

Fairport House River Hamble Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

Final Report

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JRB Environmental**

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Abbreviations

BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
DBW	Daytime Bat Walkover
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CROW	Countryside Rights of Way
EA	Environment Agency
ECOW	Ecological Clerk of Works
FID	Feature Identification (number)
GLRA	Ground Level Roost Assessment
GGI	Greening the Grey Infrastructure
HCA	Habitat Condition Assessment
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species

JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
OBC	Outline Business Case
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PRF	Potential Roosting Feature
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act

Executive Summary

Fathom Ecology was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in support of a planning application for the construction of a new access jetty and hammer-head pontoon at Fairport House, Lands End Road, Lowford, Bursledon, Hampshire (Grid Reference: SU 49231 09211). The proposed development will provide private access to the River Hamble and is located within an area previously consented by Natural England for pontoons, jetties and boardwalks.

The survey was undertaken to identify ecological constraints associated with the proposed development, assess the potential for impacts on designated sites, habitats and protected species, and provide recommendations for mitigation and enhancement where required.

The main findings are as follows:

- **Statutory Designated Sites** – The Site lies within the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA), Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site and Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is being undertaken separately to assess the potential effects of the proposed development on the qualifying features of the Solent designated site complex.
- **Non-Statutory Designated Sites** – Several non-statutory designated sites occur within 1 km of the Site, including the Lower Hamble Estuary Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Hackett's Marsh SINC. The proposed works are limited in scale and are not anticipated to result in significant adverse effects on the ecological interest of these sites.
- **Priority Habitats** – The Site supports Habitats of Principal Importance, including Atlantic Salt Meadow and Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats. Atlantic Salt Meadow is present as a narrow strip immediately seaward of the existing seawall, whilst the majority of the Site comprises intertidal mudflat habitat. The proposed works have been designed to minimise impacts to these habitats and precautionary mitigation should be implemented throughout the construction period to ensure they are protected.
- **Birds** – The Site forms part of the wider Solent estuarine ecosystem which supports internationally important assemblages of overwintering and migratory birds. Prior to commencement of works, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) should undertake a pre-construction check for feeding, roosting or loafing birds within the intertidal area. If significant numbers of birds are present, works should be delayed until they have naturally dispersed.
- **Fish** – The River Hamble provides habitat for a range of estuarine fish species, including European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*, Herring *Clupea harengus*, Sea Bass *Dicentrarchus labrax* and Thick-lipped Mullet *Chelon labrosus*. Construction activities should be undertaken in a manner that minimises sediment disturbance and avoids pollution incidents which could affect fish and aquatic habitats.

- Invertebrates – The wider River Hamble supports a diverse assemblage of coastal and estuarine invertebrates, including species associated with saltmarsh, reedbed and brackish wetland habitats. The intertidal habitats present within the Site should be protected from unnecessary disturbance and robust biosecurity measures should be implemented to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species.
- General Avoidance Measures – Standard ecological best practice should be followed throughout the construction period, including pollution prevention measures, implementation of biosecurity protocols, minimisation of artificial lighting and provision of ecological toolbox talks by an Ecological Clerk of Works.
- Enhancements and Biodiversity Net Gain – The proposed development will require a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment to demonstrate how a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity value will be achieved in accordance with the Environment Act 2021. Opportunities for enhancement include incorporation of biodiversity features within the jetty and pontoon design, application of "Greening the Grey" principles, protection and enhancement of the existing saltmarsh habitat, and provision of interpretation material highlighting the ecological importance of the River Hamble and Solent estuary.

Subject to implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures outlined within this report and the findings of the accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment, the proposed development is not considered likely to result in significant adverse ecological effects.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Fathom Ecology Limited was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in support of a planning application for the construction of a new access jetty and hammerhead pontoon at Fairport House, Lands End Road, Lowford, Bursledon, Eastleigh, Hampshire (SO31 8DN), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

The River Hamble is an ecologically important tidal watercourse which forms part of a wider network of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites within the Solent. Consequently, there is potential for the proposed development to interact with a range of ecological receptors, including coastal and intertidal habitats, designated sites, protected species and notable assemblages associated with the estuarine environment.

This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was commissioned to establish baseline ecological conditions at and adjacent to the Site, identify any ecological constraints associated with the proposed development, and assess the likelihood of impacts upon habitats and species of conservation importance. The appraisal also considers the proximity of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and provides recommendations for any further ecological surveys, mitigation measures and biodiversity enhancement opportunities, where required, to inform the planning process.

1.2 Site location

The Site is located on the western bank of the River Hamble at National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 49231 09211 and comprises an existing residential property and associated river-side frontage. Planning permission is being sought for the installation of a new access jetty extending from the shoreline into the River Hamble, terminating in a hammerhead pontoon to facilitate safe access to the river for recreational boating purposes.

1.3 Proposed Work

The proposed development comprises the construction of a new access jetty and floating hammerhead pontoon at Fairport House, providing direct access from the property to the River Hamble (Figure 1-1).

The proposal consists of an elevated jetty extending from the existing shoreline, supported on tubular steel piles, terminating in a floating pontoon accessed via a hinged brow arrangement. The pontoon will provide berthing and safe pedestrian access to vessels at varying tidal states. The structure has been designed to minimise its physical footprint within the intertidal zone whilst maintaining navigational and operational requirements.

The proposed jetty and pontoon are located entirely within an area previously identified and consented by Natural England for the installation of slipways, jetties and boardwalks. The

submitted design confirms that the proposed works fall within the permitted development envelope, with renewal of the existing Natural England consent granted from 31 March 2026. The proposed arrangement comprises an elevated access jetty, access brow, floating pontoon and associated support piles extending across the upper intertidal area and into the River Hamble. The development has been positioned to avoid encroachment outside the approved working area and to minimise disturbance to adjacent saltmarsh and estuarine habitats.

The proposed works will require the installation of support piles and associated pontoon infrastructure within the intertidal and subtidal environment. Construction activities are expected to be localised and temporary in nature, with potential ecological interactions primarily limited to habitats and species associated with the River Hamble shoreline and adjacent designated sites. This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal therefore considers the potential effects of the proposed development on statutory and non-statutory designated sites, habitats of principal importance, protected species and other notable ecological receptors that may occur within or adjacent to the Site.

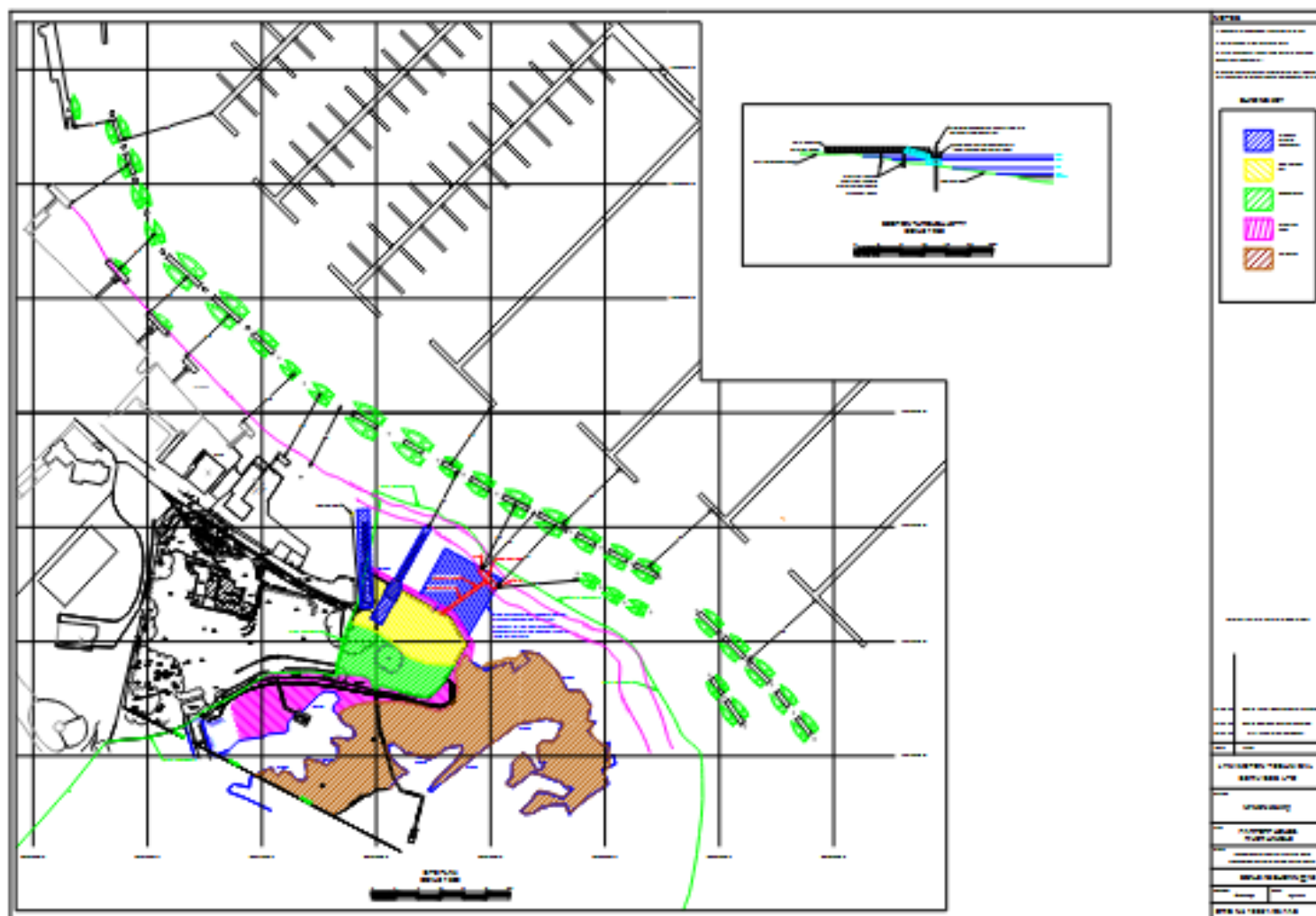


Figure 1-1-1: Draft Illustration showing the proposed jetty and pontoon (red) within the permitted area (blue).

2 Methods

A PEA of the site has been undertaken in line with current best practice guidance (CIEEM, 2017) and included:

- A desk-based assessment to identify any records of protected and/or priority habitats and species, and designated nature conservation sites in the vicinity of the proposed works.
- A site survey comprising a habitat survey using the UK Habitat Classification (UKHabs) and an assessment of the possible presence of protected or priority species, and (where relevant) an assessment of the likely importance of habitat features present for such species.
- An assessment of the potential impacts of the works on the habitats and species present at the site and the surrounding areas.

2.1 Desk-based Assessment

Prior to undertaking the site survey, searches of databases containing ecological records, priority habitats, and information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites were made. The following sources were included in these searches:

- MAGIC mapping service (www.magic.gov.uk)
- Natural England GIS data (www.gis.naturalengland.org.uk/pubs/gis/GIS_register.asp)
- Hampshire Biodiversity Records Centre (www.sxbrc.org.uk) (HBIC, 2026)
- Due to the small size of the site, it is considered that the zone of influence would be 1 km from the site boundary in most cases, extending further for statutory designated sites and mobile species.

2.2 Site Survey

A site survey was undertaken on 7th May 2026 by Rayner Piper BSc (hons), MSc, MIFM who was assisted by John Blamire BSc MSc. The survey included all areas within and adjacent to the site boundary. The site was surveyed during a period of 2 hours before and after low tide (1.3m above chart datum).

The ecologist assessed the suitability of the site which includes the proposed access route, and surrounding habitats, to support protected and priority species. Based upon this assessment, potential constraints to the project were identified and recommendations for further survey and mitigation have been made. Legislative guidance relating to protected species is outlined in Appendix C along with details of other relevant policy and legislation.

Given the location of the site, the habitats present and the results of the desk study, the following species were considered: birds, bats, Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus*, reptiles, fish, invertebrates (aquatic and terrestrial), marine mammals and Badger *Meles meles*.

UKHab survey maps are shown in Appendix A, and selected photos showing the general nature of the site can be found in Appendix B.

2.3 Habitats

Habitats were mapped to level 3 to 5 of the UK Habitat Classification scheme (UK Hab Ltd., 2023) using the field key (Carey & Butcher, 2018) with reference to the relevant definitions (UK Habitat Classification Working Group, 2018b). Secondary codes were added, where relevant, to provide information on the management and environment relating to any habitat parcel. The classification was made using surveyor judgement by eye, with a species list collected for each of the main habitat parcels. No quadrats were used as assigning habitats proved straightforward. Botanical nomenclature follows Stace (2019).

Habitat Condition Assessments (HCA) were undertaken for each habitat parcel following guidance from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA, 2024). The results of this are presented within this report, should it be needed at a later stage.

Where appropriate intertidal habitats were recorded using methods based on procedural guidelines outlined in the Marine Monitoring Handbook (JNCC, 2001), which provides advice on monitoring marine Special Areas of Conservation to assess their condition in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and UK Common Standards for Monitoring.

All biotopes were recorded and classified according to Connor D.W and the JNCC Marine Habitat Classification.

2.4 Protected and Notable Species

Habitats were also assessed for their potential to support any legally protected species or species of conservation concern. Any incidental faunal sightings, or field signs discovered during the survey, were also recorded. The following sections provide further details on the assessments undertaken in relation to specific species. Legislative guidance relating to protected species is outlined in Appendix C, along with details of other relevant policy and legislation.

2.4.1 Birds

Vegetation and habitats around the site were assessed for their suitability to support nesting birds. Special consideration was given to bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Furthermore, any birds seen or heard on site during the survey were recorded as incidental observations.

2.4.2 Badger

The survey area was searched for signs of Badgers and, where evidence was found, details were recorded following Harris et al. (1989). In addition to recording the presence of setts and the level of activity at them, the following signs of activity were also searched for: latrines, footprints, evidence of feeding activity and well-worn paths through vegetation. Badgers will use several setts throughout their territory at different times of year; any large holes with the potential to be used by badgers, but not showing obvious signs of recent activity, were therefore also recorded.

2.4.3 Bats

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) was completed of the survey site, using the methods specified in the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines (Collins, 2023).

The DBW identified structures, trees and other features that could be suitable for use by roosting bats within and adjacent to the site. In addition, an assessment was made of the suitability of habitats to support commuting and foraging bats both on site and in the surrounding area.

2.4.4 Dormouse

The suitability of the habitats recorded on site for Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* was assessed. Dormice in the UK are primarily arboreal and typically require extensive or well-connected woodland, scrub and hedgerows (Juskaitis & Büchner, 2013).

2.4.5 Amphibians

Habitat features with the potential to support Great Crested Newt, and other amphibians, were recorded. Such features can include ponds with habitat suitable for breeding newts within 500m of the proposed works; piles of logs, stones or other debris; cracks in the ground; stone or rubble covered ground, and any other features that could support newts.

Where access was possible, any substantial waterbodies within 500m of the site, and which had ecological connectivity to the site, were assessed for their potential to support newts. This assessment was based on the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham et al., 2000; ARG UK, 2010). This system involves assessment of ten suitability indices per waterbody and is an accepted method of assessing the likelihood for a particular pond to hold breeding Great Crested Newts.

2.4.6 Reptiles

As part of the site survey, an assessment of the habitat suitability for common reptiles was made. This involved inspection of the site for key habitat features/microhabitats which may be favoured by reptiles, such as embankments, log, brash or rock piles, dry stone walls,

hedgerows, open sandy areas, woodland edges and rides and interfaces between different habitat types (Frog life 1999).

2.4.7 Invertebrates

An assessment of the habitat suitability for invertebrates was made, involving the identification of key habitats and features which may be favoured by invertebrates, such as flower-rich grassland, areas of early successional habitat, wetland, scrub, mature / veteran trees, aquatic vegetation, river margins and habitat mosaics (Natural England 2005; Buglife 2015).

2.5 Other Notable Species and Environmental Constraints

During the site survey, any signs or sightings of other notable species were also recorded. In addition, any environmental features that might constrain the works were also recorded (e.g. access restrictions).

2.6 Invasive Non-native Species

Any Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) observed during the survey were recorded. For stand-forming plant species and macro-algae's, the extents of such stands were noted.

2.7 Limitations

The habitats and species present in a given area are subject to change over time. A single field visit of this nature captures and reports the situation at the time of survey. As such, the advice contained within this report is considered valid for a period of 18 months before a review on the need for an updated survey/assessment must be made by an ecologist (CI-EEM, 2019).

Data from biological records centres or online databases is historical information, and datasets might be incomplete, inaccurate or missing. It is important to note that even where data is held, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that the species is absent; the area may simply be under-recorded. As such, records cannot be relied on and serve only as an indication of what might/might not be found.

3 Results and Evaluation

3.1 Desk-based Assessment

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

The desk study results showed the site lies within the Solent designated site complex, comprising the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site. These designations cover the intertidal habitats of the River Hamble and are notified for internationally important estuarine habitats, saltmarsh, mudflats, wintering waterbirds and the migratory bird assemblages.

The statutory designated sites within 1km of the site and the reasons for their designations are summarised in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1

Site name	Qualifying features	Proximity to site
Solent Maritime SAC	Estuaries; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>); Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Spartina swards; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub.	Site lies within
Solent and Southampton Water SPA	Internationally important assemblages of overwintering and passage waterbirds including dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) and internationally important waterbird assemblages associated with estuarine habitats.	Site lies within
Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site	Internationally important estuarine and coastal wetland habitats supporting nationally and internationally important populations of wintering waterfowl, migratory birds, saltmarsh communities, mudflats and associated estuarine ecosystems.	Site lies within

Site name	Qualifying features	Proximity to site
Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI	Nationally important estuarine habitats including intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, reedbed, grazing marsh and ancient semi-natural woodland. The site supports important assemblages of overwintering and passage waterbirds and forms part of the wider Solent estuarine ecosystem.	Site lies within
Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI	Unimproved neutral grassland, grazing marsh, reedbed and saltmarsh communities supporting a diverse flora and fauna, including breeding and overwintering birds associated with the lower River Hamble estuary.	Approximately 350 m south-west of the Site

The locations of these statutory designated sites in relation to the site location is shown below.

Although the proposed jetty and pontoon are small-scale works and are considered unlikely to result in significant adverse effects on the Solent designated site complex, the site lies within internationally, and nationally designated habitats associated with the River Hamble. As such, potential impacts are being assessed through a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), currently in preparation, to support the planning application.

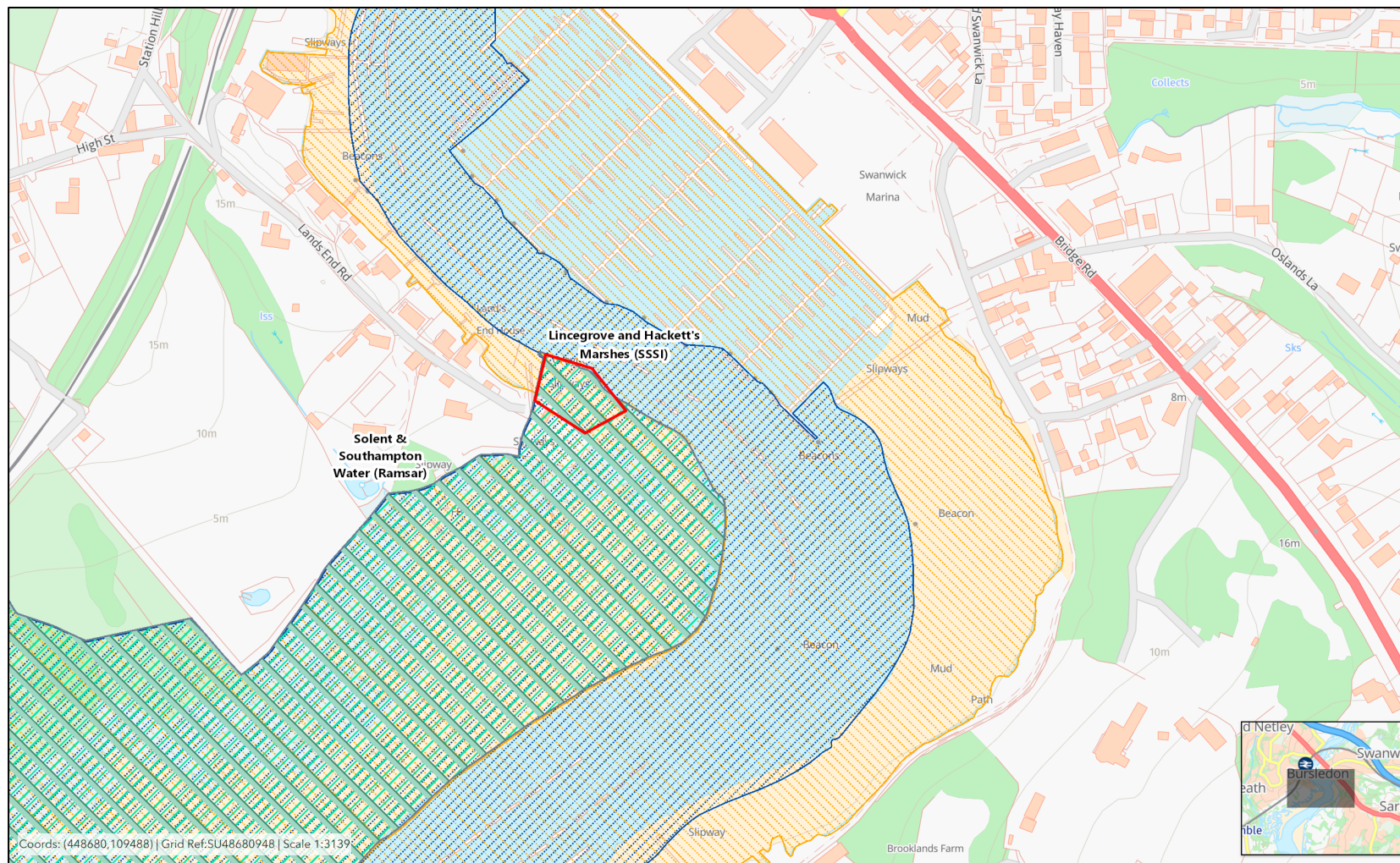


Figure 3-1. Statutory designated sites within 1km of the site.

3.1.2 Non-statutory Designated Sites

The desk study returned records for a number of non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the Site. None of the identified non-statutory sites lie within the proposed development footprint; however, several occur within the surrounding River Hamble corridor and comprise habitats of local nature conservation importance, including estuarine, coastal, woodland and grazing marsh habitats.

The non-statutory designated sites identified within 1 km of the Site are summarised in Table 3.2 and their locations are shown on Figure 3-2 below. These sites form part of the wider ecological network associated with the River Hamble estuary and provide supporting habitat for a range of notable and protected species.

Table 3.2: Non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the site.

Site name	Qualifying Features/ site description	Proximity to site
Lower Hamble Estuary SINC	Intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, estuarine habitats and associated bird assemblages. Functions as an important component of the wider Solent ecological network and supports feeding and roosting waterbirds.	Site lies adjacent to the Site
Hackett's Marsh SINC	Intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, estuarine habitats and associated bird assemblages. Functions as an important component of the wider Solent ecological network and supports feeding and roosting waterbirds.	Approximately 300 m south-west of the Site
Manor Farm Country Park SINC	Ancient and semi-natural woodland, grassland, scrub and wetland habitats supporting a diverse assemblage of flora and fauna.	Approximately 500 m north-west of the Site
Mousehole and Crableck Woods SINC	Ancient semi-natural woodland supporting diverse ground flora, woodland birds, bats and invertebrates.	Approximately 800 m east of the Site
Broadmarsh Coastal SINC	Coastal grazing marsh, reedbed, scrub and intertidal habitats supporting breeding birds, wintering waterfowl and notable invertebrate communities.	Approximately 900 m south-west of the Site

The proposed works have the potential to result in temporary disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Lower Hamble Estuary and adjacent designated sites during the construction phase. However, the proposed jetty and pontoon are limited in scale, are located within an area previously consented by Natural England for such structures and are not anticipated to result in the permanent loss of significant areas of intertidal habitat, saltmarsh or other notable habitats. Consequently, significant adverse effects on the features for which the nearby non-statutory designated sites are recognised are considered unlikely. The

potential effects of the development on the wider Solent estuarine habitat network and associated qualifying species should be considered further within a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

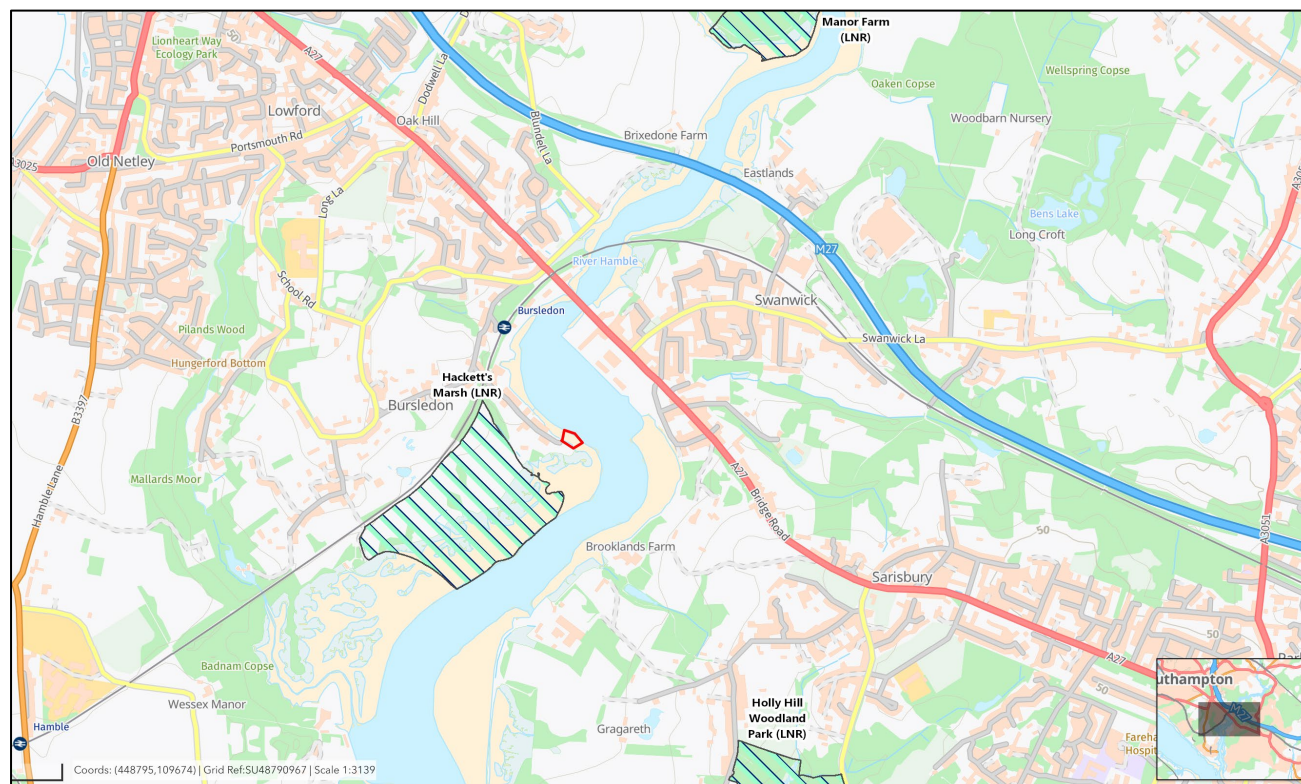


Figure 3-2. Non-Statutory designated sites within 1km of the site.

3.1.3 Protected species

The records search from the Hampshire Biological Records Centre returned numerous records of protected species within the search area. The data, presented in Appendix D, includes the most recent record, and record within closest proximity to the site for each protected species. Only data post the year 2000 (or older if relevant at site scale) is included, and for birds only those listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA).

In addition to those species listed in Appendix D, the desk study also returned numerous records of other notable Hampshire bird species that have been recorded in the area, several of these are NERC Section 41 Species of Principal Importance.

3.1.4 Habitats

The desk study identified several Habitats of Principal Importance (Section 41 habitats) within 1 km of the Site, two of which occur within the site boundary, these are listed in Table 3.3 below. The most notable habitats comprise intertidal mudflats and coastal saltmarsh associated with the River Hamble, both of which occur within the Site boundary and the immediate surrounding area. Additional Habitats of Principal Importance present within the wider

estuarine landscape include areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, reedbed and deciduous woodland. The Site lies within the wider Solent estuarine ecosystem, which supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, including internationally important assemblages of overwintering and migratory birds. Given the nature and location of the proposed development, the intertidal mudflat and coastal saltmarsh habitats present within and adjacent to the site are considered the principal ecological receptors and are assessed further within this report and the accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Table 3.3. Habitats of Principal Importance (Section 41 habitats) within 1 km of the Site

Priority Habitat	Location Description
Mudflats	Present within the Site boundary along the intertidal margins of the River Hamble and extending throughout the adjacent estuary.
Coastal saltmarsh	Present within the Site boundary and along the adjacent estuarine shoreline of the River Hamble.
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Approximately 350 m south-west of the Site, associated with Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes and other low-lying estuarine margins.
Reedbeds	Present locally within estuarine fringe habitats and wetland areas associated with the River Hamble, including Hackett's Marshes.
Deciduous Woodland	Present within Manor Farm Country Park and woodland blocks surrounding the upper estuary, including Mousehole and Crableck Woods, approximately 500–800 m from the Site.

3.1.5 Invasive non-native species

Appendix E shows records returned from the desk study of species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, dated post the year 2000, and includes the most recent record, and record within closest proximity to the site for each species.

3.2 UKHab Survey

The habitats identified on site are detailed in Appendix A and a description of each habitat type can be found below. Photographs are within Appendix B. Secondary codes relevant to the site are detailed in Table 3.4. below.

Table 3.4: UKHab secondary codes

Primary Code	Secondary Code	Description
t2a7 Atlantic Salt Meadow (H1420)	67	Estuarine
t2d5 Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats (H1140)	73	Mixed substrate
G4 Modified grassland	87	Amenity

3.2.1.1 Habitat type

Atlantic Salt Meadows, UKHab code: t2a7 (H1420) (EU Annex I Habitat and Habitat of Principal Importance)

A narrow strip of Atlantic salt meadow was present along the seaward toe of the existing seawall, forming a transitional habitat between the terrestrial and intertidal environments. The habitat was characterised by salt-tolerant vegetation typical of the upper saltmarsh zone and is subject to regular saline influence from tidal inundation species present included sea purslane *Atriplex portulcoides*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima* and sea arrowgrass *Triglochin maritima*. This habitat forms part of the wider Solent estuarine ecosystem and contributes to the qualifying features of the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Atlantic salt meadows are recognised as a Habitat of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and are listed as an Annex I habitat under the Habitats Directive due to their ecological importance and restricted distribution.

Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats, UKHab code: t2d5 (H1140) (EU Annex I Habitat and Habitat of Principal Importance)

The majority of the Site comprises intertidal mudflats and sandflats associated with the River Hamble estuary. The habitat consists predominantly of fine silty mud and sandy sediments with frequent areas of gravel, cobbles and riprap present throughout the intertidal zone. Evidence of historic and ongoing recreational boating activity was apparent, with scattered estuarine debris, boat-related materials and anthropogenic litter recorded across the mudflat surface. The habitat is exposed at low tide and inundated during high tides and supports estuarine ecological community's characteristic of sheltered coastal environments.

Several non-native species were recorded within this habitat. Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas* was present throughout the intertidal zone, attached to hard substrates and scattered across the mudflat surface. The invasive non-native red seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla* was also abundant locally, forming extensive mats across areas of exposed mudflat. These

species are now widespread within the Solent and River Hamble estuary and are characteristic of many sheltered estuarine environments in southern England.

Intertidal mudflats and sandflats support diverse invertebrate assemblages, including polychaete worms, crustaceans and bivalves, which provide an important food resource for fish and estuarine bird species. The habitat forms a key component of the Solent Maritime SAC and the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar Site, providing important feeding habitat for internationally significant assemblages of overwintering and migratory waterbirds.

This habitat is recognised as a Habitat of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and as an Annex I habitat under the Habitats Directive due to its ecological importance and contribution to the wider Solent estuarine ecosystem.

Built Linear Feature, UKHab code: u1e

A man-made seawall forms a linear feature running parallel to the shoreline and separates the intertidal habitats from the terrestrial environment landward. The structure provides a flood defence function and represents the boundary between the estuarine and developed components of the Site.

Modified Grassland, UKHab code: g4

Landward of the seawall, the Site comprises areas of modified grassland associated with the residential curtilage of Fairport House. The habitat is regularly managed and maintained as amenity grassland, resulting in a species-poor sward dominated by common grasses. Ecological value is generally low, although the habitat contributes to the overall habitat mosaic present within the Site.

3.3 Marine Biotopes

The intertidal habitats at the Site comprise a modified estuarine mudflat and saltmarsh mosaic typical of the lower River Hamble. Habitats support characteristics of sheltered estuarine mud biotopes, including ragworm and bivalve-dominated assemblages, together with saltmarsh fringe communities. Artificial shoreline structures, riprap and historical boating activity have locally modified the habitat, which also supports established populations of the non-native Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas* and extensive mats of the invasive red seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla*. These habitat characteristics are consistent with estuarine mud and saltmarsh biotopes commonly recorded throughout the Solent and River Hamble estuary.

Patches of fucoid algae (*Fucus* spp.) were present on areas of riprap, seawall structures and other stable hard substrates within the intertidal zone. *Ascophyllum nodosum* was also recorded locally. These assemblages are typical of sheltered estuarine environments within the Solent and River Hamble and provide habitat complexity within the otherwise sediment-dominated intertidal habitat mosaic. The communities are likely to be representative of sheltered littoral rock and artificial hard-substrate biotopes occurring throughout the estuary.

LS.LMx - Littoral mixed sediment

This biotope covers most of the intertidal area adjacent to the site and comprises a heterogeneous mosaic of fine estuarine mud, sandy mud, gravel, cobbles, riprap and scattered anthropogenic material associated with historical and ongoing recreational boat use. The substrate is highly variable, with broad transitions between soft sediment habitats and areas of artificial hard substrate associated with shoreline protection works and the existing seawall.

The soft sediment component is dominated by fine mud and sandy mud typical of sheltered estuarine environments and is likely to support infaunal community's characteristic of Solent estuarine mudflats, including polychaete worms, oligochaetes and bivalves. Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas* was frequently recorded throughout the intertidal area, particularly where stable hard substrates were available for colonisation.

Areas of riprap, cobbles and other stable hard substrates supported locally abundant epifaunal and epifloral communities. Patches of fucoid algae (*Fucus* spp.) and Egg Wrack *Ascophyllum nodosum* were present on riprap and seawall structures, providing increased habitat complexity within the intertidal zone. Extensive mats of the invasive non-native red seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla* were also recorded across sections of the mudflat surface and amongst hard substrates.

Evidence of previous boat use was apparent throughout the habitat, with scattered estuarine debris, boat-related materials and anthropogenic litter present locally. The habitat therefore represents a modified estuarine intertidal mosaic, exhibiting characteristics of both littoral mixed sediment and sheltered hard-substrate communities. Boundaries between the soft sediment habitats and fucoid-dominated hard-substrate assemblages are diffuse, reflecting the transitional nature of the shoreline and the influence of artificial coastal structures.

Within the littoral mixed sediment mosaic were small areas of:

LS.LSa.MuSa - Polychaete/bivalve dominated muddy-sand shores

A narrow area of muddy sand or fine sand exists below the shingle in the upper part of the littoral zone. The sediment remained water-saturated during low water. The infauna generally consists of amphipods, polychaetes, bivalves and gastropods. An anoxic layer is often associated with this biotope, approximately 5cm below the sediment surface, which appeared to be evident in worm casts on the surface. Detailed surveys of this layer were not carried out.

LS.LMu.EST.HedMacEur – *Hediste diversicolor* and *Macoma balthica* in Estuarine Mud

This biotope is characteristic of sheltered intertidal mudflats and is representative of much of the soft sediment habitat present within the Site. It comprises fine silty mud and sandy mud substrates that are regularly exposed at low tide and inundated during high tide. The biotope typically supports infaunal communities dominated by ragworm *Hediste diversicolor*, Baltic tellin *Macoma balthica* and other estuarine invertebrates, providing an important food resource for fish and wading birds.

Within the Site, the habitat forms part of a mosaic of intertidal mudflat, saltmarsh and artificial hard substrates associated with the seawall and riprap. Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas* was frequently recorded on stable hard surfaces, whilst extensive mats of the invasive non-native seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla* were present across sections of exposed mudflat. Localised patches of fucoid algae (*Fucus* spp.) and Knotted Wrack *Ascophyllum nodosum* occurred on riprap and other hard substrates. Despite these local modifications, the habitat retains the characteristic features of estuarine mud communities typical of sheltered Solent estuaries.

LR.LLR.F.Fuc

LR.LLR.F.Asc.FS

3.4 Assessment for protected species

Birds

Records for many coastal bird species (including Schedule 1) that could be supported at the site were returned from the data search. These include Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dark bellied brent geese *Branta bernicla bernicla*, black tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, wigeon *Anas penelope* and shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*. The desk study also returned numerous records of other notable Sussex bird species that have been recorded in the area; several of these are NERC S41 species of principal importance.

Breeding birds

The garden adjacent to the site supports habitats suitable for common and widespread breeding birds within the areas of Oak trees and planted garden southwest of the site. These habitats are low in species diversity. However, nonetheless, they do provide good structural habitat, which is not intensively managed and, therefore, the suitability is expected to be moderate-high.

Intertidal birds

The intertidal mudflats at the lower end of the tide cycle will likely be used by small numbers of wading birds (October-March), which are Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK. However, the entire coastal frontage is prone to human disturbance, particularly during the summer months when extensive recreational boating activity occurs adjacent to the site. Therefore, summer breeding is considered unlikely.

Species using the frontage in winter will likely include Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Mediterranean gull, Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* will all be found along the

frontage either loafing or feeding, as will dark bellied brent geese, curlew and black tailed godwit.

Bats

The Site comprises intertidal mudflat, saltmarsh, seawall and modified grassland habitats and does not contain any buildings, trees or other features with the potential to support roosting bats. Consequently, the Site is considered to have negligible suitability for roosting bats.

The River Hamble corridor may be used by commuting and foraging bats moving through the wider landscape. In particular, the estuary may provide occasional feeding opportunities where emergent aquatic insects are present, and bats may forage opportunistically over the water surface during suitable weather conditions. However, the Site itself provides limited foraging habitat and does not form a significant commuting route, with more suitable habitats present elsewhere along the river corridor.

Great Crested Newts

The desk study returned records of Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* within 1 km of the Site. The nearest record was located approximately 750 m west of the Site, north of Bursledon, and dates from 2010.

The Site comprises intertidal mudflat, saltmarsh, seawall and modified grassland habitats and does not contain any ponds or terrestrial habitats suitable for supporting Great Crested Newts. Furthermore, the Site is separated from the nearest record by extensive areas of urban development and infrastructure, which are likely to act as barriers to dispersal. Given the distance from the nearest record and the presence of more suitable terrestrial habitats closer to the recorded breeding pond, it is considered highly unlikely that Great Crested Newts utilise the Site.

The proposed works are confined to the intertidal environment and will not require the removal of terrestrial habitats suitable for Great Crested Newts or other amphibians. Consequently, no impacts upon Great Crested Newts or other amphibian species are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

Reptiles

The desk study returned six records of Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis* and a single record of Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica* within 1 km of the Site. The Slow Worm records originated from two locations: a site north of Bursledon located over 750 m from the Site, and a second site situated south of the Site on the opposite bank of the River Hamble. The Grass Snake record was recorded from the same location north of Bursledon as the Great Crested Newt and Slow Worm records.

The Site comprises intertidal mudflat, saltmarsh, seawall and modified grassland habitats and does not provide suitable habitat for reptiles. Furthermore, there is limited ecological connectivity between the Site and the locations from which reptile records were obtained. The urban

environment of Bursledon separates the site from the records to the north, whilst the River Hamble presents a substantial barrier to movement from the records located on the opposite bank of the estuary. Consequently, the site is considered unlikely to support reptiles.

The proposed works are confined to the intertidal environment and will not require the removal of terrestrial habitats suitable for reptiles. Therefore, no impacts upon reptiles are anticipated because of the proposed development.

Badger

The saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats within the site, offer some potential for use by commuting or foraging Badgers. The site itself offers limited potential to support badger setts, and no field signs of badger were observed during the survey.

The works may temporarily disturb badger foraging/commuting routes through physical disturbances, plant and materials.

Invertebrates

The data search returned a total of 491 species of invertebrates recorded within 1km of the site.

The invertebrate records returned by the desk study indicate that the wider River Hamble estuary supports a diverse assemblage of coastal, wetland and estuarine invertebrates, including several species considered notable, scarce or of conservation interest within Hampshire. Several species recorded are closely associated with saltmarsh, brackish grazing marsh, reedbed and other coastal wetland habitats characteristic of the Solent estuarine complex.

Of particular ecological significance is the presence of the Saltmarsh Horsefly *Atylotus latistriatus*, a nationally scarce coastal species strongly associated with saltmarsh and brackish coastal marsh habitats. The species is largely restricted to coastal areas of southern and eastern England, with records concentrated around the Solent and East Anglia. It is considered an important indicator of high-quality saltmarsh habitat and has been described as a rare coastal species associated with Limonium-dominated saltmarsh communities.

Other notable coastal and saltmarsh-associated species recorded include Rosy Wave Scopula *emutaria*, a nationally scarce moth associated with coastal marshes, salterns and saltmarsh habitats, where larvae are known to utilise sea beet and other coastal plant species. In Hampshire, the species is regarded as uncommon and is principally associated with coastal salterns and wetland habitats. Additional species indicative of coastal and estuarine habitats includes Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritima*, Rosy Minor *Litoligia literosa*, Small Blood-vein *Scopula imitaria*, Dwarf Cream Wave *Idaea fuscovenosa* and Purslane Moth *Scrobipalpa instabilella*, all of which are associated with coastal grassland, saltmarsh margins, reedbeds or brackish wetland environments.

The records also include several notable wetland-associated Diptera, particularly soldierflies and horseflies, including Long-horned General *Stratiomys longicornis*, Banded General

Stratiomys potamida, Flecked General *Stratiomys singularior*, Four-barred Major *Oxycera rara*, Barred Snout *Nemotelus uliginosus* and All-black Snout *Nemotelus nigrinus*. These species are frequently associated with coastal grazing marsh, saltmarsh transition zones, brackish ditches and other wetland habitats and are often regarded as indicators of ecologically valuable wetland systems.

A number of species of broader conservation interest were also recorded, including Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*, a Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, together with several localised butterflies and moths such as Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae*, Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*, White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrrium w-album* and Brown Hairstreak *Thecla betulae*. The diversity of records reflects the ecological importance of the wider River Hamble landscape and its connectivity with the internationally designated habitats of the Solent estuary.

Overall, the invertebrate assemblage recorded within the search area demonstrates the importance of the lower River Hamble for coastal and estuarine invertebrates, particularly species associated with saltmarsh, reedbed, grazing marsh and transitional intertidal habitats. The presence of specialist saltmarsh taxa further emphasises the ecological value of the estuarine habitat mosaic surrounding the Site.

Marine invertebrates

The intertidal and subtidal sediments described provide suitable habitat for a range of macroinvertebrate species. The range of sediment sizes present mean that diverse macroinvertebrate communities will have been able to develop, which in turn provide an important food source for bird and fish species in the area. The biotopes described above provide habitat for a range of invertebrates found in the intertidal zone, such as barnacles, other crustaceans including the common shore crab *Carcinus maenus* and molluscs such as the common cockle *Cardium edule*.

Habitats suitable for aquatic invertebrates will be temporarily disturbed by the works during the construction of the jetty and pontoon system. Disturbances to sediments within the coastal waters may also occur during the installation of the piles.

Fish and Marine Mammals

The desk study returned records for six fish species within 1 km of the Site, comprising Thick-lipped Mullet *Chelon labrosus*, Herring *Clupea harengus*, European Sea Bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*, Black Goby *Gobius niger*, Two-spotted Goby *Gobiusculus flavescens* and Pouting *Trisopterus luscus*. A single record of the Critically Endangered European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* was also returned. The intertidal mudflats and shallow subtidal waters of the River Hamble provide suitable habitat for a range of estuarine and marine fish species, including species which utilize the estuary as a feeding, nursery and migratory habitat.

No records of marine mammals were returned within 1 km of the Site. Whilst occasional marine mammal sightings may occur within Southampton Water and the wider Solent, the

upper estuarine environment of the River Hamble is not considered to provide important habitat for marine mammals and their occurrence within the Site vicinity is likely to be infrequent.

The proposed works are located within the intertidal zone and may result in temporary and localized disturbance through increased noise, vibration and sediment mobilization during construction. However, given the limited scale and duration of the works, any effects on fish populations are expected to be minor and temporary. No significant impacts upon marine mammals are anticipated.

3.5 Invasive Non-native Species

A total of 31 invasive non-native species (INNS) has been recorded within 1km of the site. However, only 3 were identified on site at the time of the survey. Biosecurity measures should be implemented throughout the proposed works to minimise the potential of the works spreading or releasing any INNS into the area (see Section 4).

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

The site forms part of the wider River Hamble estuarine ecosystem and supports habitats of high ecological importance. The Site lies within the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site and Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI. The Site also supports Habitats of Principal Importance, including Atlantic Salt Meadow and Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats, which contribute to the ecological value of the wider Solent designated site complex.

The site comprises a mosaic of intertidal mudflat, saltmarsh, seawall and modified grassland habitats and is likely to support a range of protected and notable species, including breeding and overwintering birds, commuting and foraging bats, fish, and estuarine invertebrates. The following ecological receptors may be affected by the proposed development:

- The site lies within the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site. Whilst the proposed works are limited in scale and located within an area previously consented by Natural England for jetties and pontoons, potential impacts upon the qualifying features of these designated sites should be considered separately through a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- The site also lies within the Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI. Appropriate precautionary measures should be implemented during construction to ensure that the notified features of the SSSI are protected from pollution, sediment release and unnecessary disturbance.

The Habitats of Principal Importance present within the Site comprise:

- Atlantic Salt Meadow (H1420) – a narrow strip of saltmarsh located immediately seaward of the existing seawall. This habitat should be retained and protected throughout the construction period.
- Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats (H1140) – comprising much of the Site and supporting estuarine ecological communities typical of the Solent. Temporary disturbance may occur during construction, although permanent habitat loss is expected to be minimal.
- The Site supports habitat suitable for estuarine fish species, including European Eel, Sea Bass and Thick-lipped Mullet. Temporary disturbance associated with construction activities may occur; however, impacts are expected to be localised and short-term.
- The intertidal habitats support a range of notable coastal and estuarine invertebrates, including species associated with saltmarsh and brackish wetland habitats. Construction activities should be undertaken in a manner that minimises unnecessary disturbance to intertidal habitats.

- The site may be used opportunistically by foraging bats associated with the River Hamble corridor and by breeding, overwintering and passage birds associated with the wider estuary. Precautionary mitigation should therefore be implemented to minimise temporary disturbance during construction.

Subject to the implementation of standard pollution prevention measures, ecological best practice and the recommendations contained within this report, the proposed development is not considered likely to result in significant adverse ecological effects. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement should be incorporated where practicable in accordance with the biodiversity duty established under the Environment Act 2021.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Further Surveys

No further surveys are considered necessary, as the proposed works are designed to avoid impacts on protected species and habitats, where possible. Low levels of disturbance are considered likely and precautionary mitigation should be followed as detailed below.

4.2.2 Further Assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is recommended to be undertaken to assess the potential effects of the proposed development on the qualifying features of the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site.

Given that the Site lies within the Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI, consultation with Natural England may also be required to ensure that the proposed works are compatible with the conservation objectives of the designated site.

4.2.3 Atlantic Salt Meadow Priority Habitat Mitigation

A narrow strip of Atlantic Salt Meadow (H1420) occurs immediately seaward of the existing seawall. This habitat should be retained and protected throughout the construction period.

The construction methodology should be designed to avoid direct impacts to saltmarsh vegetation. No storage of materials, plant or equipment should occur within saltmarsh habitats and temporary working areas should be confined to the minimum area necessary to undertake the works.

4.2.4 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats Priority Habitat Mitigation

Most of the site comprises Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats (H1140), which form a Habitat of Principal Importance and a qualifying feature of the Solent Maritime SAC.

Construction activities should be undertaken in a manner that minimises disturbance to intertidal sediments. Any temporary disturbance to the substrate should be restricted to the smallest practicable footprint and all works should be undertaken in accordance with best practice pollution prevention measures. Disturbed sediments are expected to recolonise naturally from adjacent habitats following completion of the works.

4.2.5 Breeding and overwintering bird Mitigation Measures

The site lies within an internationally important estuarine bird assemblage associated with the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar Site.

Prior to commencement of works, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) should undertake a pre-construction check of the intertidal area for feeding, roosting or loafing birds. If significant numbers of birds are present, works should be delayed until the birds have naturally dispersed.

Should construction occur during the overwintering bird period (October to March inclusive), periodic monitoring visits by an ECoW may be required to ensure disturbance remains minimal.

4.2.6 Fish and Aquatic Ecology

The site supports habitat suitable for estuarine fish species including European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*, Sea Bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*, Thick-lipped Mullet *Chelon labrosus* and other estuarine fish species.

To minimise disturbance to fish communities:

- Works within the intertidal zone should be undertaken during suitable tidal windows wherever practicable;
- Sediment disturbance should be minimised;
- Plant and machinery should be maintained in good working order to prevent pollution incidents; and
- Any materials entering the estuary should be prevented through the implementation of appropriate environmental controls.

4.2.7 General Avoidance Measures

General avoidance measures should include:

- Restricting works to normal daytime working hours;
- Avoiding unnecessary lighting of the shoreline and intertidal habitats;
- Maintaining a tidy site and removing waste materials regularly;
- Preventing accidental damage to adjacent saltmarsh habitats; and
- Ensuring all contractors are aware of the ecological sensitivities of the site.

4.2.8 Toolbox Talks

Prior to commencement of works, all contractors should receive an ecological toolbox talk from the ECoW covering:

- Designated sites;
- Saltmarsh and mudflat habitats;
- Breeding and overwintering birds;
- Fish and aquatic ecology;
- Invasive non-native species; and
- Pollution prevention requirements.

4.2.9 Biosecurity

Measures will need to be put in place to ensure that there is no spread of invasive non-native species or diseases. For more information go to: www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry.

4.2.10 Pollution Prevention Measures

Given the direct hydrological connection to the River Hamble, robust pollution prevention measures should be implemented throughout the works. Measures should accord with current CIRIA guidance and include:

- Appropriate fuel and chemical storage within bunded areas;
- Use of drip trays beneath stationary plant;
- Availability of spill kits on site at all times;
- Daily inspection of plant and machinery for leaks;
- Designated refuelling areas located away from the estuary where practicable;
- Immediate reporting and remediation of any pollution incidents; and
- Adoption of environmentally sensitive construction methods where possible.

4.3 Enhancement

The proposed development comprises the installation of a new access jetty and pontoon within the River Hamble and has been designed to minimise impacts on existing habitats, including the Atlantic Salt Meadow and Intertidal Mudflat and Sandflat habitats present within the site. Whilst the scale of the development is relatively small, opportunities exist to deliver biodiversity enhancements in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 and local planning policy.

Unlike the previously consented activities undertaken by statutory bodies, the proposed development is associated with a planning application and is therefore expected to be subject

to the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements introduced under the Environment Act 2021. A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment will therefore be required to determine the baseline biodiversity value of the site and demonstrate how a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity units will be achieved and maintained for a period of at least 30 years.

Given the ecological sensitivity of the site and its location within the Solent designated site complex, enhancement measures should focus on delivering measurable biodiversity benefits to estuarine and intertidal habitats where practicable. The following enhancements are recommended:

- A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment should be undertaken using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric to establish baseline habitat units and identify opportunities to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain.
- The design of the pontoon, piles and associated structures should incorporate biodiversity enhancement features where practicable. This could include the use of textured surfaces, habitat panels, rock pools, crevice features or other "Building with Nature" or "Greening the Grey" principles to increase habitat complexity and promote colonisation by estuarine flora and fauna.
- Where feasible, native saltmarsh enhancement opportunities should be explored adjacent to the seawall through improved management of the existing Atlantic Salt Meadow habitat and protection from accidental trampling or disturbance.
- The use of timber, untreated natural materials and rough surface finishes should be prioritised where compatible with engineering and navigational requirements to encourage colonisation by marine invertebrates and algae.
- The installation of interpretation material describing the ecological importance of the River Hamble, the Solent Maritime SAC and the estuarine habitats present within the site could be considered to promote awareness of the conservation importance of the area.
- All invasive non-native species management measures should be implemented in accordance with best practice guidance to prevent the spread of Pacific Oyster (*Magallana gigas*), the American slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata* and the invasive seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla* during construction activities.
- Lighting associated with the development should be avoided where possible. If lighting is required for safety reasons, a sensitive lighting design should be adopted to minimise disturbance to bats, birds and other wildlife associated with the River Hamble corridor.

The final biodiversity enhancement strategy should be informed by the findings of the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and should seek to deliver measurable ecological benefits alongside the proposed development whilst maintaining the integrity of the designated habitats and species associated with the River Hamble estuary.

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Appendix A: Habitat Map



Map Title		Coordinate System and Source	
Fairport pontoon survey area and habitat map		EPSG:27700 - OSGB36 British National Grid © OpenStreetMap contributors, QGIS Development Team (2026) QGIS Geographic Information System. Open Source Geospatial Foundation Project http://qgis.osgeo.org	
Consultant		Version & Date	
Fathom Ecology www.fathom-ecology.com info@fathom-ecology.com		Version 2 / 1st June 2026	
Generated By	Checked By	Job No.	
Peter Barfield	Rayner Piper	J2026_0194	

Appendix B Site Photographs

No.	Photograph	Description
1		View of the site looking southeast and downstream on the Hamble Estuary (SU 49213 09222).
2		View of the site over which the proposed jetty and pontoon system will be placed. View looking north-east (SU 49235 09209).

No.	Photograph	Description
3		View of intertidal mudflats Priority Habitat looking landward. This habitat is likely to support marine biota including brown seaweed (as pictured). These habitats provide ideal foraging ground for coastal birds. View looking south-south-west (SU 49247 09228).
4		View of Atlantic saltmarsh habitat Priority Habitat on the upper edge of the intertidal. The timber sleeper seawall is behind and the amenity grassland behind the seawall. View looking south-west (SU 49231 09211).

Appendix C: Relevant Legislation and Policy

The legislation discussed below is intended as a guide only and does not replace formal legal advice.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Chapter 15 of the NPPF requires planning decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity value and priority habitats.

The NPPF states that if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, planning permission should be refused. It also states that development likely to adversely affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) should not normally be permitted unless the benefits clearly outweigh both the impacts on the designated features and broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on public authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity when carrying out their functions. Conserving biodiversity includes restoring and enhancing habitats and species populations.

Section 41 of the Act identifies Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. Within the Site, Atlantic Salt Meadow and Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats are habitats of principal importance and are therefore material considerations in the planning process.

Environment Act 2021 and Biodiversity Net Gain

The Environment Act 2021 introduced mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for most planning applications in England. Development proposals are generally required to demonstrate a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity value, measured using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, and secured for a minimum period of 30 years.

A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment will therefore be required to accompany the planning application and demonstrate how the development will achieve the required biodiversity uplift.

Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended)

The Site lies within the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. These sites are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Competent authorities must undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) where a plan or project may have a likely

significant effect on the qualifying features of a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Statutory Designated Nature Conservation Sites

The site lies within the Solent designated site complex and the Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI. These internationally and nationally designated sites receive legal protection through UK legislation and the Habitats Regulations. Development proposals must consider impacts on their qualifying habitats and species.

Birds

All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built, or to take, damage or destroy eggs. Certain species receive additional protection under Schedule 1 of the Act.

The Solent and Southampton Water SPA is designated in part for its internationally important assemblages of overwintering and passage waterbirds, and these species are therefore a key ecological consideration for the proposed development.

Bats

All bat species and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Although no roosting habitat is present within the site, bats may forage opportunistically along the River Hamble corridor and should therefore be considered when designing construction lighting.

Fish

The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 provide protection for fish and their spawning grounds. It is an offence to knowingly permit activities which result in pollution that is injurious to fish or their habitats.

European Eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*) is additionally protected under the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. The River Hamble provides suitable habitat for eel and other estuarine fish species, including Sea Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) and Thick-lipped Mullet (*Chelon labrosus*). Development proposals should therefore minimise impacts on fish passage, water quality and estuarine habitats.

Invasive non-native species

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause certain invasive non-native species to grow in the wild. The site supports populations of Pacific Oyster (*Magallana gigas*), the slipper limpet (*Crepidula fornicata*) and the invasive

red seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla*. Appropriate biosecurity measures should therefore be implemented during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Appendix D Protected Species Records

Common name	Scientific name	Designation		Location and Date
	Amphibians			
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	WCA Sch5, NERC S41, UK BAP Priority		Bursledon, SU496095, 2025-09-27
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	WCA Sch5		Sarisbury Green, SU495085, July 2020
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	WCA Sch5, NERC S41, UK BAP Priority, Hab Reg Sch2, Hab Dir A2 NP, Hab Dir A4		Lowford, Bursledon, SU485095, 31 October 2010
	Fish			
European Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	NERC S41		Hamble shoreline, SU495091, 16 July 2013
Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	NERC S41		Hamble shoreline, SU494092 27 September 2017
	Reptiles			
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	WCA Sch5, NERC S41, UK BAP Priority		School Road, Lowford, Bursledon, SU485095
Grass snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	WCA Sch5, NERC S41, UK BAP Priority		School Road, Lowford, Bursledon, SU485095
	Birds (only those on Schedule 1 of the WCA)			
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		WCA Sch1, Birds Dir A1, Red List Global post 2001 NT, Notable	Bridge Road, Lower Swanwick SU495095

Appendix E Invasive Non-Native Species Records

Common name	Scientific name	Designation	Location
Birds			
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2010
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	WCA Sch 9	Elmer Rocks (LWS), SZ9899, 2021
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2021
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping CP, Climping, TQ005015, 2005
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2010
Chromista			
Wireweed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping, TQ006006, 2022
Plants			
Three-cornered Garlic	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	WCA Sch 9	Middleton-on-Sea, SU971003, 2012
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Sussex INNS	Middleton Shingle - Ar19, SZ970997, 2019
Pampas-grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Sussex INNS	Middleton-on-Sea, SZ9699399754, 2012
Wall Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Yapton Churchyard, SU90W, 2016
Late Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>	WCA Sch 9	Elmer nr Middleton, Elmer, SZ984999, 2005
Bullate Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster rehderi</i>	WCA Sch 9	Yapton, Bilsham Rd., SU90W, 2009
New Zealand Pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	WCA Sch 9	Bailiffs Court, TQ00A, 2014
Montbretia	<i>Crocasmia pottsii x aurea</i> = <i>C. x crocosmiiflora</i>	WCA Sch 9	Yapton Churchyard, SU90W, 2016
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping area, TQ010010, 2005

Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	WCA Sch 9	Bailiffs Court, TQ00A, 2014
Spanish Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Sussex INNS	Climping, Cottage Pond, SU999017, 2002
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> x <i>hispanica</i> = <i>H. x massartiana</i>	Sussex INNS	Yapton Churchyard, SU90W, 2016
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	WCA Sch 9	Felpham/Middleton, SU90Q, 2010
A Flowering Plant	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>	WCA Sch 9	Yapton, SU90W, 2005
Least Duckweed	<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Sussex INNS	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2015
Winter Heliotrope	<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Sussex INNS	Middleton on Sea, SZ99U, 2010
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Sussex INNS	Yapton/Climping area, SU90W, 2007
Evergreen Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Sussex INNS	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2015
Japanese Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	WCA Sch 9	Elmer, Beach, SZ9857599992, 2011
Harpoon Weed	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping, TQ006006, 2022
Invertebrates			
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Sussex INNS	Climping, TQ003009, 2023
American Slipper Limpet	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping, TQ006006, 2021
Gypsy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Sussex INNS	Kingsmead Road, Middleton-on-Sea, SU982004, 2023
Mammals			
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Middleton, SU9700, 2018
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping Gap, TQ00A, 2019

Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2021
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping CP, Climping, TQ005015, 2005
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2010
Chromista			
Wireweed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping, TQ006006, 2022
Plants			
Three-cornered Garlic	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	WCA Sch 9	Middleton-on-Sea, SU971003, 2012
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Sussex INNS	Middleton Shingle - Ar19, SZ970997, 2019
Pampas-grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Sussex INNS	Middleton-on-Sea, SZ9699399754, 2012
Wall Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Yapton Churchyard, SU90W, 2016
Late Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>	WCA Sch 9	Elmer nr Middleton, Elmer, SZ984999, 2005
Bullate Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster rehderi</i>	WCA Sch 9	Yapton, Bilsham Rd., SU90W, 2009
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Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping area, TQ010010, 2005
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Evergreen Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Sussex INNS	Climping Atherington, TQ005005, 2015
Japanese Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	WCA Sch 9	Elmer, Beach, SZ9857599992, 2011
Harpoon Weed	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping, TQ006006, 2022
Invertebrates			
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American Slipper Limpet	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	WCA Sch 9	Climping, TQ006006, 2021
Gypsy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Sussex INNS	Kingsmead Road, Middleton-on-Sea, SU982004, 2023
Mammals			
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	WCA Sch 9	Middleton, SU9700, 2018

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