



Ecological Impact Assessment

Bedhampton Waterworks

E101 Hub 4 Ltd

SHF.3055.001.EC.R.001C



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Non-Technical Summary

- i. In September 2023 Enzygo Ltd was commissioned by E101 Hub 4 Ltd (the client) to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) at Bedhampton Waterworks, Meyrick Road, Havant, PO9 3HB (central grid reference: SU 705 062), located within the Havant Borough Council planning authority. This report has been updated in March 2025 following minor site information updates, and again in February 2026 following changes to the Red Line Boundary (to move footprint 10m away from River) and clarification of works to the chalk aquifer.
- ii. The purpose of this report is to provide biodiversity information identifying ecological features, potential impacts/effect, and recommends proportionate avoidance/ mitigation/ compensation strategies, followed by suitable enhancements.
- iii. The following key ecological features and associated recommendations have been identified:
 - **Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar/SPA/SSSI, Solent Maritime SAC, IRZ, Solent Water and Brent Goose Strategy, Wintering & Migratory Birds** – At discretion of planning officer, consultation with Natural England to determine need for any Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Nutrient Neutrality assessment, and any associated protected species surveys i.e. Wintering Bird Surveys. Standard hydrological pollution control measures and construction practices to be implemented.
 - **Blue Infrastructure, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh HPI, River HPI (Hermitage stream & Chalk Aquifer), Otter and Water Vole** – The adjacent Hermitage Stream and HPI will be protected throughout the construction phase, standard hydrological pollution control measures. Further mitigation measures to be implemented IF subsequent impacts to chalk aquifer (current design states to be retained).
 - **Green Infrastructure** – Protection of trees in accordance with BS5837:2012.
 - **Bats** – Sensitive lighting scheme, further bat emergence surveys IF impacts to outflow culvert entrance of chalk aquifer.
 - **Badger** –All construction works shall be undertaken in accordance with a set of best practice precautionary reasonable avoidance measures.
 - **Breeding Birds** –Clearance of vegetation to take place outside of the nesting bird season or under supervision of ECoW.
 - **Common Reptiles** – Sensitive site clearance under supervision of ECoW.
 - **Invasive Flora** – An invasive species contractor should advise on appropriate measures to treat/ eradicate and/or prevent the spread in the wild of the Buddleja and Himalayan Balsam.
 - **Priority Species** – Sensitive site clearance under supervision of ECoW.
- iv. This report has demonstrated that if the outlined mitigation measures are implemented in full then no significant residual impact could be expected, and the proposed application will result in 'no net loss in biodiversity'.
- v. A separate BNG metric (including MoRPh River Condition Assessment) has also been provided to demonstrate 'biodiversity net gain'.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Commission

- 1.1.1 In September 2023 Enzygo Ltd was commissioned by E101 Hub 4 Ltd (the client) to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) at Bedhampton Waterworks, Meyrick Road, Havant, PO9 3HB (central grid reference: SU 705 062), located within the Havant Borough, Hampshire County Council (HCC) planning authority. This report has been updated in March 2025 following minor site information updates, and again in February 2026 following changes to the Red Line Boundary (to move footprint 10m away from River) and clarification of works to the chalk aquifer.
- 1.1.2 *Enzygo Ltd are not considered to act as a Principal Designer for any mitigation/enhancement strategies identified within this document, in accordance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CITB, 2016).*

1.2 Proposed Development/Identification of Impacts

- 1.2.1 The study will inform a planning application for a 150MW battery energy storage facility.
- 1.2.2 It is our understanding that the site will be cleared, levelled and bunds removed/historic landfill issues resolved as part of enabling works for this development. Although a 2.25m bund will be retained along the southern boundary. Any other works throughout the Bedhampton facility, or footpath realignment, do not form part of this assessment. No cable routes or Points of Connection (PoC) have been considered within this assessment. Refer to Appendix A for proposed site layout.
- 1.2.3 Construction phase impacts will include: clearance of site habitats (though technically this will progress as part of site levelling works); no large trees are to be felled/subject to surgery works; no current disturbance of the chalk aquifer which passes beneath the site (to be retained); risk of pollution/silt runoff into Hermitage stream and chalk aquifer. The existing bridge and access off Meyrick Road will be utilised, with no works to this. There will be no use of any other land parcels for site compounds etc. To clarify, there will now be no works within a 10m buffer of Hermitage stream.
- 1.2.4 Operational impacts will include hydrological pollution/silt runoff into Hermitage stream and chalk aquifer, indirect lighting disturbance.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide biodiversity information which succinctly identifies ecological features on site and within the corresponding zone of influence, identifies potential impacts resulting from the proposed application, associated effect to identified ecological features, recommends proportionate avoidance/mitigation/compensation strategies, and outlines suitable enhancements that will be implemented in accordance with the British Standard for Biodiversity BS42020:2013 (BSI, 2013).
- 1.3.2 This information will support the planning application and assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed decision on whether the application can demonstrate 'no net loss in biodiversity' and a 'biodiversity net gain' in accordance with National Planning Policy Frameworks (NPPF) and Local Planning Policy.
- 1.3.3 This report has been produced with reference to current Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine (CIEEM, 2018),

Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (CIEEM, 2017), and is in accordance with Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development BS42020:2013 (BSI, 2013).

1.4 Background/Acknowledgments

- 1.4.1 No previous applications have been made in the past 10 years which are relevant to ecology (Havant Borough Council, 2023).
- 1.4.2 It is our understanding that to date there has been no correspondence with the County Ecologist or any statutory consultees i.e. Natural England, regarding this application. Additionally, we have not been informed of any Local Validation requirements i.e. biodiversity checklist for completion or specific standards for surveys.

1.5 Local Planning Policy

- 1.5.1 The following policies of the Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Havant Borough Council, 2014) and the Havant Borough Council Adopted Allocations Plan (Havant Borough Council, 2014) are applicable to biodiversity:
- **CS12:** Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
 - **CS13:** Green Infrastructure;
 - **DM23:** Sites for Brent Geese and Waders; and
 - **DM24:** Recreational Disturbance to Special Protected Areas (SPAs) from Residential Development.
- 1.5.2 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) titled Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Supplementary Planning Document (2017) is relevant to ecology. The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy [SWBGS]: Guidance on Mitigation and Off-setting Requirements (Hampshire County Council, 2018) is also applicable.
- 1.5.3 Reg 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 must be applied, and Natural England's Solent Nutrient Neutrality Advice Note June 2019 is applicable.
- 1.5.4 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire 2025 is applicable.
- 1.5.5 Refer to Appendix B for relevant details of European and National Legislation, and National Planning Policy.

1.6 Site Context

- 1.6.1 The site comprises several large mounds featuring sparsely vegetated land which has been colonised by scrub and grassland. To the north is a railway line beyond which lies the residential/commercial area of Bedhampton, and to the south, beyond the A27, lies an industrial area and marina. Immediately to the south runs Hermitage Stream beyond which are arable fields, however the wider landscape is largely built up in nature.
- 1.6.2 The site lies within the South Coast Plain National Character area (Natural England, 2024) which is characterised by its flat, coastal landscape with an intricately indented shoreline lying between the dip slope of the South Downs and South Hampshire Lowlands and the waters of the English Channel, Solent and part of Southampton Water. The coastline includes several major inlets which have particularly distinctive local landscapes and intertidal habitats of international environmental importance for wildfowl and waders.

Figure 1 – Survey Area



Image courtesy of Google Earth Pro 7.3.4.8642. Imagery date April 2022.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 Desk study details were obtained from the following sources on the associated dates to provide background on ecological features in the vicinity of the site. In each case the search included the site and the specified area beyond the site boundary based on the expected zone of influence. Candidate and potential designations are considered too as these are also legally protected. Records obtained included:

- Statutory sites designated or classified under international conventions or European legislation within a 5km radius (up to 10km where hydrological linkage), statutory sites designated under national legislation (including Marine), Natural England GCN Pond Surveys for District Level Licensing data (and GCN Risk Zones), and existing EPS Licence applications within a 2km radius, and Priority Habitat & Ancient Woodland Inventory within a 0.5km radius 8th December 2023 (DEFRA, 2023);
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Biodiversity Conservation Areas within the immediate zone of influence 8th December 2023 (Havant Borough Council, 2023);
- Waterbodies within a 0.5km radius (Online mapping sources including: Google Maps; MAGIC; and Ordnance Survey Street View, 8th December 2023); and
- Locally designated wildlife sites & any notified Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats detailed in Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Havant Borough Council, 2014), Legally protected species, any Priority species (which includes: National Biodiversity Species, Local BAP Species, Species of conservation concern and Red Data Book (RDB) species, Solant Waders & Brent Goose Strategy 2020 (SWBGS), Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC), nationally rare and nationally scarce species, and OSPAR Commission list of threatened/declining species) and Invasive species (listed under section 14 of Schedule 9 only) within a 2km radius, and any important hedgerows/veteran trees within the immediate zone of influence 8th December 2023 Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).

2.1.2 Data received has been extracted and summarised using QGIS 2.18, with original sources not extracted directly. Data has also been edited where relevant to prevent sensitive or confidential records being made public in accordance with Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data (CIEEM, 2023).

2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 Field Surveys were undertaken on the following dates by the identified staff, all of whom satisfy necessary field survey competencies as stipulated by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Weather conditions on the day of survey have been included and where relevant survey/class licence numbers referred to.

Table 1 – Survey Dates and Conditions

Survey	Date	Staff/Licence	Environmental Conditions
UK Habitat & Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	7 th December 2023	Harri Williams – Consultant Ecologist MSc, BSc (Hons)	Dry, light wind, 50% cloud, 13°C.

Survey	Date	Staff/Licence	Environmental Conditions
Update UK Habitat & PEA survey and MoRPh River Condition Assessment with Water Vole survey	10 th July 2024	Derek Allan – Director of Ecology MSc, BSc (Hons), MCIEEM *BNG MoRPh certified.	Dry, no wind, 10% cloud, 17°C.

UK Habitat & Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

- 2.2.2 In accordance with Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 2nd Edition (CIEEM, 2017) the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) survey included the following.

Mapping of Habitat Types

- 2.2.3 This assessment has utilised the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methodology (UKHab, 2023) as the recommended published method of habitat classification. It has been used to categorise and map the primary habitat types present within the survey area using a standard set of habitat categories, with associated secondary codes/features identified where applicable. Details of current management and habitat condition have also been recorded where appropriate.

- 2.2.4 Each of the main habitats has been described; including details of component plant species abundances (recorded using the DAFOR scale: D=Dominant, A=Abundant, F=Frequent, O=Occasional, R=Rare). Additionally, any stands of non-native invasive plant species were recorded. Habitat extents have been visually mapped onto a topographic plan, with approximate location/areas recorded only (a GPS unit has not been utilised to accurately recorded these).

Assessment of possible presence/likely importance for Protected & Priority Species

- 2.2.5 An assessment of the possible presence of protected or priority species, and the likely importance of habitat features present for such species has also been undertaken, particularly where uncommon or specialised habitats are present in accordance with current PEA guidelines (CIEEM, 2017). However, no specific protected species survey has been undertaken unless listed under additional surveys as below. Any incidental sightings of protected or priority species, or field signs of such species has also been recorded. Species assessed include: Plants & Fungi; Terrestrial/aquatic invertebrates; Fish; Amphibians; Reptiles; Breeding, wintering, and migratory birds; Bats (including potential roost sites, foraging, and commuting habitats/features), Badger, and other mammal species.

MoRPh River Condition Assessment

- 2.2.6 A Modular River Physical (MoRPh) River Condition Assessment field survey & desk study was undertaken in accordance with current guidance (MoRPh, 2024). This included the stream which delineates the southern site boundary plus 50m up/down stream where access was available, and the chalk aquifer tributary which passes beneath the site.

Water Vole Survey

- 2.2.7 Water Vole survey was undertaken in accordance with the Water Vole conservation handbook 3rd edition (Strachan et al, 2016). Again, this included the stream which delineates the southern site boundary plus 50m up/down stream where access was available, and any tributaries on/beneath the site.

2.3 Assessment

MoRPh River Condition Assessment

- 2.3.1 MoRPh River Condition Assessment analysis was followed with River data entered onto the Cartographer web portal. This generates river condition information, including: River Score/condition, and River shape index/type.

Water Vole Assessment

- 2.3.2 An assessment of the level of Water Vole activity present on site has been made according to those results obtained from the field surveys. The number of adult females on site was estimated by dividing the number of latrines by six (Strachen & Moorhouse, 2016). The predictive equation developed by Morris et al. (1998) was also used to give an estimate of the total number of Water Voles that were present on site during the surveys. The predictive equation is $y = 1.48 + 0.683x$ (where y is Water Voles and x is latrines).

General

- 2.3.3 A level of importance has been assigned to each ecological feature, where sufficient baseline data is available to do so, in accordance with current guidance (CIEEM, 2018). This is defined within a geographical context as follows: International and European; National; Regional; Metropolitan, County, vice-county, or other local authority-wide area; River Basin District; Estuarine system/Coastal cell; and Local (plus Negligible where no associated value has been identified). For example, importance of designated sites reflects the geographical context of the designation (where designated sites no longer meet designation criteria and those formally 'de-notified' OR where an undesignated site meets published selection criteria must also be considered). When considering habitats and species contextual information about distribution and abundance of that habitat/species in the area must be considered (if the habitat/species status is currently in a degraded or unfavourable condition its potential value should be considered).
- 2.3.4 The assessment then considers potential impacts (both positive and negative) generated during the construction and operational phase of the proposed application. Only impacts that are likely to be significant are considered. Impacts that are either unlikely to occur, or if they did occur are unlikely to be significant, are not considered.
- 2.3.5 Cumulative impacts are then considered where the application meets criteria in accordance with national EIA screening guidance (GOV.UK, 2019), and where agreed with the competent authority during scoping. This takes into consideration existing background levels of threat or pressure, looks at critical thresholds, and assess both additive/incremental and associated/connected impacts and effects.
- 2.3.6 Relevant aspects of ecological structure and function are then considered when determining if identified impacts will have a significant effect upon ecological features. Where necessary, this assessment utilises information from other specialists i.e., air quality, hydrology etc, to determine the level of impact. In accordance with current guidance (CIEEM, 2018) these are described using the following characteristics, where relevant: positive or negative; extent; magnitude; duration; frequency and timing; and reversibility.
- 2.3.7 The mitigation hierarchy is then explored in accordance with BS42020:2013 (BSI, 2013). This seeks as a preference to avoid impacts, then to mitigate unavoidable impacts, and as a last resort, to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts that remain after avoidance and mitigation measures. Justification has been provided by the client/their planner where the mitigation

hierarchy cannot be followed, or for example where compensation is a preferred approach where the competent authority has adopted a County wide strategy i.e. District Level Licensing Schemes (GOV.UK, 2019). In this instance current national Biodiversity Offsetting guidance has also been consulted (GOV.UK, 2019). Additional information has also been provided by the client/their planner where the applicant wishes to demonstrate exceptional circumstances or where they wish to pursue alternative strategies. Any residual impacts following mitigation measures etc are then identified.

- 2.3.8 All mitigation measures follow species specific current best practice guidance, and the source has been identified accordingly. Deviation from guidance has been explained by the ecologist and is proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed works.
- 2.3.9 It is important that planning decisions are based on up-to-date ecological data, and the specific timeframe over which survey data is considered valid should follow general advice (CIEEM, 2019). Although it should be noted that the presence/absence and status of protected species can change seasonally/annually. The age of data should also be assessed separately when considering the submission of an EPS Licence (i.e., Natural England may require data to be from the current season).
- 2.3.10 Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC) issue a licence for use of provided biodiversity data for 1 year only, after which time this should be renewed to validate an application (and reports updated accordingly to incorporate any new records). Following completion of surveys all relevant biodiversity data will be submitted to the relevant LERC and other groups as appropriate.

2.4 Limitations

- 2.4.1 Data held by consultees may not be exhaustive. The absence of evidence does not indicate evidence of absence. Enzygo cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of external data sources and as such discrepancies and inaccuracies may occur.
- 2.4.2 Natural England do not hold information of Ancient Woodland less than 2ha in size.
- 2.4.3 Records over 10 years old for transient species (as these are likely to have moved during the interim) and species protected from sale only under the W&C Act 1981 and amendments, are excluded (as these are not relevant to a planning application). Additionally, given the large number of priority species, these have only been included if identified from the desk study and/or habitats recorded on site have been assessed as providing suitable conditions.
- 2.4.4 Sites designated for Landscape or Geological reasons have not been included within this report.
- 2.4.5 This document does not contain a comprehensive list of botanical species on site. Only plant species characteristic of each habitat and incidental observations of notable plant species were recorded. In addition, many plant species are only evident at certain times of the year and so some plant species may have gone undetected.
- 2.4.6 The banks of Hermitage Stream were covered by dense scrub, although both banks and the river channel could be clearly viewed from vantage points. As such, there were no significant limitations to the MoRPh River Condition Assessment. However, further evidence of protected species i.e. Water Vole, and Invasive Flora i.e. Himalayan Balsam, could have gone unobserved.
- 2.4.7 The majority of the chalk aquifer which passes beneath the site is covered/below ground, so only a small portion of this could be assessed, where it outflows/joins Hermitage Stream. But this was sufficient to understand the characteristics of the aquifer.

3.0 Baseline Ecological Conditions

3.1.1 Ecological features identified by the desk study/field survey are presented below, along with their details and associated ecological value. Refer to Drawings for the location/extent of ecological features where relevant.

Table 2 – Ecological Features

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Statutory sites designated or classified under international conventions or European legislation		
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar, 0.9km south	'Two large estuarine basins linked by a channel and including extensive intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits, and dunes supporting reedbeds and some grassland. Numbers of wintering waterbirds regularly exceed 20,000 individuals and include internationally and nationally important numbers of several species.'	European
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA), 0.9km south	Designated for its waterbird assemblage including Pintail, Shoveler, Wigeon, Sanderling, Ringed Plover, Bar Tailed Godwit, and more.	European
Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 1.1km south	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • Estuaries • Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Coastal lagoons (Priority feature) • Annual vegetation of drift lines • Perennial vegetation of stony banks • Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	European
Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar, 5.5km south-west	'A large, industrialized estuary consisting of a saltmarsh, vast expanses of mudflats, and tidal creeks on the south coast. The mudflats, supporting extensive beds of eelgrass, green algae, and sea lettuce, provide feeding grounds for internationally important numbers of wintering Dark-bellied Brent Geese. A unique and high-quality flora and fauna occur at the site. Nationally important numbers of Gray Plover, Dunlin, and Black-tailed Godwit are supported.'	European

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Portsmouth Harbour SPA, 5.5km south-west	Supports internationally important numbers of Dark-bellied Brent Geese, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-tailed Godwit, and Dunlin.	European
Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar 12.7km south-west	'The site is comprised of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reefs, saltmarsh, and reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The site exhibits an "unusual strong double tidal flow" and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It supports internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl (51,361 over the winter) including Charadrius hiaticula, Anas crecca and Branta bernicla bernicla, important breeding gull and tern populations, and an impressive assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants.'	European
Solent and Southampton Water SPA 12.7km south-west	Supports internationally important numbers of Roseate Tern, Teal, Ringed Plover, Mediterranean Gull, and others.	European
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC 12.7km south-west	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site. Coastal lagoons (Priority feature)	European
Statutory sites designated under national legislation (& Impact Risk Zones)		
Langstone Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 1km south	'The harbour is among the twenty most important intertidal areas in Britain as a summer and autumn assembly ground for waders during the moult (when they require abundant high protein food) and as a post-moult wintering ground. Dunlin Calidris alpina often exceed 30,000 individuals, or 6% of the British winter population, or 3% of the European and North African wintering population. Grey plover Pluvialis squatarola and black-tailed godwit Limosa limosa achieve numbers which represent 1–2% of the European and North African migration flyway population; and redshank Tringa totanus and ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula do so periodically. At times as many as 20% of the black-tailed godwit, 8% of the ringed plover and 8-10% of the grey plover wintering in Britain are present in the harbour. The total numbers of waders present sometimes exceeds 40,000. Langstone Harbour and the adjoining and connected Portsmouth and Chichester Harbours form a single, coherent ecosystem which is among the ten most important intertidal areas for waders in Britain. In the 1970s and 1980s Langstone Harbour alone has consistently supported in excess of 5,000 wintering dark-bellied geese Branta bernicla, or 5-10% of the world population depending on fluctuating population levels. It has supported up to 2.5% of the European winter population of shelduck Tadorna tadorna and regularly supports substantial numbers of other ducks in autumn and winter.'	National

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Impact Risk Zone	LPA should consult Natural England on likely risks from the following planning applications: - All planning applications - except householder applications. - Notes 1: Strategic solutions for recreational impacts are in place. Please contact your Local Planning Authority as they have the information to advise on specific requirements. - Notes 2: Nutrient Impact Area. For new developments with overnight accommodation Reg 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 must be applied and additional measures required. LPA to refer to Natural England's Nutrient Neutrality advice.	National
Local Nature Reserves		
Farlington Marshes LNR 1.8km south-west	Important habitat for Dark-bellied Brent Geese, Wigeons, Teals, Avocets, Redshanks, Short-eared Owls, and Dunlins.	Local
Other locally designated wildlife sites		
Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) Sites SPD	Application site has no records of bird use/site with only negative records, associated with SWBGS, parcel H10B (but is identified as a network opportunity site). 31 of these strategic sites lie within 2km of the development, all within the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA. The nearest <i>Low Use</i> site is H11 with a maximum count of two individuals, located 0.7km to the east. The nearest <i>core area</i> is site H07A, with a maximum count of 455, located 1.2km to the south-west.	International
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	25 SINCS lie within 2km of the development. The nearest of these is St Faith's Churchyard located 1.4km to the east (there is no information about this site or why it was designated). All other SINCs lie more than 1.4km from the site.	Local
England HPI, Local BAP Habitats, Ancient Woodland, Important Hedgerows, Veteran Trees, TPOs and Conservation Areas		
Deciduous Woodland HPI, and Ancient Woodland, North and East	One area of deciduous woodland HPI lies approximately 0.3km to the south.	Local
Mudflats HPI 0.5km south-west	A small area of intertidal mudflats can be found	Local
SI grassland HPI 0.1km north	A small area is found north of the site	Local
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh HPI, on & immediately off site	This habitat is indicated as being present on site and off site within the 500m buffer	Local
Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMHPDL) HPI, 0.3km south	An area is located south of the site	Local
Other HPI < 50m	No main habitat but additional habitat exists	Local

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Green/Blue & Aquatic Infrastructure, Dark Zones, and Local Policy		
Green Infrastructure	To the south of the site there is an area of open grassland fields bordered by trees and hedgerows which provides a degree of connectivity with the wider landscape. There is also a small brook lined with trees running to the south of the site which may act as an ecological corridor for foraging/commuting species. The same is true of the railway line which is also lined with vegetation. Apart from this the surrounding landscape is largely built up in nature and has poor green infrastructure and ecological connectivity overall. A small number of mature trees are also present to the south and north of the site.	Local
Blue Infrastructure	The brook running to the south of the site provides an ecological corridor and connects the site to the marina. A chalk stream & culvert also pass beneath the site north to south. There are also two ponds approximately 450m to the east, separated from the site by an industrial/commercial area.	Local
Habitat Types		
Other Neutral Grassland (g3c) with Tall Forbs (16)	An area of other neutral grassland with tall forbs is present on the edge of earth bunds, and features dominant Ragwort, Common Nettle, Perennial Ryegrass, and frequent Cranesbill, Common Thistle, Ribwort Plantain, White Clover, and Bristly Oxtongue. Other neutral grassland is not an England HPI or Local BAP Habitat.	Negligible
		

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (u1c) with Non-Native Species (523) 	The dominant habitat on the mounds, is artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (i.e. spoil and gravel mounds) with non-native species which consists mainly of <i>Buddleja</i>. Also present at far lower densities are Teasel, Bramble, Penduline Sedge, Dandelion, Broad-leaved Dock, and Ragwort. Patches of sparsely vegetated land are present amidst the scrub. Not an England HPI or Local BAP Habitat. Note: site habitats have been identified as Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh HPI within the data search. This is likely a historic value prior to use of the site for landfill, and field surveys confirm that no grassland is currently present/unlikely any flooding now due to large boundary bunds.	Negligible
Mixed scrub (h3h) 	Areas of mixed scrub is present on the edges of the earth mounds and alongside the Stream. This is dominated by Bramble in parts, with frequent Elder, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Mixed scrub is not an England HPI or Local BAP Habitat.	Negligible
Developed land, sealed surface (u1b) 	An area of hard standing is present in the middle of the bunds, with a compound area to the east, and a concrete access road leading into the Waterworks. No significant vegetation assemblages are associated with this habitat. Developed land, sealed surface is not an England HPI or local BAP habitat.	Negligible

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Rivers (r2a). Priority habitat. 	Hermitage stream (first two photos) runs along the site's southern boundary in a north-east to south-west direction. The red line boundary has been moved so that it is now >10m from this (excluding the existing access road & bridge). Sections are channelised with brick/concrete and edged by dense mixed scrub. A chalk aquifer passes beneath the site, originating immediately off-site to the north-east, and joins Hermitage stream in the south-west. All Rivers are UK Priority habitat. The MoRPh River Condition Assessment identified that the sub-reach of Hermitage stream is a F-straight/sinuuous, coarsest CO, average GP river of Fairly poor condition (mainly due to artificial channelisation). Old mill dam is present within 100m to the west/downstream which prevents tidal influence further upstream. Refer to Appendix C for full details on condition. The chalk aquifer (last photo) which passes beneath the site was not subject to survey as the majority of this is present within a "conduit" below ground. But the outflow which was visible is fully channelised with concrete base/sides, with fast flowing good clear water quality (being Chalk source), and with extensive fronds of submerged fine-leaved vegetation in-channel. This is within an aquifer source protection zone.	Local

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Legally Protected & Priority Species (& Consultation Zones where applicable)		
Bats	Many bat roost records within 2km including Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, Natterer's, and Serotine. Also records of foraging Barbastelle, Noctule, Daubenton's, Serotine, Long-eared, Pipistrelle, and Natterer's bats in the area. One EPS licence for Common Pipistrelle from 2014 located 0.2km to the east. Site within a Bechstein's Bat Area (as identified on Havant Borough Local Plan map). No buildings on site with suitable roosting features, and culvert which extends beneath the site is not accessible to bats, although concrete culvert entrance (which is open) could provide roosting opportunities for species such as Soprano Pipistrelle or Daubenton's. Adjacent bridges and other waterworks buildings may provide further opportunities for roosting bats. The mature trees to the south and north of the site are of an age/size class likely to support PRFs, and the scrub habitats may provide suitable foraging grounds for common bat species. The railway line and Hermitage Stream connect the site to the wider landscape and may provide further foraging/commuting corridors for bats.	Local
Badger	One record of Badger from 2017 located 1.7km away. The mounds provide potential sett creation habitat for Badger; however, no signs of Badger presence were recorded on site or within 30m of the boundary. The grassland habitats provide no suitable foraging grounds or shelter for Badger, nor does the <i>Buddleja</i> scrub offer favoured habitat. Unlikely presence of species.	Local
Dormouse	Two EPS licenses for Dormouse granted within 2km, the nearest being from 2014 located 1.8km to the north-west. No records. No suitable habitat.	Negligible
Otter & Water Vole	No records of Otter but 31 of Water Vole, most of them from approximately 1km away in Langbrook Stream, Havant. It is known that the EA are currently undertaking Water Vole surveys of the wider Hermitage stream (but results are currently unavailable). Historical survey of Hermitage stream in 2021 did not identify any evidence of Water Vole (Andrew Rothwell, 2021). The survey of the stream did not identify any evidence of Water Vole, but there were survey limitations i.e. stream banks covered by scrub, so evidence may have gone unobserved. Earth banks provide potential locations for burrows (concrete reinforced sections do not provide suitable habitat), with stream and vegetation providing foraging sources.	Local
Other Protected Mammals	One record of Harvest Mouse 0.8km away, from 2021. No suitable habitat.	Negligible

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Specially Protected Birds	Several specially protected birds have been recorded within the 2km search area, including Goshawk, Skylark, Kingfisher, Tree Pipit, Scaup, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Cetti's Warbler, Black Tern, Marsh Harrier, Cuckoo, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Black-tailed Godwit, Crossbill, and Barn Owl. Of these protected species, there is limited potential nesting habitat on site in the form of the scrub and adjacent mature trees. The grassland does not represent favourable foraging habitat for species such as Barn Owl as it is unsuitable for high densities of small mammals due to its largely uniform sward height which offers no refuge.	Negligible
Breeding Birds	Several species of both protected and common birds have been identified in the area including Redwing, Swift, Shelduck, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Common Tern, and Lapwing. The adjacent trees provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of common species.	Local
Wintering and Migratory Birds	Numerous records of wintering and migratory birds, associated with coast/estuary and statutory designated sites throughout the surrounding landscape. The site provides no specific opportunities for any wintering or migratory birds (small, enclosed piece of land with bunds & scrub which is not suitable for larger birds/flocks of birds landing). The application footprint is not identified under the SWBGS as secondary habitat/Functionally Linked Land [FLL] utilised by bird species associated with statutory designated sites (parcel H10B). However, parcels of land which extend off site i.e. open areas of grassland, and tidal/estuarine habitats, are known to provide this function.	Local
Common Reptiles	Four records of Slow Worm, all from 1.9km to the south-east. Additionally, a Reptile receptor site is present on a grassland area alongside Hermitage stream immediately to the east (identified from exclusion fencing & wildlife signage). The adjacent riparian and grassland habitats offer potential for individuals/small numbers of these species, and the scrub which makes up the majority of the site offers limited shelter, refuge, foraging, and basking potential. Grass Snake would be attracted by aquatic habitats.	Local
Great Crested Newt	No records. No EPS licences or GCN Survey Licence Returns within 2km. Hampshire is registered under NatureSpace District Level Licensing (DLL), but no apparent GCN zone information available for this location (Havant). A search for ponds shows two ponds approximately 450m to the east, separated from the site by an industrial/commercial area. There is no connectivity between these and the site so GCN are not likely to commute from here to site. No suitable terrestrial habitat on site. The grassland does not provide adequate shelter for their terrestrial phase, nor does the scrub or significantly open/disturbed areas of active compound.	Negligible

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Other Protected Herpetofauna	No records. No suitable habitat on site.	Negligible
Protected Fish/Marine	No records. No suitable habitat on site.	Negligible
White-clawed Crayfish	No records. No suitable habitat on site.	Negligible
Protected Invertebrates	Hundreds of Stag Beetle records, as well as Small Heath and Chalk Hill Blue within 2km. Typical habitats only, unlikely to attract these species. No standing or fallen dead wood noted on site.	Negligible
Protected Flora	Records of Sainfoin, Fly Orchid, Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass, and more within 2km. Typical habitats only, none observed on site.	Negligible
Invasive Flora	Records of Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, and Montbretia within 2km. Buddleja is present throughout the site on all of the mounds and is the dominant species throughout. Himalayan Balsam is present within/along edges of Hermitage stream. It is known that the EA are undertaking pulling/control measures of Himalayan Balsam throughout the wider Hermitage stream.	Local
Invasive Fauna	No records. No invasive fauna identified on site.	Negligible
Priority Species	One record of Common Toad and many records of Hedgehog from within 2km. Limited extent of habitat on site.	Local

4.0 Assessment and Mitigation

- 4.1.1 Assessment of impacts and the associated ecological effect to identified ecological features are presented below. To clarify, ecological features have been screened out where these are of negligible importance, no likely significant impacts have been identified or where impact is unlikely to occur. Mitigation measures can be subject of a condition where appropriate.
- 4.1.2 No impacts to wider statutory sites i.e. Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar/SPA, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar/SPA, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Farlington Marshes LNR, as no recreational pressure, no wider hydrological impacts (confined locally), and no disturbance of wider wintering/migratory birds. Additionally, no significant impacts have been identified to wider SINC's or HPI habitats as no direct linkage and no dust/air pollution etc.

Table 3 – Assessment of effect and mitigation measures

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar/SPA/ SSSI, Solent Maritime SAC, IRZ, SWBGS SPD, Wintering/ Migratory Birds	Degradation of habitats & disturbance of associated species from construction activities. Significant, adverse, permanent, irreversible impact.	At discretion of planning officer, consultation with Natural England to confirm agreement with this report assessment and that there is NOT a need for any Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Nutrient Neutrality assessment, or any associated protected species surveys i.e. Wintering Bird Surveys. Standard hydrology pollution control measures, and Measures to avoid/ control noise/ vibration and visibility disturbance to birds etc to be fully detailed in CEMP.	None	None
Blue Infrastructure, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh HPI, River HPI (Hermitage Stream and Chalk Aquifer), Otter & Water Vole	Degradation of habitats & disturbance of associated species from construction activities. Significant, adverse, permanent, reversible impact.	To minimise the risk of any pollution event impacting the brook and any other surrounding blue infrastructure features all construction works will be undertaken in accordance with best practice and the through adoption of the appropriate Environment Agency guidance (refer to updated 2019 Environment Agency guidance "Pollution prevention for businesses" Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)). This includes appropriate storage of chemicals, controlled refuelling of vehicles, spill kits etc. These measures will also be applied to the floodplain HPI. Specific mitigation measures to be discussed IF impacts to chalk aquifer are subsequently identified. Currently no impact identified as aquifer to remain undisturbed.	None	None

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
Green Infrastructure	Accidental damage of trees during construction activities. Minor adverse, temporary, reversible impact.	Retention and protection of trees in accordance with BS5837:2012, or as advised by an arboriculturist. Use of protection fencing i.e. Heras, where necessary.	None	None
Bats	Risk of loss, damage and/or degradation of bat foraging and commuting habitat. Minor adverse, temporary, reversible impact.	The construction and operational lighting scheme should be designed in accordance with the recent guidance Bats and artificial lighting in the UK (Institute of Lighting Professionals, 2023). The protection measures highlighted above in relation to physical protection and lighting will minimise the risk of degradation of the adjacent suitable foraging and commuting habitat. The larger trees are to be retained and protected and so no further Bat Survey is deemed necessary. Specific further dusk emergence surveys (Collins, 2023) and/or mitigation measures to be discussed IF impacts to chalk aquifer are subsequently identified (as roost potential at outflow culvert). Currently no impact identified as aquifer to remain undisturbed.	None	None
Badger	Low risk of killing/injury to badgers & loss of sett features during construction activities. Minor adverse, temporary, irreversible impact.	As there is potentially suitable habitat on site for Badger in the form of mounds, which they could utilise for sett creation, the following measures will be implemented during construction work to minimise the risk of harm to Badgers: ○ All site personnel will be briefed regarding presence of Badgers in the area and the relevant mitigation strategies; ○ All trenches and pits will be securely covered overnight to stop any badgers falling in and becoming trapped. Alternatively, a rough plank can be provided, at an angle no steeper than 45 degrees, to allow any badgers a suitable means of escape; ○ All trenches/pits should be inspected each morning and evening to ensure no badgers have become trapped; ○ All chemicals should be contained in such a way that they cannot be accessed or knocked over by any roaming badgers;	None	None

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
		- Open pipework with a diameter of more than 120mm should be properly covered at the end of the working day to prevent badgers entering and becoming trapped; - The storage of topsoil or other 'soft' building materials within the site should be given careful consideration to ensure no Badgers adopt such mounds as setts, which would then be afforded the same protection as established setts. So as to avoid the adoption of any mounds, they should be subject to daily inspections before work commences; - Litter and potentially dangerous materials on site should be cleared at the end of the working day. Care should be taken to ensure that there are no sharp metal objects or pointed protrusions on the ground which could seriously injure a badger due to their poor eyesight; and - Adherence to these measures to be confirmed to planners at regular intervals by the project ecologist.		
Breeding Birds	Risk of disturbance to nesting during construction activities. Minor adverse, temporary, reversible impact.	As best practice initial site clearance should be conducted outside of the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), where possible. If it is necessary to undertake these works during the bird nesting season, a suitably trained Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) would supervise the clearance to ensure no active nests are affected. If any active nests are detected, an appropriate protection area around the nest(s) will be established until it can be determined that the nest is longer active/young have fledged. No further breeding bird surveys are considered necessary given the retention of all mature trees around the site's perimeter.	None	None
Common Reptiles	Risk of killing/injury during construction activities. Minor adverse, temporary, reversible impact.	As above, ECoW to supervise sensitive site clearance and removal of suitable vegetation. Any common reptiles encountered allowed to disperse into off-site habitats.	None	None
Invasive Flora	Risk of causing the spread of invasive species in the wild. Minor adverse, temporary, reversible impact.	An invasive species contractor should advise on appropriate measures to treat/eradicate and/or prevent the spread in the wild of the Buddleja, and Himalayan Balsam if works in closer proximity of Hermitage stream. This may include hand-pulling, herbicide treatment, licensed removal and/or burial on	None	None

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
		site in addition to possible completion of a detailed invasive species survey to confirm extent of flora.		
Priority Species	Risk of killing/injury during construction activities. Minor adverse, temporary, reversible impact.	As above, ECoW to supervise sensitive site clearance and removal of suitable vegetation. Allow any priority species to disperse into off-site habitats.	None	None

5.0 Enhancement & Monitoring

- 5.1.1 Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement (above and beyond those required to mitigate for any identified impacts) have been determined through consideration of: Ecological Features identified on site and within the zone of influence; Historical records of protected species/habitats present within the locality; National and Local planning policy including National and Local Biodiversity habitats/species; Local Development Plans including consideration of Green/Blue Infrastructure Resource; Consultation with third parties/stakeholders where applicable; and Other influencing factors such as underlying Geology/Hydrology, intended operational activities, and existing disturbance activities within the locality. This makes specific reference to Biodiversity Net Gain, Good practice principles for development (CIEEM, IEMA, CIRA, 2019).
- 5.1.2 In accordance with the Environment Act 2021 there is a requirement to demonstrate at least +10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). As such, a BNG metric has been provided separately. Additionally, where works are within a 10m buffer of a River there is a requirement to undertake a MoRPh River Condition Assessment (this includes Natural springs under headwaters section). This is included within the EclA and the River section of the BNG metric has also been completed. Additional biodiversity enhancements will include the following. The specific location and details of the proposals can be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition and/or detailed on the final landscape plans.

Table 4 – Additional Enhancement

Ecological Feature	Additional Enhancement
Green Infrastructure	It is recommended that the final site layout maximises the incorporation of native landscape planting and is designed to complement and contribute to the existing features on site. Overall, planting should be focussed on creating linear habitats to enhance the habitat connectivity and wildlife corridor function across and around the site.
Blue Infrastructure	Enhancement works to Hermitage stream and Chalk Aquifer to improve river condition. Could include similar measures to the Havant thicket mitigation scheme, which proposes to remove artificial channelisation along Hermitage stream, immediately upstream of Bedhampton Waterworks.
Bats	Installation of bat boxes upon retained large trees to provide additional roosting opportunities. Situated on a south or west facing aspects, at least 6ft from ground level, and away from human/lighting disturbance.
Breeding Birds	Installation bird boxes (of a range of types) upon retained large trees to provide additional nesting opportunities. Situated on a north or east facing aspect, at least 6ft from ground level, and away from human/lighting disturbance.

- 5.1.3 No post-development monitoring is required.
- 5.1.4 To comply with guidance set out in BS42020:2013, a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) which includes consideration of biodiversity should be produced prior to the commencement of construction activities, including site clearance works. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) is also recommended prior to operation of the site. Additionally, a Habitats Management & Monitoring Plan (HMMP) may be requested to secure any BNG gains. These documents can be secured through an appropriately worded planning condition(s).

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1.1 Subject to consultation with Natural England at the discretion of the planning officer, on the requirement for an HRA, NN, and potentially Wintering Bird Survey, suitable mitigation measures can be incorporated into the proposed application to avoid/ mitigate any potential impacts to all other ecological features and to demonstrate 'no biodiversity net loss' in accordance with NPPF and local planning policy.
- 6.1.2 Additionally, the site re-development allows the opportunity to provide local enhancements to demonstrate a 'biodiversity net gain'.

7.0 References

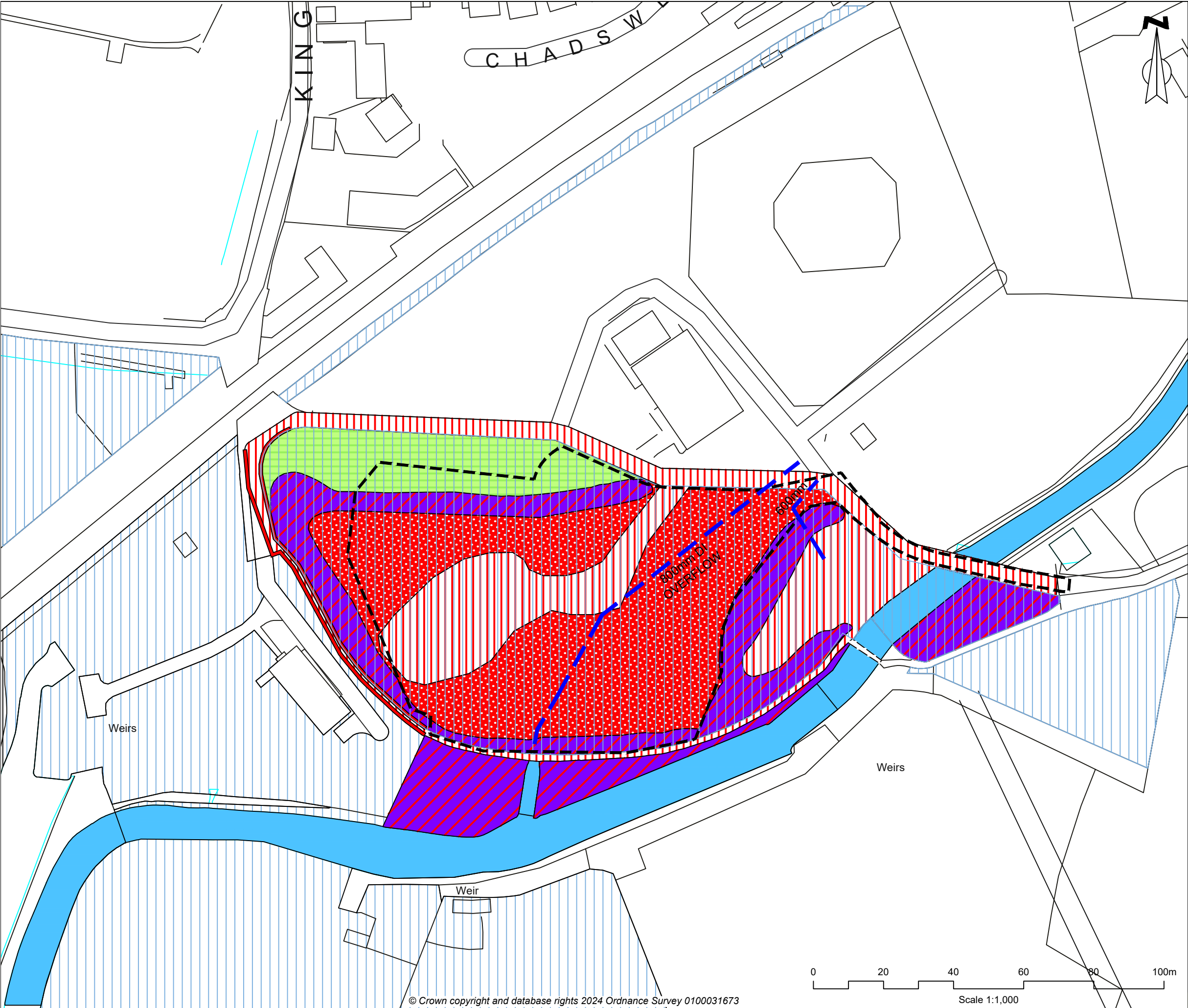
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Drawing SHF.3055.001.EC.D.001 – Habitat Map



Key

- Site Boundary
- Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (u1c)
- Developed land, sealed surface (u1b)
- Other neutral grassland (g3c)
- Dense scrub (h3h)
- Built linear features (u1e)
- Rivers (priority habitat) (r2a)
- Rivers (priority habitat) Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh HPI
- Overflow

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CLIENT:
E101 Hub 4 Ltd

SCALE:
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PROJECT REF:
SHF.3055.001

DRAWN:
LB

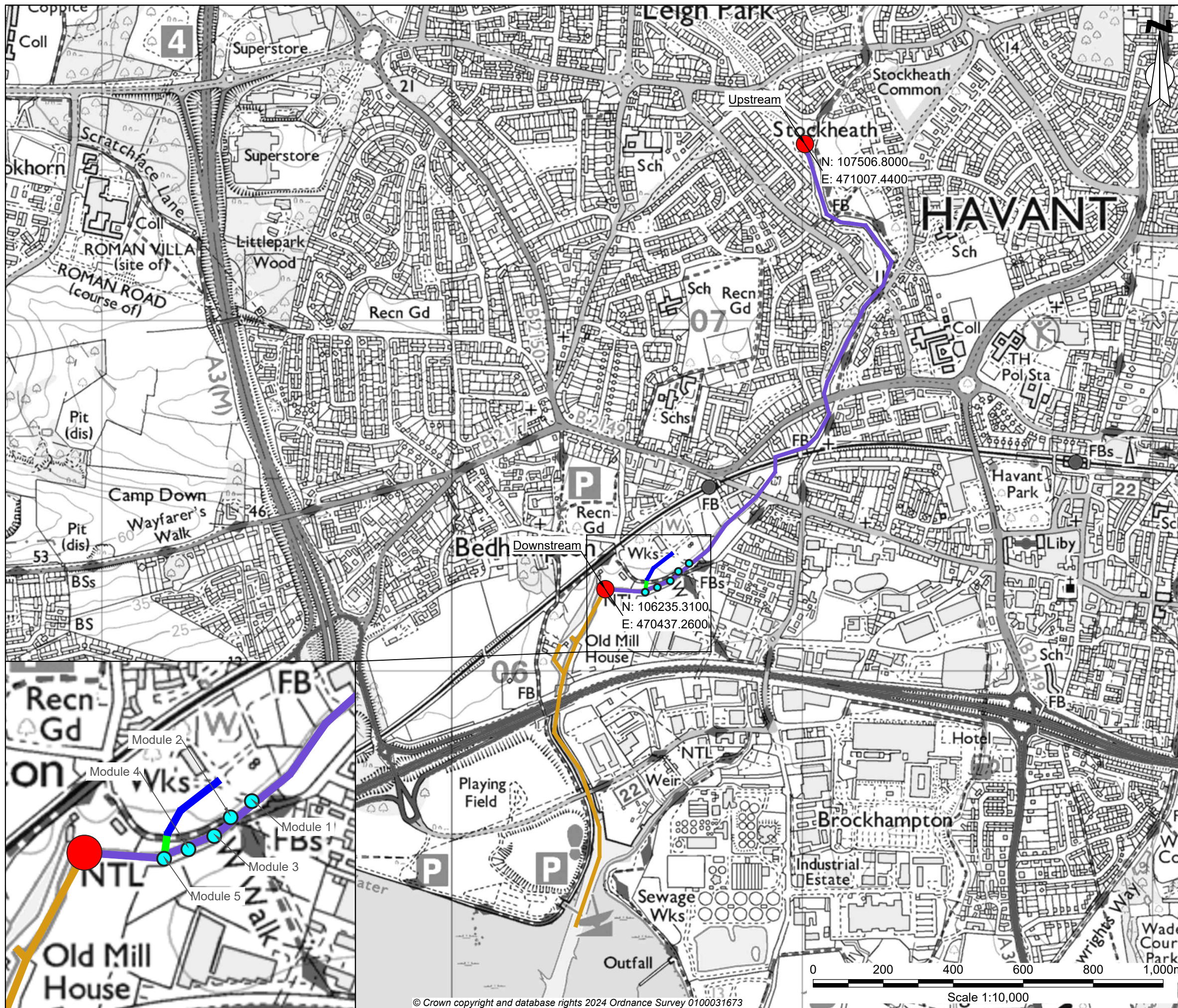
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DATE:
Mar 2025

PROJECT:
Bedhampton Waterworks

TITLE:
UK Habitat Classifications Map

DRAWING NO:
SHF.3055.001.EC.D.001



Key

- Inland River
- Tidal River
- Chalk Aquifer
- 800mm Overflow Conduit
- River Reach Points
- Sub Reach Survey Points



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PROJECT:
Bedhampton Waterworks

TITLE:
UK Habitat Classifications Map

DRAWING NO:
SHF.3055.001.EC.D.002

Appendix A – Proposed Site Layout

Appendix B – Legislation and National Planning Policy

Wildlife legislation and policy relevant (or potentially relevant pending further survey) to the proposed works, based on the findings of the desk study and field survey are set out below. This legal information is a summary only, and the original legal documents should be consulted for definitive information.

Legislation Protection Afforded to Sites/Habitats that could Potentially be Affected by the Proposed Works

Designated Site/Habitat	Legal Status
SAC, SPA	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are protected areas in the UK designated under: - the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters); - the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland; - the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and - the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 in the UK offshore area.
Ramsar	The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) covers all aspects of wetland conservation and 'wise use'. It has three main 'pillars' of activity: - the designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar Sites; - the promotion of the wise use of all wetlands in the territory of each country; and - international co-operation with other countries to further the wise use of wetlands and their resources.
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are designated and legally protected under: - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and - The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (England and Wales).

Legislation Protection Afforded to Species that could Potentially be Affected by the Proposed Works

Species	Legal Status
European Protected	
Bats, Water Vole	These animal species and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012, which makes it illegal to: • Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs; • Deliberately disturb such an animal; and • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. European Protected Species (EPS) licences can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed: • The development is for reasons of overriding public interest; • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced. Under Regulation 9(5) of the Conservation Regulations, Planning Authorities have a legal duty to 'have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions'. This means that they must consider the above 3 tests when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations. As a consequence, Planning Applications for such developments must demonstrate that the 3 tests will be passed.
Nationally Protected	
Bats, Water Vole	These animals receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal; • Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal; and • Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
Breeding Birds	All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; • Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.
Badgers	Badgers receive protection under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) which makes it illegal to deliberately kill, injure, or capture a wild badger; or to interfere with badger setts (or attempt to do so).

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act) places a legal duty on public bodies, including planning authorities, to 'have regard' to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions, which includes consideration of planning applications.

In compliance with Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State has published a list of species and habitats considered to be of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. This is known as the list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (HPI/SPI), of which there are 56 habitats and 943 species. The HPI/SPI list is used to guide planning authorities in implementing their duty under the NERC Act.

National Planning Policy

The NPPF (2024) set out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF states that:

'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, 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.'

'When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- 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;
- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, 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 Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- 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;
- 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 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

'The following should be given the same protection as European sites:

- potential Special Protection Areas (SPA) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- listed of proposed Ramsar Sites; and,
- site identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential SPAs, possible SACs, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.'

The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on European sites (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.'

Appendix C – MoRPh River Condition Assessment

MoRPh River Condition Assessment RevA

Site name/reach:	Bedhampton, Heritage Stream, Meyrick Road
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RCA Index ID	RCA Index Name	RCA Index values	Notes/Justification	RCA Index values	Notes/Justification
Bank Top					
B1	Bank top vegetation structure	2	Common habitat types		
B2	Bank top tree feature richness	0	None		
B3	Bank top water-related features	0	None		
B4	Bank top NNIPS cover	-1	Himalayan Balsam		
B5	Bank top managed ground cover	-3	Landfill, footpaths, bridges		
Bank Face					
C1	Bank face riparian vegetation structure	1	Limited		
C2	Bank face tree feature richness	0	None		
C3	Bank face natural bank profile extent	3	Banks downstream		
C4	Bank face natural bank profile richness	3	Banks downstream		
C5	Bank face natural bank material richness	1	Earth		
C6	Bank face bare sediment extent	0	None		
C7	Bank face artificial bank profile extent	0	Channelised		
C8	Bank face reinforcement extent	-4	Channelised		
C9	Bank face reinforcement material severity	-4	Channelised		
C10	Bank face NNIPS cover	-1	Himalayan Balsam		
Channel Margin					
D1	Channel margin aquatic vegetation extent	2	Limited		
D2	Channel margin aquatic morphotype richness	1	Limited		
D3	Channel margin physical feature extent	1	Limited		
D4	Channel margin physical feature richness	1	Limited		
D5	Channel margin artificial features	-1	Channelised		
Channel Bed					
E1	Channel bed aquatic morphotype richness	2	Limited		
E2	Channel bed tree feature richness	0	None		
E3	Channel bed hydraulic features richness	1	Limited		
E4	Channel bed natural features extent	1	Limited		
E5	Channel bed natural features richness	1	Limited		
E6	Channel bed material richness	1	Limited		
E7	Channel bed siltation	0	None		
E8	Channel bed reinforcement extent	-3	Channelised		
E9	Channel bed reinforcement severity	-3	Channelised		
E10	Channel bed artificial features severity	-4	Channelised		
E11	Channel bed NNIPS extent	-1	Himalayan Balsam		
E12	Channel bed filamentous algae extent	-1	Eutrophication		

	EXISTING	ENHANCED
River Type:	F - Straight/sinuuous, coarsest CO, average GP	
River Condition Assessment Score:	-0.894736842	
Range for River Type:	>-0.9	
River Condition:	Fairly poor	



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