

South Street, Bridport

784-B048171

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Planning Issues Ltd

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Document prepared on behalf of Tetra Tech Limited.



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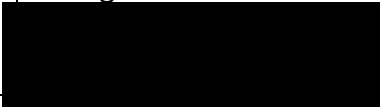
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	The site is located west of South Street in Bridport, Dorset and is centered at Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference SY 46509 92260.
Proposals	The development proposals comprise a residential care home with associated parking, infrastructure and landscaping.
Scope of this Survey(s)	<p>The purpose of the survey work and the subsequent report are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest and relevant records of protected/notable species within the site and its zone of influence; • Present the results of the UKHab Habitat Classification Survey, involving a walkover of the site to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species and evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species; • Evaluate potential ecological receptors on site and within the zone of influence; and • Identify any constraints to the sites development and make any recommendations for further surveys, mitigation or enhancement.
Results and Evaluation	<p>The survey has found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally and internationally designated sites are present within 2km and 10km, and due to the nature of the proposals and the site’s location relative to these, there is a risk of Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on several coastal Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) arising from the development; • The majority of the site comprises bare ground, scrub, lines of trees and grassland which are of limited ecological value, although the grassland and scrub are suitable for reptiles and nesting birds, respectively. Other protected and or notable species have been scoped out within the report; • Connectivity of the site to nearby semi-natural habitats is poor due to fragmentation by roads and urban development, and the site is separated from the surrounding landscape by a man-made wall and the river Brit to the west and south; and • Scattered trees and buildings are present on site, which are considered to have negligible suitability for roosting bats. B1 has potential to support nesting birds of common species.

Recommendations	Recommendations are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required as part of a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the site, to assess the potential impacts of the development on nearby Habitat Sites;• Mitigation and enhancement to compensate for the loss of habitats on site;• A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment to show a minimum 10% net gain for biodiversity on site;• Reptile presence / likely absence surveys of grassland and scrub habitats;• Pre-commencement nesting bird checks of scrub, structures and trees prior to removal if within the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive);• Lighting plans in place for construction and operational to prevent light spill upon the River Brit;• Pre-commencement otter survey;• Completion of Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol (DBAP). In line with the DBAP, enhancement measures for biodiversity will be required. In accordance with planning requirements from Dorset Council’s Natural Environment Team (NET), the development proposals must show adherence to wildlife legislation and result in no negative impact on biodiversity.
Conclusion	Upon implementation of the recommended further survey, mitigation and enhancements for the site, the development proposals are considered to comply with local and national planning policy. A BNG assessment and HRA will be required along with consultation with the local authority to permit the proposals.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Planning Issues Ltd on 18th April 2023 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land at South Street, Bridport hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Consultant Ecologist Izzy Frey BSc and the conditions pertinent to it are in Appendix A.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located west of South Street in Bridport, Dorset and is centered at Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference SY 46509 92260 – See Figure 1. The site is situated in an urban setting towards the south of Bridport and is immediately bounded by the River Brit to the west and south, which forms a confluence with the River Asker, with a man-made weir directly to the south of the site. There is a residential area immediately to the north and industrial development to the east. Further urban development associated with Bridport and Bothenhampton lie to the north and east respectively. The wider landscape is more rural, with open space comprising arable land, small parcels of woodland and a network of hedgerows.

The site is currently an active builder’s supply yard largely comprised of bare ground, with areas of grassland, scrub, lines of trees and ephemeral and ruderal vegetation.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development proposals comprise a total of 48 retirement apartments with associated parking, infrastructure and landscaping.

1.4 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Undertake a desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest and relevant records of protected/notable species within the site and its zone of influence;
- Present the results of a UKHab Habitat Classification Survey, involving a walkover of the site to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species and evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species;
- Evaluate potential ecological receptors on site and within the zone of influence; identify any constraints to the sites development and make any recommendations for further surveys, mitigation or enhancement.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of eighteen months from the date of the survey (i.e. December 2024), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. The recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and

reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

Scientific names are provided at the first mention of each species and common names (where appropriate) are then used throughout the rest of the report for ease of reading.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 HISTORIC SURVEYS

Tetra Tech is not aware of any previous survey work carried out at the site nor existing reports pertaining to ecological conditions at the site.

2.2 DESK STUDY

The desktop study comprised two elements:

- A data search obtained from Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) in April 2023;
- Online element including a search using Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk>) website and Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (<https://www.bing.com/maps>).

The geographical extent of the search area was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence. For this site the following search areas were considered appropriate:

- 10km for sites of International Importance (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar sites);
- 2km for sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), protected or otherwise notable species and non-statutory designated sites of County Importance (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS));
- 2km for biological records, and
- 1km for ancient woodland and mapped priority habitats.

The data search did not cover Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); or Conservation Areas designated for their special architectural and historic interest.

2.3 FIELD SURVEYS

The following methodologies have been used to identify the ecological receptors present on or near the site and which are relevant to the proposed development. The field survey extended beyond the site to a distance of 50m where accessible [REDACTED]

2.3.1 Habitats

A UKHab Classification survey was undertaken at the site on 14th June 2023 by Tetra Tech Senior Ecologist Alex Coggins BSc (Hons). The weather conditions were warm and sunny with a light breeze, and the temperature was approximately 22°C.

The vegetation and broad habitat types within the site were recorded using the UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd, 2023) and mapped during the site visit using the Sweet application from ArcGIS. The sites suitability to support notable flora was assessed according to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management guidelines (CIEEM, 2017). Dominant plant species were recorded for each habitat present using standard nomenclature (Stace, 2019).

Conservation Handbook (Langton, Beckett, & Foster, 2001). This appraisal also considered waterbodies within 500m of the site and their potential to be used for breeding newts. Where required, each pond was assessed using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham, Keeble, Swan, & Jeffcote, 2000) which assigns a value to the pond calculated from 10 pre-identified features. The HSI value gives a correlation of likely use by GCN and below 0.46 the waterbody is considered to have less likelihood of GCN presence however this metric is a guide and should be assessed on a site by site basis as waterbodies with low HSI have been known to support GCN.

Habitat suitability and evidence of other common amphibians was recorded on site where relevant.

Reptiles

The site was appraised for its suitability to support reptiles using guidance outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003).

Invertebrates

The site habitats were appraised for suitability to support assemblages of invertebrates and commented on in the report as appropriate.

Other Species

The site was also appraised for its suitability to support other protected or notable fauna with regard to the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI, 2013). Evidence of any current or historical presence of such species was recorded.

Invasive Species

Evidence of species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, were recorded as seen.

2.4 LIMITATIONS

Any absence of desk study records cannot be relied upon to infer absence of a species/habitat as the absence of records may be a result of under-recording within the given search area.

To determine presence or likely absence of protected species usually requires multiple visits at suitable times of the year. This survey focuses on assessing the potential of the site to support species of note, which are considered to be of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity with reference to those given protection under UK or European wildlife legislation, from only a single visit. This report cannot, therefore, be considered a comprehensive assessment of the ecological interest of the site. However, it does provide an assessment of the ecological interest present on the day the site was visited and highlights areas where further survey work may be recommended.

The survey was undertaken in June, which is within the optimal period for identifying plant species and most protected and notable species. There are not therefore considered to be any limitations to the survey effort resulting from the timing of this visit.

The opposite side of the riverbank was accessible to the surveyors therefore there are not considered to be any limitations in assessing for protected species suitability.

3.0 RESULTS & EVALUATION

3.1 PROTECTED SITES

European designated sites identified within 10km, and National designated sites within 2km, of the proposed development are presented in Table 1 with the designation, qualifying features and proximity from the development site also indicated. Details of local non-designated sites within 2km obtained from the DERC data search are also included. These sites are shown in Figures 2.1 and 2.2.

Table 1. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study

Site Name	Designation	Distance and direction from Site	Reasons for designation / Description
European Designated Sites (10km)			
UK0019864 - Sidmouth to West Bay	SAC	1.8km South	<p>Qualifying Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts; and 9180 <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines. <p>Annex I Habitats present as qualifying feature but not as a primary reason for selection:</p> <p>1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines.</p>
UK0030372 - Lyme Bay and Torbay (Marine)	SAC	1.9km South	<p>Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1170 Reefs; and 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.
UK0017076 - Chesil & The Fleet	SAC	1.9km South	<p>Qualifying Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1150 Coastal lagoons; 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines; 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks; and 1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) <p>Annex I Habitats present as qualifying feature but not as a primary reason for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>).
UK0030299 - West Dorset Alder Woods	SAC	5.7km Northeast	<p>Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>). <p>Annex I Habitats present as qualifying feature but not as a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains. <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i> <p>Annex II species that are present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>.
Nationally Designated Sites (2km)			
West Dorset Coast	SSSI	1.4km South	The West Dorset Coast between Chesil Beach and Devonshire Head near Lyme Regis is an internationally important geological site, particularly famous for its fossil reptiles. The varied undercliffs have a wide range of habitats which support a number of rare plants and animals. Adjoining the coastline are unusually large areas of herb-rich grassland of a type now very restricted in occurrence.
Non-statutory Designated Sites (2km)			
Asker's Meadow	LNR	38m East	Asker Meadows are approximately 9.16 Ha of riverside meadows running alongside the River Asker. Owned by Bridport Town Council, the area is an important lung of green space between the town of Bridport and the busy A35 and surrounding parish of Bothenhampton.
Bothenhampton Nature Reserve	LNR	851m Southeast	Bothenhampton Nature Reserve is a locally important semi natural woodland with remnants of calcareous grassland on former stone quarry sites. Woodland comprising primarily of ash of varying ages, field maples <i>Acer campestre</i> and sycamores <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> . The Nature Reserve is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) with the priority habitat being Deciduous Woodland. The Nature Reserve provides a valuable matrix of woodland, scrub and patches of remnant calcareous grassland home to a range of common and notable species.
Jellyfields, Walditch	LNR	983m Northeast	Jellyfields is a locally important Wet Woodland comprising primarily of alder of varying ages, willows <i>Salix</i> spp. with some birch <i>Betula</i> spp., blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> and sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> and a few notably large ash and oak specimens. Jellyfields is designated as a Site of Nature conservation Interest (SNCI) with the priority habitat being Deciduous Woodland. A Rush Meadow SNCI sits to the south east of the site. Together Jellyfields and the surrounding meadows provide a valuable matrix of woodland, scrub and grassland home to a surprising range of common and notable species (See Appendix Species Listing).

Designated Sites

The site lies within 10km of four European sites, the closest of which is the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC located 1.8km to the south. The site also lies within 2km of the West Dorset Coast SSSI which is 1.4km to the south. Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA and Ramsar is located 12.3km to the southeast of the site; the Ramsar site is designated under criterion 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8.

Non-statutory Sites

The data search from DERC identified six Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) within 2km, the closest of which is West Bay (SY49/034), located 1km southwest of the site. Connectivity between this site and the application boundary is limited by adjacent roads including the A35 to the south.

The West Bay SNCI is located approximately 960m to the south and is hydrologically linked to the site by the River Brit and thus there is potential for this site to be impacted by the proposals, without appropriate mitigation during the construction phase.

Ancient Woodland and Priority Habitats

There are no priority habitats located within the site – See Figure 2.3. Five types of Priority Habitat are present within 1km of the site, comprising:

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (927m South);
- Wood pasture and parkland (785m North);
- Traditional orchards (240m North);
- Deciduous woodland (910m West, 680m Southeast, 840m East); and
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture (760m Southwest).

The closest instances of Priority Habitat (comprising two small parcels of traditional orchard) are located 240m to the north of the site, with little to no connectivity between this location and the site due to urban development. The closest ancient woodland to the site is beyond the 1km radius, at Park Copse located 2.9km northwest.

3.2 HABITATS

The following habitats have been identified through our assessment; a UKHab Classification Map can be found in Figure 3, with detailed Target Notes and Photographic Plates included in Appendix B, as appropriate.

Table 2. Habitats

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
g3c – Other neutral grassland - Secondary code 16 Tall Forbs	Areas of tall ruderal vegetation were present across the site, often bordering the bare ground, between the scrub and grassland habitats (TN1). Species included horsetail <i>Equisetum arvense</i> , red valerian <i>Centranthus ruber</i> , rosebay willowherb <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , purple toadflax <i>Linaria purpurea</i> , cleavers,	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance however has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
	teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> , hedge bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium</i> , and opium poppy <i>Papaver somniferum</i> .	
g3c - Other neutral grassland - Secondary code 81 Ruderal / Ephemeral	Small patches of emergent vegetation were present across the site, forming a margin between the areas of bare ground and more established vegetation (TN2). Species comprised creeping cinquefoil, dandelion, annual meadow grass <i>Poa annua</i> , ragwort, perennial ryegrass, bristly oxtongue <i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> , field speedwell <i>Veronica persica</i> , common ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> and curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> .	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance however has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.
g3c5 – Arrhenatherum neutral grassland	Grassland was present within the northwest of the site adjacent to the site boundary and areas of bare ground (TN3). Dominant grasses included cock’s foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , and perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> . Forbs included ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , common cat’s-ear <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> , dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i> agg., creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> , creeping cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i> , slender St John’s wort <i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> , prickly sow-thistle <i>Sonchus asper</i> , ragwort <i>Jacobea vulgaris</i> , cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> , black medick <i>Medicago lupulina</i> , common vetch <i>Vicia sativa</i> . Other less abundant grasses included sterile brome <i>Bromus sterilis</i> , water bent <i>Polypogon viridis</i> and annual beard grass <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> .	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance however has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.
h3d – Bramble scrub	Scrub dominated by bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. was present within the north-west of the site and around an earth mound in the south of the site (TN4).	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance however has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.
h3h – Mixed scrub	Areas of mixed scrub were present around the northern edges of the site boundary and in scattered parcels across the site (TN5). The scrub was dominated by butterfly bush <i>buddleja davidii</i> and bramble along with frequent dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> , occasional hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> and rarer instances of Himalayan honeysuckle <i>Leycesteria formosa</i> , elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and goat willow.	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance however has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.
Scattered Trees – Secondary Code 32 - (Primary codes h3d and u1c)	An individual goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> was present in the northwest corner within bramble scrub habitat, and one unidentified willow <i>Salix</i> spp. on the western boundary surrounded by bare ground (TN6). No	The habitat is of local ecological importance and has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
	Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) with suitability for roosting bats were identified on these trees.	
u1b5 - Buildings	<p>Two buildings were present in the east of the site (B1 and B2).</p> <p>B1 was a domed warehouse comprising of corrugated asbestos shell and an iron frame, with corrugated double doors on the eastern elevation (TN7). Feral pigeons <i>Columba livia domestica</i> were noted as nesting inside. No internal roof void was present. No evidence of bats was recorded within the building, and no Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) with suitability for roosting bats were identified.</p> <p>B2 was attached to B1 and comprised a single-storey office shed (TN8). No internal roof void was present. No evidence of roosting bats was recorded within the building, and no PRFs with suitability for roosting bats were identified.</p>	<p>B1 and B2 are of negligible suitability for roosting bats.</p> <p>B1 provides suitability for nesting birds and is discussed in section 3.3.</p>
u1c – Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface Secondary code 510 Bare Ground	The majority of the site comprised compacted, bare, sandy ground (TN9). The site is an active builders supply yard with regular vehicle traffic likely to cause frequent disturbance of the terrain in these areas.	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance .
u1e - Built linear feature	The site was bounded by a man-made concrete wall ranging from between 0.5m and 2m in height along its western and southern extents (TN10).	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance .
w2c – Other coniferous woodland - Secondary code 33 Line of Trees	Lines of non-native Leyland cypress <i>Cupressus x leylandii</i> were present along the northern boundary and a second line of smaller trees within the centre of the site (TN11). No Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) with suitability for roosting bats were identified.	The habitat is of negligible ecological importance however has the potential to support protected species as discussed in section 3.3.

3.3 PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

Data obtained from DERC confirmed the presence of a number of protected and notable species within 2km of the site. Relevant data are discussed in Table 3 below. **Only those records from within the last ten years are considered within this report.**

A search of MAGIC was also conducted (in March 2024) to identify the presence of any previously granted European Protected Species Licenses (EPSLs) within 2km of the site. Details are provided below, where relevant.

Protected and notable species identified as a receptor for the site are detailed in Table 3. For species with legal protection arising from persecution, such as badgers, some details are purposefully omitted, but can be provided on request to inform the masterplan.

Table 3. Species

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Hazel Dormouse	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5 & 6; Natural	DERC returned 22 records of hazel dormouse within 2km of the site from between 2014 and 2019. The majority of the records were associated with nest tube surveys and field observations from West Road 1.6km to the north, and Orchard Crescent and New Street Lane located 1.9km west of Bridport, respectively.	Negligible – Hazel dormouse are considered to be likely absent from the application area.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	<p>Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.</p>	<p>The closest record to the site was 1.05km to the west, located within a patchwork of arable land which - although connective hedgerow is present - it is separated from the site by urban residential development and roads.</p> <p>MAGIC revealed one EPSL for hazel dormouse from 2013, permitting the destruction of a breeding place, 1.1km to the southeast of the site (EPSM2013-5844). The site is isolated from the location of this record by residential areas and the A35.</p> <p>The site contains scrub habitat which may provide suitability for dormouse, however connectivity of vegetation / hedgerow between the local records and the site is poor due to the presence of the River Brit to the west and south, and the urban sprawl of Bridport and Bothenhampton to the north and east, which are considered likely to prevent dispersal or prevent significant barriers. As such, hazel dormouse are considered to be likely absent from the application area.</p>	
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
		<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
Water vole	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	<p>DERC returned 27 records of water vole within 2km of the site comprising field records i.e., evidence of burrows, feeding remains and tracks. The closest record was of an individual seen swimming and entering/leaving burrows 60m to the east of the site, with several other records in the nearby area associated with the River Brit and Asker.</p> <p>The banks of the River Brit were surveyed for evidence of water vole using the same methodology described above [REDACTED]. April is within the optimal period for surveys as such the observational survey from the sites bank would note signs such as burrows. No signs of water vole, including droppings, feeding stations or burrows, were recorded along the section of the River Brit adjacent to the site.</p> <p>The river channel along this section of the river is channelised with concrete walls and does not offer suitable burrowing habitat for water voles. The grassland banks offers some suitable habitat for water vole burrows, however this habitat appears to be regularly mown, which would cause regular disturbance to this species. Therefore, the grassland bank in its current state is considered unsuitable for use by water vole.</p> <p>The concrete wall bounding the site is also considered to pose a significant physical barrier to dispersal which would prevent water vole from accessing the site. The wall also provides an underground barrier to the site if burrows were</p>	<p>Negligible – Despite proximity to the River Brit, due to the lack of suitable burrow-building habitat within the site itself and along the banks of the River Brit along this section of the river, the regularly mown nature of the river bank, and the presence of the concrete wall between the site and the river, no impacts to water vole are anticipated as a result of the development.</p>

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
		<p>present along this section of the bank, although this is considered highly unlikely as reasoned in the above paragraphs.</p> <p>Water vole are considered to be present along the River Brit, however the proposals are highly unlikely to impact water vole, and therefore they are not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
Bats	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5 & 6; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.</p>	<p>DERC returned 58 records comprising at least ten species of bats within 2km of the site, from 2014 to 2019. Species included common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>, soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>, Nathusius' pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>, serotine <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>, noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>, Leisler's <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>, Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>, brown long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>, barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>, and lesser horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>. Records were also returned for unidentified <i>Pipistrellus</i>, <i>Plecotus</i> and <i>Myotis</i> species.</p> <p>The records largely comprised detector recordings and consultants' records and included roosts for serotine, common pipistrelle and brown long-eared. Records for the rarest bat species barbastelle and lesser horseshoe originated from a site within Bridport, north of Orchard Crescent approximately 1.6km north of the site. These records comprised passes recorded by bat detectors during surveys and did not pertain to roosts.</p> <p>Roosting bats:</p> <p>None of the structures (B1 and B2) or trees identified on site during the survey had PRFs and these are therefore considered to have negligible suitability for roosting bats.</p> <p>A search of MAGIC identified two EPSLs for bat roosts within 2km of the site, the closest being 680m east of the site from 2018 which permitted the destruction of a resting place for common pipistrelle (2018-34901-EPS-MIT). The second was located 1.4km to the southwest in Lower Eype, which permitted the destruction of a breeding site for lesser horseshoe bats dating from 2013 (EPSM2013-6578).</p>	<p>Negligible – Bats are not considered to be roosting within the structures on site. The site offers little suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats.</p>

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
		<p>DERC also provided segregated data comprising records for roosts, Annex II bat records and Annex II species roosts – this data is not referred to in detail in this report as (despite the site’s location).</p> <p>Foraging and commuting bats:</p> <p>The habitats within the site itself offer limited suitability for foraging and commuting behaviour, with much of this comprising bare ground, and the site is located within an urbanised area likely to experience frequent disturbance and light pollution from human activity. Despite this, due to the site’s proximity to the River Brit, an abundance of local records, and other suitable habitat available in the immediate surrounding area, the site is considered to have low suitability for foraging and commuting bats. The guidelines (Collins, 2023) state in Table 8.3 “if that habitat has been classified as having low suitability for bats, particularly on small sites with relatively few features, an ecologist should make a professional judgement on how to proceed based on all of the evidence available”. Due to the lack of foraging and commuting habitat on the site itself, further bat surveys have not been recommended.</p>	
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	<p>DERC returned 71 records of birds within 2km of the site between 2014 and 2018. 12 of these were for Red listed species comprising swift <i>Apus apus</i>, herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>, Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>, house martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>, house sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>, starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> and mistle thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>. 47 further records comprised Amber listed species.</p> <p>Scattered trees and lines of trees are present within the site which may offer suitable nesting habitat for common bird species. A feral pigeon nest was observed inside Building 1, and during the site visit the surveyor observed groups of swifts flying near to the site, suggesting the presence of nests in the local area.</p>	Local – the site likely supports common species. Habitat within the site itself is of limited quality to support notable species.
GCN and Common Amphibians	GCN: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside	<p>DERC did not return any records for GCN nor other amphibians within 2km of the site, and MAGIC did not return any EPSLs for GCN within 2km of the site.</p> <p>A review of aerial imagery identified one potential pond within 500m south of the site, however this waterbody appeared to be fed by the river Brit and may be</p>	Negligible - GCN are considered to be absent from the site.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	directly connected. Fast flowing river watercourses are unsuitable for GCN and the site is bound by the river to the east, south and west posing a significant barrier to dispersal. As such, GCN are considered to be absent from the application area.	
Reptiles	<p><i>Smooth snake and sand lizard</i>: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.</p> <p><i>Adder, grass snake, slow worm and common lizard</i>: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.</p>	<p>DERC returned 17 records for reptiles between 2014 and 2017 comprising 12 records of slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>, three for grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i>, one for common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> and one for adder <i>Vipera berus</i>. The closest record to the site was a grass snake at the Watton Park development, 430m to the southwest. These records are isolated from the site by roads, residential development and the river Brit and river Alder. Although rivers are less of a barrier for dispersal for snakes, slow worm and common lizard are unlikely to be able to disperse into the site from the wider landscape. The wall surrounding the site is likely to be a barrier to dispersal for slow worm, into and out of the site.</p> <p>Despite this, the site itself contains grassland and scrub habitats which are considered highly suitable for reptiles. The site also featured a log pile and other man-made debris within the northwest of the site which provides hibernation habitat for reptiles. The site is partially linked to other suitable terrestrial habitat by the boundary habitats within the site and surrounding vegetation to the northwest and east which has connectivity to the wider countryside.</p> <p>The proposals will impact the grassland and scrub habitats on site, therefore further targeted reptile surveys are recommended.</p>	Unknown – Further surveys are recommended to establish presence or likely absence of reptiles at the site.
Invertebrates	Some invertebrates are protected under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	<p>DERC returned 587 records within 2km of the site for invertebrates comprising 74 different species across a variety of families. Six species were listed as being ‘Dorset Rare’ – those which are found in three or less sites in Dorset since 1990.</p> <p>The majority of these comprised field records and individuals caught in light traps. None of the records returned were located within the site.</p>	Negligible – Common invertebrates may be present however the habitats on site are not considered to be of a quality to support notable invertebrates.

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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	Many invertebrates are also listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).	The scrub, grassland and tall ruderal habitats on site are likely to provide shelter and a food resource for common invertebrates but are not thought to be of suitable quality to support notable invertebrate species.	
Invasive species	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9; Environmental Protection Act 1990.	No invasive species were recorded on site during the survey.	Negligible – The site does not support any invasive species.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 MITIGATION AND FURTHER SURVEY

All of the works outlined below in Table 4 should be assumed as likely requirements for the pre-planning stage to inform a planning application, unless otherwise stated.

Table 4. Mitigation and Further Survey / Assessment

Ecological Receptor	Further survey / Assessment	Mitigation required	Opportunity for enhancement
Designated sites	<p>The site is located 2km from the coast and therefore lies within 10km of several coastal European designated sites. There is potential for adverse impacts to the Sidmouth to West Bay, Lyme Bay and Torbay and Chesil & The Fleet SACs resulting from construction activities related to the proposed development, due to the site's proximity to the river Brit which terminates at West Bay and flows into Lyme Bay.</p> <p>The site lies outside of the Chesil & The Fleet protected sites catchment area for nutrient neutrality, therefore a Nutrient Assessment will not be required for the site.</p>	<p>Any mitigation requirements will be detailed in the Appropriate Assessment (AA) as part of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Mitigation measures will need to be implemented to prevent an adverse effect to the integrity of the Designated sites, in line with Policy ENV2 of the Dorset Council Local Plan.</p> <p>Regular liaison with the LPA and Natural England is recommended to progress the scheme and to ensure no negative impacts on the adjacent designated sites.</p>	N/A
Habitats	<p>The majority of the habitats on site have negligible intrinsic value for ecology, with the exception of the scattered trees which are considered to be of local importance.</p> <p>The scrub, grassland and ruderal vegetation on site have the potential to support</p>	<p>Mitigation for all habitats lost through development will be captured within the BNG Assessment for the site, as required by the NPPF, Policy ENV3 of the local plan and Policy L2 of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>Grassland habitat created or retained as part of the landscape scheme must adopt a relaxed mowing scheme and may consider planning of wildflower seed mixes to encourage floristic diversity and a varied</p>

	<p>protected and notable species such as reptiles and nesting birds. The buildings on site have suitability for nesting birds but are of negligible suitability for roosting bats.</p> <p>The proposals indicate the retention of scattered trees across the site however the central line of non-native Leyland cypress will likely be removed. Development of the site will result in the loss of scrub and grassland habitat.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be required to quantify the change in biodiversity value of the site and to demonstrate a minimum of 10% net gain for biodiversity which will help inform the appropriate ecological enhancements for the site. This will ensure the development meets the mandatory governmental requirement, in line with local and national planning policy.</p>	<p>Where on-site gains for biodiversity are not considered to be achievable, off-site mitigation may be required and must be secured via an agreement with the Local Authority.</p>	<p>sward height for invertebrates and other wildlife.</p> <p>Infill planting of retained scrub habitats (where appropriate) is recommended to enhance the site for wildlife.</p>
<p>██████</p>	<p>████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████ ██████████</p>	<p>████</p>	<p>████</p>
<p>Hazel Dormouse</p>	<p>No evidence of hazel dormouse was recorded on site and dormice are considered to be absent from the application area. No further surveys are required.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

South Street, Bridport
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<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Water vole</p>	<p>No evidence of water vole was recorded on site and water vole are considered to be absent from the application area. The concrete defence wall around the western and southern perimeter of the site, adjacent to the river, is considered to be a sufficient dispersal barrier which would block this species from entering the site. No further surveys are required.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Bats</p>	<p>Structures:</p>	<p>In line with BCT guidance for low suitability sites and given the lack of suitable habitat</p>	<p>To enhance the site for roosting bats, it is recommended that integrated bat bricks and are incorporated into sections of the new building walls, in line with the</p>

	<p>The scattered trees and buildings on site have negligible suitability for roosting bats. No further surveys are required.</p> <p>Foraging and Commuting:</p> <p>The habitats on site offer limited suitability for foraging and commuting bats, however the adjacent river Brit and local landscape provide suitable habitat. The site is thus considered to be of low suitability for foraging and commuting bats.</p>	<p>within the site itself, bat activity surveys are not considered to be required.</p> <p>Despite this, there is the potential for impacts on foraging and commuting bats during both the construction and operational phases of the development. Any potential impacts of the development on foraging and commuting bats will be detailed within the DBAP document for the site which must be submitted to Dorset Council NET alongside the planning application.</p> <p>The lighting design for the site must follow guidance from the Institute of Lighting Professionals' (ILP) <i>Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting</i> (ILP, 2023). This will prevent light spill from the site onto the river and adjacent habitats to minimise potential adverse impacts of artificial light at night on foraging and commuting bats.</p> <p>Tree planting along the south and west boundaries of the site will be required to provide a natural screening effect which will further reduce light spill onto the river corridor which may be used by foraging and commuting bats. Screening vegetation must equally be planted within areas of the design scheme where site access and parking spaces will lie adjacent to the boundary habitat, to help reduce the</p>	<p>conservation objectives for bats within local planning policy.</p> <p>In line with Policy ENV1 of the local plan and Policy L5 of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, the green infrastructure network i.e. the River Brit and rural landscape surrounding the site will be protected and enhanced to improve connectivity of the site and protect intrinsically dark commuting and foraging habitats for nocturnal wildlife.</p>
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		potential for light spill from car headlights and other human activities. Additional tree planting for wildlife also relates to Policies L2 and L5 of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.	
Birds	The buildings, scattered trees, scrub and lines of trees on site have the potential to support nesting birds.	<p>Prior to the removal of any buildings (with suitable features for nesting birds), trees, and mixed scrub on site, a pre-commencement check for the presence of nesting birds within these features is recommended if the works are to be conducted during the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive).</p> <p>If works are to be conducted outside of this period, then it is not considered necessary for the check to be completed before removal.</p>	<p>To accommodate future nesting sites due to the loss of potential nesting habitat within Building 1 and vegetation on site, integrated bird boxes will be required.</p> <p>It is recommended that integrated swift bricks are installed within the proposed buildings, as swifts have been observed at the site. These measures will be detailed within the DBAP to ensure the development adheres to relevant wildlife legislation and provides enhancements for biodiversity in line with the NPPF and local plan.</p>
GCN and Common Amphibians	No evidence of GCN was recorded on site and this species is considered to be absent from the application area. No further surveys are required.	N/A	N/A
Reptiles	The grassland, ruderal and scrub habitats on site have the potential to support reptiles.	It is recommended that reptile presence / likely absence surveys are carried out at the site. The optimum period for reptile surveys is April to May inclusive and September, comprising seven checks which should be spaced evenly across the active reptile season. Surveys can only be	Mitigation and enhancement recommendations will be guided by the results of the reptile surveys.

South Street, Bridport
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		carried out in suitable conditions with temperatures between 9°C and 17°C, and no heavy rain.	
Invertebrates	Due to the lack of natural diverse habitats on site it is considered unlikely that the site supports an important population of notable invertebrates.	N/A	It is recommended that bee bricks are incorporated into the new building on site, and native flowering plants are incorporated into the landscape plan, to enhance the site for invertebrates. This will ensure the proposals meet the objectives of the NPPF, policies ENV1 and ENV3 of the Dorset Council Local Plan and policies L2 and L5 of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan
Invasive species	No invasive species were recorded on site.	N/A	N/A

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

In the absence of mitigation, the development proposals are anticipated to cause Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on nearby European designated sites, therefore an Appropriate Assessment as part of a HRA will be required to identify the possible impact pathways and the mitigation required. There is the potential for works to affect the Sidmouth to West Bay, Lyme Bay and Torbay, and Chesil & The Fleet SACs which all lie within 10km of the site and given its proximity and the presence of the river Brit which acts as a potential hydrological link and may allow mobilised sediments and chemicals to be transported downstream and cause pollution.

The majority of habitats on site are of negligible ecological importance, however Building 1, and the scrub and trees have the potential to support common species of nesting birds. In addition, the grassland and scrub on site have the potential to support reptiles.

Key recommendations of the report are:

- An Appropriate Assessment as part of a HRA due to the site being within 10km of – and having hydrological connectivity to – the Sidmouth to West Bay, Lyme Bay and Torbay, and Chesil & The Fleet SACs. The Appropriate Assessment will be required to show that suitable mitigation is in place to allow the competent authority to be certain that no adverse effect to the integrity of the Habitats sites will occur;
- Mitigation and enhancement to compensate for the loss of habitats on site, which will be reflected in the DBAP (after the completion of any further surveys required);
- A BNG assessment to show a minimum of 10% net gain for biodiversity on site;
- Reptile presence / likely absence surveys;
- Nesting bird check of any vegetation or structures to be removed prior to the works, if carried out in nesting bird season;
- Precommencement otter survey;
- Lighting plan to be devised in accordance with guidance from the ILP;
- Fencing to be installed around the site boundaries prior to construction to prevent otter entering the site; and
- Enhancements including the installation of bat, swift and bee bricks within the new building on site in line with national and local planning policy.

Provided the measures within this report for further survey and mitigation are adopted, the development proposals are considered to be compliant with local and national planning policy.

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FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Figure 2.1 – International Sites within 10km

Figure 2.2 – National Sites within 2km

Figure 2.3 – Priority Habitats within 1km

Figure 3 – UKHab Classification Map



Site Location Plan

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Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

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Figure No. 1

Revision No. A

10 April 2024

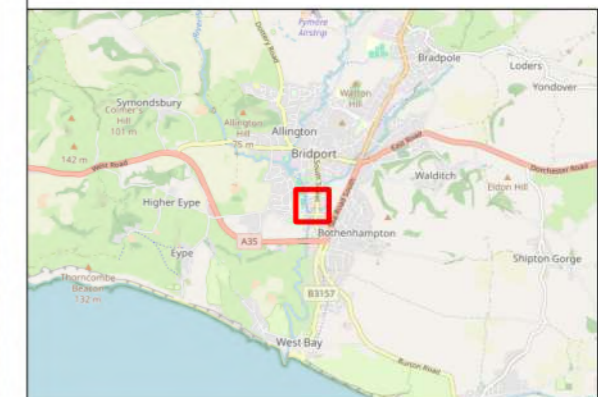
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Scale 1:1,500 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 346518E 92268N

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International Sites within 10km

South Street, Bridport



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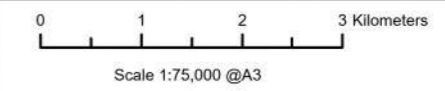
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- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (10km)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Ramsar

Notes:

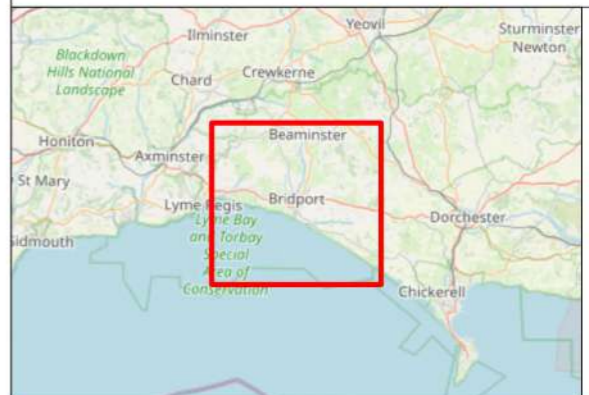
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British National Grid
 NGR: 346504E 92263N

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National Sites within 2km

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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

Notes:

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0 200 400 600 800 Meters

British National Grid

Scale 1:16,000 @A3

NGR: 346518E 92268N

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Priority Habitats within 1km

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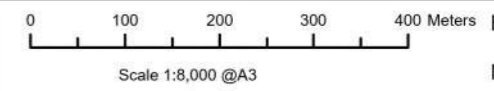
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (1km)
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Traditional orchard
- Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat

Notes:

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 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 2.3
 Revision No. A
 10 April 2024

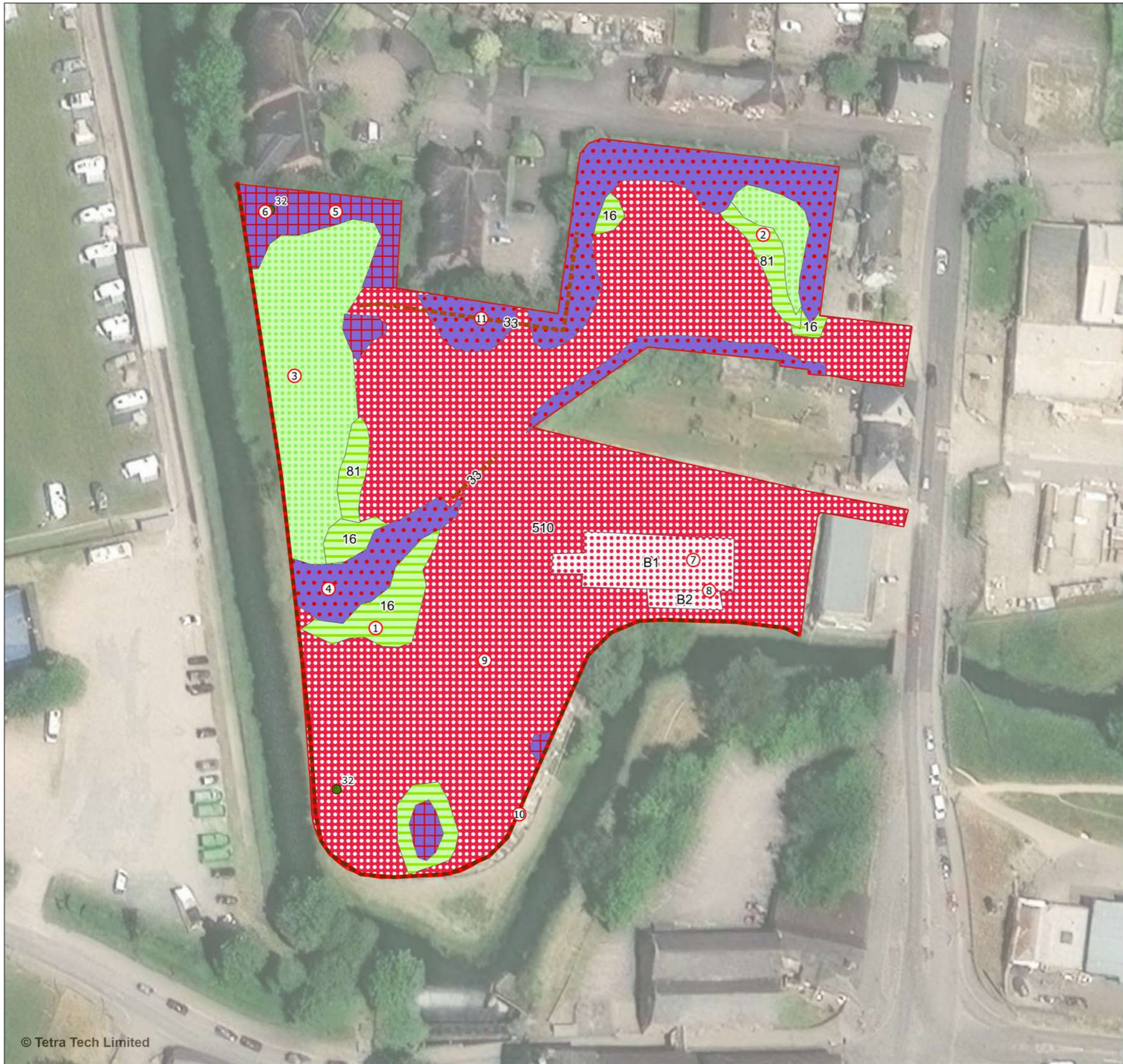


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UKHab Classification Map

South Street, Bridport

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Legend

- Site Boundary
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g3c5 - Arrhenatherum neutral grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- u1e - Built linear feature
- w2c - Other coniferous woodland
- Scattered tree
- Target notes

Secondary codes:

- 16 - tall forbs
- 32 - scattered trees
- 33 - line of trees
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 510 - bare ground

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

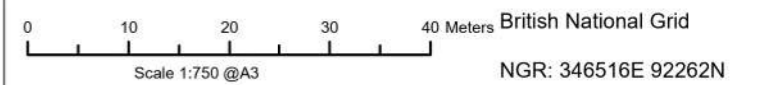
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Office: Southampton

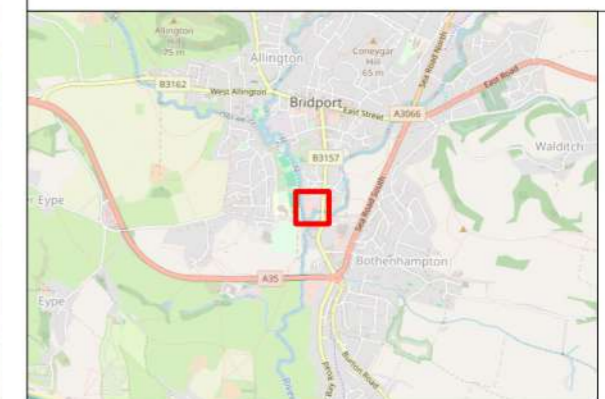
Figure No. 3

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

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The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections'. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The “shelf life” of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client’s instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.


Tetra Tech reserves the right to share this Report and any related materials, surveys, drawings and/or documents at any time with the relevant Local Ecological Records Centre (LREC), any relevant statutory body or any equivalent organisation as Tetra Tech may reasonably require from time-to-time.



The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.




APPENDIX B: TARGET NOTES & SURVEY DATA




Target Notes*

*Species lists are given along with the DAFOR scale of relative species abundance; Dominant, Abundant, Frequent Occasional and Rare.

Target Note	Description	Photographic Plates
TN1	<p><u>Other neutral grassland – tall forbs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black mustard <i>Brassica nigra</i> (A) • Horsetail <i>Equisetum arvense</i> (F) • Red valerian <i>Centranthus ruber</i> (O) • Rosebay willowherb <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> (F) • Common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> (O) • Purple toadflax <i>Linaria purpurea</i> (O) • Cleavers (LO) • Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> (R) • Hedge bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium</i> (LF) • Opium poppy <i>Papaver somniferum</i> (LF) 	
TN2	<p><u>Other neutral grassland – ruderal / ephemeral</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creeping cinquefoil (F) • Dandelion (P) • Annual meadow grass (O) • Ragwort (F) • Perennial ryegrass (LF) • Bristly oxtongue <i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> (F) • Field speedwell <i>Veronica persica</i> (F) • Ivy <i>Hedera</i> spp. (O) • Curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>. (F) 	

<p>TN3</p>	<p><u>Arrhenatherum neutral grassland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (O) • False oat grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (LD) • Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> (O) • Perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> (LD) • Ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (F) • Greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> (F) • Common catsear <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> (O) • Dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i> <i>agg.</i> (LF) • Creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> (LO) • Hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> (LO) • Creeping cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i> (LF) • Slender St John's wort <i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> (O) • Prickly sow thistle <i>Sonchus asper</i> (A) • Ragwort <i>Jacobea vulgaris</i> (O) • Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> (O) • Black medick <i>Medicago lupulina</i> (F) • Common vetch <i>Vicia sativa</i> (R) • Sterile brome <i>Bromus sterilis</i> (LO) • Water bent <i>Polypogon viridis</i> (LO) • Annual beard grass <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> (R) 	
<p>TN4</p>	<p><u>Bramble scrub</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> <i>agg.</i> (D) • Goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> (R) 	

TN5	<p><u>Mixed scrub</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Butterfly bush <i>buddleja davidii</i> (D)• Bramble <i>Rubus futicosus</i> agg.(D)• Dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> (F)• Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (O)• Himalayan honeysuckle <i>Leycesteria Formosa</i> (R)• Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (R)	
TN6	<p><u>Scattered Trees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> (R)• Willow species <i>Salix</i> sp. (R)	
TN7	<p><u>Building 1 - corrugated hanger</u></p>	

		
TN8	<u>Building 2 – single storey office</u>	
TN9	<u>Bare ground</u>	

TN10	Built linear feature – concrete / brick wall	
TN11	<u>Other coniferous woodland / Line of trees</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leyland cypress <i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>	

APPENDIX C: KEY LEGISLATION

Habitats Directive

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or the 'Habitats Directive', is a European Union directive adopted in 1992 in response to the Bern Convention. Its aims are to protect approximately 220 habitats and 1,000 species listed in its several Annexes.

In the UK, the Habitats Directive is transposed into national law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, and via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.

Birds Directive

The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/1409/EEC) or 'Birds Directive' was introduced to achieve favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distribution range. In this context, the most important provision is the identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I or II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the European Commission. These sites, if ratified by Ministers, are then designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within six years. Public bodies must also help preserve, maintain and re-establish habitats for wild birds.

The 2018 amendments mainly related to the impact of the *People Over Wind* decision and some implications arising for neighbourhood plan development and a range of other planning tools including Local Development Orders and Permission in Principle – see here for full details:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1307/note/made>

The 2019 amendments related to the EU exit. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant. The obligations of a competent authority in the 2017 Regulations for the protection of sites or species do not change.– see here for full details:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573>

The Regulations make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 5.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in the UK. This legislation is the chief means by which the 'Bern Convention' and the Birds Directive are implemented in the UK. Since it was first introduced, the Act has been amended several times.

The Act makes it an offence to (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) intentionally:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Or to intentionally do the following to a wild bird listed in Schedule 1:

- disturbs any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- disturbs dependent young of such a bird.

In addition, the Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal listed on Schedule 5;
- interfere with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places; and
- The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals.

Finally, the Act also makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to: intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, or any seed or spore attached to any such wild plant; unless an authorised person, intentionally uproot any wild plant not included in Schedule 8; or sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Following all amendments to the Act, Schedule 5 'Animals which are Protected' contains a total of 154 species of animal, including several mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Schedule 8 'Plants which are Protected' of the Act, contains 185 species, including higher plants, bryophytes and fungi and lichens. A comprehensive and up-to-date list of these species can be obtained from the JNCC website.

Part 14 of the Act makes unlawful to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant which is listed in Part II of Schedule 9.

It is recommended that plant material of these species is disposed of as bio-hazardous waste, and these plants should not be used in planting schemes.

Environment Protection Act 1990

The Act imposes a classification of soil and other waste containing viable propagules of invasive non-native plant species as controlled waste. This has been applied to Japanese Knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, with the result that waste containing this species must be disposed of in accordance with the duty of care set out in section 34 of the Act.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

The main legislation protecting badgers in England and Wales is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (the 1992 Act). Under the 1992 Act it is an offence to: wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger; dig for a badger; interfere with a badger sett by, damaging a sett or any part thereof, destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett, causing a dog to enter a sett or disturbing a badger while occupying a sett. The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as: “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 41 (S41) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list (in consultation with Natural England) of Habitats and Species which are of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal (e.g. planning) functions. The S41 list includes 65 Habitats of Principal Importance and 1,150 Species of Principal Importance.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations were made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into force in 1997. They introduced new arrangements for local planning authorities in England and Wales to protect important hedgerows in the countryside, by controlling their removal through a system of notification. Important hedgerows are defined by complex assessment criteria, which draw on biodiversity features, historical context and the landscape value of the hedgerow.

Birds of Conservation Concern

This is a review of the status of all birds occurring regularly in the United Kingdom. It is regularly updated and is prepared by leading bird conservation organisations, including the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The latest report was produced in 2021 (Eaton *et al*, 2021) and identified 70 red list species, 103 amber species, and 72 green species. The criteria are complex, but generally:

Red list species are those that have shown a decline of the breeding population, non-breeding population or breeding range of more than 50% in the last 25 years.

Amber list species are those that have shown a decline of the breeding population, non-breeding population or breeding range of between 25% and 50% in the last 25 years. Species that have a UK breeding population of less than 300 or a non-breeding population of less than 900 individuals are also included, together with those whose 50% of the population is localised in 10 sites or fewer and those whose 20% of the European population is found in the UK.

Green list species are all regularly occurring species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria are green listed.

Global IUCN Red List

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Threatened Species was devised to provide a list of those species that are most at risk of becoming extinct globally. It provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information about threatened taxa around the globe.

The system catalogues threatened species into groups of varying levels of threat, which are: Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), Critically Endangered (CE), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC), Data Deficient (DD), Not Evaluated (NE). Criteria for designation into each of the categories is complex, and consider several principles.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level), and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Some LBAP's may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision making process.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

This Act offers protection to all wild species of mammals, irrespective of other legislation, and focussed on animal welfare, rather than conservation.

Unless covered by one of the exceptions, a person is guilty of an offence if he mutilates, kicks, beats, nails or otherwise impales, stabs, burns, stones, crushes, drowns, drags or asphyxiates any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

Its application is typically restricted to preventing deliberate harm to wildlife (in general) during construction works etc.

National Planning Policy Framework

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the top tier of planning policy. The Framework provides guidance to local authorities and other agencies on planning policy and the operation of the planning system. Section 15 relates to 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'.

Relevant policies in relation to planning application include Paragraphs:

"180. 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; 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.

185. 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 biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and

local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and 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.

186. 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 reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and 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." – see here for full details:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2036 (Bridport Town Council, 2020).

<p>POLICY L1 Green Corridors, Footpaths, Surrounding Hills & Skylines</p>	<p>1. Proposals must preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Dorset AONB by: a. Being located on sites that do not adversely affect the wider landscape setting.</p>
<p>POLICY L2 Biodiversity</p>	<p>1. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they will provide a net gain in biodiversity and, where feasible, habitats and species, on the site, over and above the existing biodiversity situation. 2. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (For example through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will not be supported. 3. Wildlife corridors and important habitats have been identified on Maps 7, 8 and 9 and proposals that would result in their loss or harm to their character, setting, accessibility, appearance, quality, or amenity value should be avoided.</p>
<p>POLICY L5</p>	<p>Appropriate to the scale of development, proposals for new housing development should:</p>

Enhancement of the environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include good quality outdoor space, both private and community gardens, and contribute to providing tree cover and improving biodiversity and. 2. Make provision for green infrastructure.
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West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Adopted Local Plan 2011-2031 (Dorset Council, 2015).

<p>POLICY ENV2 Wildlife and Habitats</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Internationally designated wildlife sites (including proposed sites and sites acquired for compensatory measures), will be safeguarded from development that could adversely affect them, unless there are reasons of overriding public interest why the development should proceed and there is no alternative acceptable solution. II. Development that is likely to have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Poole Harbour and Dorset Heaths International designations will only be permitted where there is provision to avoid, or secure effective mitigation of, the potential adverse effects in accordance with the strategy in Table 2.2. III. Development that is likely to have an adverse effect upon nationally designated wildlife sites will not be permitted unless the benefits, in terms of other objectives, clearly outweigh the impacts on the special features of the site and broader nature conservation interests and there is no alternative acceptable solution. IV. In other locations, including locally identified wildlife sites and water-bodies, where significant harm to nature conservation interests cannot be avoided, it should be mitigated. Where it cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensation will result in the maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity otherwise development will not be permitted. Features of nature conservation interest should be safeguarded by development. V. Proposals that would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodlands and veteran trees, will be refused unless the need for and public benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss. VI. Proposals that conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported. Opportunities to incorporate and enhance biodiversity in and around developments will be encouraged. Development of major sites should take opportunities to help connect and improve the wider ecological networks. VII. Development that is likely to have an adverse effect on internationally protected species will not be permitted unless there are reasons of overriding public interest why the development should proceed and there is no alternative acceptable solution. Development on sites supporting other protected species will only be permitted where adequate provision can be made for the retention of the species or their safe relocation.
<p>POLICY ENV3 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The councils will work together with local communities and other relevant partners to develop a green infrastructure strategy for the plan area. II. Development that would cause harm to the green infrastructure network or undermine the reasons for an area's inclusion within the network will not be permitted unless clearly outweighed by other considerations. III. Development proposals that promote geodiversity and biodiversity within this network of spaces and provide improved access and recreational use (where appropriate) should be supported.
<p>POLICY ENV10 THE LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE SETTING</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. All development proposals should contribute positively to the maintenance and enhancement of local identity and distinctiveness. Development should be informed by the character of the site and its surroundings. II. Development will provide for the future retention and protection of trees and other features that contribute to an area's distinctive character. Such features may not always be designated or otherwise formally recognised. III. Development should only be permitted where it provides sufficient hard and soft landscaping to successfully integrate with the character of the site and its surrounding area. IV. Opportunities to incorporate features that would enhance local character, including public art, or that relate to the historical, ecological or geological interest of a site, should be taken where appropriate.