

Ecological Impact Assessment



**Tyler
Grange**

ALDI, Hedge End, Southampton
16th December 2024

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Admin QA	Author	Checked	Approved
-	Claire Collings MCIEEM	Harry Du Bois-Jones BSc (Hons)	Rob Revolta BA MSc MCIEEM

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Summary

- S.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Limited on behalf of ALDI Stored Ltd. It sets out the findings of an Ecological Impact Assessment at ALDI, Hedge End, Southampton, hereinafter referred to as 'the site'. The proposals are for the erection of a 3 m high acoustic fence, approximately 66 m in length.
- S.2. An 'extended' Phase 1/UK Habitat Classification (UK Habs) survey was undertaken on the 11th November 2024. A summary of the results are as follows:
- The site is comprised of developed land – sealed surface (negligible ecological importance) and woodland edge habitat (associated with the adjacent semi-natural lowland mixed deciduous woodland that is a designated site, priority habitat, local BAP habitat, and BAP priority biodiversity link, of county ecological importance).
 - The site contains habitats that could support amphibians, common and widespread nesting and foraging birds, foraging and commuting bats, Badgers, Hazel Dormouse, reptiles and European hedgehog. However, the small extent of the site means the likelihood of these species being present at the time of works is very low.
- S.3. In terms of protected sites, the works take place adjacent to a LNR and SNCI. The works will involve the trimming and pruning of vegetation, but no removal of shrubs or trees, such that no significant impacts are expected, and the integrity of the designated site will be maintained. No impacts to any other designated sites are expected.
- S.4. As the work would not constitute an impact to any habitat, there is no requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain to be achieved. There are no opportunities for on-site habitat enhancement, although minor enhancement measures for fauna are proposed (creation of habitat piles).
- S.5. It is expected that the production and implementation of a CEMP will be secured through an appropriately worded planning condition, to ensure adequate and effective avoidance and mitigation measures are adopted. Subject to the implementation of these measures, it is concluded that the proposed development will comply with relevant policy and legislation relating to biodiversity, including local plan policies DM1 and DM11 (The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016 – 2036)).



Section 1: Introduction and Context

Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of ALDI Stores Ltd. It sets out the findings of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) at ALDI, Hedge End Retail Park, Southampton, SO30 4RT (OS Grid Reference SU 4825 1317), hereafter referred to as 'the site'. See **Figure 1.1** for the indicative red line boundary.



Figure 1.1: Indicative red line boundary (© Google Aerial Imagery)

- 1.2. This assessment has been undertaken to inform a planning application for the proposed erection of a 3m high acoustic fence, approximately 66m in length. The site proposals are shown in **Appendix 1**. A planning application has been submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council (ref: F/24/98174). The application was originally submitted without any supporting ecological information, and therefore the Council's Ecology Officer objected to the proposals (see **Appendix 2**) on the basis that there would be impacts to priority habitat, lack of a suitable buffer to the adjacent Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and biodiversity net loss. The Ecology Officer requested an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) be submitted.

Site Context

- 1.3. The site is approximately 0.03 ha in size and comprises broadleaved woodland edge and developed land – sealed surface habitats. The site is situated along the boundary of an existing retail park, adjacent to an area of woodland, which is a Local Nature reserve (LNR) and SNCI. An Ecological Assessment (Tyler Grange 2021, ref: 14007_R01a_GE_CW) of the wider ALDI site was carried out in 2021 to inform the proposed ALDI store planning application (ref: F/21/91821).



Purpose

- 1.4. This report:
- Uses available background data and results of the field surveys to describe and evaluate the ecological features present within the likely “Zone of Influence”¹ (Zoi) of the proposed development;
 - Describes the actual or potential ecological issues and opportunities that might arise as a result of the site’s development.
 - Where appropriate, makes commitments for mitigation measures for adverse effects on ecological features as well as ecological enhancements, to ensure conformity with policy and legislation listed in **Appendix 3**; and
 - Can be used to inform a planning application for the site’s development.
- 1.5. This assessment and the terminology used are consistent with the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal² and the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment³. A full methodology is set out in **Appendix 4**.

Methodology

- 1.6. This assessment has been informed by an ‘extended’ phase 1/UK Habs survey. The full methods for the ‘extended’ phase 1/ UK Habs survey can be found in **Appendix 4**.

Quality Control

- 1.7. All ecologists at Tyler Grange Group Limited are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) or are working towards membership, and act under the direction of members and abide by the Institute’s Code of Professional Conduct⁴.

Limitations and Assumptions

- 1.8. Access for the survey was limited to the ALDI land ownership, and therefore a full 30m buffer around the site could not be surveyed to search for features such as Badger *Meles meles* setts and trees with potential bat roosting features. The survey was carried out outside of the optimal botanical survey period.

¹ Defined by the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment as the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. This is likely to extend beyond the project site, for example where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries

² CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

³ CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

⁴ CIEEM (2022) Code of Professional Conduct, CIEEM, Winchester



Section 2: Ecological Features and Evaluation

Designated Sites

- 2.1. Given the small size of the site, and the scale of the works, a request for data from the local records centre was not made. However, data was obtained from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) in 2021, to inform the previous EclA, and this information has been referred to where relevant. Data on statutory protected sites and European protected species was obtained from the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC). Non-statutory designated site boundary information was obtained from Eastleigh Borough Council's interactive maps. See **Appendix 4** for full methodology.
- 2.2. The data search returned three sites covered by Natura 2000 designations within 10 km of the site, four statutory sites within 2km and five non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site. These are detailed in **Table 2.1** below.



Table 2.1: Designated Sites

Designated site	Distance and direction from site	Citation	Ecological Importance
Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar	2.8 km southeast	Annex I habitats that are primary reasons for the SAC designation are estuaries, cord grass <i>Spartina</i> spp. Swards and Atlantic salt meadows. The Ramsar site and SPA covers a series of harbours and estuaries with extensive mudflats and saltmarshes, of importance to breeding and over-wintering birds.	International
River Itchen SAC	3.7 km northwest	A chalk river designated for the Annex I habitat ‘watercourses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation’	International
The New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar	9.7 km southwest	The site is designated for its extensive complex of woodland, dry and wet heath and over 90 valley mires, associated seepages and peatlands situated on acidic and nutrient-poor soils. The site is important for breeding, feeding and roosting birds characteristic of the heathland environment and wintering raptors. Also of importance to invertebrates and herptiles.	International
Moorgreen Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	1.1 km north	Neutral meadows and alder <i>Alnus</i> sp. wood flanking a small tributary of the River Hamble. Of exceptional scientific importance for its populations of marsh orchids <i>Dactylorhiza</i> spp.	National
Wildern LNR (overlapping SINC designations detailed below)	Adjacent to the site	10ha of wetland habitat comprising a mosaic of ponds, to flooded meadows, woodlands and a valley mire, all linked by streams.	Local
Netley Common LNR	1.3 km southwest	The city’s last remaining piece of open heathland including grassland with islands of scrub and gorse, surrounded by a mixed woodland fringe.	Local
Manor Farm LNR	1.8 km southeast	No information available. Part of the site has overlapping statutory designations, but these are beyond the 2km buffer.	Local
Hogsty Corner SINC	Adjacent to the site, with a very small section extending into the site.	Ancient semi-natural woodland with heathlands and fens	County
Bridget Mary Garden SINC	0.35 km southeast	Semi-natural woodland and neutral/acid/calcareous grassland site (part of the Wildern LNR)	County
Wildern Nature Park SINC	0.38 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland with wetlands and grassland	County
Telegraph Woods SINC	0.67 km northwest	Pasture woodland and heathland	County
Dumbelton’s Copse SINC	0.98 km southwest	Heathland	County



- 2.3. The site falls into SSSI Impact Risk Zones for a number of SSSIs. However, the development does not fall into any of the criteria set out by Natural England requiring further assessment. As such consultation with Natural England is not considered necessary, and this is **not discussed further within this report**.

Habitats and Flora

- 2.4. The habitats present on site are summarised below in **Table 2.2**, along with a description of the composition of the main plant species present and an assessment of their ecological importance. The location of habitats are shown on the Habitats Features **Plan 14007/P01**.



Table 2.2: Habitats and Flora

Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
<u>Primary code:</u> Developed land – sealed surface u1b <u>Secondary code(s):</u> -	Tarmac service area for the adjacent ALDI store. The edge of the service area is bound by a curb, and low-level metal vehicle barrier.	Very common habitat type with no ecological value; considered to be of negligible ecological importance.	
<u>Primary code:</u> Lowland mixed deciduous woodland w1f <u>Secondary code(s):</u> semi natural woodland 30, nature reserve 527 (although only a small section of the site extends into the SINC designated area).	The redline boundary includes a narrow strip of young, regenerated woodland edge habitat, associated with the adjacent woodland. The main block of the woodland is separated from the strip of woodland edge (the site) by a palisade boundary fence. Within the site, the canopy layer was dominated by silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i>, with a relatively sparse understorey comprised of hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>. The birch trees were well-spaced, allowing a lot of light to the ground layer, however ground flora was obscured during the survey due to abundant leaf litter.	The woodland as a whole is a Priority Habitat and Borough Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat, and considered to be of county ecological importance.	



Protected and Notable Species

- 2.5. The below section sets out the potential for protected species on site. Species which are considered likely absent from the site based on professional judgement, following consideration the of habitats within the site, signs of species presence at the time of survey and data search records, are not discussed.

Amphibians

- 2.6. The site is located within the District Level Licensing Red Impact Risk Zone for great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*. However, the closest GCN pond survey result provided on Magic was a negative result, from approximately 435m to the east and there were no European Protected Species (EPS) licences for GCN within 2 km of the site.
- 2.7. The data search found one pond approximately 5m from the site boundary, within the adjacent woodland. Although this could not be viewed during the survey, it is assumed to provide suitable habitat for newts as a precaution. The desk study did not identify any further waterbodies within 250 m of the site, which is generally considered to be within the typical migratory range of GCN from a waterbody⁵. The woodland edge habitat on site could offer some suitable terrestrial habitat for GCN sheltering and dispersal.
- 2.8. Given the lack of nearby records, the peripheral and small extent of suitable terrestrial habitat in the site, and the lack of connectivity to other breeding ponds, a population of GCN using the site is unlikely to be of more than **local ecological importance**.
- 2.9. Their potential presence is considered further in **Section 3** of this report as a precaution, to avoid any breach of relevant legislation.
- 2.10. Other amphibian species such as common toad *Bufo bufo* may be present, however again due to the small and peripheral nature of the habitat, only individual/small numbers of toads would be expected to occur within the site, and would mostly utilise the wider woodland habitat. Common toads are a priority species under The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006⁶. A population of common toads using the site would be of **negligible ecological importance**.

Badger

- 2.11. No Badger setts were present on site, or visible within the immediately adjacent section of woodland. Badgers are protected owing to their threat from persecution, rather than their conservation status, and so a population of Badgers using the site would be of **negligible ecological importance**.
- 2.12. Badgers are discussed in **Section 3** to avoid any breach of relevant legislation.

⁵ Cresswell, W. & Whitworth, R., 2004. An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value off different habitats for the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*: English Nature Research Report 576 , Peterborough: English Nature.

⁶ Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of species and habitats listed at Section 41, including when considering planning applications.



Bats

- 2.13. Three granted EPS licences for bats were returned within a 2 km radius of the site. The closest licence was located 0.9 km east of the site (case reference: 2013-5805) and was granted for the destruction of a resting place of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bats.

Bat Activity

- 2.14. The site lies within an urban context, with light pollution in the wider retail park to the north. The southern boundary of the retail park, where the site is located, is, however, unlit and therefore a range of bats could forage/commute along the woodland edge as well as within the wider woodland. The woodland contributes to a green corridor through the area and is part of an Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Biodiversity Link.
- 2.15. Whilst the site itself is small in extent and therefore has limited value as a resource for foraging and commuting bats, the woodland as a whole, including the woodland edge, could support a population of bats of up to **local ecological significance**.

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

- 2.16. No trees or buildings with potential bat roost features were identified within the site; therefore roosting bats are considered **likely absent** from the site.

Birds

- 2.17. The woodland edge habitat within the site has the potential to support common and widespread nesting birds.
- 2.18. Whilst the wider woodland would support a greater assemblage of birds, potentially including red list species, it is considered the assemblage of birds that may use the site is of **negligible ecological significance**. Nevertheless, consideration for nesting birds to avoid a breach of legislation is discussed in **Section 3** of this report.

Hazel Dormouse

- 2.19. There is a record of a hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* mitigation licence being granted at a site approximately 380 m northwest of the site, beyond the M27 (case reference: EPSM2012-4209). The next nearest granted licence for this species was from approximately 3 km to the northeast. The records centre also returned a record of the species from c.0.4 km to the northeast, beyond the A334.
- 2.20. The wider woodland and the woodland edge habitat within the site appears suitable to support hazel dormouse, however it is relatively isolated within an urban area, and the known records of this species are from woodland areas that are separated from the site by major roads. As a precaution it is assumed that the wider woodland could support hazel dormouse, however the site is small in its extent and peripheral in nature, and therefore would only be able to support a dormouse population of **local ecological importance**. Nevertheless, consideration for this species to avoid a breach of legislation is discussed in **Section 3** of this report.

Invertebrates

- 2.21. There are records of stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* in the local area (Tyler Grange 2021), and they could occur within the adjacent woodland, however the site does not include suitable egg-laying sites and any population would therefore be of **negligible ecological importance**.



Reptiles

- 2.22. The woodland could support common species of reptile, however the limited extent of the woodland and extensive shading means that a reptile population present would be of **negligible ecological importance**. Nevertheless, consideration for reptiles to avoid a breach of legislation is discussed in **Section 3** of this report.

European Hedgehog

- 2.23. European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* is known to occur within the local area (Tyler Grange 2021), and could move through the site and potentially rest within any deeper piles of leaf litter/brush. The limited size of the site and urban nature means that a population of hedgehogs using the site would be of **negligible ecological importance**, however measures to safeguard individuals are included in **Section 3** of this report for welfare reasons.



Section 3: Ecological Impacts, Mitigation, and Enhancement

Proposed Development

- 3.1. The proposals are for the erection of a 3m high acoustic fence, approximately 66m in length, along the boundary between the retail park and the adjacent woodland. The installation of the fence would require a small amount of vegetation to be pruned back to make a small amount of space. No trees or shrubs would be removed to facilitate the development. The potential impacts at this site as a result of the proposed development are set out below, with reference to relevant legislation and planning policy, which is summarised in **Appendix 3**.

Design Evolution

- 3.2. The design of the development has been iterative, and in accordance with policy and best practice guidance, and follows the 'mitigation hierarchy'. As such, the Development has been designed to avoid and retain the most important ecological features. A summary of how the design follows the mitigation hierarchy is set out below:
- Impacts to the woodland have been avoided by siting the proposed fence as close to the built extent as possible. The acoustic fence cannot be any closer to the hardstanding area without impacting on the operation of the site.
 - All trees and shrubs will be retained and safeguarded. The existing palisade boundary fence will safeguard the wider woodland against incursion during the works.

Designated Sites

Statutory Sites

- 3.3. Given the nature of the site proposals and the distances involved between the site and the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, River Itchen SAC and New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar, no adverse direct or indirect effects are anticipated to European designated sites, and no specific mitigation is required.
- 3.4. Wildern LNR (and non-statutory Hogsty Corner SNCI) are situated immediately adjacent to the site (the Hogsty Corner SNCI boundary extends into the site boundary slightly at the northern end). As the proposals only involve minor pruning works, no impacts to habitat will occur, and so the development will not affect the integrity or conservation status of the woodland.
- 3.5. During the construction phase, there could be potential impacts arising from unnecessary vegetation clearance, damage to retained vegetation, and pollution events. Operational phase impacts are expected to be minor, arising from increased shading of the ground flora along the woodland edge.
- 3.6. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced and secured by a suitably worded planning condition, which would set out the means of safeguarding the adjacent woodland. The key protection measures would include:



- Adoption of standard best practice pollution prevention⁷ measures.
- Clear marking out of vegetation to be protected and retained, with only minor pruning works to be carried out.
- Pre-commencement checks by an ECoW for signs of protected species within nearby habitat.
- Works to be timed in the appropriate season to reduce chances of harm to protected species, and no works or additional lighting to occur overnight.
- Existing palisade fence will prevent incursion of vehicles and personnel into the adjacent woodland.

Non-statutory Sites

- 3.7. Hogsty Corner SNCI is situated adjacent to the site. As the site is also covered by a statutory designation, the potential impacts and avoidance and mitigation measures are described above.

Habitats and Flora

- 3.8. Given the lack of impacts to habitat and the adoption of mitigation measures as set out above, no impacts are considered likely, and therefore no compensation measures are proposed.

Protected and Notable Species

Amphibians

- 3.9. There is a pond approximately 5m from the site boundary, and although there are no nearby records of the European protected GCN, their potential presence is assumed as a precaution. There is also potential for other amphibians, including the priority species common toad, to occur. The proposals may lead to temporary disturbance of suitable terrestrial habitat for this species group, which also poses a risk of killing/injuring individual animals. GCN are protected against killing, injuring and disturbance, and their resting places are also protected, and therefore if present, the works could result in a breach of the relevant legislation.
- 3.10. In relation to GCN, Natural England's Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) tool was used as a guide as to whether the proposed works would require a mitigation licence (see **Figure 3.1** below).

⁷ CIRIA (2015) Construction Work Sector Guidance for Designers. Fourth edition



Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	0.001 - 0.01 ha lost or damaged	0.05
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
Maximum:		0.05
Rapid risk assessment result:	GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY	

Figure 3.1: Great crested newt RRA tool results

3.11. The RRA indicates that, as long as effects on individual GCN can be avoided, the proposed works would be highly unlikely to result in an offence being committed. Accordingly, it is proposed that measures to avoid impacts to individual GCN (and other amphibians) be adopted, which would be detailed within a Precautionary Working Methods Statement (PWMS) but include the following:

- Point of work fingertip searches for amphibians, by an ecologist.
- Careful dismantling of potential amphibian refuges, under the direction of an ecologist.
- Not leaving any excavations open/uncovered overnight.
- Storing materials/equipment off the ground, on pallets.
- Stopping works in the unlikely event that a GCN is found, and a licence being obtained/registering to use the district level licence, if impacts cannot be avoided.
- Careful movement of any other amphibians found to a suitable location elsewhere on the site, within 100m of the location it was found. In the event that hibernating amphibians are found, the ECoW will determine whether they can be safely retained in-situ, with the hibernacula reinstated, or if they can be moved to another suitable hibernacula nearby.

3.12. Measures to achieve on site enhancements for amphibians have been considered, and it is proposed to create habitat piles along the woodland edge, south of the new acoustic fence, using arisings from the pruning works.

Badgers

3.13. Badgers are highly mobile creatures and can dig new setts at short notice. A pre-commencement check for new Badger setts will be undertaken before works start. If a sett is found, and the proposed works are deemed to have potential to cause disturbance, works will be stopped and a protected species licence sought.

3.14. Badgers may periodically cross the site, and the nature of the proposed works may have potential to harm them. During the construction phase, precautionary measures would be implemented and detailed within a CEMP to avoid harm to Badgers, including:

- Any storage of materials which could potentially trap Badger should be covered at the end of daily operations where practicable;



- Work is to be undertaken during the daytime where practicable, when Badgers are least active, to minimise disturbance to their foraging activities; and
- No overnight lighting.

3.15. With the implementation of these measures, any harm to Badgers will be prevented during the construction phase.

Bats

3.16. During the main bat activity period (April to October) bats may forage and commute along the woodland edge. Although the proposed fence installation will result in low-hanging branches being pruned, the shrubs and trees will still be retained, and there will be no pruning works above 3m, this is not expected to result in significant negative effects on foraging or commuting bats. The proposals will not result in any additional lighting on the site during the operational phase, and no overnight construction lighting will be used. This would be detailed within the CEMP.

3.17. Whilst no suitable roosting features were identified on site, a pre-commencement check from an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be undertaken to ensure that no new roosting features have been created, or that the proposed works would be able to proceed without disturbing any new potential roost features. Should it be determined that the works could disturb a potential roosting feature, works will not proceed and the mitigation in this report will be reassessed.

3.18. The proposed fence will also prevent some light spill from the operations of the adjacent site onto the woodland, thereby providing a benefit to bat foraging/commuting within the woodland area.

Birds

3.19. To avoid triggering the legislation protecting nesting birds, pruning of suitable habitat should be timed for outside of the nesting bird season (generally taken as March to September inclusive, though this is not defined in law and birds may nest outside of this time). If any pruning works to suitable nesting habitats are required during the nesting season, then pre-works checks for nesting birds must be carried out by a suitably experienced ECoW, no more than 48 hours prior to the works commencing. If any nesting birds are found to be present, an appropriate buffer zone will be implemented, within which works are excluded for the duration of the breeding attempt. Any active nests will need to be left in situ until a suitably experienced ecologist confirms that the chicks have fledged and the nest is no longer active.

Hazel Dormouse

3.20. Hazel dormouse is known to occur within the wider area, and their presence within the adjacent woodland is assumed as a precaution, although the habitat is severed from the dormouse records by a major road. Dormice occur at low densities, and therefore the likelihood of them occurring within the proposed work area is very low. In addition, the woodland edge habitat comprises vegetation of a lower density than within the main block of the woodland, and therefore dormice would be even less likely to use the habitat on site. The minor pruning works are not considered to result in any loss of dormouse habitat, and would not result in any severance of habitat connectivity.

3.21. Point of work searches for dormouse nests will be carried out as a precaution (by a suitably experienced ECoW). This will involve a search of above ground vegetation (trees/shrubs) during the period March (to also account for nesting birds) to October inclusive. Over the winter months when dormice would be expected to be



hibernating at ground level (October to April inclusive), a fingertip search for hibernation nests will be made (note: ground level fingertip searches will be required year-round for amphibians). In the unlikely event that a hazel dormouse is found, and impacts cannot be avoided, works would stop and a licence would be obtained prior to works continuing.

Reptiles

- 3.22. There is potential for small numbers of common species of reptile to occur within the work area, and in the absence of mitigation the works could result in the killing or injuring of reptiles. The works will not result in significant loss of reptile habitat, or severance of habitat.
- 3.23. The measures described above to safeguard amphibians will also serve to protect reptiles from harm.
- 3.24. Measures to achieve on site enhancements for reptiles have been considered, and it is proposed to create habitat piles along the woodland edge, south of the new acoustic fence, using arisings from the pruning works.

European Hedgehog

- 3.25. Individual hedgehogs could occur within the work area. The works would not result in any effect on the conservation status of this priority species, and the measures detailed above to safeguard reptiles and amphibians will ensure that hedgehogs are also safeguarded.



Section 4: Conclusions

- 4.1. No impacts to European sites are anticipated due to the nature of the proposals and the distance to such sites. One statutory designated site, also a non-statutory site, is situated adjacent to the site, but the proposals would not constitute an impact to the broadleaved woodland edge habitat associated with these designated sites. The woodland is also a priority habitat, local BAP habitat and local BAP priority biodiversity link. Any possible impacts during the construction phase will be minimised by the adoption of measures outlined in this report, to be further detailed within a CEMP which can be secured by planning condition.
- 4.2. No other habitat impacts are expected, and no compensation habitat is proposed as result. As the work would not constitute an impact to any habitat, there is no requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain to be achieved. There are no opportunities for on-site habitat enhancement, although minor enhancement measures for fauna are proposed (creation of habitat piles).
- 4.3. There is potential for amphibians (including GCN), nesting birds, foraging/commuting bats, hazel dormouse, reptiles, Badgers, and European hedgehog to occur within the site. However, given the small extent of the site in relation to the wider woodland, and the peripheral nature of the habitat, this significantly reduces the likelihood of any of these species being present at the time of works. Nonetheless, measures to avoid impacts to these species are outlined in this report and will be detailed within the CEMP.
- 4.4. In conclusion, in anticipation of the implementation of any necessary mitigation, the proposed development will be compliant with relevant planning policies, including DM1 and DM11 of the Local Plan, as well as legislation with regard to ecology.



Appendix 1: Proposed Site Plan



Detail 1 – 3m Acoustic Timber Fence

ACOUSTIC BARRIER FENCE

Height – 3000mm

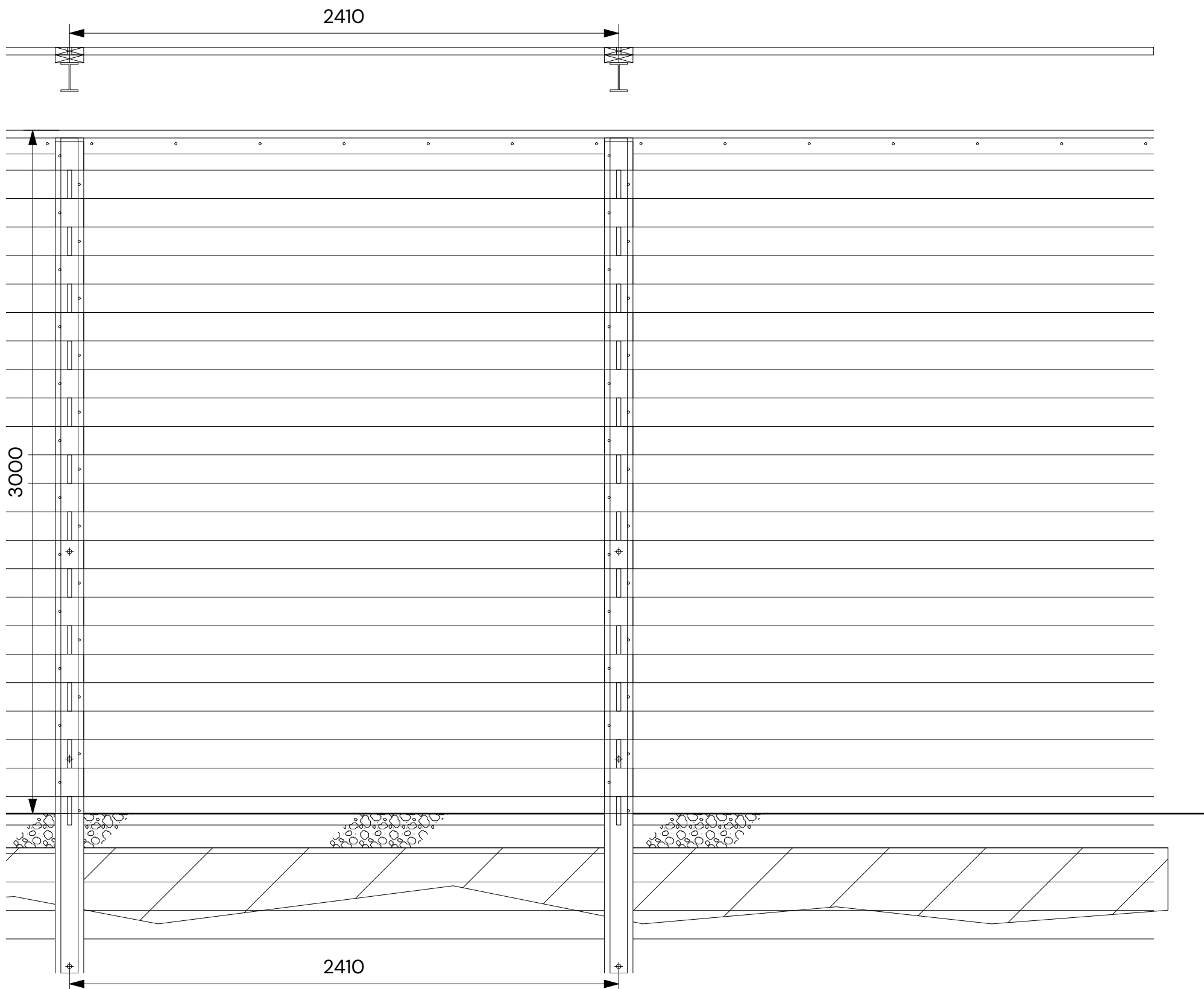
System comprises:

- 125mm boards featuring an interlocking 'vee' tongue and groove
- Fence is finished with a capping and counter rail
- Vee T&G profile has been carefully developed to locate the boards in such a way that eliminate gaps that sound will easily travel through, even when boards shrink and expand with changes in the weather.
- All timber pressure treated and covered by 25-year guarantee giving lasting protection above and below ground against all wood-boring pests and all forms of wet and dry rot.

Laboratory Results:

- Rating according to BS EN 1793 – 2:1998 Category = B3
- Laboratory sound reduction 28 dB
- Superficial mass 28kg/m²

0 1 2 M
Scale: 1/20 @ A1



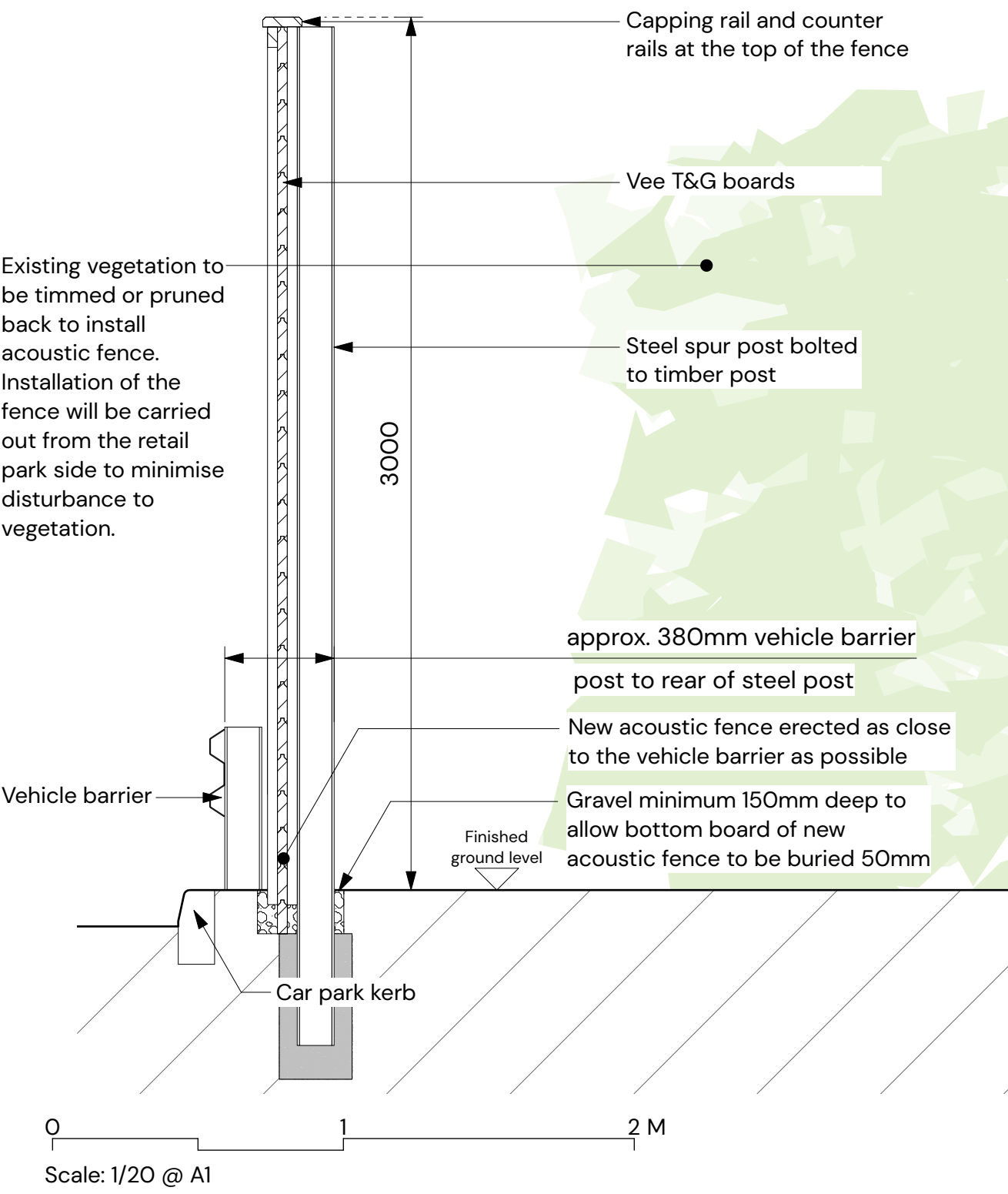
Detail 2 – Typical Section through Acoustic Barrier Fence

Existing vegetation to be trimmed or pruned back to install acoustic fence. Installation of the fence will be carried out from the retail park side to minimise disturbance to vegetation.

Vehicle barrier

Car park kerb

0 1 2 M
Scale: 1/20 @ A1

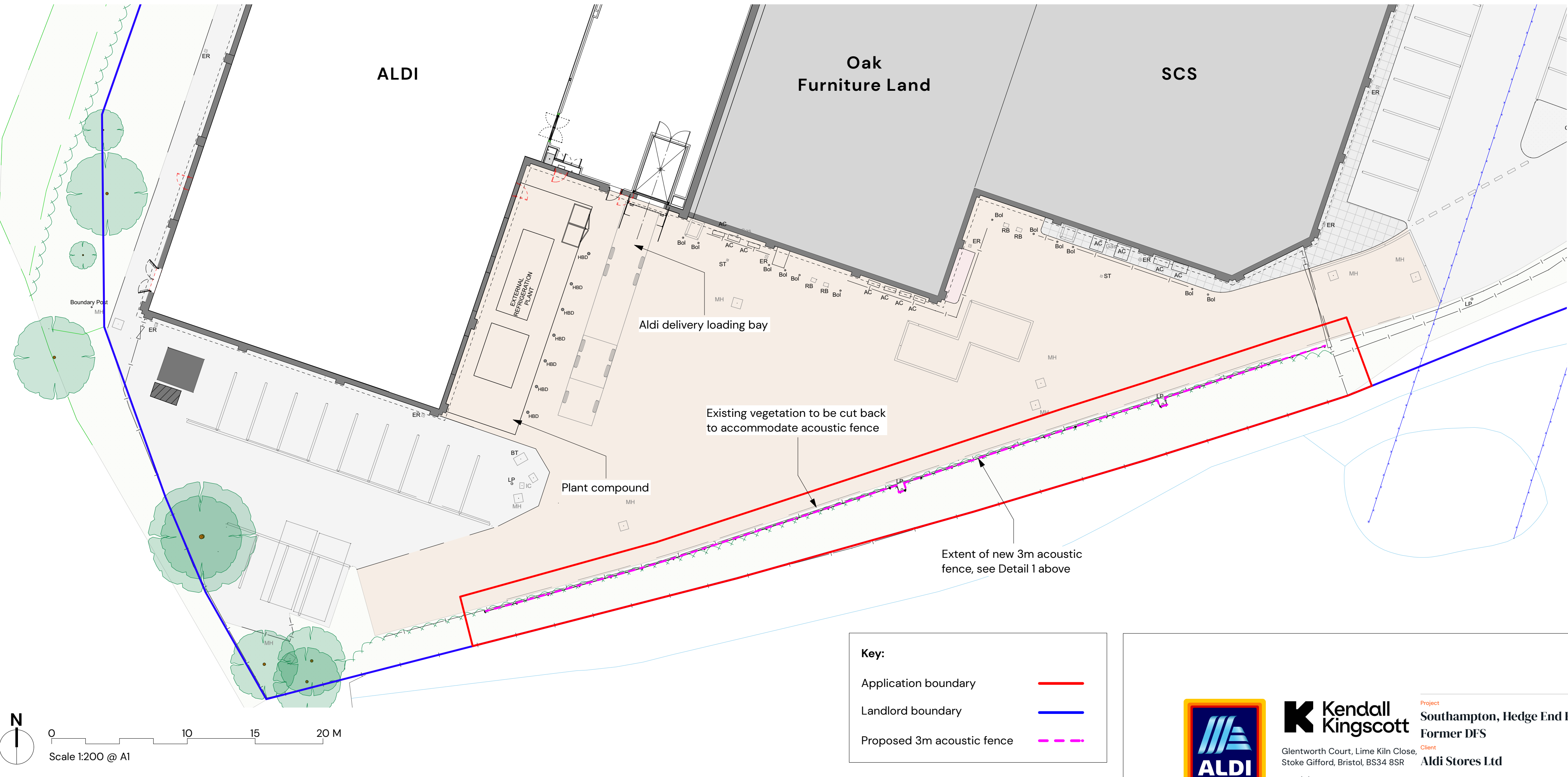


Example Photographs

Photos from a recently completed Aldi store showing the installed 3m high acoustic fence
Note that images are not to scale



Proposed Site Plan



0 10 15 20 M
Scale 1:200 @ A1



Key:

- Application boundary
- Landlord boundary
- Proposed 3m acoustic fence



Kendall Kingscott
Glentworth Court, Lime Kiln Close,
Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8SR
+44 (0)117 931 2062
www.kendallkingscott.co.uk

Project
Southampton, Hedge End Retail Park
Former DFS
Client
Aldi Stores Ltd

Date
20/08/2024
Scale
NOTED
Filename
200698 Acoustic Fence
Proposal.wx

Drawn
DG
Checked
MW
Paper Size
ISO A1

P03 12/12/2024 LI MW Section detail and site plan amended showing fence position closer to existing vehicle barrier. Trimming and pruning of vegetation note added.
P02 04/11/2024 DG MW Fence position adjusted to step around existing lamp posts
P01 21/08/2024 DG MW Drawing issue.

Rev Date By Ap Note
Drawing Title
Site Plan as Proposed
Acoustic Fence Proposal
Project Number/Drawing Number
200698-1330
Check all dimensions and levels on site

Revision
P03
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Appendix 2: Ecology Officer Comments



Ecology response for F/24/98174 UNIT 1, HEDGE END RETAIL PARK, CHARLES WATTS WAY,
HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4RT

Proposed erection of a 3m high acoustic fence

David Huckfield

I object to this application on the grounds of unacceptable impact on priority habitat, lack of a suitable buffer to the SINC and biodiversity net loss. It is contrary to Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF 180.

It is adjacent to Hogsty Corner SINC which is designated as 1A/1Cii/3B/5Ai/5Bii. The SINC contains a pond, a stream which is a tributary of the River Itchen, ancient semi-natural woodland and wet woodland priority habitat. The SINC is also connected to Wildern Local Nature Reserve. Aerial photos show that the fence would impact the SINC over most of its length.

The application form states that the site area is 333 metres squared and claims the de minimus exemption for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), however it is larger than the threshold for BNG and will impact priority habitat, so this application does not qualify for the de minimus exemption. Further information is available at [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/biodiversity-net-gain).

There are records of slow worms, common toads, bats, and hedgehogs in the area.

This site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts.

- **Red** (highly suitable habitat) or **Amber** (suitable habitat, likely to be present) – *When development falls into the red or amber zones on the impact risk map, developers MUST prove to their local planning authorities that their development plans pose ‘no risk’ to great crested newts, this can be done in one of three ways:*
 1. Demonstrate that newts don’t occur on your site (usually by commissioning an ecological consultant to carry out a site assessment).
 2. Apply to Natural England for a Standard Licence – this can only be done after planning permission. You will need to commission an ecologist to carry out a survey and design a great crested newt mitigation scheme.
 3. Join the Nature Space District Licence Scheme, which usually provides the quickest, most certain and least risky option where a licence is required.

Should you decide to progress this application, an ecological impact assessment and a biodiversity gain plan (including the statutory metric completed by a suitably qualified ecologist) would be required before it could be considered further.

Lisa Malter
Ecologist

Appendix 3: Legislation and Planning Policy

Legislation

- A3.1. Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in the UK under various pieces of legislation, including:
- The Environment Act 2021;
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
 - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006;
 - The Hedgerows Regulations 1997; and
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- A3.2. The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1992, often referred to as the 'Habitats Directive', provides for the protection of key habitats and species considered of European importance. Annexes II and IV of the Directive list all species considered of community interest. The legal framework to protect the species covered by the Habitats Directive has been enacted under UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- A3.3. In Britain, the WCA 1981 (as amended) is the primary legislation protecting habitats and species. SSSIs, representing the best examples of our natural heritage, are notified under the WCA 1981 (as amended) by reason of their flora, fauna, geology or other features. All breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Act, which makes it illegal to knowingly destroy or disturb the nest site during nesting season. Schedules 1, 5 and 8 afford protection to individual birds, other animals and plants.
- A3.4. The CROW Act 2000 strengthens the species enforcement provisions of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and makes it an offence to 'recklessly' disturb a protected animal whilst it is using a place of rest or shelter or breeding/nest site.

National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024

- A3.5. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2024 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It replaces the first National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012 and December 2023.
- A3.6. Paragraph 11 states that:
- “Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.”*
- A3.7. Section 11 of the NPPF, paragraph 125, sub-section a states that planning policies and decisions should:



- a) *“encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains - such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;*
- b) *recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production”*

A3.8. Section 15 of the NPPF (paragraphs 187 to 195) considers the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

A3.9. Paragraph 187 states that planning and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) *“protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- b) *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;*
- c) *maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate; and*
- d) *minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs”*

A3.10. Paragraph 188 states that plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

A3.11. Paragraph 192 states that in order to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a) *“Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity¹; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation²; and*
- b) *promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.”*

A3.12. When determining planning applications, Paragraph 193 states that local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) *“if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*



- b) *development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
- c) *development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons³ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
- d) *development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.”*

A3.13. As stated in paragraph 187 the following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- a) *“potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;*
- b) *listed or proposed Ramsar sites⁴; and*
- c) *sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.”*

A3.14. Paragraph 195 states that

“The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site”.

Local Planning Policy

The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016 – 2036) adopted April 2022

A3.15. Policies relating to ecology and nature conservation can be found in Chapter 5: Development Management Policies, which are summarised as follows:

A3.16. Policy DM1: General Criteria for New Development

1. All new development should (as relevant):

a. not have an unacceptable impact on, and where possible should enhance:

i. residential amenities of both new and existing residents; the character and appearance of urban areas, the countryside and the coast;

ii. **biodiversity (avoiding significant adverse impacts); and**

iii. the significance of heritage assets;



- b. make efficient use of the site, maximise opportunities to increase density and have regard to potential development opportunities on adjoining land;
- c. take full and proper account of the context of the site including the character, appearance and land uses of the locality or neighbourhood, and be compatible with adjoining uses and be well integrated with these in terms of mass, scale, materials, layout, density, design and siting, both in itself and in relation to adjoining buildings, spaces and views. Where adjoining development is poor in urban design terms, new development should contribute to improving the character of the area;
- d. not involve the loss of or damage to trees, woodlands, hedgerows, ponds, priority habitats or other landscape features of value to the character of the area, for appearance or biodiversity unless they can be replaced with features of equivalent or enhanced value, (recognising that some species and habitats may be irreplaceable);**
- e. include a landscape scheme covering the design and layout of external space;
- f. protect and enhance public rights of way and National Trails and provide fully connected green infrastructure that interlaces the development and connects into the wider network;
- g. provide satisfactory management arrangements for all landscape, green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement;
- h. incorporate provision for people with disabilities and create accessible communities that cater for all;
- i. incorporate design measures to inhibit criminal and anti-social behaviour;
- j. incorporate provision for on-site waste management; and
- k. include provision for public art associated with new large scale development in accordance with the Council's adopted Public Art Strategy.

A3.17. Policy DM11, Nature conservation

General Approach

1. The Council will work with statutory and voluntary agencies and developers, and will determine planning applications, to:

- a. protect, conserve and enhance all:
 - i. international, national and local nature conservation designations;
 - ii. and networks of natural habitats and features, including the Local Ecological Network, Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links, watercourses, wetland complexes, woodland trees, and trees and hedgerows important to biodiversity and local character;

and facilitate their adaptation to climate change wherever possible;

- b. assist in achieving national, county and local biodiversity targets as set out in Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs);



c. seek a net gain of biodiversity on all development sites (including sites for redevelopment) through the protection, enhancement and connection of existing and provision of new habitats and features of nature conservation interest compatible with the native biodiversity characteristics of the Borough, having regard to local geodiversity and soils; and

d. contribute to major elements of the PfSH Green Infrastructure Strategy and other strategies for the provision and enhancement of multifunctional green infrastructure including green routes, ecological networks and biodiversity enhancements (see strategic policy S9).

International Designations

2. Development which is likely (either individually or in combination with other developments) to adversely affect the integrity of an international or European nature conservation site will not be permitted subject only to imperative reasons of overriding public interest and securing any necessary compensatory measures in the absence of alternative solutions. A 'project level' Habitat Regulations Assessment will be required where there are likely significant effects or uncertainty. Any mitigation measures required to ensure no adverse impact must be implemented at the appropriate time.

3. The Council will work with PfSH, Natural England, the Environment Agency and other wildlife organisations to develop and implement with developers a strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of international and European sites from the direct and indirect effects of development. Within Eastleigh Borough this will include:

a. implementing:

i. the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (requiring contributions from residential developments within 5.6 kilometres of the Solent Special Protection Area to the Strategy); and

ii. the interim and any future New Forest Recreation Mitigation Strategy if required; or alternative agreed site specific measures to address recreational disturbance;

b. preserving the water quality and flows within the Itchen and Hamble, Southampton Water and Solent;

c. protecting the River Itchen SAC, in particular the maintenance and where appropriate restoration of habitats and qualifying species to favourable conservation status (as defined by article 1 of the Habitats Directive); and

d. seek contributions towards measures set out in the Southern Damselfly Conservation Strategy (or other strategy) specifically to deliver biodiversity net gain.

National and Local Designations

1. Development will not be permitted if it is likely (either individually or in combination with other developments) to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) as shown on the policies map (or on a more recent plan provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre) unless it can be demonstrated that:

a. there are no alternative solutions;

b. the adverse effects are unavoidable;

c. measures are taken to mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for the adverse effects;



- d. there is an overall biodiversity net gain; and
- e. if there are any residual adverse effects which cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated, the benefits of the development must clearly outweigh the adverse effects on the nature conservation value of the site and any broader impacts on national and local designations.

Priority habitats, protected and priority species and the local ecological network

5. Development will not be permitted if it is likely (either individually or in combination with other developments) to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on priority habitats, protected or priority species, or on the local ecological network unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a. there are no alternative solutions;
- b. the adverse effects are unavoidable;
- c. measures are taken to mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for the adverse effects;
- d. there is an overall biodiversity net gain; and
- e. if there are any residual adverse effects, the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the adverse effects on priority habitats, priority and protected species, and the local ecological network.

Irreplaceable habitats

- 2. Development will not be permitted if it results in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees), unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

Buffers

- 3. Buffers free from development will be provided to designated sites to avoid/mitigate impacts, including recreational impact and impacts on edge habitats, and to maintain dark skies.

Surveys

- 4. Development will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:
 - a. there have been thorough habitat and species surveys;
 - b. the great crested newt strategic survey and strategy have been considered in all developments within 500m of a great crested newt pond; and
 - c. the strategic bat trapping survey has been considered in all developments within the locality of a woodland or connected habitat networks.

Eastleigh Borough Council Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (December 2009)

- A3.18. This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) seeks to provide additional guidance on the legal and policy basis for the (now superseded) Nature Conservation chapter and its policies within the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan Review



(2001-2011). It is considered to remain relevant to current planning policy. It sets out the context for the planning policy, and also details the biodiversity information and impact assessments that are required to support planning applications (although this is now out of date in relation to the requirement for biodiversity net gain).

Eastleigh Borough Council Biodiversity Action Plan for Eastleigh Borough 2012-2022

A3.19. The Council is in the process of developing a Biodiversity Strategy for the borough, which is expected to be under consultation. This Strategy seeks to build upon the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

A3.20. The Biodiversity Action Plan has identified:

- 10 Priority Biodiversity Areas (PBA's), which contain hotspots for biodiversity, and are areas where conservation action can achieve the greatest biodiversity gain;
- 15 Priority Biodiversity Links (PBL's), where conservation work can achieve biodiversity stepping stones or corridors for wildlife movement;
- 18 Borough Priority Habitats;
- c. 500 Borough Priority Species; and
- Actions across the Borough and within the Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links to achieve the greatest possible benefits for biodiversity.



Appendix 4: Methodology

Data Search

- A4.1. A desk-based study was conducted whereby records of designated sites and records of selected European protected species/mitigation licences were searched for the site and the surrounding landscape. The aim of the data search is to collate existing ecological records for the site and adjacent areas. Obtaining existing records is an important part of the assessment process as it provides information on issues that may not be apparent during a single survey, which by its nature provides only a 'snapshot' of the ecology of a given site.
- A4.2. The following resources were consulted/contacted:
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the countryside (MAGIC) website⁸;
 - Eastleigh Borough Council website⁹;
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website¹⁰;
 - Natural England (NE) designated sites website¹¹;
 - Ordnance Survey mapping; and
 - Google Maps, including aerial photography.
- A4.3. The following areas of search around the boundary of the site boundary were applied:
- 10 km for European statutory sites;
 - 2 km for European protected species mitigation licences and national statutory designated sites; and
 - 1km for non-statutory sites.

'Extended' Phase I Habitat Survey and UKHabs

- A4.4. An 'extended' Phase 1 survey was carried out on the 11th November 2024 by Becca Oswin, a suitably experienced ecologist and qualifying member of CIEEM. The methods used during the walkover survey broadly followed methods used in an 'extended' Phase I habitat survey¹² and entailed recording the main plant species and classifying and mapping habitat types with reference to the Habitat Definitions provided by the UK Habitat Classification Working Group¹³.

⁸ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> [Accessed 18/11/2024]

⁹ <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/council> [Accessed 18/11/2024]

¹⁰ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/> [Accessed 18/11/2024]

¹¹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/> [Accessed 18/11/2024]

¹² Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough.

¹³ UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)



- A4.5. Additionally, the habitats identified were evaluated for their potential to support legally protected and notable fauna species. Where access allowed, adjacent habitats were also considered in order to assess the site within the wider landscape and to provide information with which to assess possible impacts within the context of the site boundary.
- A4.6. All habitats were assessed utilising the relevant condition criteria for the relevant habitat type under the Statutory Metric, which included confirming 'pass' / 'fail' criteria taken from the UK Habitat/Phase 1 methodology where necessary.

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) for Roosting Bats

- A4.7. A GLTA was undertaken on all trees within the Site boundary to assess the potential of the trees to support roosting bats. The survey followed standard methodologies set out in the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists - Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition¹⁴ The assessment was undertaken on 11th November 2024 by Becca Oswin. All trees were inspected from the ground using binoculars. Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) of interest that were sought include those detailed in Table A4.1 below.

Table A4.1: PRF Types that can be Exploited by Bats and How they Form - adapted from Collins, 2023.

PRFs formed by disease and decay	PRFs formed by damage	PRFs formed by association
woodpecker holes squirrel holes knot holes pruning cuts tear outs wounds cankers compression forks butt rots	lightning strikes hazard beams subsidence cracks shearing cracks transverse snaps welds lifting bark desiccation fissures frost cracks	fluting ivy

- A4.8. The potential of trees to support roosting bats was assessed using the criteria shown in **Table A4.2** below.

Table A4.2: Assessment of Tree Suitability Criteria - adapted from Collins, 2023.

Roost Suitability	Description of Roosting Habitat
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present

¹⁴ Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN-978-1-7395126-0-6



Evaluation

- A4.9. The evaluation of habitats and species is defined in accordance with published guidance¹⁵. The scale of importance of each ecological feature is assigned within a defined geographical context, namely international and European, national, regional, county, and local. Below these are features considered to be of negligible importance.
- A4.10. Consideration will also be given to legally protected or controlled species which are ‘important features’ in the context of this assessment, for which mitigation measures are required to ensure legal compliance, regardless of their geographic scale of importance. Thus, it is possible for a feature of negligible ecological importance to be legally protected and hence require mitigation.
- A4.11. Evaluation is based on various characteristics that can be used to identify ecological features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations (such as Sites of Species Scientific Interest (SSSIs), or for undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological feature. In terms of the latter, quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

Impact Assessment

- A4.12. The assessment of impacts identifies impacts and their effects as a result of the proposed development on important ecological features. This includes consideration of impacts at all relevant stages of the development, including construction and operation/occupation. The assessment includes reference to legislation and policy, and supplementary planning guidance where relevant.

Application of Mitigation Hierarchy

- A4.13. Application of the mitigation hierarchy is fundamental to the ecological impact assessment process. This requires consideration of the following measures, in order of priority, for all potential impacts, to determine the most appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement strategy for the project. This is taken into account within **Section 3** of this report and set out below:
- Avoidance – measures to avoid harm to ecological features (set out in ‘Design Evolution’, Section 3);
 - Mitigation – measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts as part of the design or guaranteed by planning controls;
 - Compensation – measures required to offset significant residual negative effects following avoidance and mitigation; and
 - Enhancement – measures over and above requirements for avoidance, mitigation and compensation to provide biodiversity net gain.

¹⁵ CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.



Plans:

Plan 1: Habitat Features Plan **14007/P01**





Key

- Site boundary
- Hardstanding
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Project	ALDI, Hedge End
Drawing Title	Habitat Features Plan
Scale	As shown
Drawing No.	14007/P03
Date	November 2024
Checked	CC/HDBJ



Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01285 831 804 E: info@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

An abstract collage on a dark blue background. A large yellow hexagon is the central focus. Surrounding it are various geometric shapes: a light blue pentagon, a purple arrow pointing down, a purple asterisk, a black hand icon, a black leaf, a black triangle, a black circle with white segments, and a black triangle with a yellow dot pattern. The text "Step into our world" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the yellow hexagon.

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