liquids in containers will be provided with secondary containment;
- A fibre matting barrier (e.g. FlocMat) will be installed along the seaward edge of works;
- Dust suppression measures will be used such as using water to suppress dust during dry weather and removing debris/loose material before construction;
- All works will be undertaken between April to September to avoid impacts on wintering or migratory wildfowl and waders; and
- Works will be restricted to daylight hours;

5.3 Avoidance of Impacts to Birds

As noted above for the CEMP, works will be undertaken between April and September. This avoids the most sensitive periods of the year for most over-wintering birds. Monthly sensitivities for wildfowl and waders based on functional group and habitat can be seen below (**Fig 14**). As the nearby habitats of importance are mudflat and saltmarsh, carrying out the works from April to September is considered acceptable to avoid the most sensitive months.

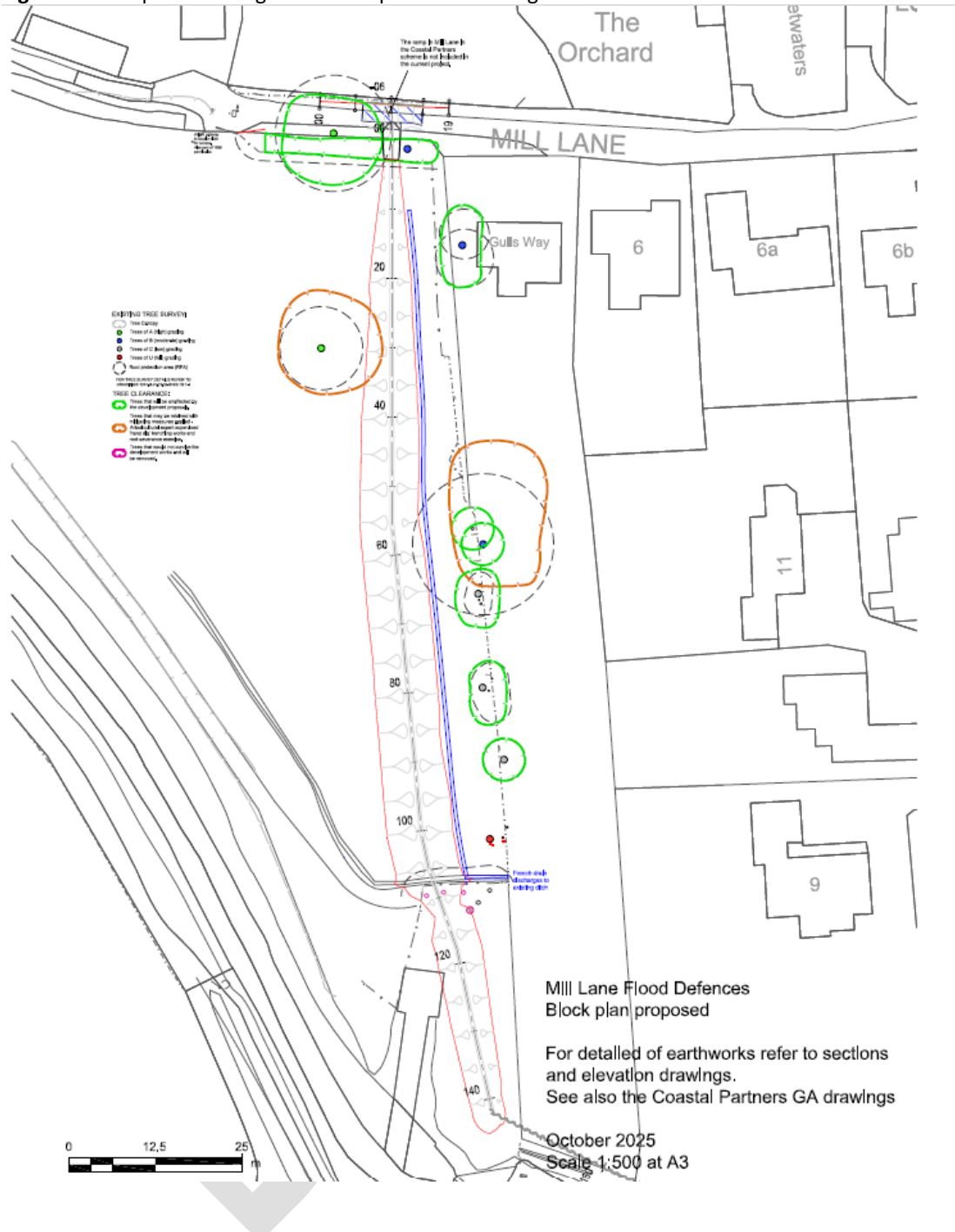
Figure 14. Monthly sensitivity for waterbird groups and wetland habitats for birds (taken from Cutts et al, 2013).

Broad monthly sensitivity of waterbird groups in relation to construction works												
Broad Functional Group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Feeding Wildfowl	H	H	H	M	M	L	L	L	M	M	H	H
Roosting Wildfowl	H	M	M	M	L	L	L	M	H	M	H	H
Small Feeding Waders	H	M	H	H	M	0	0	M	M	H	H	H
Large Feeding Waders	H	M	H	M	L	0	0	M	H	H	H	H
Roosting Waders	H	M	L	L	L	0	0	M	H	H	H	H
General Sensitivity	H	H	H	H	M	L	L	M	H	H	H	H

Broad monthly sensitivity of wetland habitats (for birds) in relation to disturbance and damage/loss												
Broad Habitat	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mudflat	H	H	H	H	M	L	L	M	H	H	H	H
Saltmarsh	H	H	L	M	M	M	M	L	M	H	H	H
Reedbed	M	L	M	H	H	H	H	M	M	L	M	M
Open Water	H	M	M	H	H	H	L	L	L	M	H	H
Wet Grassland	M	L	M	H	H	M	L	L	M	M	M	M
Scrub	L	L	M	H	H	M	L	L	L	L	M	M

5.4 Tree Protection

A tree protection plan has been produced to ensure the protection of the off-site nearby trees (Fig 15). This has identified one tree in the field that will be retained with mitigating measures applied during creation of the bund, whereby an arboricultural expert will supervise 'hand dig' trenching works and root severance exercise. All trees (and the hedge to the north of the site) will be protected during the works, encompassing their root protection area.

Figure 15. Site plan showing trees to be protected during the works

5.5 Residual Impacts

All impacts considered above are now examined with mitigation applied.

It is considered the tree protection measures will protect the offsite trees and that the CEMP will prevent any discernible amount of pollution from entering into the sensitive adjacent habitats and designated sites. This will reduce the magnitude of impacts on habitats from low to very low/negligible, resulting in a **minor residual impact**.

It is considered the restricted timing of works for non-breeding birds will reduce the magnitude to very low/negligible, resulting in a **minor residual impact**.

The above aspects including pollution prevention and sensitive timing of works will reduce the magnitude of impacts on the designated sites to very low/negligible, resulting in a **minor residual impact**. This is further confirmed in the detailed shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment (sHRA) produced by Ecosupport (2025) which confirms in the Appropriate Assessment that there will be no significant impacts to the designated sites.

A summary of expected ecological impacts in the absence of mitigation is shown in **Table 7**. All residual impacts will be minor or negligible.

Table 7. Summary of expected ecological impacts in the absence of mitigation.

Feature	Significant Impacts during Construction without mitigation	Significant residual impacts during Construction (with mitigation)	Significant Impacts during Operation
Habitats	Major (from indirect impacts)	Minor	Negligible
Designated Sites	Major	Minor	Negligible
Non-breeding Birds	Major	Minor	Negligible

5.6 Enhancements

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be carried out on site and as a requirement will ensure the site will result in a minimum of 10% net gain for habitats on site. Given the type of works, it is not considered further enhancements are required.

6.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Potential cumulative impacts must also be considered as part of the EIA process. A search has been carried out of nearby proposed developments that may have cumulative impacts.

The following proposed developments have been considered:

- APP/25/00162 – The proposed wider Langstone Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) scheme by Coastal Partners which entails 5 frontages (1A, 2, 3, 4 & 5)
- APP/24/00822 - Proposed flood defence at 9 Harbourside proposed by the client (currently under consultation)
- Portchester to Emsworth FCERM Strategy – A wider-scale FCERM scheme by Coastal Partners which includes the above development sites.

In addition, while there are no further detailed proposals at this time, there is potential for further landowners to continue the scheme beyond this along each of their property edges. While detailed information is unavailable at this time, it can be assumed the proposals of the frontage 1B scheme proposed by Coastal Partners will be used.

None of the above proposals have yet been approved. APP/25/00162 is currently under consultation. Frontages 1A & 2 (see **Fig 3**) are the closest to the site and approximately 200m to the east. Given the distance and small scale of works for this scheme it is unlikely there would be significant cumulative impacts due to noise or visual disturbance and further mitigation has also been proposed with the larger scheme to avoid construction during the overwintering bird period October to March. In addition, a CEMP is proposed to minimise pollution impacts on the nearby sensitive habitats and designated sites. As such, based on the distance and proposed mitigation it is unlikely cumulative impacts would be at a level deemed significant with this development.

APP/24/00822 is nearby the site to the southeast and within the same ownership as this site and is also already covered by a CEMP. Construction may occur concurrently should it be granted permission upon submission of further information. However, it is considered both sites are relatively limited in nature and will include the same sensitive measures proposed in the CEMP to protect the adjacent designated sites, habitats and wildlife species. If constructed together, they will be by the same firm/machinery with a shared compound. Therefore, with shared mitigation and resources, it is not expected there will be any significant cumulative impacts. As currently it is understood there are no further proposed schemes as part of the flood defence, it is unlikely there will be concurrent construction along the rest of the frontage, although should this occur it is likely any impacts would be minimal.

All of the above schemes are part of the Portchester to Emsworth FCERM Strategy which considers flood defence in a wider area of the coastline. Significant impacts have been assessed on the Solent designated sites due to permanent habitat loss due to coastal squeeze. As part of this strategy, compensation habitat has been proposed. The proposed development falls within part of this strategy and therefore while there is potential for cumulative impacts

in the wider area, permanent impacts are already considered in the wider strategy. No closer proposals than those above have been identified as part of this strategy likely to result in cumulative disturbance / pollution. There are similar coastal strategies in the much wider area but given the scale of works and distance would unlikely have any cumulative significant impacts with this site.

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7.0 ASSESSMENT SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

This Environmental Statement has been produced for the proposed flood defence at the parcel of land off Mill Lane, Langstone, with Ecology the only aspect scoped in and examined further in detail. A summary table can be seen in **Table 8**.

Sensitive receptors have been identified and scoped in to the assessment including designated sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI) and nearby habitats nearby the site, as well as non-breeding aggregations of birds. In the absence of mitigation, the development is expected to result in minor to major significant impacts due to the high value of the designated sites.

Mitigation includes sensitive working measures in a CEMP, in particular to prevent pollution into the adjacent habitats, tree protection measures and restrictive timing for works to avoid impacts on non-breeding birds in the adjacent designated sites.

With provision of proposed mitigation, it is considered **residual significant impacts will be negligible to minor** and this is considered a tolerable level and the **proposed development is acceptable**.

Table 8. Summary of Impacts

Feature/Receptor	Value (Significance) of Receptor	Activity/Impact	Magnitude	Other Characteristics	Significance of Impacts without mitigation	Mitigation	Significance of residual impacts	Significant Impacts during Operation
Habitats	Negligible (on-site)	Loss of habitat / direct harm (on-site)	Medium (on-site)	Extent of impact limited to within vicinity of site	Major adverse	CEMP Tree Protection	Minor adverse	Negligible
	Local and International (off-site)	Degradation / disturbance (off-site)	Low (off-site)	Temporary Low frequency (construction only)				
Designated Sites	International	Degradation / disturbance	Low	Extent of impact limited to nearby site Temporary Low frequency (construction only)	Major adverse	CEMP Construction Apr – Sept only	Minor adverse	Negligible
Non-breeding Birds	International	Noise / Visual Disturbance	Low	Extent of impact limited to birds on/nearby the site Temporary and during overwintering bird season only (Oct-Mar) Low frequency (construction only)	Major adverse	Construction Apr – Sept only	Minor adverse	Negligible

8.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1 – RELEVANT ECOLOGICAL LEGISLATION & POLICIES

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)

This instrument makes changes to the three existing instruments which transpose the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives so that they continue to work (are operable) upon the UK's exit from the European Union (EU). These include The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This instrument also amends section 27 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to ensure existing protections continue. The intention is to ensure habitat and species protection and standards as set out under the Nature Directives are implemented in the same way or an equivalent way when the UK exits the EU.

This transposes the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into UK domestic law. It provides protection for sites and species deemed to be of conservation importance across Europe. It is an offence to deliberately capture, kill or injure species listed in Schedule 2 or to damage or destroy their breeding sites or shelter. It is also illegal to deliberately disturb these species in such a way that is likely to significantly impact on the local distribution or abundance or affect their ability to survive, breed and rear or nurture their young.

In order for activities that would be likely to result in a breach of species protection under the regulations to legally take place, a European Protected Species (EPS) licence must first be obtained from Natural England.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)

This is the primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity is protected within the UK. Protected fauna and flora are listed under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Act. They include all species of bats, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any bat whilst it is occupying a roost or to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost. Similarly, this Act makes it an offence to kill or injure any species of British reptiles and also makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests (whilst in use or being built).

The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) states that it is an offence to 'plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild' any plant listed in Schedule 9 part II of the Act. This list over 30 plants including Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

This Act strengthens the Wildlife & Countryside Act by the addition of "reckless" offences in certain circumstances, such as where there is the likelihood of protected species being present. The Act places a duty on Government Ministers and Departments to conserve biological diversity and provides police with stronger powers relating to wildlife crimes.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires that public bodies have due regard to the conservation of biodiversity. This means that Planning authorities must consider biodiversity when planning or undertaking activities. Section 41 of the Act lists species found in England which were identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the *UK Post – 2010 Biodiversity Framework*.

Protection of Badgers Act

The Protection of Badgers Act (1992) relates to the welfare of Badgers (*Meles meles*) as opposed to nature conservation considerations. The Act prevents:

- The wilful killing, injury, ill treatment or taking of Badgers and / or
- Interference with a Badger sett
- Damaging or destroying all or part of a sett
- Causing a dog to enter a set and
- Disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett

Provisions are included within the Act to allow for the lawful licensing of certain activities that would otherwise constitute an offence under the Act.

The Environment Act (2021)

The Environment Act 2021 is the UK's new legislation for environmental protection in the UK, which includes protection of water quality, clean air, and biodiversity among other key protections. This Act provides the government power to set targets to reach long-term aims relating to the environment, which will be periodically reviewed and updated. This legislation also establishes a new environmental watchdog organisation, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), which will hold the government accountable on environmental issues.

Part 6 of The Environment Act relates to nature and biodiversity. This section makes provision for biodiversity net gain to be a condition of planning permission in England and a requirement for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Biodiversity net gain will require maintenance for a period of at least 30 years after the completion of enhancement works to be achieved.

The legislation also includes updates to existing environmental legislation, such as the NERC Act 2006, to strengthen biodiversity enhancement rather than just conservation and includes a requirement for local, or relevant, authorities to publish biodiversity reports. Further, The Environment Act places a requirement on responsible authorities to prepare local nature recovery strategies, which will outline nature conservation sites and priorities and opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity within the local area. Within England, the legislation also provides Natural England with the power to publish 'species conservation strategies' and 'protected site strategies' to identify activities that may affect a species or site's status and outline their opinions on measures that would be appropriate to avoid, mitigate or compensate any adverse impacts.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.

Chapter 15 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity, the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.

The NPPF states that plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites and that the scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

To protect and enhance biodiversity plans should:

identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation;

and promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

The NPPF states determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- b) development on land within or outside a SSSI, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSI;
- c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists;

- d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Havant Borough Council Local Plan

Part of the 'Vision for Havant Borough in 2026' is to protect and enhance biodiversity. Policy 'CS11: Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough' states that planning permission will only be granted when development protects and where possible enhances the borough's statutory and non-statutory designated habitats and features of biological interest. and features of biological interest and prevents the fragmentation of existing habitats.

The strategy states that protection and enhancement will be achieved by appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures. It also has particular regard for nature conservation designations with international designations given the highest regard and supports an ongoing programme of surveys of habitats and species and designations of SINCs.

The proposed Local Plan 2036 was withdrawn after examination and therefore the above Local Plan will remain in place until a new Havant Borough Local Plan is adopted.

APPENDIX 2 – BASELINE HABITATS MAP



Legend

g4 - Modified grassland

Redline boundary

Secondary codes
10 - Scattered scrub
81 - Ruderal / ephemeral
510 - Bare ground



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Map UK Habs Map

Site Parcel off Mill Lane, Langstone

Client Mr. Robert Carrell

Date 05/11/2025

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