

## ECOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE

<i>HCCET Reference</i>	19.0485	<i>Client Reference</i>	C.J008981
<i>Site</i>	Hambledon Road, Waterlooville	<i>Client</i>	Hampshire County Council Engineering Consultancy
<i>Survey Dates:</i>		<i>Report Date:</i>	
30/08/19		03/10/2019	
<i>Surveyor: Jennifer Simpson</i>		<i>Report Status:</i>	DRAFT
<i>Written by: Jennifer Simpson</i>		<i>Reviewed by:</i>	
<i>Authorised by:</i>		<i>Client approved by:</i>	

### 1. Introduction

This Ecology Technical Note report sets out the methods, findings and conclusions of the ecological assessment work carried out at Hambledon Road, Waterlooville to support the proposed installation of a toucan crossing on Hambledon Road, just south of the Milton Road roundabout and adjacent to the McDonald's restaurant on Brambles Business Park development site. The site is centred on grid reference SU 6764 1013. An aerial map showing the location of the works is shown in **Figure 1**, plans for works are shown in **Appendix 1, Figure A1**.



**Figure 1:** Aerial map showing the location of the proposed works (green dot)

## **2. *Methods***

### **2.1. *Desk-Based Assessment***

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 (the Zone of Influence (ZoI)). The initial review considered the likelihood of particular ecological receptors being present at the site or nearby (within relevant ZoI). Where this was confidently concluded that a particular receptor is likely absent, these were not considered further.

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.

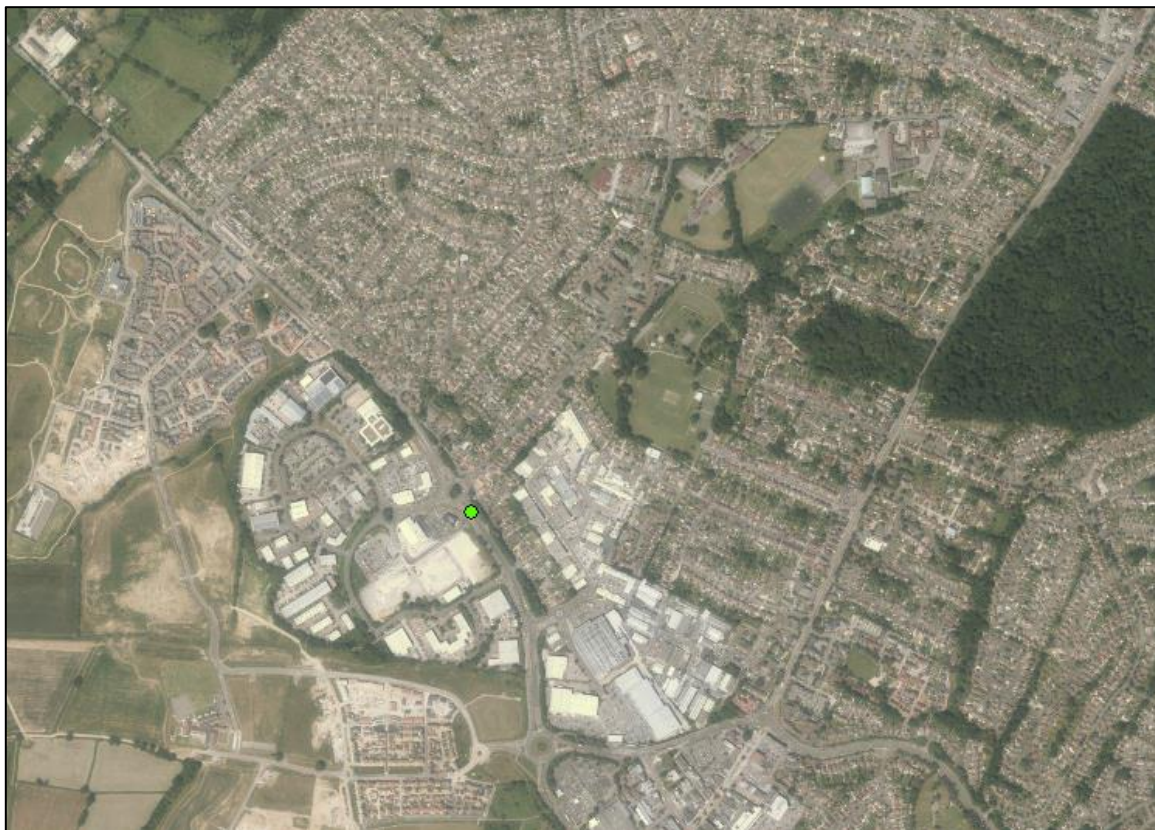
## 2.2. Field survey

Field survey work was carried out on 6 August 2019. The survey entailed a single surveyor, Jennifer Simpson, Assistant Ecologist, undertaking a methodical investigation of all areas of the site. The aims of this were to assess the presence and value of any habitats and vegetation at the site, and to identify the presence of, or habitat considered suitable for supporting, legally-protected species. Species considered during the survey work included badger *Meles meles*, bat roosts, bat foraging habitat, hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius*, breeding birds, reptiles, amphibians, water vole, otter, and notable plants and notable invertebrates.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Desk-Based Assessment Findings

**Figure 2**, below, shows the location of the site and its wider ecological context. This shows that the site is set within an urban area with scattered tree line corridors. A small area of woodland is located north east of the site and arable farmland to the south west.



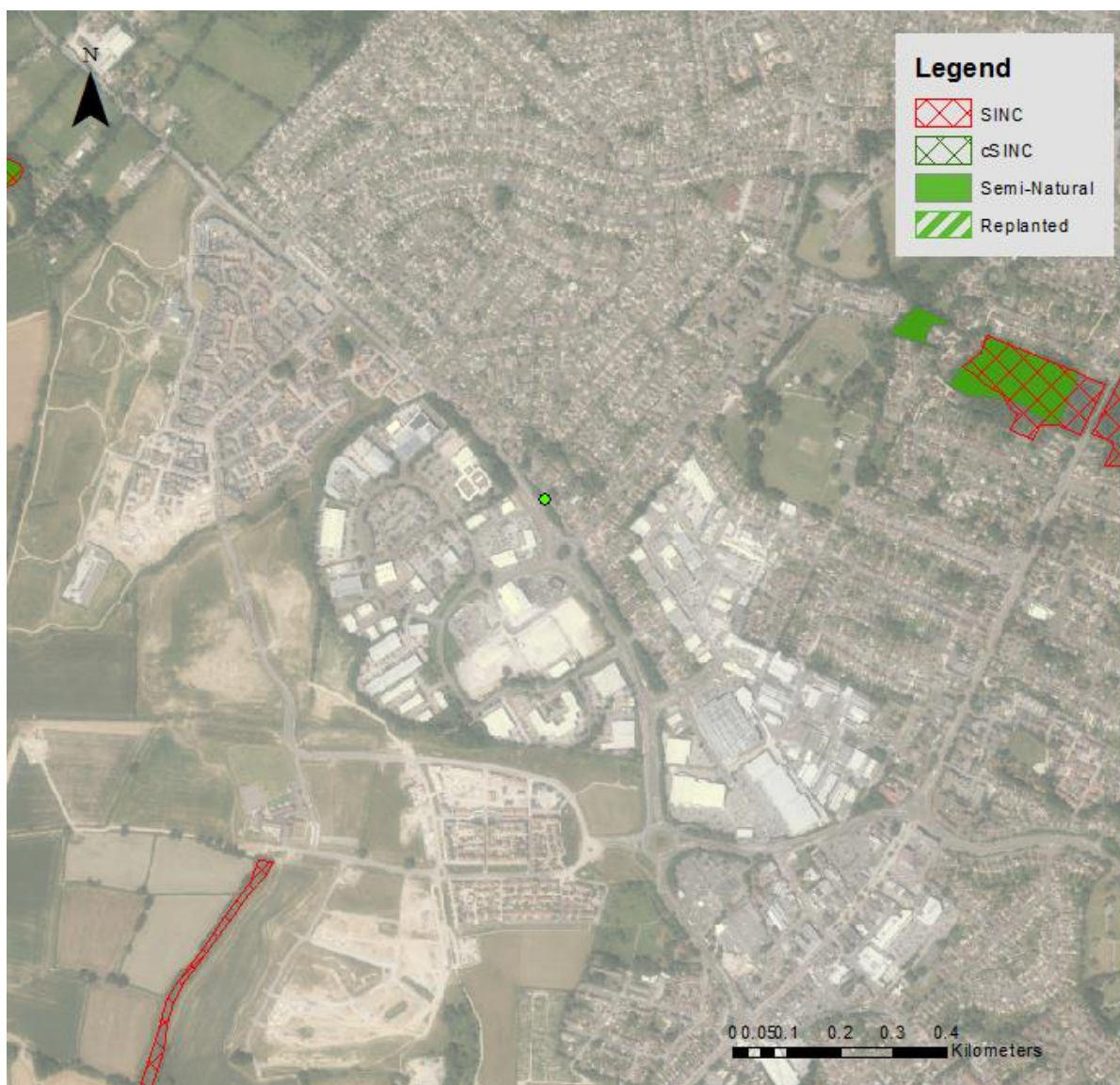
**Figure 2:** Site at Hambleton Road, Waterlooville and surrounding area (green dot)

The site is located along the carriageway of Hambleton Road (B2150), opposite McDonalds. The site is set to the west of the town of Waterloo.

The surroundings are residential housing and associated gardens and commercial buildings. An area of scrub and tall ruderals is present immediately south of the proposed crossing location.

### Designated Sites

**Figure 3**, below, shows the designated sites at and around the site.



**Figure 3:** Site (green dot) and surrounding landscape showing designated sites

There are two locally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and an areas of woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) within 1km

of the site. Details and locations of designated sites within 1km of the site are shown in **Appendix 2, Table A1** and **Figure A2**.

### Protected and Notable Species

**Table A2** in **Appendix 2** shows the results of the protected and notable species data within 1km of the site.

The desk study returned records of bats, common reptiles and hazel dormice within 1km of the site.

## 3.2. *Field survey findings*

### Site Description

The main habitats present are shown in the habitat map at **Figure A3, Appendix 3**<sup>1</sup>.

The site is a linear section of carriageway which comprises tarmac hardstanding. Habitats adjacent to the carriageway comprise amenity grassland, scattered trees and associated scrub understorey.

### Habitats and Vegetation

Amenity grassland: The verges adjacent to the carriageway are predominantly semi-improved acid grassland with a short sward height (**Figure 4**). Species include annual meadow-grass *Poa annua*, perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, daisy *Bellis perennis*, dandelion *Taraxacum* agg. and yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.

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<sup>1</sup> This map is based on the JNCC Phase 1 habitat mapping methodology (JNCC, 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit*; JNCC, Peterborough). The standard Phase 1 habitat mapping method is designed for larger-scale mapping and is less suited to smaller-scale domestic type sites. This map should be seen as indicative only.



**Figure 4:** Amenity grassland forming the verge adjacent to the carriageway

Scattered trees and scrub associated: Adjacent to the site, beyond the amenity grassland is a small area of semi-natural mixed woodland with scrub and bracken understory (see **Figure 5**). Species include pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, field maple *Acer campestre*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, lime *Tilia sp.*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and crack willow *Salix fragilis*. Scrub understory is predominantly bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., and ivy *Hedera helix*. Occasional nettle *Urtica dioica* is also present.



**Figures 5:** Scattered trees and associated scrub to the east of the carriageway

### Species

The desk study revealed a number of notable and protected species within the search area, these include bats, common reptiles and hazel dormice.

Bats: There are a number of records of bat within 1 km of the site including common and soprano pipistrelles, serotine, brown-long eared and Whiskered/Brandt's Bat. However, these are not in close proximity to the site and are not considered relevant to the site and proposal, which is limited in scale.

Reptiles: The desk study returned records of slow worm from field observations.

Review of aerial imagery and GIS data shows no waterbodies within 1km of the site. The site contains a limited area of habitat suitable for supporting common reptiles

including scattered trees with associated scrub understory. The habitats adjacent to the site are considered to offer **low suitability for supporting common reptiles**.

Dormice: There are a few records of hazel dormice within 1 km of the site. However, these are not in close proximity to the site and the site lacks connective habitat to the areas where the dormouse records were returned. These records are not considered relevant to the site and proposal, which is limited in scale.

## **4. Discussion**

### **4.1. Legislation**

Many species of animal are legally protected under both domestic or international law (the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)<sup>2</sup> and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>3</sup> respectively).

With reference to bats 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.

### **4.2. Impact assessment and recommendations**

The following sections set out the likely impacts to a range of habitats and species considered during the desk-based assessment and field work.

The works comprise:

- Construction of a toucan crossing
- Existing gullies to be cleared and jetted and new gullies to be installed
- Relocating existing lamp columns
- Relocation of existing bus shelter

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>



### Habitats and Vegetation

There will be a small loss of amenity grassland on the verge, considered to be of negligible ecological value. Considering that this area of grassland is isolated, there is considered to be negligible impacts to habitats of ecological importance.

The adjacent scattered trees and scrub have some ecological value, that if lost to the development would result in a loss of an ecological feature and habitat for wildlife. However, the works are limited in nature and only a small amount of vegetation removal will occur. This will not adversely impact the structure of the habitat.

### Species

Scattered trees and scrub is a suitable habitat for supporting a range of bird species. It is possible that bird will be affected by the clearance of vegetation, however, as this is limited to a small amount of vegetation, the risk to nesting birds is considered low.

The works will not affect any habitat suitable for supporting bats, hazel dormouse, reptiles, or any other notable plant or animals species.

### *4.3. Conclusions and recommendations*

The desktop study has identified that there will be no significant ecological impacts resulting from the semi-improved grassland on the verge and overhanging vegetation. The proposed work has low potential to impact nesting birds. As such the following measures should be followed to avoid impacts to protected species.

- It is advisable to carry out any excavation works within 5m of the vegetation outside of the bird nesting season, which is generally seen as extending from March to the end of August, although may extend longer depending on local conditions. However, if work is scheduled during this time then a thorough, careful and quiet examination of the vegetation within 5m of the works must be carried out before work starts. If occupied nests are present then work must stop, and building work recommence once the nest becomes unoccupied of its own accord.
- The net loss of vegetation is very small, however where opportunity exists it is recommended that new woody species are planted to compensate for those

removed to ensure no net loss of biodiversity as a result of highway improvements.

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 need to be undertaken.

# 1. Appendix 1 – Proposed works

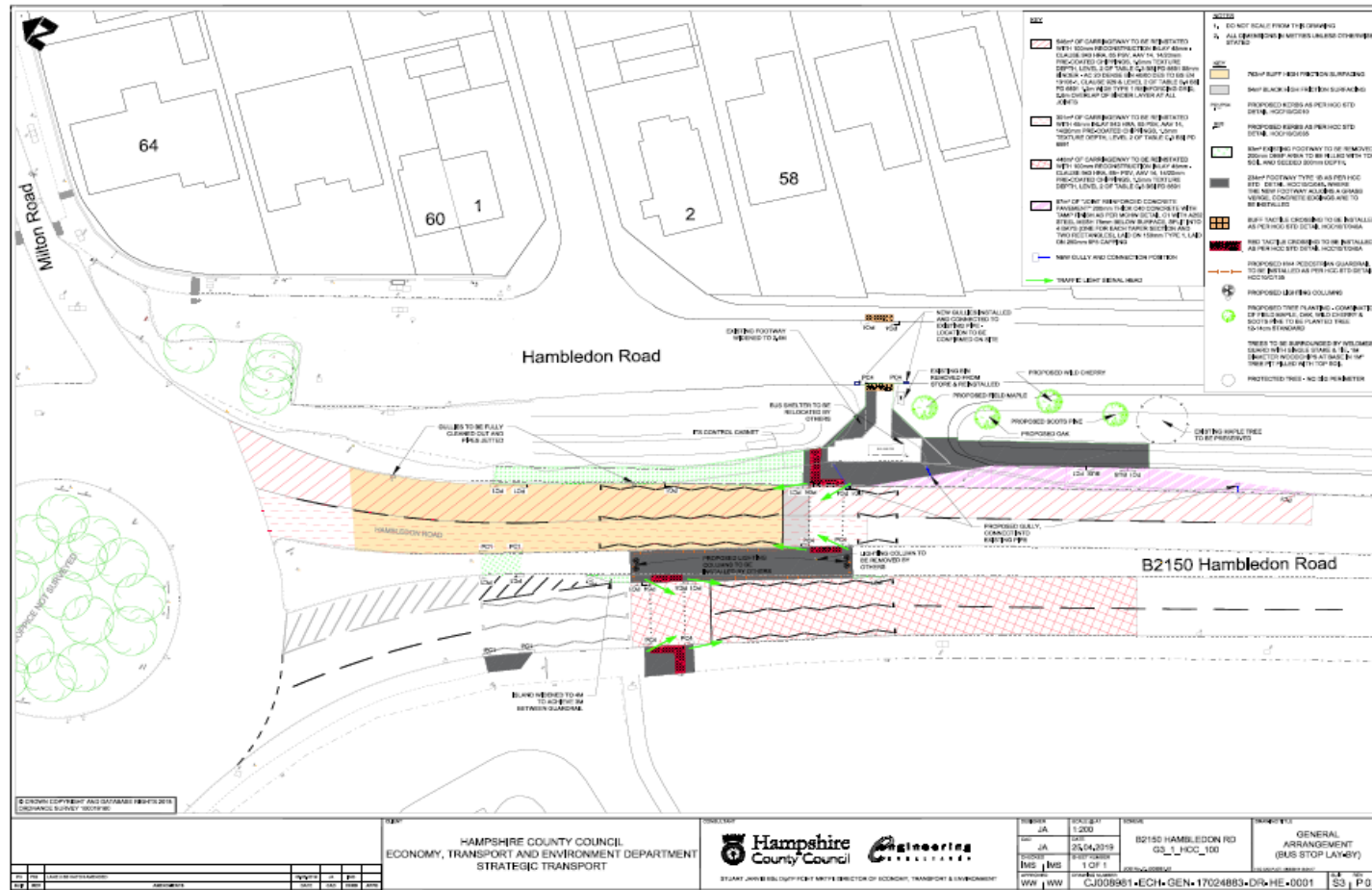


Figure A1: Hambleton Road Detailed Design

## 2. Appendix 2 – Desk-based assessment findings

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**Table A1:** Designated sites located within 1.0km of Hambledon Road, Waterlooville

Site Name	Reason for Designation	Distance and Direction from Site
<i>Internationally-designated sites</i>		
<i>Nationally-designated sites</i>		
<i>Locally-designated sites</i>		

**Figure A2:** Map of nearby designated sites and 1km search area (red circle) around site (orange line)

**Table A2:** Protected and Notable species located within 1.0km of the site

Common name	Taxon name	Details	Distance and direction from site
<i>Bats</i>			
<i>Non-Bats</i>			
<i>Amphibians</i>			

### 3. Appendix 3 – Field survey Findings

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*Figure A3 Phase 1 Habitat Map*