

**PORTSMOUTH GOLF CENTRE, BURRFIELDS  
ROAD, PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE**

**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Final Document**

May 2021

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Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Protected Species Surveys and Licensing • NVC • EclA • HRA • Management Plans  
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Hazel Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species

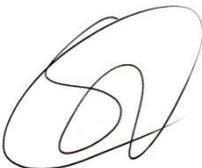
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### ECOSA Quality Assurance Record

This report has been produced in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing 2017 (CIEEM, 2017). The Ecological Impact Assessment and report has been prepared in line with the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (CIEEM, 2018) and survey work has been undertaken in line with references within CIEEM's Source of Survey Guidance (CIEEM, 2017).

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**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ecological Survey and Assessment Ltd (ECOSA) have been appointed by Edward Caush and Associates to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment to support a planning application for the installation of fencing at Portsmouth Golf Centre. The site is located along the eastern coastline of Portsmouth, Hampshire and comprises a golf driving range, part of a larger golf course with scattered grassland parcels and encompassing the Great Salterns Lake. The proposals entail the replacement and heightening of the fencing along the eastern and western edges of the driving range.

The main findings of the Ecological Impact Assessment are:

- The site is located west of four designated sites for nature conservation including Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar and SPA, Solent Maritime SAC and Langstone Harbour SSSI.
- The Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) sites P19A ('Low Use Area'), and a small section of P19D ('Primary Support Area') fall within the site boundary area. The survey area additionally included Site P19E ('Low Use Area'), which lies adjacent to the eastern site boundary, and P19B ('Secondary Support Area') located to the south and west of the site. Seven other SWBGS sites lie within one kilometre of the site.
- Desktop study data recorded usage of P19A on two occasions by brent goose with a maximum count of four individuals recorded on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- Wintering bird surveys undertaken between November 2020 and March 2021 recorded brent goose using P19A, P19E and P19B and a single record of an oystercatcher using P19E. Brent goose were recorded feeding in P19A on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021, involving 94 feeding individuals. Disturbance events were much reduced at the site and surrounding area during the late winter period because of the cessation of golfing imposed by COVID-19 restrictions.
- Brent goose were recorded flying into P19A from the north, via an area unaffected by the new or existing fence. Brent goose were also recorded flying into P19A from the east over a treeline which is taller than the fencing proposed to be installed. The treeline, to be retained as part of the proposal, is located immediately adjacent to the existing fencing which will be removed to install the new fencing. Given these factors the availability of P19A for feeding brent goose will be unaffected by the proposals.

- To prevent possible disturbance to feeding brent goose the fencing should be installed between April and October, inclusive, when brent goose are not present in the UK.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been appointed by Edward Caush and Associates to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment to support a planning application for the fencing replacement works required at Portsmouth Golf Centre, Burrfields Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO3 5HH (hereafter referred to as the site).

Previous surveys were undertaken by ECOSA during 2008 to assess the usage of the site by dark-bellied brent goose (hereafter referred to a 'brent goose') in advance of the erection of the existing fence (ECOSA, 2008). The 2008 wintering bird surveys did not record usage of the driving range by brent geefse, however, did record them using other areas on the golf course. Given the time that has elapsed since the previous surveys were undertaken and revised fencing plans, updating wintering bird surveys were required to reassess the usage of the driving range and wider golf course by waders and brent goose.

### **1.2 The Site**

The site is located along the eastern coastline of Portsmouth, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 6738 0196 (**Map 1**).

The site comprises a golf driving range situated within a wider golf course. A treeline boundary runs along the eastern site boundary, whilst the golf centre buildings are located along the northern site boundary. Within the wider golf course, there are scattered grassland parcels and scattered trees. The Great Salterns Lake is situated south of the driving range.

The wider landscape comprises Langstone Harbour to the east, residential development to the south and west, and industrial park to the north. The M27 motorway is situated approximately 2.2 kilometres north of the site.

### **1.3 Aims and Scope of Report**

The information within this report is based on a desktop study and relevant species-specific surveys carried out between November 2020 and March 2021. The report describes the species (hereafter referred to as ecological features) within the site's Zone of Influence (Paragraph 3.2) and provides a detailed assessment of potential ecological effects of the proposed development of the site. It identifies the need for any measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for significant adverse effects<sup>1</sup> ecological

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this assessment a 'significant' adverse effect is one which will have an adverse effect on the ecological feature at the site level or higher.

features and outlines enhancements to the site's ecology to be implemented as part of the development. The objectives of the assessment are:

- To provide baseline information on ecological features within the site's Zone of Influence and determine the importance of these features;
- To assess, characterise and quantify the effects on ecological features, including cumulative effects, and identify significant effects in the absence of any mitigation;
- To set out measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate for significant ecological effects in accordance with the 'mitigation hierarchy'<sup>2</sup>;
- To provide an assessment of the significance of any residual effects;
- To set out the requirements for any post-construction monitoring.

#### 1.4 Site Proposals

The proposals entail the removal of the current 6 metre high fencing around the perimeter of the driving range to facilitate the erection of a new 12 metre high ball stop fence line along the eastern and western site boundaries.

The Ecological Impact Assessment is based on the proposals plan produced by Edward Caush and Associates, 'Location Plan as Proposed', dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (Drawing No. 20:2072:L(2-)101) (**Appendix 1**).

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<sup>2</sup> In accordance with CIEEM Ecological Impact Assessment guidance (CIEEM, 2018) a sequential process is adopted to address impacts on features of ecological interest, with 'Avoidance' prioritised at the top of the hierarchy and Compensation/Enhancement' at the bottom. This is often referred to as the 'mitigation hierarchy'.

## 2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

### 2.1 Introduction

This section summarises the planning policy in relation to ecology and biodiversity within the Portsmouth City Council administrative area. This information is then used to assess the compliance of the scheme in relation to relevant planning policy and where necessary make recommendations for mitigation, compensation, and enhancements (see Section 1.0).

### 2.2 National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's requirements for the planning system in England. The original document was published in 2012 with a revised NPPF published in February 2019. A number of sections of the NPPF are relevant when taking into account development proposals and the environment. As set out within Paragraph 11 of the NPPF "*Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development*". However, Paragraph 177 goes on to state that "*The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.*".

The NPPF sets out that development proposals should not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement. Paragraph 170 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by "*...minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...*".

A number of principles are set out in Paragraph 175, including that where harm cannot be adequately avoided then it should be mitigated for, or as a last resort, compensated for. Where impacts occur on nationally designated sites, the benefits must clearly outweigh any adverse impact and incorporating biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged. Specific reference is also made to the protection of irreplaceable habitats<sup>3</sup>, including ancient woodland<sup>4</sup>. Where loss to irreplaceable habitats occurs planning permission would normally be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and an adequate compensation strategy is in place. Paragraph

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<sup>3</sup> The NPPF defines irreplaceable habitats as "*Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.*"

<sup>4</sup> Natural England defines ancient woodland as "An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)."

175 also states “*development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity*”. Protection of sites proposed as SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites or acting as compensation for SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, should receive the same protection as habitat sites.

In addition to the NPPF, Circular 06/05 provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Paragraph 98 states “*the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat*”. Paragraph 99 states “*it is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the Proposed Project Development, is established before planning permission is granted*”.

### **2.3 Local Policy**

Local planning policy within Portsmouth City is provided by the saved policies within the Portsmouth City Local Plan 2001-2011 and the adopted Portsmouth Plan Core Strategy adopted in January 2012. None of the saved policies within the Local Plan relate to biodiversity and ecology however a single policy within the adopted Core Strategy makes specific reference to biodiversity:

Policy PCS13: A Greener Portsmouth. This policy in part refers to biodiversity with specific reference to the protection of designated sites at the European, national, and local level. The need for project specific HRA assessment and protection of habitat associated with European sites is also highlighted. Reference is also made for the need for development to protect the biodiversity value of a development site and seek a net gain wherever possible with mitigation of any impacts associated with the development.

## **3.0 METHODS**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This section details the methods employed during the Ecological Impact Assessment. Any significant limitations to the assessment are also considered.

### **3.2 Zone of Influence**

To define the total extent of the study area for this assessment, the proposed scheme was reviewed to establish the spatial scale at which ecological features could be affected<sup>5</sup>. The appropriate survey radii for the various elements of the assessment (i.e. desktop study and species-specific surveys) have been defined in the relevant sections below. These distances are determined based on the professional judgement of the ecologist leading the appraisal, taking into account the characteristics of the site subject to assessment, its surroundings and the nature of the proposals.

### **3.3 Scoping**

Protected species considered within the Ecological Impact Assessment are those species/species groups considered likely to be encountered given the geographical location and context of the site. Where the site was found to be suitable to support these species/species groups, and adverse effects cannot be avoided from the outset, further species-specific surveys are undertaken. These are discussed within the results section (Section 4.0) of the current report. Where such a species is unlikely to be present on site a justification for likely absence is provided. Species considered likely absent from the site are not then considered in the assessment of ecological effects and mitigation/compensation measures section (Section 1.0) of this report.

The proposals are for replacement of an existing fence line located in an area of heavily managed amenity grassland. As a result the majority of species/species groups have been scoped out of this Ecological Impact Assessment and wintering birds, particularly those that

### **3.4 Desk Study**

#### **3.4.1 Biological Records Centre**

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) was consulted on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for the following data:

- Records of sites included within the ‘Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy’ within one kilometre of the site boundary. This also includes sites where one or more visits were made and no target bird species were seen, and the sites used

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<sup>5</sup> The Zone of Influence (Zoi), as defined by CIEEM, is the area over which ecological features may be subject to significant effects as a result of the proposed project and associated activities (CIEEM, 2018).

by brent goose in the 2002 Brent Goose Strategy but have had no records made since. See **Appendix 3** for details.

### **3.4.2 Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside**

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database (DEFRA, 2021) was reviewed on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to establish the location of statutory designated sites located within the vicinity of the site. This included a search for all internationally and nationally designated sites such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within one kilometre of the site. See **Appendix 3** for details. Where appropriate, the desk study search area has been extended to take account of any appropriate statutory designated sites which need consideration in terms of potential in-direct effects and which support particularly mobile species, particularly those specifically mentioned in local planning policy. The Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) were also obtained from MAGIC, which are used to help guide and assess planning applications for likely effects on SSSIs.

### **3.4.3 Other Sources of Information**

Online mapping resources, at an appropriate scale, were used to identify the presence of habitats such as woodland blocks, ponds, watercourses, and hedgerows, in the vicinity of the site. These habitats may offer resources and connectivity between the site and suitable habitat in the local area, which may be exploited by local species populations.

## **3.5 Wintering Bird Survey**

### **3.5.1 Survey Methods**

A walked transect (**Map 2**) was undertaken at the site at approximately two-week intervals from November 2020 to March 2021 inclusive, to determine the usage of the site and surrounding area by wintering birds, particularly waders and brent goose. The survey largely consisted of the surveyor scanning the site using binoculars to identify the bird species utilising the site and the wider Portsmouth Golf Centre area. The surveyor recorded bird species present within areas of the fairway and surrounding golf course, in addition to any species present within the Great Salterns Lake.

The wintering bird survey methodology was based on that carried out as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Strategy (King, 2010). Ten wintering bird surveys were carried out across the site between November 2020 and March 2021. The surveys aimed at determining the presence of notable or protected wintering bird species with particular reference to those associated with the internationally designated sites in the

vicinity of the survey site and those associated with the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (see Paragraph 4.3.1 for further information).

The detectability of bird species and associated activity is affected by a variety of factors including, but not limited to; species detectability, species abundance, temporal variations in activity, species phenology, habitat structure, survey effort and observer ability. During the wintering bird survey methods to reduce these potential impacts included; using experienced ornithologists and undertaking a robust number of surveys spread over the winter season. Each survey was coordinated to coincide with high tide, to maximise the potential for waterbird species to be utilising the site as opposed to nearby off-site intertidal habitats. As a result, a comprehensive assessment of the wintering bird assemblage at the site was completed.

### 3.5.2 Survey Details

#### Wintering Bird Survey

A total of ten survey visits were undertaken between November 2020 and March 2021.

**Table 1** provides details of each wintering bird survey.

**Table 1:** Wintering Bird Survey Details

Survey Date	Duration	Weather Conditions	Tide State
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	11:15 – 13:20	Dry and sunny, 11°C, 50% cloud cover and a strong breeze	High 12:51
25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	07:30 – 09:00	Dry, 12°C, 100% cloud cover and a light breeze	High 08:04
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020	11:30 – 13:30	Light rain, 5°C, 100% cloud cover and a light breeze	High 12:30
16 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	11:00 – 13:00	Intermittent rain, 10°C, 100% cloud cover and a moderate breeze	High 12:08
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	13:45 – 15:50	Intermittent rain, 5°C, 100% cloud cover and a moderate breeze	High 14:42
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	09:00 – 11:20	Rain, 11°C, 70-100% cloud cover, and a moderate breeze	High 11:20
3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	13:23 – 15:23	Showers, 4°C, 75% cloud cover and a moderate breeze	High 15:23
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	07:00 – 09:08	Dry, 8°C, 50% cloud cover and a light breeze	High 08:48
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021	12:15 – 14:30	Dry and sunny, 12°C, 0% cloud cover and no wind	High 13:24
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	13:25 – 15:30	Dry, 10°C, 0-100% cloud cover and a light breeze	High 13:53

The wintering bird surveys were carried out by experienced ornithologists Simon Colenutt, Managing Principal Ecologist, and Simon Boswell, Principal Ecologist, of ECOSA.

During the wintering bird survey, the surveyors were equipped with Swarovski 8x42 and 10x40 EL binoculars.

### **3.5.3 Survey Limitations**

During the survey undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, high levels of disturbance were experienced due to the presence of golfers on the driving range after the temporary easing of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

### **3.6 Criteria used to Assess Ecological Value**

The evaluation criteria used in this report are based on ECOSA's professional judgement and publicly available publications, survey data and other sources as referenced in the main text. The evaluation is based on a sliding scale of importance as follows; international and European, national, regional, county, local and site. There are a wide range of characteristics which contribute to the importance of ecological features, and these may justify an increase or reduction in the value of an ecological feature. Where deviations occur, these will be explained in the evaluation section of this report (Section 4.0). Current published relevant guidance, including information sources such as A Nature Conservation Review (Ratcliffe, 1977) and Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom (CIEEM, 2018) have also been used to inform the assessment.

## **4.0 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND EVALUATION**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This section details the results of the Ecological Impact Assessment undertaken for the site. It assesses the baseline ecological conditions of the site at the time the desktop study was completed and based on the findings of the field survey and subsequent protected species surveys. This section also provides an assessment of the ecological value of ecological features present at the site.

### **4.2 Scoping**

Given that the proposals require an updated assessment of the usage of the site by brent goose and waders in advance of the replacement of the fence line, wintering birds are the only relevant protected species considered within this Ecological Impact Assessment.

### **4.3 Statutory and Non-statutory Designated Sites**

#### **4.3.1 Baseline Ecological Conditions**

Details of designated sites are provided in the paragraphs below.

##### Statutory Designated Sites

There are four statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest situated within one kilometre of the site boundary. These are:

- Chichester and Langstone Harbours (Ramsar) – located approximately 130 metres east of the site and designated under Ramsar Criterion 1, 5 and 6 which support species assemblages of international importance including brent goose *Branta bernicla* of the dark-bellied race *Branta bernicla bernicla*;
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours (SPA) – located approximately 130 metres east of the site and designated for supporting in excess of 20,000 individual waterfowl over winter;
- Solent Maritime (SAC) – located approximately 130 metres east of the site and designated for supporting Annex I habitats including estuaries, spartina swards and Atlantic salt meadows; and
- Langstone Harbour (SSSI) – located approximately 130 metres east of the site and designated for its rich intertidal system supporting high densities of intertidal invertebrates and large populations of migrant and overwintering waders and wildfowl.

Further details of the statutory designations listed above are provided in **Appendix 5**.

### Non-Statutory Designated Sites

There are 15 sites within one kilometre of the site boundary identified as being of importance to waders and brent goose in the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) (Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy, 2021). Sites are classified according to a scoring system based on various parameters, including importance relative to the British populations of brent goose, proximity to SPAs, and proximity to known SPA species populations and/or assemblages (see **Appendix 3** for details).

SWBGS classified sites situated within one kilometre of the site boundary include:

- SPA Sites – P83 (275 metres south-east) and P84 (600 metres north);
- Core Areas – P12 (100 metres north), P52 (290 metres south), P23R (325 metres south), P54 (410 metres south), P20 (420 metres south-west), P86 (700 metres north) and P11 (710 metres north);
- Primary Support Area – P19D (approximately 5% of which is located within the site boundary);
- Secondary Support Area – P19B (130 metres south); and
- Low Use Areas – P19A (located within the site boundary), P19E (adjacent to the eastern site boundary), P53 (270 metres north-west) and P129 (890 metres south-west).

### **4.3.2 Evaluation**

The site is within 150 metres of four statutory designated sites of nature conservation including Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar and SPA, Solent Maritime SAC and Langstone Harbour SSSI. Fifteen SWBGS sites are present within a one kilometre radius of the site, including P19A and P19D located within the site boundary.

## **4.4 Birds**

### **4.4.1 Baseline Ecological Conditions**

#### Wintering Bird Survey Results

The results of the wintering bird survey in relation to waders and brent goose are recorded in **Table 2**.

**Table 2:** Survey Results

Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy Site	Records
P19A (the site)	94 recorded feeding for an hour over high tide on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2021. Evidence of brent goose droppings also recorded on 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2021 indicative of feeding at other times, possibly at night.
P19B	Evidence of brent goose droppings recorded on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 indicative of feeding at other times, possibly at night.
P19D	No records of waders or brent goose.
P19E	178 brent goose recorded on the fairway on 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021. A single oystercatcher was recorded on the fairway briefly on 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The brent goose using P19A on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 flew into the site in two groups. An initial flock of 88 birds flew in from the south-west, using the prevailing south-westerly wind to turn back into the wind and lose height as they landed on the site from a northerly direction. A second group of six additional birds (making 94 in total) flew into P19A from the east, flying over the existing tree line along the eastern edge of the site and dropping down onto the driving range. These birds joined the 88 that were already present and fed on the driving range for approximately an hour and then flew off east towards Langstone Harbour. The flight paths taken by these birds to land at the site are shown on **Map 3**.



**Figure 1:** Eastern boundary tree line with existing fencing beyond

During the survey of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021, brent goose droppings (**Figure 2**) and feathers (**Figure 3**) were recorded scattered throughout P19E, with droppings additionally recorded within P19A during the same survey. Droppings were recorded on a small section of P19B on the survey of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, possibly indicating night-time feeding by brent goose. The location of brent goose droppings recorded at the site is presented on **Map 3**.



**Figure 2:** Brent goose dropping present within P19E



**Figure 3:** Brent goose feather and dropping

Waterbirds such as tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, coot *Fulica atra*, mute swan *Cygnus olor* and teal *Anas crecca* were recorded using the reedbed and lake in P19D.

The full details of notable species recorded within each SWBGS surveyed are provided in **Appendix 2**.

#### **4.4.2 Evaluation**

The site has been assessed as suitable for brent goose given that individuals have been recorded utilising and feeding within the site and wider golf course boundary. It should be noted that the brent goose were recorded on the site and surrounding habitat at a time when the golf course was not open due to restrictions associated with COVID-19, this may have encouraged higher usage of the site than would otherwise have been expected.

## **5.0 ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION/COMPENSATION/ ENHANCEMENT MEASURES**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This section assesses the ecological effects of the proposed development scheme on the identified ecological features as identified in Section 4.0. Methods for addressing potential impacts on ecological features have been approached in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy<sup>6</sup> with avoidance of impacts prioritised where possible. Where significant adverse effects cannot be avoided other forms of mitigation are prioritised over compensation. Enhancement measures have been detailed, where relevant, in order to not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement in accordance with Paragraph 170 of the NPPF (Paragraph 2.2). It is anticipated that mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures will be secured through the planning process.

### **5.2 Scheme Design**

The proposed refurbishment works entail the removal of the current 6 metre high fencing around the perimeter of the driving range to facilitate the erection of a new 12 metre high ball stop fence line along the eastern and western site boundaries. The fencing is required as a result of the existing fencing no longer being high enough to stop a high proportion of golf balls.

The potential ecological impacts and effects of these proposals, in the absence of mitigation, are described for designated sites and wintering birds. Where necessary, measures to mitigate and/or compensate for significant effects are described.

### **5.3 Assessment**

#### **5.3.1 *Potential Impacts and Effects***

The results of the survey work have shown that brent goose can access the site and associated SWBGS P19A by flying in from the north. Brent goose were also recorded flying into P19A (the site) over the eastern tree line, which is higher than the proposed fencing which will be located directly adjacent to the tree line. No fencing is proposed along the northern edge and the goose will not be impeded by the increased fence on the eastern edge any more than the existing tree line. As a result, there will be no loss in foraging habitat for brent goose supported by Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site and SPA.

---

<sup>6</sup> In accordance with CIEEM Ecological Impact Assessment guidance (CIEEM, 2018) a sequential process is adopted to address impacts on features of ecological interest, with 'Avoidance' prioritised at the top of the hierarchy and Compensation/Enhancement' at the bottom. This is often referred to as the 'mitigation hierarchy'.

It is possible that the fencing replacement may disturb feeding brent goose if undertaken during the winter period when the species is present locally (November to March inclusive).

### **5.3.2 Mitigation Measures**

To prevent possible disturbance to feeding brent goose the fencing should be installed between April and October, inclusive, when brent goose are not present in the United Kingdom.

### **5.3.3 Significance of Residual Effects**

The residual effects are not significant.

### **5.3.4 Compensation**

Given that no significant residual effects are anticipated, no compensatory measures are required in relation to designated sites or wintering birds.

### **5.3.5 Enhancement**

No enhancement measures are considered necessary in relation to designated sites or wintering bird.

### **5.3.6 Monitoring**

No monitoring is required in relation to designated sites or wintering birds.

## **5.4 Cumulative Effects**

Assuming that the mitigation and compensation measures outlined in the paragraphs above are implemented, no significant residual effects are anticipated. As such it is considered unlikely that the proposals will contribute to cumulative adverse effects in association with other proposals in the local area.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Conclusion**

The surveys have identified that the site and associated SWBGS site P19A is utilised by foraging brent goose, and that the species is occasionally present on the wider golf course site. The flight lines that brent goose take to access the site will be available post construction of the higher fencing and therefore significant long-term impacts are likely in relation to the designated sites present locally which support brent goose. Recommendations have been made for sensitive timing of works. Post-development, no residual or cumulative impacts are anticipated. As such it is considered that the proposals will accord with all relevant national and local planning policy in relation to ecology including Policy PCS13 and the NPPF (see Section 2.0).

### **6.2 Updating Site Survey**

If the planning application boundary changes or the proposals for the site alter, a re-assessment of the scheme in relation to ecology may be required. Given the mobility of animals and the potential for colonisation of the site over time, updating survey work may be required, particularly if development does not commence within 18 months of the date of the most recent relevant survey.

## 7.0 REFERENCES

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[Accessed February 2021].

**Map 1**      Site Location Plan



**PORTSMOUTH GOLF CENTRE,  
BURFIELD ROAD, PORTSMOUTH**

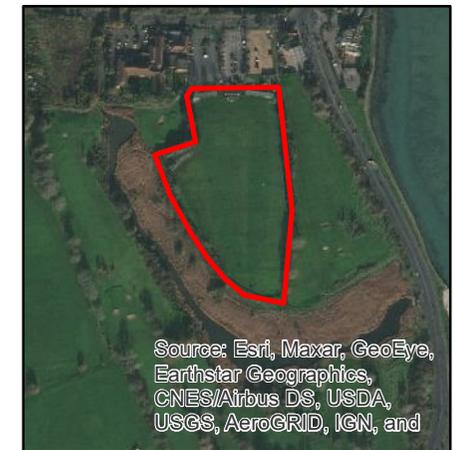
**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Map 1 - Site Location Plan**

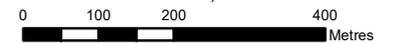
Client:	Edward Caugh and Associates
Date:	April 2021
Status:	Final

**KEY**

 Site Boundary



Scale at A4: 1:10,000



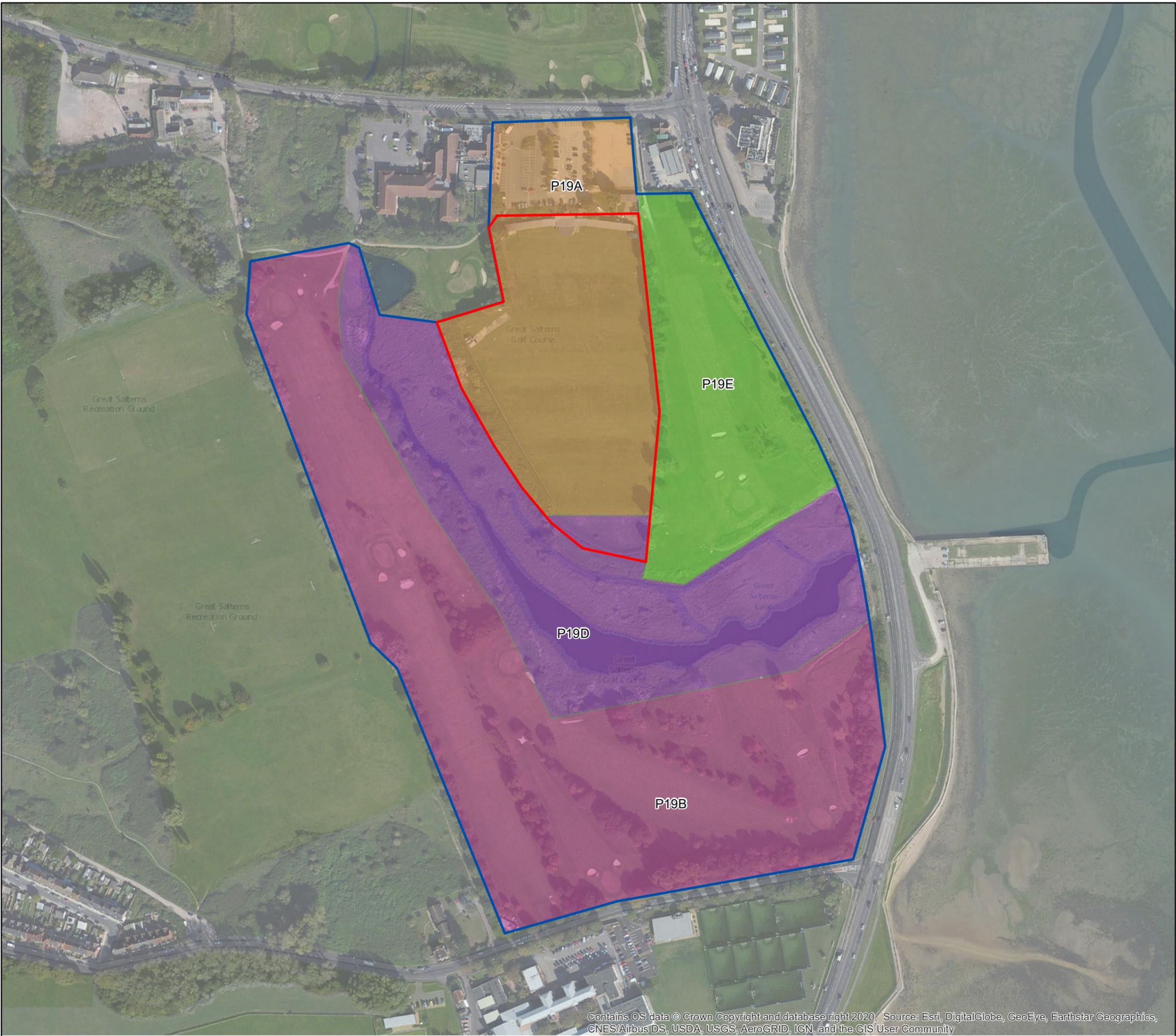
Prepared by: OW	Date: 10/02/21
Last amended by: N/A	Date: N/A



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**Map 2** Survey Area and Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy Sites



**PORTSMOUTH GOLF CENTRE,  
BURFIELD ROAD, PORTSMOUTH**

**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Map 2 - Survey Area and Solent Wader  
and Brent Goose Strategy Sites**

Client:	Edward Caush and Associates
Date:	April 2021
Status:	Draft

**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- Survey
- Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy Sites**
- P19A - Low Use
- P19B - Secondary Support
- P19D - Primary Support
- P19E - Low Use



Prepared by: OW	Date: 020321
Last amended by: N/A	Date: N/A



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**Map 3**      Survey Results and Brent Goose Flight Lines

**PORTSMOUTH GOLF CENTRE,  
BURFIELD ROAD, PORTSMOUTH**

**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Map 3 - Survey Results and Brent Goose  
Flight Lines**

Client:	Edward Caush and Associates
Date:	April 2021
Status:	Draft

**KEY**

-  Site Boundary
-  Brent Goose Recorded Feeding
-  Existing Treeline Boundary
-  Proposed Higher Fenceline to be Erected
-  Brent Goose Flight Paths
-  Location of Brent Goose Droppings



**Dark-bellied brent goose**  
88 recorded flying in and landing on P19A (28/01/21)

**Dark-bellied brent goose**  
94 recorded feeding on P19A (28/01/21). 88 birds used the southwesterly wind to drift into the site from the north and land. Birds continued to feed for one hour, later being joined by six other individuals which flew in from the east.

**28th January 2021**  
Brent goose droppings scattered across the driving range.

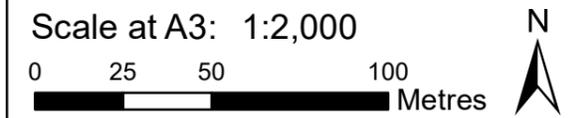
**Dark-bellied brent goose**  
178 recorded feeding on P19E before flying northwards, max count (04/01/21)

**28th January 2021**  
Brent goose droppings and feathers recorded throughout this area.

**Dark-bellied brent goose**  
6 recorded flying in and landing on P19A (28/01/21)

Single oystercatcher recorded briefly on P19E (17/03/21)

**23rd February 2021**  
Brent goose droppings scattered across this area of P19B. Possibly indicative of nighttime feeding.



Prepared by: OW	Date: 310321
Last amended by: OW	Date: 220421



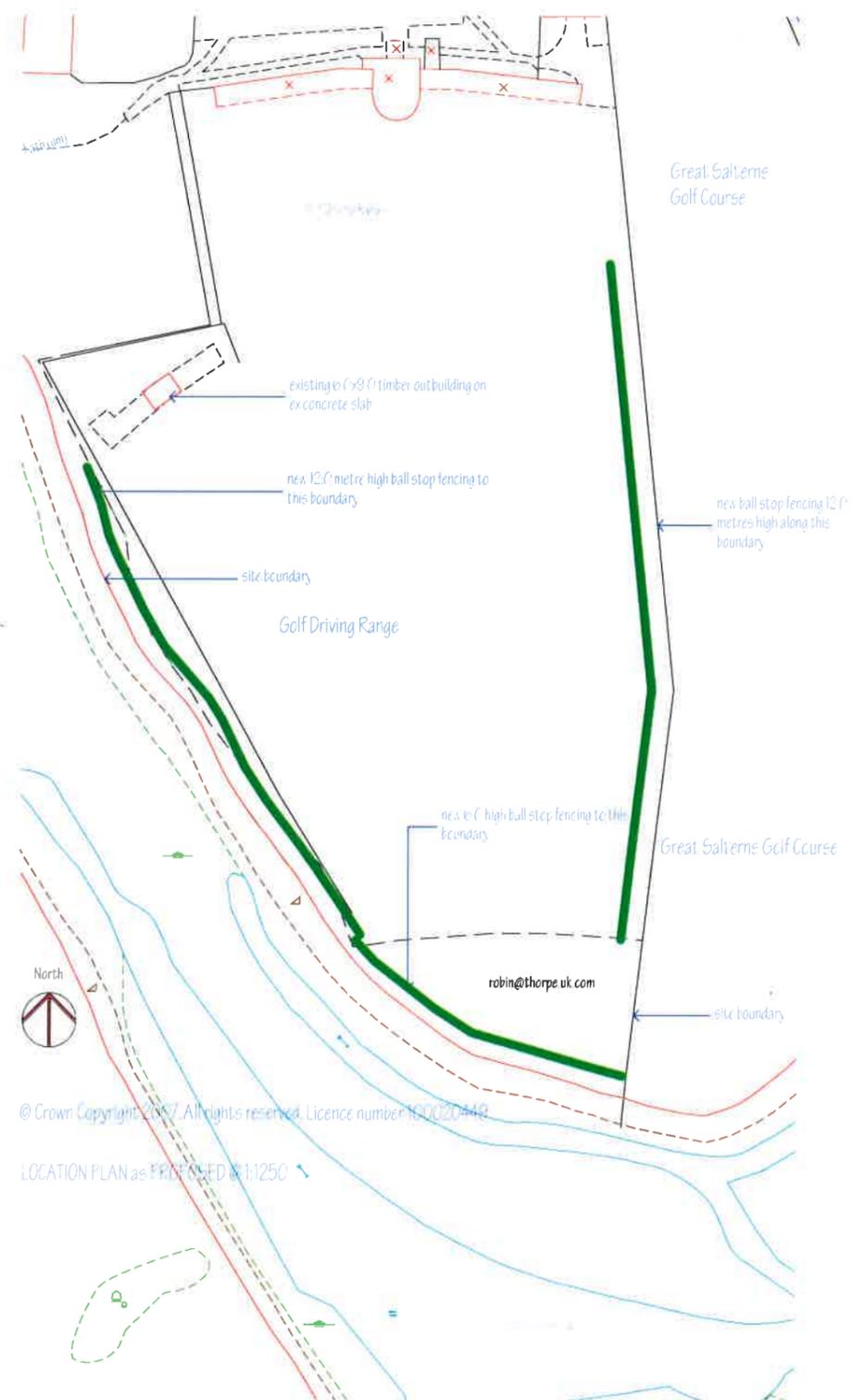
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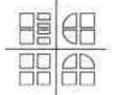
## **Appendix 1** Site Proposals

NOTES:  
 This drawing is the copyright of  
 EDWARD CAUSH + ASSOCIATES  
 All dimensions must be checked on site prior to the  
 commencement of construction and the Architect notified of any  
 discrepancy. Figure dimensions are to be used in preference to  
 scaled dimensions. The Local Planning Authority may scale from  
 this drawing as the only exception. No deviation from the  
 drawing will be permitted without the written consent of the  
 Architect.

REVISIONS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE



  
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CLIENT  
 Portsmouth Golf Centre  
 Burrfields Road  
 Portsmouth  
 PO3 5HH  
 JOB TITLE  
 Proposed Perimeter Fencing

DRAWING TITLE  
 Location Plan as Proposed

SCALE	DATE	
1:1250 @ A2	26.08.2020	
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
EC		
DRAWING NUMBER	LAYOUT ISSUE	DRAWING REVISION
20:2072:L(2)-101	03	

## Appendix 2 Notable Bird Species Recorded within each SWBGS Site

**Table 3:** Summary of notable and/or waterbird species recorded within P19A

Species	Peak Count	Schedule 1 <sup>7</sup>	Red List <sup>8</sup>	Amber List <sup>9</sup>	UKBAP
Brent goose	101			X	X

**Table 4:** Summary of notable and/or waterbird species recorded within P19B

Species	Peak Count	Schedule 1	Red List	Amber List	UKBAP
Black-headed gull	41			X	
Herring gull	3		X		X
Moorhen	15				
Mediterranean gull	2	X		X	
Brent goose	28			X	X

**Table 5:** Summary of notable and/or waterbird species recorded within P19D

Species	Peak Count	Schedule 1	Red List	Amber List	UKBAP
Black-headed gull	1			X	
Tufted duck	12				
Little grebe	6				
Water rail	2				
Moorhen	26				
Gadwall	1			X	
Coot	5				
Brent goose	13			X	X
Cormorant	1				
Greater Black-backed gull	1			X	
Mallard	6			X	
Mute swan	2			X	
Shoveler	3		X		

<sup>7</sup> Schedule 1: Birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended) are afforded additional protection receive further protection making it an offence to: Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or; Intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.

<sup>8</sup> Birds of Conservation Concern Red List: The UK's birds are split in to three categories of conservation importance - red, amber, and green. Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action. Amber is the next most critical group, followed by green. Red List criteria include species which are: globally threatened; have been subject to historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995; are in severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or longer-term period, or; subject to severe (at least 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or longer-term period.

<sup>9</sup> Birds of Conservation Concern Amber List: Amber list criteria include species which are: in unfavourable conservation status in Europe; subject to historical population decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; subject to moderate (25–49%) decline in UK breeding population or contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period; subject to moderate (25–49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period; rare breeders (1–300 breeding pairs in UK); rare non-breeders (less than 900 individuals), or; internationally important species with at least 20% of European breeding or non-breeding population in UK .

Species	Peak Count	Schedule 1	Red List	Amber List	UKBAP
Bearded reedling	8				
Teal	2		X		

**Table 6:** Summary of notable and/or waterbird species recorded within P19E

Species	Peak Count	Schedule 1	Red List	Amber List	UKBAP
Black-headed gull	75			X	
Moorhen	2				
Brent goose	178			X	X
Oystercatcher	1			X	

## **Appendix 3** Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

### **Statutory Sites**

#### ***Internationally Designated Sites - Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas***

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form a network of protected sites across the European Union and United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom the primary legislative protection is afforded to these sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Ramsar sites are designated as wetlands of international importance which are afforded similar legislative protection to SPAs and SACs.

SACs are sites which support internationally important habitats or internationally important assemblages or populations of species. SPAs are designated for supporting internationally important populations of birds. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are generally also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) there is a legal requirement that competent authorities, such as local planning authorities, need to consider whether plans or projects are likely to have a significant adverse effect on SPAs, SACs or Ramsar sites, either alone, or in combination with other plans or projects. In the event that a likely significant effect cannot be ruled out, on the basis of objective information, then the competent authority must undertake an “Appropriate Assessment” to fully assess the plan or project against the site’s conservation objectives. Unless certain defined derogation tests can be met, the competent authority may not authorise nor undertake any plan or project which adversely affects the integrity of a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.

#### ***Nationally Designated Sites – Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves***

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Such sites are designated to protect specific areas of biological or geological interest of national importance. Such sites also generally receive strict protection through the planning system.

National Nature Reserves (NNR) are also usually designated as SSSIs and are specifically managed for their wildlife value. They receive legal protection through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As with SSSIs, these sites generally receive strict protection through the planning system.

### ***Locally Designated Sites – Local Nature Reserves***

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are designated by local authorities under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are generally designated not only for their local wildlife value but also for education, scientific and recreational purposes. These sites generally receive protection from development through the planning system.

### **Non-Statutory Sites**

#### ***Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy Sites***

The Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy has identified sites across the Solent which are utilised waders and/or Brent goose associated with the Solent SPAs and, therefore, provide functionally linked habitat to the SPAs. The sites are categorised as follows using a metric which is set out in the strategy **Invalid source specified.**

- SPA Sites - sites which are within the SPA and have bird records and form part of the ecological network;
- Core Areas – are defined as sites which have:
  - a network value – this relates a site's importance to a network score for birds moving to and from the intertidal areas to inland sites, and between inland sites;
  - and/or the max score of seven in three metrics (GB Importance, SPA Importance and SPA Assemblage);
  - and/or a max count of bird use of 1000 or more.
- Primary Support Areas - are defined as sites that score 3-6 in the three metrics (GB Importance, SPA Importance and SPA Assemblage)
- Secondary Support Areas are defined as:
  - sites that score 1-2 (GB Importance, SPA Importance and SPA Assemblage);
  - and/or have max counts of 100 plus birds for any species.
- Low Use Sites - are defined as sites that have records of birds but in low numbers (score 0 in the metric).
- Candidate Sites - sites that have records of high numbers of birds (max count equal to or greater than 100) and/or a total score equal to or greater than one but have less than three records in total.

## **Appendix 4** Protected and Notable Species Appraisal Methods

### **Birds**

The assessment of wintering birds was based on an assessment of the suitability of the habitat on site to support important wintering bird species and populations. Particular attention was paid to the potential for the site to support wintering farmland bird species, waders and wildfowl.

### **Other Relevant Species**

An assessment was made of site suitability for other notable species such as more rarely encountered protected species, Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of diversity in England notified under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and as listed in the England Biodiversity List, and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species<sup>10</sup>, specific to the study region.

### **Invasive Species**

During the field survey any incidental records of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded. However, it should be considered that the survey was not specifically aimed at assessing the presence of these species and further specialist advice may need to be sought.

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<sup>10</sup> LBAPs identify local priorities for biodiversity conservation by translating national targets for species into effective action at the local level and identifying targets for species important to the local area.

## Appendix 5 Statutory Designated Sites within the Desktop Study Area

Details of statutory designated sites within the desktop study area, as listed in Paragraph 4.3.1, are provided in **Table 7**.

**Table 7:** Statutory Designated Sites Located Within the Desktop Study Area

<b>Site Name</b>	Chichester and Langstone Harbours
<b>Site Designation</b>	Ramsar
<b>Approximate Relative Location</b>	130 metres east
<b>Reasons for Designation:</b>	
<p>The site is designated under Ramsar Criterion 1, 5 and 6.</p> <p><b>Criterion 1</b> – Two large estuarine basins linked by the channel which divides Hayling Island from the main Hampshire coastline. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes.</p> <p><b>Criterion 5</b> – Assemblages of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 76480 waterfowl, count in winter (5 year peak mean 1998/99 – 2002/2003)</li> </ul> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p><b>Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation)</b></p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>;</li> <li>▪ Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; and</li> <li>▪ Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>;</li> <li>▪ Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>;</li> <li>▪ Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>;</li> <li>▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i></li> </ul>	

<b>Site Name</b>	Chichester and Langstone Harbours
<b>Site Designation</b>	SPA
<b>Approximate Relative Location</b>	130 metres east
<b>Reasons for Designation:</b>	
<p>The site qualifies for supporting the following Annex I species:</p> <p><b>Breeding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, 100 pairs representing up to 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain; and</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, 158 pairs representing up to 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain.</li> </ul> <p><b>On passage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>, 137 individuals representing up to 17.1% of the population in Great Britain.</li> </ul> <p><b>Over winter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>, 1,692 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain; and</li> <li>Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>, 100 individuals representing up to 20.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain.</li> </ul> <p>This site also qualifies by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p><b>On passage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, 2,471 individuals representing up to 4.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Over winter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, 1,003 individuals representing up to 1.4% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population;</li> <li>Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, 17,119 individuals representing up to 5.7% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population;</li> <li>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>, 44,294 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population;</li> <li>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>, 3,825 individuals representing up to 2.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population;</li> <li>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>, 1,788 individuals representing up to 1.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population; and</li> <li>Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, 846 individuals representing up to 1.7% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population.</li> </ul> <p>The site qualifies by regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 individual waterfowl over winter.</p>
---

<b>Site Name</b>	Solent Maritime
<b>Site Designation</b>	SAC
<b>Approximate Relative Location</b>	130 metres east
<b>Reasons for Designation:</b>	
<p><b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estuaries;</li> <li>Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>); and</li> <li>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time;</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;</li> <li>Coastal lagoons;</li> <li>Annual vegetation of drift lines;</li> <li>Perennial vegetation of stony banks;</li> <li>Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; and</li> <li>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes).</li> </ul>	

**Annex II** species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:

Desmoulin`s whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*.

<b>Site Name</b>	Langstone Harbour
<b>Site Designation</b>	SSSI
<b>Approximate Relative Location</b>	130 metres east
<b>Reasons for Designation:</b>	
<p>The harbour is of international importance as a rich intertidal system supporting high densities of intertidal invertebrates and large populations of migrant and overwintering waders and wildfowl, dependent upon them and upon the extensive beds of eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> species. Farlington Marshes intrudes into the north-west sector of the harbour and embraces a variety of habitats – brackish marsh, fresh marsh, a large lagoon with associated reed <i>Phragmites</i> beds, <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> grassland and scrub. It is a vital high water wader roost for the Harbour and a major feeding ground for brent goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>.</p>	