land east of St Patricks RC Church, Manor Lane, Hayling Island, PO11 0QU

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

April 2026

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Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

Consultant Chartered Ecologist Dr.Jonty Denton FRES FLS MCIEEM CEcol **(Bat license: 2025-82187-CL17-BAT)** was commissioned to produce a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land east of St Patricks RC Church, Manor Lane, Hayling Island, PO11 0QU (National Grid Reference: SZ718005).

METHODS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Methods

The survey area was systematically walked, and habitats mapped according to Phase 1 Habitat Survey criteria during daylight hours on 6th April 2026. Phase 1 Habitat Survey is a standardised system for classifying and mapping semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitats in Great Britain. Vegetation is mapped in terms of standard habitat types as defined in the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (2010).

In addition, habitats were appraised for their suitability to support protected or notable (UK Biodiversity Action Plan/Species of Principle Importance [S41]) species, e.g. breeding birds, badgers, bats, herptiles, stag beetle, that might be affected by the proposed development; in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment' (IEA, 1995).

Background Data Search

A desk-based assessment was carried out using the DEFRA MagicMap website https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx to identify all designated sites within 5km of the site and all other designated sites and protected species within 2km.

A search was made for information on statutory designated sites (often internationally and nationally important sites for ecology) and non-statutory designated sites (often important in a local context) within 1 km of the site boundary.

Habitat Assessment for protected species

The site was assessed for its suitability to support protected species that are likely to occur in the area. These were;-

Birdlife

The site was assessed for its potential for breeding birds as well as foraging and wintering use-age.

Bats

The Daytime Bat Assessment / Phase 1 Bat Survey was undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

The Phase 1 Bat Survey comprised of a daytime walkover of the site to look for potential roosting features on trees.

Badgers

An initial assessment was carried out to identify areas that might be used by badgers for commuting, foraging and sett-building within 30 m of the field. This involved a search for setts, foraging signs, paths (runs) and latrines.

Reptiles

The site was assessed for its potential for commoner reptile species.

Amphibians

The suitability of aquatic and terrestrial habitat on the site and in the immediate vicinity was considered (where accessible), along with the habitat-connectivity between suitable habitat areas. Aerial photography and Ordnance Survey maps were examined for ponds or other suitable breeding habitat within 500 m of the site.

RESULTS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

Background Data Search

A desk-based assessment was carried out using the DEFRA MagicMap website https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx to identify all designated sites within 5km of the site and all other designated sites and protected species within 2km.

A search was made for information on statutory designated sites (often internationally and nationally important sites for ecology) and non-statutory designated sites (often important in a local context) within 1 km of the site boundary.

The site lies outside the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone as defined by DEFRA 2017

Figure 1. Site location. *Courtesy of Google images*

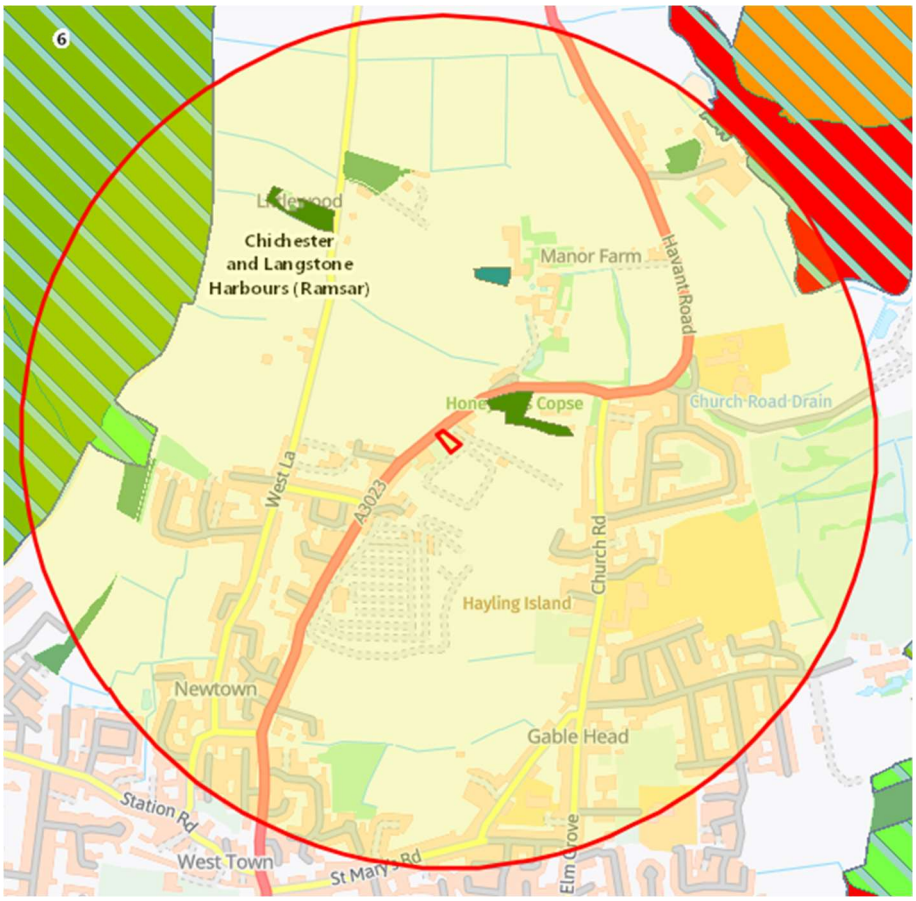

Figure 2. Priority habitats and designated sites map. *Courtesy of* Magicmaps

PROTECTED HABITATS

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) Priority Habitats are also Habitats of Principle Importance (HPI) listed under The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 41 (NERC S41). These habitats do not receive statutory protection, but the S41 list is intended to provide guidance to decision-makers, e.g. those representing public bodies and local/regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act to '…have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions'.

Sites with Statutory Designations

The site is 672m east and 920m west of Chicheser & Langstone Harbour Ramsar site.

There are 3 small woodland blocks included on the priority habitats inventory within 1km. The closest is 120m to the northeast (See figure 2).

The site lies *inside* the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone as defined by DEFRA 2017.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is south of Havant Road on Hayling Island (See figure 1).

It is an unused section of the graveyard of St.Patricks RC church (see figures 3-4). The site is bounded to the west by active graveyard and to the north by open extensive arable. It is backed by a large static caravan park.

The grassland is species poor with few herbs including garden relicts (Spanish and hybrid bluebells, daffodils, purple toadflax, garden lungwort and garden grape hyacinth). The central part of the site appears to be prone to occasional water logging, and work to erect a new close board fence along the southern boundary was carried out in winter 2025-6: A large section was stripped back to clay, and numerous ruts were created as machinery tracked around clearing the site.

The western boundary is a low manicured hedge dominated by *Griselinia littoralis*

The roadside hedge has hawthorn cherry plum and bramble with garden privet in northwest corner. A species list of vascular plants is given in appendix 1.

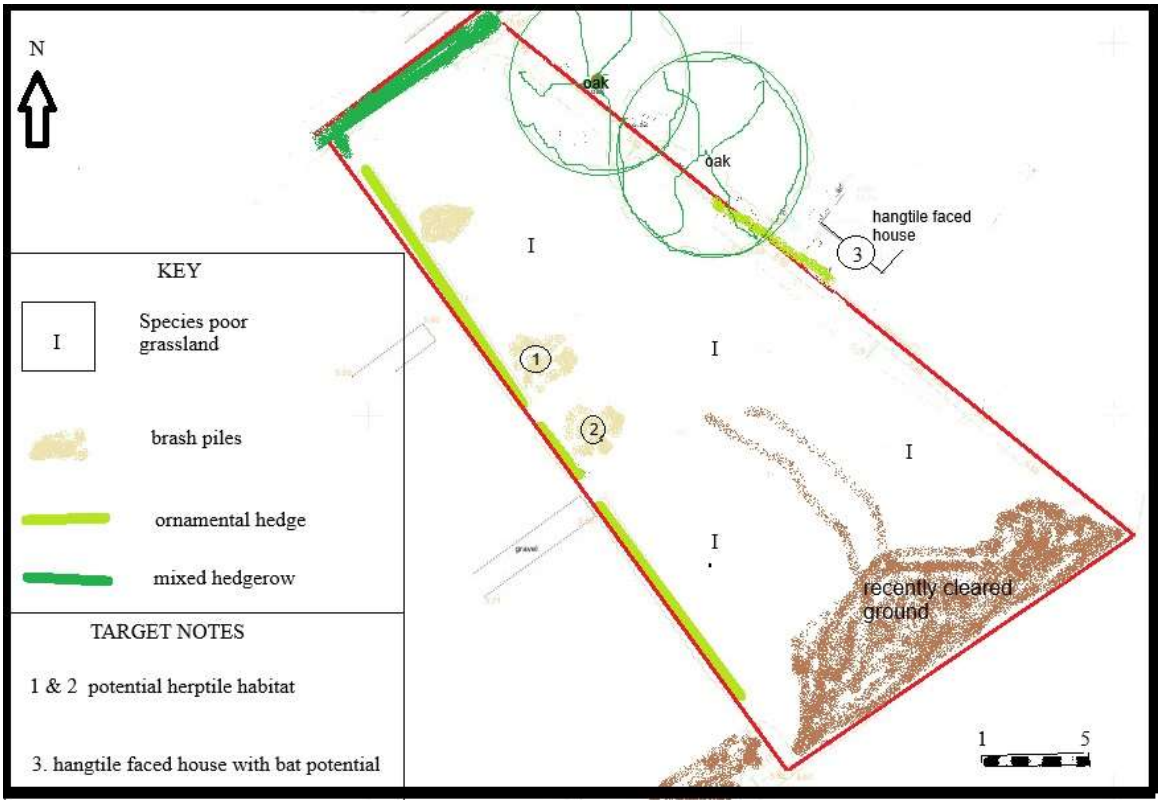

Figure 3. Baseline Habitat map

Figure 4. Looking north across western half of site.

Figure 5. Looking north across site from south fence line

Reptiles

All native British reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury. Sand Lizards and Smooth Snakes also receive additional protection under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. All native UK reptiles are UK BAP Priority Species and SPI.

The site has debris piles along western edge adjacent to dividing hedge which have potential to support common reptiles (especially slow worms) (see figure 6 and target notes 1 & 2 on figure 3).

Amphibians

Great Crested Newts are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. In addition Great Crested Newts and Common Toads are UK BAP Priority species and SPI.

The nearest GCN return is from over 2.1km to the north near North Hayling. Amphibians such as Common Frog and Common Toad (UKBAP/SPI) may occur in the wider area as there are lakes suitable for common toads nearby.

Figure 6. Looking west at entrance area showing brash piles

Badgers

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take a badger or to interfere with their setts; such as by the use of heavy machinery nearby.

There was no sign of any badger activity on site, but badgers occur in the wider area.

Breeding Birds

All wild birds are protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, from damage or destruction of their nest whilst in use or construction, some birds listed on Schedule 1 receive additional protection from disturbance during nesting.

The only potential nesting habitat is the peripheral hedgerows and overhanging trees. Birds recorded overhead included Mediterranean gull and lesser black backed gulls, and wood pigeon.

Bats

The Phase 1 Bat Survey was carried out on the 6th April 2026, and comprised of a daytime walkover of the site to record evidence of potential bat roosts.

EVALUATION, IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Protected Habitats

The statutory protected sites which surround Hayling Island are internationally important for birdlife. However no adverse impacts are envisaged from the proposed development which is separated from the Ramsar site by extensive arable land and settlements.

There are no priority habitats on site, the closest is a small block of woodland included on the inventory 120m to the northeast. The site does support modified grassland and some of this will be lost under any new development. The small sites metric will be used to calculate the BNG shortfall to ensure 10% gain is achieved

Protected Species

Reptiles & Amphibians

The field has limited potential for amphibians and reptiles in the debris piles along the eastern edge of the site. These should be removed under the supervision of a qualified ecologist and any animals found relocated to a suitable receptor area.

Badgers
No badger activity was detected at the survey site.

Breeding Birds

Any removal of vegetation on or adjacent to the shelter should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season, which is typically 1st March to 31st August.

If any works occur within the breeding bird season the area should be checked, ideally by an ecologist, and if any nesting birds are found there is a legal obligation to protect the affected area with a buffer zone of 10m until after the young have fledged.

Bats

The two mature oak trees did not have any obvious cavities or splits and are considered to have only very limited potential for crevice roosting bats (see figures 7a, b).

The house offsite to the northeast is > 3 metres from site boundary. However, consideration of impacts on flight lines to and from the potential roosting features and impacts of lighting should be included in final designs.

Figure 7a, b. Mature oaks looking northeast a. north, b south

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APPENDIX 1. Plant species list

LD =locally dominant, F= frequent, O= occasional, R= rare P=planted

Species	English name	status	DAFOR
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	very common	O
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	very common	F
Arum maculatum	Lords-and-Ladies	very common	F
Bellis perennis	Daisy	very common	O
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bitter-cress	very common	F
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bitter-cress	very common	F
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckooflower	very common	R
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	very common	F
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	very common	F
Conyza canadensis	Canadian Fleabane	very common	O
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	very common	O
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	very common	F
Festuca pratensis	Meadow Fescue	very common	O
Galium aparine	Cleavers	very common	F
Griselinia littoralis	New Zealand Broadleaf	planted	P
Hedera helix subsp. helix	Common Ivy	very common	F
Hyacinthoides hispanica	Spanish Bluebell	common	F
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell	very common	O
Hyacinthoides x massartiana	Hybrid Bluebell (H. non-scripta x hispanica)	common	O
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	very common	P
Iris foetidissima	Stinking Iris	common	O
Lamium album	White Dead-nettle	very common	O
Lamium purpureum	Red Dead-nettle	very common	F
Ligustrum ovalifolium	Garden Privet	common	P
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	very common	F
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	very common	F
Muscari armeniacum	Garden Grape-hyacinth	Local	F
Narcissus spp	daffodil spp.	common	P
Prunus cerasifera	Cherry Plum	common	O
Pulmonaria officinalis	Lungwort	common	F
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	very common	O
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser Celandine	very common	O
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	very common	F
Rosa canina	Dog-rose	very common	O
Rubus fruticosus agg	a bramble	very common	F
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	very common	O
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	very common	F
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	very common	O
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	very common	O
Taraxacum SPP	a dandelion	common	O
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	very common	LD
Vicia sativa subsp. sativa	Common Vetch	very common	O
Vicia tetrasperma	Smooth Tare	common	O