

**CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION AREA,
WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Final Document

March 2017

Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Protected Species Surveys and Licensing • NVC • EclA • Management Plans
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Hazel Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species


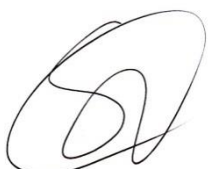
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¹ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2015). *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*. Technical Guidance Series. <http://www.cieem.net/publications/23/ecological-report-writing>

² www.cieem.net

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken in January 2017 at the Central Winchester Regeneration Area, Winchester, Hampshire. The exact proposals for the site and timescales are currently unknown, however it is understood that the proposals are for the future redevelopment of the area.
- The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken to ascertain the potential for protected habitats and species to be present within the site.
- The site is situated in an urban location in central Winchester, Hampshire. The site itself covers approximately 6.3 hectares (ha) and largely comprises buildings and hardstanding with small areas of amenity grassland, introduced shrub and scattered trees.
- The site has potential to support roosting bats, foraging and commuting bats, commuting otter and breeding birds.
- Recommendations have been made for further surveys in relation to roosting bats in order to fully assess the potential impacts of any forthcoming development proposals on this species group.
- In order to prevent impacts on nesting birds any vegetation clearance or building demolition should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season, or if not possible, an ecologist should be present on site prior to vegetation clearance works, to identify any nests which, if present, will need to be left with a suitable buffer until nesting ends.
- Any forthcoming scheme should include enhancement measures such as native species landscaping, enhancements to the watercourse and new bat and bird boxes.
- If works have not commenced by January 2019, it is recommended that the ecological appraisal is updated. This is because many of the species considered during the current survey are highly mobile and the ecology of the site is likely to change over this period. If the planning application boundary changes or the proposals for the site alter, a re-assessment of the impacts may be required.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been contracted by Winchester City Council to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Central Winchester Regeneration Area, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8AF. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4842 2945 (**Map 1**).

This report presents the findings of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal carried out by ECOSA in January 2017.

1.2 Aims and Scope of Report

This report is a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. According to CIEEM guidelines¹, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal “*can be used as a scoping report (for non-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) projects), but should not be submitted as part of a planning application unless it can be determined that the project would have no significant ecological effects, no mitigation is required and no further surveys are necessary.*”

This report is based on an extended Phase 1 habitat survey and desktop study aimed at assessing the suitability of the site to support notable habitats and protected species. This information allows an initial assessment of the biodiversity value of the site to be made, potential constraints to the proposed development to be identified and mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to be developed.

The report assesses the compliance of the scheme with relevant local and national planning policy and addresses any potential impacts on legally protected species and habitats. Where potential for notable or protected species is identified, further survey/study/consultation may be required to determine presence/likely absence and assess the conservation status of populations or assemblages present. The results of such work would be needed to fully assess the potential ecological impacts of the scheme.

1.3 Site Setting and Description

The Central Winchester Regeneration Area site is situated in the Hampshire Downs National Character Area, described by Natural England as follows³:

³ National Character Areas (NCA) are defined by Natural England as ‘areas defined at the national level, which describe the geographical, ecological and historical variations in landscape character that make one area different from another. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.’ (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making> - Natural England, first published 30th September 2014).

“The Hampshire Downs are part of the central southern England belt of Chalk, rising to 297 m in the north-west on the Hampshire–Wiltshire border. A steep scarp face delineates the Downs to the north, overlooking the Thames Basin, and to the east, overlooking the Weald. The majority of the area is an elevated, open, rolling landscape dominated by large arable fields with low hedgerows on thin chalk soils, scattered woodland blocks (mostly on clay with-flint caps) and shelterbelts. To the east hedgerows are often overgrown and there are larger blocks of woodland. A fifth of the area is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 6 per cent in the South Downs National Park due to the scenic quality of the landscape. Flower- and invertebrate-rich remnants of calcareous grassland remain mostly along the northern scarp and on isolated commons throughout.

The Chalk is a large and important aquifer; hence groundwater protection and source inerrability designations cover most of the area, and catchment sensitive farming – to control pollution, run-off and soil erosion – is a vital activity. The aquifer feeds several small streams flowing north and east, but the dominant catchment of the area is that of the rivers Test and Itchen, which flow in straight-sided, relatively deeply incised valleys across most of the National Character Area. The Itchen is a Special Area of Conservation and, with the Test, is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. These rivers, with the water meadows, peat soils, mires and fens of their flood plains, are the most important habitats of the area. The valleys are also home to the main settlements, the local road system and important economic activities such as watercress growing and fly fishing.”

The site is situated in an urban location in central Winchester, Hampshire. Beyond Winchester lie areas of open countryside, fields and associated hedgerows, interspersed with areas of copse, woodland and small villages and towns.

The site itself covers approximately 6.3 hectares (ha) and largely comprises buildings and hardstanding with small areas of amenity grassland, introduced shrub and scattered trees. The River Itchen runs through the eastern section of the site. The site is bounded to the south, west and north by commercial buildings and shops and to the east by residential development.

1.4 Site Proposals

The exact proposals for the site and timescales are currently unknown. It is understood that the proposals are for the future redevelopment of the area. The aim of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was to identify key ecological constraints as part of any forthcoming proposals. For the purposes for this report it is assumed that the proposals would entail the demolition of a number of buildings and the

construction of replacement residential and commercial units. It is assumed that construction would have commenced by January 2019.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

This section details the methods, and any associated limitations, used during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken for Central Winchester Regeneration Area, Winchester, Hampshire.

2.2 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence⁴ is the area encompassing all predicted negative ecological effects from the proposed scheme and is informed by the habitats present within the site and the nature of the proposals. Due to the scale and nature of the proposals, it is considered that a zone of 1km from the centre of the site is appropriate for the gathering of information for the desk study. For the extended Phase 1 habitat survey the area within the red line boundary was considered appropriate.

2.3 Desk-Based Assessment Methods

2.3.1 Biological Records Centre

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) was consulted on 10th January 2017 for information on non-statutory designated sites and protected and notable species in the vicinity of the site. The search radius was established based on the size nature and location of the site and nature of the proposals. **Table 1** details the search distances used.

Table 1: Biological records centre search distances

Receptor	Search Distance
Non-Statutory Site	1km
Protected Species	1km
Bats	2km

2.3.2 Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)⁵ database was accessed on 8th February 2017 in order to establish the presence of statutory designated sites located within the vicinity of the site. This included a search for all internationally and nationally designated sites such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar sites, Sites of Special

⁴ The Zone of Influence (ZOI) is defined by IEEM (now CIEEM) as being the “areas / resources that may be affected by the biophysical changes caused by activities”.

⁵ <http://defra.magic.gov.uk>

Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within 1km of the site. Where appropriate, the desk study search area has been extended to take account of any appropriate statutory designated sites which need consideration in terms of potential in-direct impacts and which support particularly mobile species.

2.3.3 Other Sources of Information

Online mapping resources, at an appropriate scale, were used to identify the presence of habitats such as woodland blocks, watercourse and hedgerows, in proximity to the site.

Online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000 were used to identify the presence of ponds or other waterbodies within a 500 metre (m) radius of the site. The 500m is a standardised search radius to assist in the assessment of the potential of a site and its surrounding habitat to support great crested newt, based on current Natural England guidance⁶.

2.4 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Methods

The extended Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out on 25th January 2017. The survey involved a walkover of the site to identify the habitat types present and to record evidence of the more commonly encountered protected species. The scope of the protected species was based on the habitats present with particular reference to bats, otter *Lutra lutra*, badger *Meles meles*, dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, birds, reptiles, great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* and invertebrates. The potential for the site to support other protected and notable species was also considered as part of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Details of the species-specific appraisal methods are given below.

2.4.1 Vegetation

An assessment was made of all areas of vegetation within the site based on the standardised Phase 1 survey methodology⁷. This involved a walkover survey to identify broad vegetation types, which were then classified against Phase 1 habitat types, where appropriate. A list of characteristic plant species for each vegetation type was also compiled and any invasive species⁸ encountered as an incidental result of the survey are noted.

2.4.2 Bats

An assessment was made of the suitability of buildings and trees on the site and immediately on the site boundary to support roosting bats based on the presence of

⁶ English Nature (2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. Peterborough

⁷ JNCC (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit – Field manual

⁸ Plant species included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

features such as loose or missing roof tiles or lifted lead flashing for buildings and holes, cracks, splits, loose bark and ivy cladding for trees. An assessment was made of the suitability of the site and the surrounding landscape to support foraging and/or commuting bat species. The survey conformed to current Bat Conservation Trust guidelines⁹.

2.4.3 Otter

The banks of streams or rivers on or adjacent to the site were assessed for their potential to support otter by reference to bank structure and the bank side vegetation. During the survey attention was paid to the presence of spraints, footprints, or any evidence of the presence of a holt.

2.4.4 Badger

The survey involved a detailed investigation of the site to identify evidence of badger residence, foraging or territorial activity. Particular emphasis was placed on locating badger setts, paths, and signs of territorial activity such as latrine sites both on-site and within immediately adjacent areas where access was possible.

2.4.5 Dormouse

The assessment for the potential of the site to support dormouse was based on an assessment of habitat features that may indicate that dormice are present on the study area. This includes the presence of food sources such as common hazel *Corylus avellana* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. Additionally, the species requires a continuum of food supply so that habitat structure, diversity and connectivity to adjacent areas of woodland/scrub are important features for determining the potential presence of dormice.

2.4.6 Water Vole

The banks streams or rivers on or adjacent to the site were assessed for their potential to support water vole by reference to bank structure and the bank side vegetation. Water voles generally require sloping banks in which to burrow and well developed bank side vegetation to provide shelter and food. During the survey attention was paid to the presence of burrows, latrines, feeding remains, trails and footprints.

2.4.7 Birds

The assessment of breeding birds and wintering birds on the site was based on the suitability of habitat present, evidence of nesting such as old or currently active nests and the presence of bird species that may potentially nest within the available habitat.

⁹ Collins, J. (Ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Third Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

2.4.8 Reptiles

The reptile survey was based on an assessment of the suitability of habitat present within the site to support a population of reptiles. Reptiles particularly favour scrub and grassland interfaces and the presence of these is a good indication that reptiles may be present on-site. In addition, reptiles may utilise features such as bare ground for basking, tussocky grassland for shelter and compost heaps and rubble piles for breeding and/or hibernating.

2.4.9 Great Crested Newt

The assessment of the site to support great crested newts included establishing the presence of suitable aquatic habitats such as ponds within or adjacent to the site and the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat. Ponds that are densely shaded, highly eutrophic or that contain fish are likely to be less suitable for this species.

In addition, online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000 were used to identify the presence of ponds or other waterbodies within a 500 metre (m) radius of the site. The 500m is a standardised search radius to assist in the assessment of the potential of a site and its surrounding habitat to support this species, based on current Natural England guidance¹⁰.

2.4.10 Invertebrates

An assessment was made of the site for its potential value to support diverse communities of invertebrates. The assessment was made based on the presence of habitat features which may support important invertebrate communities. These features include, for example, an abundance of dead wood, the presence of diverse plant communities, the presence of varied woodland structure and sunny woodland edges with a diverse flora, presence of ponds and water courses and the presence of free draining soil exposures. During the Phase 1 survey there was no attempt made to identify species present and where a site supports features that may be of importance to invertebrates then further Phase 2 surveys may be required to assess the importance of the site.

2.4.11 Other Relevant Species

An assessment was made for the potential of the site to support other notable species such as more rarely encountered protected species, United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)¹¹ species and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species, specific to the study region.

¹⁰ English Nature (2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. Peterborough

¹¹ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>

2.5 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Details

The extended Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out by Richard Chilcott of ECOSA on 25th January 2017. The weather conditions were Overcast with approximately 100% cloud cover, an ambient temperature of 0°C and no wind.

During the survey, the surveyor was equipped with a ladder, 10x40 binoculars, a high powered torch and a digital camera.

2.6 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Limitations

Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year, migration patterns and behaviour. The field survey has therefore not produced a complete list of plants and animals and in the absence of evidence of any particular species should not be taken as conclusive proof that the species is not present or that it will not be present in the future.

The onsite buildings within the red line boundary were not accessible to the surveyor at the time of survey (with the exception of Building 1) and as a result of the lack of access these areas are yet to be surveyed for the presence/absence of bats. The assessment of the potential of each building to support roosting bats was only undertaken from publically accessible locations. Therefore, this should only be taken as a high level assessment in order to inform further survey work necessary at the site.

Not all potential bat roosting features are accessible to the surveyor, e.g. gaps beneath roof materials or holes or cracks in trees, and therefore assessments are based upon the potential for these features to provide suitable roosting opportunities.

It is not always possible to provide definitive assessments of a species' presence/likely absence at a site and so in the absence of direct evidence, assessments and recommendations are based on the presence of suitable habitat within/adjacent to a site and the results of species records within the desk study data.

It should be noted that at the time of the preparation of this report the full extent of the development works were not known and therefore the impacts and mitigation/compensation measures presented are entirely provisional at this stage. There will be a requirement to consider these elements in more detail as the project progresses.

The desk study data mainly originates from ad-hoc surveys by volunteers and other records from members of the public. Therefore the data search results cannot be taken as an exhaustive list of species present in the area.

2.7 Initial Protected Species Assessment

As part of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, the assessment criteria is based on the potential for the site to support the species considered, this is usually based on habitat features, their suitability for the species and the results of any desk study data obtained as part of the appraisal. However, in many cases, Phase 2 surveys will be required to assess the status of species and hence the importance of a population at the site. Therefore, the assessment should be considered a provisional assessment. **Table 2** defines the criteria used to assess the potential of the site to support protected species.

2.8 Criteria used to Assess Ecological Value

The ecological values provided within this report are based around both professional judgement and current published relevant guidance, including information sources such as *A Nature Conservation Review*¹² and *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom*¹³.

¹² Ratcliffe, D. (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review*. Cambridge University Press

¹³ IEEM (2006) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK*

Table 2: Criteria used to assess ecological potential

	Bats ¹⁴		Other Protected Species ¹⁵
	Description of Roosting Habitats	Commuting and Foraging Habitats	
Species Present	Evidence of bat presence confirmed during survey, which may include presence of live or dead bats, droppings, feeding remains or urine stains etc. Where possible, a provisional assessment of roost status is made.	In some instances, bat presence can be confirmed from trees e.g. where staining or droppings are visible; where roosting bats have been observed entering/emerging from a tree; or where roosting bats can be heard.	The presence of a protected species can sometimes be confirmed by evidence recorded, for example guard hairs or latrines for badger or hazel nuts gnawed in the characteristic style for dormice.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the status of the species present.		
High Potential	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.	On-site habitat is of high quality for a species or species group. The site is within or near a geographic stronghold. Good quality surrounding habitat and good connectivity.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the presence/likely absence of the species.		
Medium Potential	A structure of tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.	On-site habitat is of moderate quality, providing most of the species/species group requirements. Limiting factors may include small habitat area or disturbance.
	If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the presence/likely absence of the species.		

¹⁴ The criteria are an attempt to qualify the potential for a given building or tree to support roosting bats and are to a degree subjective. Bats may make use of a single feature on an otherwise unsuitable building or tree and therefore an assessment of bat potential cannot solely be based on the quantity of potential roost features present. Taken from Collins, J. (Ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Third Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

¹⁵ Badger, dormouse, birds, reptiles, great crested newt, invertebrates, other notable species

	Bats ¹⁴		Other Protected Species ¹⁵
	Description of Roosting Habitats	Commuting and Foraging Habitats	
Low Potential	<p>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically/structure that does not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation).</p> <p>A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roost features but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.</p>	<p>Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerows or un-vegetated stream, but isolated (i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat).</p> <p>Suitable, but isolated, habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree or a patch or scrub.</p>	<p>On-site habitat is of poor to moderate quality for the species or group. Presence cannot be discounted on the basis of distribution, isolation, surrounding habitats, etc.</p>
	<p>If species are likely to be affected by the proposals, further Phase 2 surveys will be required to establish the presence/likely absence of the species.</p>		
Negligible Potential	<p>Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.</p>	<p>Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.</p>	<p>Site includes very limited or poor quality habitat for the species /group; surrounding habitat is unlikely to support wider populations.</p>
	<p>Further Phase 2 surveys are unlikely to be required as species is unlikely to be present.</p>		

3.0 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Introduction

This section details the results of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken for Central Winchester Regeneration Area, Winchester, Hampshire.

3.2 Desktop Study

3.2.1 Protected Species

A number of protected species have been recorded within a 1km radius of the site and a number of bat species within a 2km radius of the site. These are discussed further within the relevant results section below¹⁶.

3.2.2 Statutory Designated Sites

There are two statutory designated sites of nature conservation situated within a 1km radius of the site. The nearest of which is the River Itchen SSSI and SAC located approximately 30m east of the site. Details of these designations are provided in **Table 3**. Further information on sites designated for nature conservation is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the site.

Designation	Name	Approximate Relative Location	Reason for Designation
SSSI	River Itchen	30m east	This site is notified for classic chalk stream and river, fen meadow, flood pasture and swamp habitats, particularly formations of in-channel vegetation dominated by water crowfoot <i>Ranunculus</i> species, riparian vegetation communities (including wet woodlands) and side channels, runnels and ditches associated with the main river and former water meadows. The site is also notified for significant populations of the nationally-rare southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> and assemblages of nationally-rare and scarce freshwater and riparian invertebrates, including the white-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> . This site is notified for otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> , water vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> , freshwater fishes including bullhead <i>Cottius gobbo</i> , brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> and Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> , and the assemblage of breeding birds including tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> and shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> , the waders lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> and snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> , and wetland passerines including sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> , reed warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> and Cetti's warbler <i>Cettia cettia</i> .

¹⁶ The full data set is available on request from ECOSA.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the site.

Designation	Name	Approximate Relative Location	Reason for Designation
SAC	River Itchen	30m east	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation. <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southern damselfly; and ▪ Bullhead. <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White-clawed crayfish; ▪ Brook lamprey ▪ Atlantic salmon; and ▪ Otter

3.3 Vegetation

The vegetation within the site is described here in general terms using Phase 1 habitat survey terminology and refers to dominant, characteristic and other noteworthy species in each vegetation type within the survey area. The habitats on site are shown on **Map 2**. The habitat types on site consist of:

- Scattered trees;
- Semi-improved grassland;
- Running water;
- Amenity grassland;
- Introduced shrub;
- Bare ground; and
- Buildings and hardstanding.

3.3.1 Scattered trees

A number of scattered trees are present throughout the site particularly on the pavements of roads. Species present include alder *Alnus glutinosa*, London plane *Platanus x hispanica*, apple *Malus* species, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, yew *Taxus baccata* and lime *Tilia* species.

3.3.2 Improved grassland

A thin section of improved grassland is present on the eastern and southern edges of the bus station car park (**Figure 1**). The grassland is subject to limited management with species present including perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog

Holcus lanatus, daisy *Bellis perennis*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* aggregate, ivy *Hedera helix*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* with small areas of butterfly bush *Buddleia davidii*.



Figure 1: Improved grassland adjacent to Winchester Bus Station looking north

3.3.3 *Running water*

A channel of the River Itchen runs along the eastern section of the site through Building 1 (the medical centre) and then continues to flow south along the eastern boundary of the bus station car park (**Figure 1** and **Figure 2**) leading into a culvert. The water course is largely engineered containing substrate banks with no vegetation recorded at the time of survey in January 2017.

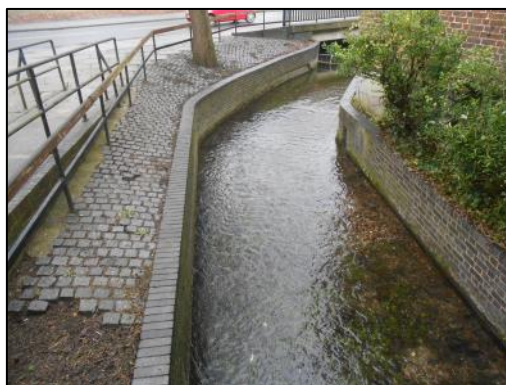


Figure 2: River Itchen running through building 1

3.3.4 *Amenity grassland*

Small areas of amenity grassland are present throughout the site (**Figure 3**). Species present include perennial rye-grass, Yorkshire fog, fescue *Festuca* species clover *Trifolium* species, daisy, dandelion *Taraxacum* species and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.



Figure 3: Amenity grassland on the northern elevation of building 1

3.3.5 Introduced shrub

Small areas of introduced shrub are present within the centre of site. Species present include butterfly bush, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, elephant-ears *Bergenia crassifolia* and Oregon-grape *Mahonia aquifolium*.

3.3.6 Buildings and hardstanding

The vast majority of the site comprises buildings and hardstanding. In total there are 35 buildings within the site red line boundary, which encompass a mixture of residential and commercial buildings. Building descriptions are provided in **Table 4**.

3.3.7 Bare ground

A small section of bare ground is present in the north-east corner of the site.

3.3.8 Summary

The habitats within the site are of low ecological value overall, comprising common and widespread species. The features of relatively greater ecological interest at the site level are the scattered trees and channel of the River Itchen running through the centre of the site.

3.4 Bats

3.4.1 Bats - Building Assessment

A large number of buildings are present within the site. The results of the building assessment are provided in **Table 4** with reference to building numbers provided on **Map 2**. Where terraced properties are present with a similar architecture these have been assessed as a single building for the purposes of this report. Only a single building (Building 1) was subject to a detailed assessment and internal investigation as part of the survey. Therefore, the assessment of bat roost potential for each building should be treated as provisional at this stage.

3.4.2 **Bats - Tree Assessment**

No trees within the site were recorded as having potential to support roosting bats with the vast majority being immature or well managed without suitable bat roosting features such as cavities, rot holes, woodpecker holes, cracks or split limbs. More suitable habitat is present well removed from the site in the form of woodland blocks and hedgerow networks. It is considered that the trees on site have **negligible potential** to support tree roosting bats.




3.4.3 **Bats - Foraging and Commuting Habitat**




A number of records of bats were returned by HBIC as part of the desktop study undertaken. The nearest of which was for Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* recorded approximately 150m south of the site in 2003. Other records returned within 2km of the site include common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*, *Myotis* species, long-eared bat *Plecotus* species¹⁷ including confirmed brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*.




The site itself offers very limited suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats due to the presence of immature trees, the lack of substantial vegetation and the relatively urban setting. Areas of woodland in the wider area including Winnall Moors, residential gardens, mature hedgerows and the main course of the River Itchen may support frequent bat foraging activity. Overall, the site is considered to offer **low potential** to support foraging and commuting bats.




¹⁷ There are two species of long-eared bat, the brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and the grey long-eared bat *Plecotus austriacus*. These species can only be separated by examination of physical characteristics and Phylogenetic Analysis Identification of bat droppings. Unless confirmation of identification has been made by visual identification the two species shall be referred to in this report as long-eared bat. The brown long-eared bat is the commonest of the two species typically being found roosting within large roof voids although small voids and trees are also utilised. The grey long-eared bat is rare and confined to southern England and like the brown long-eared typically roosts in roof voids.




Table 4: Building assessment – summary of features with bat roost potential




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
<p>Building 1 and Building 2 (Friarsgate Medical Centre)</p>	 <p>Figure 4: Southern elevation of Building 1</p>  <p>Figure 5: Northern and western elevation of Building 2</p>  <p>Figure 6: Internal view of roof void of Building 1</p>	<p>Building 1 is a two storey complex building of brick and concrete construction. The building is split into two distinct sections with the eastern section supporting a flat roof and the western section supporting a shallow pitched roof (Figure 4 and Figure 5). The western side of the northern elevation is of concrete and brick construction.</p> <p>Externally, the building is partly boarded up. Clay hanging tile cladding is present on the southern and part of the northern and western elevations of the building.</p> <p>Internally, there is a single, large roof void measuring up to 1.5m in height (Figure 6). The roof void is of a timber frame construction with chipboard boarding and limited ceiling level insulation.</p> <p>Internally the building it is dark in places and there is a suspended ceiling of timber clad ceiling construction in the north-east section.</p> <p>To the rear of the medical centre is a separate single-storey building (Building 2) of brick construction. The roof is flat and partly of tin construction.</p>	<p>The hanging tiles present on Building 1 are wrapped, contain gaps and having missing tiles on all elevations (Figure 7).</p> <p>Building 2 is generally well sealed and offers no suitable potential roosting features.</p>	<p>Medium</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p data-bbox="376 595 797 619">Figure 7: Large gap present in hanging tiles</p>			
<p data-bbox="197 651 351 735">Building 3 (Coitbury House)</p>	 <p data-bbox="398 941 775 965">Figure 8: Northern elevation of building</p>  <p data-bbox="398 1275 775 1299">Figure 9: Southern elevation of building</p>	<p data-bbox="824 651 1312 790">Building 3 is a three-storey commercial building of brick construction with a hipped clay tiled roof with a flat section (Figure 8 and Figure 9). Wooden soffit boxes are present.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 651 1800 762">Externally, the roof is relatively well sealed with the exception of two areas of missing roof tiles on the southern elevation (Figure 10).</p>	<p data-bbox="1890 651 1984 675">Medium</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p data-bbox="398 576 775 627">Figure 10: Missing roof tiles on southern elevation of Building 3</p>			
<p data-bbox="190 659 347 770">Building 4 (St Clement's surgery)</p>	 <p data-bbox="398 949 775 971">Figure 11: Northern elevation of Building 4</p>	<p data-bbox="810 659 1310 799">Building 4 is a three-storey part-rendered building of brick construction with a flat roof (Figure 11). The building has a modern construction and flat roof with UPVC cladding on the third floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1321 659 1798 770">The building is not of a construction favoured by roosting bats and lacks any suitable access / egress points recorded externally</p>	<p data-bbox="1877 659 2000 681">Negligible</p>
<p data-bbox="190 1007 347 1062">Building 5 (King's Walk)</p>	 <p data-bbox="398 1297 775 1319">Figure 12: Eastern elevation of Building 5</p>	<p data-bbox="810 1007 1310 1147">Building 5 is a four-storey commercial building containing shopping units (Figure 12 and Figure 13). The building is of brick construction with a flat roof and clad in hanging tiles between the different stories.</p>	<p data-bbox="1321 1007 1798 1173">The hanging tiles are relatively well sealed. There are a number of loose/missing/raised hanging tiles on the southern and eastern elevations including a row missing at the top of the fourth storey on the south-east corner.</p>	<p data-bbox="1888 1007 1989 1029">Medium</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p>Figure 13: Southern elevation of Building 5</p>			
<p>Building 6 (Poundland and Bits and Pieces Outlet)</p>	 <p>Figure 14: Western elevation of Building 6</p>	<p>Building 6 is a three-storey commercial building containing two separate shopping units and retail offices (Figure 14). The building is of brick construction with a flat roof.</p>	<p>The building is in a good state of repair and lacks any suitable access / egress points from the external investigation undertaken</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Building 7 (Friarsgate MSCP)</p>	 <p>Figure 15: Western elevation of building</p>	<p>Building 7 is a commercial building comprising of two shopping units on the ground floor. The eastern section of Friarsgate multi-storey carpark was currently being demolished at the time of survey.</p> <p>The building is a three-storey structure of brick construction with hanging tiles on the north-western and northern elevations (Figure 15 and Figure 16). The building contains tile clad roof sections between each storey with three on the northern side of the western elevation and four on the southern part. The building also comprises UPVC cladding and lead flashing around the roofing</p>	<p>There are a number of gaps in the lead flashing and bonnet tiles which lie on the roof sections between each floor, particularly on the northern side of the eastern elevation (Figure 17). Gaps are also present on the north-western elevation. The northern elevation contains minor gaps, but there is also a dense covering of moss and so any gaps in tiles may be concealed.</p> <p>There are also gaps in the UPVC cladding although on inspection there appears to be modern chipboard inside, which is not of a</p>	<p>Medium</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p>Figure 16: Northern elevation of building</p>  <p>Figure 17: Missing roof tiles</p>	<p>sections.</p>	<p>construction suitable for bats.</p>	
<p>Building 8 (The Brooks)</p>	 <p>Figure 18: Southern elevation of Building 8</p>	<p>Building 8 is a large complex shopping centre of concrete and brick construction with a complex part-pitched, part-flat roof structure (Figure 18 and Figure 19). The building has slate and tile covered areas and parts of the building are also rendered.</p>	<p>The roof tiles are relatively well sealed with the exception of a small number of loose and missing tiles on the western end of the southern elevation.</p>	<p>Low</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p data-bbox="387 579 786 603">Figure 19: Eastern elevation of Building 8</p>			
Building 9 (Sainsbury's)	 <p data-bbox="387 922 786 946">Figure 20: Western elevation of building</p>	Building 9 is a two-storey building, housing a supermarket on the ground floor, of brick construction with a flat roof (Figure 20).	The building is not of a construction favoured by roosting bats and lacks any suitable access / egress points from the external investigation undertaken.	Negligible
Building 10 (149 – 150 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="387 1270 786 1294">Figure 21: Northern elevation of Building 10</p>	<p>Building 10 comprises three separate, ground-floor, commercial shopping units two of which front onto the High Street with a single unit fronting onto Silver Rear on the northern elevation.</p> <p>The building is a two-storey structure of brick construction with hanging roofing shingles, a flat roof and an open car parking area connecting the shops on the northern elevation (Figure 21 and Figure 22).</p>	There is one broken shingle present on the northern elevation although the gap does not appear to provide a suitable void for roosting bats (Figure 23).	Negligible




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p data-bbox="376 576 797 603">Figure 22: Southern elevation of Building 10</p>  <p data-bbox="376 904 797 954">Figure 23: Missing shingle on the northern elevation</p>			
<p data-bbox="203 991 349 1074">Building 11 (151 – 152 High Street)</p>	 <p data-bbox="376 1276 797 1303">Figure 24: Southern elevation of Building 11</p>	<p data-bbox="824 991 1312 1155">Building 11 is a two-storey structure of brick construction with a flat roof on the southern elevation and partly pitched on the northern elevation (Figure 24 and Figure 25). The building comprises three separate, ground floor, commercial shopping units.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 991 1800 1101">There are a number of loose roof tiles on the northern elevation of the building which may provide suitable access/egress points for roosting bats</p>	<p data-bbox="1912 991 1966 1015">Low</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p data-bbox="376 576 797 603">Figure 25: Northern elevation of Building 11</p>			
<p data-bbox="203 639 349 719">Building 12 (153 High Street)</p>	 <p data-bbox="376 924 797 951">Figure 26: Southern elevation of Building 12</p>  <p data-bbox="376 1254 797 1281">Figure 27: Northern elevation of Building 12</p>	<p data-bbox="824 639 1312 858">Building 12 is a traditional three-storey brick construction structure with a pitched clay tiled roof (Figure 26). Hanging tiles are present on the western and eastern gable ends of the roof. Wooden soffit boxes are also present. A single-storey brick built extension with a flat roof is at the rear of the building (Figure 27).</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 639 1800 719">There are a number of loose roof tiles and occasional missing hanging tiles on the eastern elevation.</p>	<p data-bbox="1890 639 1984 667">Medium</p>



Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
<p>Building 13 (Winchester Bus Station Depot)</p>	 <p>Figure 28: Southern elevation of Building 13</p>  <p>Figure 29: Northern elevation of Building 13</p>  <p>Figure 30: Northern elevation of Building 13 with extension</p>	<p>Building 13 is a single-storey large, open structure of brick construction with a steel roofing structure (Figure 28 and Figure 29). The northern elevation has a glass, pitched roof whilst the roof on the southern elevation is composed of corrugated tin. To the rear of the building there is a single-storey extension of brick construction with a flat roof (Figure 30).</p> <p>Internally, the building appears to be light, airy and open.</p>	<p>The building is not of a construction favoured by roosting bats and lacks any suitable access / egress points.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>



Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
<p>Building 14 and 15 (Winchester Bus Station)</p>	 <p>Figure 31: Western elevation of Building 15</p>  <p>Figure 32: Eastern elevation of Building 15</p>	<p>Building 14 and 15 form the main Winchester Bus Station buildings. Building 14 is the western shelter comprising a single-storey structure of brick construction with a steel frame and bitumen felt roof.</p> <p>Building 15 is a two-storey structure of brick construction with a pitched roof (Figure 31 and Figure 32). The eastern elevation of the roof is tile clad whilst the western elevation comprises bitumen felt. The building contains an office and bus shelter which is attached to the eastern elevation of building 13.</p>	<p>The building is not of a construction favoured by roosting bats and lacks any suitable access / egress points.</p> <p>The roof tiles on the eastern elevation of the building are in a poor state of repair (Figure 32). However, given the exposed nature of these are of tiles they are unlikely to provide suitable roosting features. The building is not of a construction favoured by roosting bats and lacks any suitable access / egress points.</p>	<p>Low to Negligible</p>
<p>Building 16 (20-27 Eastgate Street)</p>	 <p>Figure 33: Eastern elevation of Building 16</p>	<p>Building 16 is a two-storey rendered structure of brick construction with a pitched slate roof (Figure 33 and Figure 34). The building comprises seven residential homes. All properties have chimney stacks with lead flashing with the exception of house number 24. House numbers 23, 24 and 25 also appear to contain loft conversions. On the western elevation of the building, all the properties have dormers present on the top storey, four of which are slate clad. There is also one dormer that is lead clad and one uPVC clad.</p>	<p>There are a number of raised slate roof tiles and a raised area of lead flashing on the eastern elevation of the building on house number 26. Additionally, on house number 21 there is a raised tile by the chimney stack.</p>	<p>Low</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p data-bbox="376 579 797 603">Figure 34: Western elevation of Building 16</p>			
<p data-bbox="197 679 353 786">Building 17 (Houses 4-8 Eastgate Street)</p>	 <p data-bbox="376 967 797 991">Figure 35: Eastern elevation of Building 17</p>  <p data-bbox="376 1297 797 1321">Figure 36: Western elevation of Building 17</p>	<p data-bbox="824 679 1312 927">Building 17 is a two-storey rendered building with a pitched slate roof (Figure 35 and Figure 36). The building comprises five residential properties. All properties have three chimneys each and a dormer on the eastern elevation. Various outbuildings are present in the properties' rear gardens however these are not described in this report.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 679 1800 786">The building is in a good state of repair with no obvious suitable access / egress points recorded from the external inspection undertaken.</p>	<p data-bbox="1910 679 1966 703">Low</p>




Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
<p>Building 18 (1 The Broadway – 3 Eastgate Street)</p>	 <p>Figure 37: Southern elevation of Building 18</p>	<p>Building 18 is a three-storey rendered structure with a pitched roof (Figure 37). The building comprises three ground floor commercial units and offices.</p>	<p>During the survey it was not possible to view the pitched roof from the ground level. Suitable access / egress points may well be present.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Building 19 (Chapel of St John the Baptist)</p>	 <p>Figure 38: Southern elevation of Building 19</p>	<p>Building 19 is a flint constructed chapel with a pitched clay tile roof and wooden cladding overhanging the eaves (Figure 38).</p>	<p>The building is in a good state of repair and lacks any obvious access / egress points. The roof is covered heavily in moss and so any gaps in the roof tiles may be concealed.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Building 20 (St John's House)</p>	 <p>Figure 39: Southern elevation of Building 20</p>	<p>Building 20 is a three-storey structure of stone construction with a hipped and pitched clay tile roof (Figure 39 and Figure 40). A brick built two storey extension is present to the rear of the building. Clay hanging tiles are present on the gable ends of the building, the northern elevation</p>	<p>There are a number of missing hanging tiles on the gable ends of the building. There is also a gap on the western elevation of the building beneath the hanging tiles (Figure 41).</p>	<p>Medium</p>



Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
	 <p>Figure 40: Northern elevation of Building 20</p>  <p>Figure 41: Western elevation of Building 20</p>			
<p>Building 21 (168 High Street)</p>	 <p>Figure 42: Southern elevation of Building 21</p>	<p>Building 21 is a two-storey structure of brick construction with a clay tile double hipped roof and timber soffits (Figure 42).</p>	<p>There are a number of raised roof tiles on the southern elevation of the building with may provide suitable roosting opportunities.</p>	<p>Low</p>


Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
Building 22 (166 – 167 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 595 797 619">Figure 43: Southern elevation of Building 22</p>	<p data-bbox="824 308 1312 472">Building 22 is a three-storey structure of brick construction with a pitched slate roof and two chimney stacks (Figure 43). There are two dormers on the southern elevation and timber soffit boxes. The building comprises a restaurant on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 308 1800 387">The building is relatively well sealed and lacks any obvious access / egress points recorded from the external inspection</p>	<p data-bbox="1910 308 1971 331">Low</p>
Building 23 (163 – 165 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 943 797 967">Figure 44: Southern elevation of Building 23</p>	<p data-bbox="824 655 1312 762">Building 23 is a three-storey structure of brick construction with a hipped clay roof (Figure 44). The building comprises two commercial units on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 655 1800 735">The building is relatively well sealed with occasional lifted roof tiles recorded within the roofing structure.</p>	<p data-bbox="1888 655 1989 679">Medium</p>

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
Building 24 (160 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 691 797 715">Figure 45: Southern elevation of Building 24</p>	Building 24 is a three-storey structure of brick construction with a hipped clay tiled roof (Figure 45). The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.	The building is relatively well sealed with occasional lifted roof tiles recorded within the roofing structure.	Medium
Building 25 (158 -159 High Street)	(No image available)	Building 25 is a three-storey rendered structure of brick construction with a pitched clay tile roof. The building comprises a single chimney and also two dormers on the southern elevation.	There are a number of warped / raised roof tiles present on the southern elevation. The roof itself appears to warp slightly. There is also loose lead flashing around the chimney.	Medium
Building 26 (156 – 157 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 1209 797 1233">Figure 46: Southern elevation of Building 26</p>	Building 26 is a two-storey part rendered structure comprising two commercial units on the ground floor. Alfie's contains a small single-storey extension and porch at the rear forming a public house and a large single-storey lean-to outbuilding adjoining an off-site warehouse to the north, set around a central courtyard beer garden (Figure 46). The adjacent building is of a similar construction with exposed brick.	The building is relatively well sealed from the southern elevation. Within Alfie's the public house, a number of clay roof tiles are raised, cracked or missing and the lead flashing around the two chimneys is raised. These features may provide potential access and egress points for bats and are suitable roosting features for crevice dwelling species.	Low to Medium

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
Building 27 (154 – 155 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 595 797 619">Figure 47: Southern elevation of Building 27</p>	<p data-bbox="824 308 1312 472">Building 27 is a three-storey structure with a pitched clay tile roof (Figure 47). The roof itself is bowed in many places and contains three chimneys and two dormers. The building comprises two commercial units on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 308 1800 387">The building is relatively well sealed from the southern elevation and lacks any obvious access / egress points.</p>	<p data-bbox="1845 308 2024 331">Low to Medium</p>
Building 28 (148 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 941 797 965">Figure 48: Southern elevation of Building 28</p>	<p data-bbox="824 659 1312 762">Building 28 is a two-storey structure of brick construction with a pitched roof (Figure 48). The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 659 1800 762">During the survey it was not possible to view the pitched roof from the ground floor. Suitable access / egress points may well be present.</p>	<p data-bbox="1912 659 1957 683">Low</p>
Building 29 (147 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 1286 797 1343">Figure 49: Southern elevation of Building 29 (right)</p>	<p data-bbox="824 1003 1312 1168">Building 29 is a three-storey structure of brick construction with a partly flat roof on the southern elevation and a part pitched slate roof towards the northern elevation (Figure 49). The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 1003 1800 1107">During the survey it was not possible to view the pitched roof from the ground floor. Suitable access / egress points may well be present.</p>	<p data-bbox="1912 1003 1957 1027">Low</p>

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
Building 30 (146 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 595 797 619">Figure 50: Southern elevation of Building 30</p>	<p data-bbox="824 308 1312 499">Building 30 is a two-and-a-half-storey structure of brick construction with a pitched slate tile roof with a clay ridge line (Figure 50). The building contains two chimneys and two dormers on the southern elevation. The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 308 1800 363">The building is in a good state of repair and lacks any suitable access / egress points.</p>	<p data-bbox="1823 308 2045 331">Low to Negligible</p>
Building 31 (144 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 946 797 970">Figure 51: Southern elevation of Building 31</p>	<p data-bbox="824 659 1312 762">Building 31 is a three-storey structure of brick construction with a clay tile pitched roof (Figure 51). The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 659 1800 730">The building is relatively well sealed with the exception of a small number of missing clay roof tiles.</p>	<p data-bbox="1823 659 1966 683">Low</p>
Building 32 (143 High Street)	 <p data-bbox="376 1297 797 1337">Figure 52: Southern elevation of Building 31 (right)</p>	<p data-bbox="824 1010 1312 1114">Building 32 is a two-storey structure of brick construction with a flat roof (Figure 52). The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1335 1010 1800 1066">The building is in a good state of repair and lacks any suitable access / egress points.</p>	<p data-bbox="1823 1010 2000 1034">Negligible</p>

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
<p>Building 33 (142 High Street)</p>	 <p data-bbox="376 691 801 715">Figure 53: Southern elevation of Building 33</p>	<p>Building 33 is a three-storey structure of brick construction with a flat roof and two chimneys (Figure 53). The building comprises a single commercial unit on the ground floor.</p>	<p>The building is not of a construction favoured by roosting bats and lacks any suitable access / egress points.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Building 34 (Marks and Spencer Storage)</p>	 <p data-bbox="394 1038 779 1062">Figure 54: Northern elevation of building</p>	<p>Building 34 contains two large warehouses that are of brick construction with pitched slate roofs and wooden soffits (Figure 54).</p>	<p>During the survey access was only possible along the northern elevation. Suitable access / egress points may well be present.</p>	<p>Low to Medium</p>

Surveyed Feature	Figure	Building Description	Description of Potential Bat Roost Features	Assessment of Bat Roost Potential
Building 35 (RAOB club)	 <p data-bbox="398 595 777 619">Figure 55: Northern elevation of building</p>	Building 35 is a two-storey structure of brick construction (Figure 55).	During the survey it was difficult to see the roof from the ground floor. Suitable access / egress points may well be present.	Low

3.5 Otter

A number of otter records were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken. It is known that otter are present within 1km grid squares to the north-west and south-west of the site.

The River Itchen runs through the eastern section of the site. It is confirmed that otter are present along this stretch of watercourse. However, the section of the River Itchen present within the site is largely engineered and does not comprise any vegetation. The site itself is considered unsuitable for holt creation as the ground is flat and the stretch of water is surrounded by hardstanding. The site is assessed as having **low potential** for commuting otter and **negligible potential** for supporting otter.

3.6 Badger

No records of badger were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken.

The site is unsuitable for supporting resident badger and lacks the topography and cover that the species usually requires for sett building. The immediately surrounding area provides generally poor quality habitat for badger in the form of commercial units, areas of hardstanding and residential areas. The site is assessed as having **negligible potential** for supporting badger overall.

3.7 Dormouse

No records of dormouse were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken.

The site lacks any structured wooded habitat suitable for supporting dormouse with only small areas of scattered trees and introduced shrub present all of which lack the structure and food resources which dormouse generally require. No other suitable habitat is present in the immediate surrounds and the site is bounded by roads and surrounded by urban development. Given the absence of any suitable habitat either on site or in the immediate surrounds the site is assessed as having **negligible potential** for supporting dormouse.

3.8 Water Vole

Numerous records of water vole were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken. The nearest of which was recorded 25m east of the site in 2004.

The River Itchen runs through the eastern section of the site. It is confirmed that water vole are present along this stretch of water. However, the section of the River

Itchen visible from the site is largely engineered and does not comprise any vegetation. The site is assessed as having **negligible potential** to support water vole.

3.9 Birds

A large number of records of bird species listed on Schedule 1¹⁸ of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were returned by HBIC as part of the desktop study undertaken. The nearest of which were records of black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* recorded 135m south-east of the site in 2015. Other records returned within 2km of the site include kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, hobby *Falco subbuteo*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, red kite *Milvus milvus*, golden oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, osprey *Pandion haliaetus* and honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. Many of these species will have been records of migrants passing through the site.

Species recorded during the Phase 1 survey include blackbird *Turdus merula* and woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. The site provides limited habitat for supporting breeding birds in the form of the small areas of introduced shrub and scattered trees present within the site whilst there is potential that birds may nest on or within buildings on site. A range of suitable habitats for breeding birds are present in the wider area. The site is unsuitable for supporting wintering birds lacking the suitable habitat which they require. The site is assessed as having **low potential** for supporting breeding birds overall.

3.10 Reptiles

One record of slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* was returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken. The record of slow-worm was recorded 950m south-east of the site in 2009.

There is no suitable on-site habitat to support foraging, breeding, basking or hibernating reptiles. The site is surrounded by development and mainly comprises hardstanding and well managed amenity and semi-improved grassland therefore reptile colonisation is highly unlikely. The site is assessed as having **negligible potential** to support common reptile species.

3.11 Great Crested Newt

No records of great crested newt were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken.

A review of online 1:25,000 OS mapping and aerial imagery concluded that are two waterbodies within a 500m radius of the site, which are situated approximately 255m

¹⁸ Birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended) are afforded additional protection receive further protection making it an offence to: Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or; Intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.

west and 240m north-west of the site. No assessment of these ponds were undertaken as part of the appraisal and therefore, their suitability for supporting great crested newt is currently unknown.

No waterbodies are present within the site itself. The site does not provide suitable habitat for supporting terrestrial great crested newt with the vast majority of the site comprising closely mown grassland. Therefore, great crested newt are unlikely to use the site during their terrestrial stage. The site is assessed as having **negligible potential** for supporting terrestrial great crested newt.

3.12 Invertebrates

A number of notable terrestrial invertebrates were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken, including the Section 41 Species of Principal Importance¹⁹ southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*, small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*, small blue *Cupido minimus* and stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*.

The vegetation on the site is limited in its extent and species diversity and is likely to support a low diversity of invertebrate species as a result. Whilst common and widespread terrestrial and freshwater invertebrate species may be present at the site the site is considered to offer **low potential** for supporting any particularly rare or scarce species or assemblages of invertebrates.

3.13 Other Relevant Species

Two records of the Section 41 Species of Principal Importance¹⁹ harvest mouse *Micromys minutus* and four records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned by HBIC from within 1km of the site boundary as part of the desktop study undertaken. The site does not support suitable habitat for either of these species.

No evidence of any other protected or notable species was recorded during the survey undertaken.

¹⁹ As listed on NERC Act 2006

4.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the planning policy in relation to ecology and biodiversity within the Winchester City Council administrative area.

4.2 Planning Policy

4.2.1 National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's requirements for the planning system in England. A number of sections of the NPPF are relevant when taking into account development proposals and the environment. As set out within Paragraph 14 of the NPPF *“At heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking”*. However Paragraph 119 goes on to state that *“The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined”*.

The general impetus of the NPPF in relation to ecology and biodiversity is for development proposals to not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement. Paragraph 109 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by *“...minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible...”*

Paragraph 118 states that *“when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity”*. A number of principles are set out in Paragraph 118 including the principle that where harm cannot be adequately avoided then it should be mitigated for, or as a last resort, compensated for. Where impacts occur on nationally designated sites, the benefits must clearly outweigh any adverse impact and incorporating biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged. Protection of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodlands and those sites proposed as SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites or acting as compensation for SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, should receive the same protection as European sites.

In addition to the NPPF, Circular 06/05 provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Paragraph 98 states *“the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be*

likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat". Whilst paragraph 99 states "*it is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before planning permission is granted*".

4.2.2 Local Policy

Local planning policy within Winchester City Council is provided by the Local Plan Part 1 Joint Core Strategy 2013 and the saved policies within the Local Plan Review 2006. No saved policies within the Local Plan Review 2006 specifically refer to ecology and biodiversity. A single policy makes specific reference to ecology and biodiversity within the Local Plan Part 1 Joint Core Strategy:

- **Policy CP16: Biodiversity.** The policy states in reference to development proposals "*protect and enhance biodiversity across the District, delivering net gains in biodiversity*". Specific reference is also made to the following:
 - Protection of sites of nature conservation importance;
 - Supporting of habitats that are important to maintaining the integrity of international sites;
 - New development will need to demonstrate retention, protection and enhancement of wildlife and BAP targets and enhancement of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas;
 - Developments will need to avoid adverse impacts, or if unavoidable ensure that impacts are appropriately mitigated, with compensation measures used only as a last resort. Development proposals will only be supported if the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the harm to the habitat and/or species;
 - Maintenance of district wide network of local wildlife sites and corridors to support the biodiversity network, prevent fragmentation and enable biodiversity to respond to climate change; and
 - Supporting and continuing to targets set out in Districts BAPs.

5.0 EVALUATION, POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section presents the conclusions of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. It provides an initial assessment of the likely ecological impacts as a result of the proposed redevelopment and recommendations for any further survey work, mitigation or enhancement measures considered necessary. An outline of protected species legislation relevant to the findings of this report is provided in **Appendix 2**. Full details of the evaluations, impacts and recommendations relating to protected species at the site are contained in **Table 5**.

5.2 Site Evaluation

The site largely supports hardstanding with small areas of improved grassland, amenity grassland and scattered trees. The habitats within the site are of low ecological value overall, comprising common and widespread species. The habitats of relatively greater ecological interest in the context of the site are the scattered trees and channel of the River Itchen.

The site has potential to support roosting bats within a number of the building surveyed initially assessed as having some potential to support roosting bats. The site also has low potential to support foraging and commuting bats, commuting otter and breeding birds. The site is considered to be of **low ecological value** overall.

5.3 Summary of Potential Impacts

The proposals are understood to entail the comprehensive redevelopment of the area. For the purposes of the impact assessment it is assumed that a proportion of the buildings are to be demolished as a result of the proposals. In the absence of mitigation, the potential ecological impacts of these works are:

- Potential indirect impacts on River Itchen SAC / SSSI as a result of construction activities;
- Potential direct or indirect impacts to roosting bats should they be present within onsite buildings; and
- Potential short-term disturbance and/or harm to breeding birds during vegetation removal or building demolition if undertaken during the nesting season (March to August inclusive).

5.4 Summary of Key Recommendations

The following main recommendations have been designed to minimise the potential impacts and enhance the site for wildlife:

- Internal inspections in respect of bats should be undertaken of any buildings proposed for demolition or effected as a result of the proposals;
- Bat emergence / re-entry surveys in order to establish the presence / likely absence of roosting bats from any buildings with potential to support roosting bats to be lost or effected as a result of the proposals;
- Any vegetation clearance or building demolition should be undertaken outside of the main breeding bird period from March to August, inclusive. Where this is not possible an ecologist should be present immediately prior to removal of vegetation or demolition to check for breeding birds. Active nests should be left with an undisturbed 5-10m buffer until nesting ends; and
- Enhancement measures should incorporated into the scheme such new native species planting, enhancement of the River Itchen and new bat and bird boxes to be erected on retained trees or new buildings.

5.5 Evaluation Against Relevant Planning Policy

Given the impacts identified and the subsequent recommendations made it is not possible to ascertain whether the proposals will accord with all relevant national and local planning policy in relation to ecology (see **Section 4**) and further survey work will be necessary in order to establish the potential impacts of the proposed development on bat species. Notwithstanding this, it is anticipated that should further survey work identify the presence of roosting bats there will be scope within the forthcoming proposals to incorporate suitable mitigation in order to allow the proposals to accord with the relevant planning policy in relation to ecology.

Table 5: Potential impacts and recommendations

Ecological Feature	Summary	Potential Impacts of Development	Recommendations
Designated Sites	There are two statutory designated sites of nature conservation situated within a 1km radius of the site. The nearest of which is the River Itchen SSSI and SAC located approximately 30m east of the site.	<p>The River Itchen SAC/SSSI is directly connected to the site. Therefore, there is the potential for hydrological impacts on the SAC/SSSI further downstream.</p> <p>There is also the potential to result in indirect impacts on the River Itchen SAC/SSSI as a result of demolition and construction activities.</p>	<p>As the proposals come forward it will be necessary to reassess the potential impacts of the scheme on the hydrology of the River Itchen. The scheme should be designed to ensure no negative effect on the quantity or quality of the existing output from the site to the river with the aim to enhance the quality where possible.</p> <p>In order to safeguard the river during the construction process a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be drafted and implemented at the construction phase of the development.</p>
Vegetation	The site contains limited vegetation in the form of improved grassland, amenity grassland and scattered trees. The vegetation within the site is of low ecological value overall, comprising common and widespread species with the features of relatively interest at the site level being the scattered trees and River Itchen.	The proposals will unlikely result in the loss of any significant vegetation.	<p>Any new landscaping should be designed to incorporate new native species landscaping to include new native shrub and grassland planting wherever possible.</p> <p>Where possible the scheme should be designed in order to provide an enhancement to the River Itchen running through the site. A buffer of no less than 8m from built form would ideally be maintained as part of the proposals.</p>
Bats	<p>No trees within the site were assessed as having potential to support roosting bats whilst the site has been assessed as having low potential for supporting foraging and commuting bats.</p> <p>A number of buildings within the site have potential to support roosting bats.</p>	<p>The proposed demolition or any refurbishment works of the existing buildings within the site has the potential for direct impacts on bats and long-term loss in bat roosts.</p> <p>In England, bats and their habitat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 through inclusion in Schedule 5. In addition, all bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Refer to Appendix 2 for details.</p>	<p>Once buildings within the site have been identified for works it is recommended that in the first instance any buildings to be lost are subject to detailed internal investigations to search for evidence of roosting bats in any unoccupied spaces such as roof voids.</p> <p>Further bat emergence / re-entry surveys will likely be required in order to determine the presence/likely absence of bats and, if present, assess the status of bats within the site. These should be undertaken following the completion of the detailed internal inspections.</p> <p>The bat emergence/re-entry surveys will follow</p>

Ecological Feature	Summary	Potential Impacts of Development	Recommendations
			<p>current best practice guidance⁹ and will comprise one dusk emergence survey and one dawn re-entry survey for buildings with medium potential for supporting roosting bats. Those buildings assessed as having low or low to negligible potential for supporting roosting bats will be subject to having a single dusk emergence survey or dawn re-entry survey. All surveys will be carried out between May and September.</p> <p>Surveyors will be positioned at previously identified vantage points around the building with dusk surveys commencing 15 minutes prior to sunset until up to two hours after sunset to record any bats emerging from the building, and for the dawn surveys two hours prior to sunrise up until 15 minutes after sunrise to record any bats re-entering the building.</p> <p>If bats are confirmed to be roosting within any of the buildings a protected species licence from Natural England will be required in order to allow the proposed conversion works to proceed without contravening current legislation.</p>
<p>Otter</p>	<p>The River Itchen runs through the eastern section of the site. It is confirmed that otter are present along this stretch of water. However, the section of the River Itchen visible from the site is largely engineered and does not comprise any vegetation. The site itself is considered unsuitable for holt creation. Otter may occasionally commute through the site.</p>	<p>The proposals have the potential to disturb commuting otter should they utilise the section of the River Itchen within the site.</p> <p>Otter are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), see Appendix 2 for details.</p>	<p>The implementation of the CEMP will minimise potential disturbance impacts on otter as a result of the construction works.</p>
<p>Badger</p>	<p>The site offers no suitable habitat or resources for sett construction or foraging badger.</p>	<p>No impacts in relation to badgers are anticipated.</p>	<p>There are no recommendations to be made in respect of badger.</p>

Ecological Feature	Summary	Potential Impacts of Development	Recommendations
Dormouse	The site is assessed as having negligible potential for supporting dormouse due to the absence of suitable on-site habitat and food plant species diversity.	No impacts in relation to dormouse are anticipated.	There are no recommendations to be made in respect of dormouse.
Water Vole	The River Itchen runs through the eastern section of the site. It is confirmed that water vole are present along this stretch of water. However, the section of the River Itchen visible from the site is largely engineered and does not comprise any vegetation. The site itself is considered unsuitable for supporting the species.	No impacts in relation to water vole are anticipated.	There are no recommendations to be made in respect of water vole.
Birds	<p>The site supports potential habitats for supporting breeding birds in the form of scattered trees and buildings.</p> <p>The on-site vegetation limited suitable habitat for breeding birds within trees.</p>	<p>Demolition of buildings and clearance of tree and shrub vegetation has the potential to impact on nesting birds and result in a net loss of potential nesting habitat on site. It is unclear whether the proposals will result in the removal of vegetation.</p> <p>All birds, their nests, eggs and young are legally protected, see Appendix 2 for details.</p>	<p>If the scattered trees are not to be retained, vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside the breeding bird season of March to August, inclusive, or if not possible, an ecologist should be present immediately prior to clearance to check vegetation. Active nests should be left with an undisturbed 5-10m buffer until nesting ends.</p> <p>As an enhancement measure new bird roosting opportunities, such as bird boxes, should be incorporated into new buildings within the site.</p>
Reptiles	The site is dominated by hardstanding with small adjacent areas of well managed grassland. Therefore the site is considered to have negligible potential for reptiles.	No impacts in relation to reptiles are anticipated.	There are no recommendations to be made in respect of reptiles.
Great Crested Newt	<p>There are no waterbodies on site and two waterbodies located within a 500m radius of the site.</p> <p>The site does not provide suitable habitat for supporting terrestrial great crested newt with the vast majority of the site comprising well managed improved grassland.</p>	No impacts in relation to great crested newt are anticipated.	There are no recommendations to be made in respect of great crested newt.

Ecological Feature	Summary	Potential Impacts of Development	Recommendations
Invertebrates	The site supports low value habitats that are limited in extent. It has negligible potential for supporting rare or notable invertebrate species or assemblages.	There are no impacts in relation to invertebrates anticipated.	There are no recommendations to be made in respect of invertebrates.
Other Relevant Species	Records of hedgehog and harvest mouse were returned as part of the desktop study. The site does not contain suitable habitat to support these species.	There are no impacts in relation to hedgehog and harvest mouse anticipated.	There are no recommendations to be made in respect of other relevant species.

5.6 Updating Survey

If works have not commenced by January 2019, it is recommended that the ecological appraisal is updated. This is because many of the species considered during the current survey are highly mobile and the ecology of the site is likely to change over this period. If the planning application boundary changes or the proposals for the site alter, a re-assessment of the impacts may be required.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The site is considered to be of low ecological value, comprising both common and widespread species. The site has been assessed as having potential to support protected species including roosting bats with limited potential to support foraging/commuting bats, commuting otter and breeding birds. The River Itchen SAC/SSSI is hydrologically connected to the site.

Further surveys in relation to roosting bats have been recommended for any buildings which are to be demolished or subsequent to renovation works in order to full assess the impacts of the proposals on roosting bats.

Map 1 Site Location Plan

**CENTRAL WINCHESTER
REGENERATION AREA,
WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

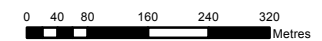
Map 1 - Site Location

Client:	Winchester City Council
Date:	T&A@2017
Status:	Final

KEY

 Site Boundary

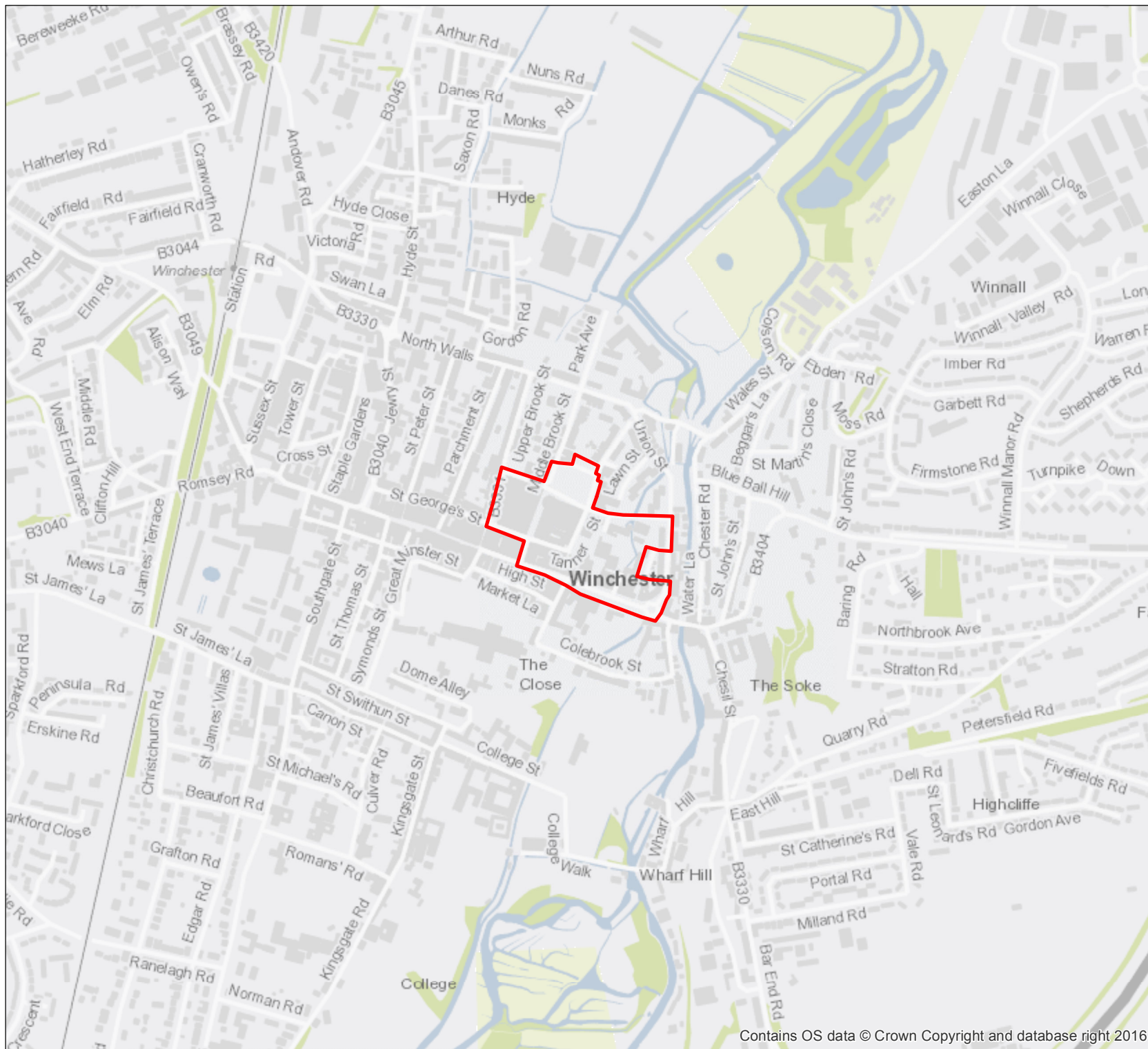
Scale at A4: 1:10,000



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Map 2 Phase 1 Habitat Map

**CENTRAL WINCHESTER
REGENERATION AREA, WINCHESTER,
HAMPSHIRE**
PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL








Map 2 - Phase 1 Habitat Map

Client: Winchester City Council

Date: March 2017

Status: Final

KEY

-  Site Boundary
-  Scattered Trees
-  Improved Neutral Grassland
-  Amenity Grassland
-  Introduced Shrub
-  Running Water
-  Buildings
-  Hardstanding
-  Bare Ground
-  Unsurveyed Areas
-  Building numbers
As Referenced in Report

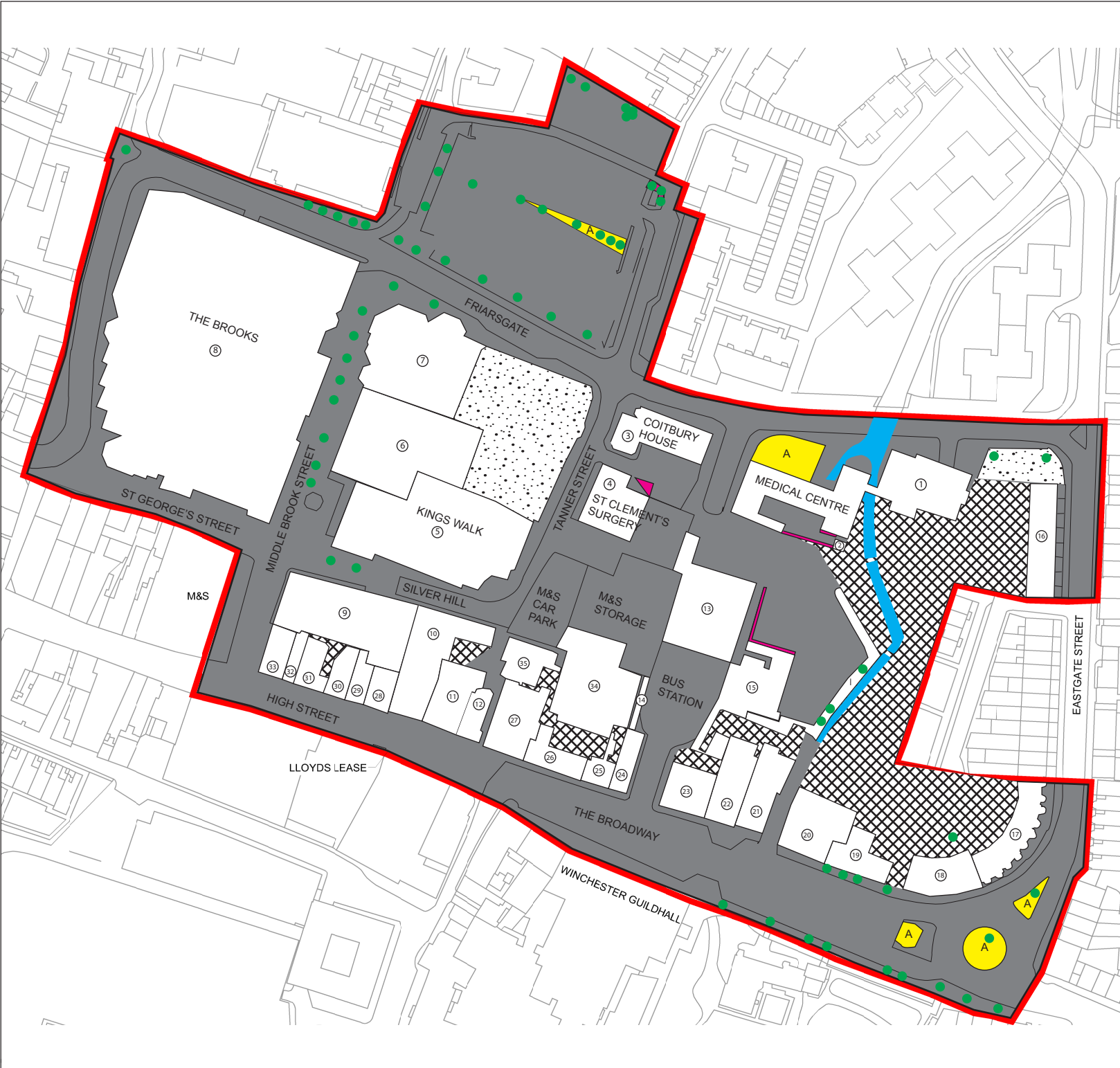
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Appendix 1 Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Statutory Sites

Internationally Designated Sites - Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas

Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) form a network of protected sites across the European Union called Natura 2000 sites. In the United Kingdom the primary legislative protection is afforded to these sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Ramsar sites are designated as wetlands of international importance which are afforded similar legislative protection to Natura 2000 sites.

SACs are sites which support intentionally important habitats or internationally important assemblages or populations of species. SPAs are designated for supporting internationally important populations of birds listed in the annexes of the Birds Directive. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are generally also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Under Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) there is a legal requirement that competent authorities, such as local planning authorities, need to consider whether plans or projects are likely to have a significant adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites or Ramsar sites, either alone, or in combination with other plans or projects. In the event that a likely significant effect cannot be ruled out, on the basis of objective information, then the competent authority must undertake an “Appropriate Assessment” to fully assess the plan or project against the site’s conservation objectives. Unless certain defined derogation tests can be met, the competent authority may not authorise nor undertake any plan or project which adversely affects the integrity of a Natura 2000 site or Ramsar site.

Nationally Designated Sites – Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Such sites are designated to protect specific areas of biological or geological interest of national importance. Such sites also generally receive strict protection through the planning system.

National Nature Reserves (NNR) are also usually designated as SSSIs and are specifically managed for their wildlife value. They receive legal protection through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As with SSSIs, these sites generally receive strict protection through the planning system.

Locally Designated Sites – Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are designated by local authorities under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are generally designated not only for their local wildlife value but also for education, scientific and recreational purposes. These sites generally receive protection from development through the planning system.

Non-Statutory Sites

Locally Designated Sites

In addition to statutory designations, local authorities often designate sites of nature conservation importance at the local level. Such designations are named differently by each local authority and may be referred to as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), amongst others. The exact level of protection afforded to these sites varies and is normally defined through local planning policy.

Appendix 2 Protected Species Legislation

Bats

All UK bat species are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 41 of the Regulations. These make it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- Deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:
 - To impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young;
 - To impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
 - To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any of these animals uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, five British bat species are listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. These are:

- Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*;
- Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*;
- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*;
- Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*; and
- Greater mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis*.

In certain circumstances where these species are found the Directive requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) by EC member states to ensure that their populations are maintained at a favourable conservation status. Outside SACs, the level of legal protection that these species receive is the same as for other bat species.

Otter

This species is listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 41 of the Regulations. These make it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- Deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely, to impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young, to impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any one of these species uses for shelter or protection.

Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Therefore, it is an offence, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

These offences do not apply to hunting of birds listed in Schedule 2 subject to various controls. Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive further protection, thus for these species it is also an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.