

AtkinsRéalis



Ecological Impact Assessment

Trant Engineering Ltd.

April 2026

5227179_Racton Booster Station EcIA

RACTON BOOSTER STATION

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Non-technical Summary

Report purpose	This report describes the ecological baseline and evaluates the nature conservation importance of ecological features present within the zone of influence for the Proposed Scheme. The assessment identifies impacts (both positive and negative) on important ecological features, sets out agreed avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures and provides details on the significance of residual effects for each important ecological feature. This report forms part of the technical information lodged with the planning application submission for the Racton Booster Station.
Proposed Scheme	The Proposed Scheme consists primarily of a water booster station building that will connect to Portsmouth Water's (PW's) existing water pipeline system in order to safeguard their pressurised water supply network. The water booster station building will be 81.65 m² in area. The booster station comprises a plant room housing a floor mounted pump, and a control room housing a motor control centre (MCC), together with a separate kiosk housing a bespoke, new electricity substation. The building housing the water booster station will be approximately 10 m long and 10 m wide. The maximum height of the building will be 5.31 m (north elevation) to 4.66 m (south elevation) to the top of the pitched roof. The proposed building will have a tiled pitched roof and will be constructed of brick to match the existing surrounding buildings. The Proposed Scheme includes a "Grasscrete" hardstanding parking bay at 90 degrees to Brookfield Close, to allow for safe access for vehicles into the site. A double barrier / gate 1 m back from the current kerb line is also proposed. The Proposed Scheme also includes a number of ancillary items on the site, including; two surface water drainage chambers, two washout chambers, five surface boxes for buried valves, one actuated bypass chamber and one flow meter chamber. The Proposed Scheme includes landscaping proposals as part of the design, comprising species-rich grass and species-rich native hedgerow which will partially screen the water booster station. Four trees are also proposed to be planted, two of which are to be located in the centre of the site, and two are to be located towards the south of the site. Perimeter hedging is also proposed, as well as a 300 mm high timber fence.
Desk studies and field surveys	In March 2024, the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre was contacted for records of locally designated sites for nature conservation and protected and priority species and habitats. The desk study was updated in March 2026, using MAGIC and the Ancient Tree Inventory to search for statutory designated sites and irreplaceable and priority habitats, and European protected Species (EPS) licence records. An ecological walkover survey including a daytime bat walkover and ground level tree assessments was undertaken on 08/02/2024 and updated on 29/01/2026.
Ecological features	There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation, nor are there any irreplaceable habitats within the desk study search areas. Hedgerow priority habitat is located within the Application Site, with further priority habitats including coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, a river (Hermitage Stream) and deciduous woodland located within the desk study search area. Within the Survey Area, there is suitable habitat for badgers, bats, breeding birds and widespread species of reptiles. One invasive non-native plant species (INNPS) was identified in multiple locations within the Survey Area.



Potential impacts and effects	A 11m length of hedgerow priority habitat is to be permanently lost to facilitate the construction of the booster station. Temporary and permanent habitat loss of other neutral grassland will also occur as a result of the Proposed Scheme. All existing trees will be retained. Construction activities (vegetation clearance) could potentially have an impact on foraging/commuting badgers, foraging/commuting bats, breeding birds and foraging/sheltering species of widespread reptiles.
Avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures	To ensure habitat loss is minimised, the size of the working area, access routes and storage areas etc has been reduced as far as possible. Habitat creation is to take place to allow for the provision of a native species rich hedgerow to act as screening of the booster station, and to include the provision of 5 trees and other neutral grassland. Habitat creation works are to be undertaken after the completion of construction works in accordance with a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. General mitigation measures are outlined for adherence to pollution prevention guidelines (PPGs)/Guidance on Pollution Prevention (GPPs) and the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) guidance on the control of water pollution from construction sites. To facilitate the vegetation clearance required pre-construction, a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be employed prior to construction and for the duration of the pre-construction clearance works. The ECoW will be required to undertake a pre-works check for nesting birds (depending on the timing of the works), and to provide ecological support during vegetation clearance under a Precautionary Method of Working for common species of reptile. Any excavations required for the Proposed Scheme will be filled or covered overnight. If this is not possible, one side of the excavation will be graded or partially graded so that it provides an escape ramp to prevent any animals becoming trapped. Any lighting required will be designed to avoid light spill onto adjacent commuting habitat for sensitive species. No works will be undertaken to the group of alder trees within the Application Site. These will be protected during construction in line with guidelines provided in BS 5837 Trees in relation to Construction. Should this change and these trees require management and/or felling, a pre-works check will be undertaken to include a detailed inspection at height and with the use of a Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) or similar to inspect the trees more closely to determine their suitability and look for evidence of roosting bats. This survey will determine whether there is a need for further survey or mitigation in relation to roosting bats prior to any works taking place to these trees. Prior to the commencement of works, an invasive species specialist will be consulted regarding the removal three-cornered garlic, a Schedule 9 invasive species on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition, a pre-works check for INNPS will be undertaken no more than three months prior to works commencing, to identify the extent of the three-cornered garlic, and to identify the presence of any additional INNS.
Significance of residual effects	The Proposed Scheme will result in a minor adverse but non-significant residual effect on hedgerow priority habitat.



Biodiversity Net Gain

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment was undertaken alongside this EclA. A separate BNG Design Stage Assessment report¹ and metric² has been completed.

Report Validity

In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report, then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management guidance³.

¹ AtkinsRéalis (2026). Racton Booster Station Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Assessment. April 2026.

² AtkinsRéalis (2026). Racton Booster Station BNG Metric. April 2026.

³ CIEEM (2019) *Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys*.



1. Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1.1. AtkinsRéalis was commissioned by Trant Engineering Ltd. to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) in connection with an application for the construction of Racton Booster Station (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Scheme).
- 1.1.2. This EclA is intended to demonstrate how the Proposed Scheme accords with relevant planning policy and legislation.
- 1.1.3. The Proposed Scheme is located next to Trosnant Road in Havant, Hampshire at PO9 3BB, as identified by the planning red line boundary shown on Drawing Ref: S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1000 within Appendix A (hereafter referred to as the Application Site).
- 1.1.4. This report presents the results of the EclA for the Proposed Scheme and considers both terrestrial and aquatic ecological receptors, which include statutory and non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation, terrestrial and freshwater habitats, and species. The assessment has been informed by a desk study and field survey data. This EclA describes the ecological baseline and evaluates the nature conservation importance of ecological features present within the Zone of Influence⁴ for the Proposed Scheme, characterises the impacts on Important Ecological Features⁵, sets out agreed avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures, and assesses the significance of the residual effects of the Proposed Scheme on the Important Ecological Features.
- 1.1.5. This EclA has been undertaken with reference to current good practice⁶ and forms part of the technical information lodged with the full planning application submission. The ecological specialists who have authored this report are committed environmental professionals who are appropriately qualified and have a demonstrable knowledge, experience, and competence in the field of nature conservation. The production of this EclA report has been overseen by competent experts that are full members of the Chartered Institute of Environmental and Ecological Management (CIEEM).

1.2 The Application Site

- 1.2.1. The Application Site is located at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference (OSNGR) SU 7115 0683 in Havant, and predominately comprises of other neutral grassland with a group of three alder trees in the west and a hedge to the east. The Application Site is bound by Trosnant Road to the north, Brookfield Close to the east, New Road to the south and Stockheath Lane to the west. It is located in an urban setting. To the west of Stockheath Lane is an area of greenfield land associated with the Hermitage Stream and Hawthorn Walk, with the stream being located 50 m west of the Application Site. A shallow ditch lies approximately 20 m to the west of the Application Site, running northwest to southwest for approximately 50 m.

⁴ Zone of Influence is the area(s) over which ecological features may be affected by the biophysical changes caused by the proposed project and associated activities.

⁵ An important ecological feature is a species, habitat, ecosystem and/or their function/service that is considered to be important and potentially affected by the project. A full definition is provided in Section 2

⁶ CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.3 (updated September, 2024)*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.



- 1.2.2. The Application Site is shown on Drawing Ref: S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1000 in Appendix A and is approximately 900 m²/0.1 ha.

1.3 The Proposed Scheme

- 1.3.1. The Proposed Scheme consists primarily of a water booster station building that will connect to PW's existing water pipeline system in order to safeguard their pressurised water supply network. The water booster station building will be 81.65 m² in area. The booster station comprises a plant room housing a floor mounted pump, and a control room housing a motor control centre (MCC), together with a separate kiosk housing a bespoke, new electricity substation.
- 1.3.2. The building housing the water booster station will be approximately 10 m long and 10 m wide. The maximum height of the building will be 5.31 m (north elevation) to 4.66 m (south elevation) to the top of the pitched roof. The building will have a tiled pitched roof and will be constructed of brick to match the existing surrounding buildings.
- 1.3.3. A summary of the proposed equipment to be housed at the water booster station includes:
- Floor-mounted pumps and associated pipework;
 - Electrical equipment cabinets;
 - Electricity substation kiosk;
 - High level extraction fans; and
 - Air vents and non-powered louvre panels.
- 1.3.4. The Proposed Scheme includes a "Grasscrete" hardstanding parking bay at 90 degrees to Brookfield Close, to allow for safe access for vehicles into the Application Site. A double barrier / gate 1 m back from the current kerb line is also proposed.
- 1.3.5. The Proposed Scheme also includes a number of ancillary items on the Application Site, including:
- Two surface water drainage chambers;
 - Two Washout chambers;
 - Five surface boxes for buried valves;
 - One actuated bypass chamber; and
 - One flow meter chamber.
- 1.3.6. The Proposed Scheme includes landscaping proposals as part of the design, comprising species-rich grass and species-rich native hedgerow which will partially screen the water booster station. Four trees are also proposed to be planted, two of which are to be located in the centre of the Application Site, and two are to be located towards the south of the Application Site.
- 1.3.7. Perimeter hedging is also proposed at a maximum height of 1.5m, as well as a 300 mm high timber knee rail fence.
- 1.3.8. The Proposed Scheme is shown on the following Drawing Refs in Appendix A:
- Proposed Site Plan: S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1002 (S2-P03);
 - Landscape Proposals Plan: 55227179-ATK-XX-XX-DR-L-1000 (P06).



- 1.3.9. It is anticipated that the construction period will last approximately 48 weeks. The construction start date is not yet known.

1.4 Scope of Assessment

- 1.4.1. This report presents ecological information obtained during the following:

- A desk-study undertaken in March 2024 and updated in March 2026;
- A preliminary ecological walkover survey undertaken on 08/02/2024 and updated on 29/01/2026; and
- Bat surveys including a daytime bat walkover and ground level tree assessments undertaken on 08/02/2024 and updated on 29/01/2026.



2. Methodology

2.1 Zones of Influence

- 2.1.1. The project Zone of Influence (Zol) is defined as the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. The size and shape of the Zol will depend on the ecological features present at the Application Site and the nature of the proposals and predicted impacts. The Zol typically extends beyond the project boundaries (for example where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond Application Site boundaries), and takes into account both on-site impacts, and impacts that may occur to adjacent and/or more distant ecological features. In order to determine the Zol, the size, location, and nature of a project needs to be considered alongside the likely impacts, sensitivities of ecological features, and potential for in combination effects.
- 2.1.2. For each ecological feature within the Zol, the individual zone of sensitivity of that feature will vary depending on their susceptibility to an environmental change or effect. Where there is overlap between the project Zol and the receptors zone of sensitivity, impacts may occur.

2.2 Desk Study

- 2.2.1. The geographical area for obtaining ecological data through desk studies (hereafter referred to as the Desk Study Search Area) has been informed by the project Zol and zones of sensitivity for ecological features using best practice guidance and professional judgement. Baseline data have been gathered from a range of sources through data requests, and using online resources, as outlined below. This included data gathering in relation to statutory and non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation and protected and priority habitats and species (as defined by CIEEM⁷). The study areas used for the data gathering are detailed in Table 2-1.
- 2.2.2. The following online resources were accessed in March 2024 and March 2026:
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website⁸ to search for statutory designated sites, irreplaceable habitats (excluding veteran trees), priority habitats and European protected Species (EPS) licence application records; and
 - The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory⁹.
- 2.2.3. Ordnance Survey maps and Grid Reference Finder¹⁰ were used in March 2024 and March 2026 to identify the presence of waterbodies within 500 m of the Application Site boundary, in order to establish if the land within and immediately surrounding the Application Site could be used as terrestrial habitat for great crested newt. This species typically uses suitable terrestrial habitat up to 500 m from a breeding pond¹¹. However, there is a notable decrease in great crested newt abundance beyond a distance of

⁷ As set out in Box 1 on page 4 of the CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, priority habitats and species include those listed as a national priority for conservation (i.e. a Habitat of Principle Importance or Species of Principle Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (as amended) and/or local priority for conservation (e.g. in the local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List or Amber List, Nationally Rare or Nationally Scarce, or endemic to a country or geographic location.

⁸ Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) [Online]. Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> [Accessed 01/03/2026].

⁹ Woodland Trust *Ancient Tree Inventory* [Online]. Available at: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/> [Accessed: 01/03/2026].

¹⁰ UK Grid Reference Finder (2011) [Online]. Available at: <https://gridreferencefinder.com/> [Accessed: 01/03/2026].

¹¹ English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.



250 m from a breeding pond¹². Due to the lack of waterbodies identified within 500 m of the Application Site, and also considering that the Application Site is bound on all sides by the highway with residential areas to the northeast, east, south and southwest, and with Hermitage Stream to the west, which limit opportunities for GCN dispersal into the Application Site from the wider surroundings, this search distance was reduced in March 2024 from 500 m to 250 m.

- 2.2.4. Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) were contacted to request relevant desk study data, including details of non-statutory designated sites and protected and priority species, which was received on 01/03/2024. For species records collected, only those within 10 years of the data collection date have been considered within the assessment unless deemed relevant.

Table 2-1 - Desk study search areas

Date type	Search area – distance from Application Site boundary	Year data search undertaken
Protected and priority species ⁷	1 km (extended to 2 km for bats)	2024
Statutory designated sites for nature conservation	1 km	2024 and 2026
Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation	1 km	2024
Irreplaceable habitats ¹³ and priority habitats ⁷	1 km, reduced to 50 m for ancient/veteran trees	2024 and 2026
Ponds and waterbodies	250 m	2024 and 2026

2.3 Planning Policy Review

- 2.3.1. A review of national and local planning policy relevant to the Proposed Scheme was undertaken as part of the data gathering. The following policy documents were subject to review:

- National Planning Policy Framework (2024)¹⁴;
- The Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011)¹⁵;
- Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Allocations) Adopted Version (2014)¹⁶. An emerging Local Plan is underway and a Draft 'Building A Better Future Plan'¹⁷ is available; and
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire (2025)¹⁸.

- 2.3.2. A summary of relevant planning policy is provided in Appendix B.

¹² English Nature (2004). *An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt (ENRR576)* [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/134002> [Accessed: 01/03/2024].

¹³ As defined within the NPPF (2023) "Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen."

¹⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2> [Accessed: 24/02/2026].

¹⁵ <https://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ADOPTED%20CORE%20STRATEGY%20.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DP01%20East%20Hampshire%20District%20Local%20Plan%20Joint%20Core%20Strategy%20COMPLETE.pdf>

¹⁷ Havant Borough Council (2025) Draft Building a Better Future Plan. Available at: [Draft Building a Better Future Plan Web.pdf](#). [Accessed: 26/03/2025]

¹⁸ Hampshire County Council (2025) Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire. Available at: [Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire | Environment | Hampshire County Council](#) [Accessed 24/02/2026].



2.4 Ecological Field Surveys

- 2.4.1. The geographical area for undertaking ecological field surveys has been determined using the current survey guidance, professional judgement, and the project ZOI, which have been determined based on the nature of the impacts arising from the Proposed Scheme.

Surveyor Competencies

- 2.4.2. All the surveys were led by surveyors who have been assessed¹⁹ to be at least of capable experience following the CIEEM competency framework²⁰ with a Level 4 Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC).

Preliminary Ecological Walkover Survey

- 2.4.3. An ecological walkover survey of areas within and adjacent to the Application Site, including land up to 50 m from the Application Site boundary where access was allowed (hereafter referred to as the Survey Area), was undertaken on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026. Habitats within the Survey Area were mapped and the walkover survey also included a search for evidence of the presence of, and the potential of each habitat to support, priority and protected species as recommended by CIEEM²¹.

UKHab Survey

- 2.4.4. Habitats were mapped using the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) v2.0 system²². UKHab is a comprehensive and hierarchical habitat classification system for the UK that has been developed to benefit from recent changes in habitat categorisation, recording and analysis, and is suitable for digitally recording in the field using GIS. It is fully compatible with other major existing classifications, including priority habitat types and Habitats Directive Annex I habitat types²³.
- 2.4.5. All habitats were recorded to at least Level 3 of the UKHab hierarchy, i.e. broad habitats such as neutral grassland or dense scrub. Any Level 4 habitats and Level 5 habitats have also been recorded where possible. In addition, 'Essential Secondary Codes' have been recorded to describe habitat mosaics, complexes and their origins. All habitat features have been digitally mapped, using QGIS, as either polygons, lines or points and assigned to a UKHab Primary Habitat Code.
- 2.4.6. An assessment of the possible presence of priority habitats (as defined by CIEEM⁷) was also undertaken during the walkover survey.
- 2.4.7. Vascular plant names recorded during this survey follow Stace²⁴.
- 2.4.8. Target notes (TNs) were used to record features of ecological importance (e.g. ponds, veteran trees, and complex habitat mosaics). A list of TNs is shown in Appendix F.

¹⁹ Assessment undertaken by AtkinsRéalis' ecological technical leadership team in accordance with CIEEM competency criteria.

²⁰ CIEEM's Competency Framework. Available at: <https://www.cieem.net/competency-framework> [Accessed 01/06/2024].

²¹ CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd Edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

²² UKHab Ltd (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at <https://ukhab.org>) [Accessed: 08/02/2024].

²³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC (1992) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (known as the 'Habitats Directive').

²⁴ Stace (2019) *New Flora of the British Isles* 4th edition.



Protected and Priority Species Walkover

2.4.9. In addition to mapping the habitats within the Survey Area, the survey also included an assessment of the possible presence of protected or priority species. This included recording any incidental sightings or field signs from such species. The survey comprised assessing the suitability of the habitats present for, and recording any evidence of the following species (in line with current guidance):

- Amphibians (terrestrial and aquatic habitats)²⁵;
- Badgers²⁶;
- Bats²⁷;
- Breeding birds²⁸;
- Priority invertebrates^{29,30}; and
- Reptiles³¹.

2.4.10. The following species were not assessed as part of this assessment as detailed below:

- Hazel dormice: taking into account the urban nature of the Application Site, the lack of suitable habitat for hazel dormice in the wider area and the lack of connectivity between the Application Site and these limited areas of suitable habitat, hazel dormice have been scoped out from this assessment; and
- Otter and water vole: while suitable habitat may exist beyond the Survey Area along the Hermitage Stream which is located 50 m west of the Application Site, otter and water vole have been scoped out from this assessment due to the isolated nature of the Application Site, lack of suitable habitat within the Application Site and the localised nature of the works which will not result in an impact to the Heritage Stream.

2.4.11. Evidence of the presence of invasive species was recorded where seen, including but not limited to the following:

- Evidence of animal species as listed on the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019; muntjac deer and grey squirrel; and
- Evidence of the presence of the following invasive non-native plant species (INNPS): Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed, hybrid knotweed³², giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, rhododendron³³, Virginia creeper³⁴, variegated yellow archangel, cotoneaster species³⁵, yellow azalea, few-flowered

²⁵ Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000) *Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (Triturus cristatus)* Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155 (2000).

²⁶ Harris S., Cresswell P. and Jefferies D. (1989) *Surveying badgers*. Mammal Society – No9.

²⁷ Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

²⁸ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts*, v. 1.1.1. Available at: <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 01/03/2024].

²⁹ Buglife, Good planning practice for invertebrates: Surveys. Available at: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/resources/planning-hub/good-practice-planning-for-invertebrates/> [Accessed: 01/03/2024]

³⁰ English Nature, Organising surveys to determine site quality for invertebrates. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/69045> [Accessed: 01/03/2024].

³¹ Froglife (1999) *Reptile Survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*. Froglife advice sheet 10.

³² Hybrid knotweed species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) include *Fallopia japonica* x *Fallopia sachalinensis*

³³ Although there are approximately 1,200 species of rhododendron, just one species and one of its hybrids are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended): *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Rhododendron ponticum* x *Rhododendron maximum*.

³⁴ Virginia creeper species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) include *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* and *Parthenocissus inserta*

³⁵ There are approximately 100 species of cotoneaster found in the UK, but only five are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended): *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, *Cotoneaster integrifolius*, *Cotoneaster simonsii*, *Cotoneaster bullatus* and *Cotoneaster microphyllus*.



leak, montbretia, giant rhubarb, Japanese rose and three-cornered garlic. These are listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and/or the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 and subject to strict legal control.

Further Ecological Surveys

- 2.4.12. Based on the results of the desk study and preliminary ecological walkover survey, further ecological surveys were undertaken to support this EclA, as detailed in Table 2-2. Full methods are provided in Appendix C.

Table 2-2 - Further Ecological Surveys

Survey type	Survey area – distance from the Application Site boundary	Rationale for study area	Dates of survey
Daytime bat walkover (DBW) and Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)	30 m	Typical survey area based on best practice guidance	08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026

Survey Limitations

- 2.4.13. This section identifies any limitations to the surveys or assessment and provides an explanation as to the effect of these on the assessment.
- 2.4.14. The Application Site was surveyed in full, however, access to the wider walkover Survey Area was restricted to that of open access land only, and excluded all nearby residential properties and commercial properties. However, due to the highly urban nature of the area surrounding the Application Site and the small-scale nature of the works, this is not considered a significant limitation to this assessment.
- 2.4.15. The search for waterbodies was undertaken by using Ordnance Survey plans and aerial photographs only. These sources may not show all waterbodies within the search area of the Application Site boundary and, therefore, some waterbodies may not have been identified.
- 2.4.16. The list of invasive plant species included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is extensive and these plants are found in a range of different habitats, including aquatic habitats. The UKHab extended walkover survey checked for the presence of Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed, hybrid knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, rhododendron, Virginia creeper, variegated yellow archangel, cotoneaster, yellow azalea, few-flowered leak, montbretia, giant rhubarb, Japanese rose and three-cornered garlic. Other invasive species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) may not have been recorded.
- 2.4.17. The desk study reviewed the Woodland Trust's Ancient Trees Inventory. This provides records of ancient/veteran trees, but is not an exhaustive list, and other ancient/veteran trees may be present in the area. The preliminary ecological walkover survey aimed to identify such features and as such this is not considered a constraint.
- 2.4.18. HBIC records are not exhaustive, and the absence of records does not necessarily demonstrate the absence of a species.
- 2.4.19. HBIC provided a number of protected/notable species records (including records of birds, bats and invertebrates) as either two figure grid references with locations displayed as a 10 km grid square, or



four figure grid references with locations displayed as a 1 km grid square. As a result, for many of the records provided, it is not possible to determine the location of the record in relation to the Application Site.

- 2.4.20. Desk study records were obtained from HBIC in March 2024. Due to the urban nature of the area surrounding the Application Site and the limited habitat diversity present, this data was considered to remain valid for the ecological assessment. An updated search of MAGIC⁸ and the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory⁹ was made in March 2026.
- 2.4.21. Many cryptic taxa particularly including apomictic species of plant, invertebrates and fungi, could not be adequately surveyed at the time of the surveys. These groups require specialist survey and survey windows are generally highly restrictive, particularly for plants across the genera *Taraxacum*, *Rubus* and *Hieracium*. However, attributable to the nature of the habitats present at the Application Site and surrounding landscape, this is not considered to be a significant limitation.
- 2.4.22. The group of sycamore and weeping willow trees (TN13) approximately 20 m south of the Application Site and the other side of New Road were not subject to GLTA surveys. However, as these trees are separated from the Application Site by an existing well used road and considering the scale of the Proposed Scheme and the location of the Application Site within a highly urbanised environment, this is not considered to be a significant limitation. Should any bats be using the trees present at this location, taking the above into account, it is unlikely that they would be subject to disturbance or affected by the Proposed Scheme.
- 2.4.23. Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year, migration patterns and behaviour. Therefore, the ecological surveys undertaken to support this EclA have not produced a complete list of plants and animals, and the absence of evidence of any particular species should not be taken as conclusive proof that the species is not present or that it will not be present in the future. The above limitations have been addressed through taking the precautionary approach within the appraisal.

2.5 Identifying Important Ecological Features

- 2.5.1. A number of criteria have become accepted as a means of assessing the nature conservation importance of a feature which are set out in A Nature Conservation Review³⁶ and the CIEEM Guidelines for EclA⁶ and include diversity, rarity, and naturalness.
- 2.5.2. The nature conservation importance or potential importance of an ecological feature is determined within the following geographic context:
- International;
 - National;
 - Regional;
 - Metropolitan, County, Vice-County or Other Local Authority-wide Area;
 - Local;
 - The Application Site and its immediate environs; and
 - Negligible.

³⁶ Frazer J.F.D. (1977). A Nature Conservation Review, Edited by D. A. Ratcliffe. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England (on behalf of the Nature Conservancy Council and the Natural Environment Research Council): Vol. 1 s.



- 2.5.3. A number of resources have been used to determine importance, and these are referenced, where relevant, within the baseline results.
- 2.5.4. This EclA has undertaken a detailed assessment of ecological features considered to be 'important' (Important Ecological Features (IEF)). The baseline information and nature conservation evaluation have been used to identify IEFs. IEFs are sites, habitats, species, ecosystems and/or their functions/processes considered to be important and potentially affected by the project.
- 2.5.5. Features that have been identified to be of less than Local importance or features outside the Project Zol are not considered to be IEF and have not been considered within the impact assessment. Where mitigation is required for these features for legal reasons, this is detailed in Section 5.

2.6 Impact Assessment

- 2.6.1. The assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Scheme takes into account both on-site impacts and impacts that may occur to adjacent and/or more distant ecological features.
- 2.6.2. Where impacts have been identified, details are provided within the assessment to characterise these in terms of their extent and magnitude, duration, frequency and timing, and reversibility. Both positive and negative impacts are discussed. Impacts were also characterised in terms of how they occur, i.e. direct, indirect secondary or cumulative. Impacts can be permanent or temporary and can include:
- Direct loss and degradation of wildlife habitats;
 - Fragmentation and isolation of habitats;
 - Mortality and injury to species;
 - Disturbance to species from noise, light or other visual stimuli;
 - Changes to key habitat features; and
 - Changes to the local hydrology, water quality and/or air quality.
- 2.6.3. For designated sites for nature conservation, effects are considered significant when a Proposed Scheme and associated activities is likely to either undermine or support the conservation objectives or condition of the site(s) and its features of interest.
- 2.6.4. For habitats, effects are considered significant when a Proposed Scheme and associated activities is likely to result in a change in habitat structure and function.
- 2.6.5. Consideration is given to whether:
- Any processes or key characteristics will be removed or changed;
 - There will be an effect on the nature, extent, structure and function of component habitats;
 - There is an effect on the average population size and viability of component species; and
 - Functions and processes acting outside the formal boundary of a designated site have also been considered, particularly where a site falls within a wider ecosystem e.g. wetland sites.
- 2.6.6. Some habitats can tolerate a degree of minor changes, such as localised or temporary disturbance or changes in physical conditions, without such changes harming their function or importance. For this EclA, ecological effects have been considered in the light of any information available about the capacity of habitat to accommodate change. Significant effects have been determined as being either negative or positive.



- 2.6.7. The conservation importance of undesignated habitats and species within a defined geographical area (International to Local) has been used in this assessment to determine whether the effects of the proposals are likely to be significant:
- For habitats, conservation status is determined by the sum of the influences acting on the habitat that may affect its extent, structure and functions as well as its distribution and its typical species within a given geographical area; and,
 - For species, conservation status is determined by the sum of influences acting on the species concerned that may affect its abundance and distribution within a given geographical area.
- 2.6.8. When assessing potential effects on nature conservation importance, the known or likely background trends and variations in status have been taken into account. The level of ecological resilience or likely level of ecological conditions, that would allow the population of a species or area of habitat to continue to exist at a given level or continue to increase along an existing trend or reduce a decreasing trend, has been estimated where appropriate to do so.
- 2.6.9. The avoidance, mitigation, compensation and/or enhancement measures described within the EclA have been incorporated into the design and operational phasing programme and taken into account in the assessment of the significance of effects. These mitigation measures include those required to achieve the minimum standard of established good practice together with additional measures to further reduce any negative impacts of the Proposed Scheme. The mitigation measures include those required to reduce or avoid the risk of committing legal offences.
- 2.6.10. If the design changes or the agreed mitigation cannot be implemented, the effects will need to be reassessed, and further surveys may be required. In this event, the conclusion of this EclA may no longer be valid.
- 2.6.11. The impact assessment has taken account of cumulative effects. In order to identify potential projects which could have a cumulative effect, a review was undertaken of the Havant Borough Council planning portal on 20/08/2024 and 26/03/2026 of any potential projects (excluding small residential housing extensions) which have been submitted for planning or approved within the last 5 years and are within 500 m of the Proposed Scheme. This review identified the projects listed in Table 2-3.

2.7 Mitigation Hierarchy

- 2.7.1. The principles of the mitigation hierarchy⁶ have been adopted and used when considering impacts and subsequent effects on IEF within the ZoI.
- 2.7.2. The mitigation hierarchy consists of the following sequential steps:
- Avoidance: seek options that avoid harm to ecological features (for example, by locating on an alternative site);
 - Mitigation: negative effects should be avoided or minimised through mitigation measures, either through the design of the project or subsequent measures that can be guaranteed – for example, through a condition or planning obligation; and
 - Compensation: where there are significant residual negative ecological effects despite the mitigation proposed, these should be offset by appropriate compensatory measures.
- 2.7.3. Additionally, projects should seek to provide enhancements which are net benefits for biodiversity over and above the requirements for avoidance, mitigation or compensation.



Table 2-3 - Projects considered for cumulative effects

Project name	Summary of project	Distance from Proposed scheme	Current status	Planning reference number	Suitable for cumulative assessment?
Havant Thicket Reservoir Project	Outline application for development of a new pipeline to transfer water from Bedhampton Springs to fill the reservoir in the winter and draw it off to treat and supply when needed in the summer. Works comprise: construction of an underground, bi-directional pipeline linking the reservoir with the existing pumping station at Bedhampton; emergency drawdown discharge structure at Hermitage Stream; upgrades to existing culverts; washout and air valve chambers (typically below ground).	10 m west	Grant perm/ consent/ certify lawfulness (15/10/2021)	APP/20/00991	No. The Environmental Statement ³⁷ did not identify any potential impacts on hedgerow priority habitats.
	Hybrid application seeking: 1) Full permission for development of new pipelines to transfer water from Bedhampton Springs to fill the reservoir in the winter and draw it off to treat and supply when needed in the summer, comprising: construction of two predominantly underground pipes in tunnels linking the reservoir with the existing pumping station at Bedhampton with associated infrastructure including: emergency drawdown discharge structure at Hermitage Stream; construction of eight access shafts; upgrades to existing	Approx 330 m north of the Application Site	Registered (application submitted on 04/06/2024)	APP/24/00405	No. No biodiversity chapter of the Environmental Statement available on the planning portal. Furthermore, assume impacts would be similar to the outline application as detailed above, and therefore no adverse impacts anticipated for priority hedgerow habitats. This is further supported by review of Figure 9.3 of the Environmental Statement which shows the loss of priority habitat ³⁸ for the project, and no priority hedgerows are shown.

³⁷ Atkins (2020). Havant Thicket Reservoir Project. Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Main Report. Chapter 9 Biodiversity. Portsmouth Water Ltd. 02/09/2020. Atkins Doc No: HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Z-0109. Rev C04. Available at [APP 20 00991-ES VOL 2 CHAPTER 9 BIODIVERSITY-1433906.pdf \(havant.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁸ Figure 9.3 Loss of SINC, ancient woodland and priority habitat available in the Atkins (2024) Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Environmental Statement Volume 3: Revised Chapter 9 Biodiversity Figures Portsmouth Water Ltd. May 202. Portsmouth Water Ltd. Available at [Havant Thicket Reservoir Project](#).



culverts close to shafts five, six and eight to manage flood risk; washout and air valve chambers (typically below ground), new plant at Bedhampton Pumping Station, modifications to Bedhampton 2 operational building and permanent diversion of Footpath 34 at Bedhampton Pumping Station.

2) Outline application for an associated underground cross-connection chamber and above ground kiosk at the reservoir site with vehicular accesses for maintenance.

New three storey teaching building and parking spaces	Planning application for construction of a new three storey teaching building and provision of 8No. additional parking spaces, 14No. cycle spaces, new fencing and landscaping.	275m east of the Application Site	Planning permission granted (20/06/2024)	APP/23/00928	No. The EclA ³⁹ did not identify any potential impacts on hedgerow priority habitats.
New single, two bed dwelling	Planning application for construction of a single, two bed dwelling with shed, bin storage and parking	225m west of the Application Site	Planning permission granted (02/06/2024)		No. No EclA has been prepared, however as search of satellite imagery reveals no priority hedgerow habitat within the site boundary.

³⁹ Ethos Environmental Planning (2023) Ecological Impact Assessment. Havant College. Available at [Planning Application: APP/23/00928](#)



3. Baseline Conditions and Importance

3.1 Overview

3.1.1. This section provides details of the ecological baseline relevant to the Proposed Scheme recorded during the desk study and field surveys undertaken to inform this EclA. Details of relevant legislation relating to these ecological features are provided in Appendix D.

3.1.2. The desk study did not identify any of the following:

- Statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 1 km of the Application Site;
- Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 500 m of the Application Site;
- Irreplaceable habitats within 1 km of the Application Site; and
- Ancient/veteran trees within 50 m of the Application Site.

3.1.3. Therefore, these are not discussed further within this report.

3.2 Non-statutory Designated Sites

3.2.1. A single non-statutory site for nature conservation is located within 1 km of the Application Site. This is the St Faith's Churchyard Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) which is located 785 m southeast of the Application Site, see Figure E-1 in Appendix E. The SINC has been designated as the churchyard contains herb rich semi-improved grassland of a good age in an urban environment, with the grassland diversity increasing in areas where mowing is relaxed. This SINC is separated from the Application Site by roads as well as residential and commercial properties, furthermore, there are no hydrological connections or impact pathways between the SINC and the Application Site. Therefore, non-statutory designated sites are scoped out from the assessment and not discussed further in this report.

3.3 Priority Habitats

3.3.1. Table 3-1 details the locations of priority habitats identified through desk study, walkover surveys and the detailed habitat classification surveys.

Table 3-1 - Priority habitats within 1km of the Application Site

Priority habitats	Location of priority habitat	Number of parcels within 1 km (ha)	Importance level	Rationale for valuation
Native hedgerow	Within the Application Site along the eastern boundary (TN02). Extends eastward out of the Application Site along Brookfield Close and New Road.	1 – identified during walkover survey	Local	Hedgerows provide important links with the wider landscape and provide potential habitat for protected and priority species within the Application Site. While hedgerows are a relatively common habitat type, this is not the case in the urban setting of



	There are further hedgerow habitats within the 1 km search area.			the Application Site, and therefore the importance level has been set as Local.
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	Nearest parcel is approximately 20 m west of the Application Site. This habitat is primarily associated with Hermitage Stream.	19 parcels	County	Areas of coastal floodplain grazing marsh are typically associated with wetlands and river corridors within Hampshire, which are distributed across the County, though with few examples located within Havant. Therefore, the importance level has been set as County.
Rivers – Hermitage Stream	Located 50 m west of the Application Site (TN12). There is no hydrological connection between the Application Site and the Hermitage Stream.	N/A	County	Hermitage Stream runs for approx. 6.9 km through East Hampshire, and therefore the importance level has been set as County.
Deciduous woodland	Located 900 m southwest of the Application Site. There is no hydrological connection between the Application Site and the deciduous woodland parcel.	1 parcel	Local	Deciduous woodland is relatively widespread throughout Hampshire. However, there are relatively few parcels of deciduous woodland located within Havant. Therefore, the importance level for deciduous woodland has been set as Local.

- 3.3.2. The parcel of deciduous woodland is located a considerable distance, over 900 m, from the Application Site, and has no hydrological connections with the Application Site. The deciduous woodland and the Application Site are separated by extensive areas of urbanised land. Taking these factors into consideration, as well as the localised nature of the works, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on this priority habitat as a result of the Proposed Scheme.
- 3.3.3. For the coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and the Hermitage Stream, while these priority habitats are located in close proximity to the Application Site (20 m and 50 m respectively), due to the lack of hydrological connectivity and the small scale and localised nature of the works, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on these priority habitats as a result of the Proposed Scheme.
- 3.3.4. The Proposed Scheme will result in the loss of an 11m section of priority hedgerow habitat.
- 3.3.5. Taking the above into account, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, rivers and deciduous woodland priority habitats have been scoped out of this assessment and will not be discussed further in this report. However, as there will be a partial loss of hedgerow priority habitat which is considered important at the Local level, this will be taken forward for impact assessment.



3.4 Habitats

- 3.4.1. Habitats are mapped on the UKHab survey plan (Figure F-1 in Appendix F) with specific features highlighted by TNs on the figure. TN descriptions (including species composition of habitats) and photographs are also provided in Appendix F.
- 3.4.2. The Application Site is formed of other neutral grassland (TN01), with a group of alder trees (TN03) in the western edge, and a native hedgerow (TN02) along the eastern boundary. The Application Site is bound by hard standing with Trosnant Road to the north, Brookfield Close to the east, New Road to the south and Stockheath Lane to the west. Beyond this there are residential properties to the north and east, and commercial properties to the south. To the west of the Application Site there is an area of open space formed of other neutral grassland, scattered trees (TN08, TN010) and dense scrub (TN11) which are associated with Hawthorn Walk and Hermitage Stream (TN12), the latter of which falls outside of the Survey Area. Within the open space to the west of the Application Site there are two drainage ditches (TN06, TN09). Table 3-2 lists all of the UKHab Level 3 habitats present within the Survey Area and identifies those Level 4 and Level 5 habitats which are protected and/or listed as priority habitats. The table also provides details of the area⁴⁰ of each habitat within the Survey Area and the proportion of the Application Site this makes up.

Table 3-2 - Habitat types within the Survey Area

UKHab habitat category	Location of habitat	Area of habitat/distance of linear feature		Annex I habitat Yes/No	Priority habitat Yes/No	Importance level	Rationale for valuation
		Ha/m	% of Site				
h2a6 – other native hedgerow (priority habitat)	Partially within the Application Site	34 m	N/A	Yes	Yes	Local	Refer to Table 3-1 for justification.
	20 m north west	N/A	N/A				
g3c - other neutral grassland	Within the Application Site	0.1 ha	100%	No	No	Application Site	Low potential for nature conservation importance. The habitat is limited in extent and comprises of common and widespread species.
Individual broadleaved tree ⁴¹	Within the Application Site	N/A	N/A	No	No	Application Site	No formal designation, although these comprise

⁴⁰ Area and linear measurements were calculated in QGIS

⁴¹ Whilst these are not habitats as defined by UKHab and do not have their own code (guidance states the code of the surrounding habitat, which in this case is other neutral grassland, is to be used), they are included in this table for assessment due to their ecological value.



							broadleaved trees which may provide suitable habitat for protected species within the Application Site.
Ditches – UKHab secondary code 50	18 m north west	N/A	N/A	No	No	Application Site	No formal designation, although the habitat type provides a feature which may provide suitable habitat for protected species within the Application Site.
h3h – mixed scrub	40 m west	N/A	N/A	No	No	Application Site	No formal designation, although the habitat type provides a feature which may provide suitable habitat for protected species within the Application Site.
u1 – built up areas and gardens	12 m east	N/A	N/A	No	No	Negligible	N/A
u1b - developed land; sealed surface	Immediately adjacent	N/A	N/A	No	No	Negligible	N/A
u1b5 - buildings	13 m east	N/A	N/A	No	No	Negligible	N/A

3.4.3. Hedgerow priority habitat is present within the Application Site and has been assessed as having importance at the local level. There is potential that the Proposed Scheme could impact this priority habitat. Therefore, it is considered in further detail in Section 5 of this impact assessment.

3.4.4. Features that have been identified to be of less than local importance are not considered to be important ecological features. Therefore, the following habitats have not been considered within the impact assessment:



- Other neutral grassland;
- Individual broadleaved trees;
- Mixed scrub; and
- Standing open water and canals.

3.5 Protected and Priority Species

- 3.5.1. This section provides a summary of the results of the desk study, UKHab extended walkover survey, and the further surveys, along with the nature conservation importance for each species or species group.

Amphibians

- 3.5.2. In 2024 HBIC provided no recent records of great crested newt (GCN) or common amphibians within 1 km of the Application Site. The MAGIC search identified no recent European protected Species (EPS) licence applications for GCN within 1 km of the Application Site.
- 3.5.3. No waterbodies or drains that could potentially be used by GCN or common amphibians were identified during the desk study within 250 m of the Application Site. The field survey on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026 identified two drainage features within the Survey Area, both of which are located 20 m of the Application Site, with one located to the west (TN09) and one to the northwest (TN06). TN09 is a drainage feature within an area of other neutral grassland, which is used to accumulate surface water at times of heavy rain. TN06 is a shallow road drainage ditch which has no evidence of aquatic vegetation and was flowing. Both features contained a limited amount of water present at the time of survey, during torrential rain. However, TN06 was a flowing ditch and therefore is not considered suitable as potential aquatic habitat for GCN. Within the Application Site, the other neutral grassland (TN01) and hedgerow (TN02) provide potential for resting and foraging GCN with the hedgerow also providing potential hibernation opportunities. However, the Application Site is bound on all sides by roads with residential areas to the northeast, east, south and southwest, and with Hermitage Stream to the west, which substantially limits opportunities for GCN and common amphibians to disperse into the Application Site.
- 3.5.4. Taking into account the lack of records, absence of potential breeding habitat within 250 m and poor terrestrial habitat suitability, it is considered that GCN and common amphibians are likely absent from the Site and have been scoped out of further assessment. However, as a precaution, mitigation measures for common amphibians are provided in Section 5.3.1 below.

Badgers

- 3.5.5. In 2024 HBIC provided no recent records of badgers or badger setts within 1 km of the Application Site.
- 3.5.6. The field survey on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026 assessed the Badger Survey Area for evidence of badgers (setts, latrines, feeding signs and mammal track) and potential habitats to support badgers. No evidence of badgers was recorded during the field survey.
- 3.5.7. Although no records or evidence of badger were recorded within the Survey Area, badgers are a highly mobile species and there is suitable sett building habitat within the Application Site within the areas of open other neutral grassland and hedge. There is also suitable foraging and commuting habitat within the Application Site and wider Survey Area, particularly the area of other neutral grassland and scrub to the west of the Application Site which provides a green corridor through parts of Havant along



Hermitage Stream and Hawthorn Walk. However, considering the relatively small area of grassland to be impacted within the Application Site, and extent of suitable foraging and commuting habitat for badger in the wider surrounds, it is considered highly unlikely that the Proposed Scheme will result in a significant impact to badgers. Whilst badgers and badger setts could potentially be present within the Application Site, as badgers are not rare or endangered, they have not been ascribed a nature conservation value. However, as badgers are legally protected, mitigation measures are provided in Section 5.3.1 below.

Bats

- 3.5.8. In 2024 HBIC provided 285 recent records of at least 10 species of bats (brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Leisler's, noctule, Serotine and Barbastelle, as well as unconfirmed long-eared, Myotis and pipistrelle bat species, and unidentified bat species) within 2 km of the Application Site. The closest record was of a common pipistrelle sighting within the Application Site. The closest roost record was of a Serotine maternity roost located approximately 465 m north of the Site. One record of bat EPS licences was recorded for common pipistrelle located approximately 630 m southwest of the Application Site.
- 3.5.9. The field survey on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026 identified the following evidence:
- Roosting habitat: There is a group of alder trees (TN03) located within the Application Site of which there are nine stems which appear to be from two trees. All of the tree trunks are covered in a large amount of ivy foliage that could potentially be obscuring potential roost features (PRFs) that could be used by roosting bats. As such, this group of trees has been categorised as Further Assessment Required (FAR). During the GLTA, due to the dense ivy cover, it was still not possible to categorise the group of trees further than FAR. Further scattered trees were located within the Survey Area and to the north and west of the Application Site including two trees with PRFs. One lime tree (TN08) with two cavities created by woodpeckers was identified approximately 15 m northwest of the Application Site. It was categorised as having PRF-M suitability. One sycamore tree (TN13) with lots of ivy foliage was identified approximately 20 m southeast of the Application Site. Ivy could potentially be obscuring PRFs that could be used by roosting bats. As such, the sycamore has been categorised as FAR. However, during the GLTA, no PRFs were noted along the limbs of the tree. As both of these trees are located outside of the Application Site, and taking into account the urban nature of the Site and the small scale nature of the works, additional surveys are not required. Additional PRF's may be present within the buildings associated with residential and/or commercial properties to the north, east and south of the Application Site, the closest of which is located 10 m east of the Application Site, however, these were not subject to survey taking into account the urban nature of the Site and the small scale nature of the works; and
 - Foraging and commuting habitat: The other neutral grassland with scattered trees as well as the hedgerow within Application Site provides suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats. However, due to the limited amount of habitat available, the suitability has been assessed as low⁴² suitability. Additional foraging habitat is located 40 m west of the Application Site and adjacent to the west of the Survey Area in the form of the mixed scrub/green corridor, which is associated with Hermitage Stream, along with the stream itself. This habitat is assessed as having high⁴³ suitability.
- 3.5.10. All trees within and adjacent to the Application Site are to be retained.

⁴² Defined in the Bat Survey Guidelines²⁷ as habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flightpaths.

⁴³ Defined in the Bat Survey Guidelines²⁷ as habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.



- 3.5.11. Bats are considered to be important at the Application Site level based on the limited extent of potential roosting, foraging and commuting habitat present, and the available suitable habitat in the wider area, particularly that along Hermitage Stream. Therefore, these features are scoped out from further assessment. However, to comply with planning policy/best practice and due to legal protection afforded to bats, the loss of grassland and hedgerow habitats, potential disturbance (due to noise and lighting) during construction and/or operation, specific mitigation has been included in this assessment in Section 5 to comply with relevant legislation.

Breeding Birds

- 3.5.12. In 2024 HBIC provided 454 recent records of 88 species within 1 km of the Application Site, including 33 Schedule 1 species⁴⁴ and 32 records of red list species^{45, 46}.
- 3.5.13. Of the 454 recent records, 11 records of three species were provided as two figure grid references and locations displayed as a 10 km grid square, 398 records were provided of 85 species as four figure grid references and locations displayed as a 1 km grid square, and only 43 records of 25 species were provided as six figure grid references and locations displayed as a 100 m grid square. As a result, for many of the records provided, it is not possible to determine the location of the record in relation to the Application Site.
- 3.5.14. Of the records that have a six-figure grid reference, the closest record is that of a red kite located 315 m south of the Application Site.
- 3.5.15. The field survey on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026 identified evidence of suitable breeding habitat for common species of nesting birds in the form of the native hedgerow (TN02) along the eastern boundary of the Application Site and the scattered trees (TN03, TN04) located within/immediately adjacent to the Application Site. In addition, in the wider survey area, there is additional breeding habitat for common species of nesting birds in the form of residential properties/gardens, a hedgerow (TN07), further scattered trees (TN05, TN08, TN10 and TN13) and dense scrub (TN11) located along Hermitage Stream and within the area of grassland adjacent to Hermitage Stream.
- 3.5.16. Breeding birds are considered to be important at the Application Site level based on the limited extent of potential nesting habitat. Therefore, these features are scoped out from further assessment. However, due to legal protection afforded to wild birds, mitigation has been included in this assessment in Section 5 to comply with relevant legislation.

⁴⁴ Schedule 1 species within 1 km of the Application Site: avocet, barn owl, bearded tit, black redstart, black-necked grebe, black-tailed godwit, Cetti's warbler, common scoter, crossbill, firecrest, great northern diver, green sandpiper, greenshank, hen harrier, hobby, honey-buzzard, kingfisher, little gull, little tern, long-tailed duck, marsh harrier, mediterranean gull, merlin, osprey, peregrine, red kite, redwing, scaup, Slavonian grebe, velvet scoter, whimbrel, white-tailed eagle and wryneck.

⁴⁵ Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. 2021. The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations>

⁴⁶ Red list species within 1 km of the Application Site: black redstart, black-tailed godwit, common scoter, curlew, grasshopper warbler, grey wagtail, hen harrier, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, linnet, long-tailed duck, merlin, mistle thrush, pied flycatcher, pochard, red-necked grebe, redwing, ring ouzel, ringed plover, scaup, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, tawny pipit, tree pipit, whimbrel, whinchat, woodcock and yellow wagtail.



Priority Invertebrates

- 3.5.17. In 2024 HBIC provided 60 recent priority invertebrate records within 1 km of the Application Site, all of which were for stag beetles. The closest record was located 30 m west of the Application Site within the open space area associated with Hawthorn Walk.
- 3.5.18. The Application Site consists of other neutral grassland, native hedgerow and scattered trees. Furthermore, the field survey on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026 did not identify areas of dead wood within the Survey Area that could be used by stag beetle during the larval stage of their life cycle. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the habitats present within the Application Site would support priority invertebrate species and therefore priority invertebrates are scoped out from further assessment.

Widespread Reptile Species

- 3.5.19. In 2024 HBIC provided three recent reptile records within 1 km of the Application Site. The species recorded were slow worm and common lizard. The closest record of a common lizard was approximately 250 m west of the Application Site from 2014, with the closest record of a slow worm recorded approximately 660 m northwest of the Application Site from 2020.
- 3.5.20. The grassland within the Application Site, is suitable for foraging and commuting widespread reptiles, in particular slow worm, with the hedgerow and compost heaps (TN2 and TN6) providing potential hibernation opportunities. However, these habitats are small in size and isolated as a result of the Application Site being surrounded by roads, thus reducing their suitability for reptiles. As a result, widespread species of reptiles are considered to be important at the Application Site level. Therefore, these features are scoped out from further assessment. However, due to legal protection afforded to widespread species of reptiles, mitigation has been included in this assessment in Section 5 to comply with relevant legislation.

3.6 Summary of Important Ecological Features

- 3.6.1. The following features have been scoped out of detailed impact assessment and where applicable valued at less than Local importance for nature conservation and are not considered to be important ecological features within the context of this assessment. Where mitigation is required for legal reasons, this is detailed in Section 5.
- Amphibians;
 - Badgers;
 - Bats;
 - Breeding birds; and
 - Widespread species of reptiles.
- 3.6.2. In addition, the following features have also been scoped out of the impact assessment, the rationale for which is discussed in the Baseline section above:
- Statutory designated sites for nature conservation;
 - Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation;
 - Irreplaceable habitats;
 - Ancient/veteran trees; and



- Priority invertebrates.

3.6.3. Table 3.3 below provides a summary of the IEFs which are considered to fall within the Proposed Scheme's Zol and scoped into the impact assessment. Full details in relation to the determination of importance are provided within the Baseline section above.

Table 3-3 - Summary of Important Ecological Features

Ecological Feature	Summary of baseline	Importance level
Hedgerow priority habitat	Native priority habitat present within the Application Site	Local

3.7 Invasive Non-native Plant Species

3.7.1. HBIC provided no records of INNPS within the Site. Three-cornered garlic (*Allium triquetrum*), an INNPS, was identified in multiple locations during the survey on 29/01/2026 both inside and outside of the Application Site (TN03 and TN06). Three-cornered garlic is a Schedule 9 species on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and therefore it is an offence to plant or to allow the plant to spread into the wild. Specific mitigation measures have been provided in Section 5, in order to prevent its spread.



4. Potential Impacts

4.1.1. The Proposed Scheme has potential to result in a number of impacts on IEFs which are broadly summarised below.

4.1 Construction Impacts

- Permanent habitat loss;
- Temporary habitat loss; and
- Habitat degradation (e.g. through sediment release, pollution events, and dust).

4.2 Operational Impacts

4.2.1. It is not anticipated that there will be any operational impacts from the Proposed Scheme on IEFs.



5. Design Features and Mitigation Measures

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1. This section details the features that have been incorporated into the design which are of benefit to biodiversity and the mitigation measures which will be implemented during the construction phase to reduce ecological impacts. In developing the mitigation, the mitigation hierarchy has been followed, looking to avoid in the first instance followed by mitigation and compensation.
- 5.1.2. Features that have been valued at less than Local importance for nature conservation are not considered to be IEFs and as such, have not been considered within the impact assessment. However, if mitigation is required for these features for legal reasons it is detailed within this section.
- 5.1.3. A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced which will detail the ecological mitigation and enhancements detailed below within the Application Site. The CEMP will be delivered as part of the condition discharge phase of the Proposed Scheme.

5.2 Design Features

- 5.2.1. Habitat loss has been minimised where possible, particularly of the native hedgerow priority habitats.
- 5.2.2. Landscaping plans for the Proposed Scheme (drawing number: 5227179-ATK-XX-XX-DR-L-100 P06) include the creation of species-rich grassland to replace the existing grassland which will be temporarily lost to the Proposed Scheme. 60 m of species rich hedgerow habitat (to utilise native species of local provenance) will be created to provide partial screening of the Booster Station and address the loss of hedgerow priority habitat. Furthermore, habitat creation will include four trees to be planted, two of which are to be located in the centre of the site, and two are to be located towards the south of the site.
- 5.2.3. Lighting proposals have not currently been put forward for the Proposed Scheme. Any lighting proposals, if required, must be reviewed by an ecologist and will follow and adhere to the principles set out in both the Bat Conservation Trust's lighting guidance⁴⁷ and Buglife⁴⁸ guidance.

5.3 Mitigation Measures

General

- 5.3.1. The following general measures will be implemented during the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme:

⁴⁷ Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Available online at <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/> [Accessed: 19/01/2024]

⁴⁸ A Review of the Impact of Artificial Lighting on Invertebrates. Available at: https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/08/A-Review-of-the-Impact-of-Artificial-Light-on-Invertebrates-docx_0.pdf [Accessed: 19/01/2024]



- Prior to construction, a suitably experienced and qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be employed to oversee pre-construction vegetation clearance works;
- Works will adhere to the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)⁴⁹ and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) C762 Environmental good practice⁵⁰;
- During construction all trees within the Application Site will be retained and those along with trees adjacent to the Application Site will be protected in line with guidelines provided in BS 5837 Trees in relation to Construction⁵¹;
- The size of the working area, access routes and storage compounds are to be minimised as far as possible;
- Vegetation clearance (including that of the hedgerow priority habitat) and habitat loss is to be kept to the absolute minimum of what is required;
- Where possible, vegetation clearance, once minimised, will be undertaken outside the core bird nesting season (the core bird nesting season is 1 March to 31 August, though it should be noted that variation in dates is possible, for example from geographical variations in climate, or due to a particularly mild winter) to avoid damage or destruction of occupied nests or harm to breeding birds. If this cannot be achieved, works within the core bird nesting season will require an inspection of vegetation to be cleared for breeding birds and their occupied nests by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to any works being undertaken. If any nesting birds are identified during the survey they will be left in situ for their entire nesting period and alternative approaches to the work proposed. This may include leaving an exclusion zone around the nests to avoid disturbance;
- Vegetation clearance and pre-construction checks will be conducted under a Precautionary Method of Working (PMW) for badger, widespread species of reptiles and common amphibians. An ecologist will conduct a toolbox talk prior to the commencement of works to brief the contractors on the potential ecological constraints and how to identify these species, as set out in a written PMW document;
- Although no night-time works are anticipated to occur, lighting is required to aid construction during the winter months. Any temporary construction lighting installed will be sensitive to crepuscular/nocturnal animals. Temporary lighting will be directed downwards onto the works area only and away from adjacent habitats and buildings (i.e., using cowled or hooded lighting), and avoid excessive light spill and in line with relevant guidelines^{47,48}. Furthermore, lighting will be switched off whenever not required and any lighting designs will be reviewed by an ecologist;
- Where temporary vegetation clearance is required, as part of the landscape proposals these areas are to be subject to habitat creation works which will include provision of trees, other neutral grassland and hedgerows. These habitats will be created following the completion of the construction works and in accordance with a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). This will be submitted prior to works commencing and the strategy set out in this report will be implemented during construction and post-construction to ensure habitat creation is successful, i.e., until the baseline habitat type and target condition (or better) is achieved;
- A BNG assessment is to be undertaken that will follow the principles of the biodiversity gain hierarchy⁵²; and
- Should excavations be required, they will be filled or covered overnight. If this is not possible, one side of the excavation will be graded or partially graded, or a plank installed so that it provides an

⁴⁹ The GPPs provide environmental good practice guidance for the whole UK, and environmental regulatory guidance directly to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales only. For businesses in England, regulatory guidance is available from GOV.UK instead.

⁵⁰ CIRIA C762 Environmental good practice provides advice on the management of a range of environmental issues that may be encountered on site and presents good practice to reduce the environmental impacts due to construction.

⁵¹ British Standards Institute (2012) BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, construction.

⁵² As set out in Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.



escape ramp to prevent any animals, such as badgers, becoming trapped. All excavations will be checked for animals the following morning prior to works commencing.

Specific Mitigation Measures

Hedgerow Priority Habitat

- 5.3.2. Loss of the hedgerow priority habitat is to be minimised as much as possible.
- 5.3.3. An ECoW will be present during the initial phase of the works, to ensure that required habitat loss (11m length) of the hedgerow priority habitat is correctly marked out and to minimise permanent habitat loss as far as possible. Retained hedgerow habitat will be protected during construction.

Invasive Species

- 5.3.4. Due to the known presence of three-cornered garlic within the Application Site (TN03), a Schedule 9 invasive species on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), prior to the commencement of works, an invasive species specialist will be consulted regarding its removal. It is an offence to plant or to allow the plant to spread into the wild under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition, a pre-works check for INNPS will be undertaken no more than three months prior to works commencing, to identify the extent of the three-cornered garlic, and to identify the presence of any additional INNPS.

Badgers

- 5.3.5. See General Mitigation Measures (Section 5.3.1) for mitigation in relation to night-time working and excavations.
- 5.3.6. Also, due to the propensity of badgers to excavate new setts, a pre-works check for badger setts/evidence within 30 m of the Application Site will be undertaken, no more than three months before works commencing. Where setts are identified, a development licence may be required from Natural England or other mitigation measures may be required to be included within a PMW.

Bats

- 5.3.7. See Design Features (Section 5.2.1) and General Mitigation Measures (Section 5.3.1) for mitigation relating to bats, in relation to night-time working.
- 5.3.8. In addition, if it is no longer possible to retain the group of three alder trees within the west of the Application Site, or if these are to be managed with limbs being cleared, then prior to commencement of works, a PRF inspection survey of the trees will be conducted. This will include a close inspection using access equipment (MEWP to be provided by the Principal Contractor) to identify individual bats or signs of bats (e.g. droppings or urine staining), or further indication of the potential suitability of the PRF to support bats. This survey will determine whether there is a need for further survey or mitigation in relation to roosting bats prior to any works taking place to these trees. In the event that evidence of bats is identified, a development licence may be required from Natural England or other mitigation measures may be required to be included within a PMW.



Reptiles and Common Amphibians

- 5.3.9. Pre-construction checks prior to vegetation clearance for widespread species of reptiles and common amphibians will be conducted under a PMW. Immediately prior to vegetation clearance works starting at the Application Site, all potentially suitable habitats within the working area will be checked by the Ecologist for the presence of reptiles. Work will not be permitted to commence until hand searching of the potentially suitable working areas has been completed. Following cutting, vegetation will be maintained at a height of less than 50 mm throughout the course of the works. Further details will be provided in the PMW document.



6. Impact Assessment

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1. This section characterises the impacts and the subsequent effects (both positive and negative) of the Proposed Scheme on the IEFs within the project Zol and assesses the significance of the residual effects (both positive and negative) based on the mitigation measures detailed in Section 5.

6.2 Residual Effects

- 6.2.1. A summary of the impact assessment, the proposed mitigation, and the residual effects during construction is provided in Table 6-1, as well as details of proposed ecological mitigation.
- 6.2.2. If the design changes or the agreed mitigation cannot be implemented, the effects will need to be reassessed and further surveys may be required. In this event, the conclusion of this EclA may no longer be valid.

Construction

Habitats

- 6.2.3. The Proposed Scheme will result in the permanent loss of 11m of hedgerow priority habitat.
- 6.2.4. Following the implementation of mitigation and compensation (detailed in Section 5) it is anticipated that there will be a non-significant minor negative residual effect on hedgerow priority habitat at the Local level as detailed below in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 - Summary of construction impacts, mitigation and residual effects on Important Ecological Features

Important Ecological Feature	Importance level	Impact description	Mitigation	Residual effects (Importance level affected)	Proposed enhancement/s
Hedgerow priority habitat	Local	Permanent habitat loss. Habitat degradation.	Maximise and protect retained habitat. Mitigation planting.	Minor adverse (not significant). The area of priority habitat to be permanently lost is small (11m) With the removal of habitat following guidance set out in a HMMP and as habitat creation is proposed to mitigate these losses (including the creation of a species-rich native hedgerow), the residual effect is not considered to be significant.	Aim to achieve net gain in habitat creation for native hedgerows.



7. Conclusion

- 7.1.1. This EcIA provides an assessment of the ecological impacts associated with the full planning application for the Proposed Scheme which includes the provision of a water booster station (along with associated works) at OSNGR SU 7115 0683 in Havant.
- 7.1.2. The Application Site includes a native hedgerow, which is a priority habitat, along with scattered trees and other neutral grassland. The impact assessment has considered the hedgerow a priority habitat. A minor adverse, non-significant residual effect was identified on this IEF within the zone of influence.
- 7.1.3. The Application Site and Survey Area are also considered suitable to support sett building, commuting and foraging badgers; roosting, foraging and commuting bats; common species of nesting birds and hibernating and foraging widespread species of reptiles. There is also evidence of INNPS within the Application Site.
- 7.1.4. Mitigation measures will be incorporated into the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme to address potential impacts on these ecological features.
- 7.1.5. Taking into account the avoidance, mitigation and compensation, the Proposed Scheme conforms to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local planning policy (the Havant Borough Core Strategy⁵³, the Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Allocations) ⁵⁴ and the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy¹⁸. It is concluded that the Proposed Scheme will not result in a significant residual effect on any IEF throughout construction or operation.

⁵³ <https://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ADOPTED%20CORE%20STRATEGY%20.pdf>

⁵⁴ <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DP01%20East%20Hampshire%20District%20Local%20Plan%20Joint%20Core%20Strategy%20COMPLETE.pdf>

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Site Location Plan and Proposed Scheme Figures





Notes:

- ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES & ALL LEVELS IN METRES UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.
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LEGEND

APPLICATION BOUNDARY

DRAWING REFERENCES

S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1000 SITE LOCATION PLAN
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1001 EXISTING SITE PLAN
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1002 PROPOSED SITE PLAN
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1003 PROPOSED EQUIPMENT PLANS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1004 PROPOSED ELEVATIONS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1005 PROPOSED BUILDING ELEVATIONS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1006 PROPOSED LGV / SITE ACCESS / EGRESS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1007 PROPOSED HGV / SITE ACCESS / EGRESS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1008 PROPOSED EQUIPMENT BUILDING SECTIONS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1009 100 & 1000 YEAR FLOOD ZONE

10m 0m 10m 40m 80m
Scale 1:1250

CURRENT REVISION CHANGES

Rev	Status Code	Dm By	Des By	Ckd By	App By	Description	Date
P02	S2	MJS	KV	JS	KK	FOR INFORMATION	03.02.26
P01	S3	MJS	KV	JS	KK	FOR REVIEW	26.01.26

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PIN: S847.11

Scale: 1:1250

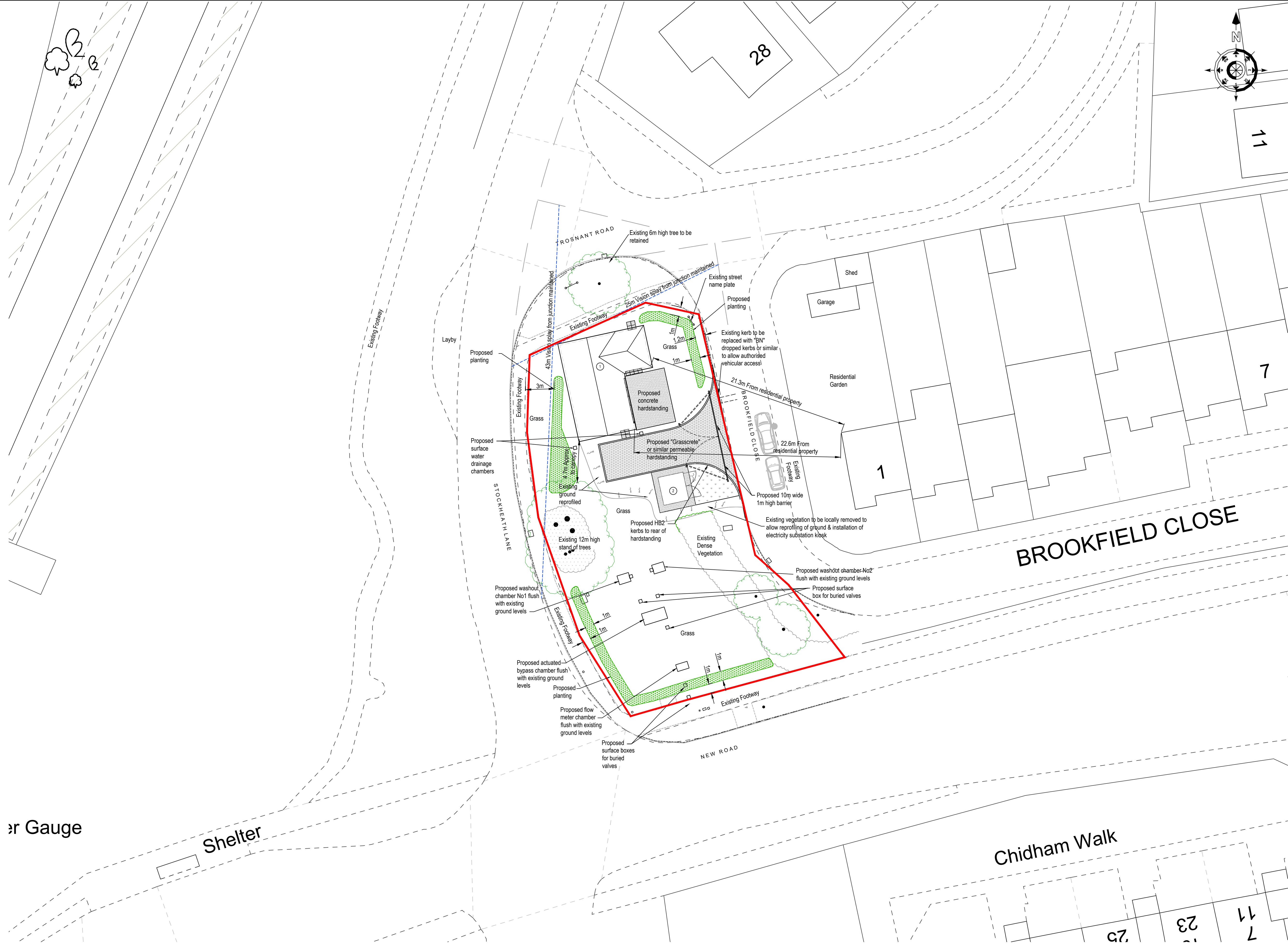
Sheet Size: A1

Project Title:
RACTON BOOSTER TRANSFER PUMPING STATION

Drawing Title:
SITE LOCATION PLAN

Portsmouth Water Drawing Number:

Rev: P02



- Notes:
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES & ALL LEVELS IN METRES UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.
 2. EXISTING STAND OF MATURE TREES & RETAINED HEDGEROW TO HAVE ROOT PROTECTION AREAS DETERMINED BY ARBORCULTURAL SPECIALIST AT INCEPTION OF DETAILED DESIGN PROCESS.

LEGEND

- APPLICATION BOUNDARY
- EXISTING HEDGEROW
- PROPOSED PLANTING - COMPRISING OF :-
 - 80% HAWTHORNE
 - 20% NATIVE SPECIES

DRAWING REFERENCES

S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1000 SITE LOCATION PLAN
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1001 EXISTING SITE PLAN
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1002 PROPOSED SITE PLAN
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1003 PROPOSED EQUIPMENT PLANS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1004 PROPOSED ELEVATIONS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1005 PROPOSED BUILDING ELEVATIONS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1006 PROPOSED LGV / SITE ACCESS / EGRESS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1007 PROPOSED HGV / SITE ACCESS / EGRESS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1008 PROPOSED EQUIPMENT BUILDING SECTIONS
S847.11-IDS-PW-RT-DR-C-1009 100 & 1000 YEAR FLOOD ZONE

Scale 1:200

- CURRENT REVISION CHANGES**
1. PLANTING UPDATED ADJACENT TO STOCKHEATH LANE

P05	S2	MJS	MJS	TM	KK	FOR INFORMATION	21.05.26
P04	S2	MJS	MJS	TM	KK	FOR INFORMATION	27.04.26
P03	S2	MJS	MJS	TM	KK	FOR INFORMATION	05.03.26
P02	S2	MJS	KV	JS	KK	FOR INFORMATION	03.02.26
P01	S3	MJS	KV	JS	KK	FOR REVIEW	26.01.26
Rev	Status Code	Dm By	Des By	App By	Description		Date

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PIN: S847.11 Scale: 1:200 Sheet Size: A1

Project Title:
RACON BOOSTER TRANSFER PUMPING STATION

Drawing Title:
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Portsmouth Water Drawing Number: Rev: P05

STRUCTURAL REF	STRUCTURE NAME	SIZE	HEIGHT TO FFL	MATERIAL	COLOUR
①	EQUIPMENT BUILDING	10.6m x 9.5m	4.9m HIGH	BRICK WITH CONCRETE TILE ROOF	RED BRICK, GREY ROOF TILES
②	PROPOSED KIOSK	2.8m x 3.1m	2.3m HIGH	GRP	BS4800 14C39 - HOLLY GREEN

100
Millimetres
0 10

PROPOSED PLANTING SCHEDULE

PROPOSED TREE PLANTING					
Botanical name	Common name	Height	Girth	Root Zone	Specification
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	400-450cm	10-12cm	RB	2x: Selected Standard; clear stem minimum 200cm; 4 breaks
Trees shall be planted with suitable stakes, ties and guards.					
Abbrev					
Bpn					
SPECIES RICH NATIVE HEDGEROW				SPECIES RICH MEADOW MIXTURE-OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND Emorsgate EM4 Meadow Mixture for Clay Soils or equal approved	
Botanical name	Common name	Specification	%	WILDFLOWERS	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	1+1, 60-90, B	5	Botanical name	Common name %
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	1+1, 60-90, B	2.5	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow 0.8
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	60-80, 2L	2.5	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony 0.6
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	1+1, 60-90, B	5	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony 1.0
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	1+1, 60-90, B	50	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed 2.8
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	1+1, 60-90, B	5	<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw 0.6
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	60-80, 3L, C	2.5	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill 0.4
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common Privet	1+1, 60-90, B	2.5	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling 1.0
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	60-80, 2L	2.5	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit 0.3
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Common Crab Apple	1+1, 60-90, B	5	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy 1.8
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	1+1, 60-90, B	10	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil 0.3
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	1+1, 60-90, B	2.5	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow 1.4
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	1+1, 60-90, B	2.5	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick 0.7
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Gelder Rose	1+1, 60-90, B	2.5	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain 2.8
Planted 2No. Rows 500mm apart, linear spacing 300mm between centres, minor species in groups of 5-15. Plants to be protected with rabbit guards.				<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip 0.8

PLANTING NOTES

All planting to be in accordance with series 3000 Specification for Highways Works.

Preparation and cultivation:
All groundwork shall comply with BS 3882 and BS 8601 for topsoil. Site won topsoil and subsoil material is to be screened, free from contamination, building materials, stones and roots over 50mm. Clean imported topsoil is to be in compliance with BS 3882.

Low nutrient topsoil to be used for species rich grass areas.

Subsoil to be loosed to min 500mm depth by ripping at 600mm centres using appropriate tillage equipment. After spreading topsoil, rip at 300mm centres to depth of 300mm for grass areas and 600mm for planting areas.

Further cultivation: any large, compacted lumps of soil shall be broken down by further appropriate cultivation (in accordance with BS 4428) to produce a fine tilth suitable for planting (<30mm), turfing and seeding (<10mm).

New trees and shrubs shall be planted into established grass areas (either existing or newly seeded as part of the works).

All site preparation, planting and maintenance works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 4428:1989 code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces).

All trees and plants supplied shall comply with the requirements of all parts of British Standard BS 3936 specification for nursery stock, BS 8545:2014 trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations & The National Plant Specification.

All new tree planting shall be positioned in accordance with the requirements of table A.1 of British standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction –Recommendations.

Tree planting pits are to be suitable for each root ball, excavated to a minimum depth/width 1000mm with slow release fertiliser granules fully incorporated within backfill material. For extra heavy standards and heavy standards the staking shall be undertaken after the tree has been positioned. Two stakes, each of 3 m length shall be driven down the side of the rootball and into the pit to a depth of 500 mm below the bottom of the pit. The stakes shall be angled outwards to between 5° and 10° at the top and pulled in moderately by tensioning all the supporting bands equally. The stakes shall be equally spaced and shall not pass through the rootball.

Timing and condition of stock:
The condition of all proposed planting stock is to be in accordance with BS 3936:1992 and BS 5236: all stock shall be sourced from a HTA (Horticultural Trade Association) approved nursery. Rootballed trees are to be planted between mid-October and early April; outside of this period, all rootballed trees are to be replaced with containerised stock. All other planting to be undertaken between September and March, except when the ground is frozen and/or snow bound, waterlogged, and during prolonged dry and windy conditions. Upon completion of planting all plants are to be fully watered in to field capacity. All dead or dying foliage and branches to be pruned.

Grass seeding:
Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture in the soil. Moisture may be supplied artificially by watering but must be thorough enough to penetrate at least 100mm, and continued after sowing if dry weather follows. Seed should be surface sown onto a freshly prepared seed bed and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections.

Landscape Maintenance:
Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings: reinstate to original condition.

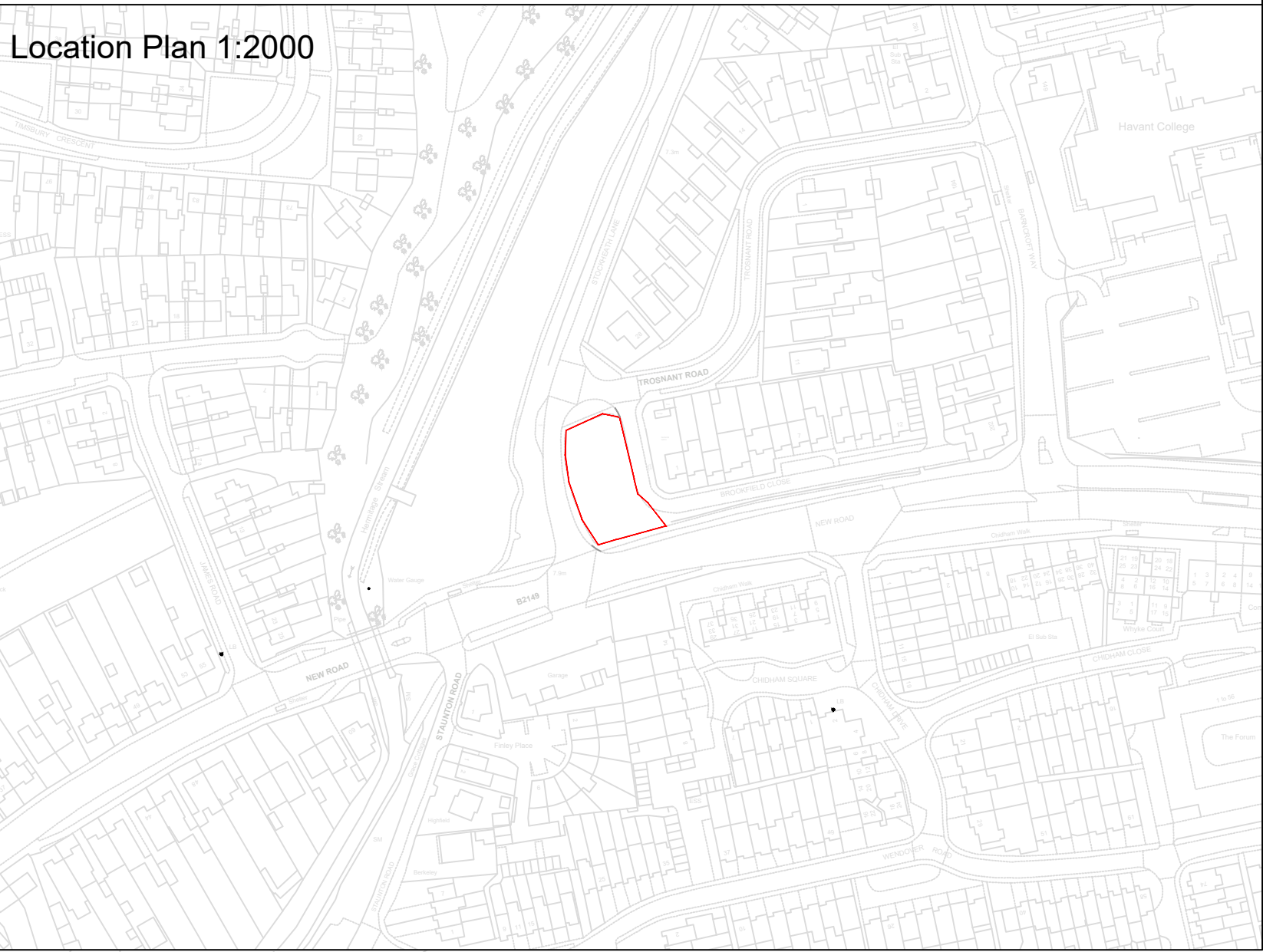
Watering: as necessary for the continued thriving of all planting, wet to field capacity.

Species rich grassland: cut once a year in August or September once flowers have gone to seed, cut to height of 100mm and remove all arisings.

Failures to any planting and seeding to be made good and replaced in the next suitable planting /seeding season. All planting and trees to be refirmed after strong winds or frost heave. Check all tree stakes and adjusted as needed.

Planting areas and around base of trees to be kept weed free.

Location Plan 1:2000



DO NOT SCALE

KEY

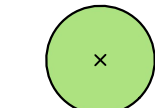


APPLICATION BOUNDARY

TREES



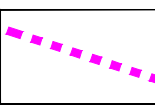
EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED



PROPOSED TREES
To be planted as standards, 10-12cm girth
Bpn = Betula pendula (Silver Birch)

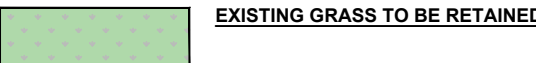


MATURE CANOPY SPREAD
Approximate average size

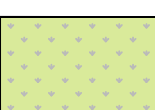


TREE ROOT BARRIER
gRootbarrier 325, 1m depth or similar, to be installed in locations shown on plan to protect services and pavements

GRASSLAND

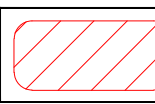


EXISTING GRASS TO BE RETAINED



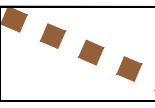
PROPOSED SPECIES-RICH GRASS
GSC OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND, TO BE SEED WITH A SPECIES-RICH MEADOW MIXTURE

PLANTING

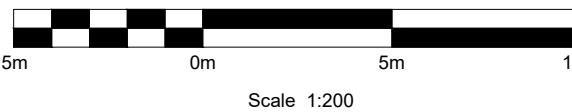


EXISTING HEDGEROWS TO BE REMOVED

PLANTING (PROPOSED)



NATIVE HEDGE
H245 SPECIES-RICH NATIVE HEDGEROW, PLANTING OF TRANSPLANTS TO GIVE >5 SPECIES PER 30M SECTION.



P08	22/05/26	PROPOSED HEDGE AMENDED	SN	DB	JL
P07	01/05/26	PLAN UPDATED	SN	DB	JL
P06	17/03/26	UPDATED TO LATEST TRANT PROPOSALS	SN	DB	JL
P05	18/10/24	PROPOSED TREE LOCATIONS AMENDED	DB	DB	JL
P04	14/10/24	MINOR UPDATES	DB	DB	JL
P03	09/10/24	TREES AMENDED, ROOT BARRIER AND CANOPY SPREAD ADDED	DB	DB	JL
P02	26/09/24	MEADOW MIXTURE CHANGES, FOR REVIEW AND COMMENTS	DS	DB	JL
P01	20/09/24	FOR REVIEW AND COMMENTS	DS	DB	JL
Rev.	Date	Description	By	Chk'd	App'd

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Client

Project Title

RACTON PUMPING STATION

Drawing Title

LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS PLAN

Scale	Designed	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
1:200	DB	DS	DB	JL
Original Size	Date	Date	Date	Date
A1	13/09/24	13/09/24	18/09/24	20/09/24

Drawing Number	Revision
5227179-ATK-XX-XX-DR-L-1000	P08

Appendix B. Planning Policy and Consultation Response

B.1 National Planning Policy Framework, 2024

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Governments planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied by Local Authorities within their Local Development Frameworks (LDF). The revised National Planning Policy Framework was published in December 2024.

Chapter 15 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' sets out the requirements to consider biodiversity in planning decisions.

The paragraphs within Chapter 15 are relevant to the Scheme, the key information from which is detailed below:

Para 187: Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Para 188: Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework⁵⁵; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Para 189: Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads⁵⁶. The scale and extent of development

⁵⁵ Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a high quality.

⁵⁶ *English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2010* provides further guidance and information about their statutory purposes, management and other matters.



within 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.

Para 190: When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes, permission should be refused for major development⁵⁷ other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

Para 191: Within areas defined as Heritage Coast (and that do not already fall within one of the designated areas mentioned in paragraph 189), planning policies and decisions should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within a Heritage Coast is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with its special character.

Habitats and biodiversity

Para 192: To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a) 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 biodiversity⁵⁸; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation⁵⁹; and
- b) 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.

Para 193: When 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 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;
- 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 reasons⁶⁰ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

⁵⁷ For the purposes of paragraphs 190 and 191, whether a proposal is 'major development' is a matter for the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined.

⁵⁸ Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system.

⁵⁹ Where areas that are part of the Nature Recovery Network are identified in plans, it may be appropriate to specify the types of development that may be suitable within them.

⁶⁰ For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat.



- 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.

Para 194: The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- a) Potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- b) Listed or proposed Ramsar sites⁶¹; and
- c) Sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Para 195: The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

B.2 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

This act introduces wide-ranging reforms to the planning system including the introduction of National Development Management Policy (NDMP), amendments to the local and neighbourhood planning Nationally Significant Infrastructure (NSIP) process, and the Infrastructure Levy.

Relevant sections on biodiversity planning include:

Section 136 - Ancient woodland

A requirement that the Secretary of State vary the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021 so that it applies in relation to applications for planning permission for development affecting ancient woodland within three months of the Act being passed.

This amendment to the Act will require local planning authorities to consult the Secretary of State, prior to granting planning permission for developments that affect ancient woodland.

Section 135 - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), Pre-development biodiversity value

This provides a clause to ensure that habitats assessed for BNG during pre-development calculations are taken at their highest value on site prior to any proposed clearance that could have been undertaken during a previous activity (e.g., a previous planning application). This is to reduce incentives to clear habitats on potential BNG sites or off-site contributions to BNG.

Please note - key legislation relating to BNG is contained within the Environment Act 2021 and the secondary legislation that is currently under Parliamentary process.

Section 95, 98, 15C - Local Nature Recovery Strategies

⁶¹ Potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area, candidate Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site.



This strengthens Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) from the Environment Act 2021, that the local plan must take account of any LNRS that relate to the local planning authority's area, this includes neighbourhood areas and spatial development strategies.

The LNRS which will map biodiversity priorities for given authority should be used during the BNG planning and design process, such as in determining the Strategic Significance (SS) factor for the statutory metric calculation or in providing suitable location for BNG off-site contributions.

Part 6 - Environmental Outcome Reports

This section of the Act, set outs the framework for the replacement of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Sustainability Appraisals (SE) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), with Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR).

There are two categories of plans and developments that will require an Environmental Outcome Report; consents which will require an assessment in all circumstances and consents which will require an assessment if the criteria set out in Act are met, which at the time of writing are not produced. An EOR must assess:

- Reasonable alternatives and compliance with the mitigation hierarchy during early development of the project.
- Assessment of contribution towards achieving an outcome supported by the indicators set out in future guidance.
- Residual effects on the environment identified through the underlying technical work, with relevant conclusions in technical disciplines.
- Current baseline and relevant data.
- Proposed mitigation and monitoring proposals.
- Cumulative effects of the project as a whole on outcomes and how this relates to the conclusions of any strategic or plan level assessment.

The Act states that future EOR regulations may provide interaction with existing environmental assessment legislation, including the Habitats Regulations.

Outcomes would need to be set by secondary legislation with a supporting suite of 'indicators' for each outcome stated in Government guidance, which at the time of writing are not produced.

B.3 Local Planning Policy

B.3.1 Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011)

The Havant Borough Core Strategy⁶² is the current planning policy for Havant along with the 'Local Plan (Allocations)' which is discussed below. The Core Strategy was adopted in 2011 and sets out the planning framework until 2026. Policies within the Core Strategy that are relevant to the biodiversity assessment are provided below:

- Policy CS11 Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough.
- Policy CS13 Green Infrastructure.
- DM8 Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features.

⁶² <https://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ADOPTED%20CORE%20STRATEGY%20.pdf>

B.3.2 Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Allocations) Adopted Version (2014)

The Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Allocations)⁶³ follows on from the Havant Borough Core Strategy; together the documents provide up to date policies for the borough. The Local Plan (Allocations) was adopted in 2014. Policies within the Local Plan (Allocations) that are relevant to the biodiversity assessment are:

- Policy AL7 Hermitage Stream; and
- Policy AL8 Local Green Spaces.

B.3.3 Havant Borough Council Draft Building A Better Future Plan (2025) (Emerging Local Plan)

The Havant Borough Council Draft Building A Better Future Plan¹⁷ provides the emerging local plan, which recently has undergone consultation, between 6th May 2025 and 1st July 2025. While this plan has not yet been adopted, and is subject to change, it provides relevant information to adhere to once adopted. Draft policies that are relevant to the biodiversity assessment are:

- Policy 19 Biodiversity Net Gain;
- Policy 21 The Local Ecological Network;
- Policy 24 Protected and Notable Species; and
- Policy 31 Trees, Hedgrows and Woodland

B.3.4 Hampshire County Council (2025) Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire¹⁸ identifies locations to create, restore and enhance habitats across Hampshire, that provide the best opportunities to deliver nature's recovery, and with a focus on areas outside of designated sites. This is based on the connectivity of existing habitats and where there are opportunities to improve ecological connectivity further.

The Site itself is not directly mapped under any habitat measures or opportunities areas on the LNRS map.

⁶³<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DP01%20East%20Hampshire%20District%20Local%20Plan%20Joint%20Core%20Strategy%20COMPLETE.pdf>



Appendix C. Further Survey Methodology

C.1 Bats

Surveyor Competencies

All bat surveys detailed below have been undertaken in accordance with good practice guidance⁶⁴. Surveyors undertaking surveys held the relevant Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) competencies for undertaking bat surveys⁶⁵.

Daytime Bat Walkover

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) survey was undertaken across the Proposed Scheme on 08/02/2024 and 29/01/2026 in order to observe, assess, and record any habitats suitable for bats to roost, commute, or forage both within and adjacent to the Application Site. The extent of the assessment was based on the zone of sensitivity for this species group and included all land within the Application Site and a 50 m buffer extending out in all directions, where access allowed (hereafter referred to as the Bat Survey Area). The DBW aimed to determine the suitability of the habitats present for bats and inform whether further bat surveys would be needed.

Roosting and foraging habitats and flightpaths were assessed separately and categorised for their potential suitability to support bats, in-line with Table B-1 below.

Table B-1 - Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of the Application Site for bats

Potential suitability	Description of potential flightpaths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flightpaths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	Habitats that could be used by small numbers of bats as flightpaths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flightpaths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flightpaths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.

⁶⁴ Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

⁶⁵ CIEEM (2013) Competencies for Species Survey: Bats. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.



High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.

Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

For trees, the following categorisations were applied:

- None – either no potential roost features in the tree or highly unlikely to be any;
- Further Assessment Required (FAR) – further assessment required to establish if potential roost features are present in the tree; and
- Potential Roost Feature (PRF) – a tree with at least one potential roost feature present.

Ground Level Tree Assessment

Trees identified as FAR or PRF during the DBW were subject to a Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) on 29/01/2026. The GLTA involved the use of binoculars and a high-powered torch to identify PRFs such as woodpecker holes, rot holes, cracked limbs, dense ivy and flaking bark etc. Where PRFs were noted, their PRF type, position on the tree (trunk or limb), height and orientation of the features were noted, and photographs were also taken.



Appendix D. Legislation

Table D-1 - Summary of relevant ecological legislation in England with regards to protected species

Species	Legislation	Relevant offences	Licensing procedures and guidance
Bats <i>European protected species</i>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 43.	Deliberately ⁶⁶ capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberate disturbance ⁶⁷ of bats; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. [The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.]	Mitigation licences issued for development by Natural England (NE). Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2022</i> <i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing - How to get a licence</i> (NE 2013) <i>UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Reason and Wray 2023)</i> <i>Bat Workers Manual</i> (JNCC 2004)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 5, Section 9.	Intentionally kill, injure or take a bat; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ⁶⁸ a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
Badgers	Protection of Badgers Act 1992.	Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or disturb a badger in its sett.	Where required, licences for development activities involving disturbance or sett interference or closure are issued by NE. Licences for activities involving watercourse maintenance, drainage works or flood defences are issued under a separate process. Licences are normally not granted from December to June inclusive because cubs may be present within setts. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2022</i>

⁶⁶ Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include “accepting the possibility” of such capture or killing.

⁶⁷ Deliberate disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

⁶⁸ Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided.



Species	Legislation	Relevant offences	Licensing procedures and guidance
		[It is not illegal to carry out disturbance activities in the vicinity of setts that are not occupied]	<i>Badgers & Development</i> (NE 2007)
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 (some species only).	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species [e.g. most birds of prey, kingfisher, barn owl, black redstart, little ringed plover].	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes, e.g. public health, public safety, air safety. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2022</i>
Adders Common lizards Grass snakes Slow worms	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 5, Section 9.	Intentionally kill, injure or take any widespread reptile species.	No licence is required ⁶⁹ . However, an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken prior to any development works which have potential to affect these animals. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2022</i>
Rabbits, foxes and other wild mammals	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.	Intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering to any wild mammal.	NE provides guidance in relation to rabbits, foxes (which are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from live baits and decoys) and other wild mammals, on their website. Lawful and humane pest control of these species is permitted.

⁶⁹ Natural England will only consider licence applications to kill or injure reptiles in truly exceptional circumstances. Natural England will not be providing a definition or criteria of what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' as these applications would need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Natural England expects developers and ecologists to continue to adhere to current best practice mitigation measures that avoid injuring and killing reptiles and which do not require a licence.

Species	Legislation	Relevant offences	Licensing procedures and guidance
Plants <i>Invasive species, e.g.</i> Japanese knotweed, hybrid knotweed, giant knotweed, giant hogweed, rhododendron, Himalayan balsam	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9, Section 14.	It is illegal to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.	Any contaminated soil or plant material is classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of in a suitably licensed landfill site, accompanied by appropriate Waste Transfer documentation, and must comply with Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Guidance documents: <i>How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading</i> (Defra and Environment Agency 2022) <i>Guidance on section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act</i> (Defra 2011)

Table D-2 - Summary of relevant ecological legislation in England with regards to protected habitats and species

Habitats & Species	Legislation	Guidance
Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity 'priority habitats and species'	Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 40 (as amended)	Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended) sets out the duty for public authorities to conserve biodiversity in England. Habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity are identified by the Secretary of State for England, in consultation with Natural England, are referred to in Section 41 of the NERC Act (as amended) for England. The list of habitats and species can be found on the NE website under 'Habitats and species of principal importance in England'. The list is used as a guide for decision makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended) to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions. Ecological impact assessments should include an assessment of the likely impacts to these habitats and species. N.B. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was used to draw up the list of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance and was succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework in 2012. However, the UK BAP list of priority habitats and species continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC & Defra, July 2012).

Habitats & Species	Legislation	Guidance
Hedgerows	The Hedgerows Regulations 1997	Under the regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. In general, permission will be required before removing hedges that are at least 20 metres in length, over 30 years old and contain certain species of plant. The local planning authority will assess the importance of the hedgerow using criteria set out in the regulations.



Appendix E. Non-Statutory Designated Sites

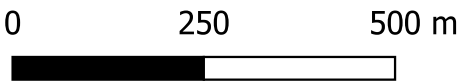




Legend

1 km buffer

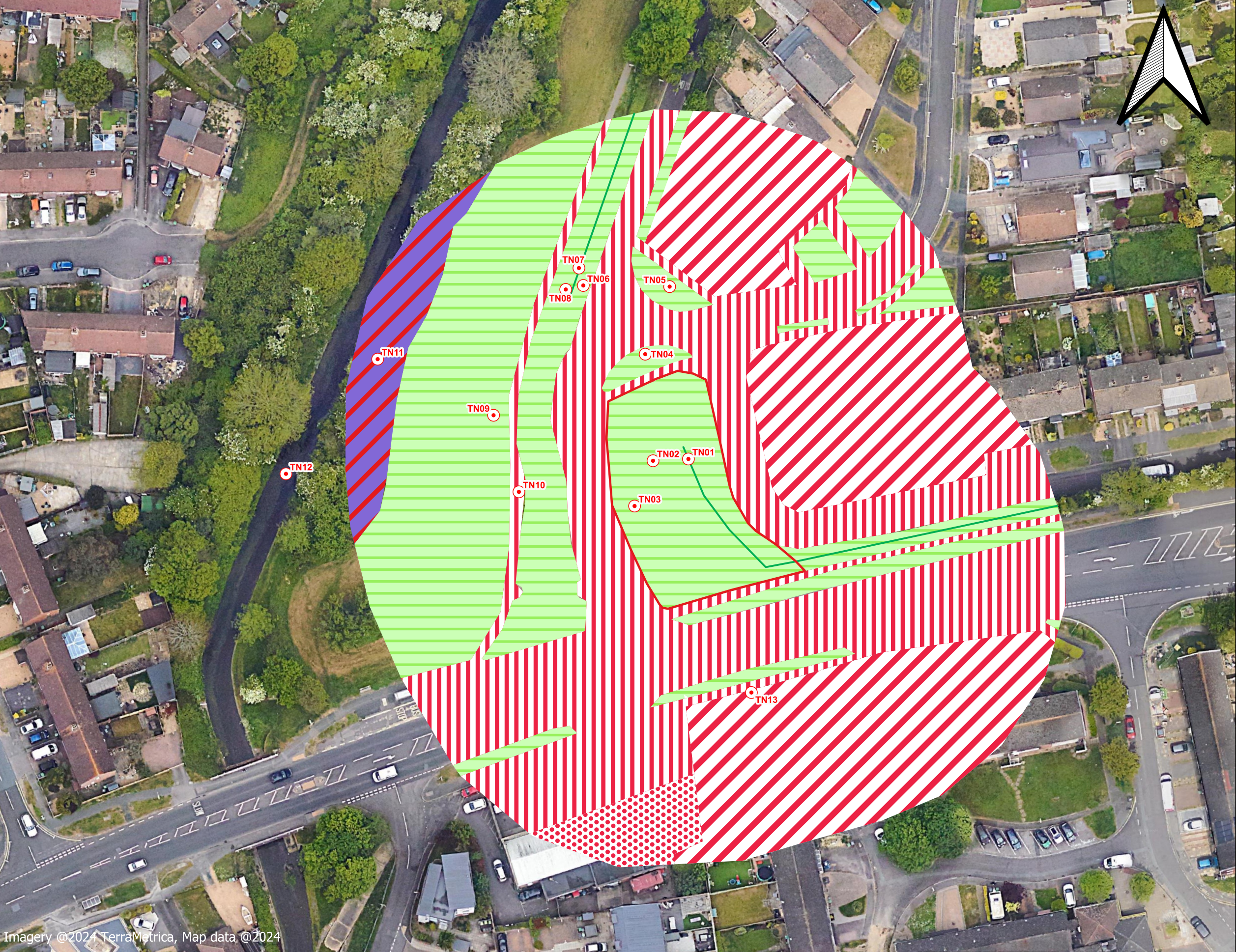
Application Site
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)



Atkins Limited © Woodcote Grove Ashley Road Epsom England KT18 5BW	Project: Racton Pumping Station 522179	Title: Non-Statutory Sites for Nature Conservation	Original scale: 1-600	Drawn by: SB	Checked by: RM	Reviewed by: VH
	Client: Portsmouth Water	Drawing number: Figure E-1		Date: 29/07/2024	Date: 29/07/2024	Date: 30/07/2024

Appendix F. UKHab Survey Plan and Target Notes





Legend

50 m survey area

Application Site

Target Notes

Linear Habitats

h2a6 - other native hedgerow (priority habitat)

Habitats

g3c - other neutral grassland

h3h - mixed scrub

u1 - built-up areas and gardens

u1b - developed land

sealed surface

u1b5 - buildings

02550 m

Atkins Limited © Woodcote Grove Ashley Road Epsom England KT18 5BW	Project: Racton Pumping Station 5227179	Title: UKHab Survey Plan	Original scale: 1:600	Drawn by: SB	Checked by: RM	Reviewed by: VH
	Client: Portsmouth Water	Drawing number: Figure F-1		Date: 19/07/2024	Date: 29/07/2024	Date: 30/07/2024

F.1 Target Notes and Photographs

Table F-1 - Target notes and photographs

Target Note	Description	Photograph
TN01	g3c – other neutral grassland, frequently mown (UKHab secondary code 108) consisting of common daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i>, crane's-bill sp <i>Gernaium sp .</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>, yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>, bent sp <i>Agrostis sp.</i>, perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i>, false oat grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>, common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i>, self-heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>, cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>, Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, rough meadow-grass <i>Poa trivialis</i>, dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>, red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>, buck's-horn plantain <i>Plantago coronopus</i>, common mouse ear <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>, spotted medick <i>Medicago arabica</i>, hawkbit sp., <i>Leontodon sp.</i>, cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, creeping cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i>, speedwell sp., <i>Veronica sp.</i>, ground ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea.</i>, cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, lords and ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i>, soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i>, annual meadowgrass <i>Poa annua</i>, ivy-leaved speedwell <i>Veronica hederifolia</i>, three-cornered garlic <i>Allium triquetrum</i>, black horehound <i>Ballota nigra</i>, groundsel <i>Senecio vulgaris</i>.	



TN02

h2a6 – other native hedgerow (priority habitat) formed of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, oak *Quercus robur*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and ivy *Hedera helix*. Lords and ladies, traveller's joy *Clematis vitalba*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, dock sp *Rumex sp.*, black horehound, linseed *Linum usitatissimum*, hedge bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, non-native *Oxalis sp.*, and false oat grass present in the ground flora.

Compost heap located at base of hedge towards the northern end.



Compost heap at base of hedgerow with trees with local enrichment.



TN03

Group of alder *Alnus glutinosa* trees of which there are nine stems which appear to be from three trees. These trees are covered in a large amount of ivy foliage that could potentially be obscuring PRF that could be used by roosting bats.

Compost heap at base of trees with local enrichment.

Three-cornered garlic (INNPS) located at the base of these trees.



TN04	Maple sp <i>Acer sp.</i> , No potential bat roost features identified.	
TN05	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> tree. No potential bat roost features identified.	No photo available
TN06	Road drainage ditch (UKHab secondary code 50 – ditch) vegetated with flora including lesser celandine <i>Ficaria verna</i> , pendulous sedge <i>Carex pendula</i> and three-cornered garlic (INNPS). Flowing at the time of survey, though does not look like it regularly holds water, and considered to hold water for less than four months of the year.	
TN07	h2a6 – other native hedgerow (priority habitat). Native species poor hedge dominated by hawthorn with bramble, ivy, hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and elm sp <i>Ulmus sp.</i>	

TN08

Lime sp *Tilia x europaeae* tree. 2x woodpecker holes present.



TN09

Drainage feature within area of other neutral grassland. Does not hold water long term (UKHab secondary code 50 – ditch).



TN10

Group of trees formed of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hawthorn. No potential bat roost features identified.



TN11

h3h – mixed scrub, dominated by hawthorn and bramble, which is dense located on the edge of the Survey Area which is screening the Hermitage Stream riparian habitat.



TN12

Hermitage Stream



TN13

Group of sycamore and weeping willow *Salix babylonica* trees.
Sycamore tree covered in dense ivy



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