



Hampshire
County Council

Ecological Appraisal including Bat Emergence Survey

Woodhouse Lane, Botley

For
Hampshire County Council
Highways

August 2025

Hampshire County Council Ecology Team

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Summary

Site Description	The site is located along Woodhouse Lane in Botley, centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU 50246 13681, at the junction where Bottom Copse and Bushy Copse, both designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), meet. The site comprises a former haul road previously used during the construction of Deer Park School. The site includes a gravel track and a bridge that spans a concrete culvert over a piped watercourse, within woodland.
Proposals	The proposed works include resurfacing the existing track, replacing the current bridge structure, and upgrading the pipe culvert to a larger box culvert. This enhanced access route will support emergency vehicles and pedestrian access to the sports pitches located to the south of Deer Park School.
Objectives	The Ecological Appraisal aims to: ▪ Establish baseline ecological conditions incorporating findings from habitat surveys and protected species surveys ▪ Assess the value and sensitivity of habitats within and adjacent to the site ▪ Identify and evaluate the potential construction and operational impacts of the proposed new culvert and bridge, on existing habitats and protected species. ▪ Set out appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures to minimise ecological harm and ensure compliance with relevant legislation and planning policy. This Appraisal is intended to support the discharge of planning condition 8 associated with the wider Deer Park Meadows development.
Results	<u>Designated Sites:</u> <i>International and National Designated Sites</i> There are no internationally or nationally designated sites within a 1 km radius of the proposed development. Given the limited scale of the works, no further assessment of such designations is considered necessary. <i>Local Designated Sites</i> The site lies at the junction of Bushy Copse and Bottom Copse, both of which are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and classified as ancient woodland.

	<u>Habitats:</u> The habitats within and immediately surrounding the site are: ▪ Ancient woodland ▪ Stream ▪ Existing hardstanding <u>Protected Species:</u> Due to the small-scale nature of the works area has the potential to impact the following protected and notable species. ▪ Roosting bats ▪ Otters – foraging and commuting ▪ Water voles ▪ Common species of amphibians and reptiles ▪ Breeding birds ▪ Notable species such as hedgehogs. The wider woodland SINC habitat also has the potential to support roosting bats, foraging and commuting bats, and foraging and commuting badgers.
Mitigation and enhancement	The following measures are recommended to be detailed within a CEMP for the site, to ensure that no protected or notable species are adversely affected: ▪ Ecological oversight during the works, with a suitably qualified ecologist present to supervise work and undertake pre-works checks where necessary. ▪ An endoscope inspection of Tree 1 prior to felling, to confirm continued absence of bats. ▪ Secure storage of chemicals and materials. ▪ Vegetation clearance ideally carried out outside of nesting bird season March to August (inclusive). ▪ A pre-works site check for reptiles and amphibians. Any found to be captured and removed to a safe area by the supervising ecologist. ▪ A pre-works checks to be carried out of the stream banks for water vole burrows. ▪ All works to be carried out during daylight hours not commencing at least 1 hour after sunrise and stop an hour before sunset.

1. Introduction

Objectives

- 1.1. In July 2024, Hampshire Property Services commissioned the Hampshire County Council Ecology team to conduct an Ecological Appraisal of the site known as Woodhouse Lane, Botley.
- 1.2. The purpose of this study is to collect ecological data for the site at Woodhouse Lane and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on identified ecological features. This assessment is intended to support the discharge of a planning condition associated with the wider Deer Park Meadows development.
- 1.3. The Ecological Appraisal comprises several components: an initial desk-based assessment, followed by a field habitat survey conducted using the UKHab methodology, and an on-site evaluation of the potential for the area to support protected and notable species.
- 1.4. The preliminary appraisal indicated that the replacement of the bridge and associated works could potentially alter the watercourse and surrounding woodland habitat. As a result, further survey effort was undertaken to determine whether protected or notable species may be impacted by the proposed development. Further surveys carried out included bat ground level tree assessments, bat emergence surveys, otter / water vole surveys.
- 1.5. This Appraisal therefore sets out the methods and findings of all these elements of survey work and uses the findings to fully assess the impacts of the proposals on the identified ecological receptors.
- 1.6. Overall, the ecology work supports the proposed development through demonstrating how the proposal accords with all relevant biodiversity legislation and policy.

Planning History

- 1.7. The proposals are part of the wider Deer Park Meadows permission (O/18/83634). The works are to discharge Condition 8 of the planning permission, which states:

Prior to the installation of the access track to the south of the playing fields, details relating to the design, construction and final location shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The development shall accord with these approved details. Reason: In the interests of amenity and environmental protection.

Site Description

- 1.8. The site is located along Woodhouse Lane in Botley, centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU 50246 13681, at the junction where Bottom Copse and Bushy Copse, both designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), meet.
- 1.9. The site comprises a former haul road previously used during the construction of Deer Park School. The site incorporates a gravel track and a bridge that spans a concrete culvert over a piped watercourse, within woodland.
- 1.10. Location plan and aerial photo of the site showing the site boundary and its setting are shown in Appendix 1. Photos of the site can be found in Appendix 2.

Proposed works

- 1.11. The proposed development includes resurfacing the existing track, replacing the current bridge structure, and upgrading the existing pipe culvert to a larger box culvert. This improved access route is intended to accommodate emergency vehicles and pedestrians accessing the sports pitches located to the south of Deer Park School.
- 1.12. The existing site plan and the proposed works plan showing the site boundaries, current at the time of this report are at Appendix 1.

Previous ecology surveys

- 1.13. Previous ecological surveys of the wider site were conducted in 2014, 2016, and 2017. The results are summarized below:
 - Low levels of badger *Meles meles* activity were observed across the wider site, with a main sett recorded along the railway embankment to the north of the site.

- Several bat roosts were identified within mature trees at SU50301 13984 and SU50165 14253.
- At least eight species of bats were found foraging and commuting across the wider site, including the Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*, Whiskered/Brandt's bat *Myotis mystacinus/brandti*, other myotis species, Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, and Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*.
- Hazel Dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* were presumed absent from the wider site following surveys completed in 2014 and 2017.
- Otter *Lutra lutra* spraint was recorded along Woodhouse Gully in 2017, indicating the presence of otters in the River Hamble.
- Water Voles *Arvicola amphibius* were presumed absent from the watercourses across the wider site following surveys in 2017.
- No reptiles were recorded across the wider site following a series of reptile surveys.

2. Planning policy and legislation

Table 1 Planning Policy and Legislation

National Policy	Paragraph 186 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2023) requires that when determining planning applications, 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.
Local Policy	The site is within Eastleigh Borough. Policy DM11 of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 sets out a range of criteria that new developments must meet, and how they will be assessed, including; <i>The Council will determine planning applications, to protect, conserve and enhance ... 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</i> <i>The Council will 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.</i> <i>Development will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:</i> - <i>there have been thorough habitat and species surveys.</i> - <i>the great crested newt strategic survey and strategy have been considered in all developments within 500m of a great crested newt pond; and</i> - <i>the strategic bat trapping survey has been considered in all developments within the locality of a woodland or connected habitat networks.</i>
Legally Protected Species	Many species of animal are legally protected under both domestic or international law (the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ¹ and the Conservation of Habitats and Species

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

	Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019² respectively). Badgers and their setts are protected under the Badgers Act 1992. With reference to bats, hazel dormice, and great crested newts, these are European Protected Species (EPS). This legislation makes it an offence to kill, injure or disturb them, or to destroy or damage their breeding sites and resting places (even when the animals are not present). For such work to legally proceed, Natural England (the Government's statutory nature conservation agency) will issue a licence for the work to be able to proceed legally, subject to the proposals meeting certain criteria. The following sections consider the potential impacts on any identified ecological features and whether the development would be in accordance with policy and legislation.
The Environment Act 2021	Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from 12 February 2024. The assessment of these gains is measured using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric and all off-site and significant on-site habitats will need to be secured for at least 30 years. This sits alongside a strengthened legal duty for public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, new biodiversity reporting requirements for local authorities, and mandatory spatial strategies for nature: Local Nature Recovery Strategies or 'LNRS'.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/primary+secondary/2019ConservationHabitatsSpeciesRegulations>

3. Methods

Desk-based assessment

- 3.1. A desk-based assessment was carried out by HCCET on the June 2025. This comprised the following elements:

Zone of influence (Zol)

- 3.2. The development proposals and the site were reviewed to establish the likely extent of impacts from the scheme at which potential ecological receptors might be affected. This was based on established criteria (such as Natural England's Impact Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)), or published zones around certain European designated sites. Where established criteria are not present, the Zol was based on the ecologist's professional judgement. Where necessary, the Zol for relevant receptors are discussed in the following sections.
- 3.3. Following the initial appraisal of the site, the Zol may be reconsidered and drawn wider or narrower depending on the receptor being considered and how an understanding of the potential effects of the development evolves during the process.
- 3.4. Due to the small-scale nature of the culvert works, the Zone of Influence (Zol) for terrestrial habitats and protected or notable species has been defined as extending 20–25 metres either side of the bridge and associated haul road. This will accommodate localised indirect and indirect impacts such as noise, dust, and disturbance, and these are unlikely to affect terrestrial receptors further away. For the watercourse, the Zol extends further downstream of the bridge location. This precautionary buffer accounts for the potential risk of pollution incidents entering the stream and the possible downstream impacts on water quality, aquatic habitats, and associated species. The extent of the Zol for the watercourse is considered to extend at least to the confluence of the stream with the River Hamble (approximately 1.7km), and, to take a precautionary approach (to accommodate possible 'worst case' scenarios of, for example, larger fuel spills), further into the River Hamble estuary. For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that 3km from the site is an appropriate Zol for downstream ecological receptors.

Survey Scoping

- 3.5. An initial review of the site and the proposals were carried out to consider the likelihood of particular ecological receptors being present at the site or nearby (within relevant ZoI). Where this scoping confidently concluded that a particular receptor is likely absent (for example there are unlikely to be water vole at a site with no on-site or nearby waterbodies), these are not considered in detail in the report.

Data search

- 3.6. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping was used in order to identify all records of protected species and habitats within a 1km radius of the site. Given the localised nature of the proposals this search radius was considered sufficient for assessing risk to all ecological features. In addition, records were obtained of all statutory and non-statutory designated nature conservation sites within the search radius.

- 3.7. The Ecology Team has full access to the extensive datasets maintained by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). These datasets cover designated sites, priority habitats and over 6 million species records. Paragraph 4 of the HBIC Data Users Declaration states that

“Whilst every reasonable effort is made to validate information supplied to and by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, owing to the dynamic and judgmental nature of information relating to wildlife, HBIC disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the information supplied, and accepts no liability for any indirect, consequential, or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the information”.

- 3.8. The desk-based assessment also included a review of any previous ecological studies at the site or nearby areas where relevant and available.
- 3.9. The findings of the desk-based assessment in terms of establishing the local and wider ecological context of the site has also been used where relevant to inform recommendations for biodiversity net gain, as set out in Section 5.

Field survey

Baseline Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment

- 3.10. Field survey work was carried out on the 8 November 2024 and updated on 10 May 2025 to re-assess the trees following a period of exceptional storms. The site surveys entailed a single surveyor, Emma Taylor, undertaking a methodical investigation of all areas of the site. Habitats were identified and mapped according to UKHab methodology and lists of representative plant species noted.
- 3.11. All areas of the site and surrounding woodland were assessed to identify the presence of, or habitat considered suitable for supporting, legally protected species, brief description of the survey methods used is provided below.

Badger

- 3.12. The site was inspected for field signs of Badger such as badger setts, latrine sites, dung piles, well-used trails, prints, foraging activity, and hairs.

Hazel Dormice

- 3.13. An assessment was made of the suitability of habitat on site to support Hazel Dormice. Key habitats for this species are woodland, scrub and hedgerows, particularly where these offer dense vegetation for nesting or hibernation, along with food resources such as hazelnuts, fruiting and nectar-rich plants (e.g. hawthorn, bramble) and honeysuckle (for nesting material). The presence of important landscape-scale habitat linkages between suitable habitats was considered.

Breeding Birds

- 3.14. The survey also included a consideration of the site's suitability to support breeding bird species. These will utilise a broad range of habitats, including structures such as houses and outbuildings, trees, scrub, isolated shrubs, dense herbaceous vegetation (terrestrial and aquatic) and open grassland.

Reptiles

- 3.15. The site's suitability to support reptiles was also considered. Key habitat features for reptiles include tussocky or patchy grassland, scrub edge, linear watercourses, ponds, compost heaps, brash piles and rubble/soil heaps.

Linkage to suitable habitat within the surrounding landscape will increase the potential for reptiles to occur, although populations can occur within isolated or fragmented habitats even within urban areas.

Great Crested Newt

- 3.16. An assessment was made of all water bodies and terrestrial habitat within the site and within the surrounding landscape for their suitability to support populations of amphibians, particularly Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN). Ponds were assessed where possible according to the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment method (Oldham et al, 2000).

Otters and Water voles

- 3.17. Any suitable on site or nearby accessible waterbodies such as lakes, rivers, ditches and streams were inspected for signs of Water Voles and Otter. Signs of Otter include spraints (droppings), holts and couches (resting places), haul outs, and anal jelly. Water Vole signs include burrows (particularly with a grazed 'lawn' around their entrance), runs along the bank, latrines, feeding signs, runs, and footprints.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

- 3.18. An assessment was made of the suitability of the site and the surrounding landscape to support foraging, commuting and other flying behaviours such as swarming and social interactions. The assessment was based on the presence of key habitat features such as woodland, scrub, hedgerows, grassland, and open water and watercourses, which are highly attractive to bats as both a foraging resource and as commuting routes. The presence of such habitats, particularly in a mosaic with other suitable habitats, typically increases the potential for structures to be exploited by bats where suitable roost and access opportunities are present. The presence of unlit semi-natural vegetation and habitat linkages between the site and the surrounding landscape were also considered.

Roosting Bats

- 3.19. Trees were assessed for their potential to support bats, using methods guided by and consistent with that set out in Collins (ed) (2023). Relevant trees were inspected from ground level to identify evidence of bat activity and/or identify

the presence of any potential roost features (PRFs) such as rot holes, flaking bark, cracks or splits and areas of extensive deadwood.

- 3.20. Trees were inspected using Opticron Discovery 10x42 close-focussing binoculars and where necessary and safely possible, a ladder. High-powered torches (Clulite Clubman CB2 and Lenser P7.2) were used to illuminate potential roost and roost access features. A Ridgid Seesnake CA-330 endoscope was used to investigate any internal cavities where necessary.
- 3.21. Bat roost suitability and the quality of foraging habitat were evaluated using the criteria outlined in Collins (2023), as detailed in Appendix 5.

Bat Tree Emergence Survey

- 3.22. A dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 4 June 2025 by Senior Ecologist Emma Taylor and Assistant Ecologist Jessica Forest.
- 3.23. The survey commenced 15 minutes prior to sunset and continued for a minimum of 1.5 hours post-sunset, in line with standard bat survey protocols. Equipment used during the survey included an Elekon Batlogger M2 full-spectrum bat detector and a Night Vision Aid (NVA) thermal imaging camera.
- 3.24. In accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition), the infrared-enabled thermal camera was strategically positioned adjacent to the tree, with its lens directed towards a large trunk cavity identified as a potential bat roosting feature. The camera was deployed to monitor and record any bat emergence activity during dusk, a period when natural light levels within the woodland diminish. This was accompanied by the bat logger to pick up any calls. The infrared functionality enabled continuous detection of movement in low-light conditions, significantly enhancing survey accuracy and reducing reliance on direct human observation. This method reflects the updated guidance, which encourages the use of night vision aids—such as infrared and thermal cameras—for tree roost surveys, supporting more reliable data collection while minimising disturbance to roosting bats.
- 3.25. Upon completion of the survey, bat calls recorded on the bat logger were analysed using BatExplorer software to determine species presence and assess behavioural patterns. Species identification and call interpretation were informed by established acoustic references, including Russ (2021), Middleton

(2020), and Middleton et al. (2022). In parallel, the infrared camera footage was carefully reviewed to detect any bat emergence or re-entry activity associated with the identified roost feature. The review focused on the key activity period—typically from 15 minutes before sunset to 90 minutes after—when bats are most likely to be active. Footage was examined in slow motion where necessary to identify subtle movements, with particular attention given to the area surrounding the trunk cavity. Any thermal signatures or movement patterns indicative of bat activity were recorded, including time stamps and flight direction.

Table 2 Survey timings and equipment

Date	Type	Duration	Weather conditions	Sunset / Sunrise
4 June 2025	Dusk emergence	15 mins before sunset and 1.5 hrs. after	<u>Start: 20:59</u> Dry and sunny <u>End 22:44:</u> Dry with clear sky	21:14
	Equipment:	2x Surveyors 2 x Bat logger M/M2 bat detectors 1x Guide TK612 Thermal Monocular Camera – 640x480, 12µm lens, 50Hz		

Otter

- 3.26. Otter surveys involved a careful visual inspection of the channel, banks and riparian zone to look for signs of otter presence such as tracks, spraints, anal jelly, feeding remains, resting places and holts on 10 April and 4 June 2025.
- 3.27. Particular attention was given to examinations of typical otter sprainting sites such as in-channel and bankside logs and rocks, as well as searches of bankside mud to identify tracks. The otter survey followed DMRB HA 81/99 *Nature Conservation Advice in Relation to Otters*, supplemented by monthly camera trapping to establish the extent of otter presence, numbers and family structure (if applicable).

Water vole

- 3.28. Water vole surveys were conducted on date 1 and date 2 and involved a careful visual inspection of the channel, banks and riparian zone of the watercourses with within the site boundary and wider Zone of Influence to look for signs of water vole presence such as droppings/latrine sites, feeding remains, burrow entrances and prints. The surveys followed Dean *et al*, 2016.

LimitationsBaseline Habitat Survey

- 3.29. The initial walkover survey was conducted in November 2024, a period outside the optimal season for identifying woodland indicator species. As a result, the absence of key flora typically used to assess woodland quality and habitat

condition limited the accuracy of the preliminary assessment. To address this, a follow-up survey was undertaken in April 2025, during the active growing season, allowing for a more comprehensive identification of woodland ground flora and indicator species. This seasonal constraint is acknowledged as a limitation of the initial survey effort, though it was mitigated through the subsequent spring visit.

Bat survey

Daytime Bat Walkover/Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 3.30. All areas within the survey boundary were fully accessible during the walkover survey. Each tree identified as potentially impacted by the proposed works was assessed from all angles, ensuring a comprehensive visual inspection of all accessible features.

Bat surveys – general limitations to acoustic identification

- 3.31. Bat echolocation calls vary, and habitat conditions influence the echolocation frequency and rate. In 'open' habitats, such as fields with no trees, and bodies of water echolocation is at a lower frequency with a longer interval between pulses and a higher incidence of quasi constant frequency (qCF) call types. In 'closed' habitats such as woodlands typical echolocation is higher with shorter intervals between pulses and a favouring of frequency modulation (FM) call types. Bats in the vicinity of 'edge' habitat types such as woodland edges, linear woodland features and hedgerows may display a combination of these call types depending on their relative position to the habitat feature. The context of the survey location is taken into account for acoustic identification, however, as overlap of call parameters in more cluttered habitats is more prevalent it may be more difficult to identify calls to species level in these habitats.
- 3.32. Certain species of bats can be difficult to distinguish from their calls alone. For the commonly occurring Common and Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*, it is usually possible to distinguish their calls, although there is some overlap. The following approach was taken during the classification of pipistrelle bats record by the static bat detectors:
- Pipistrelle calls mainly less than 50kHz were classified as Common Pipistrelle.
 - Pipistrelle calls mainly above 50kHz were classified as Soprano Pipistrelle.

- 3.33. It is acknowledged that this approach could have resulted in the misclassification of a small number of Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats; however, as the majority of calls were easily identifiable and both species are common and widespread this limitation is not considered to be significant.
- 3.34. Call parameters of mouse-eared *Myotis* species bats are broadly similar and it can be impossible to differentiate between species.
- 3.35. Call parameters of Noctule and Leisler's Bat *Nyctalus leisleri*, and in some cases Serotine can overlap, particularly in more cluttered 'closed' and 'edge' habitats. Where it is not possible (and/or not necessary) to differentiate these species, a pragmatic approach is taken to either classify by genus or group i.e. *Nyctalus* sp. where it is not possible to be diagnostic between Noctule and Leisler's Bat or 'Nyctaloid' if it is not possible to differentiate Serotine from Noctule/Leisler's Bat.
- 3.36. Some species of bat, such as Long-eared Bats *Plecotus* spp., produce very quiet echolocations and are therefore typically under-recorded when undertaking bat detector surveys. Although few Brown Long-eared Bats were encountered during the surveys, given this is a common and widespread species, it is considered likely they would occur on the site to some extent.

4. Ecological Baseline and Impact Assessment

Table 3 Baseline Habitat Survey and Preliminary Protected Species Assessment

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
<u>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</u>			
National Site Network ³	There are no National Site Network sites (NSNS) within 1 km of the site. The nearest NSNS is the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC).	Due to the small-scale nature of the works, no NSN site will be impacted, no further consideration required.	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	There are no SSSI sites within 1 km of the site.	Due to the small-scale nature of the works, no SSSI site will be impacted, no further consideration required.	None
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	There are 13 local designated sites within 1 km of the site. The site is situated at the intersection of Bottom Copse SINC and Bushy Copse SINC.	The construction phase of the works is likely to result in the following impacts. ▪ Loss of immature trees within the works footprint. ▪ Temporary disturbance of woodland floor canopy from construction vehicles.	To mitigate and compensate for the likely impacts the following measures are recommended. ▪ Planting of native tree species, within the surrounding woodland. ▪ A detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is recommended to detail

³ The National Site Network (NSN) is the network of statutory designated sites designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. They include Special Areas for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Ramsar sites.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
		Potential for pollution impacts.	pollution prevention measures. Recommended measures to include in the CEMP are detailed below.
Habitats	Assessment	Likely impact	Recommendations
Ancient Woodland	Bottom Copse SINC and Bushy Copse SINC, are designated as Ancient Woodland. The impacts are the same as the SINC impacts detailed above. See photo 9 for a sample of the woodland present.	The likely impacts are the same as the SINC impacts.	The recommendations are the same as the SINC recommendations.
Watercourse	A flowing watercourse is present on site in the form of a stream that extends along the entire length of Bushy Copse SINC and flows into Bottom Copse SINC. The stream is bordered by Ancient Woodland along its course. There is evidence of recent flooding before the stream flows through the culvert.	The construction phase of the works is likely to result in the following impacts. - Alterations in sediment levels when removing the existing culvert. - Potential for pollutants to enter the stream. - Temporary disturbance to the aquatic species that the streams support.	To mitigate and compensate for the likely impacts the following measures are recommended: A detailed CEMP is recommended to detail pollution prevention measures and sediment control.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	The stream channel is deeply incised before it passes through the culvert, dropping into a scour pool due to the high velocity of water during periods of high flow. Over time, erosion has cut into the streambed material immediately beneath the culvert. The stream then continues through Bottom Copse SINC, creating a natural meander. A sediment beach is visible on the western side of the stream, while erosion undercutting the bank is evident on the eastern side. Vegetation along the banks of the deeply incised channel includes Lady Fern <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>, Common Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>, and Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. seedlings. Several tree roots are also gradually being exposed due to the ongoing erosion of the river channel. See photo 8.		

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
Hardstanding	Hardstanding is present in the form of the existing bridge and haul road running through the site. See photo 3.	None	None

Table 4 Protected Species Baseline Information and Impact Assessment

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
<u>Protected and notable species</u>			
Bats (roosts)	The data search from HBIC returned 130 records encompassing nine different species. These records include the Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>, Serotine, and Brown Long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>. During the walkover survey conducted on 3 February 2025, several trees within the work footprint area were identified as having PRFs. Following Storm Bert on 21 November 2024, many of these trees were affected by the strong winds and were blown down, falling across the stream. These were later	The presence of bats cannot be entirely ruled out, as bats are mobile and unexpectedly appear. However, the three surveys have ruled out the tree from being a significant roost for local bat populations.	To ensure no bats are within Tree 1 at the time of felling, a pre-felling endoscope inspection will be required up to 48 hours prior to felling.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	removed and cut up creating piles of dead wood. Tree 1 was the only tree within the works area that presented potential roost feature. The mature Elm tree presented a large cavity in the trunk that went halfway up the tree. Bat Survey Results Tree 1 was subject an emergence survey on the 4th June 2025 and two endoscope surveys on the 7th July 2025 and 15th September 2025. Tree 1 was subject to both emergence and endoscope surveys, which did not record any evidence of roosting bats. While these results suggest that the tree is unlikely to be used as a bat roost, the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out. As a precaution, a pre-works check should be carried out within 48 hours prior to any clearance activities.		

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
Bats (foraging / commuting)	The site is within woodlands that connect to an off-site network of hedgerows, grasslands, and woodlands within the local area. Previous survey work in 2017 (HCC, 2017) at the site recorded eight different bat species across the Deer Park site, including Daubenton's Bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>, <i>Myotis</i> species, and Noctule, which are generally associated with woodland habitats. During the emergence survey, a low level of bat foraging and commuting activity was observed and recorded within the tree canopy. The species identified were common, predominantly common pipistrelles, with occasional soprano pipistrelles. The adjacent woodland belt provides a valuable, undisturbed, and unlit corridor that supports foraging and commuting for a range of bat species.	Due to the small-scale nature of the works, there is anticipated to no impact to foraging and commuting bats. This includes lighting.	None
Badger	The data search from HBIC returned no records of Badgers. However, the previous	There is a possibility for the individual badgers to forage and commute through	It is recommended that the Construction Environmental

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	survey work across the site recorded several setts, including a main sett within Bushy Copse SINC. No signs of Badger activity or the presence of setts were observed or recorded within the zone of influence during the survey. The site lies within Bushy Copse and Bottom Copse SINC, forming part of a wider woodland corridor that connects to a mosaic of woodlands, hedgerows, and grassland fields—habitats capable of supporting a badger clan. However, the woodland immediately adjacent to the proposed culvert is subject to frequent flooding, resulting in persistently wet ground conditions and a sparse understory, which reduces its suitability for sett construction.	the woodland within the works footprint. However, work is anticipated to be undertaken during daylight hours with no additional lighting. Therefore, there will be no impact to badgers.	Management Plan (CEMP) includes specific provisions for the secure storage of chemicals and vehicles to prevent interference by wandering badgers with construction materials or equipment.
Birds	The woodland provides a diverse array of nesting habitats for various bird species, supported by the presence of mature and semi-mature trees that offer both canopy cover and natural cavities. However, the woodland immediately surrounding the	Due to the small-scale nature of the works, only a few immature trees are expected to be lost. As a result, the impact on nesting bird is anticipated to be minimal.	To compensate for the loss of trees, planting of native species within the surrounding woodland is recommended.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	bridge is predominantly composed of semi-mature silver birch and ash trees, which offer more limited nesting opportunities.		
Hazel dormouse	The data search from HBIC returned no records of dormice. Previous survey work conducted as part of the wider Deer Park school site in 2017 concluded that dormice were likely absent. The site is situated within Woodhouse Lane SINC, a woodland corridor that connects to a network of woodlands and hedgerows. These habitats have the potential to offer dormice opportunities for commuting, foraging, and nesting.	The woodland within and adjacent to the site is subject to regular flooding, and the trees identified for removal are not considered suitable to support dormouse nesting. Consequently, the proposed work is not expected to result in any adverse impacts on dormice.	None
Reptiles	The data search from HBIC returned no records of reptiles within 1 km of the site. Previous survey work across the wider Deer Park site also recorded no reptiles. The wider ancient woodland corridor offers ideal conditions for common reptile species, providing ample opportunities for hibernation, foraging, and shelter. The woodland edge habitats are particularly	The wet woodland within and adjacent to the site provides limited opportunities for reptile foraging and movement. Due to the saturated ground conditions, the habitat is unsuitable for supporting hibernating reptiles. Individual reptiles	It is recommended that ahead of work, an inspection of the working area and the stream is carried out by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW). This is recommended to be detailed in the CEMP for the site.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	beneficial, offering excellent basking and hunting spots for these reptiles. The wet woodland within and adjacent to the site provides limited opportunities for reptile foraging and movement. Due to the saturated ground conditions, the habitat is unsuitable for supporting hibernating reptiles. Individual reptiles.		
Amphibians	The data search from HBIC returned no records of amphibians within 1 km of the site. Previous survey work across the wider Deer Park site in 2017 surveyed four suitable waterbodies, and great crested newts (GCN) were recorded as absent. The wider ancient woodland corridor could provide excellent terrestrial habitats for common amphibian species, offering ample opportunities for shelter, breeding, and foraging. However, the fast-flowing stream is unsuitable for supporting great crested newts. Additionally, the data search indicates that a series of connecting tributaries, all leading to the River Hamble within 500 meters of the site, are also	The construction phase has the potential to kill or injure individual common species of amphibians.	It is recommended that ahead of works, an inspection of the working area and the stream is carried out by an ECOW. This is recommended to be detailed in the CEMP for the site.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	unsuitable for supporting great crested newts. There are two newly created Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUD's) situated with 20 m either side of the site. These are newly created features, that are unlikely to support GCN as previous survey work has never recorded GCN within the area.		
Water vole	The data search from HBIC returned no records of water voles within 1 km of the site. The stream leading up the culvert within the construction zone was considered unsuitable for supporting water voles or their burrows. The stream banks are flat and deeply incised, offering limited habitat potential, and the section within 500 metres of the culvert lacks aquatic vegetation. Additionally, the flow of water through the culvert and its drop into the pool below creates a barrier to water vole movement, further reducing the suitability of the habitat.	There were no burrows or signs recorded during the water vole and otter survey. However, the construction phase of the works has the potential to temporarily disturb commuting and foraging water voles.	A pre works check of the banks within the works area by an ECOW ahead of the works.

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	The stream banks downstream of the culvert are steep and support aquatic vegetation, providing more suitable conditions for water voles and increasing the likelihood of the habitat supporting their burrows.		
Otter	The data search from HBIC returned no records of water voles within 1 km of the site The stream and adjacent wet woodland habitat offer suitable conditions to support otters, including foraging, commuting, and the potential establishment of holts. The presence of aquatic vegetation and natural cover along the watercourse provides foraging opportunities and shelter, while the surrounding wet woodland provides suitability for holt creation. These features collectively contribute to the ecological value of the site for otters.	The operational phase of the new bridge and upgraded culvert is not anticipated to have impacts on foraging or commuting otters. They will still be able to commute through the wet woodland surrounding the stream. The construction phase of the works has the potential to cause temporary disturbance, as the noise and presence of construction vehicles and people within the woodland may disrupt daily commuting and foraging activities.	To minimize disturbance on otters, construction works are recommended to commence at least an hour after sunrise and sunset an hour before sunset. Otter's forage and commute just after dawn and dusk.
Notable invertebrates	The data search from HBIC returned 2552 records of inverts within 1 km of the site. Many of the 2533 records are from a moth	The small-scale nature of the works there will no impacts on notable species.	It is recommended that any tree removed are cut into logs and left in the woodland

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
	trap in a residential garden between 2015 and 2022. There were also 18 records of Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>, a nationally notable species, and Alder Leaf Beetle <i>Agelastica alni</i>. The wet woodland bounding the stream provides a rich and diverse environment for a wide range of invertebrate species including Stag Beetle. The presence of decaying wood, damp leaf litter, and shaded microhabitats creates ideal conditions for saproxylic invertebrates that rely on dead and decaying timber for part or all of their life cycle. Stag Beetles, in particular, benefit from the abundance of rotting wood found in mature and unmanaged woodland areas, which supports their larval development over several years. The structural complexity and moisture levels typical of wet woodland further enhance its value as a key habitat for invertebrate biodiversity.		

Receptor	Likely presence	Likely impact	Mitigation measures
Other notable species	The data search returned seven records of Hedgehogs <i>Erinaceous europaeus</i> within 1 km of the site. Although the woodland within the working area of predominantly wet, the surrounding woodland can support an array of notable species such as Hedgehog.	The construction phase of the works has the potential to kill, injure or disturb notable species.	It is recommended that pre works checks are carried to ensure that there are no notable species within the works area. If any area present, they are picked and moved to an area of safety.

Key recommendations

4.1. The key mechanism for ensuring the mitigation measures set out above are followed would be to implement a robust CEMP. This should include the following measures:

- Prior to felling, it is recommended that Tree 1 undergoes a further endoscope inspection and is felled using soft felling techniques to minimise potential impacts on any undetected roosting features.
- Secure storage of chemicals and materials to ensure that foraging mammals such as badgers, cannot access chemicals or causes spillages.
- It is recommended that vegetation clearance is carried out outside of nesting bird season February to August (inclusive). If this is not possible, then no vegetation clearance must take place until a suitably experienced ecologist has undertaken a check of affected vegetation for active / occupied bird nests no more than 24 hours before the start of any works, and ideally on the morning of the day when the clearance is to take place.
- A pre site check for reptiles and amphibians with the works area ahead of works. Any found to be captured and removed to a safe area by an ECOW.
- A pre works checks to be carried out of the stream banks for Water Vole burrows. This is a mobile species and could create burrows between the time of the Water Vole survey and the works.
- All works to be carried out during day light hours not commencing before at least one hour after sunrise and stopping at least an hour before sunset.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. The ecological appraisal of Woodhouse Lane carried out at the site on 8 November recorded the following habitats on site, hard standing, local designated ancient woodland and running stream.
- 5.2. Within the 1 km search area surrounding the site, there are no international or national designated sites. The site falls at the junction between two locally designated sites – Bushy Copse and Bottom Copse SINC – which are also designated as Ancient Woodland.
- 5.3. Due to the small-scale nature of the works area has the potential to impact the following protected and notable species.
- Roosting Bats
 - Otters – foraging and commuting,
 - Water Voles
 - Common species of amphibians and reptiles
 - Breeding birds
 - Notable species such as Hedgehogs and Stag Beetle.
- 5.4. However, the wider woodland SINC habitat has the potential to support roosting bats, foraging and commuting bats, foraging and commuting Badgers.
- 5.5. Following the preliminary assessment, a range of further protected species surveys were carried out across the site, with the following results:
- The remaining tree that supported a PRF (Tree 1) was surveyed and confirmed that bats are likely absent.
 - A low level of foraging was recorded of Common and Soprano Pipistrelle within the adjacent woodland and river corridor habitat.
 - Otter surveys of the stream and adjacent woodland found no evidence of Otter presence.
 - Water Vole checks along both banks of the culvert recorded no burrows or other signs of Water Vole activity.

- 5.6. The most appropriate means of ensuring the ecological impacts are avoided during the construction phase is to implement a robust CEMP, with ecological supervision during key activities such as vegetation clearance, and to undertake pre-works checks of nearby stream banks.
- 5.7. Unless otherwise advised, the findings and recommendations in this report are solely based on the plans and brief provided to HCCET. The results and findings are valid for two years from the date of the initial field survey. HCCET should be contacted if this report is to be used after this period to check if any updating work needs to be undertaken.

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Appendix 1 – Plans and Figures

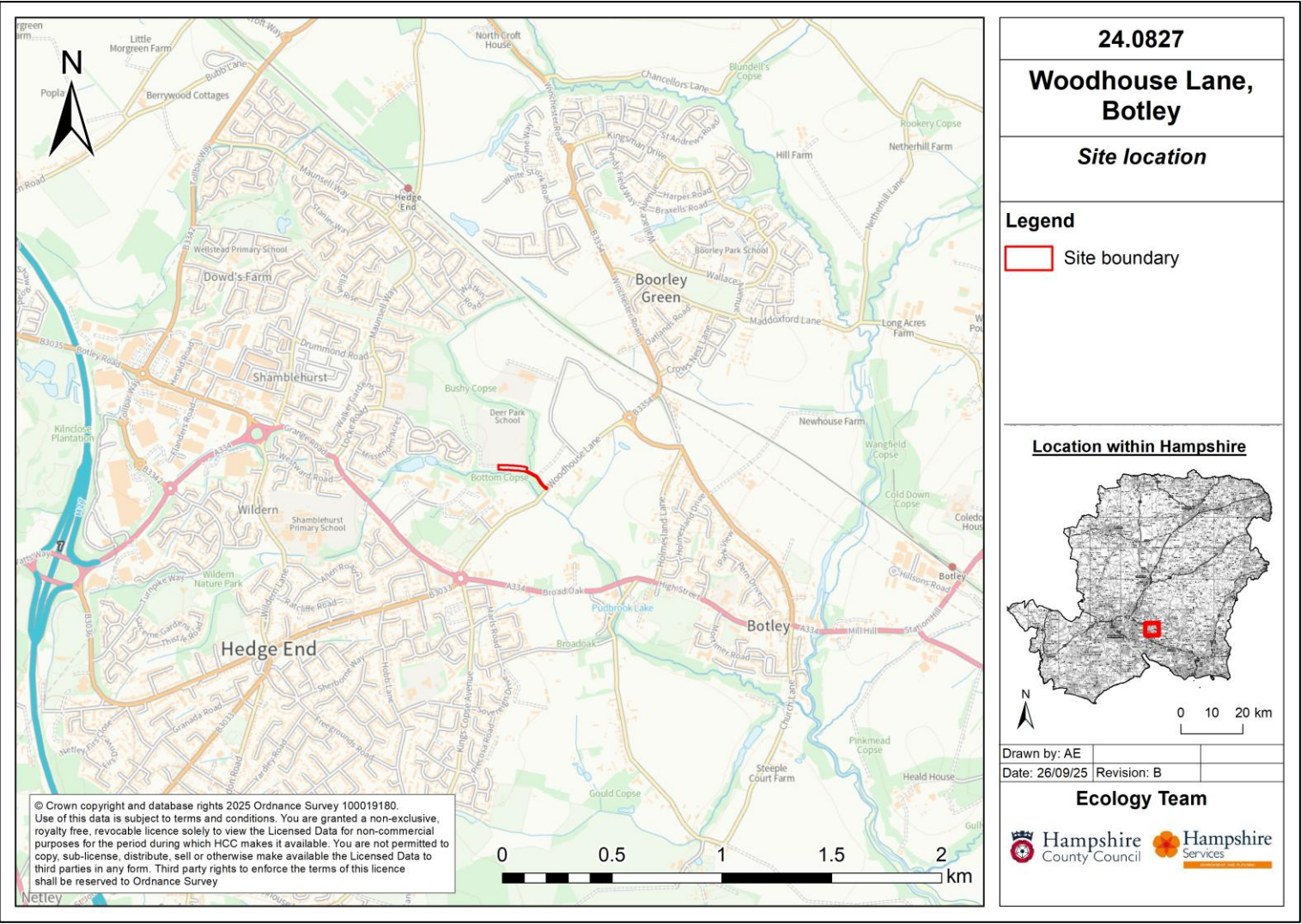


Figure A1.1 Site Location



Figure A1.2 Aerial Photo

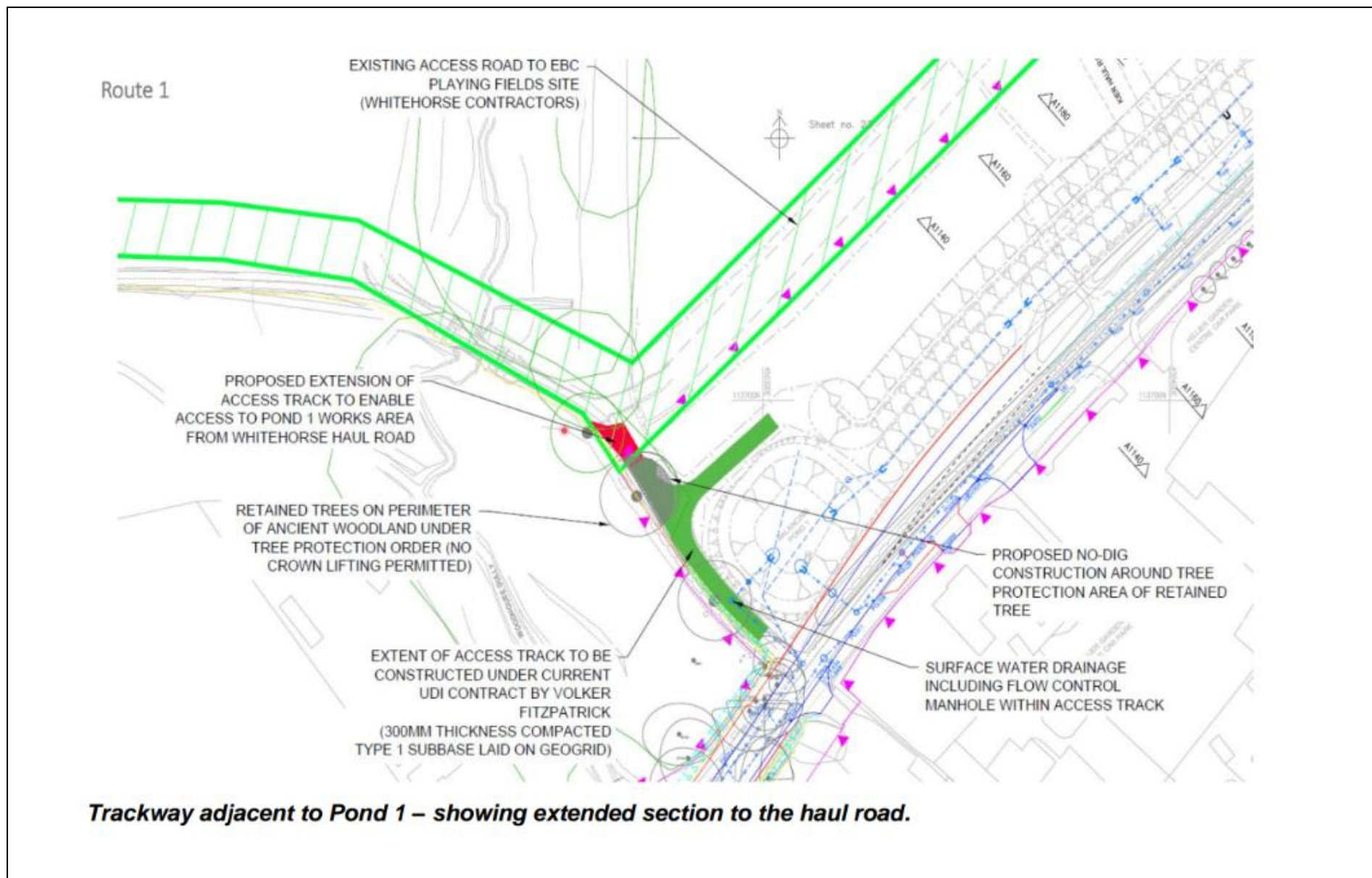


Figure A1.3 Existing and Proposed plans (provided by the client)

Appendix 2 – Photos



Photo 1 Existing haul road leading off Woodhouse Lane.



Photo 2 Broadleaved woodland alongside the existing haul road.



Photo 3 Existing haul road comprises a gravel track



Photo 4 Pendulous Sedge in wet woodland.



Photo 5 Fallen trees across the stream



Photo 6 Northern extent of the bridge



Photo 7 Southern extent of the bridge



Photo 8 Large pool after the water flows through the culvert.



Photo 9 Stream through Bottom Copse SINC showing meander, exposed gravels, and steep banks.



Photo 10 Gravel track leading to Deer Park School sports pitches.

Appendix 3 – Desk-Based Assessment Findings

Table A3.1 *Designated sites located within 1 km of Woodhouse Lane*

Site Name	Distance and Direction from Site (km)	Reason for Designation
<i>Bottom Copse SINC</i>	Onsite	Ancient woodland
<i>Bushy Copse SINC</i>	Onsite	Ancient woodland
<i>Woodhouse Gully Wood</i>	400 m south-east	Ancient woodland

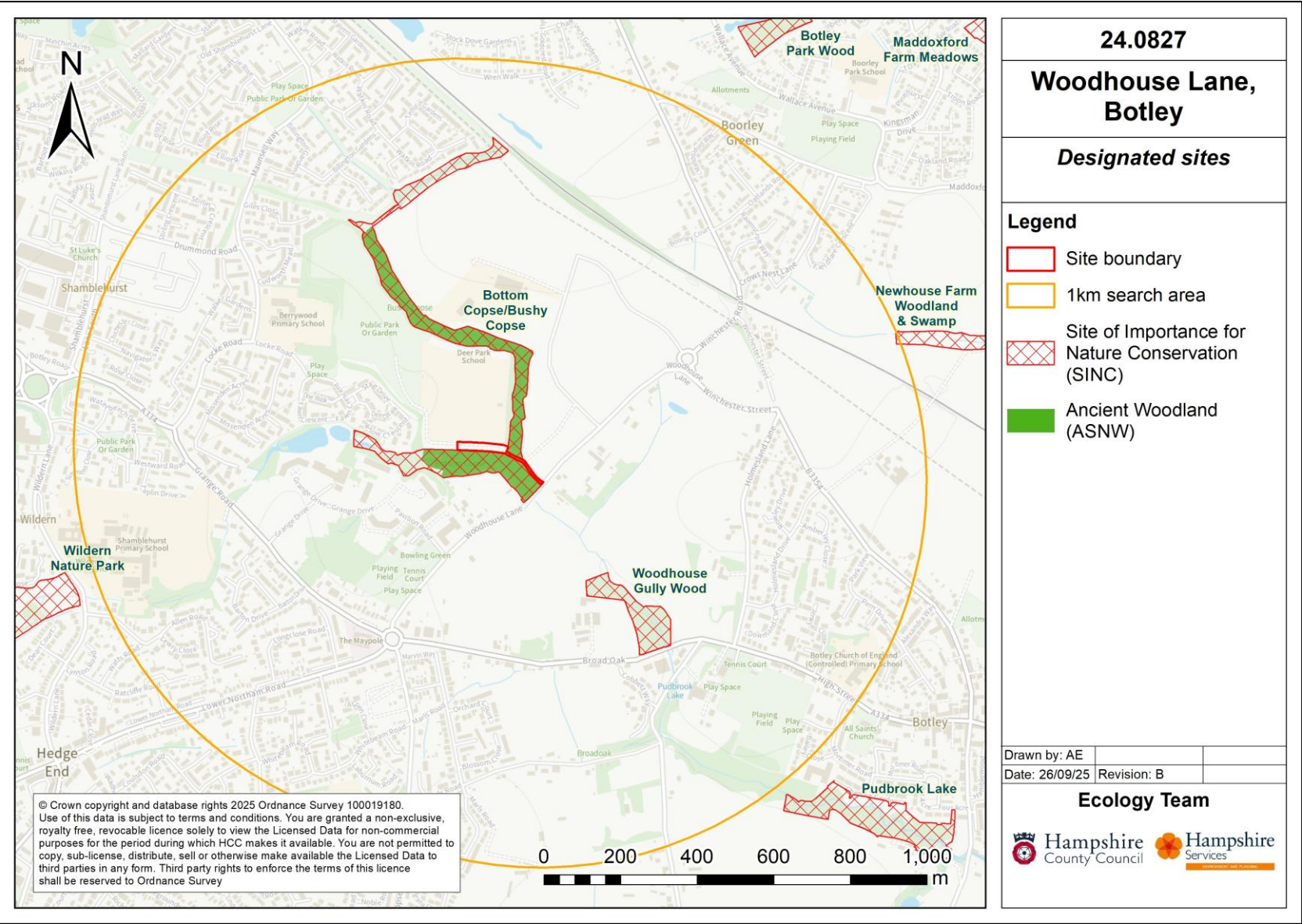


Figure A3.1 Map of nearby designated sites and 1km search area around site

Table A3.2 Protected and Notable species located within 1 km of the site

Common name	Scientific Name	Details	Distance and direction from site
Bats (roosts in bold)			
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	2016; 7 bat detector records 2022; 6 bat detector records 2021; emergence survey 2022; 6 static bat detector records 2016; dawn bat survey 2022; 5 records of dusk records 2022; 2 dawn survey records	425m S 425m S 700m E 850m SE 850m SE 850m SE 850m SE
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2016; 3 bat detector records 2022; 6 bat detector records 2020; bat in hand 2021; emergence survey 2022; 6 static bat detector records 2022; 7 dawn bat survey records	425m S 425m S 525m W 700m E 850m SE 850m SE
Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	2022; 2 bat detector records 2016; bat detector 2022; bat detector	425m S 425m S 850m SE
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2022; 6 bat detector records 2016; 4 bat detector records 2014; bat detector	425m S 425m S 925M SE
Leisler's Bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	2022; bat detector 2022; 2 bat detector records	425m S 850m SE
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	2016; 2 bat detector records 2022; 5 bat detector records 2021; emergence survey 2022; 6 static bat detector records 2022; bat detector records 2022; 2 dawn bat survey	425m S 425m S 700m E 850m SE 850m SE 850m SE
Long eared species	<i>Plecotus</i>	2016; 2 bat detector records 2022; 2 dawn bat survey records 2022; 7 static bat detector records 2009; roost visit	425m S 850m SE 850m SE 900m NW
Myotis species	<i>Myotis</i>	2016; 3 bat detector records 2022; 5 bat detector records	425m S 425m S

		2022; 5 static bat detector records 2022; 2 dawn bat survey	850m SE 850m SE
Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	2022; 2 bat detector records 2022; bat detector	425m S 850m SE
Bats	Chiroptera	2004; roosting and feeding	600m E
Nyctalus species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	2022; 5 static bat detector records 2022; 4 bat detector records	850m SE 850m SE
Mammals (excluding bats)			
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	2018; field observation 2018; field observation 2020; field observation 2020; field observation 2020; field observation 2020; field observation	725m SW 725m SW 800m N 850m E 875m NW 875m NE
Birds			
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	2019; field observation	800m E
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2019; field observation	800m E
Higher plants			
Corn spurrey	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	2020; field observation	475m NE
Annual Beard-grass	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	2020; field observation	700m E
Invertebrates			
Lepidoptera		2533 records of Lepidoptera between 2015 and 2022, using a Skinner 60W Actinic. Some of the species recorded include, Swallow <i>Cirrhia icteritia</i> , Light Crimson Underwing <i>Catocala promissa</i> , Mottled Rustic <i>Caradrina Morpheus</i> , Shoulder-striped Wainscot <i>Leucania comma</i> , Jersey Tiger <i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i> , Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i> , Ghost Moth <i>Hepialus humuli</i> and Small China-Mark <i>Cataclysta lemnata</i> .	625m E
Stag beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	18 Field record/observations between 2015 and 2021. The records were all from the national stag beetle surveys.	725m SW- 950m SW
Alder Leaf Beetle	<i>Agelastica alni</i>	2017; Field record	850m W

Appendix 4 – Field Survey Results

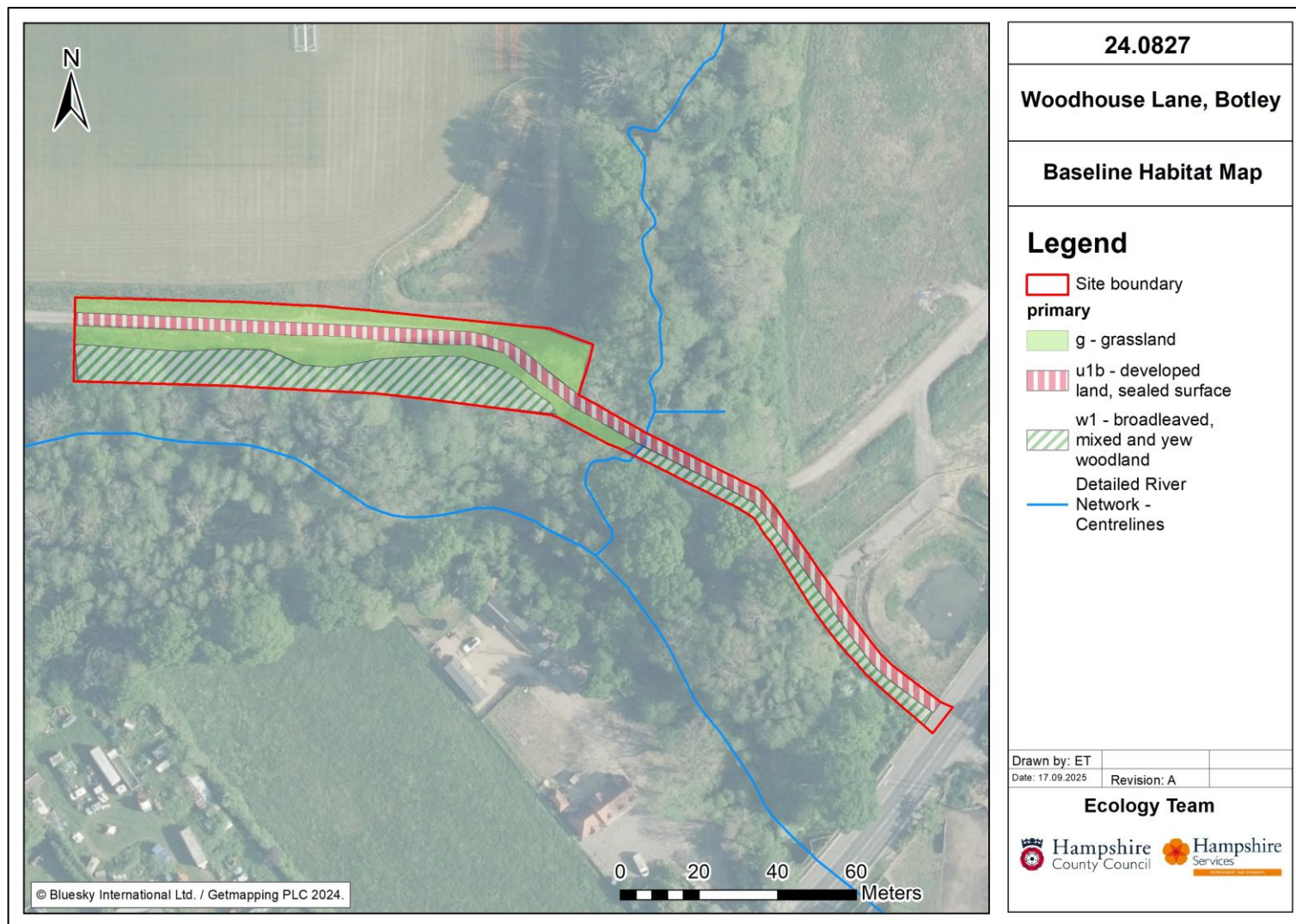


Figure A4.1 UKHab Habitat Survey map

Appendix 5- Bat Survey Photos



Photo 11 Tree 1 – Large trunk cavity that runs halfway up the tree



Photo 12 Tree 1 at its darkest point during the bat emergence survey

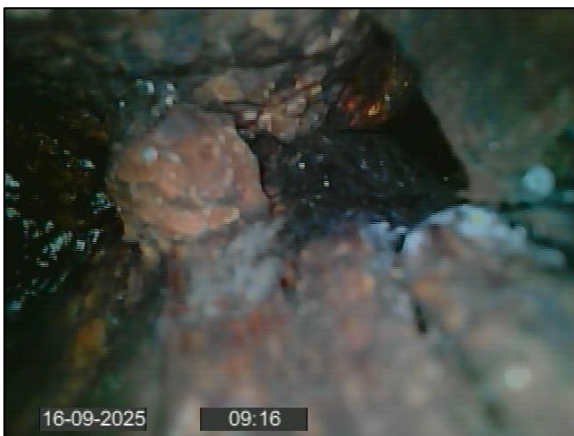


Photo 13 Internals of the cavity in the top of the feature

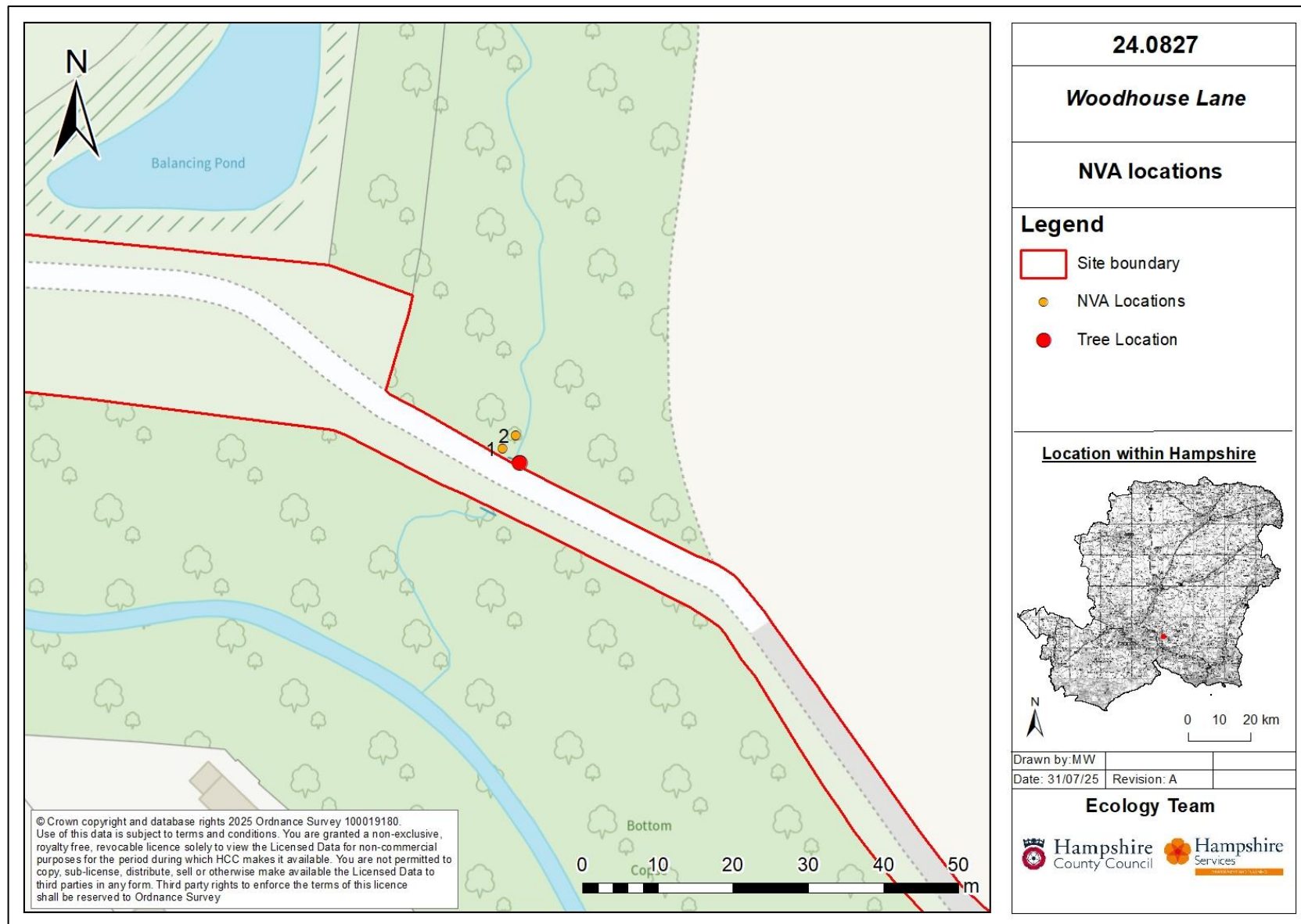


Figure A4.2 Bat emergence survey – surveyor and NVA locations

Appendix 5 – Assessment Criteria

Table A5.1 BCT guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape.

Potential Suitability	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flightpaths and foraging habitats
<i>None</i>	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e., a complete absence of crevices / suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any foraging or commuting bats at any time of the year (i.e., no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available for foraging bats).
<i>Negligible^a</i>	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
<i>Low</i>	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^b and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classis cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ^c).	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream but isolated i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
<i>Moderate</i>	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity or hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.

High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation roosts, e.g., maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.
^a Negligible is defines as ‘so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant.’ This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute). ^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance. ^c Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of Common Pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten <i>et al.</i>, 2016 and Jansen <i>et al.</i>, 2022). Common Pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.		

Table A5.2 BCT guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees on proposed development sites for bats.

Initial assessment of suitability of trees for bats	
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.
Suitability of trees for bats further defined following Ground Level Tree Assessment	
PRF-1	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.

Table A5.3 Protected Species Grading Criteria

Grading Criteria	Justification
<i>Confirmed Presence</i>	Species confirmed on site through direct sighting, presence of field signs (e.g. scat, hair, prints, nest, eggs, habitation etc.) or through desk-based assessment.
<i>High Potential</i>	Presence of optimal habitat features for species. Surveyed site within known range/close to known occurrence. Excellent connectivity to optimal habitat. No justification for discounting presence of species.
<i>Moderate Potential</i>	Presence of some suitable habitat features for species. Surveyed site within/close to known range or known occurrence but factors such as isolation/fragmentation may reduce potential. Presence of species is more likely than not.
<i>Low Potential</i>	Minimal suitable habitat present or, if present, highly degraded/fragmented. Minimal linkage to suitable habitat beyond site. Presence of species unlikely.
<i>Negligible Potential</i>	Site is entirely unsuitable for species. Presence of species highly unlikely.