

K4 Keppel
Daedalus Park
Daedalus Drive
Lee on the Solent
PO13 9FX

Updated 25th July 2024

Dear Colten Care Ltd.,

RE: Updated CEMP ecology input for Land at Providence Hill

This report has been produced to supplement the full Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) produced for the following proposals:

'The proposals entail the erection of Residential Care Community, comprising a 69 bed care home (Use Class C2) and 5 x close care cottages (Use Class C2) with associated access, internal access roads, parking, landscaping and infrastructure'

To mitigate for possible significant negative impacts to the Windmill Fields Wood SINC and Badnum Creek adjacent to the site (both of county level significance), this document serves to meet the precautionary management framework to be adopted during works to minimise the quantity of construction stage pollutants from entering the habitats.

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.

Following the ecology comments received from Eastleigh Borough Council on the 11th June 2024, the below listed sections have been updated:

- Species Specific Mitigation – Terrestrial Mammals
- Toolbox Talks

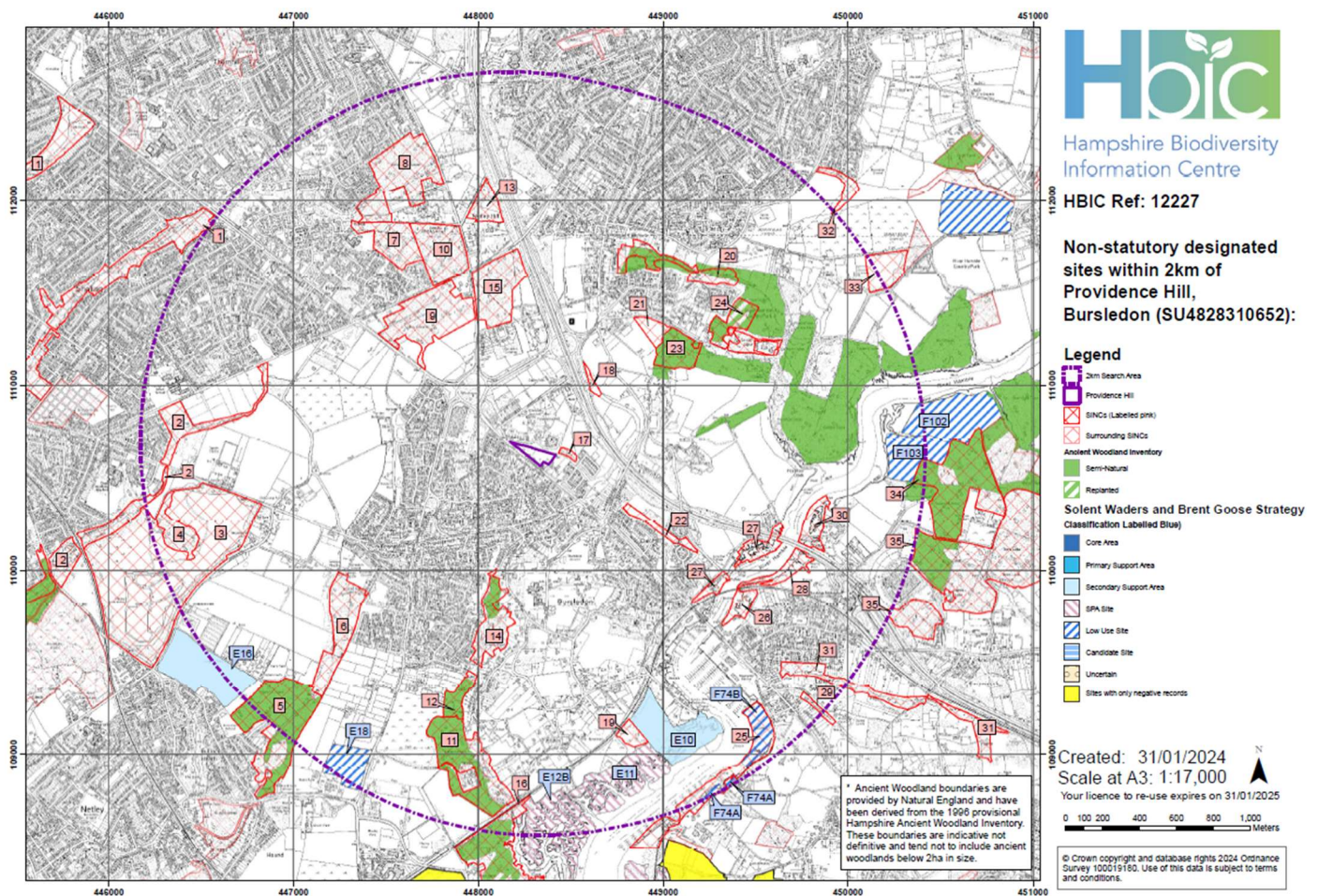
Ecological Baseline

Habitats

The developable area of the site consisted primarily of modified grassland, mixed and Bramble scrub and buildings. The habitats on site were considered to be of site-local value. A small brook (Badnum Creek) was noted running along the northern boundary of the site, which ran beneath the line of trees situated along the site boundary. This is considered to be of value at the **local** level.

The site lies approximately 25m from the boundary of Windmill Fields Woods SINC (Fig 1- map code 17) which is designated for supporting 'other woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving or supporting some characteristics of ancient woodland'.

Figure 1. Non-statutory designated sites located within 2 km of the site as provided by HBIC.



Species

Bats

Overall, the bat activity levels on site were considered to be moderate with Soprano and Common Pipistrelle (considered to be common species within the UK) representing the dominant species recorded on site, with occasional Noctule, Myotis sp. and Brown Long-eared bats registrations and a single registration of Nathusius' Pipistrelle. During the survey period, bats were observed commuting and foraging over the grassland habitat within the site and along the tree lines situated along the site boundaries, with the recording of early registrations suggesting that a roost is located nearby to the site.

Terrestrial Mammals

Whilst no evidence of foraging or commuting Badgers was noted on-site during the updated survey in December 2023, evidence of Badger hairs located on the barbed wire fence situated along the northern boundary was identified by Aven Ecology in 2016. No Badger setts or other evidence of associated Badger activity (e.g. deceased animals, snuffle holes, latrines, spoil heaps) were detected within the proposed site during each survey visit. In addition, spoil and rubbish piles have the potential to support sheltering Hedgehogs. Notwithstanding this, the scrub, grassland and tree line habitat provide suitable habitat to support potential foraging and commuting activity, and as such the site is considered to hold **site** value for foraging and commuting Badgers.

Reptiles

The unmanaged grassland, scrub edges and line of trees habitats within the site provide the requisite structure and heterogeneity (offering microclimatic variability favoured by reptiles) preferred by common reptile species. Whilst the previous survey effort identified the majority of reptiles within the western portion of the site, the subsequent development of the scrub habitat in this portion of the site will likely have reduced the availability of suitable basking areas, which are now limited the fringes of this area. Notwithstanding this, the conditions of the on-site habitats are considered to be broadly the same to those recorded during previous survey effort. Whilst only Slow Worms were identified on site, the presence of a brook running along the northern boundary of the site represents suitable habitat to support Grass Snakes, with local records of this species identified. Notwithstanding this, following the development of a residential scheme to the north of the site, the site is largely isolated with an area of well managed grassland bordering the woodland to the north-east of the site, thus limiting potential dispersal opportunities. As such, it is considered that the populations assessed during the previous survey effort are unlikely to have changed significantly. Overall, the site has **Confirmed** presence of common UK reptiles at the **local** level of importance.

Breeding and Nesting Birds

The line of trees and scrub habitat within the site offer favourable habitat to support local breeding and nesting birds, in addition to the adjoining grassland habitat which could provide foraging opportunities to local birds of prey such as Barn Owl, Red Kite, Peregrine Falcon and Hobby. It is considered that there will be an **adverse impact** at the **Local** level of significance.

Invertebrates

The site supports tree lines, hedgerows and deadwood habitat that could potentially support Stag Beetle, with a range of ecological niches and foodplants identified that could support a diverse range of invertebrate species. Notwithstanding this, given that the habitats present within the site are widespread, it is considered unlikely that the site supports rarer invertebrate species. As such, it is considered that the works will have a ***moderate adverse impact*** at the ***Site*** level of significance.

Other Designated Sites

Badnum Creek is situated within the catchment of the River Hamble (with a number of overlapping designates covering this river including the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Dorset Coast, Solent and Southampton Water SPA/ Ramsar) was identified running along the northern boundary of the site. As such, run-off from the site has potential to enter the watercourse if not controlled, which could subsequently result in the pollution incidents and damage to ecologically sensitive habitats. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed works will have a ***potential adverse impact*** on habitats of ***International*** value.

Species Specific Mitigation

Bats

To ensure there are no negative impacts towards commuting and/or foraging bats, during the construction phase of the development, no works are to be undertaken between dusk and dawn, with lighting also limited to daylight hours where necessary.

Terrestrial Mammals

During construction, any excavations and pipes must either be covered at night or fitted with a slanted rough board as a small animal escape ramp.

Reptiles

The first work to take place on site will be the implementation of a dedicated reptile capture and translocation into the receptor site (in line with the ecology report (Ecosupport Ltd, 2024)).

Fencing

Semi-permanent exclusion fencing will be installed around the perimeter of the site in summer 2024. This will provide a division between the retained buffers, areas subject to capture and the 'working' areas i.e. those areas where humans and machinery will disturb the ground (**Fig 2**).

Figure 2. Indicative location of the reptile receptor on site with reptile exclusion fencing to be erected around the boundary of the receptor and the wider site.



Some areas will be combined with the tree protective fencing. In this instance the line of the tree protective fencing will be marked out. This will then confirm the location of the trench associated with the reptile fence. The trench can then be dug and the heras fence put in place. Once in place, the reptile exclusion fence can then be installed, attaching it to the heras panels.

The fencing will remain in place until all works are completed.

Any breaches/damages of the fence will be repaired and/or replaced as quickly as possible, at the cost of the contractors responsible.

Distribution of Refugia

The refugia used will be bitumen roofing felt which will be placed around suitable habitats throughout the site. This will be distributed at an increased density to aid the capture effort and reduce the number of capture days required.

Catching

Suitably qualified ecologists, with experience in reptile capture, will carry out the trapping of reptiles during the active reptile season on days where reptiles were likely to be found (i.e. between 10°C and 20°C with little or no wind or rain). Reptiles will be captured by hand from beneath the artificial refugia and placed into a suitable container. All captured reptiles will be released into the receptor area on the same day they are captured.

Timing

The optimum period for capture of reptiles is April to June and September, however it is possible to capture reptiles outside of this period providing weather conditions are suitable. The capture effort will begin in summer 2024.

Capture Effort

The HGBI guidelines (1998) suggest that for a 'low' population of Slow Worm a minimum of 60 days capture is undertaken. Artificial refugia will be distributed across the site at an increased minimum density of <50/ha. Despite the recommendation for 60 capture days, it is considered a significantly lower figure than this would be appropriate (30 days), however this can be reviewed during the capture works. Capture visits will continue until 5 consecutive visits have been carried out in ideal weather conditions where no reptiles are captured (or seen), it is considered that the relocation can come to an end. This approach is based on survey guidance (Highways Agency, 2005), which suggests that a minimum of five visits are required to establish whether reptiles are present or likely to be absent from a site, during a standard survey. Therefore, if no reptiles are recorded after five visits (in optimal survey conditions), it can be concluded that reptiles are likely to be absent from the site.

Vegetation Removal

Vegetation works should take place prior to or after the bird-nesting season (March – August). However, where this is not possible works should be preceded by a nesting bird survey undertaken by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) (i.e. small stretch of vegetation will require removal to facilitate road construction. To minimise the area lost, these will be pegged out. If this takes place during March – August a SQE will be undertake a survey prior to removal).

If an active nest is identified a five-metre buffer will be established. No works will be able to take place within this area until the SQE has confirmed that the chicks have fledged and that the nest is no longer active.

Further Protective Fences

Trees will be protected in accordance with BS5837 2012 - 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations'. The fencing will be established prior to the start of the construction works. The fencing will be of sufficient durability to be in place for the duration of the works.

Information Signs

Information signs will be attached along the fences so that workers are reminded of the importance of the protected areas.

Toolbox Talks

Prior to any works that may impact protected species on site, toolbox talks will be delivered for all relevant site operatives. This talk will detail the legal protection of the relevant species (be that reptiles, birds, bats, badgers, GCN, Dormice or hedgehogs), their habitat requirements, means of identification and the precautionary steps that must be

taken during the proposed works. The appropriate times at which these talks will be delivered will be detailed in the Timing of Works plan which is to be conditioned.

Impacts to Watercourses (Badnum Creek) and Designated Sites

The ditch / brook runs along the northern boundary of the site. Works will take place to the south of the ditch / brook however it should be noted that (excluding habitat management) no works will take place within 10m of this feature. The quality of stormwater and groundwater can be negatively impacted during construction activities. There is a risk that polluted water, generated during construction, could make its way into the ditch / brook.

A minimum ten-metre buffer is being retained along the ditch, which will be delineated by the reptile fencing and protected as a reptile receptor. Due to the impermeability of Herptile fencing, this will provide some level of disruption to surface water run-off into the stream during the construction phase. However, some further general practical measures and sensitive working practices with regard to water quality are provided in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Practical measures and sensitive working practices involving water during construction.

Issue(s) to Control	Best Practices to be Adopted
Stormwater polluted with debris /chemicals	• Minimise the areas of exposed ground • Locate siltation traps at key points on the site (where run off could enter the ditch) and discharge all runoff through the traps. • Provide adequate drainage channels lined with impervious material. • Ensure integrity of hoarding to prevent uncontrolled discharge to stormwater drains outside site boundaries. • If it is not possible to install temporary water drainage works, as above, use sand bags (and sealed hoarding) to divert site water run-offs to siltation tank and water treatment systems. • Avoid carrying out earthworks nearby to the ditch during the rainy season and if is not avoidable ensure that the works are kept to a minimum. • Surround earthworks by dykes or embankments for flood protection and cover earthworks as appropriate. • To prevent soil erosion, compact earthworks final surfaces and perform subsequent permanent work/surface protection immediately after surface formation and provide appropriate drainage. • Cover and seal manholes (including newly constructed ones). • Ensure that the road from the wheel washing facilities to the end of the site is paved with backfall to prevent runoff of wash water.
Concrete	• Recycle wastewater from washing of mixer trucks, drum mixers and similar equipment wherever practical to minimise wastewater discharge. • Treat all contaminated surface water from concrete operations with appropriate facilities.
Drainage into Badnum Creek	• Should surface water need draining into Badnum Creek, an ecologist will be contacted prior to the pipe installation • A silt buster will be installed to remove large particles and contaminants before the water reaches the creek

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 a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE), during which information on all protected areas / Biodiversity Protection Zones will be given. The importance of leaving these areas 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.

Training will be recorded in the Project records by each Developer.

Line of Communication Regarding Ecological Issues

Prior to 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/Biodiversity Protection Zones on site but also the locality of nationally designated site. They will also be mindful during 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/advise is needed, the Project Manager will be consulted. They will then contact the SQE who will visit the site and advise accordingly.

Compliance

Monthly compliance checks will be completed by the appointed SQE to ensure all protective fencing has remained intact and the ecological recommendations within this CEMP are followed. The outcomes of these checks will be reported to the LPA on a monthly basis.

Kind regards,

Lyndsey Barratt BSc (Hons) PGCert MCIEEM

Senior Ecologist