

Date: 11th August 2026

Dog Training Security Fence – Ecology Letter

Introduction

Tetra Tech were commissioned by Atkins Réalis on behalf of The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (the Client) to undertake a site walkover of the 'Dog Training Field' land at the Police Training Centre, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey, Southampton, SO31 4TS (henceforth referred to as 'the site') in order to advise of any ecological constraints to the proposed development.

To undertake an initial assessment of the potential ecological impact of the proposals, UKHab survey, and a preliminary protected species assessment were carried out.

This letter aims to:

- a. undertake a desk-based review of designated sites and records of protected species and other species that could present a constraint using MAGIC (MagicMap, 2026)¹;
- b. map and assess the habitats present on site;
- c. assess the site for potential to support protected species or other species that could present a constraint, and make appropriate recommendations for further survey work if necessary;
- d. provide outline options for mitigation measures as appropriate; and
- e. make recommendations for appropriate biodiversity enhancements.

This report pertains to these results only; recommendations included within this report are the professional opinion of an experienced ecologist and therefore the view of Tetra Tech. The surveys and desk-based assessments undertaken as part of this review and subsequent report including the Ecological Appraisal Notes are prepared in accordance with British Standard for Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BS42020:2013).

Site Location

The Dog Training Field is located within the Police Training Centre, SO31 4TS. The Red Line Boundary (RLB), as shown in **Appendix A**, comprises a narrow strip along the eastern boundary of the site, to the west of Hamble Lane in Netley, Hampshire. This includes a small area of modified grassland used as a sports pitch and a section of the existing pedestrian footpath.

¹ MAGIC — Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside. Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk> (accessed August 2026)

The Blue Line Boundary (BLB), as shown in **Appendix A**, represents the site ownership boundary and comprises the remainder of the Dog Training Field. This includes a large area of natural sports pitch, a small section of bramble scrub along the southern BLB, and a parcel of broadleaved woodland along the western BLB.

Aerial imagery available via Google Earth Pro was also reviewed to assess the site in its wider landscape context. The immediate surroundings comprise woodland to the north-east of the site, with the existing access road running parallel to the eastern site boundary. Further sports pitches associated with Hamble Club FC lie along the southern boundary. In the wider landscape, the site is surrounded by areas of grassland and woodland to the north and east, the wider Police Training Centre site to the west, and the residential area of Hamble-le-Rice to the south.

The study area and Zone of Influence (Zoi) are considered to comprise land immediately adjacent to the Site, together with a 30 m buffer from the application boundary for badgers and a 250 m buffer from the application boundary for great crested newts.

Relevant Legislation and Policy

Relevant legislation, policy guidance and both Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are referred to throughout this report where appropriate. Their context and application are explained in the relevant sections of this report.

The relevant articles of legislation are:

- The Environment Act, 2021;
- Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023;
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024);
- ODPM Circular 06/2005 (retained as Technical Guidance on NPPF 2024);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (EU Exit Amendment);
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997; and
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

A summary of legislation relevant to protected or other species identified as potential constraints in this report is provided in **Appendix A**.

Development proposals

The development proposals include the erection of a 270 m long x 3m high steel mesh security fence along the eastern site boundary, to replace the existing chain link fence which runs along the boundary of the sports pitch.

Methods

Desk Study

Locations of statutory designated sites were accessed via the government MAGIC website (MagicMap, 2026). A 1:25,000 OS map was used to identify nearby features such as ponds or green corridors that could provide habitat or connectivity to other areas.

A full desk study was not considered necessary for this report, given the limited nature of the proposed development, which comprises the installation of a 3 m high security fence along an existing fenceline. The works are predicted to result in low ecological impact, as they are small-scale in nature and are not expected to result in significant ground disturbance, habitat loss, or effects on ecological receptors.

Ecological Appraisal

The Ecological Appraisal consisted of two components: a UKHab Survey and a scoping survey for protected species and other species of conservation concern which could present a constraint to development.

A site walkover was undertaken on the 28th of July 2026 by a suitably qualified Tetra Tech Ecologist.

Broad habitat types within the site were identified in accordance with UK Habitat Classification v2.0 (UKHab, 2023)² and as described in the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Assessment (CIEEM, 2017)³. This includes applying The UK Habitat Classification Primary Habitat Hierarchy and where necessary, Secondary Code Groupings.

A protected species scoping survey was carried out in conjunction with the UKHabs survey. The site was assessed for its suitability to support protected species, in particular great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*, reptiles, birds, badgers *Meles meles*, bats, and other species of conservation importance that could pose a planning constraint. Areas of habitat considered suitable for protected species or those of conservation interest were recorded.

Limitations

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.

Results

Statutory Designated Sites

Six statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance lie within 2 km of the site. These comprise the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), located

² UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org/>).

³ CIEEM (2017). Guideline for Preliminary Ecological Assessment. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

approximately 0.97 km east of the site boundary at its closest point, and the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, located approximately 1.29 km south-west of the site boundary.

Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) also lie within 2 km of the site boundary: Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI and Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, located approximately 1 km east and west of the site boundary, respectively. Both SSSIs overlap with the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and SPA, and the Solent Maritime SAC.

UK Habitat Survey

Onsite Habitats (RLB)

g4.820: Modified Grassland (Natural Sports Pitches)

The development boundary (RLB) overlapped a narrow strip of sports pitch grassland. It comprised dominant *Lolium* spp., typical of a natural sports pitch and was regularly maintained to a short sward length.

u1b6.827: Other developed land (Pathway)

There was a thin gravel pathway used by pedestrians which boarded the existing sports pitch fence line.

Offsite Habitats (BLB)

g4.820: Modified Grassland (Natural Sports Pitches)

The wider site (BLB) comprised the remainder of the sports pitch grassland.

h3h: Bramble Scrub

There was a small stand of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* scrub along the eastern BLB.

W1: Broadleaved and mixed woodland

The western BLB comprised a strip of broadleaved woodland, which extended into the wider surroundings.

The UKHab survey results are included in **Appendix B**, and site photographs are included in **Appendix C**.

Protected Species Scoping

Flora

No non-native or invasive species were identified within the development boundary.

Invertebrates

The habitats present within the development boundary were common and widespread, and therefore, likely to support only a common assemblage of invertebrates and considered to be of negligible value to protected and / or notable invertebrate species.

Therefore, invertebrates are not considered any further in this assessment.

Reptiles and Amphibians

The sports pitches were maintained to a short sward length with limited structural diversity and were considered to offer negligible value for reptiles or amphibians. Habitats within the wider site ownership boundary (BLB) were broadly similar to those within the development boundary, comprising a small area of scattered scrub that was largely isolated from other suitable habitat within the wider landscape.

Although the woodland along the western boundary may provide suitable basking, foraging, hibernation and, for amphibians, potentially breeding habitat, it lies outside the proposed development boundary and would not be directly impacted by the proposed works.

A culvert was recorded approximately 23 m from the site boundary, running beneath the existing access road into the wider site. This feature was assessed as unsuitable for amphibians due to its dry, exposed conditions, hard-engineered nature, and lack of vegetated refuge or moist cover. No other waterbodies were recorded within 250 m of the RLB.

Therefore, reptiles and amphibians are not considered any further in this assessment.

Nesting Birds

There were no trees or buildings within the development boundary that offered suitable habitat for nesting birds. Therefore, birds are not considered any further in this assessment.

Bats

No buildings or trees were located within the site boundary.

The site was considered to provide low-suitability habitat for commuting and foraging bats, as it comprises a narrow strip of land forming a sports pitch, bounded by an existing chain-link fence and offering very limited boundary features and connectivity to suitable habitat within the wider landscape. Notwithstanding this, woodland to the east and west of the site provided suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats.

Dormice

There was no suitable habitat within the development boundary for dormice. As such dormice are not considered further in this report.

Badgers

The habitat within the development boundary was considered unsuitable for badgers, comprising predominantly sports pitch and a gravel pathway. Although the wider landscape, including woodland to the east, provides suitable foraging, commuting and breeding habitat for badgers, this is isolated from the development boundary by the intervening sports pitch.

Hedgehog

Hedgehog, a Section 41 species (NERC Act), are known to be present in the wider area and it is considered possible that hedgehogs use on site vegetation for foraging.

Otter and Water vole

The site comprises predominantly short-maintained sports pitches and a pedestrian pathway with limited habitat structure and negligible suitability for otter or water vole. Habitats within the wider site ownership boundary (BLB) were broadly similar and did not provide suitable riparian or aquatic habitat. Although woodland along the western boundary may offer limited cover, it lies outside the proposed development boundary and is not directly affected by the proposed works.

A culvert was recorded approximately 23 m from the site boundary, running beneath the existing access road into the wider site; however, it was considered unsuitable for use by water vole and of limited value for otter due to its dry, exposed conditions, hard-engineered nature and lack of vegetated refuge. No other waterbodies were recorded within 250 m of the RLB.

On this basis, otter and water vole are not considered further in this assessment.

Evaluation

Designated Sites

The MAGIC Map search returned six statutory designated sites for nature conservation value within 2 km of the Site. The closest of these includes the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, the Solent Maritime SAC, and the Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI and Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, located approximately 1 km from the site boundary. The proposed development will not have any direct effects on the designated sites.

The site falls within the Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for the Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI and Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI. Given the type of development, being largely undistruptive to the surrounding environment, any indirect effects from an increase footfall to any designated sites is considered to be negligible; and therefore, the proposed development is considered to not adversely impact the SSSI's within 2km of the site boundary.

Given the distance of site from the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, the Solent Maritime SAC and the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, further mitigation measures have been introduced in the section below to protect the sites during construction.

Bats

The development site was assessed as offering low suitability habitat for foraging and commuting bats. The woodland to the east and west of the site provided suitable habitat for bat foraging and commuting, which may be subject to indirect effects (lighting / noise) during the construction phase of the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that a sensitive lighting scheme is implemented during both the construction and operational phases of the development, in order to minimise potential impacts. Further mitigation measures are detailed in the section below.

Badgers

The habitat within the development site is considered largely unsuitable for badgers. However, the wider landscape includes suitable habitat within the woodland areas, albeit isolated from the development boundary. Therefore, recommendations to protect badgers (and other small mammals) have been introduced below.

Hedgehog and other mammals

Hedgehog, a Section 41 species (NERC Act), are known to be present in the wider area and it is considered possible that hedgehogs use on site vegetation for foraging.

All wild mammals are protected from unnecessary suffering and asphyxiation under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

No further surveys for hedgehog or other mammals are required at this stage however recommendations to protect hedgehogs and other mammals during construction are outlined below.

Recommendations and Mitigation

Designated Sites

The Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, the Solent Maritime SAC, and the Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI, Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI and the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA should be protected through the construction phase of the development, via employing suitable pollution prevention methods (dust suppression, spill kits etc.). Good practice guidelines would be adhered to during the construction phase to control impacts such as contamination and dust to surrounding habitats during the build of the proposed development. It is recommended that all of this protection be detailed in a Construction and Environmental management Plan (CEMP).

Bats

In order to protect foraging/commuting bats, a sensitive lighting scheme should be implemented to avoid a significant increase in the illumination of retained boundary features, during both construction and operation as per the GN08 Bats and Artificial Lighting Guidance Note⁴. The points listed below will help to minimise potential impacts from lighting:

- Avoid direct illumination of retained features, such as treelines and hedgerows;

⁴ Institute of Lighting Professionals (2023). Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and artificial lighting at night. ILP, Rugby.

- Use light sources that emit minimal ultraviolet light and avoid white or blue wavelengths to avoid attracting lots of insects (attracting insects to lamps may reduce their abundance in darker foraging areas favoured by bats);
- 2700 Kelvin colour temperature LED floodlights delivering warm white spectrum lighting (where possible);
- Back shields and side shields added to all LED lights, to reduce spill light and back light as much as practically possible; and
- Lighting should be selected and positioned to minimise effects on bats, with peak wavelengths above 550 nm preferred where practicable (Stone, 2012)⁵.

Badgers

Given that badgers are a highly mobile species, the following should be implemented during construction in order to prevent harm to foraging and commuting badgers (and other species):

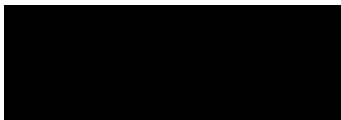
- Any open deep excavations to be sloped or securely boarded / fenced to prevent entrapment;
- All rubbish to be picked up daily and stored appropriately;
- Night work should be avoided where possible, and any flood lighting should face away from the site boundaries;
- Excavations to be checked for trapped animals daily; and
- Any hazardous materials to be stored in a secure store.

Hedgehog and other mammals

The measures outlined to protect badger during construction will also serve to protect hedgehog and other animals should they cross the site.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,
for Tetra Tech



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⁵ Stone, E. L., Jones, G. & Harris, S. (2012). Conserving energy at a cost to biodiversity? Impacts of LED lighting on bats.

Appendix A – Relevant Legislation

GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended), which affords the species protection under Section 9. The species is also listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In combination, this makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take (capture etc.) a Great Crested Newt;
- possess a Great Crested Newt;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to any structure or place used by Great Crested Newt for shelter or protection, or disturb any animal occupying such a structure or place; and sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) or advertise for buying or selling such things.

Great Crested Newts are also listed on the UKBAP as a Priority Species and are listed as a species of principal importance for biodiversity in England & Wales under Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (2006).

REPTILES

All common UK reptile species (Adder *Vipera berus*, Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis*) are protected through part of Section 9(1 and 5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This prohibits:

- Intentional or reckless injuring or killing;
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, or having in possession or transporting for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal; or
- Publishing or causing to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying buying or selling, or intending to buy or sell, any of those things.

BIRDS

All birds, their nests and eggs are afforded protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as updated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. 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; and
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Schedule 1 birds cannot be intentionally or recklessly disturbed when nesting and there are increased penalties for doing so. Licences can be issued to visit the nests of such birds for conservation, scientific or photographic purposes but not to allow disturbance during a development even in circumstances where that development is fully authorised by consents such as a valid planning permission.

BATS

All British bat species are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as updated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. All British bats are also included on Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as European Protected Species. It is an offence to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture bats;
- deliberately or recklessly disturb bats (whether in a roost or not); and
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts

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A roost is defined as 'any structure or place which [a bat] uses for shelter or protection'. As bats tend to reuse the same roosts, legal opinion is that a roost is protected whether or not bats are present at the time of survey.

A licence will therefore be required by those who carry out any operation that would otherwise result in offences being committed.

The following bat species are listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England, (commonly referred to as UKBAP Priority species): Barbastelle, Bechstein's, Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long-eared, Greater Horseshoe, and Lesser Horseshoe.

BADGER

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This act is based on the need to protect badgers from baiting and deliberate harm or injury. The act makes it an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or attempt to do so;
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett. Sett interference includes disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, as well as damaging or destroying a sett or obstructing access routes.

A sett is defined as "any structure or place that displays signs indicating current use by a badger".

DORMOUSE

Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* is fully protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The Regulations prohibit:

- Intentionally, recklessly or deliberately kill, injure or take a Dormouse;
- The deliberate disturbance of this species in such a way as to be significantly likely to affect:
 - Their ability of to survive, hibernate, migrate, breed, or rear or nurture their young; or;
 - The local distribution or abundance of Dormice.
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place (nest);
- The possession or transport of Dormice or any other part of.

Dormice are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion in Schedule 5. Under the Act, they are protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level);
- Obstruction of access to any place of shelter, breeding or rest;
- Selling, bartering or exchange of these species, or parts of.

Offences can be deliberate, intentional or reckless and penalties for any of the above include fines of up to £5k and imprisonment of up to 6 months, per animal affected.

Dormice are also listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as a Species of Principal Importance; national objectives & targets include the maintenance of the geographical range and viability of existing Dormice populations to ensure that it remains in favourable conservation status.

OTTER

Otter *Lutra lutra* is classified as a European Protected Species by virtue of it being listed under Annex IV of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

In England and Wales, the provisions of the EC Habitats and Species Directive are translated into legislation through Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which makes it an offence to deliberately:

- capture, injure or kill an otter;

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- disturb an otter in the manner that is likely to impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or nurture its young, or significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an otter.

Otters are also fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981 (as amended) in England and Wales by virtue of being listed under Schedule 5 of the Act making it an offence to intentionally:

- capture, injure or kill an otter;
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to the breeding or resting place of an otter while it is occupying such a place for shelter or protection.

WATER VOLE

Water vole *Arvicola amphibius* is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and is listed as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. It is an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take water vole;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb water vole while occupying such a structure or place.

Appendix B – UK Hab Survey Results



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Notes
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- LEGEND**
- Site boundary (Dog Training Security Fence)
 - Wider ownership boundary
 - g4 820 Modified grassland (Natural sports pitches)
 - h3h Bramble scrub
 - u1b6 800 Other developed land (roads)
 - w1 Broadleaved and mixed woodland



Client **UBU Design Ltd**

Project **Netley Police Station
(Dog Training Security Fence)**

Project No. **LAN5579**

Title **Baseline UKHab Map**

Drawing No. ECO5579-0006	Figure No. 01	Revision 01	Status DRAFT
Date AUG 2026	Drawn By LP	Checked By DLS	Revision By -
Scale @ A3 1:1,250		Datum OSGB 1936	

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Appendix C – Site Photographs



The sports pitch, comprising majority of the site and wider site (BLB). The woodland within the wider site along the western boundary and existing fenceline along the eastern boundary of the sports pitch.



Small parcel of bramble scrub along southern BLB of the sports pitch.
