



High Wood Reservoir – Solar Array Application

Construction Management Plan (CEMP)

Portsmouth Water Ltd.

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Basis of Report

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. SLR has prepared this Construction Management Plan (CMP) on behalf of our client, Portsmouth Water Limited, in connection with the Discharge of Condition 4 - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) pursuant to approved planning application F/23/96049, relating to the site known as High Wood Reservoir, Allington Lane, Southampton, SO30 3HQ.
- 1.2. The full planning application, as submitted by Portsmouth Water, who own the site, was for the installation of a roof top solar panel array.
- 1.3. This CMP has been prepared to demonstrate how the site will be appropriately managed during construction. It includes details on:
 - a) A programme of construction work;
 - b) The provision of facilities for contractor parking;
 - c) Access and egress arrangements for vehicles, plant and machinery, including timings;
 - d) The arrangements for managing vehicle, plant and machinery access and egress and deliveries to avoid conflicts on the access road and entrance (e.g. use of banksman, timing of deliveries, restrictions on vehicle size, numbers etc);
 - e) Vehicle tracking plan for lengths of Allington Lane to be utilised for access;
 - f) Protection of pedestrian routes (bridleways and footpaths) during construction;
 - g) Location of temporary site buildings, compounds, construction material and plant storage areas;
 - h) Measures for the control of dust and particulate matter;
 - i) Measures to mitigate noise and vibration;
 - j) Details of lighting;
 - k) Restrictions on installation work to avoid bird nesting season;
 - l) Measures to protect existing vegetation.
- 1.4. A CEMP has been prepared by Ecosupport to demonstrate how the site will be appropriately managed from an ecological perspective. This report has been attached at Appendix A.



2.0 Approved Development

- 2.1 The approved proposals involve the installation of a roof top array covering the majority of the reservoir roof, providing some 4.1 MWp of installed capacity. The plan is to initially install less panels, covering 70% of the roof area, representing an installed capacity of 2.752MWp.
- 2.2 The High Wood storage reservoir site comprises of an open hard engineered concrete storage tank which is accessed, under a right-of-way easement, via a single gravel track which adjoins Allington Lane located to the south. The reservoir comprises a concrete tank which is split into two compartments, one large, one small, with an overall size of plan dimensions 190m x 125m.
- 2.3 The initial solar array installation will focus on the roof area above the large concrete tank compartment, as indicated in figure 1, leaving the area above the small compartment to be installed at a later date. A total of 5,920 panels will be installed, each one rated at 465W.
- 2.4 The concrete walls of the reservoir extend to a height of approximately 4m above surrounding ground level, and the roof extends to a height of 9.9m above the top of the existing walls at its highest point. The structure is a profile steel clad barrel roof, supported on a steel framework.
- 2.5 The programme of construction works will see site mobilisation, to establish the site compound and welfare facilities, in September 2026, subject to receiving discharge of condition permission. With the roof installation of the solar array proposed for over a two-month period, with a target completion date of end of November 2026.



Figure 1: Solar Array Layout



3.0 Vehicles

- 3.1. Construction vehicles will be limited to accessing the site between the times of 07:30hrs – 17:00hrs. This aligns with the current working hours for the site.
- 3.2. Access and egress will be via the main gate on Allington lane and comply with the approved drawings:
 - 55-330-1B 2016 Arcl Access-Egress
 - 55-330-2B 2016 RigidV Access-Egress
- 3.3. All construction-related traffic, including delivery vehicles, HGVs, and contractor transport, must strictly adhere to the designated access route. Vehicles are required to approach and leave High Wood Reservoir exclusively via Allington Lane from the west (approaching from the direction of B3037 / Fair Oak Road).
- 3.4. Under no circumstances will delivery vehicles or construction traffic be permitted to access or exit the site from or towards the east along Allington Lane due to severe road width and physical highway constraints. Clear signage indicating the mandatory western route will be installed at the site exit, and route instructions will be distributed to all suppliers and sub-contractors prior to dispatch.
- 3.5. Because the gravel access track between Allington Lane and the reservoir site can only accommodate a single vehicle at any one-time, strict delivery controls will be enforced throughout the construction period:
 - Slot Management System: All deliveries must be booked into pre-allocated time slots in advance to ensure that no two delivery vehicles arrive at or attempt to use the access track simultaneously.
 - No Waiting on Public Highway: A strict policy will be enforced prohibiting any delivery or construction vehicle from parking, idling, or waiting on Allington Lane or the surrounding public highway.
 - Site Manager Coordination: Delivery vehicles will contact the site manager on arrival to the access road. Site manager and their team will co-ordinate deliveries to ensure no more than one vehicle is on the access road at one time.
 - Holding Area: As a back-up, Portsmouth Water River Itchen Water Treatment Works, Allington Lane, West End, SO30 3HQ can be used as a holding area if multiple vehicles are in the vicinity at one time.
- 3.6. The proposed development will not result in any increase in traffic and will not have any material impact on the safe operation of the local highway network. It is not expected that there will be a large number of lorries entering and leaving the site during any one day, or week, and this will only be during the construction phase of the works, once this is complete then there will be no need for these larger vehicles to use the site.
- 3.7. Vehicles will be required to cross bridleways and footpaths when using the access road from Allington Lane to the construction site.



- 3.8. Parking for contractor vehicles will be restricted to the areas of hardstanding to the front of the reservoir. If there are additional contractors or visitors to the project site they will be directed to use the Itchen Valley Country Park Car Park, in the parking bays nearest to the reservoir.
- 3.9. We can confirm that Wattstor are confident that there will not be any problems with regards to the access / egress for HGVs during the construction phase; on previous works a banksman has been used to support and manage any movements.
- 3.10. A traffic management risk assessment has been completed to manage construction vehicle movements safely and minimise potential conflict with members of the public using the adjacent bridleway and footpath network.
- 3.11. Heras fencing will be installed in the locations shown in red on Figure 2 and Figure 3 to create a clearly defined holding area and crossing point between the two CDM areas, reducing the risk of interaction between construction traffic and public users.
- 3.12. Where vehicles need to cross the right of way to access the goods vehicle turning and loading area, trained banksmen will supervise the crossing, manage public passage where necessary, and ensure vehicle movements are carried out safely and in an orderly manner.
- 3.13. Gates at the CDM area access points will be opened during deliveries, providing a temporary barrier and prevent public access to areas where vehicles are crossing.
- 3.14. Where the access drive crosses the Public Right of Way (PROW), user safety and priority will be managed under the following operational commitments:
- Pedestrian Priority: Members of the public utilising the PROW retain absolute priority over construction traffic at all times.
 - Gated Controlled Crossing: The Heras boundary gates at the CDM crossing point will remain open for PROW users by default, ensuring unhindered pedestrian access.
 - Vehicle Hold Procedure: When a construction vehicle needs to cross the PROW, the vehicle must come to a complete stop before the crossing point.
 - Banksman Operation: Banksmen will visually inspect the PROW to ensure it is completely clear of pedestrians and cyclists. Gates across the PROW will only be temporarily closed by the banksman while the vehicle actively crosses, after which they will immediately be reopened. Site vehicles will strictly wait for full user clearance before gate operation or movement commences.
- 3.15. To ensure the public highway remains free of mud and debris: All vehicles leaving the construction area will pass through the on-site wheel washing facility located at the access road entrance. In the event of an equipment failure of the on-site wheel wash facility, or should unacceptably heavy mud tracking occur, a licensed mechanical road suction sweeper will be dispatched to clean the access track and Allington Lane

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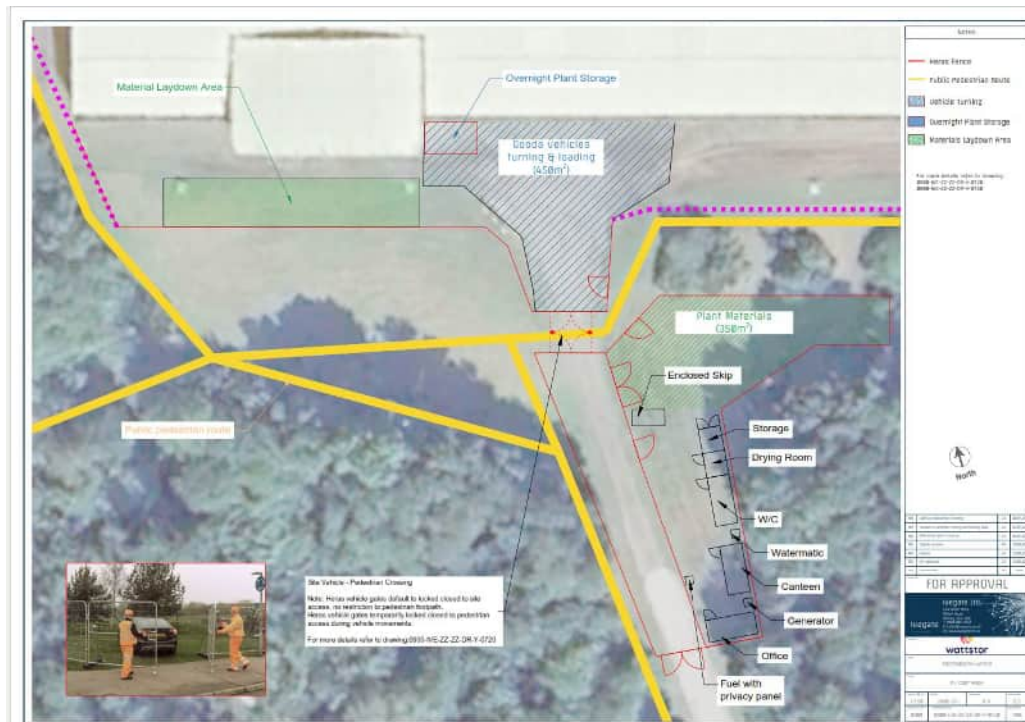


Figure 2: Compound plan

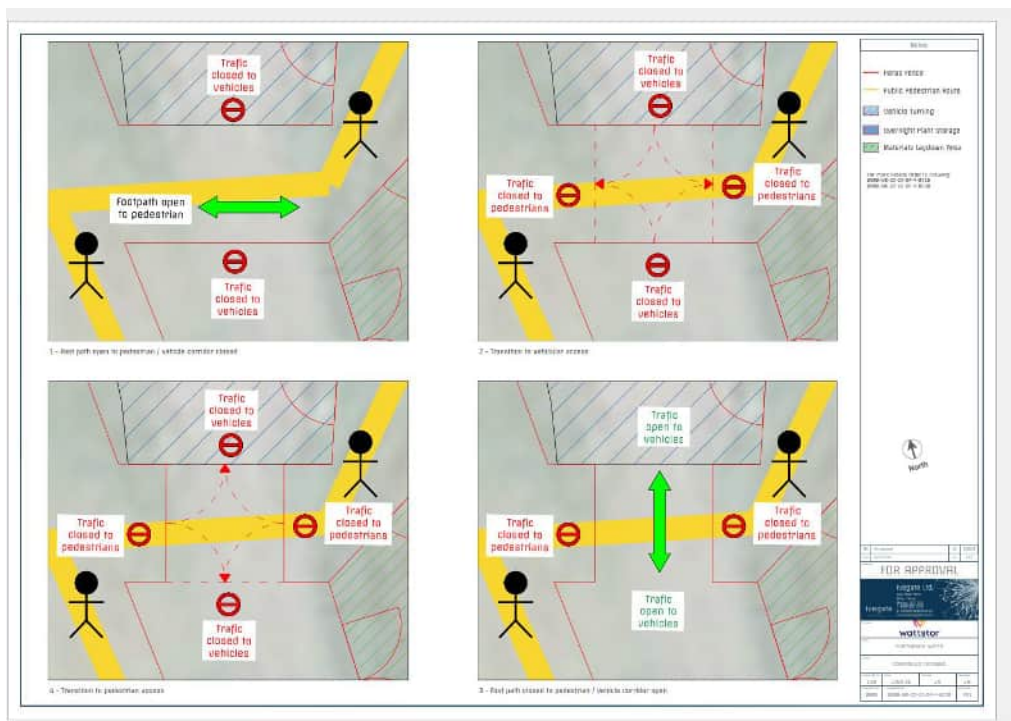


Figure 3: Footpath Gate Arrangement



4.0 Construction Methods

Noise and vibrations

- 4.1. Construction of the proposed development will have potential for some elevated noise levels associated with the movement of plant and machinery within the site, and construction vehicles. With good practice controls on construction noise and the short duration of construction works, no significant noise effects would be likely from this phase of the proposed development.
- 4.2. Once the work has been completed, there would very little additional human activity at the site.
- 4.3. The nearest properties are 0.41km to the southeast for Gleneagles Riding School or 0.27km to the south for the nearest residential properties, as shown in Figure 4 below.

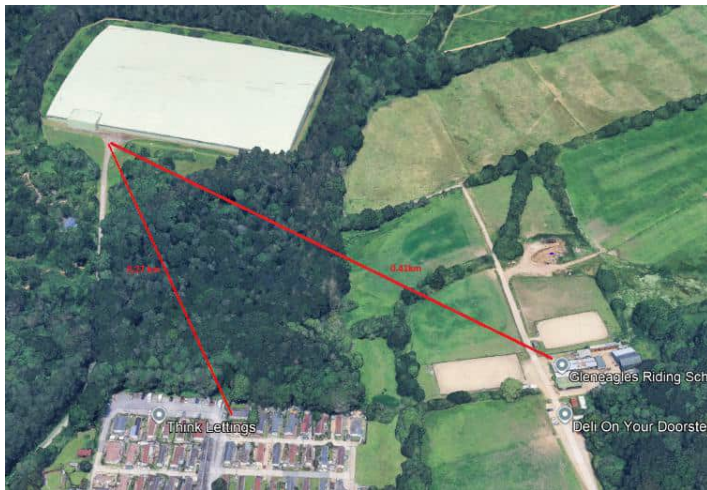


Figure 4: Nearest Residential Properties

Dust and air quality

- 4.4. All necessary measures will be used to suppress dust on site, including by the use of water etc.

Noise and Vibration

- 4.5. Apart from some short-term construction noise there will be no post development noise or vibration from the proposed installation.

Lighting

- 4.6. No external lighting is proposed post development. Any lighting used during the construction works will only be on during the working hours of 07:30hrs – 17:00hrs.

Storage of soil and materials

- 4.7. Materials used in constructing the development shall be stored on site and in a safe and suitable way. A small temporary area will be set up within the wider site to allow for safe storage of materials. No materials will be stored outside of the development area or the storage area to protect any foraging and commuting wildlife.



Construction and Maintenance of Trenches and Earthworks

- 4.8. Contractors will park on site at all times with plenty of parking available. Any trenches will be kept open for as short of a period as possible. All soil will be stored on site, compacted, covered at night, and used to backfill the trenches in the future. Any trenches that are left open overnight will be tightly covered or/and provisions will be made to deter any wildlife.

Ecology

- 4.9. Ecosupport Ltd have prepared a 'Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP): Biodiversity' to support this discharge of conditions application. This report has been attached at Appendix A.

Potential contamination of land, ecology and groundwater

- 4.10. All reasonable measures will be taken to manage risks of contamination. Portsmouth Water, who own the site, have an active in-house environmental team that visit site regularly. Spill kits are readily available on site to manage any issue.

Communication with the public

- 4.11. There is no requirement to communicate this work to the public, as the nearest residents are situated 0.27km to the south of the site and the nearest commercial premises are sited 0.41km to the southeast of the site. All necessary communication will be undertaken by the development's project manager. Signage will be installed at site boundaries, such as gates and/or stiles informing the public of upcoming construction activity.

Monitoring the CMP

- 4.12. The CMP will be monitored by the development's project manager. In the event of any issue their contact details are as follows:

Name: Callum Hook

Phone Number: 07809 591744

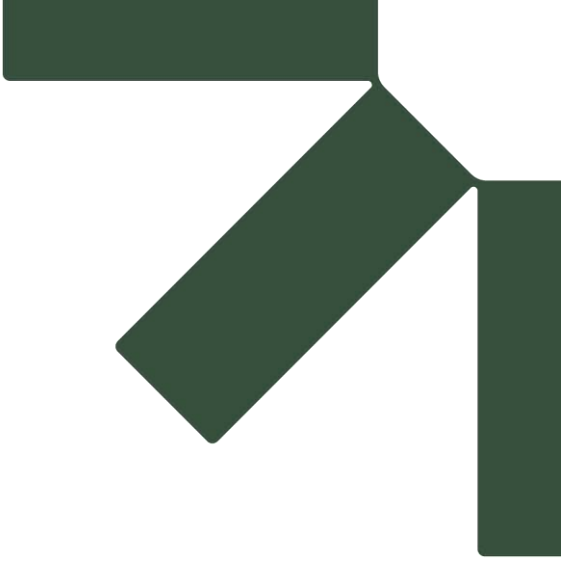


5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1. The construction of the High Wood Reservoir Solar Array represents a valuable opportunity to deliver sustainable energy infrastructure with minimal environmental impact. These supporting documents set out a clear and robust framework for ensuring that all construction activities are undertaken responsibly, safely, and in full compliance with relevant environmental commitments.
- 5.2. Through the implementation of the measures outlined in the CMP, CEMP and BEMP - including controls on noise, dust, lighting, ecological protection, vehicle management, and site operations - the project team will proactively safeguard the surrounding environment, local communities, and site personnel.
- 5.3. The short construction period, combined with strong environmental oversight by the contractor and site management team, will help ensure that any potential impacts are carefully managed and reduced to the lowest practicable level.
- 5.4. Overall, the proposed construction works will be carried out in a manner that supports the wider objectives of sustainability and environmental protection. The successful delivery of the solar array will contribute positively to local renewable energy generation and long-term carbon reduction goals. With diligent monitoring, clear communication, and a commitment to best practice, the project is well positioned to achieve a high standard of environmental performance throughout the construction phase.

SLR Consulting Limited





Appendix A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

High Wood Reservoir – Solar Array Application

Construction Management Plan (CEMP)

Portsmouth Water Ltd.

SLR Project No.: 402.064869.00001

27 August 2026



Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

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Client	Portsmouth Water
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Ecosupport Ltd were commissioned by Portsmouth Water to produce a 'Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP): Biodiversity' for the development of the site known as 'High Wood Reservoir'. This was requested to satisfy the discharge of condition 3 of the planning application (F/25/99979), which states the following:

No installation or groundworks shall commence until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall include precautionary working methods to safeguard wildlife (including reptiles, amphibians and small mammals), details of ecological supervision where appropriate, and measures to prevent pollution or run-off to the adjacent Itchen Valley Country Park SINC. The development shall thereafter be carried out in full accordance with the approved CEMP.

Reason: To protect biodiversity and prevent harm to wildlife and adjacent habitats in accordance with Policies DM11 of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016–2036.

1.2 Aim

The aim of the CEMP is to protect the ecological interests on the site during the construction period. This includes habitats of importance to be retained and various protected species such as GCN, breeding and nesting birds, reptiles, Badgers, bats and Hazel Dormice. This also includes protecting the Itchen Valley Country Park SINC. This report details the approach that construction workers will adopt in dealing with the potential ecological impacts associated with various construction activities, including:

- Details of construction activities which have potential to impact upon biodiversity interests of the site;
- Method statements to avoid and mitigate impacts on protected species from construction works;
- Details of locations and timing of works to avoid impacts on protected species;
- Outline works which require supervision by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW)
- Outline the roles and responsibilities and lines of communication of the involved parties including the developer, site manager, ECoW and any other contractors/subcontractors;

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority and/or Natural England.

1.3 Site Description

The application site lies to the south of Itchen Valley Country Park and to the west of Allington village (approximate central Ordinance Survey Grid Reference SU464161). The site is comprised of a building, modified grassland, gravel, bramble and hawthorn scrub located at High Wood Reservoir, Allington Lane, Southampton, SO30 3HQ. The site is bound by ancient woodland and mixed conifer in the national forest inventory to the south and the west. To the north, the site is bound by deciduous woodland (priority habitat inventory). Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh is present to the east and good quality semi-improved grassland to the west. The M27 is present further south and the River Itchen runs to the west of the site. Itchen Valley country park is located to the north. The wider environment is rural, being surrounded by fields and woodland.

Figure 1. Site Boundary (Google Satellite 2026).



1.4 Development Proposals

The proposals involve the construction of a standalone container to house batteries associated with storing the solar energy from the solar panels. A PV CDM area will also be created, this including an enclosed skip, storage and drying room, toilets, a watermatic, a canteen, a generator and an office, as well as fuel storage. A turning and loading area will be provided for goods vehicles, as well as an area for materials to be kept

Figure 2. Proposals (Portsmouth Water).

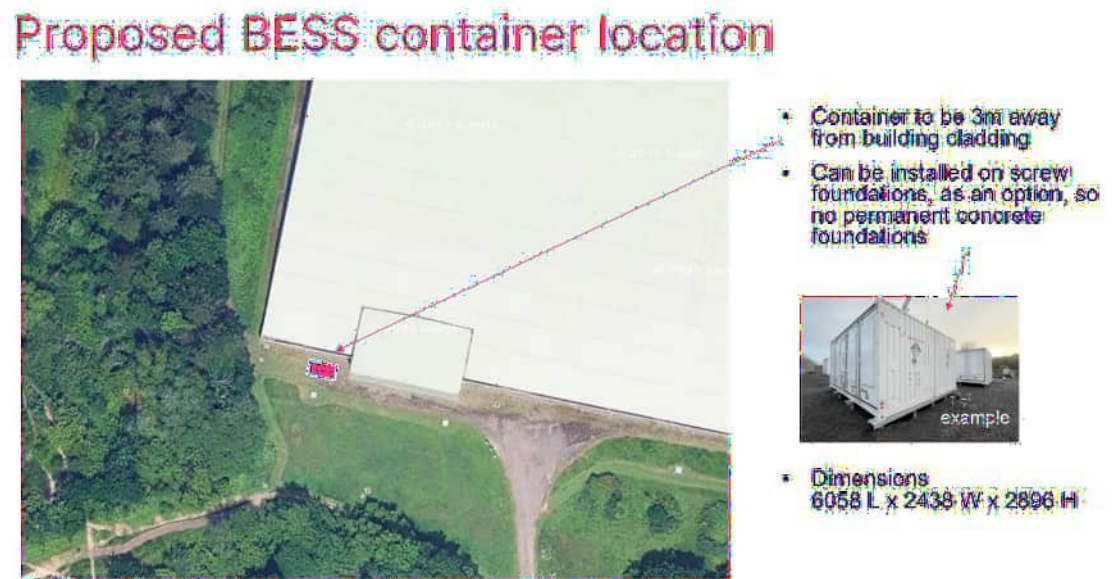


Figure 3. Proposed PV CDM area (Ivegate Ltd – 0900-IVE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-Y-0710)

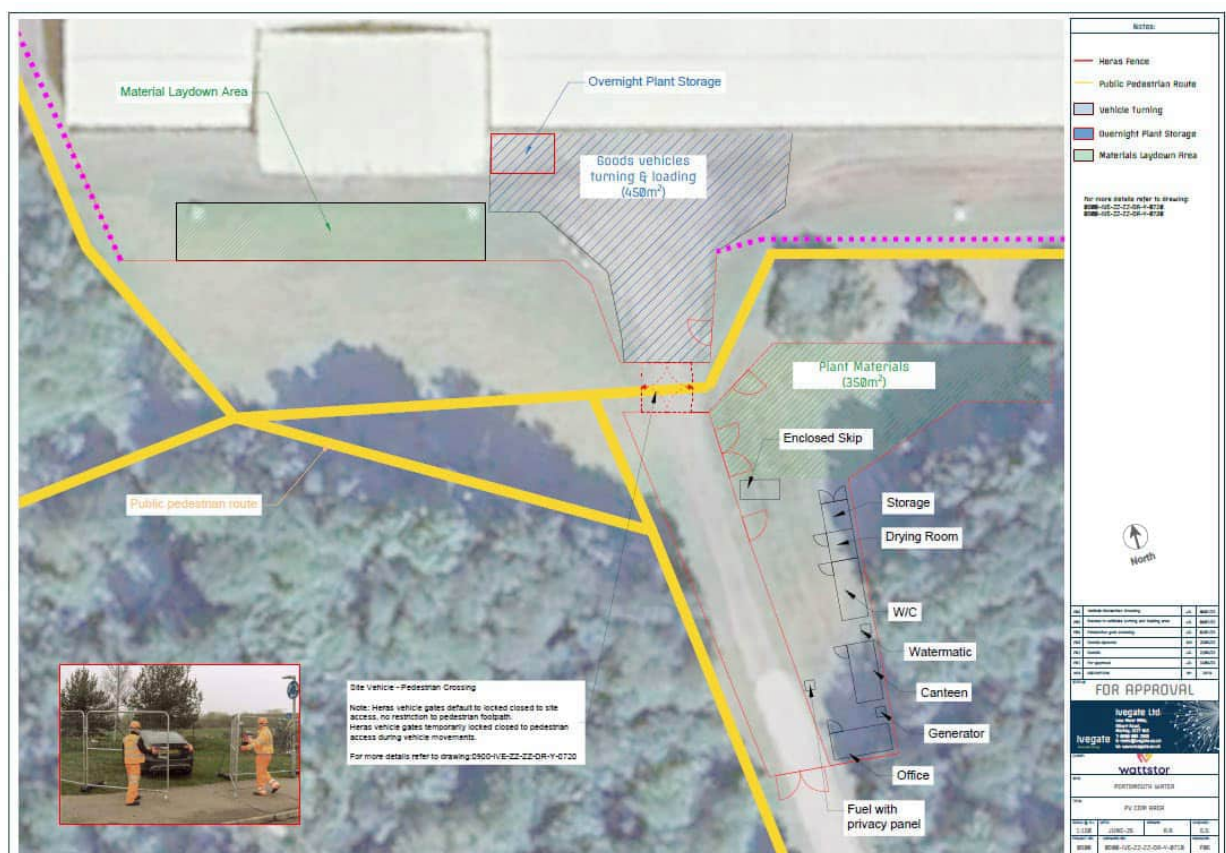
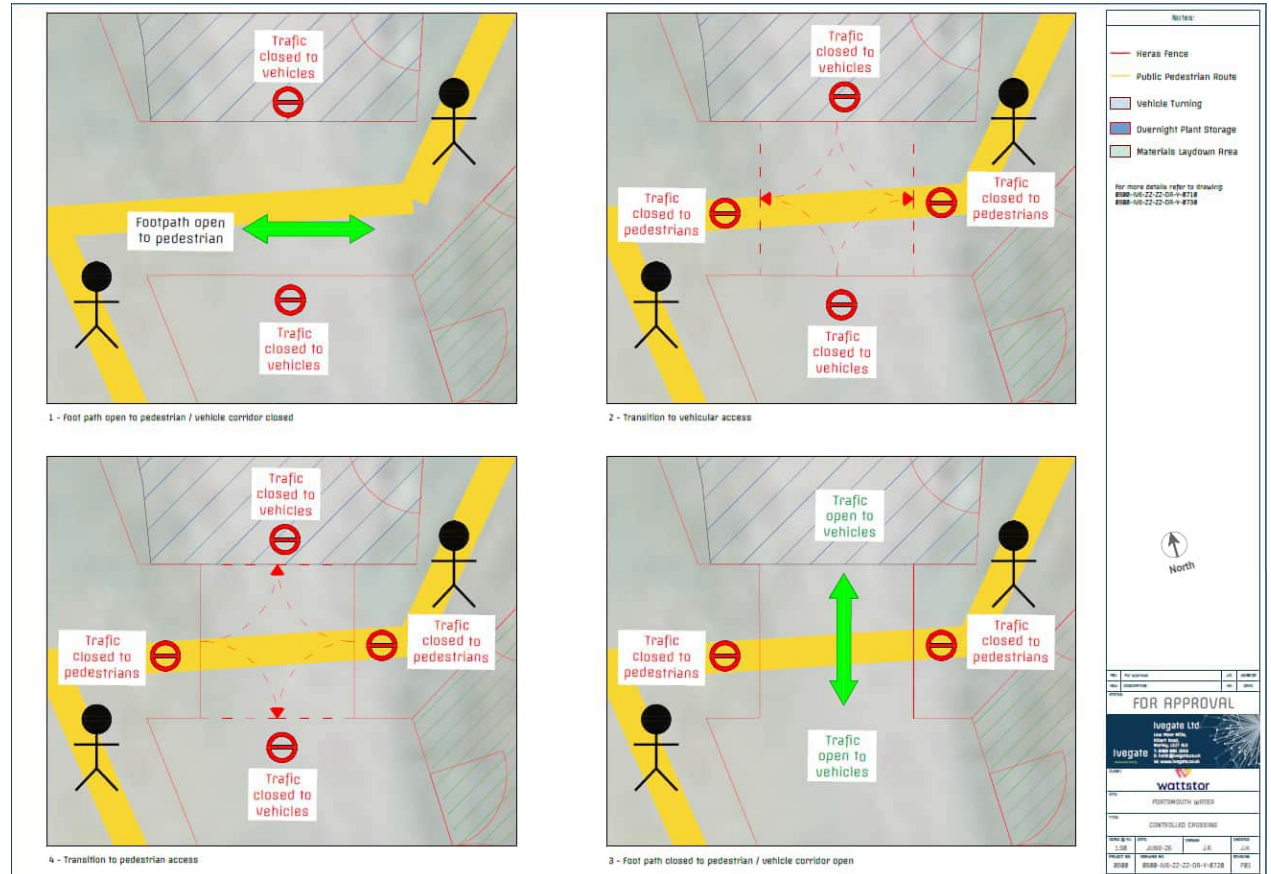


Figure 4. Controlled Crossing (0900-IVE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-Y-0720)

2.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

2.1 Habitats

The site walkover was carried out by Joanna King DipHE on the 28th January 2026. Habitats on-site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey, using Habitat Definitions Version 2.01 (UKHab Ltd., 2023).

The vegetation within the site has been described below using the UK Habs Habitat Definitions Version 2.01 (UKHab Ltd., 2023, updated 2024). The habitat types on site comprise:

- Modified grassland (g4)
- Buildings (u1b5)
- Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (u1c)
- Bramble scrub (h3d)
- Hawthorn scrub (h3f)

2.1.1 Modified grassland (g4)

A small section of modified grassland was present within the site boundary, surrounding the edges of the building. This was shown to be kept at a height of approximately 15cm. The ground below was a mixture of gravel and clay, however mosses (*Bryophyta sp.*) and grasses had begun to establish through this. The banks, outside of the redline boundary, surrounding the building supported the following species; Winter Grass (*Poa annua*), Lesser Clubmoss (*Selaginella selaginoides*), Myriad Leaf (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Figure 5. View of the modified grassland surrounding the building (taken January 2026)



Figure 6. View of the modified grassland surrounding the building (taken January 2026)



2.1.2 Building (u1b5)

There was one building present on-site, which was regarded to be well maintained. The building consisted of metal and fibreglass.

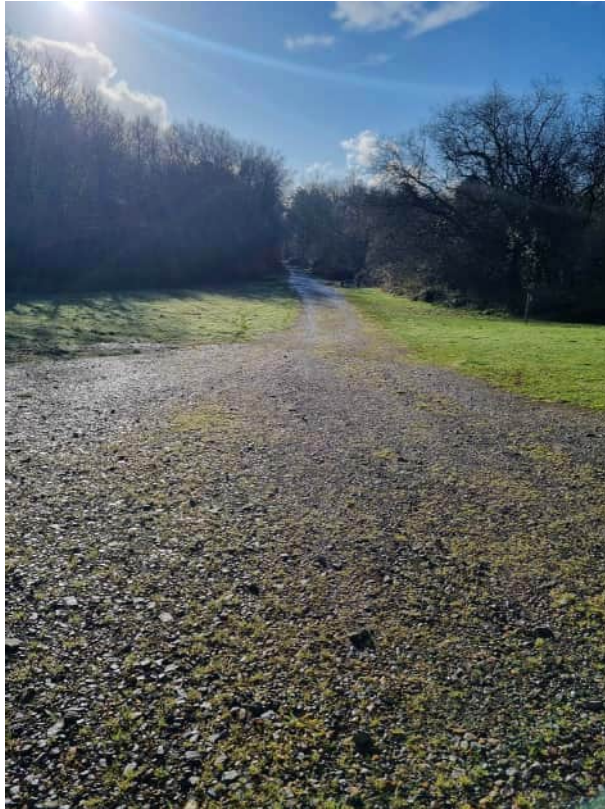
Figure 7. View of the building on-site (taken January 2026)



2.1.3 Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (u1c)

The pathway leading to the reservoir to the south of the site consisted of gravel on clay. This was regarded to be of 5m in width and thereby its use by vehicles is not proposed to impact surrounding habitat.

Figure 8. View of the gravel path to the reservoir (taken January 2026)



2.1.4 Bramble (h3d) & Hawthorn scrub (h3f)

The western and southern sides of the building supported Bramble and Hawthorn scrub, some of which was deemed to have been managed prior to the walkover, suggesting regular management.

Following regular management, an updated image is present in **Fig 9** below.

Figure 9. View of the bramble and hawthorn scrub adjacent to the building (taken January 2026)



Figure 10. View of the bramble and hawthorn scrub adjacent to the building (taken January 2026)



Figure 11. An updated view of the bank vegetation, following scheduled management (provided by Portsmouth Water)



2.2 Bats

2.2.1 Site assessment

One building was present within the centre of the site. This building was assessed to be of ***negligible suitability*** for roosting bats, as a result of the building being highly sealed and thereby there being a lack of entrance and exit gaps. The building was observed to be well maintained, thereby reducing the chance of wildlife utilising it. The upper sides of the building had shallow gaps of approximately 3cm.

The woodland would be suitable for foraging and commuting bats, as well as potentially for roosting bats, within the trees. This is because the woodland not only provides a darkened corridor but also provides foraging resources. Several trees are present along the pathway within the redline boundary, which have potential roosting features (PRFs), such as knot holes. These have the potential to hold roosting bats. The Bramble and Hawthorn scrub would also provide further foraging resources, attracting a variety of invertebrates.

Figure 12. Tree with bat potential along the pathway (taken January 2026)



Figure 13. View of the tree with bat potential (taken January 2026)

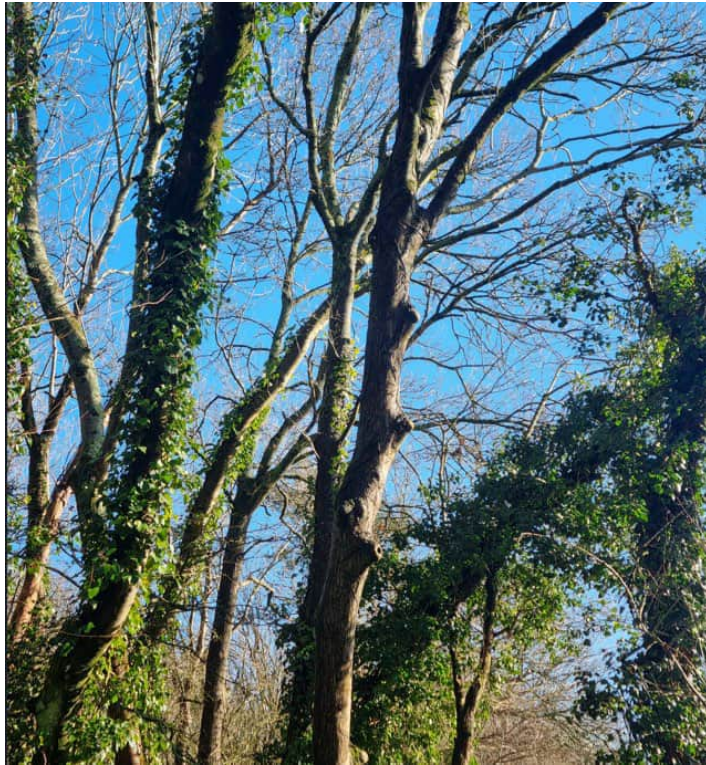


Figure 14. View of tree with bat potential along the pathway (taken January 2026)



2.3 Great Crested Newts

2.3.1 Site assessment

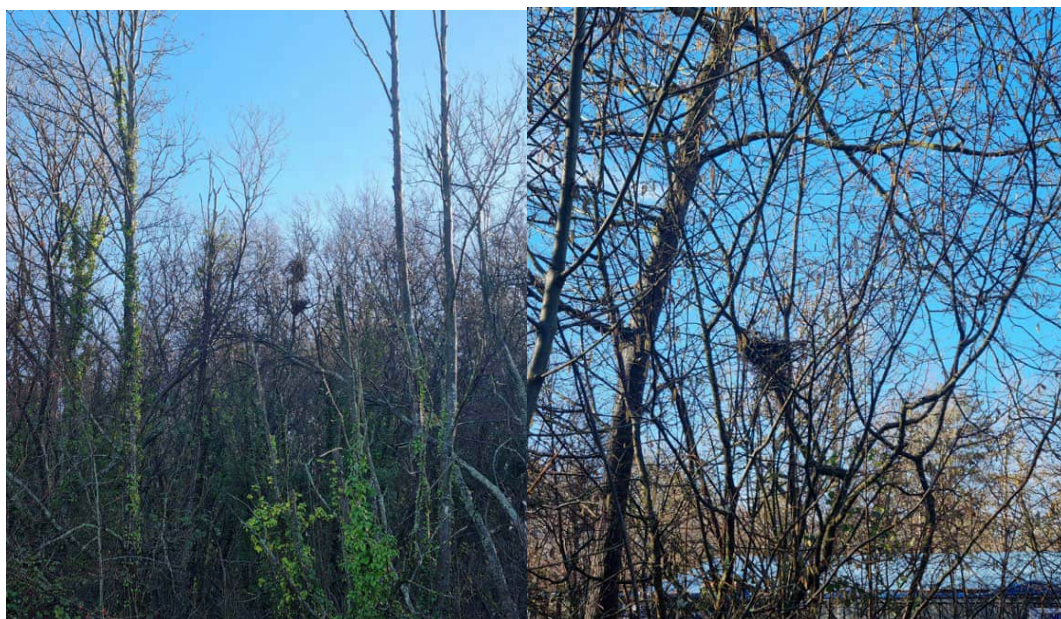
The woodland adjacent to the site may provide suitable habitat for hibernating and foraging GCN. One pond was shown to be present within 250m of the site, to the north, however this is on the 250m boundary and due to the scale of the works, any GCN that were to commute from this pond are not considered to be impacted. This is because the modified grassland and pathway on-site are not considered to be suitable for commuting GCN, due to the fact that the sward height is short surrounding the building, providing little protection from predation. The banks could be utilised, however these are also outside of the redline boundary. Therefore, GCN are more likely to be using the surrounding habitat, than the on-site habitat. As a result, there is considered to be **negligible potential** for GCN on-site.

2.4 Breeding Birds

2.4.1 Site assessment

The lowland mixed deciduous woodland provides highly suitable habitat for foraging, nesting and breeding. This is evidenced by the presence of Pigeon (*Columba livia*) nests in some of the Oak (*Quercus sp.*), Elm (*Ulmus sp.*), and Beech (*Fagus sp.*) trees along the pathway within the redline boundary. The bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site also present an opportunity for nesting and breeding, as well as for foraging, thereby increasing the use of the site for birds. There are locations on the building that small passerines could take advantage of for nesting purposes, however no active or old nests were seen on the building during the survey. Overall, there is **high potential** for breeding and nesting birds on-site.

Figure 15. View of Pigeon nests in the trees either side of the pathway within the redline (taken January 2026)



2.5 Reptiles

2.5.1 Site assessment

A refugia, which would be suitable for reptile hibernation and basking was present along the pathway within the redline boundary. Banks surround the building and that to the north was in a position that would be in full sun in the morning, thereby being perfect for basking. The bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site would also provide habitat for commuting, since it allows sufficient shelter. The modified grassland on-site immediately surrounding the building supported too short of a sward height to be suitable for commuting reptiles, since the predation exposure would be too great. To conclude, the bank and refugia are considered to have **moderate potential** for reptiles. The remainder of the site is considered to have **low potential** for reptiles.

Figure 16. View of the bank to the north of the building (taken January 2026)



Figure 17. View of the reptile refugia to the east of the pathway (taken January 2026)



2.6 Badgers

2.6.1 Site assessment

No evidence of Badgers was notified on site, such as bedding, mammal runs, latrines nor setts. The modified grassland on-site is unlikely to be suitable for Badger sett building, due to the fact that the base was predominantly gravel and thereby not preferred. The modified grassland banks off-site, however would provide sufficient habitat and the bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site would provide commuting pathways, as well as foraging resources. The woodland adjacent to the site held preferable habitat for sett building, foraging and commuting Badgers. Therefore, there is **low potential** for foraging and commuting Badgers on-site, but **moderate potential** for foraging and commuting Badgers within the woodland.

2.7 Hazel Dormice

2.7.1 Site assessment

The bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site could be utilised by Hazel Dormice for nesting and foraging purposes, however it was not well connected and was regarded to be regularly managed, reducing the likelihood of its use. Hazel Dormice are more likely to utilise the woodland off-site for nesting and foraging purposes. This is especially because this woodland is well connected to linear features within fields outside of the site. In conclusion, the site is considered to be of **low potential** for Hazel Dormice.

2.8 Nearby Designated Sites

2.8.1 Statutory Designated Sites

The following statutory designated sites lie within 1km of the site: River Itchen SAC, SSSI. The site is also within close proximity to Dummers Copse North SIN, Itchen Valley Field 27 SIN and Allington Manor Farm Water Meadows SIN.

The scale of the works is very small, however the River Itchen SAC, SSSI may still be impacted by increased pollution from the increased vehicle presence.

3.0 CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION MEASURES

3.1 Risk Assessment

A summary of the risk assessment of potential impacts and reference to relevant method statements has been provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of risk assessment and mitigation

Ecological Feature	Risk Assessment of Potential Impacts	Summary of Mitigation Required & Relevant Method Statements
Retained habitats	Damage from machinery or from storage of materials, soil compaction	Before construction - Protective fencing (Section 4.2) - Toolbox talk (Section 4.1)
	Accidental killing, harm or disturbance to species using retained habitats	During construction Regular monitoring of fencing and fencing repairs as needed (Section 4.9)
	Damage from pollution such as atmospheric pollution (e.g. dust) coating vegetation or aquatic pollution from runoff leading to deposition of soil, silt or chemicals in sensitive habitats, which could lead to degradation of habitat	Before construction - A Construction Management Statement will be produced prior to the commencement of work. General good practice measures are detailed in Section 3.2 below. During construction - Ecological monitoring (Section 4.9)
Badgers and nocturnal mammals	Badgers and other terrestrial mammals may become entrapped in excavations or may be killed or injured during works (such as collision with vehicles)	Before construction - Walkover of the site and 30m surrounding the site. During construction - Precautionary measures will be employed during construction (Section 4.4)
Foraging and commuting bats	Lighting may impact on foraging and commuting activity	During construction - Sensitive lighting (Section 4.3). - Work to be undertaken during daylight hours and not 30 minutes prior to dusk or dawn.
Reptiles	Accidental killing or injury of reptiles	Before construction - Construct four hibernacula (Section 4.5.2) - Toolbox talk (Section 4.1) - Two stage trim of any vegetation to be impacted.
Great Crested Newts	Accidental killing or harm to GCN or impacts to GCN habitat	Before construction - Construct four hibernacula (Section 4.5.2) - Toolbox talk (Section 4.1)

		Two stage trim of any vegetation to be impacted.
Hazel Dormice	Accidental killing or harm to Hazel Dormice (if present)	Before construction - Toolbox talk (Section 4.1) During construction - Precautionary measures during any habitat removal (Section 4.6.2)
Nesting birds	Nesting birds in habitats such as scrub and the linear features may be impacted by vegetation clearance resulting in death, injury or disturbance.	During construction Precautionary measures during any habitat removal (Section 4.7.2)

3.2 General Good Practice Construction Measures

The following sections outline general good practices to adopt to ensure the protection of ecological features. These will be included within a full CEMP, which will detail the required site-specific measures. These measures will also be important for the protection of the Itchen Valley Country Park and the River Itchen.

3.2.1 Dust Generation

Generation of dust will be mitigated by wetting down and/or using screening as needed. Particular care will be taken around the valuable retained habitats, such as the woodland either side of the pathway and the scrub, as well as individual trees.

3.2.2 Excavations and Trenches

Any excavations or trenches will be covered at night and/or escape ramps will be provided to prevent nocturnal species, such as badgers and hedgehogs, from becoming trapped. These areas will be inspected each morning to ensure no wildlife has been trapped.

3.2.3 Open Pipework

Any open pipework larger than 15cm in diameter will be covered at the end of each day to avoid mammals, such as hedgehogs, from entering pipes and potentially becoming trapped.

3.2.4 Hazardous Materials and Waste

Any chemicals or hazardous materials and waste will be stored in secure areas, according to best practice, and will be well-labelled. No construction materials will be stored outside of the gravel surface, nor outside of the redline, and any hazardous materials will be stored away from retained habitats. It will be ensured that there will be no water run-off into the Itchen Valley Country Park SINC, nor into the River Itchen. All waste material will be disposed of safely. **Table 2** contains a variety of procedures to prevent ecological implications from hazardous substances.

Table 2. Practical measures and sensitive working practices involving hazardous substances.

Issue(s) to Control	Best Practices to be adopted
Containers	• Use containers designed to minimise spills. • Ensure that containers used are appropriate to the substances contained (e.g. do not react with the substance, resistant to corrosions). • Ensure that containers are maintained in good conditions and securely closed. • Store goods away from heavily trafficked areas to avoid container damage. • In each storage area: • Ensure that only the substance(s) specified are stored. • Provide secondary containment or drip trays, and impermeable floor and bunding. • Prevent unauthorised access by providing locks to the storage areas.
Cleaning up minor spills	• Use sand, saw dust, or spill kit to absorb the spill and prevent it from spreading. • Dispose of the contaminated absorbent material as chemical waste. • Ensure that saw dust, spill kits, etc are readily accessible and of enough quantity.
Inspection and Maintenance	• Periodically inspect, and where necessary test, the condition of storage drums, tanks and pipelines (especially flanges and gaskets) • Inspect and maintain all plant and equipment to prevent leakage of chemicals/fuel.
Major Spills*	• Contain the spill to minimise land contamination and pollution • Inform the client and ecologist immediately. • The contractor shall arrange for appropriate removal and disposal of the chemicals by authorised organisations, and determine if other parties (e.g. Environment Agency) need to be informed.

* Spills on the worksite are likely to be hydraulic oil or engine oil spilled from plant items. If a spillage occurs the following procedure is to be followed:

- Contain the spill as soon as possible so it doesn't spread. Refer to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for personal protective clothing needed
- If containment is required, contain using earth mound and/or absorbent socks/spill kit.
- Use the relevant clean up procedure as instructed by the MSDS.
- Once the spill has been contained, the contractor will arrange removal and disposal as soon as possible. Dispose of material using a licensed contractor and keep records of disposal on site.

Construction projects will typically create a certain amount of waste that must be removed from the site. The principal waste on site will likely be aggregates from excavation, as well as some waste from construction materials. This waste must be stored and disposed of safely and adequately to prevent harm to the environment. **Table 3** contains a variety of procedures to prevent ecological implications from waste disposal.

Table 3. Practical measures and sensitive working practices involving waste disposal.

Issue(s) to Control	Best Practices to be adopted
Excavation and aggregates waste	- Excavated material to be loaded directly onto vehicles where possible for use within the project or to be removed from site - Where direct transfer to vehicle is not possible, storage time on site to be minimal and must be sensitively removed to ensure no mammals are using it as shelter (e.g. Hedgehogs, reptiles) - Records will be kept of waste material on site and waste material removed from site
Other construction waste	- Sort the waste using their respective European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code - Waste storage in suitable container (e.g. designated skips) to ensure protection from damage or contamination - Any Hazardous materials must be disposed of properly as described in Section 3.5.4.2
Waste Reduction	- Use the Waste Hierarchy to promote disposal as a last resort: - Prevention/Reduction - Re-use: Where safe some products may be used again for the same or different purpose - Recycling and compost - Energy recovery - Disposal – Only if none of the above options are appropriate, waste should be disposed of - Every effort to make use of waste produced from landscaping and incorporate broken bricks and off cuts into the landscaping in suitable areas
Canteen and staff waste	- Designated receptacles will be provided on site to allow for segregation and storage of individual waste from staff (i.e. food, drinks, packaging) - Container size and collection frequency to be suitable for the number of staff present on site at any given time
Litter	- Weekly inspections of the ecology area/receptor site will be completed. Any litter found will be immediately removed - A sufficient number of bins for the size of the construction site will be provided

3.2.5 Storage of Materials

Materials will be stored to avoid creating potential refuges for wildlife. This includes avoiding stacked or piled materials on the ground. Materials should be stored off the ground, for example on pallets or in skips, allowing the site to remain tidy. Materials will be stored away from valuable retained vegetation where possible (e.g. the grassland, the woodland and the scrub) to avoid impacts from dust generation and the disturbance of wildlife species.

Stockpiles and soils should be stored in such a way that they are smoothed, preventing cavities or burrows from being created. If an animal is found within the site, it should be moved gently to a habitat away from the working area, or an ecologist should be consulted if required.

4.0 Method Statements for Habitats and Protected Species

The following method statements have been produced to ensure the protection of retained habitats and protected species within the site:

1. Toolbox talk
2. Fencing
3. Bats
4. Badgers and Nocturnal Mammals
5. Reptiles
6. GCN
7. Hazel Dormice
8. Nesting birds
9. Lighting during construction
10. Ecological Monitoring during construction

4.1 Toolbox Talk

4.1.1 Summary

- **Description:** A Toolbox Talk provided to all site personnel to cover all ecological constraints and method statements.
- **Purpose:** To ensure site personnel are aware of ecological obligations and will carry out construction works as per method statements for the protection of habitats and species.
- **Dates:** Prior to construction commencing, and throughout the construction period, for any new site personnel or if there are any significant changes in the status of ecological features requiring a change in practice.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Site Manager.

4.1.2 Method Statement

A Toolbox Talk will be provided prior to the commencement of construction. This will be provided by the ECoW to all site personnel. Following this, it will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to provide all information within the toolbox talk to any new site workers as part of their site induction. The information provided to site personnel will include all method statements included within this report to sufficient detail necessary for site personnel to understand ecological constraints and obligations.

4.1.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

A record of the Toolbox Talk will be kept, detailing the location, date, and participants. Participants will sign or initial the record to confirm that they have understood the constraints and method statements. Following the initial talk, all new site workers will be provided with the toolbox talk as part of their site induction, and they will sign to confirm that they have understood.

If the Site Manager changes, a Toolbox Talk will be provided by the ECoW to the new Site Manager.

4.2 Fencing

4.2.1 Summary

- **Description:** Fencing will be erected and protected.
- **Purpose:** To protect retained habitats, such as the retained woodland, retained scrub and retained trees, and protected species, including breeding birds, Dormice and Badgers.
- **Dates:** Established prior to construction and maintained in place until all construction is completed.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Fencing Contractor, and the Site Manager.

4.2.2 Method Statement

Heras fencing will be installed around the site boundaries and the buffers outside of the impact area, preventing access to retained habitats. The Heras fencing will be located at least one metre in front of the branch spread. Suitable signage will be installed to show access is unauthorised. Standard arboricultural tree protection measures will be utilised to protect retained individual trees. Plans showing the Heras fencing (**Appendix 1**) are appended to this report.

The protective fencing will remain in place until construction works are complete, no site personnel or machinery will enter, and no materials will be stored outside of the fencing. Vehicles on-site should remain on hard-standing where possible and thereby impact the least amount of vegetation as is possible.

The fencing installation will be overseen by the ECoW, who will ensure it has been correctly installed.

4.2.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The fence will be inspected monthly and an Ecological Inspection Form will be completed by the ECoW and provided to the Site Manager. It will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure the fencing is maintained and that any repairs are carried out immediately, as necessary.

4.3 Bats

4.3.1 Foraging and Commuting Bats – Lighting During Construction

In order to avoid any disturbance to bats (and other potential nocturnal wildlife), construction works will be limited to daylight hours and will not be undertaken 30 minutes prior to dusk through to dawn. All lighting will be sensitive to the use of the site by nocturnal wildlife and will comply with Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at night (ILP / BCT, 2023).

4.4 Badgers and Nocturnal Mammals

4.4.1 Summary

- **Description:** Foraging and commuting Badgers may be present on site and avoidance measures will be required during construction. An updated walkover will also be required to check for new evidence of Badger activity.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury of various wildlife such as Badgers and other mammals.
- **Dates:** Immediately prior to and during the construction period.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Suitably qualified ecologist and Site Manager.

4.4.2 Method Statement

Although no evidence of Badgers was recorded on site, the site does have potential for foraging and commuting Badgers. Therefore, a walkover of the site and the zone of influence of the works is recommended to be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist in search of recent Badger activity immediately prior to works commencing. In the case that evidence of recent Badger activity is identified, further survey works may be required to assess the status of any potential Badger setts on site.

4.4.2.1 Avoidance Measures

The following avoidance measures will be carried out during construction to allow connectivity within the site for mammals and prevent any harm to mammals that may be present:

- 10-15cm gaps will be maintained at least every 200m in external fencing to allow mammals to move within the site. These gaps will be made at the base of boundary fences, gravel boards and between the gardens.
- Signage will be put up on the fence above either side of these access points to ensure they remain open. This will be kept in place during construction and post-development.
- Any excavations or trenches will be covered nightly, and/or a rough wooden plank will be placed inside at a 45-degree angle, to allow animals to climb out.
- Any temporarily exposed open pipe systems will be checked and suitably capped to ensure wildlife cannot access it.
- Pipework with a diameter >15cm will be covered at the end of each day to prevent animals such as hedgehogs from entering.
- All electrical equipment or installations will be secured or fenced to prevent wildlife from entering and being electrocuted.
- All equipment and chemicals must be stored and locked out of the reach of Badgers and other mammals.
- A 10mph speed limit will be imposed on the site to prevent collision with wildlife.
- If an injured animal is found, the ECoW must be immediately consulted and if required the RSPCA Helpline (0300 123 4999) will be used to rescue the animal.

4.4.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required.

4.5 Reptiles & GCN

4.5.1 Summary

- **Description:** The surrounding habitats are suitable for reptile and GCN commuting, basking hibernating and foraging. Therefore, precautionary measures will be undertaken if any vegetation is to be disturbed.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to reptiles and provide suitable habitat compensation.
- **Dates:** Prior to start of construction (between April and September, when temperatures are above 12°C).
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Fencing Contractor, and Site Manager.

4.5.2 Method Statement

Four hibernacula will be installed within the woodland and on the banks adjacent to the site to enhance the site for reptiles and GCN.

4.5.2.1 Avoidance measures

Avoidance measures will be undertaken on any vegetation to be disturbed to reduce any risk to reptiles. The following steps will be carried out as avoidance:

- Prior to the commencement of any works involving vegetation disturbance/clearance and in temperatures above 12°C (avoiding the winter months, November to February), a passive dispersal methodology will be carried out (following a walkover by the ECoW) in which vegetation will be managed in stages to discourage reptiles and amphibians from areas to be impacted. An initial cut of vegetation will be made no lower than 50cm. Arisings will be removed from site. After 48 hours, a second clearance to 10cm will be made and then a cut to ground level will be carried out. All works will be directional, starting from the furthest point away from suitable retained habitat and working towards it. Any grassland or vegetation to be tracked over must have the first two inches gradually removed using a digger with a toothed bucket during the reptile and GCN active periods. Please note, any suitable habitat within the root protection zone will not have the topsoil stripped and will only be maintained cut at ground level. Works will be supervised by the ECoW and be carried out in a directional manner. All retained habitat will be avoided during works, and measures will be implemented to avoid indirect impacts on retained habitats. The current management undertaken by Portsmouth Water will be continued on-site. Any reptiles found on-site will be relocated into suitable retained habitat within the redline boundary.

In regard to the parcel of grassland that the building is proposed to be placed upon, the grassland management will remain the same as present. As the grassland is not proposed to be disturbed,

but rather the building placed on top, a fingertip search of the grassland will be undertaken by a qualified ecologist to ensure no reptiles or amphibians are impacted.

- Storage of machinery and materials will be on areas of hardstanding and/or on pallets. The material laydown area will undergo the precautionary measures outlined above, including the destructive search, prior to any material laydown.
- Skips will be used, or waste material will be immediately removed from site to avoid creating refuges
- Excavations will be covered or will be provided with escape ramps (see Section 5.7)
- During rainy periods, construction areas and particularly excavations will be managed to ensure drainage of water, to avoid the creation of temporary waterbodies
- Existing roads and tracks will be established as access roads and vehicles will use established accesses to avoid disturbing habitat

In the unlikely instance that a GCN is found during the demolition, all works must immediately stop and the project ecologist must be informed. Works will only be able to continue once the GCN license has been obtained. It is essential that these processes are immediately followed to ensure that no offence is committed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

4.5.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The ECoW will oversee the implementation of this method statement. They will supervise the passive dispersal and the destructive search, if required.

4.5.3.1 Destructive Search

If vegetation is to be tracked over, a destructive search of all suitable habitats on-site will be carried out by a licensed ecologist. The ecologist will be present during habitat removal. An excavator with a toothed bucket will gently remove the surface vegetation and topsoil under the supervision of the ECoW, and any additional reptiles captured will be moved into more suitable habitat. This must take place in suitable weather conditions and at the right time (i.e., April to early October, temperatures of 10-20°C, with no rain or wind).

4.6 Hazel Dormice

4.6.1 Summary

- **Description:** The habitats on site have limited suitability for Hazel Dormice, however woodland is adjacent to the site and scrub is present on-site. Precautionary working methods must be implemented during vegetation clearance.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to Hazel Dormice.

- **Dates:** Between late April-mid May or during October, prior to construction until completion of construction.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Vegetation Clearance Contractor, and Site Manager.

4.6.2 Method Statement

4.6.2.1 Sensitive Clearance Methodology

All clearance of suitable Dormouse habitat will adopt the following methodology:

- A fingertip search of all vegetation to be cleared will be undertaken by the ECoW, immediately prior to clearance commencing (on the same day and every day clearance occurs). If any Dormice are found, works will cease and Natural England will be consulted.
- The ECoW will deliver a toolbox talk to the vegetation clearance contractors, detailing the sensitive measures required. The ecologist will then supervise all vegetation clearance. No clearance will be undertaken without the supervision of the ecologist.
- Hand tools will be utilised to sensitively cut vegetation down to ground level in **a single stage**. This will be undertaken in a directional fashion to passively encourage Dormice to move away from the works area towards the woodland. All arisings will be moved away from the cleared areas immediately, and will then be chipped and immediately removed from site.
- In the unlikely event of any Dormice being discovered (within areas where they cannot be left in situ), they will be moved (along with their nest).
- No more than 50m² of habitat will be cleared in a single day and works will take place during mid-April - mid-May or during October to avoid the breeding period (but ensure works are done during a time when Dormice are active).

4.6.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required.

4.7 Nesting Birds

4.7.1 Summary

- **Description:** Vegetation that could support nesting birds will have preventative measures and/or nesting bird checks.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to birds or disturbance (and abandonment) of nests.
- **Dates:** Prior to construction until completion of construction.

- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager, Vegetation Clearance Contractor, and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

4.7.2 Method Statement

4.7.2.1 Vegetation clearance

Vegetation clearance will be carried out between October and February, where possible, to avoid bird nesting season.

Where this is not possible, the following measures will be carried out as relevant:

- Any vegetation to be cleared will be checked by the ECoW for nesting birds immediately prior to clearance. If any active nests are present, they will be retained in situ with a minimum c.5m exclusion zone until the birds have fledged. The exclusion zone will be marked with barrier tape and notices, stating that this area will not be disturbed due to nesting birds, will be positioned next to the tape.

If any birds begin to nest in the new storage building being constructed, works will cease and the ECoW will be contacted. An exclusion zone marked with barrier tape and a notice will be put in place as above and works will not proceed until the chicks have fledged.

4.7.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional reporting beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required. However, if nesting activity is identified, active nests may be monitored more regularly to determine when nesting activity is completed for any delayed works to proceed.

4.8 Lighting During Construction

4.8.1 Summary

- **Description:** Artificial lighting will be avoided or minimised.
- **Purpose:** To reduce impacts on bats and other nocturnal wildlife.
- **Dates:** During the construction period.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager.

4.8.2 Method Statement

The following avoidance measures will be carried out during construction to minimise impacts from lighting on nocturnal wildlife:

- Works will be limited to daylight hours and no artificial lighting will be employed unless necessary and agreed with the ECoW
- No lighting will be used outside daytime working hours. If required for security, this will be on a motion sensor with a time limit.

- Where lighting is necessary, it will be directed away from retained habitats and site boundaries.

4.8.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological reporting (see **Section 5.10**) is required. Any changes to lighting will be reported to the ECoW by the Site Manager.

4.9 Ecological Monitoring During Construction

4.9.1 Summary

- **Description:** Monthly monitoring will be carried out.
- **Purpose:** To ensure protection of retained habitats and protected species.
- **Dates:** Beginning at least one month prior to construction and until the completion of construction works.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

4.9.2 Method Statement

Monthly inspections by an ecologist will be carried out of the following to ensure compliance with the CEMP:

- Fencing is correctly installed and remains in good repair;
- Condition of all retained habitats;
- Implementation of all previous method statements, with the following specific actions as relevant:
 - I. Identification of any signs of Badger or mammal activity;
 - II. Identification of any nesting bird activity that may be impacted by works;
 - III. Adherence to the lighting strategy;
 - IV. Adherence to specific precautionary working methods for Hazel Dormice, nesting birds, reptiles and GCN;
 - V. Adherence to avoidance measures for nocturnal mammals.

4.9.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

An Ecological Inspection Form will be completed monthly by the ecologist, which will summarise the findings of the monthly inspection. The form will be provided to the Site Manager and Client. If any immediate action is required, the Site Manager and Client will be informed immediately, with necessary remedial actions to be carried out as soon as possible.

4.10 Itchen Valley Country Park SINC

Itchen Valley Country Park SINC supports various species such as semi-improved grasslands, fens, flushes, seepages, springs and inundation grasslands of floodplains that support a flora and fauna of less-improved wet conditions (seasonal or permanent), ancient woodland and areas of open freshwater. These habitats could be impacted by air pollution. **Table 4** below outlines steps that will be taken to reduce the risk to important habitats through construction-related air pollution.

Table 4. Practical measures and sensitive working practices involving air pollution control.

Issue(s) to Control	Best Practices to be Adopted
Emission of Dark Smoke from Equipment	• Conduct routine and major maintenance in accordance to manufacturer's instructions, and maintain records of all inspections and maintenance works. • Use fuel of quality specified by manufacturer/supplier. • Shut down all vehicles and plant in intermittent use between work periods or throttle down to a minimum idling speed (if the former is not possible).
Open Burning on Site	• Forbid open burning of wastes
Dust Emission from Construction Activities	General requirements: • Operate air pollution control equipment properly and effectively, in accordance to manufacturer's instructions. • In the event of a malfunctioning or breakdown of any air pollution control equipment, suspend the plant, process(s) or activity(s) concerned as soon as practicable until the equipment is restored to its proper function.
	Site boundary and entrance: • Provide vehicle washing facilities at the vehicle exit point.
	Access road (main haul road): • Cover with agreed aggregate whilst works to the road construction are progressing, rather than leaving until the entire road has been constructed • Spray with water frequently; • Keep the road exit clear of dusty materials.
	Exposed earth: • Treat properly by applying water spray, surface compaction, turfing, hydroseeding, vegetation planting or sealing with latex, vinyl, bitumen, shortcrete or temporary covers. • Schedule construction programme to complete works on open areas as quickly as possible.
	Dusty materials: • Dispose of dusty materials collected by fabric filters or other air pollution control system or equipment in totally enclosed containers.
	Stockpile of dusty materials: • Cover stockpile over 50m³ entirely by impervious sheeting with enclosure extending at least 1 m above and beyond the stored materials. • Place in an area sheltered on the top and the 3 sides. • Spray with water.
	Loading, unloading or transfer of dusty materials: • Spray all dusty materials (except cement and PFA) with water immediately prior to any loading, unloading or transfer operation. • Control height from which excavated materials are dropped to a practical minimum.
	Pneumatic or power-driven drilling, cutting, polishing, breaking or crushing: • Spray water continuously on the surface during operation.

Issue(s) to Control	Best Practices to be Adopted
	Use of vehicles: • Wash every vehicle to remove any dusty materials from its body and wheels immediately before leaving the site. • Restrict vehicles to minimum practicable speed limits (< 10 km/h). • Where a vehicle leaving a construction site is carrying a load of dusty materials, cover the load entirely by clean impervious sheeting, which extends over the edges of properly fitting side and tail boards and dampen materials before transportation. • Make sure dusty materials are not loaded to a level higher than the side and tail boards.
	Excavation or earth moving: • Spray working area of any excavation or earth moving operation with water immediately before, during and immediately after the operation.
	Cement: • For every stock of more than 20 bags of cement cover entirely by impervious sheeting or place in an area sheltered on top and three sides. • For cement delivered in bulk, store in a closed silo fitted with an audible high level alarm which is interlocked with the material filling line such that an audible alarm is triggered and the material filling stops within one minute. • Do not overfill silos used for the storage of cement Carry out loading, unloading, transfer, handling or storage of bulk cement in a enclosed system or facility, and install effective fabric filter or equivalent air pollution control system on vent or exhaust systems.

5.0 TIMING OF SENSITIVE WORKS

5.1 Construction Programme

Based on feedback from Portsmouth Water, the proposed construction dates are from July – August 2026.

5.2 Timing of Sensitive Works

Timings for sensitive works are required. The above method statements detail where specific timings are required. A summary of timings of sensitive works can be seen in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Summary of timings of sensitive works on site.

Species & Relevant Method Statement	Dates / Weather Conditions	Details
Reptiles (Section 4.5)	April – September in suitable weather >12°C with no wind or rain	Passive Dispersal and destructive search for reptiles.
GCN (Section 4.5)	April – September in suitable weather, >12°C with sunshine, no wind or rain	Passive dispersal and destructive search for GCN.
Hazel Dormice (Section 4.6)	Mid April – mid May or October at a time when temperatures are sufficiently warm for Dormice to be active	Toolbox talk and sensitive vegetation clearance.
Nesting birds (Section 4.7)	October - February	Vegetation clearance should be carried out outside bird nesting season. If not possible, a nesting bird check will be required between March-Sep, with any nests suitably protected.

6.0 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION

6.1 Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

A suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed for the development. This person will have suitable qualifications, training and experience to carry out the works on site. The ECoW will be responsible for providing advice to the Client and Site Manager appointed and overseeing sensitive works as needed.

The ECoW will have the following specific responsibilities for the duration of the project:

- Implementation of method statements to ensure all ecological features are protected with mitigation, compensation and enhancements carried out as needed;
- Provision of training and informative updates, such as through toolbox talks;
- Completion of monthly monitoring and reporting as per **Section 4.9**;
- Supervision of all sensitive works, as per the method statements;
- Investigation and reporting of any incidents which may affect ecological features (e.g. spills, pollution, damage to retained habitats, protected species in works site, etc.)
- Completion of regular records and reporting to Site Manager, Client, Contractors, Natural England, LPA, etc. as needed;
- Provision of advice to the Client on any ecological constraints or features as needed; and
- Monitoring post-construction to ensure a compliance check of all compensation / enhancement features, management of habitats and implementation of any additional mitigation needed;

6.2 Roles

The CEMP (Biodiversity) will be distributed to all responsible parties to ensure that the environmental requirements are communicated effectively. **Table 6** below describes the roles and responsibilities to ensure the implementation of this CEMP. It is the overall responsibility of the Client to ensure roles are appointed prior to works commencing and that the Contractors are suitably trained to be carrying out the work.

Table 6. Key roles and responsibilities.

Role	Responsible Party	Responsibilities
Client	Portsmouth Water	• Responsible for appointing Contractors and ensuring all contractors comply with environmental legislation • Responsible for appointing ECoW • Overall responsibility for the implementation of this CEMP
Lead Contractor	TBC	• Responsible for appointing Site Manager • Prepare site specific Risk Assessment and Method Statements taking into account all environmental issues

Site Manager	TBC	• Have a detailed understanding of ecological constraints on site • Provide toolbox talk for all new contractors/sub-contractors as part of site induction • Regular communication with ECoW • Ensure works on site conform to method statements
Contractor/Sub-Contractors	TBC	• Understand ecological constraints on site (i.e. through the toolbox talk as part of site induction) • Report any concerns to Site Manager • Take appropriate action to rectify any non-conformance
Ecological Clerk of Works	TBC	• As described in Section 7.1 • Maintain regular communication and report to Site Manager all ecological constraints, findings or breaches of the CEMP within the site; • Provide monitoring reports to Client at regular intervals
Licenced Ecologist	TBC	• Responsible for obtaining the GCN EPS licence and will be the point of contact for any works that might affect the parameters of that licence.

6.3 Training Awareness and Competence

Site staff shall be competent to perform tasks that have the potential to cause a significant ecological impact. Competence is defined in terms of appropriate education, training and experience. Ecological awareness and training shall be achieved by:

- Site induction, including a talk given by the ECoW (or by the Site Manager after the initial Toolbox Talk), during which information on all ecological sensitivities, constraints and the method statements within this CEMP will be provided. The importance of leaving areas outside of the construction zone undisturbed once the protective fencing is installed will be emphasised.
- Information on protected species will be given, including field signs to look out for during construction work.
- Environmental posters and site notices will be erected around the site.

6.4 Line of Communication Regarding Ecological Issues

Prior to the works getting underway, all staff will be aware of the ecological features and associated issues on site. They will be conscious of the impacts of their actions not only on the retained areas on site but also on the locality of nationally and internationally designated sites nearby. They will also be mindful during the works of field signs of protected species and finally of the steps to take in the eventuality that an ecological situation arises. Therefore, as soon as an issue is uncovered/advice is needed, the Site Manager will be contacted immediately, who will inform the ECoW to visit the site if needed and to advise accordingly.

7.0 SUMMARY OF CEMP

Table 7 below provides a summary of the construction mitigation measures, species at risk, responsibilities, and the time of year that the works are to be undertaken.

Table 7. Summary of the CEMP (Biodiversity) detailing mitigation measures required, who is responsible for these measures, and when such measures must be carried out.

Ecological Feature	Mitigation Required	Responsible Party / Parties	Timing
Retained habitats	Protective fencing will be put in place to protect retained habitat and that close to the site boundaries (Section 4.2)	Site manager	Any time prior to construction and will remain until works are complete
	Toolbox talk will be provided to all personnel accessing site to outline ecological features and risks (Section 4.1)	ECoW Site Manager	Any time prior to construction and continuing during construction for new staff
	Regular monitoring will be carried out on the fencing. Any damage to protective fencing will be reported to the site manager, who will organize repairs (Section 4.9)	ECoW Site Manager	Prior to and during construction
	A Construction Method Statement will be in place prior to the commencement of the works.	Client	Prior to the commencement of construction
	Ecological monitoring will be carried out, including the regular inspection of habitats and enhancements (Section 4.9)	ECoW Site Manager	Monthly by site manager and bi-annually by ecologist throughout the entire construction period
Foraging and commuting bats	A sensitive lighting method statement will be in place and adhered to throughout the construction period (Section 4.8). Works will only be undertaken in the daylight hours and not 30 minutes prior to dusk through to dawn (Section 4.3).	Site Manager	During construction
Badgers and nocturnal mammals	A walkover of the site and the zone of influence of the works will be undertaken (Section 4.4)	ECoW	Immediately prior to construction
	Precautionary measures will be employed during construction (Section 4.4)	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period

	Artificial lighting will be avoided or sensitive measures will be used (Section 4.8)	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
Reptiles	Passive dispersal and a destructive search will be conducted if vegetation is to be disturbed/destroyed (Section 4.5).	ECoW	April to September, when temperatures are above 12°C with no wind, nor rain
	Avoidance measures including storage of machinery and materials on piles, skips used, excavations covered/escape ramps provided, drainage of water and using existing tracks/access roads.	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
Great Crested Newts	Passive dispersal and a destructive search will be conducted if vegetation is to be disturbed/destroyed (Section 4.5).	ECoW	April to September, when temperatures are above 12°C with no wind, nor rain
	Avoidance measures including storage of machinery and materials on piles, skips used, excavations covered/escape ramps provided, drainage of water and using existing tracks/access roads.	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
Hazel Dormice	Toolbox talk and sensitive removal of suitable Dormouse habitat under supervision of an ecologist (Section 4.6).	ECoW	Mid April – mid May or October Prior to construction
Nesting birds	Timing of vegetation clearance to avoid nesting season (Section 4.7).	Site Manager	October – February
	If it is not possible to avoid vegetation clearance outside of nesting season, a nesting bird check will be carried out. Any identified nests will be retained with a suitable exclusion zone (typically c.5m exclusion zone in vegetation) (Section 4.7).	ECoW	March – September, immediately prior to clearance
All features	Monthly monitoring inspections will be carried out by the site manager and bi-annual inspections by the ecologist to inspect all features and ensure compliance with CEMP (Section 4.9).	ECoW Site Manager	Monthly by site manager and bi-annually by ecologist throughout entire construction period

8.0 Conclusion

Ecosupport Ltd were commissioned by Portsmouth Water to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the development of the site known as 'High Wood Reservoir, Southampton'. This was requested to satisfy the discharge of condition 3 of the planning application (F/25/99979). This report outlines the measures to be undertaken prior to, during and post-construction, and at which time of year, in order to ecologically protect the habitats and species on-site.

9.0 REFERENCES

Ecosupport (2026) *High Wood Reservoir BEMP*

ILP / BCT (2023) Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night

Mitchell Jones, A.J., (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines, English Nature

Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (July, 2023)

APPENDIX 1. Heras Fencing Map



Legend

 Site boundary

 Heras Fencing



K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park
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Map	Fencing Map
Site	High Wood Reservoir
Client	Portsmouth Water
Date	13/07/2026

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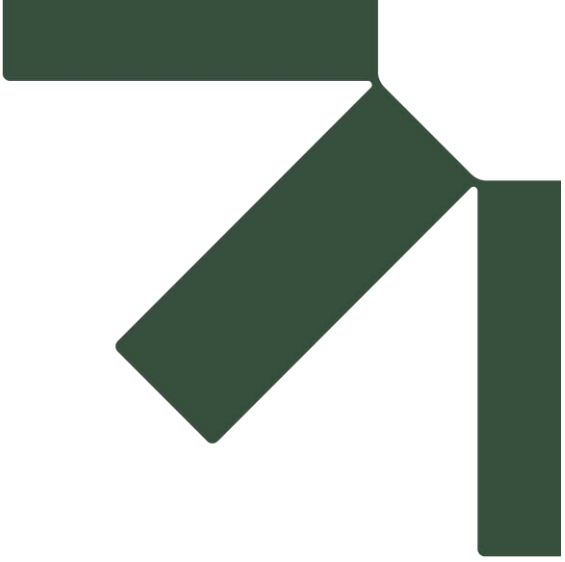
APPENDIX 2. Ecological Inspection Form

Report no. _____ Date: _____	Ecological Inspection Form
Site Conditions	
Biodiversity Protection Zones & Retained Habitats	Is protective fencing in place?..... Condition..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed..... Additional Comments.....
Lighting strategy	Comments..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Proposed changes..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Avoidance Measures for Nocturnal Mammals	Comments..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Remedial action:..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Species specific method statements	
Bats	Works completed since previous inspection.....

	Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Reptiles	Works completed since previous inspection..... Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
GCN	Works completed since previous inspection..... Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....

Hazel Dormice	Works completed since previous inspection..... Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Nesting Birds	Description..... Restrictions on works..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Badgers	Any potential badger setts / holes..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....

Any other relevant works	Description..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Signed by ECoW	
Date	
Communicated to and copy has been provided to Site Manager	YES / NO (if no, state reason)



Appendix B Biodiversity Environmental Management Plan (BEMP)

High Wood Reservoir – Solar Array Application

Construction Management Plan (CEMP)

Portsmouth Water Ltd.

SLR Project No.: 402.064869.00001

27 August 2026



Biodiversity Enhancement & Management Plan

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Report	Biodiversity Enhancement & Mitigation Plan (BEMP)
Site Name	High Wood Reservoir
Author(s)	Shannon Dagnell MBiol
Checked by	Lyndsey Barratt BSc (Hons) PGCert MCIEEM
Client	Portsmouth Water
Date of Issue	February 2026
Updates	May 2026, July 2026
Status	<i>Final</i>

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Planning permission has been granted for a roof-top solar array at High Wood Reservoir, Allington Lane, Southampton, SO30 3HQ (under planning application reference F/23/96049). A decision is awaiting for the construction of a Battery Storage container at this same site (under planning application reference F/25/99979). This report is to address Condition 5 of the former planning application and Condition 4 of the latter application:

Condition 5: 'No development shall start on site until details of measures to enhance biodiversity have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The biodiversity enhancement measures shall thereafter be installed / carried out in accordance with the approved details.'

Reason: To enhance biodiversity in accordance with Policy DM11 of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036).

Condition 4: 'Prior to first operation of the development, a biodiversity enhancement scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall identify appropriate small-scale measures such as native planting, bat or bird boxes, or invertebrate features suited to the site context. The approved measures shall be implemented prior to first operation and retained thereafter.'

Reason: To secure biodiversity enhancement in accordance with Policy DM11 of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016–2036.

1.2 Aim

The aim of this report is to devise a site-wide Biodiversity Enhancement and Mitigation Plan (BEMP) to contribute towards a net gain for biodiversity post-development. This will ensure all features of ecological value and all legally protected species are protected, that their presence on site is retained in perpetuity, and to address the comments received from the council.

1.3 Site Description

The site is comprised of a building, modified grassland, gravel, bramble and hawthorn scrub, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and a ditch located at High Wood Reservoir, Allington Lane, Southampton, SO30 3HQ (centred on OS grid reference SU464161). The site is bound by ancient woodland and mixed conifer in the national forest inventory to the south and the west. To the north, the site is bound by deciduous woodland (priority habitat inventory). Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh is present to the east and good quality semi-improved grassland to the west. The M27 is present further south and the River Itchen runs to the west of the site. Itchen Valley country park is located to the north. The wider environment is rural, being surrounded by fields and woodland.

Figure 1. Site Boundary (Portsmouth Water)

1.4 Proposed Plans

The proposals involve the installation of solar panels to the reservoir roof. Additionally, the proposals will involve the construction of a standalone container to house batteries associated with storing the solar energy from the solar panels. A PV CDM area will also be created, this including an enclosed skip, storage and drying room, toilets, a watermatic, a canteen, a generator and an office, as well as fuel storage. A turning and loading area will be provided for goods vehicles, as well as an area for materials to be kept.

Figure 2. Proposed Site Layout (Portsmouth Water).

Proposed BESS container location



- Container to be 3m away from building cladding
- Can be installed on screw foundations, as an option, so no permanent concrete foundations



- Dimensions
6058 L x 2438 W x 2896 H

Figure 3. View of the Solar Panels to be installed on the reservoir roof (Portsmouth Water)

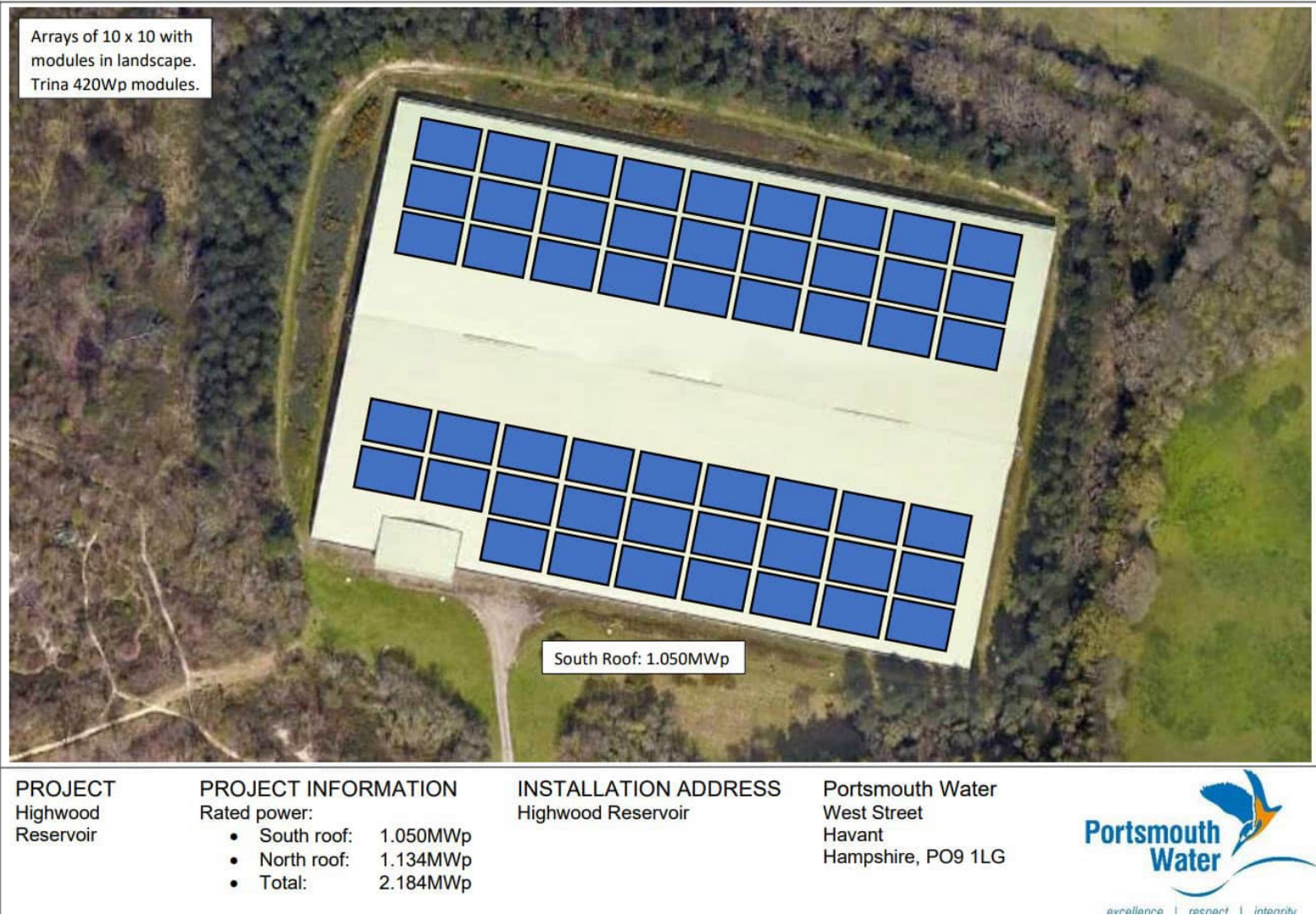


Figure 4. Proposed PV CDM area (Ivegate Ltd – 0900-IVE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-Y-0710)

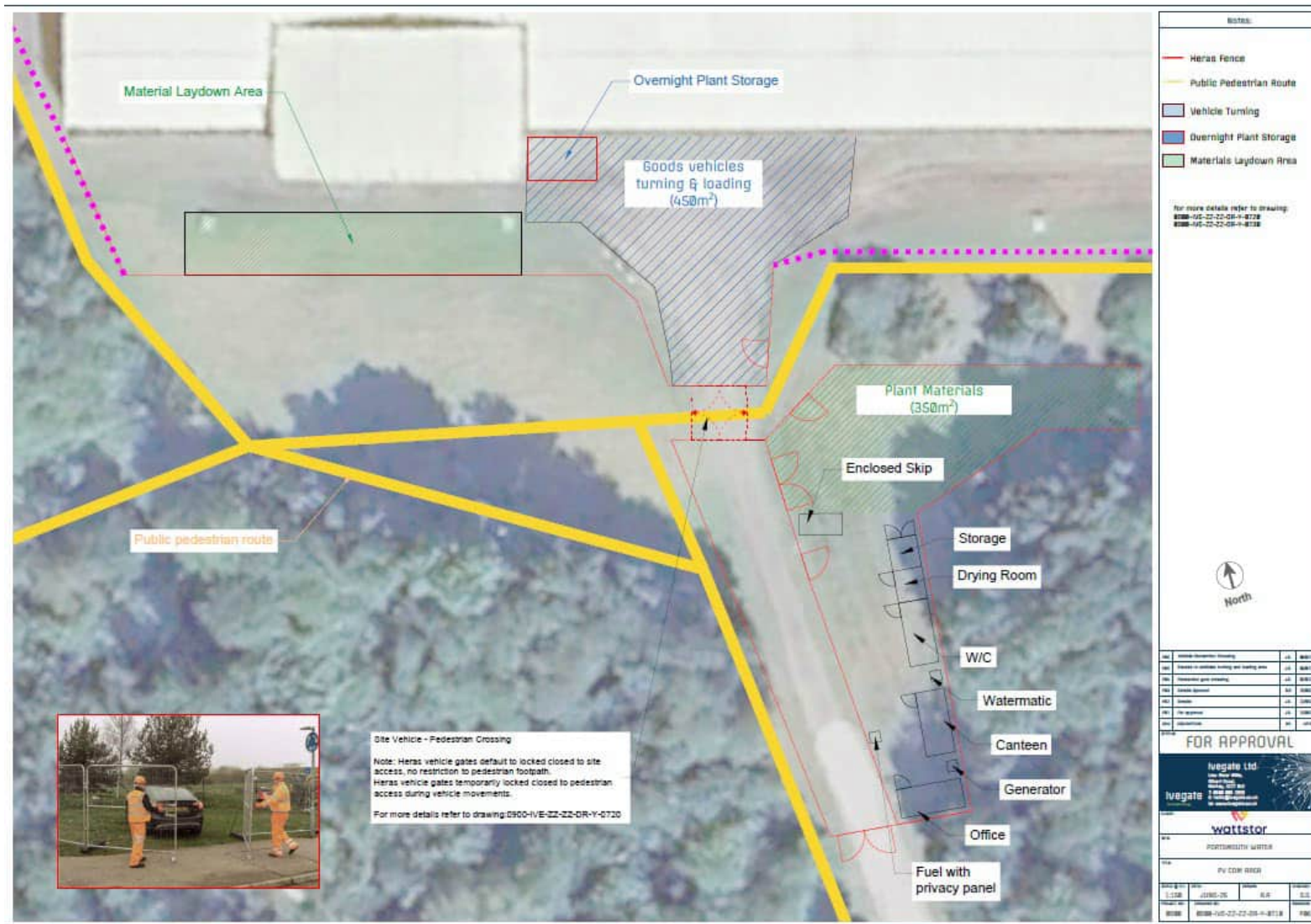
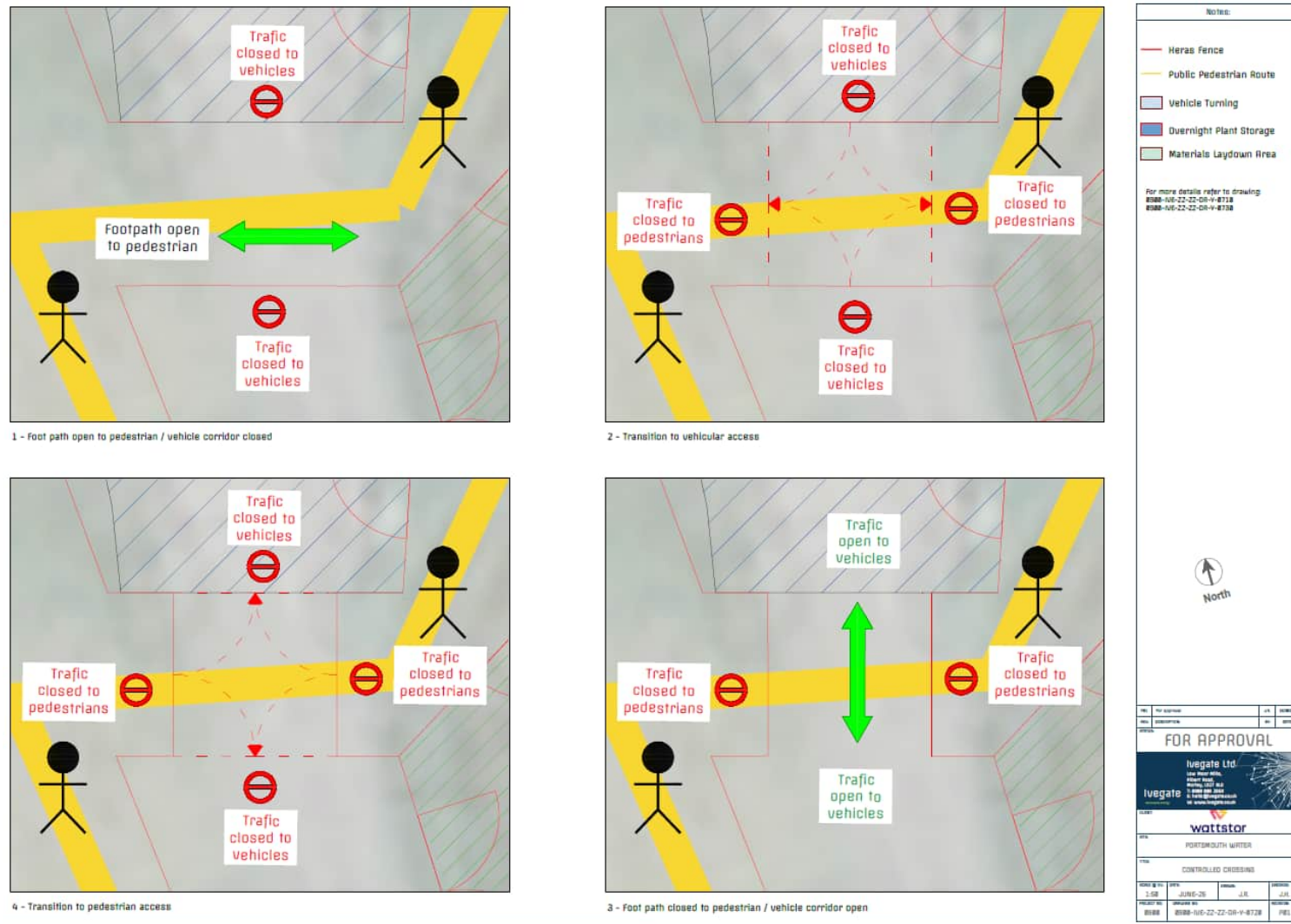


Figure 5. Controlled Crossing (0900-IVE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-Y-0720)



2.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE SUMMARY

The field survey work which forms the basis of the findings of this report was carried out by Joanna King DipHE on the 28th January 2026.

Habitats on site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey, using Habitat Definitions Version 2.01 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). Where appropriate, primary habitat codes were used although for some habitat types, the use of secondary habitat codes was necessary as well.

2.1 Habitats

The vegetation within the site has been described below using the UK Habs Habitat Definitions Version 2.01 (UKHab Ltd., 2023, updated 2024). The habitat types on site comprise:

- Modified grassland (g4)
- Buildings (u1b5)
- Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (u1c)
- Bramble scrub (h3d)
- Hawthorn scrub (h3f)

2.2 Bats

One building was present within the centre of the site. This building was assessed to be of **negligible suitability** for roosting bats, as a result of the building being highly sealed and thereby there being a lack of entrance and exit gaps. The building was observed to be well maintained, thereby reducing the chance of wildlife utilising it. The upper sides of the building had shallow gaps of approximately 3cm.

The woodland would be suitable for foraging and commuting bats, as well as potentially for roosting bats, within the trees. This is because the woodland not only provides a darkened corridor but also provides foraging resources. Several trees are present along the pathway within the redline boundary, which have potential roosting features (PRFs), such as knot holes. These have the potential to hold roosting bats. The Bramble and Hawthorn scrub would also provide further foraging resources, attracting a variety of invertebrates.

Figure 6. Tree with bat potential along the pathway (taken January 2026)



Figure 7. View of the tree with bat potential (taken January 2026)

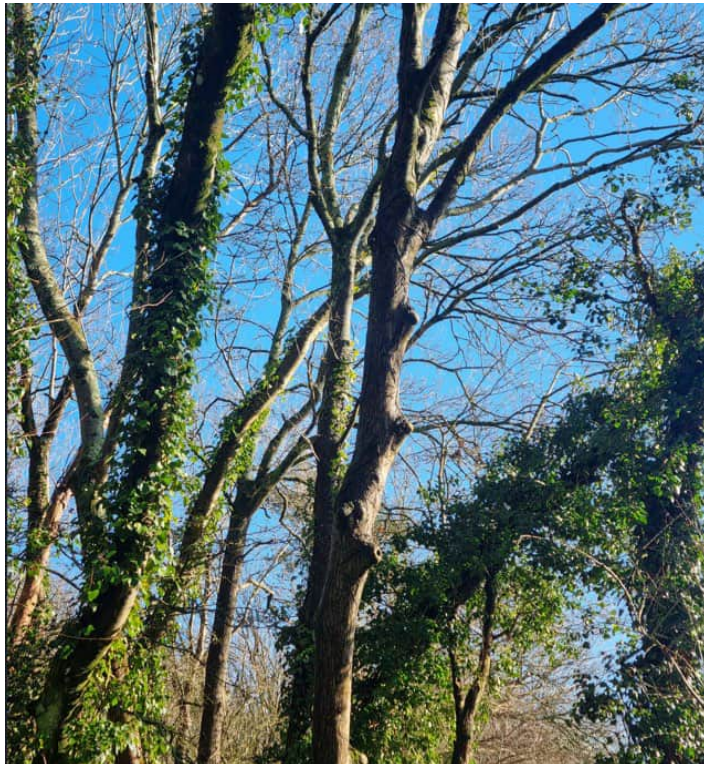


Figure 8. View of tree with bat potential along the pathway (taken January 2026)



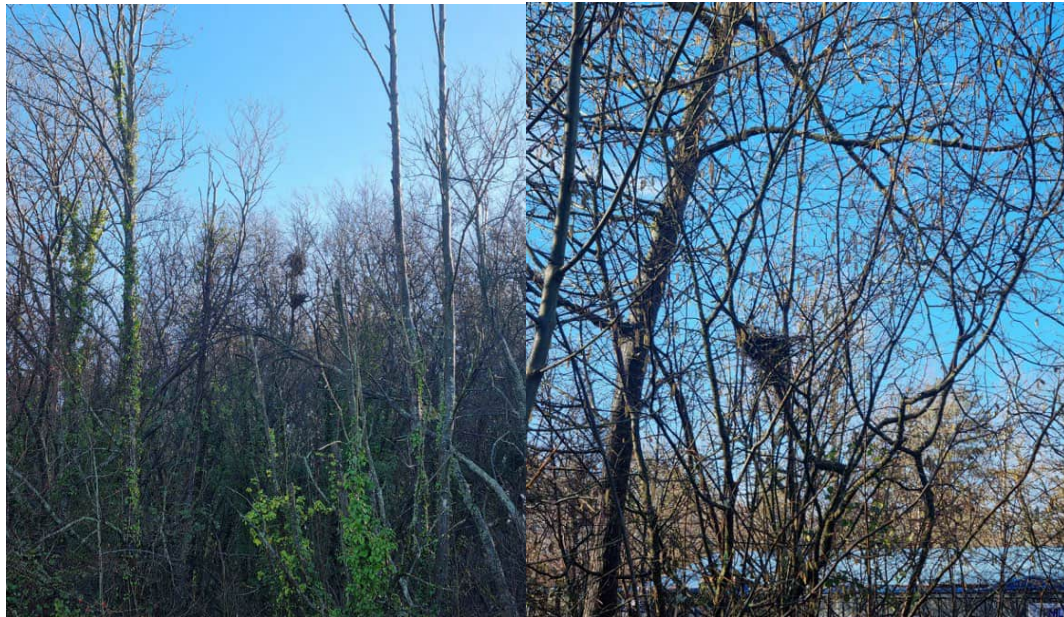
2.3 Great Crested Newts

The woodland adjacent to the site may provide suitable habitat for hibernating and foraging GCN. One pond was shown to be present within 250m of the site, to the north, however this is on the 250m boundary and due to the scale of the works, any GCN that were to commute from this pond is not considered to be impacted. This is because the modified grassland and pathway on-site are not considered to be suitable for commuting GCN, due to the fact that the sward height is short surrounding the building, providing little protection from predation. The banks could be utilised, however these are also outside of the redline boundary. Therefore, GCN are more likely to be using the surrounding habitat, than the on-site habitat. As a result, there is considered to be **negligible potential** for GCN on-site.

2.4 Breeding Birds

The lowland mixed deciduous woodland provides highly suitable habitat for foraging, nesting and breeding. This is evidenced by the presence of Pigeon (*Columba livia*) nests in some of the Oak (*Quercus sp.*), Elm (*Ulmus sp.*), and Beech (*Fagus sp.*) trees along the pathway within the redline boundary. The bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site also present an opportunity for nesting and breeding, as well as for foraging, thereby increasing the use of the site for birds. There are locations on the building that small passerines could take advantage of for nesting purposes, however no active or old nests were seen on the building during the survey. Overall, there is **high potential** for breeding and nesting birds on-site.

Figure 9. View of Pigeon nests in the trees either side of the pathway within the redline (taken January 2026)



2.5 Reptiles

A refugia, which would be suitable for reptile hibernation and basking was present along the pathway within the redline boundary. Banks surround the building and that to the north is in a position that would be in full sun in the morning, thereby being perfect for basking. The bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site would also provide habitat for commuting, since it allows sufficient shelter. The modified grassland on-site immediately surrounding the building supported too short of a sward height to be suitable for commuting reptiles, since the predation exposure would be too great. To conclude, the bank and refugia is considered to have ***moderate potential*** for reptiles. The remainder of the site is considered to have ***low potential*** for reptiles.

Figure 10. View of the bank to the north of the building (taken January 2026)



Figure 11. View of the reptile refugia to the east of the pathway (taken January 2026)



2.6 Badgers

No evidence of Badgers was notified on site, such as bedding, mammal runs, latrines nor setts. The modified grassland on-site is unlikely to be suitable for Badger sett building, due to the fact that the base is predominantly gravel and thereby not preferred. The modified grassland banks off-site, however would provide sufficient habitat and the bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site would provide commuting pathways, as well as foraging resources. The woodland adjacent to the site holds preferable habitat for sett building, foraging and commuting Badgers. Therefore, there is **low potential** for foraging and commuting Badgers on-site, but **moderate potential** for foraging and commuting Badgers within the woodland.

2.7 Hazel Dormice

The bramble and hawthorn scrub on-site could be utilised by Hazel Dormice for nesting and foraging purposes, however it is not well connected and is regarded to be regularly managed, reducing the likelihood of its use. Hazel Dormice are more likely to utilise the woodland off-site for nesting and foraging purposes. This is especially because this woodland is well connected to linear features within fields outside of the site. In conclusion, the site is considered to be of **low potential** for Hazel Dormice.

2.8 Portsmouth Water's Management Map

Portsmouth Water's management scheme for the site is detailed in Appendix II. Habitat management will be continued as detailed.

3.0 MITIGATION, COMPENSATION AND ENHANCEMENTS

This chapter deals with mitigation, compensation and enhancement. Mitigation refers to measures that can be undertaken to avoid or reduce ecological impacts. Compensation refers to measures taken in order to offset potential significant impacts and finally enhancements contribute towards a net gain for ecology.

3.1 Bats

3.1.1 Mitigation

There are several trees with bat potential either side of the pathway leading up to the main site. These are proposed to be retained, and it has been discussed that only a few metres of a tree could be impacted by vehicles. However if this alters, further survey work will be required to ascertain if they support any bat roosts. The trees will be subject to a PRF inspection survey. This can be conducted at any time of year and entails more detailed assessment of the likely suitability of a PRF for roosting bats as well as searching for evidence of bats (e.g. droppings) within the PRF. Access equipment (such as ladders, MEWPS or scaffold towers) may be required to gain access to PRFs.

Table 1. Categorisation of PRFs (from Table 6.2, BCT 2023).

Suitability	Description
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

All of the habitats to be retained will be protected from damage during the works. All of the site boundaries, as well as the buffers outside of the impact area, will be fenced using Heras fencing or similar to prevent access by machinery. The large, mature trees will be protected using standard arboricultural tree protection measures. This includes canopy protection and prevents root compaction. These measures will also protect wildlife species utilising the site margins, such as bats, invertebrates and mammals. No vehicles will enter the protective ring fencing, and no materials will be stored within their circumference.

All protective fencing must be in place prior to any construction machinery arriving on site, before the commencement of any works, and will remain in place until all work is completed. If necessary, protective matting will be installed around the construction area for footpaths in order to prevent damage to the surrounding grassland. These measures will minimise the level of disturbance within the retained / enhanced habitat areas during the works and ensure the habitats and any wildlife species that may be using them are protected.

3.1.2 During Construction

In order to avoid any disturbance to bats (and other potential nocturnal wildlife), construction works should be limited to daylight hours and should not be undertaken 30 minutes prior to dusk through to dawn. All lighting should be sensitive to the use of the site by nocturnal wildlife, for example by including low-level downward-facing / hooded lights

that are sensor operated where possible. No lighting will be facing the boundaries of the site, since these consist of highly suitable habitats for commuting and foraging bats.

3.1.3 Bat Boxes

To enhance the site for bats, two 2F Schwegler Bat Boxes with Double Front Panel (or similar) will be installed on two of the large trees within the woodland (**Fig 12**). The second inner wooden panel creates a cavity wall, providing suitable roosting locations for bats that commonly inhabit crevices. This box is constructed of woodcrete, which does not rot, leak or crack and is breathable, whilst maintaining a stable temperature within the box. Rough surfaces are also present, which can be used by bats for climbing and clinging onto. The boxes must be placed at a height between 3m and 6m in a position which receives sunlight, but that is away from artificial light. This bat box can be found at: <https://www.nhbs.com/2f-schwegler-bat-box-with-double-front-panel>.

Figure 12. 2F Schwegler Bat Box with Double Front Panel to be installed (NHBS, 2025).



3.2 Birds

3.2.1 Mitigation

To avoid disturbing nesting birds or damaging their nests, works will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (March – August, dependent on weather). If this is not possible, any areas to be impacted, including the building, should be thoroughly checked by an ecologist immediately prior to works commencing. If any active nests are found, they should be left undisturbed with a suitable buffer of vegetation (5m), until the nestlings have fledged.

3.2.2 Bird boxes

To enhance the site for woodland and garden birds, two bird nest boxes will also be installed onto two trees within the woodland. One Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Boxes and one Vivara Pro Seville 28mm WoodStone Nest Boxes will be installed (**Fig 13**). Woodstone does not rot and encloses birds from predators, whilst allowing a consistent temperature to be kept within the nest box. The box must be implemented at a height of 3m. Entrance holes should be directed away from direct sunlight, preferably towards the

north and east to also avoid driving rain, whilst providing an unobstructed flight line to and from the boxes during the Autumn. These bird boxes can be found at: <https://www.nhbs.com/search?q=bird+box&qview=214365> and <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-28mm-woodstone-nest-box>.

Figure 13. Recommended Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box (NHBS 2026) (left) and Vivara Pro Seville 28mm Woodstone Nest Box (NHBS 2026) (right)



3.3 Badgers

Although no evidence of Badgers was recorded on site during the walkover, there remains potential for foraging and commuting Badgers on site. As a result, a walkover of the site and 30m of the surrounding habitat to the site (where access is possible) must be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to works commencing, in order that they can search for any newly developed holes or Badger activity. If recent Badger activity were to be identified, further survey works may be required to ensure there are no active Badger setts.

Additionally, during the construction phase, open excavations left overnight must be covered to prevent harm to commuting Badgers. Open pipework must also be checked and capped nightly. No equipment should be stored on-site and any chemicals must be stored and locked out of the reach of Badgers and other mammals.

3.4 Invertebrates

3.4.1 Glade management

The woodland to the west of the site will undergo glade management, whereby rides and openings will be implemented between the woodland and the grassland and scrub to support a variety of species. Creating a matrix between the habitats forms biodiversity corridors and allows added sunlight, encouraging plant growth and thereby enabling the habitat to support a larger variety of invertebrates. Openness also creates suitable commuting, foraging and basking spaces for mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

3.5 Reptiles & GCN

3.5.1 Mitigation

Due to the potential presence of reptiles and GCN within habitats adjacent to the site, precautionary measures will be implemented to avoid harm to protected species. The grassland on-site will continue to follow Portsmouth Water's management scheme (Appendix II).

In regard to the parcels of grassland that will be impacted (that where the building is proposed to be placed upon and those included within the designated PV CDM areas as shown in **Fig 4**), the grassland management will remain the same as present.

As the grassland that the building is to be placed upon is not proposed to be disturbed, but rather the building placed on top, a fingertip search of the grassland will be undertaken by a qualified ecologist to ensure no reptiles or amphibians are impacted.

All grassland and vegetation subject to disturbance or removal (such as within the areas outlined in **Fig 4**) will be cleared under the supervision of a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) using a two-stage directional strimming approach. Vegetation will first be cut to a height of no lower than 10cm, and finally to ground level. This staged approach allows reptiles and amphibians to disperse into adjacent suitable habitats.

Prior to clearance, the ECoW will deliver a toolbox talk to all site personnel, outlining ecological sensitivities, working methods, and procedures to follow should protected species be encountered. A fingertip search of any vegetation to be impacted will also be undertaken by the ECoW.

Vegetation clearance will be carried out during the reptile and GCN active period (April to September), when temperatures exceed 12 °C and weather conditions are suitable (dry with sunshine). Works will not be undertaken between November and March, during the hibernation period.

Following clearance, it is recommended that the grassland is maintained at a low sward height to reduce the likelihood of reptiles re-colonising the site prior to or during construction works.

Where machinery is required to track over grassland or vegetation, the upper two inches of ground will be gradually removed using a toothed excavator bucket under ecological supervision during the reptile and GCN active period. Any reptiles that are located will be translocated into appropriate habitat to be retained within the redline boundary.

In the unlikely event that a GCN is encountered during the works, all activities in the immediate area will cease and the supervising ecologist will be consulted. Works will only recommence once appropriate mitigation has been agreed, and a licence from Natural England may be required.

3.5.2 Enhancement

As the habitats adjacent to the site are suitable for both reptiles and GCN, enhancing the site for both species would be beneficial. As a result, one log pile hibernacula will be placed within the woodland to the west whereby glade management is being undertaken. This log pile will also benefit hedgehogs and invertebrates, providing shelter and a foraging resource. This, in turn, will encourage bats and birds. The log pile will be created from a combination of logs, branches, brash and grass cuttings and it should be located within an area receiving partial sun / partial shade.

Figure 14. Example of a log pile.



3.6 Dormice

Due to the fact that the habitats adjacent to the site are suitable for Hazel Dormice, precautionary measures will be undertaken.

All habitat clearance will adopt the following methodology:

- Fingertip search of all vegetation to be disturbed, by the ECoW, immediately prior to clearance commencing (on the same day and every day clearance occurs). If any Dormice are found, works will cease and Natural England will be consulted.
- The ECoW will deliver a toolbox talk to the vegetation clearance contractors, detailing the sensitive measures required. The ecologist will then supervise all vegetation clearance. No clearance will be undertaken without the supervision of the ecologist.
- Hand tools will be utilised to sensitively cut vegetation down to ground level in a **single stage**. This will be undertaken in a directional fashion to passively encourage Dormice to move away from the works area towards the woodland. All arisings will be moved away from the cleared areas immediately, and will then be chipped and immediately removed from site.
- In the unlikely event of any Dormice being discovered (within areas where they cannot be left in situ), they will be moved (along with their nest).

- No more than 50m² of habitat will be cleared in a single day and works will take place during mid-April - mid-May or during October to avoid the breeding period (but ensure works are done during a time when Dormice are active).

4.0 CONCLUSION

This report outlines a Biodiversity Enhancement and Mitigation Plan to ensure a net gain is achieved for biodiversity and wildlife on site post-development at High Wood Reservoir, Allington Lane, Southampton, SO30 3HQ. The proposals include the installation of solar panels to the reservoir roof, as well as the construction of a standalone container to house batteries. This report satisfies conditions 4 and 5 on planning applications F/25/99979 and F/23/96049, respectively. Within this report, recommendations and enhancements have been detailed to ensure no harm is caused to protected species and to increase the site's ecological value by creating more opportunities for wildlife to utilize the site. The mitigation measures recommended include an updated walkover immediately prior to any works being undertaken to check for evidence of Badgers, the covering of excavations to ensure no mammal entrapment and the timings and precautionary measures required for vegetation disturbance. Bat and bird boxes, as well as a log pile and glade management have been recommended to further enhance the site's ecological value. It is considered that, should all aspects of this document be implemented, adequate mitigation for the potential presence of protected species can be achieved, alongside a net gain in the site's biodiversity value.

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Appendix I – Enhancement Plan



Legend

- Site boundary
- Glade management
- 2F Schwegler Bat Boxes with Double Front Panel (or similar)
- ◆ Vivara Pro Seville 28mm WoodStone Nest Box
- ◆ Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Boxes
- Log pile



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Map	Enhancement Map
Site	High Wood Reservoir
Client	Portsmouth Water
Date	14/05/2026

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Appendix II – Portsmouth Water’s Management Plan

Highwood Reservoir



Maintain path sides by periodic cutting back of bramble and coppicing of hazel (every 5-7 years)

Cut back and mow grassland, bramble and other scrub on banks annually in late autumn or winter, but retain c.10-15% cover of gorse and other scrub. Remove larger oak trees.

Assess ride again in c.2025. Maintain by scrub clearance, and if possible mowing

Former pine plantations on reservoir embankments: monitor again in c.2025 to assess scope and timing of further thinning and other management (to promote gradual replacement by broadleaved semi-natural woodland).

Regularly mow around building and areas on either side of entrance track. Do not mow G2 areas between April and June.

Cut back gorse scrub on top of slope to maintain c.10% scrub cover in this area

Clear scrub and trees from marshy grassland on slope in late autumn or winter and follow up by mowing

Woodland marked as limited intervention (W5) may benefit from hazel coppicing or other management in the future

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Grassland management

- Regular mowing all year as required (G1)
- Regular mowing with one summer cut missed (G2)
- Two cuts per year, spring and late summer (G4)
- One cut per year, late summer (G5)

Scrub management

- Established scrub removal (S2)
- Scrub maintenance (S3)

Woodland management

- Thinning (W2)
- Boundary and ride maintenance (W4)
- Non-intervention or limited intervention (W5)



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