



**Preliminary Ecological
Appraisal**

Land at Queens Parade, North
Road

January 2025

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Land at Queens Parade, North Road

17/01/2025

Wilbury Planning Limited
No.5, 61 Wilbury Road
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 3PB

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Phlorum Limited

Southern Office: Unit 12, Hunns Mere Way, Brighton, BN2 6AH

T: 01273 307 167 E: info@phlorum.com W: www.phlorum.com

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Non-technical Summary

Phlorum Ltd was commissioned by Wilbury Planning Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), and Bat Building Inspection (BBI) / Tree Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA), which was carried out at Land at Queens Parade, North Road on the 10th September 2024 in order to determine whether any ecological constraints could affect the proposed works for the site.

Current proposals are proposed development plans involve an upward extension for 21 residential dwellings (Class C3) and aesthetic improvements to the existing parade of shops. The survey area extended over approximately 0.4 hectares (ha).

The main findings of the surveys are as follows:

- 🌿 The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory designations. The closest statutory designated site is the South Downs National PARK (SDNP) located approximately 1.2km to the north at its closest point.
- 🌿 The site comprised buildings (u1b5), hardstanding (u1b6) and ruderal vegetation (u81).
- 🌿 No further targeted surveys have been recommended for the site.
- 🌿 In addition, a precautionary approach to site clearance in respect to breeding birds is recommended to minimise any adverse impacts on this species group(s).

This version (V2) has been produced to update references to the new NPPF.

This version (V3) has been produced to update the scope of works.

Further information on precautionary working practices and additional surveys together with recommended mitigation and enhancement measures are discussed in Section 5.

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 Phlorum Ltd has been commissioned by Wilbury Planning Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), with a Bat Building Inspection (BBI) / Tree Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) to inform the potential ecological constraints of proposed future development of Land at Queens Parade, North Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 9BA (hereafter referred to as “the site”).
- 1.2 The purpose of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was:
 - 🌿 to identify the major habitats present;
 - 🌿 to identify the potential for any legally protected species to be present; and
 - 🌿 to recommend any additional ecological surveys, if required.
- 1.3 As part of the assessment, a desktop review and a site visit were carried out. The results of which were used to assess the nature conservation importance of the site and the potential of the site to support protected species.
- 1.4 This report has been compiled in accordance with current guidelines (British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of Practice for Planning and Development, 2013 and CIEEM, 2017 and 2018).
- 1.5 It is understood that the proposed development is for an upward extension for 21 residential dwellings (Class C3) and aesthetic improvements to the existing parade of shops.

Site Location

- 1.6 The site is urban and is located on Grand Parade high street in the residential town Lancing, West Sussex. In the immediate surroundings are residential areas, commercial areas, minor roads and public green spaces. In the wider surroundings the A27 runs along the north, Lancing seafront and beach to the south, the river Adur and estuary to the east and Worthing town to the west. To the north are green spaces including fields and scattered woodland.
- 1.7 The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TQ18240467. The survey area extended over approximately 0.4 hectares (ha).

2. Methodology

Desk Study & Consultations

Database and Map Search

- 2.1 The desktop study involved conducting database searches for statutory and non-statutory designated sites, legally protected species and features of interest within a 2km radius of the site. The database and map search was based on available information provided by the following sources:
- 🌿 Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre (SxBRC, 2024);
 - 🌿 Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC, 2024);
 - 🌿 Ordnance Survey mapping;
 - 🌿 Aerial photography; and
 - 🌿 The Woodland Trust online Ancient Tree Inventory.
- 2.2 The desktop study also involved a search of all international designated sites within 12km of the site.

Habitat Survey and Assessment

- 2.3 Phlorum Limited carried out an ecological survey of the site on the 10th September 2024. The survey was carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist, Amber Howie, who has over 2 years' professional experience of undertaking ecological surveys. The survey results and assessment was reviewed by Paul Carter (BSc (Hons), MBA, MCIEEM), an ecologist with over twenty years of experience of managing ecological and landscaping projects, and by the project director Richard Schofield (BSc (Hons), MSc, CSJK, MCIEEM, MIEMA, CEnv), with over twenty years of experience in managing projects. The weather conditions during the survey were overcast, warm and dry.
- 2.4 The field survey comprised a walkover inspection of the land and habitats present. The survey followed standard Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) and covered all accessible parts of the site, including boundary features. The description of the site habitats has used the code/referencing from The UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 2.0 (UKHab 2023). UKHab uses primary habitat codes, either on their own or followed by one or more secondary codes. Each individual code is separated by a space. Habitats were described and mapped (Figure 1: Appendix A). A list of plant species was compiled, together with an estimate of abundance made according to the DAFOR scale. The DAFOR scale provides an estimate of the relative abundance of plant species within the Survey Area (Appendix D).

- 2.5 This assessment provides information on the habitats in the survey area and identifies actual or potential presence of legally protected or otherwise notable species/habitats in or immediately adjacent to the site.
- 2.6 Target notes highlighting a particular feature of ecological interest are provided in Appendix B, with associated photographs.
- 2.7 Scientific names are given after the first mention of a species, thereafter, common names only are used. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species.

Protected Species Assessment

- 2.8 The potential for the site to provide habitat for protected species was assessed from field observations in conjunction with results of the desk study. The site was inspected for indications of the presence of protected species including:
 - 🌿 Habitat considered suitable to support widespread reptile species including areas with a scrub/grassland mosaic and potential hibernation sites;
 - 🌿 On-site ponds offering potential breeding opportunities for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) and the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat including hedgerows and rough grassland;
 - 🌿 The presence of features in and on trees indicating potential for roosting bats (Chiroptera), including knot and rot holes and loose bark. Secondary evidence of bats including staining, droppings, and feeding remains were also looked for;
 - 🌿 The presence of nesting habitat for breeding birds, including mature trees, dense scrub, and hedgerows, and direct evidence of bird nesting including bird song, old nests etc.;
 - 🌿 Habitats considered suitable to support badger (*Meles meles*) setts, and evidence in the form of hair, pathways, and latrines;
 - 🌿 Presence of woodland and/or hedgerows providing suitable habitat to support hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*);
 - 🌿 Riparian habitat supporting suitable features for water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) and otters (*Lutra lutra*); and the
 - 🌿 Presence of nationally protected and/or invasive plants.
- 2.9 The potential presence for protected species is categorised as **Negligible, Low, Moderate, High, or Present**, based on the findings of the field survey and on the evaluation of existing data. However, the potential presence for bats in a structure is categorised as **None, Negligible, Low, Moderate, or High** (Collins, 2023). The potential suitability of trees for bat roosts is as assessed as **None, FAR** (further assessment required), or **PRF** (at least one potential roost feature present) (Collins, 2023).

- 2.10 The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether more comprehensive Phase 2 surveys for protected species or mitigation should be recommended.

Bat Building Inspection (Preliminary Roost Assessment)

- 2.11 The Bat Building Inspection (BBI), also referred to as a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was carried out on the 10th September 2024. The survey was undertaken in accordance with good practice guidelines (Mitchell-Jones and McLeish, 2004; Collins, 2023, and Reason, 2023). The survey was carried out by Amber Howie, a suitably qualified ecologist with experience in undertaking a range of ecological surveys and reviewed by Richard Schofield who holds Bat Level 1 Survey Class Licence CL17 (Ref: 2021-51095-CLS-CLS).
- 2.12 The interior and exterior of the buildings were inspected closely with the aim of identifying the presence of bats and any secondary evidence together with any potential roost sites. Secondary evidence includes droppings, feeding remains, scratch marks and oil and urine staining.
- 2.13 The external inspection was carried out first and comprised a detailed search of all accessible architectural features for bat droppings, urine staining, scratch marks, staining around suitable crevices and feeding remains.
- 2.14 The internal inspection was then carried out, where it was safe to do so. A high-powered torch was used to illuminate internal features at height, for instance the apex of the roof and associated supporting beams, and these were inspected using close focusing binoculars when required.
- 2.15 Where access permitted, roof voids were also inspected. This comprised a search of the floor area and other flat surfaces, including stored materials, in order to find evidence of discarded feeding remains and bat droppings. Internal features such as the roof lining were examined to assess actual or potential roost opportunities.
- 2.16 In accordance with current standing advice issued by Natural England (2015), the following types of bat roosts were considered during the assessment:
-  Day Roost - where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day
 -  Night Roost - where bats rest or shelter at night between foraging in the active period, but rarely during the day
 -  Feeding 'Perch' Roost - where bats hang to eat or catch their prey or rest at night between feeding sessions.
 -  Hibernation Roost - where bats are found during winter. These roosts typically comprise a stable environment where bats can enter torpor; these areas are normally of a constant temperature.
 -  Transitional or Occasional Roost - where individual or small numbers of bats gather at a temporary site before and after hibernation.
 -  Maternity Roost – where female bats give birth and raise their young.

- 🌿 Satellite Roost – an alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery roost colony and used by a few individual breeding females to small group of breeding females through the breeding season.

Caveat

Data Search Constraints

- 2.17 It is important to note that, even where data is held, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may be simply under-recorded.

Survey Constraints

- 2.18 Ecological surveys are limited by factors that affect presence of plants and animals such as seasonality. Whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation of the environment.
- 2.19 The survey was carried out late in the growing season and therefore most species would be expected to be visible and identifiable.
- 2.20 The appraisal does not constitute a full botanical survey, or a Phase 2 pre-construction survey that would include accurate GIS mapping for invasive or protected plant species. This survey provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species occurring on the site based on the suitability of the habitat, known distribution of the species in the local area, and any direct evidence on the site. It is therefore used as a tool to recommend further protected species surveys (or other species of significant nature conservation interest) if on the basis of the preliminary assessment or during subsequent surveys, it is considered reasonably likely that protected species may be present.
- 2.21 It is however considered that the survey was sufficiently rigorous to assess the ecological value of the site.

Bat Survey Constraints

- 2.22 Bats are mobile animals which can move roost sites throughout the year. It is possible that surveys carried out in September may miss roosts not occupied until later in the year. However, where undisturbed, it is generally possible to find secondary evidence of bats throughout the year.
- 2.23 It is considered that the survey was sufficiently rigorous to assess the ecological value of the site for the purposes of this assessment.

Limitations

- 2.24 This appraisal also does not constitute as a full invasive species survey. All surveys are subject to the conditions on site at the time of the survey. Site surveys are non-intrusive and rely on the visual identification of aboveground growth. If parts of a site are inaccessible, then these areas can often not be surveyed unless they can be viewed from other areas. If any aboveground growth is being managed or has been disturbed or covered, or the below ground growth is dormant, then it may be impossible for us to identify invasive plants in these areas during our non-intrusive survey.

3. Baseline Conditions

Desk Study

Aerial Photography and OS Maps

- 3.1 Aerial photographs and OS maps show the site to be urban, predominantly urban and commercial areas with residential areas, shops, minor roads and public green spaces in the immediate and wider surrounds. There appear to be waterbodies within 500m of the site, however they appear to be a swimming pool and streams off the River Adur.

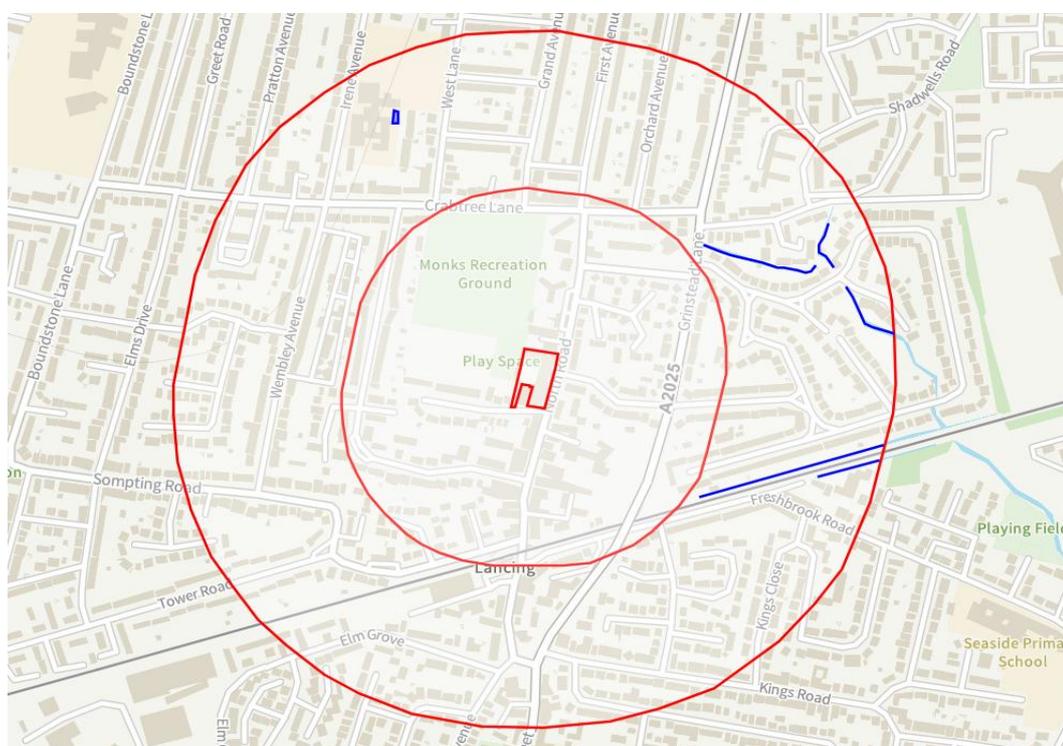


Image 1; Waterbodies present within a 250-meter and 500-meter search radius. Waterbodies are highlighted in blue. The map shows the site boundary marked as the innermost red boundary. (Magic, 2024).

- 3.2 There are no granted European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) within 2km of the site boundary. Aerial maps show the closest to be within the wider surroundings. The closest EPSL for bats are located over 2.5km to the northeast for serotines, common and soprano pipistrelle. The SxBRC data searches returned records of unspecified roosts present within 1.5km of the site boundary. The closest EPSL for great crested newt are over 2.8km to the northeast.
- 3.1 Unknown bat roosts or species-specific locations and habitats, such as ponds, hedges and other priority habitats may still be present within the 2km search radius.

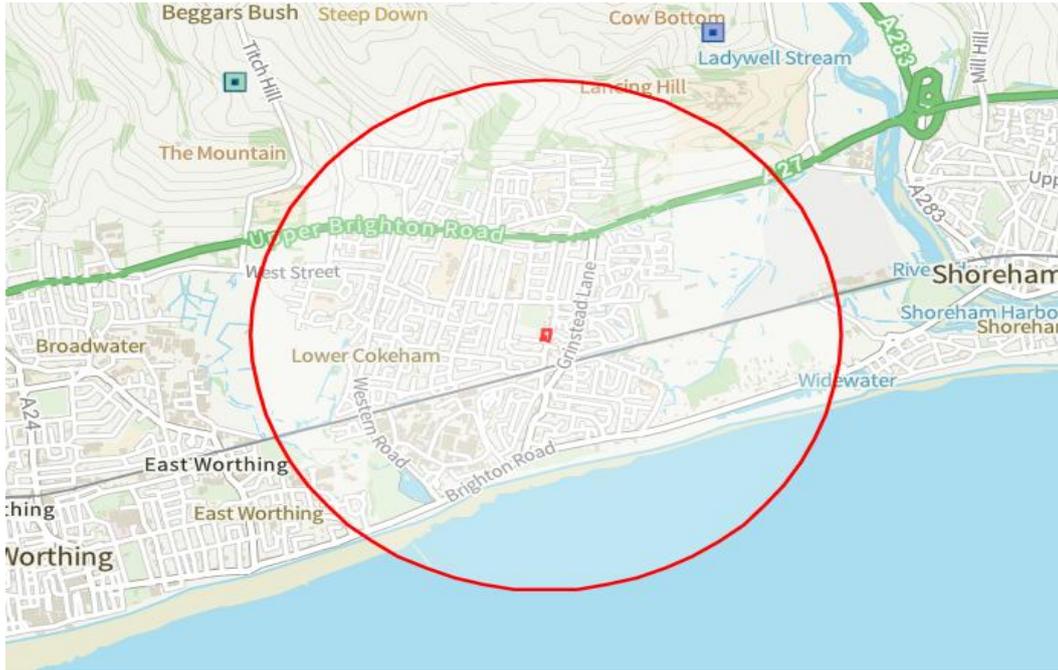


Image 2; Granted European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) within a 2km search radius. The site is shown as the central red line boundary. The closest granted EPSLs are shown as for bats by the blue pins, great crested newt and amphibians by the green pins (Magic, 2024).

- 3.2 The immediate surroundings are also areas monitored by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CS) and Natural England (NE). These areas are monitored for UK priority species, within the search area species present are the brown hairstreak butterfly (*Thecla betulae*) (Magic, 2024).

Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Statutory International Sites

- 3.3 The closest international statutory designated site is the Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Table 3.1 provides a list of statutory international sites within 12km of the site.

Table 3.1: Statutory international sites within 12km of the site

Site Name	Reason for Designation	Area (ha)	Distance from the Site
Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Three interrelated environments rural, coastal & marine and urban make up the biosphere reserve area. The habitats include coastal chalk cliffs, sub-tidal chalk reef, freshwater wetland, shingle beaches, river estuaries, deciduous woodland and chalk grassland. The area is home to many rare and species of international conservation interest	29,514	2.5km to the east

Statutory National and Local Sites

3.4 The closest statutory national and/or local designated site is the South Downs National Park (SDNP). Table 3.2 provides a list of statutory national and local sites within 2km of the site.

Table 3.2: Statutory national and local sites within 2km of the site

Site Name	Reason for Designation	Area (ha)	Distance from the Site
South Downs National Park (SDNP)	Chalk down land makes up the principal terrestrial landscape of the area. The coastline is dominated by impressive chalk cliffs in the east and urbanized plains in the west. A mosaic of habitats including chalk grassland, heathland habitat, woodland, home to many rare and internationally important species, such as Adonis blue butterfly, barbastelle bats and rare wildflowers.	163	1.2km to the north
Lancing Ring Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	This site is important for its chalk grassland, a rare and diverse habitat. Adders and sometimes Lizards. Early Purple Orchids can be seen in the woodland in the spring time and the dewpond is home to numerous newts. A number of notable plant species have been recorded in the LWS including Starry Clover and Yellow-vetch. Habitats include Coastal vegetated shingle, a NERC S41 habitat. The site is considered to be exceptional (Lyons, 2018) for invertebrates given the large number of notable species that have been recorded within the site; these include 18 beetles, 8 moths, 5 bugs and 5 spider species. Notable wintering bird species include Purple Sandpiper, Black Redstart and Rock Pipit.	29.34	1.2km to the north
Widewater Lagoon Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Widewater is a shallow micro-tidal lagoon which is an area of brackish water landlocked by a man-made shingle bank. It is home to herons, swans and many	8.75	1.3km to the southeast

	other wildfowl and is used by wintering birds such as Pochard and Redshank, and was the only locality for the Anemone <i>Edwardsia ivelli</i> .		
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Non-Statutory Sites

- 3.5 The closest non-statutory designated site is Lancing Ring Local Wildlife Site (LWS). Table 3.3 provides a list of non-statutory sites within 2km of the site.

Table 3.3: Non-statutory sites within 2km of the site

Site Name	Reason for Designation	Area (ha)	Distance from the Site
Lancing Ring Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	<p>This site encompasses a range of habitats including unmanaged rank grassland, horse-grazed pasture, disused chalk pit, scrub and developing Ash woodland. Although most of the grassland has become heavily scrub invaded it supports an interesting herbaceous flora.</p> <p>Lancing Ring is also important for insects, notably butterflies. The rich butterfly fauna includes breeding colonies of Chalkhill Blue, Holly Blue, Small Copper, Small Heath and Wall Brown. The rank grassland favours certain species such as the localised Marbled White. The flowers of the Greater Knapweed (<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>) and Field Scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>) are a great attraction to many butterflies. Lancing Ring supports a good range of breeding warblers, including Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat. Yellowhammer, Linnet and Cuckoo also breed.</p>	24.3	1.3km to the southwest
Cokeham Brooks Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Cokeham Brooks comprises wetland, grassland and woodland habitats on the edge of urban Sompting in West Sussex. The site contains numerous springs and botanically rich wetland	14.5	1.3km to the southwest

	<p>habitats including a feature known locally as a flushed fen. Notable habitats include reedbed and a small block of lowland mixed deciduous woodland which are both NERC section 41 and Sussex BAP habitats. The wetland habitats also support a diversity of notable invertebrate and breeding bird species.</p>		
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Ancient Woodland

- 3.6 There is no ancient woodland covering any part of the site or immediately adjacent to the site. No trees on or adjacent to the site are listed on the Woodland Trusts' Ancient Tree Inventory.
- 3.7 The closest area of ancient woodland is situated 3.5km to the northeast.

UK BAP Priority Habitat

- 3.8 UK BAP Priority habitats are habitat types or elements with unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species. UK BAP priority habitats are identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).
- 3.9 There are no habitats within the site that could be classed as priority habitat (Bickmore, 2002).
- 3.10 The closest priority habitat sits 0.5km to the east, which is coastal and floodplain grazing marshes. Deciduous woodland, traditional orchards, deciduous woodland, woodpasture and parkland, coastal and floodplain grazing marshes, open water and chalk streams are all present within 2km of the site boundary.

Habitats

Site Summary

- 3.11 The site comprised buildings (u1b5), hardstanding (u1b6) and ruderal vegetation (u81).
- 3.12 The main habitats recorded within the site are described below. The UKHab code is shown in the bracket after the habitat type (UKHab 2023). Additional details are shown on the habitat survey plan in Appendix A, and the target notes are listed in Appendix B.

Buildings (u1b5)

- 3.13 The site was predominantly a large L-shaped two storey building. The ground floor of the building consisted of multiple shops and cafes, and the first floor was residential flats. There were garage buildings at the west of the site.

Hardstanding (u1b)

- 3.14 Hardstanding was present around the building footprints and within a parking/loading bay at the west.

Ruderal Vegetation (h3d)

- 3.15 There were small areas of ruderal vegetation growing from the hardstanding along the western site boundary.

Target Note (TN)

- 3.16 The following features of interest were noted during the survey and have been marked on Figure 1:

 **TN1 – Russian Vine**

Bat Building Inspection (Preliminary Roost Assessment)

Main Building (B1)

External Survey

- 3.17 The BBI/PRA involved a detailed external inspection of the building in order to identify potential or actual bat access points and roosting places, and to locate any evidence of bats. This included searching the ground, beneath windowsills, windowpanes, walls, and assessing the brickwork and roofing (such as if any gaps were present under the roofing felt).
- 3.18 The building (B1) was a large brick-built L-shaped building on Queens Parade in the urban area of Lancing. There were streetlights present within 30m of the front of the building. The building was occupied and consisted of multiple shop/cafés and a supermarket on the ground floor and residential flats on the first floor.
- 3.19 The roof of the building was a flat roof with a flat extended canopy from at the front of the building that covered the ground floor buildings. The lining on the roof appeared well maintained with no potential points of ingress/egress noted. The flat aspect at the front of the roof was sealed with roofing felt which appeared sound with no lifted/loose areas. Drainage pipes ran around the building under the lip of the roof on wooden boarding, there were no points of ingress/egress observed around the guttering or wooden boards. The seals around the building windows were sound.
- 3.20 No potential access points were seen when assessing the external structure. Tiles were flush against each other. No tiles appeared to be damaged or missing. No gaps in the roofing felt were noted. Bricks appeared to be in good condition with no cracks noted.
- 3.21 No evidence of bats such as droppings, evidence of feeding or urine stains were found during the external survey.
- 3.22 The external assessment of the building (B1) assessed the roosting potential for bats to be **negligible**.

Internal Survey

- 3.23 The building was not inspected internally. The first floor of the building consisted of multiple residential flats with flat roofs and an internal inspection was not possible. It is understood that the scheme does not involve any material alteration to the fabric of the existing building at ground and first floor level. And the existing occupants of both the commercial and residential units would remain in situ during the construction phase of the development.

Other Buildings (B2, B3)

- 3.24 The remaining buildings (B2 and B3) were examined externally but not internally. The buildings were single storey brick built garages with flat roofs. No evidence of use by bats was seen. There was little in the way of potential points of egress.
- 3.25 The proximity of the busy main road and paucity of potential foraging habitat in the immediate vicinity (as seen in aerial photographs) made it unlikely that bats would use these properties for roosting.

Protected Species

- 3.26 Legislation relating to the protected species referred to in this section is included in Appendix C.
- 3.27 The following paragraphs detail the suitability of the on-site habitats to support protected species and include information from the data search for protected, rare and otherwise notable species returned within a 2km radius.

Bats

- 3.28 The data search showed records of bats from the genera pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus*), long eared (*Plecotus*), myotis (*Myotis*), serotine (*Eptesicus*), and Noctule/Leisler's (*Myctalus*) occurring within the 2km search area in the past 15 years.
- 3.29 During the survey no potential bat roosting features were seen in the onsite buildings.
- 3.30 Overall, it was considered that the onsite buildings offered **negligible** potential for roosting bats.

Amphibians

- 3.31 The data search showed no records of great crested newt within 2km of the site within the past 15 years.
- 3.32 The data search showed records of common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and common frog (*Rana temporaria*), and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) within 2km of the site within the past 15 years
- 3.33 Aerial photographs and maps show no ponds within 250m/500m of the site, but did show some streams/drainage ditches within 500m to the west.
- 3.34 The closest toad crossing is approximately 8km to the north at Wiston Park (Froglife, 2024). There are others wider surroundings, the closest are 11km away.

- 3.35 During the survey no features were seen that could support breeding, foraging, or commuting newts.
- 3.36 It was considered that the site offered **negligible** potential for breeding newts and **negligible** potential for foraging and commuting newts.

Reptiles

- 3.37 The data search showed several records of slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), grass snake (*Natrix Helvetica*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) within 2km of the site within the past 15 years.
- 3.38 The habitat on the site was not considered to be suitable for reptiles.
- 3.39 Overall, the site was assessed as having **negligible** potential to support reptiles.

Birds

- 3.40 Several Red or Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern¹ (BoCC), and notable² bird species were returned by the data search that may utilise habitats within the site. Species swift (*Apus apus*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*) and swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).
- 3.41 During the survey it was noted that the onsite buildings provided suitable habitat for nesting birds.
- 3.42 Overall, it was considered that the site offered **low/moderate** potential for breeding birds.

Badgers

- 3.43 Records for this species are kept confidentially and were not returned by the data search.
- 3.44 The habitats on site were not suitable for either breeding or foraging badgers.
- 3.45 Overall, the site offered **negligible** potential for breeding badgers and **low** potential for foraging and commuting badgers.

Hazel Dormice

- 3.46 The data search showed no records of dormice within 2km of the site within the past 15 years.
- 3.47 The site did not contain the type or density of vegetation that would be suitable for supporting either breeding or commuting dormice.

¹ Birds of Conservation Concern status is prioritised into high concern (Red), medium concern (Amber) and low concern (Green) (Eaton et al, 2009). Red-list species are those that are globally threatened according to the IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and have not shown a substantial recent recovery. Amber-list species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations. Green-list species are those that fulfil none of the criteria.

² Notable Birds are based on a list of birds that are particularly scarce or vulnerable either at national or a regional level. The majority of these bird species are designated as Schedule 1 species, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), or listed as red or amber-listed BoCC.

- 3.48 Overall, it was considered that the site offered **negligible** potential to support breeding dormice and **negligible** potential to support commuting dormice.

Water Voles

- 3.49 The data search showed no records of water voles within the 2km search area in the past 15 years.
- 3.50 The site did not contain the aquatic habitat and vegetation types that would support breeding, foraging or commuting water voles.
- 3.51 Overall, it was considered that the site offered **negligible** potential to support breeding water voles and **negligible** potential to support commuting and foraging water voles.

Otters

- 3.52 Reports of otters are not returned by the record centre in this area.
- 3.53 The site did not contain the aquatic habitat and vegetation types that would support breeding, foraging or commuting otters.
- 3.54 Overall, it was considered that the site offered **negligible** potential to support breeding otters and **negligible** potential to support foraging and commuting otters.

Hedgehogs

- 3.55 The data search showed multiple records of hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) within 2km of the site within the past 15 years.
- 3.56 There was no evidence of hedgehogs, or the habitat they require seen during the survey.
- 3.57 Overall, the site offered **negligible** potential for hedgehogs.

Stag Beetles

- 3.58 The data search showed several records of stag beetles (*Lucanus cervus*) within 2km of the site within the past 15 years.
- 3.59 There was no evidence of stag beetles, or the habitat they require seen during the survey.
- 3.60 Overall, the site offered **negligible** potential for stag beetles.

Invasive Plants

- 3.61 The data search showed records of plant species including three cornered leek (*Allium triquetrum*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) occurring within the 2km search area in the past 15 years. These plants are listed as invasive in Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

- 3.62 During the survey specimens of Russian Vine were seen (See Target Note [TN1] and Photographs in Appendices A & B). While not listed in Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 amended), it appears on the Non Native Species Secretariat (NNSS, 2024)³ register of species that are of concern.

³ GB Non Native Species Secretariate (NNSS) (2024). Accessed from www.nonnativespecies.org

4. Evaluation

- 4.1 On the basis of the information available from the habitat survey and desk study, the site has been evaluated in terms of its potential for biodiversity, support of protected species and habitats, and the contribution the area makes as part of the wider landscape. The nature conservation value of the site has been assessed following standard criteria developed by CIEEM (2017 and 2018) and in accordance with BS 24040:2013 Biodiversity – code of practice for planning and development. This is provided below.
- 4.2 The biodiversity value of protected species within the site is a preliminary evaluation based upon the desk study records, habitat suitability, and the conservation status of the species in question. It should be noted that where European Protected Species (EPS) or species of Principle Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity are present on-site they may be valued at a lower level/scale where it is considered likely that populations would not be of sufficient importance to justify designation at a higher level. However, regardless of their biodiversity value, such species are still subject to national and/or European legislation.
- 4.3 Key aspects of relevant planning policy regarding conservation, including an explanation of species referred to as being of 'Principal Importance for Conservation of Biodiversity' and European Protected Species and habitats, are provided in the Legislation section in Appendix C.

Geographic Evaluation

Features of International Importance

- 4.4 Features of International Importance are principally sites covered by international legislation or conventions. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019) implements the Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EC) (Habitats Directive) in England and Wales. The Regulations mainly deal with the protection of sites with certain habitats and populations of species that are important for nature conservation in a European context, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- 4.5 The site is not subject to any international statutory nature conservation designations. There are no International important sites within 12km of the site.

Features of National Importance

- 4.6 Features of national importance include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The site is not subject to any national statutory nature conservation designations and it is not considered that any habitats or populations or assemblages of species within the site would meet the criteria for the designation of SSSIs at an appropriate geographic level⁴.
- 4.7 The closest designated site of national importance for nature conservation is the Adur Estuary SSSI located 2.5km to the east. The site does not provide any supporting habitat for this SSSI.
- 4.8 The site is also located within the 5km Impact Risk Zone of Adur Estuary SSSI and Cissbury Ring SSSI, but the site does not have any supporting habitat for these SSSIs.

Features of Regional (i.e. West Sussex) Importance

- 4.9 The site does not include any features of value at this level neither is it likely to be selected as a SINCC based on the results of the current survey.

Features of District (i.e. Adur) Importance

- 4.10 The site is relatively small and does not support any features that were considered to be of value at this level.

Features of Local (i.e. Lancing) Importance

- 4.11 The site does not support any features that were considered to be of value at this level.

Features of Value Immediate Vicinity (c. 250m) of the Project

- 4.12 The on-site vegetation is of limited value within the immediate vicinity and provides suitable habitat to support protected species including breeding birds. It also forms part of the wider ecological network of habitats in the locality, providing wildlife corridors for mobile species to move through the landscape.

Summary

- 4.13 Overall, on the basis of the survey results and the above criteria, habitats within the site are considered largely to be of limited ecological value within the immediate vicinity only. The site provides suitable habitat to support several protected species and groups including breeding birds. However, populations of these are unlikely to be locally significant.

⁴ JNCC Guidelines for selection of biological SSSIs (see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2303#download>).

Local Plan Evaluation

4.14 It is considered that the statutory Adur Local Plan (Adopted 2017) contains the following nature conservation policies relevant to the site. A list of the policies is provided below. The full text of the relevant policies is contained in the Legislation section in Appendix C and this should also be referred to.

Adur Local Plan (2017)

-  Policy 30: Green Infrastructure.
-  Policy 31: Biodiversity.

5. Discussion and Recommendations

Discussion

- 5.1 The survey site is located at Queens Parade, North Road, Lancing, West Sussex. The survey area extended over approximately 0.4 hectares (ha). Habitats to be impacted by the development proposals include buildings (u1b5), hardstanding (u1b6) and ruderal vegetation (u81).
- 5.2 Design proposals involve an upward extension for 21 residential dwellings (Class C3) and aesthetic improvements to the existing parade of shops.
- 5.3 Habitats within the proposed development area were assessed as being of limited value to wildlife within the local vicinity with potential to support breeding birds and these species may pose a constraint to works.
- 5.4 No further targeted surveys are recommended for the site.
- 5.5 In addition, a precautionary approach to site clearance in respect to breeding birds is recommended to minimise any adverse impacts on this species group.
- 5.6 Details regarding specific mitigation, including further surveys and precautionary working practices together with habitat enhancement measures are provided below.

Recommendations

Breeding Birds

- 5.7 The on-site buildings provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of bird species. All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 5.8 In order to avoid any potential impact on breeding birds, the demolition of buildings should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season which runs from March to August inclusive⁵, with clearance works possible between September and February. Where this is not possible, an ecologist would need to check the vegetation for active nests and signs of bird breeding activity.
- 5.9 In the event that a nest is found, an exclusion zone around the nest would be established. Works would have to cease within this buffer area until the young birds have fledged.

⁵ It should be noted that this is the main breeding period. Breeding activity may occur outside this period (depending on the particular species and geographical location of the site) and thus due care and attention should be given when undertaking potentially disturbing works at any time of year.

Habitat Retention

- 5.10 All retained trees, including all adjacent off-site trees should be protected in accordance with British Standards (BS 2012) 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. The root protection areas of any retained trees must be left free from excavation and disturbance, and protected during any proposed works. Protection should be in the form of fencing and signs installed for the duration of the works.

Habitat Enhancement

- 5.11 New development offers the opportunity for habitat enhancement in accordance with national and local planning policy and some recommendations are included below.

Control of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

- 5.12 Although it is not illegal to have species listed under the Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is illegal to permit these species to spread and grow in the wild.
- 5.13 We recommend that a member for the Property Care Association Invasive Weed Control Group (PCA IWCG) is contacted to manage the invasive weed Russian Vine.

Bird and Bat Boxes

- 5.14 Additional bird nesting and bat roosting provision could be incorporated into new design proposals. These could either be incorporated into the new building design. Some recommendations are made below as a guide.
- 5.15 Bat roosting opportunities could be provided through the installation of boxes on the outside of the walls or adjacent trees, such as the Schwegler 2F, or other makes of a similar design, such as Chavenage Bat box. There are a range of bat boxes available and these can be selected to suit the development and bat species in the locality.
- 5.16 Bird boxes could be installed on the walls of the new building or in the adjacent trees which could include the following Schwegler bird house or 1B makes, or similar designs from alternative suppliers. If the client is happy for bird boxes to be installed on the walls of the new building then a Schwegler sparrow terrace 1SP could also be used.
- 5.17 Further details of the bird and bat boxes are provided in Appendix F.
- 5.18 Bat boxes should be installed at appropriate locations ideally with south-east, south, or south-west facing aspects at least 3m from ground level. Ideally they need to be exposed to 6-8 hours of direct sunlight, but sheltered from strong winds. If installed on the building, these should ideally be positioned directly below the eaves.
- 5.19 Bird Boxes should be located out of prevailing wind, rain, and strong sunlight, ideally with a clear flight path to the entrance. Ideally they should be installed two to four metres from the ground facing north or north-east.

Wildlife Friendly Pathways

- 5.20 The increase in building can result in ecological areas which are unconnected. Effectively these are ecological islands, and often there is no way for wildlife to migrate to and from these areas. One way to reduce the impact and allow wildlife, including hedgehogs, to migrate across sites is to install wildlife friendly pathways across a site. This can include a range of things such as wildlife corridors, such as hedgerows and scrub or rough grassland corridors, but also installing holes in fences. Wildlife holes, often referred to as hedgehog holes, help wildlife migrate through areas. The holes need to be at least 13cm by 13cm, at ground level.

Compensatory Planting

- 5.21 Additional tree and shrub planting could be incorporated into the landscape proposals to compensate for any removal to facilitate the works. Planting should include a high proportion of native species and be of local provenance where possible. These should be carefully selected to ensure they contain species suitable for the area. Some species of known wildlife value are listed in Appendix E.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The site survey revealed the following habitats:
-  Buildings (u1b5);
 -  Hardstanding (u1b6); and
 -  Ruderal Vegetation (u 81).
- 6.2 The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory designations. The closest statutory site is the South Downs National PARK (SDNP) located approximately 1.2km to the north at its closest point and the survey area does not support any features that contribute to the designation of this site.
- 6.3 No further protected species surveys are recommended for the site.
- 6.4 In addition, a precautionary approach to site clearance in respect to breeding birds is recommended to minimise any adverse impacts on this species group.
- 6.5 It has been recommended that the site is enhanced by introducing some compensatory planting and installing bat and bird boxes.

7. References

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Glossary of Terms

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BRC	Biological Records Centre
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
Habitats Directive	Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside
NNR	National Nature Reserve
Nomenclature	The system of devising of names for plants
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal- formerly referred to as a Phase 1 Habitat Survey
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
PCA IWCG	Property Care Association Invasive Weed Control Group

Figures and Appendices

Appendix A

Habitat Map and Target Notes

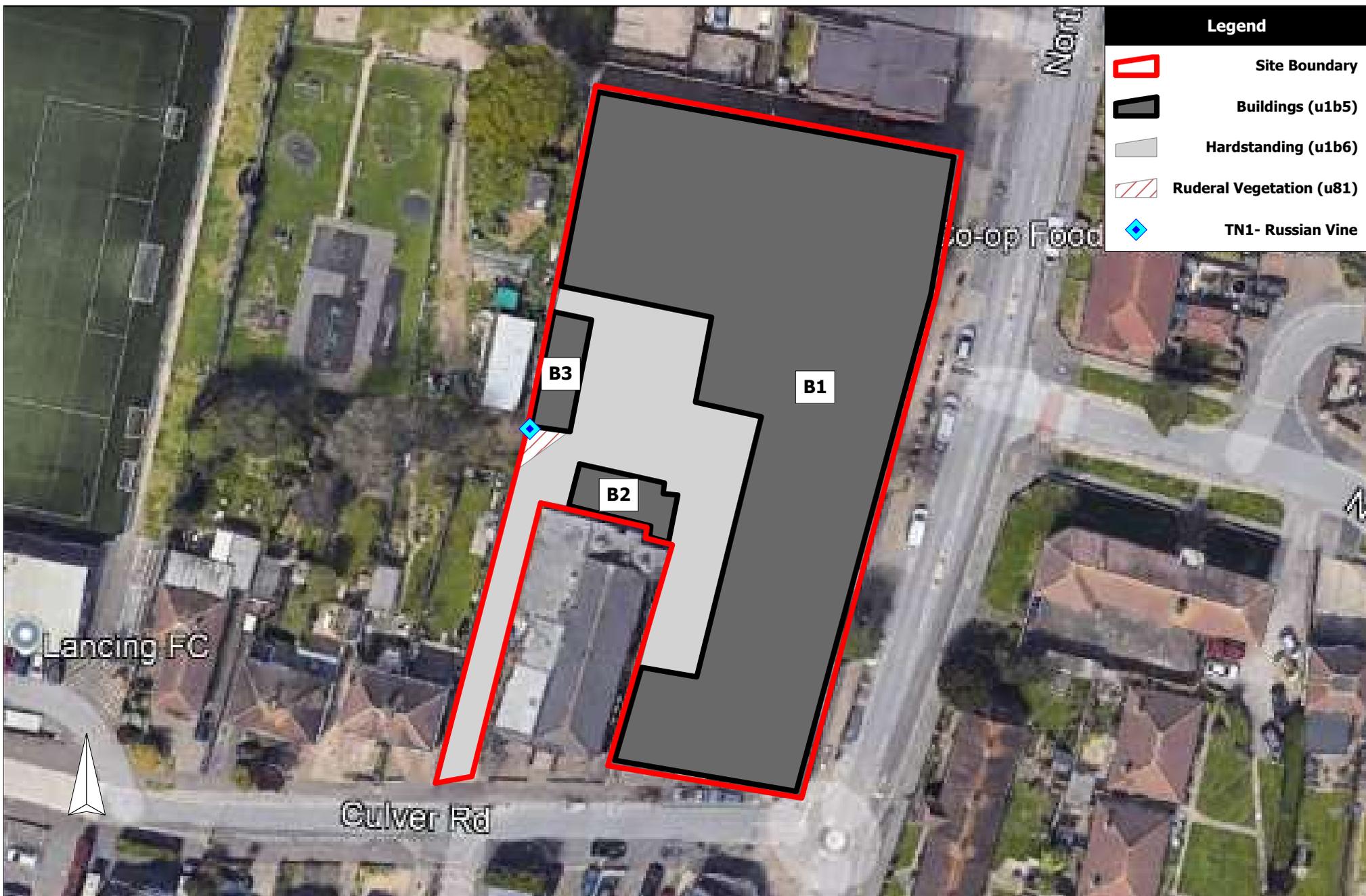


Figure 1: Land at Queens Parade, North Road Habitat Survey Map

Drawn by: AH
 On the: 22/10/2024
 Not to Scale
 Ref: 13249



Phlorum Limited, 12 Hunns Mere Way,
 Woodingdean, Brighton, East Sussex,
 BN2 6AH
 Tel: +44(0)1273 307167
 Web: www.phlorum.com
 Email: info@phlorum.com

Target Notes (TN)

The following features of interest were noted during the survey and have been marked on Figure 1:

-  **TN1 – Russian Vine**

Appendix B

Photographs

3

View of the shops and flats along the eastern boundary facing west



View of the shops and flats along the northeastern boundary facing west



4

Facing south along the eastern boundary



<p>5</p>	<p>The northeast corner of the site</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Access track at the southwest</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>At the back of the site is a small loading/parking bay</p>	



11

Image of the garages present the south of the hardstanding area in the centre of the site



12

View of the garages at the western border with TN1- Russian vine visible



13

The only vegetation on site is in a corner at the west of the site



TN1- Russian vine



Appendix C

Legislation

Legislation

This section contains information pertaining to the legislation and planning policy applicable in Britain. This information is not applicable to Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. Information contained in the following appendix is provided for guidance only.

Species

The objective of the EC Habitats Directive⁶ is to conserve plants and animals which are considered to be rare across Europe. The Directive is transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (formerly The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) and The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and also implements the obligations set out for species protection from the Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds (EC Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

Various amendments have been made since the Wildlife & Countryside Act came into force in 1981. Further details pertaining to alterations of the Act can be found on the following website: www.opsi.gov.uk. Key amendments have been made through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000) and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

There are a number of other legislative Acts affording protection to species and habitats. These include:

-  Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
-  Deer Act 1991;
-  Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
-  Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
-  Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

Badgers

Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992), which consolidated and added to the previous Badger Acts of 1973 and 1991. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

-  cruelly ill-treat a badger, including use of tongs and digging;

⁶ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

- ☞ intentionally or recklessly cause a dog to enter a badger sett;
- ☞ intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett⁷ or any part thereof;
- ☞ intentionally or recklessly disturb⁸ a badger when it is occupying a badger sett;
- ☞ possess or control a dead badger or any part of a badger;
- ☞ sell or offers for sale, possesses, or has under his control, a live badger; and
- ☞ wilfully kill, injure, take, or attempt to kill, injure, or take a badger.

A Development Licence will be required from Natural England for any development works affecting an active badger sett, or to disturb badgers while individuals are occupying the sett. Depending on the nature of the works and the specifics of the sett, badgers could be disturbed by work near the sett even if there is no direct interference or damage to the sett itself. Natural England has issued guidelines on what constitutes a licensable activity. There is no provision in law for the capture of badgers for development purposes and therefore it is not possible to obtain a licence to translocate badgers from one area to another.

Bats

Bats are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This act protects individuals from:

- ☞ intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level);
- ☞ intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection; and
- ☞ selling, offering, or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

In addition, all species of bat are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- ☞ deliberate killing, injuring, or capturing of Schedule 2 species (all bats);
- ☞ deliberate disturbance of bat species as to impair their ability:
 - (i) to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young; and
 - (ii) to hibernate or migrate.

⁷ A badger sett is defined in the legislation as "any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger". This includes seasonally used setts. Natural England (2009) have issued guidance on what is likely to constitute current use of a badger sett: www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/WMLG17_tcm6-11815.pdf

⁸ For guidance on what constitutes disturbance and other licensing queries, see Natural England (2007) Badgers & Development: A Guide to Best Practice and Licensing. www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/badgers-dev-guidance_tcm6-4057.pdf, Natural England (2009) Interpretation of 'Disturbance' in relation to badgers occupying a sett www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/WMLG16_tcm6-11814.pdf, Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Badgers & Development. www.snh.org.uk/publications/online/wildlife/badgersanddevelopment/default.asp and Countryside Council for Wales (undated) Badgers: A Guide for Developers. www.ccw.gov.uk.

- deliberate disturbance of bat species as to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place; and
- keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging, or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part thereof.

A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence issued by Natural England will be required for works liable to affect a bat roost or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake activities listed above. A licence is required to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and monitored.

Breeding Birds

Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended), a wild bird is defined as any bird of a species that is resident in or is a visitor to the European Territory of any member state in a wild state. Game birds, however, are not included in this definition (except for limited parts of the Act). They are covered by the Games Acts, which fully protect them during the closed season.

Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended), all birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Sections 1-8 of the Act and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) take, damage or destroy (or, in Scotland, otherwise interfere with) the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
- have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird, which has been taken in contravention of the Act;
- have in one's possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act;
- use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds;
- have in one's possession or control any bird (dead or alive) unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations; and
- in Scotland only, intentionally or recklessly obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest.

Certain rare species receive additional special protection under Schedule 1 of the Act and Annex 1 of the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC). This affords them protection against:

- intentional or reckless disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young;
- intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young of such a bird;

- in Scotland only, intentional or reckless disturbance whilst lekking; and
- in Scotland only, intentional or reckless harassment.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has a list of birds that are Species of Conservation Concern. These birds are not legally protected but where they are found on site they should be given planning consideration. The criteria for birds listed as amber (medium conservation concern) include:

- historical population decline during 1800-1995, but recovering: population has more than doubled over last 25 years;
- moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years;
- moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years;
- moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years;
- species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (Species of conservation Concern);
- five year mean of breeding pairs in the UK;
- ≥50% of UK breeding population in 10 or fewer sites;
- ≥50% of UK non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites;
- ≥20% of European breeding population in UK; and
- ≥20% of NW European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders) or European (others) non-breeding populations in UK.

Hazel Dormice

The hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) is fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 through its inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- deliberate killing, injuring, or capturing;
- deliberate disturbance as to impair its ability:
 - (i) to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young; and
 - (ii) to hibernate or migrate.
- deliberate disturbance as to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place; and
- keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging, or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part of this species.

The hazel dormouse is also currently protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through its inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, this species is additionally protected from:

- intentional or reckless disturbance;

- intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection; and
- selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence issued by Natural England will be required for works liable to affect dormouse breeding or resting places (N.B. this is usually taken to mean dormouse 'habitat') or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above. The licence will allow derogation from the relevant legislation but will also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and monitored.

Herpetofauna (Reptiles and Amphibians)

The following species receive full protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 2.

- sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*);
- smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*);
- natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*);
- great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*); and
- pool frog (*Pelophylax lessonae*).

Under this legislation, Regulation 41 prohibits:

- deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of species listed on Schedule 2;
- deliberate disturbance of any Schedule 2 species as to impair their ability:
 - (i) to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young; and
 - (ii) to hibernate or migrate.
- deliberate disturbance of any Schedule 2 species as to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- deliberate taking or destroying of the eggs of a Schedule 2 species;
- damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place; and
- keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging, or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part of a species.

With the exception of the pool frog, these species are also currently listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level);
- intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection; and

- ☞ selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

Other native species of herpetofauna are protected solely under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These species include:

- ☞ adder (*Vipera berus*);
- ☞ grass snake (*Natrix natrix*);
- ☞ common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*); and
- ☞ slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*).

Under this legislation, for these species it is prohibited under Section 9(1) & (5) to:

- ☞ intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill or injure these species; or
- ☞ sell, offer, or expose for sale, possess, or transport for purpose of sale these species, or any part thereof.

The following species are listed in respect to Section 9(5) of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which only affords them protection against sale, offering or exposing for sale, possession, or transport for the purpose of sale:

- ☞ common frog (*Rana temporaria*);
- ☞ common toad (*Bufo bufo*);
- ☞ smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*); and
- ☞ palmate newt (*L. helveticus*).

Water Voles

Water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) (= *terrestris*) are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence to:

- ☞ intentionally kill, injure, or take (capture) this species;
- ☞ intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection;
- ☞ intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection; and
- ☞ sell, offer, or expose for sale, or have in his possession or transport for the purpose of sale, any live or dead water vole or part of this species.

Where development works are liable to affect habitats known to support water voles, Natural England must be consulted. All alternative design options must have been explored and communicated to Natural England in order to demonstrate that works have tried to avoid contravening the legislation e.g. the use of alternative sites, appropriate timing of works to avoid times of the year in which water voles are most vulnerable etc. Conservation licences for the capture and translocation of water voles may be issued by Natural England for the purpose of development activities if it can be shown that the

activity has been properly planned and executed and thereby contributes to the conservation of the population.

Otters

Otters (*Lutra lutra*) are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- 🌿 deliberate killing, injuring, or capturing of otters;
- 🌿 deliberate disturbance as to impair their ability:
 - (i) to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young; and
 - (ii) to hibernate or migrate.
- 🌿 deliberate disturbance as to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- 🌿 damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place; and
- 🌿 keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging, or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part of this species.

Otters also receive protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- 🌿 intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level);
- 🌿 intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection; and
- 🌿 selling, offering, or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence issued by Natural England will be required for works liable to affect breeding or resting places or for activities likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above. The licence is to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and monitored.

Wild Mammals

All wild mammals are protected against intentional acts of cruelty under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- 🌿 mutilate, kick, beat, nail, or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

To avoid possible contravention of this legislation, due care and attention should be taken when carrying out works that have the potential to impact any wild mammal as described above.

Plants

Wild plants are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence for an 'unauthorised' person to intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) uproot wild plants. An authorised person can be the owner of the land on which the action is taken, or anybody authorised by them.

Some rare plant species also receive full protection under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This prohibits:

- 🌿 intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) picking, uprooting, or destruction of any wild Schedule 8 species (or seed or spore attached to any such wild plant in Scotland only); and
- 🌿 selling, offering, or exposing for sale, or possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale, any wild live or dead Schedule 8 plant species or parts.

In addition to the legislation outlined above, several plant species are fully protected under Schedule 5 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Regulation 45 makes it an offence to:

- 🌿 deliberately pick, collect, or destroy a wild Schedule 5 species; and
- 🌿 be in possession of, or control, transport, sell, or exchange any wild live or dead Schedule 5 species or anything derived from it.

A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence issued by Natural England will be required for works liable to affect species of plant listed under The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017.

Invasive Plant Species

Certain plants are listed on Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to Section 14(2). Species include:

- 🌿 Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*);
- 🌿 giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*);
- 🌿 Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*);
- 🌿 certain species of rhododendron (*Rhododendron* sp.); and
- 🌿 certain species of cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* sp.).

Species listed are non-natives whose establishment or spread in the wild may be detrimental to native wildlife. Inclusion on Part II of Schedule 9 therefore makes it an offence to:

- 🌿 plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

This legislation makes it is an offence to cause species listed to grow in the wild. Therefore, if they are present on site and development activities have the potential to cause the further spread of these species to new areas, it will be necessary to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent this.

Habitats

International Statutory Designations

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Terrestrial SPAs are afforded protection by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 ((as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019) and offshore SPAs are afforded protection under The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended by EU Exit Regulations 2019). SPAs are designated under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds). SPAs are areas recognised as important habitat for rare and migratory birds within the European Union (rare birds as listed on Annex I of the Directive).
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): These areas are designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora), designated for the habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive under the same regulations as detailed for SPAs.
- Ramsar sites: These areas are wetlands designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971). Wetlands can include areas of marsh, fen, water, or peatland and may be natural or artificial, permanent, or temporary. Ramsar sites are underpinned through prior notification as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and as such receive statutory protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

National Statutory Designations

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): These sites are designated by the countryside agencies (for example Natural England) under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Prior to 1981 these were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Improved mechanisms for the protection of SSSIs have also been introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales).
- National Nature Reserves: These sites are also designated by the countryside agencies under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Local Statutory Designations

- 1949 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs): These sites are designated by local authorities under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are sites recognised for their wildlife or geological interest at a local level and are managed for nature conservation.

Non-Statutory Designations

- Local Wildlife Sites: Areas of local conservation interest may be designated by local authorities. The terminology for these sites varies depending on the county. They can be called Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI's), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Listed Wildlife Sites (LWS), Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS), and Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs). The designation criteria may vary between counties. Local Wildlife Sites are of material consideration when planning applications are being determined.
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997: These have been compiled to protect 'important' countryside hedgerows from damage or removal. A hedgerow is considered important if it (a) has existed for 30 years or more; and (b) satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations. Under the Regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. Hedgerows covered by these regulations include those on or adjacent to common land, SSSIs (including all terrestrial SACs, NNRs and SPAs), LNRs, land used for agriculture or forestry, and land used for the keeping or breeding of horses, ponies, or donkeys.

National Planning Policy

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) and (2023) replaces the former NPPF 2021, 2019, 2018 and 2012, and the former PPS9 document and emphasises the need for sustainable development. The Framework specifies the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes, biodiversity and geodiversity, identify 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 biodiversity; wildlife corridors; and stepping that connect them. Plus partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration, or creation. The Framework aims to promote the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks, and the protection and recovery of priority species. In determining a planning application, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from adverse harm; appropriate mitigation or compensation measures are in place where significant harm cannot be avoided; opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments are encouraged; and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.

Local Planning Policy

Adur Local Plan (2017)

- 🌿 Policy 30: Green Infrastructure.
- 🌿 Policy 31: Biodiversity

Policy 30: Green Infrastructure. Green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced and access to it improved where necessary and appropriate. When considering green infrastructure provision, the ecological characteristics of the area will be taken into account in order to maximise the biodiversity benefits. Developments will be required to incorporate elements of green infrastructure into their overall design, and/or enhance the quality of existing Green Infrastructure as appropriate. The Council will work with relevant partners and developers to facilitate the creation of an integrated network of green infrastructure within and beyond Adur. A Green Infrastructure Strategy will be produced by the Council and developments will be expected to comply with this document. All new major developments will need to demonstrate how they will contribute to the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy both at site level and with regard to the wider green infrastructure network. The planting of trees will be supported and encouraged and Tree Preservation Orders will be made to ensure that healthy locally important trees that make a positive contribution to the streetscene are protected.

Policy 31: Biodiversity. All development should ensure the protection, conservation, and where possible, enhancement of biodiversity, including nationally and locally designated sites, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs), marine habitats and other Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat areas, wildlife corridors, and protected and priority species. If significant harm cannot be avoided (by locating development on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), then such harm should be adequately mitigated. Where it cannot be adequately mitigated then such harm must be compensated for. Where it cannot be compensated for, then planning permission should be refused. Nationally designated sites: Proposed developments which would adversely affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (individually or cumulatively) will not normally be permitted. Exceptions will only be made where the benefits of the development on the particular site clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts. Local Designations: Proposals for development in, or likely to have an adverse effect (directly or indirectly) on a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Sites (including ancient woodlands or wildlife corridors) or Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that reasons for the proposal outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site/feature. Where appropriate, the Authority will use planning conditions or obligations to provide appropriate enhancement and site management measures, and where impacts are unavoidable, mitigation or compensatory measures. Where relevant, new development adjacent to the Adur Estuary or the coast will have to demonstrate how it is addressing the issue of coastal squeeze.

Appendix D

Plant Species List

Plant Species List

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and British Bryological Society (BBS) Special Volume No. 5 *English Names for British Bryophytes* for bryophyte species. Vascular plant common names follow the Botanical Society of the British Isles 2003 list, published on its web site, www.bsbi.org.uk. The plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat survey and does not constitute a full botanical survey.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale as follows:

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare, L = locally

Key to qualifiers: G = garden origin, P = planted, Y = young, S = seedling or sucker, T = tree, H = hedge, W = water, ? = identification uncertain.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed	R	
<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>	Russian vine	F	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	r	

Appendix E

Suggested Compensatory Planting

Suggested Compensatory Planting

This section provides a list of plants which are of proven value to wildlife. The list is not exhaustive and merely provides a guide for suggested planting for wildlife value. Planting should be tailored on a site by site basis. The list includes some native and ornamental species however the emphasis should always be on the use of predominantly native species.

N = Native, NN = Non-native.

This list includes species that may be harmful if handled or ingested. Schedule 9 (Part 2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) includes a list of invasive plants, including aquatic species, that should always be avoided in planting schemes.

Large Shrubs

Hedge veronica/Hebe (*Veronica* spp.) NN

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) N

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) N

Rose: dog rose (*Rosa canina*), field rose (*R. arvensis*), burnet rose (*R. pimpinellifolia*) N

California lilac (*Ceanothus* spp.): (*C. arborea*) NN

Wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) N

Common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) N

Barberry (*Berberis* spp.): (*B. darwinii*), (*B. thunbergii*), (*B. x stenophylla*) NN

Daisy Bush (*Olearia* spp.): (*O. x hastii*), (*O. macrodonta*), (*O. traversii*) NN

Firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*) NN

Hazel: (*Corylus avellana*) N, (*C. maxima*) NN

Viburnum (*Viburnum* spp.): wayfaring tree (*V. lantana*) N, guelder rose (*V. opulus*) N, laurustinus (*V. tinus*) NN. Note: *V. lantana* can become invasive in more open habitats.

Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) N

Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) N

Escallonia (*Escallonia macrantha*) NN

Hardy fuchsia (*Fuchsia magellanica*) NN

Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) N

Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) N

Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*) N

Yew (*Taxus baccata*) N

Trees

Cherry (*Prunus* spp.): wild cherry (*P. avium*), bird cherry (*P. padus*), domestic plum (*P. domestica*) N, or cherry plum (*P. cerasifera*) NN

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) N

Apple (*Malus* spp.): edible apple (*M. domestica*), crab apple (*M. sylvestris*) N

Pear (*Pyrus* spp.): edible pear (*P. communis*) NN

Small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) N

Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) N

Yew (*Taxus baccata*) N

Black poplar (*Populus nigra*) N

Foxglove tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) NN

Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) N

Climbers

Jasmine (*Jasminum* spp.): summer jasmine (*J. officinale*), winter jasmine (*J. nodiflorum*) NN

Ivy (*Hedera helix*) N

Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*) NN

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.): (*L. periclymenum*) N

Clematis (*Clematis* spp.) NN

Hop (*Humulus lupulus*) N

Firethorn (*Pyracantha atalantioides*) NN

Bulbs

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) N

Squill species (*Scilla* spp.) N/NN

Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*) N

Winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) E

Crocus species (*Crocus* spp.) NN

Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) N

Onion species (*Allium* spp.) N/NN. Note: *Allium triquetrum* (three cornered leek) and *Allium paradoxum* (few-flowered leek) are Schedule 9 invasive plant species.

Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) N

Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) N

Appendix F

Bird and Bat Box Designs

Bird and Bat Box Designs

Bird Boxes

Example	Type	Dimension D x W x H (cm)	Target Species	Location
	Schwegler Nest Box 1B Hole-fronted 26mm entrance hole	16 x 16 x 23	Multi-purpose, including: blue-, marsh-, coal-, and crested tit, and possibly wren. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to the smaller entrance hole.	Suitable walls or semi-mature/mature trees and shrubs; attached to a tree trunk or hung from branches. Ideal points include discrete areas away from predators, such as against walls, plant, and metal supports.
	Schwegler Bird House 32mm entrance hole	15 x 21 x 33	Multi-purpose, including: great-, blue-, marsh-, and coal tit, redstart, nuthatch, pied flycatcher, and sparrows.	Fixed to a semi-mature/mature tree trunk, wall or fence using the hanging bracket on the back. Between 1.5 m and 3 m high, and should be sited higher if area has a particularly high cat population.

Example	Type	Dimension D x W x H (cm)	Target Species	Location
	Schwegler Sparrow Terrace 1SP	20 x 43 x 24.5	House sparrow. It may also occasionally attract tits, redstarts, and spotted flycatchers.	<p>In an elevated position such as on post/platform within dense shrub/tree planting or on top of lighting columns. Alternatively, they could be attached to the side of a building.</p> <p>The terrace can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds, and factories. Due to its weight (15kg), it is not suitable for fences or garden sheds. Ideally place the terrace two metres or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided or install directly into the wall. Cleaning is not necessary. The front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.</p>

Bat Boxes

Example	Type	Dimension D x W x H (cm)	Target Species	Location
	<p>2F Schwegler Bat Box (General Purpose) with or without Double Front Panel</p>	<p>16 x 16 x 33</p>	<p>Without panel: Particularly successful with brown long-eared bat. Also used by noctule.</p> <p>With panel: Ideal for crevice-dwelling species: pipistrelles, Myotis species (particularly Daubenton's), Leisler's, and serotine.</p>	<p>On trees or buildings and at a height of 3 to 6m.</p> <p>In open sunny positions and in groups of 3 to 5 facing different directions.</p> <p>Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost site they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.</p>
	<p>Chavenage Bat Box</p>	<p>10 x 18 x 38</p>	<p>Small crevice-dwelling bats: e.g. pipistrelles.</p>	<p>On trees in gardens or woodland and also on house walls. 2.5 - 5m high on a building, mature tree, or vegetation line (trees/tall hedge) or on a feeding/flight route in partial daytime sun.</p> <p>Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost site they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.</p>

Appendix G

Priority Habitat Map(s)

Priority Habitat Maps



Image 3; Priority grassland habitat in the wider surroundings. Site boundary is shown in red. A 2km search buffer is shown in red.

- Good quality semi-improved grassland
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal and Floodplain Grazing
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Calcareous Grassland

(Magic, 2024)

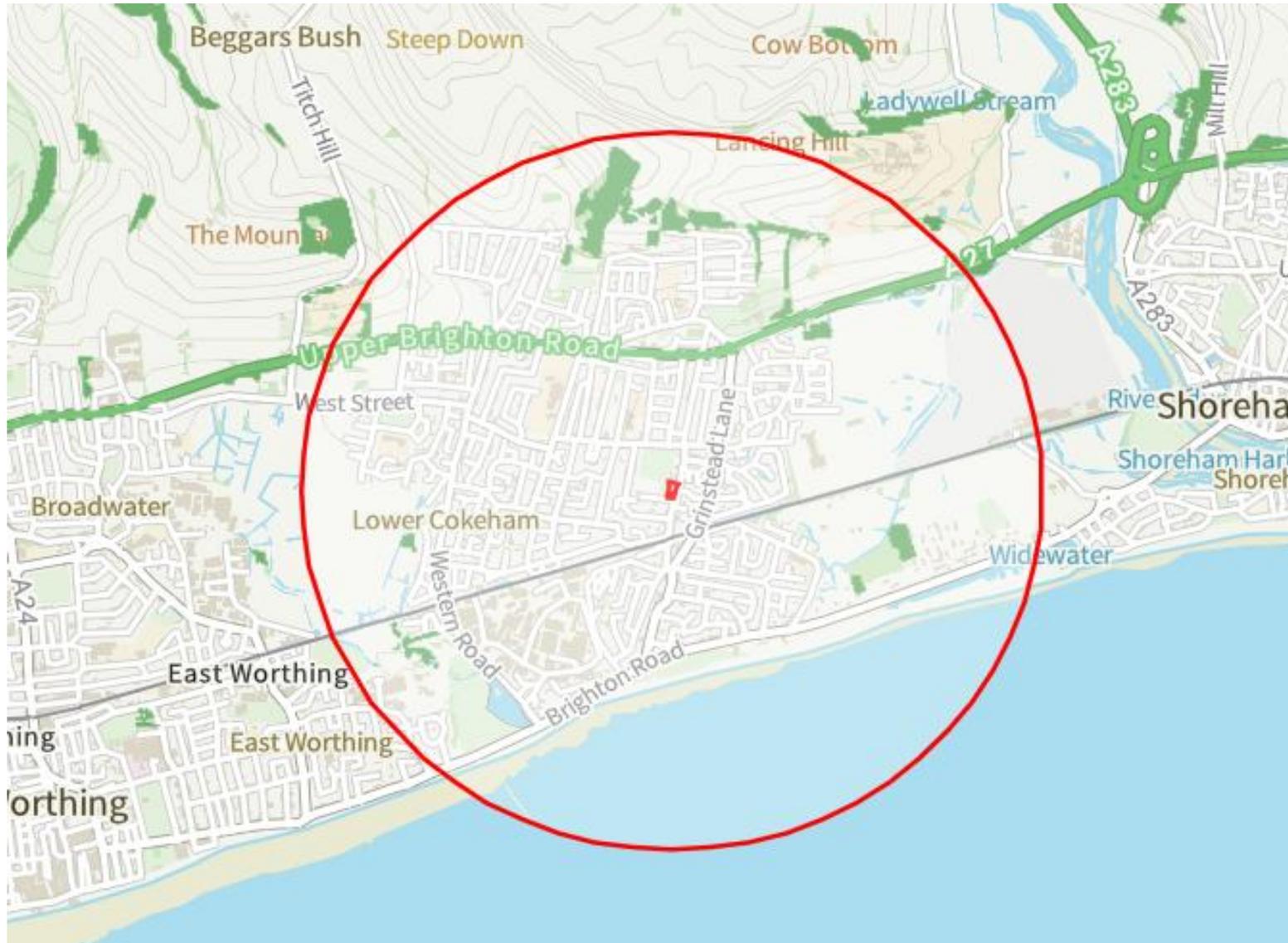


Image 4; Priority deciduous woodland habitat in the wider surroundings. Site boundary is shown in red. A 2km search buffer is shown in red.

■ Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)

(Magic, 2024)



Image 5; Priority other woodland habitat in the wider surroundings. Site boundary is shown in red. A 2km search buffer is shown in red.

- Traditional Orchards
 - Woodpasture and Parkland BAP
- (Magic, 2024)

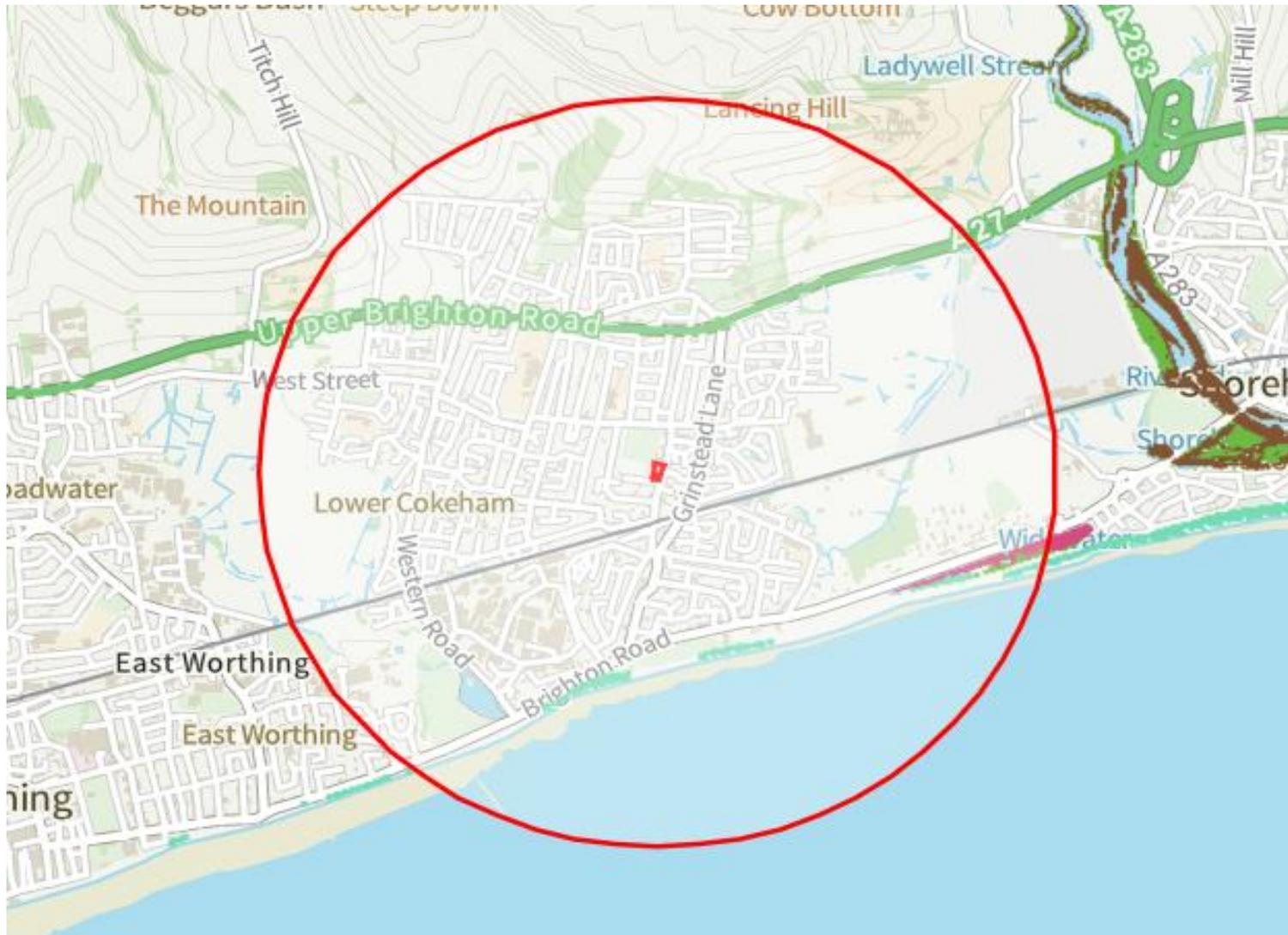


Image 6; Priority coastal habitat in the wider surroundings. Site boundary is shown in red. A 2km search buffer is shown in red.

- Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal Saltmarsh (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Mudflats (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Saline Lagoons (England)

(Magic, 2024)



Phlorum Limited

Head Office & Registered Office:

Unit 12
Hunns Mere Way
Woodingdean
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 6AH
T: 01273 307 167

Northern Office:

Ground Floor
Adamson House
Towers Business Park
Wilmslow Road
Didsbury
Manchester
M20 2YY
T: 0161 955 4250

Western Office:

One Caspian Point
Pierhead Street
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF10 4DQ
T: 029 2092 0820

info@phlorum.com
www.phlorum.com

Registered in England & Wales. Reg No. 4967256