

Biodiversity Assessment for the Local Development
Framework Core Strategy
(Additional Sites)

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Prepared by:
Built and Natural Environment Team
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. Site Assessments..... | 5 |
| 2.1 BAS024 | 5 |
| 2.2 BRAM005 | 9 |
| 2.3 OV002 | 12 |
| 2.4 OV003 | 15 |
| 2.5 OV004 | 18 |
| 2.6 OV006 | 21 |
| 2.7 OV007 | 24 |
| 2.8 OV010 | 27 |
| 2.9 SOL002 | 30 |
| 2.10 WHIT006 | 33 |
| 2.11 WHIT007 | 36 |
| 2.12 WHIT009 | 39 |
| 2.13 WHIT010a | 42 |
| 2.14 BAS121 and SOL002 | 45 |
| 3. Results, Conclusions and Recommendations | 48 |
| Appendix A: Site Maps..... | 54 |

1. Introduction

This report supplements the Biodiversity Assessment for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, dated February 2010¹, and provides a further assessment of fourteen sites. One of these (BAS121), which was assessed as part of a wider site 'PS1 Land East of Basingstoke' in the Stage 1 report, is now included in a combined assessment with another site (SOL002). The method of assessment is the same as that used for the initial study and that report should be referred to for further details on this. Desktop information was updated through information provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)². Site survey information is based on field survey work undertaken during the summer 2011 by HBIC and reported in the Extended Phase I survey of selected sites³. Relatively few Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are located within the potential zones of influence for the sites reported on here (400 metres has been used as the threshold for this assessment; the initial assessment report [1] gives further details of the basis for this). Therefore, the SINCs are referred to in the text rather than being presented in tables as was necessary in the initial report due to the large numbers involved in some cases.

In common with the initial Biodiversity Assessment report, each site has been assessed against a framework of the biodiversity planning policies that any development of the site would currently be required to comply with, and then graded in terms of its compatibility with these policies. This provides a risk assessment-based approach to determining whether or not development of the site is likely to be compatible with biodiversity planning policies (see Part 3 of the Stage 1 report for further details).

In order to enable a comparison of sites in terms of biodiversity constraints (both within this report and with those sites in the first report), each site has been given an overall grading, based on the criteria shown below. The assessments for each site are shown in Table 1 on page 4.

1 - Relatively few constraints. There may be biodiversity issues to be addressed, but it is anticipated that these can be satisfactorily addressed through detailed site planning and established ecological mitigation practices.

2 - Some constraints such as presence of a SINC, priority habitat, within the area and, there may be a priority/protected species constraint, or adjacent habitats that may suffer from indirect pressure. Layouts will need to successfully integrate any SINCs or priority habitats, accommodate species requirements, and seek to mitigate indirect effects.

¹ Biodiversity Assessment for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Stage 1) 2010. Available at: <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/environment-and-planning/planning/ldf/evidencebase/Biodiversity+Assessment.htm>

² HBIC Desktop Study of Sites to be Considered for Potential Development within the Basingstoke Local Development Framework Against Biodiversity Criteria (April 2011) Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

³ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Local Development Framework 2011 Extended Phase I survey of selected sites, 23rd - 26th May 2011. Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

3 - Development likely to be possible in parts of the area, but significant parts are constrained and/or there is a significant risk of indirect impacts on adjacent habitats or on priority species. Off-site compensation may be needed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity.

4 - Development may be feasible while meeting the biodiversity criteria, but there are important biodiversity interests within the zone of influence that are particularly sensitive to the types of impact arising from development. Further assessment is needed based on additional information about potential development scenarios, the subsequent nature and magnitude of impacts, and the capacity of the biodiversity interests to tolerate them.

5 - Strategic development allocation is considered to be incompatible with biodiversity objectives and the policies from which they are derived.

| Table 1: Overall Assessment | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| BAS024 | 2 |
| BRAM005 | 2 |
| OV002 | 2 |
| OV003 | 2 |
| OV004 | 1 |
| OV006 | 1 |
| OV007 | 1 |
| OV010 | 1 |
| SOL002 | 1 |
| WHIT006 | 2 |
| WHIT007 | 1 |
| WHIT009 | 3 |
| WHIT010a | 2 |
| BAS121 & SOL002 | 2 |

2. Site Assessments

2.1 BAS024

Description of Area

Size: 4.6 ha

Swing Swang Lane is a former arable field, situated on a gently sloping and freely draining site on the northern edge of the River Loddon Valley. The lower slopes of the field are dominated by an improved and False Oat-grass dominated sward. However, the northern edge retains some old chalk grassland remnants and the north-west/central section of the field is dominated by short and rabbit-cropped open and semi-ruderal sward, which is developing a significant open chalk grassland type character.

The site is bounded by a railway line to the north, beyond which is an industrial estate. It is bounded by fenland to the east and south and, by health centre land to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

At least part of the site has the potential to develop to a state worthy of SINC status due the developing chalk grassland character and, in particular, due to the presence of the Nationally Scarce plant *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw).

Basing Fen and Wood SINC lies adjacent to the south-eastern boundary of the site. This SINC comprises important wetland communities and it will be necessary, if the site is developed, to ensure that this SINC is not adversely affected by hydrological or pollution problems from run-off. Part of Little Basing Fields and Wood SINC are also within 400 metres of the site.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Developing Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Fen
- Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland
- River

Habitat Connectivity

The site has some connectivity with other habitats throughout the local area via its connection to the railway embankment, and its close proximity to Basing Fen and Wood, which forms part of a wider habitat corridor along the route of the River Loddon.

Species Constraints

The presence of the Nationally Scarce plant, *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw) on part of the site is a significant constraint to development of this area and, if the site is developed, it should be safeguarded through careful layout planning to preserve it as part of the site's open space.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Conservation of the *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw) population will require appropriate management. In addition, there is the potential to allow grassland within the site to continue to improve in biodiversity through a combination of natural processes of colonisation and appropriate grassland management regimes.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Currently unmanaged, but improving in biodiversity due to natural colonisation of the site, possibly from the railway line acting as a corridor for species movement. Rabbit grazing appears to be providing sufficient control of ranker vegetation that would otherwise outcompete the developing chalk grassland vegetation.

Assessment

| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
|--|--|
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any SSSIs. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | No Link see above. |

| | |
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| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Compatible risk of EPS being a significant constraint is considered to be very low. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCS and LNRs. | Compatible no SINCS or LNRs within the site and subsequent direct development footprint, although there is the potential for parts of the site to achieve SINC status in the future. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding the botanically rich area through layout design and introduction of an appropriate management regime |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCS or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Likely to be Compatible subject to measures to avoid recreational pressure and run-off problems from affecting the adjacent Basing Fen and Woods SINC. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Likely to be Compatible subject careful site planning and construction management |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of large parts of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to the layout conserving marginal linear habitat areas adjacent to the railway line. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding the botanically rich area through layout design and introduction of an appropriate management regime |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Potentially compatible subject to the introduction of an appropriate management regime to help conserve botanically rich area. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Potentially compatible subject to enhancement of marginal habitat adjacent to railway line. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Potentially compatible There may be scope for developer contributions to be used to improve habitat along the River Loddon corridor. |

Commentary

Much of the grassland that covers this site is of low biodiversity value. However, a significant patch to the northwest comprises a developing chalk grassland sward of biodiversity value and, of particular importance within this is an abundant population of the nationally-scarce plant, wall bedstraw (assessed to be the most important population of this species in Hampshire).

However, the wall bedstraw takes up less than a quarter of the area and might be successfully conserved within an area of open space. This plant and the communities with which it is associated will require appropriate forms of management for their successful conservation, rather than conventional forms of open space management.

Vegetation along the northern boundary is also rich in plant species and valuable for biodiversity.

There are no designated sites within the site boundaries. Basing Fen SINC is adjacent to the site and could be subject to hydrological and pollution impacts from site run-off unless this is adequately mitigated through site design measures. There is also the potential for impacts on this site from recreational pressure from new residents especially without adequate provision of open space within the site.

2.2 BRAM005

Description of Site

Size: 9.5ha

This site predominantly comprises a block of arable land and a smaller area of grassland (of approximately 1.7ha) to the south. It is bounded by more farmland to the north, by a railway line, beyond which is residential housing to the east, more residential housing and a recreation ground to the south, and by more agricultural land to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within or adjacent to the site, but Bramley Frith Wood, Withy Copse and Little Holdens Copse SINCs occur with the potential zone of influence.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Hedgerow

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

The hedgerow along the western boundary should be protected and enhanced to help maintain habitat connectivity with surrounding farmland.

Species Constraints

Pipistrelle bats and barn owls have been recorded in southern part of the site. The presence of these species is not necessarily a constraint to development of the rest of the site.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

The grassland area to the south of the site has significant potential for habitat enhancement, which might be integrated with open space provision.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The majority of the site has been subject to arable farm management. The area of grassland to the south appears to be mostly unmanaged other than through occasional mowing.

Assessment

| Table 3: Assessment of BRAM005 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any SSSIs. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | No Link see above. |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Compatible the risk of EPS being a significant constraint is considered to be very low. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCS and LNRs. | Compatible no SINCS or LNRs within the site and subsequent direct development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding the hedgerow along the western edge of the site. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCS or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Likely to be Compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural green space to avoid pressure on nearby SINCS. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Likely to be Compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural green space to avoid pressure on nearby adjacent habitats. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of large parts of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |

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| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to the layout allowing for retention of boundary hedgerow. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to a layout that respects features of importance for the species that have been noted using parts of the site / or species that have the potential to be present (eg grassland and hedgerow). This should not represent a significant constraint to development, but requires sensitive site planning informed by early survey. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible the southern area has good potential for enhancement as an area of naturalistic green space for local residents and to make a contribution towards local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

There are no designated sites within the site boundaries and the majority of the site is arable farmland of low biodiversity value.

Species of conservation significance have been recorded in the southern part of site and this area, albeit improved grassland, offers good potential for biodiversity enhancement. The grassland is not currently of sufficient biodiversity value to represent a constraint to development, and it offers significant potential for improvement, which would offer a valuable area of naturalistic green space for local residents and help make a modest contribution to the achievement of local biodiversity targets.

2.3 OV002

Description of Area

Size: 8.9ha

This site predominantly comprises arable farmland, but contains a marginal strip of grassland and scrub along the northern end. The site is bounded by the River Test and associated linear woodland to the north, by more farmland to the east, new housing development to the south and a single row of housing to the west, beyond which is a road and then lagoons associated with Overton Mill and the River Test.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Special Protection Area Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI runs parallel to the northern and western boundaries of the site within 100 metres of it.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINC within / adjacent to the site, or within the potential zone of influence.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Hedgerow

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types Outside of Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the zone of potential influence:

- Hedgerow
- River
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Habitat Connectivity

The area is of particular importance in the context of wider landscape habitat connectivity in terms of the River Test Corridor that passes close by. It is important that both the river and its associated corridor habitats are safeguarded.

Species Constraints

The site has the potential to support farmland birds, common reptiles, including slow-worms and badgers. These are not necessarily constraints to development, but they

are material considerations and need to be taken into account in site planning in order to secure adequate mitigation.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

The marginal strip of vegetation along the northern boundary has good potential for enhancement to provide habitat in its own right, and to act as a buffer to the habitats along the River Test corridor.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Land management is currently limited to agricultural management and horse grazing.

Assessment

| Table 4: Assessment of OV002 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Potentially Compatible subject to adequate buffering of the River Test and incorporation of sufficient measures (eg. SUDS) to avoid pollution and adverse hydrological impacts. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Potentially Compatible subject to creation of new habitat along the northern edge of the site as part of a buffer. |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCS and LNRs. | Compatible no SINCS or LNRs within the site and or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding the hedgerow on boundary. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCS or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Compatible no SINCS or LNRs considered likely to be affected by development of the site. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Likely to be Compatible subject to adequate buffering along the northern edge of the site which will protect the adjacent mixed deciduous woodland. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or | Compatible subject to protection of boundary and |

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| creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | adjacent habitats through layout planning and construction management. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible enhancement of the northern margins as a buffer offers the potential to make a contribution towards local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

The majority of the site is considered to be of low biodiversity value given its current agricultural use. There are no designated sites within the site boundaries, but the River Test SSSI and associated habitat is adjacent.

The primary consideration for this site is the potential impact on the River Test SSSI, particularly hydrological impacts and pollution from run-off. It is important that this is taken into account early on in any development planning and it is also important that an adequate buffer between the development and the river corridor is provided for. The existing strip of uncultivated land and vegetation along the northern edge of the site is of potential biodiversity value and already provides a basis for such a buffer. There would also be potential to enhance the biodiversity value of this area.

2.4 OV003

Description of Area

Size: 17.9ha

The site predominantly comprises a large arable field but contains some horse paddocks. It is bounded by a railway line along the northern boundary, beyond which is more farmland, by residential development to the east, a community meadow site, paddock and church grounds to the south and school grounds and more farmland to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI runs close by to the south-eastern corner of the site (within 100 metres).

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC lies within the site along part of the western boundary. Within the wider zone of potential influence, there is also a road verge SINC, NS 30-B3051 (along Kingsclere Rd), designated for its botanical diversity.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Potential Zone of Influence

The following priority habitat types occur within the zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- River
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

The SINC along the western boundary and vegetation along other boundaries, particularly the northern edge, parallel to the railway line, are of value for the habitat connectivity with the surrounding landscape that they provide, in particular

permitting movement of dormice (see below), in addition to any intrinsic value that they have.

Species Constraints

There are records of dormice present in Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC, which is a European protected species.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC and boundary vegetation would all benefit from active management. In addition, there is scope to enhance the boundary vegetation all the way around the site. Given the large size of the site, there is also good scope for the creation of new habitat within it, which could make a contribution to local habitat creation targets as well as provide valuable naturalistic green space for future residents, if the site is developed.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site has been mostly influenced by arable farm management. There does not appear to have been active management of Court Drove Woodland Strip.

Assessment

| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
|--|--|
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Potentially Compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural green space to prevent recreational pressure on the SSSI |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Potentially Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. The major consideration here is the presence of dormice. Their habitat will need adequate buffering and there will need to be a careful layout design to ensure that their habitat, including hedgerows and the woodland SINC are safeguarded from indirect as well as direct impacts. Their habitat will also need to be enhanced to help bolster populations against pressures such as cat predation. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINC and LNRs. | Potentially Compatible subject to the careful protection of the SINC through layout planning and buffering. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design to protect the hedgerow on boundary and woodland strip. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINC or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological | Potentially compatible subject adequate buffering of the SINC and management / control of access to it. A |

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| effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | critical factor will be ensuring that it does not become a tipping area for garden rubbish. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially compatible as above. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks. |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to protection of boundary and adjacent habitats through layout planning and construction management. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible the site is large enough to provide scope for the creation of new habitats both as buffers to the SINC and as accessible natural greenspace for future residents. Both of these could make a useful contribution to local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

The majority of the site is of low biodiversity value given its current arable agricultural use. However, Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC lies within the site along part of the western boundary, and has records of dormice. The SINC would be vulnerable to additional pressure of recreation, fly-tipping etc if the site is developed for housing and a substantial landscape/habitat buffer should therefore be incorporated around the woodland.

The site is also within 100m of the River Test SSSI. Provision should be made for new accessible green space to avoid recreational pressure on the River Test and associated habitats where there are existing public footpaths.

2.5 OV004

Description of Area

Size: 9ha

The site predominantly comprises a grass ley. Along the southern and eastern boundaries (within the site) there is a woodland belt plantation of fairly recent origin. The site is bounded by residential development to the north, by agricultural land to the east and south and by more residential development to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the site or within a 400 m zone of potential influence around the area. However, the River Test SSSI lies within 500 metres of it.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINC within or adjacent to the site.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Site

The following priority habitat types occur within site:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Potential Zone of Influence

The following priority habitat types occur within the zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

The young plantation of mixed broadleaves is a potentially valuable feature for aiding landscape permeability to species through its connection with surrounding hedgerows and as a 'stepping stone' feature.

Species Constraints

Whilst the site has the potential to support protected species it is considered unlikely that any would be present that would prevent development so long as adequate mitigation measures are put in place.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Appropriate management of the plantation and boundary hedgerows would benefit the biodiversity of the site.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site is currently managed as a grass ley except for the woodland belt plantation.

Assessment

| Table 6: Assessment of OV004 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on the River Test SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINC and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINC or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design to protect the hedgerow and woodland plantation. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINC or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Compatible there are no SINC or LNRs within the likely zone of influence. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Compatible no significant indirect impacts anticipated. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement | Compatible subject to protection of hedgerows and the young woodland plantation through layout |

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| between habitats | planning and construction management. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible the site has some scope for the creation of new habitat and for the enhancement of the plantation, which could make a modest but useful contribution to local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

The site is predominantly a grass ley of very low biodiversity value. There are no designated sites within the site boundaries and there are few constraints to development of the site.

The recently planted woodland belt (20-40 m wide) along the eastern and southern boundaries of this site is of some value and provides a good basis for further enhancement to improve the habitat value of the site. This woodland and boundary hedgerows should be retained in any development layout.

2.6 OV006

Description of Area

Size: 6.8ha

This site comprises an arable field, a large part of which has become dominated by opportunistic ruderal vegetation which has colonised an area that appears to have been used for farm storage. There is an old wooded and structurally diverse hedgerow along the northern and western boundaries to the site. The site is bounded by small fields to the north, by residential development to the east, and by farmland to the south and west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or within the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or within the 400m zone of potential influence around the area. However, the River Test SSSI lies within 500 metres of the site.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Overton Green Lanes SINC lies adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, comprising ancient semi-natural woodland.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Hedgerow

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within Potential Zone of Influence

The following priority habitat types occur within the zone of potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

The boundary hedgerows are of very significant value in providing wider landscape connectivity.

Species Constraints

The hedgerows have significant potential for dormice to be present, which are European protected species.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is scope for modest incorporation of new habitat into any development layout and also to secure appropriate management of the old boundary hedgerow.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

Management of the site has been arable farmland management. However, parts of the site have also been subject to natural colonisation by ruderal herb species.

Assessment

| Table 7: Assessment of OV006 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any SSSIs. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | No Link see above. |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCS and LNRs. | Compatible no SINCS or LNRs within the site and subsequent direct development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to the protection of boundary hedgerows. Of particular importance is the old wooded hedgerow section. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCS or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Potentially Compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural greenspace. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially Compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural greenspace. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks. |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement | Compatible subject to the layout conserving boundary hedgerows. |

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| between habitats | |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Potentially compatible there is scope for modest incorporation of new habitat into any development layout. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Potentially there is some potential through securing appropriate management of boundary hedgerows. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Potentially compatible securing appropriate management of the old wooded hedgerow would assist with this. |

Commentary

Much of the site is of low biodiversity value given its arable agricultural use and the presence of an abandoned farm storage and muck heap area which supports abundant, but common, ruderal plant species. There are no designated sites within the site boundaries.

2.7 OV007

Description of Area

Size: 2.6 ha

This site comprises several paddocks of agriculturally-improved grassland and small plantations of recent origin. The site is bounded to the north by arable farmland (OV003), by a small community meadow to the east, by small paddocks to the south and west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI is within 200 metres of the site.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within the site, but Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC occurs within 400 metres of it.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Hedgerow

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- River
- Hedgerow
- Pond

Habitat Connectivity

The small plantations help to provide some highly localised habitat connectivity by providing stepping-stone habitats for birds, but there are no significant features of wider landscape-scale connectivity.

Species Constraints

The site has some potential for breeding birds and common reptiles and amphibians as well as foraging for bats and badgers. However, these would be material considerations to be taken into account through design and timing of development etc. rather than a constraint to development per se.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Due to the size of the site, there are limited opportunities for habitat enhancement. However, the small plantations provide useful features that could be further enhanced for biodiversity value.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site is regularly grazed by sheep, and managed for an occasional hay crop. Pastures appear to have been recently treated with herbicide.

Assessment

| Table 8: Assessment of OV007 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on the River Test SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINC and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINC or LNRs within the site. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design to protect the hedgerow. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINC or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Likely to be Compatible subject to access control and appropriate layout design. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Likely to be Compatible subject to access control and appropriate layout design. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without creating fragmentation or barriers between habitats. |

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| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but negligible opportunity to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible scope for very small scale improvements. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

There are relatively few constraints to development on this site. The grassland has been agriculturally improved and heavily grazed by horses, resulting in low biodiversity value. There are no designated sites within the site boundaries, but it is within 100 m of the River Test SSSI which, given footpath locations, could be subject to increased recreational pressure if this is not managed.

There are also some small areas of plantation of relatively low value within the site, which any development proposal should seek to incorporate and enhance.

2.8 OV010

Description of Area

Size: 1.9ha

The site comprises old semi-improved and improved paddocks with areas of scrub, areas of hardstanding, disturbed ground, and some evidence of garden management. It is bounded by arable farmland to the north, by school grounds to the east and south and more farmland to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI is within 300 metres of the site.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINC within or adjacent to the site, but Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC is within 50 metres of it.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

No priority habitats occur within the site.

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow
- Pond

Habitat Connectivity

The areas of scrub help to provide some highly localised habitat connectivity by providing stepping-stone habitats for birds, but there are no significant features of wider landscape-scale connectivity.

Species Constraints

The diverse vegetation structure suggests potential for reptiles and amphibians. These would be a material consideration for development, but are unlikely preclude development.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

Due to the size of the site, there are limited opportunities for habitat enhancement. However, the small plantations provide useful features that could be further enhanced for biodiversity value.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site is partly managed as a vegetable garden and the rest is occasionally grazed by ponies.

Assessment

| Table 9: Assessment of OV010 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on the River Test SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Compatible there are no priority habitats within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Potentially Compatible subject to limiting access to Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially Compatible subject to appropriate design, including access provision. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to retention / replacement of structurally diverse vegetation to maintain habitat continuity for locally common species. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of |

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| status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. A key consideration here is the potential for the presence of reptiles and amphibians. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible the site has some scope for the enhancement of small scale habitats and features, which could make a modest but useful contribution to local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

There are no designated sites within the site boundaries. The sites are improved horse-grazed paddocks with numerous trees and relatively low biodiversity value.

Substantial site clearance involving loss of trees could have local negative biodiversity impacts from loss of breeding bird habitats, and could affect bat roosts. The site also has potential to support protected reptiles and amphibians and, if found to be present, adequate mitigation will need to be put in place, retaining populations on or near the site.

Any development would therefore need to safeguard important trees/areas of vegetation. Otherwise, there are few constraints to development.

2.9 SOL002

Description of Area

Size: 8ha

The area comprises arable farmland, which appears to be former parkland and still contains remnant mature parkland trees. The site is bounded by farmland to the north, east and south and by the A33 to the west, beyond which is parkland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within the site, but Whitmarsh Lane and Piece SINC lies immediately to the south-eastern point of the site. Petty's Copse and Guinea Copse SINCs are within 400 metres, but are sufficiently segregated by the A33 so as to be unlikely to be influenced by recreational pressure etc.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow
- Pond

Habitat Connectivity

Hedgerows around the site provide some connectivity with the surrounding landscape but there are no major features of significant importance in terms of wider landscape connectivity.

Species Constraints

The site is likely to support a number of species that will need to be taken into account by any development, but no significant constraints to development of the

site are anticipated. Of particular note are mature remnant parkland trees which may host bat roosts.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is considerable scope to improve boundary hedgerows and for the incorporation of new habitats within the site, which might be integrated with the provision of accessible natural greenspace.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site has been managed through arable farming practices.

Assessment

| Table 10: Assessment of SOL002 | |
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| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on a SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. In particular, the mature remnant parkland trees which may host bat roosts will need to be investigated. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Potentially compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural greenspace within the site to reduce pressure on nearby SINC from recreational pressure. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to sensitive layout design and buffering of adjacent habitats |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to protection of hedgerows through layout planning and construction management. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by |

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| identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible the site has scope for the creation of new habitats and enhancement of hedgerows, which could make a useful contribution to local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

The majority of the site is of low biodiversity value given current arable agricultural use. There are no designated sites within the site boundaries.

However, Whitmarsh Lane and Piece SINC lie immediately to the south-eastern point of the site and could be subject to indirect pressure without appropriate mitigation through layout design. There are also a number of mature old parkland trees within the site (which is unusual for modern arable fields) which would be a material consideration and may constrain layout / site capacity. There is potential for great crested newts in the small pond adjacent to the northeast corner of the site and this should be checked to ensure that, if present, adequate mitigation is put in place.

2.10 WHIT006

Description of Area

Size: 3.1ha

The site comprises two abandoned and heavily overgrown paddocks. The site is bounded to the north by residential development, to the east by a railway line, and to the south and west by WHIT007.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI is within 300 metres of the site to the south-east.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Hurstborne Park SINC is within 400 meters of the site, but is unlikely to be influenced by development as it is isolated by the A34 trunk road.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

There are no priority habitat types within the site.

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadow
- River
- Hedgerow
- Pond

Habitat Connectivity

The belt of vegetation that runs parallel to the railway along the eastern boundary of the site is of value in providing habitat connectivity. Otherwise, there are few features within the site of importance to habitat connectivity with the surrounding landscape.

Species Constraints

Two species worthy of specific note have been introduced onto the northern edge of the site, on the immediate east side of the new houses, where some sand, shingle and chippings had been laid down to form a hard standing during the construction of the houses. These species are the Nationally Scarce Annual Beard-grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*) and the North Hampshire Scarce Common Cudweed

(*Filago vulgaris*). The site may support a number of other species, including common reptiles, that will need to be taken into account by any development, but no significant constraints to development of the site are anticipated.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is scope to enhance the site for the two scarce plant species that are present as well as to improve its botanical diversity in other parts of the site.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site appears to be unmanaged and is subject to natural colonisation by plants.

Assessment

| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
|--|--|
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on a SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs likely to be indirectly affected by development of the site. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Compatible subject to sensitive layout design and buffering of adjacent habitats |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing local habitat networks |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species | Likely to be Compatible subject to retention of the area on the northern edge of the site where the |

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| identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | nationally scarce Annual Beard-grass (<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>) and the North Hampshire Scarce Common Cudweed (<i>Filago vulgaris</i>) are present and subject to consideration of other species issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible parts of the site are botanically interesting and could be further enhanced to make a useful contribution to local biodiversity. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

There are no designated sites within the site boundaries. Much of the site comprises improved grassland, which has been abandoned, resulting in the development of common ruderal plant species. These are of limited biodiversity value but may be regarded as locally valuable to residents for naturalistic green space value.

The site has potential for reptiles, which would need to be given adequate consideration in any development (e.g. accommodated within enhanced habitat areas included as part of the site's green space).

Whilst most of the plant species within the site are common, nationally scarce annual beard-grass and common cudweed are present in a small patch of sand, shingle and chippings adjacent to the northern boundary. These should be protected through site planning and encouraged through appropriate management.

Opportunities should also be taken to enhance the botanical diversity of other parts of the site, where possible, within open space planning.

2.11 WHIT007

Description of Area

Size: 8.9ha

The site comprises an area of improved permanent pasture. The site is bounded by residential development and the A34 trunk road to the north, by WHIT006, a railway line and industrial development to the east, by a cemetery to the south and by the A34 to the west, beyond which is farm and parkland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI is within 300m of the site to the southeast.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Hurstborne Park SINC is within 400 metres of the site, but is unlikely to be influenced by development as it is separated by the A34 trunk road.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

There are no priority habitat types within the site.

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadow
- River
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

The boundary vegetation along the A34 along the western boundary is important in terms of wider landscape habitat connectivity. Otherwise the site does not contain habitats or features of wider landscape connectivity significance.

Species Constraints

Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) has been recorded in significant numbers within 100m of the site. This species is a material planning consideration. However, it is anticipated that with adequate early survey and planning that impacts on this species, as well as any other species likely to be using the site, could be satisfactorily mitigated.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

The site is large enough to have good potential for the creation of new habitats, which could be integrated with the provision of accessible natural greenspace.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site appears to be unmanaged.

Assessment

| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
|--|---|
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on the River Test SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Compatible there are no priority habitats within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the likely zone of influence. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Compatible no significant indirect impacts anticipated. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks. |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to the protection of boundary vegetation through layout planning and construction management. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. Slow-worms have been recorded |

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| the conservation of biodiversity in England. | near the site and therefore adequate provision should be made for their retention on, or adjacent to, the site if found to be present. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Compatible should not prejudice the delivery of these targets, but limited opportunities to make a significant contribution at this scale. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Compatible the site has scope for the enhancement and the creation of new habitat as part of accessible natural greenspace provision and to contribute to local biodiversity targets. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Compatible limited scope but does not prejudice this aim. |

Commentary

There are no designated sites within the site boundaries. The site comprises a mixture of arable and agriculturally improved grassland of low biodiversity value.

Whilst the site may have protected species issues such as the possible presence of a population of slow-worms within 100 metres of the site, it is generally unconstrained for development. The site is large enough to accommodate the creation of new habitat, which could form part of the open space provision and, if necessary this may form part of any mitigation plan required for protected species such as slow-worms.

The site has vegetated margins, which have good potential for enhancement of their habitat value. Buffers should be provided to protect boundary habitats.

2.12 WHIT009

Description of Area

Size: 5.2ha

The site is bounded by the B3400 to the north beyond which is residential development, by farmland to the east, by the River Test and associated habitat to the south and by residential development to the west.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI is within 300m of the site to the southeast.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Cowslip Bank SINC occurs within the potential zone of influence, adjacent to the River Test.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Floodplain grazing marsh
- River
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

The southern part of the site, which is former water meadow, forms part of the River Test corridor, and whilst this has been agriculturally improved, it represents a gap in habitat continuity that should be protected from further degradation by development which would create more of a barrier. If possible, it should be restored.

Species Constraints

European otter (*Lutra lutra*) has been recorded on site. Brown-long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) have also been recorded on site. Both these European protected

species would benefit from habitat restoration of the southern, former water meadow, part of the site.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

The southern former water meadow part of the site has particularly good potential for restoration due to its location within the River Test river corridor.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The old valley bottom meadow is grazed by cattle at moderate density, while the valley side pasture is heavily grazed by sheep.

Assessment

| Table 13: Assessment of WHIT009 | |
|--|--|
| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Potentially Compatible subject to measures (eg. SUDS) to avoid adverse impacts on the hydrology, or pollution of, the River Test SSSI. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Potentially Compatible through the significant opportunity for habitat creation on the southern portion of the site, which forms part of the river corridor. |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINC and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINC or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design to protect the hedgerow and woodland. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINC or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Compatible there are no SINC or LNRs within the likely zone of influence that are likely to be affected by development of this site due to isolation by the River Test. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design, including incorporation of buffers to protect adjacent habitats. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater | Potentially Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat |

| | |
|---|--|
| significance | networks, subject to no development on the southern portion of the site, which forms part of the River Test corridor. |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Potentially Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks, subject to no development on the southern portion of the site, which forms part of the River Test corridor. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Potentially Compatible the southern portion of the site is an improved area of former water meadow, which, if restored, would make an important contribution to biodiversity action plan targets. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Potentially Compatible see above. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Potentially Compatible see above. |

Commentary

There are no designated sites within the site boundaries. The northern half of the site is of limited biodiversity value and is relatively unconstrained for development. However, the hedgerows and strip of woodland should be protected and be carefully integrated into any development layout so as to secure appropriate future management. Buffers should be provided for boundary habitats and provision made to avoid adverse hydrological and pollution problems to the River Test from run-off.

The southern edge of the site is within 50m of the River Test SSSI. This forms a natural part of the River Test corridor and contains relicts of water meadow vegetation and a good informal watermeadow-type structure. There are relatively few opportunities to restore this type of habitat or wetlands generally in the borough. This is due, at least in part, to historical development within floodplains. This southern part of the site has good potential for restoration/enhancement for biodiversity and forms an important part of the River Test corridor. Therefore, it should be safeguarded from development.

2.13 WHIT010a

Description of Area

Size: 7.7ha

The site comprises an abandoned arable field. It is bounded to the north and east by more arable land (also to the north within 200 metres, is the River Test). To the south and west is residential development.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The River Test SSSI runs along the northern boundary of the site within 200m.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Cowslip Bank SINC occurs within the potential zone of influence, adjacent to the River Test.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Hedgerow

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Floodplain grazing marsh
- River
- Hedgerow

Habitat Connectivity

There are no features within the site that are of particular importance in terms of habitat connectivity with the wider landscape.

Species Constraints

The site is likely to support a number of species that will need to be taken into account by any development, but no significant constraints to development of the site are anticipated.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is scope to improve the limited hedgerows around the boundaries through new native planting.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site has a history of farmland management but is currently unmanaged and has become colonised by a variety of common meadow species.

Assessment

| Table 14: Assessment of WHIT010a | |
|--|---|
| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Potentially Compatible subject to measures (eg. SUDS) to avoid adverse impacts on the hydrology, or pollution of, the River Test SSSI. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Potentially Compatible subject to use of developer contributions to improve habitat management and enhancement along the River Test corridor. |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design to protect the boundary hedgerow. |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINCs or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Potentially compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural greenspace and any paths being well-designed to avoid recreational pressures. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural greenspace and any paths being well-designed to avoid recreational pressures. |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible no significant impacts anticipated from the development of this site. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by |

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|---|---|
| identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Potentially Compatible there is scope for use of developer contributions to be used for habitat improvements and management associated with the River Test corridor. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Potentially Compatible see above. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Potentially Compatible see above. |

Commentary

The majority of the site is improved pasture, which has been developed on former arable land. It has relatively low biodiversity value, but supports a range of more common meadow species of localised biodiversity value for local residents. There are no designated sites within the site boundaries, but the River Test SSSI and Cowslip Bank SINC are nearby and could be indirectly affected from recreational pressure and run-off from development into the River Test.

There is considerable potential to enhance the biodiversity of the site and development should contribute to habitat improvements, particularly those that would enhance the corridor of the River Test and contribute to local accessible natural greenspace.

The limited boundary hedgerow should also be protected and improved through new planting and provision made for its future management.

2.14 BAS121 and SOL002

Description of Area

Size: Total 75 ha

This assessment is based on a combination of BAS121 and SOL002, which comprises arable farmland and appears to be former parkland, still containing remnant mature parkland trees.

BAS121 comprises arable land of a more typical open nature, but made up of several fields surrounded by hedgerows. It forms part of the valley through which the River Loddon flows. Collectively, the sites are bounded by more farmland to the north and east, farmland and residential development to the south, residential development to the west and are part bounded by the A33 along the western flank.

SOL002 comprises arable farmland, which appears to be former parkland and still contains remnant mature parkland trees. The site is bounded by farmland to the north, east and south and by the A33 to the west, beyond which is parkland.

Designated Sites

European Sites:

There are no European sites within the site or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the site. The area does not fall within the 5 km zone identified within the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are no SSSIs within the area or the 400 m zone of potential influence around the area.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There are no SINCs within the site, but the River Loddon and Lower Mill SINC and Whitmarsh Lane and Piece SINC are within 400 metres of it. Petty's Copse and Guinea Copse SINCs are within 400 metres, but are sufficiently segregated by the A33 so as to be unlikely to be within the zone of influence of the site.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats Types within the Site

The following priority habitat types occur within the site:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow

The following priority habitat types occur within the potential influence:

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Hedgerow
- Pond

Habitat Connectivity

Hedgerows around and within the site provide some connectivity with the surrounding landscape but there are no major features of significant importance in terms of wider landscape connectivity.

Species Constraints

The site is likely to support a number of species that will need to be taken into account by any development, but are not significant constraints to development of the site. Of particular note are mature remnant parkland trees which may host bat roosts.

Habitat Enhancement Potential

There is considerable scope to improve boundary hedgerows and for the incorporation of new habitat within the site, which might be integrated with provision of accessible natural greenspace.

Ecological Processes and Land Management

The site has been managed through arable farming practices.

Assessment

| Criteria Assessment | Assessment |
|--|--|
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | Compatible development would not be expected to have any significant effects due to relative size and distance from any European sites. |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Compatible no adverse impacts on a SSSI are anticipated. |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | Not linked |
| Avoids disturbing European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | Likely to be Compatible subject to proper consideration of EPS in accordance with legal requirements, informed by appropriate surveys. In particular, the mature remnant parkland trees which may host bat roosts will need to be investigated. |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINCs and LNRs. | Compatible there are no SINCs or LNRs within the site or its likely development footprint. |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to safeguarding these through careful layout design. |

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|---|--|
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINC or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | Potentially compatible subject to adequate provision of accessible natural greenspace within the site to reduce pressure on nearby SINC from recreational pressure and subject to provision of measures to avoid harmful hydrological and pollution impacts on the River Loddon from run-off. |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | Potentially compatible subject to sensitive layout design and buffering of adjacent habitats |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | Compatible development of the site can be achieved without severing landscape-scale habitat networks |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | Compatible subject to protection of hedgerows through layout planning and construction management. |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | Likely to be Compatible subject to consideration of these issues prior to site layout planning, informed by appropriate surveys. |
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | Potentially Compatible if the site is developed, developer contributions should be taken towards the restoration of habitats along the River Loddon corridor / valley. |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | Potentially Compatible see above. |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | Potentially Compatible see above. |

Commentary

There are no designated sites within the site, but within 400 metres of the site are the River Loddon and Lower Mill SINC, Whitmarsh Lane and Piece SINC and Petty's Copse and Guinea Copse SINC. Development within the site has the potential to affect the hydrological regime of the River Loddon and introduce new sources of pollutants from urban surface water run-off which will need to be mitigated. Adequate protection, including buffering, of Petty's Brook and natural flood zones will be required.

Boundary features of ecological value should be retained and there is also potential for habitat enhancements. Where possible, the remnant parkland trees should be integrated into any development with adequate undisturbed land left around them to allow their survival.

3. Results, Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, an assessment has been made of the possible implications of development within the potential future development areas and this has then been considered in relation to each biodiversity objective within the assessment framework and an assessment of compatibility made. The following compatibility categories have been used. A summary of the assessment findings is shown in Table 16.

| Compatibility Categories | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Code | | Definition |
| C | Compatible | Strategic development considered to be compatible with objective. |
| NL | No Link | Strategic development considered to have a neutral effect on objective |
| LBC | Likely to be Compatible | Subject to compliance with legal requirements regarding statutory sites or species, but not anticipated to be a constraint. |
| PC | Potentially compatible | Compatibility subject to a layout that respects and successfully integrates designated sites and important habitats and/or includes provision for positive biodiversity enhancements. This may mean that significant parts of the site remain undeveloped. Significant mitigation measures are liable to be necessary and off-site compensation might be necessary to ensure not net loss and or a net gain. |
| CU | Compatibility Uncertain | It is not possible to fully assess compatibility without further studies of the potential impacts. |
| I | Incompatible | Strategic development not considered to be compatible with objective. |

From an assessment of the compatibility ratings for each potential development area, a rank has been assigned to each one in terms of the level of constraint that it presents to development. This enables a sequential approach to be taken when considering the potential of each area in terms of biodiversity, with the least constrained areas being considered before those that are liable to have higher impacts. A summary of these results is shown in Table 17 according to the following criteria.

Assessment Grades

1 - Relatively few constraints. There may be biodiversity issues to be addressed, but it is anticipated that these can be satisfactorily addressed through detailed site planning and established ecological mitigation practices.

2 - Some constraints such as presence of a SINC, priority habitat, within the area and, there may be a priority/protected species constraint, or adjacent habitats that may suffer from indirect pressure. Layouts will need to successfully integrate any

SINCs or priority habitats, accommodate species requirements, and seek to mitigate indirect effects.

3 - Development likely to be possible in parts of the area, but significant parts are constrained and/or there is a significant risk of indirect impacts on adjacent habitats or on priority species. Off-site compensation may be needed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity.

4 - Development may be feasible while meeting the biodiversity criteria, but there are important biodiversity interests within the zone of influence that are particularly sensitive to the types of impact arising from development. Further assessment is needed based on additional information about potential development scenarios, the subsequent nature and magnitude of impacts, and the capacity of the biodiversity interests to tolerate them.

5 - Strategic development allocation is considered to be incompatible with biodiversity objectives and the policies from which they are derived.

The results indicate that out of the fourteen sites, none are deemed to be constrained sufficiently for their development to be regarded as incompatible with biodiversity planning policies. However, they will require differing degrees of layout planning, mitigation and provision of biodiversity improvements in order to satisfy current biodiversity policies that are material to planning decisions. OV004, OV006, OV007, OV010 and SOL002 have the fewest constraints. BAS024, BRAM005, WHIT006, WHIT010a, BAS121 & SOL002 all either have some constraints within the site or adjacent that would require careful layout design and buffering, which will mean the site is not fully exploitable for development or special mitigation measures, such as the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems, will be necessary to safeguard nearby habitats.

Most constrained is WHIT009 as a significant portion of the site is deemed to be inappropriate for development given its former water meadow status, location within the River Test corridor and significant potential for restoration, which would be lost if the site is developed. However, subject to mitigation to avoid any adverse indirect impacts on the River Test SSSI such as hydrological impacts or pollution, development of the northern section of the site could provide the necessary investment to achieve restoration / habitat enhancement of the southern section, thus achieving a significant net gain in biodiversity.

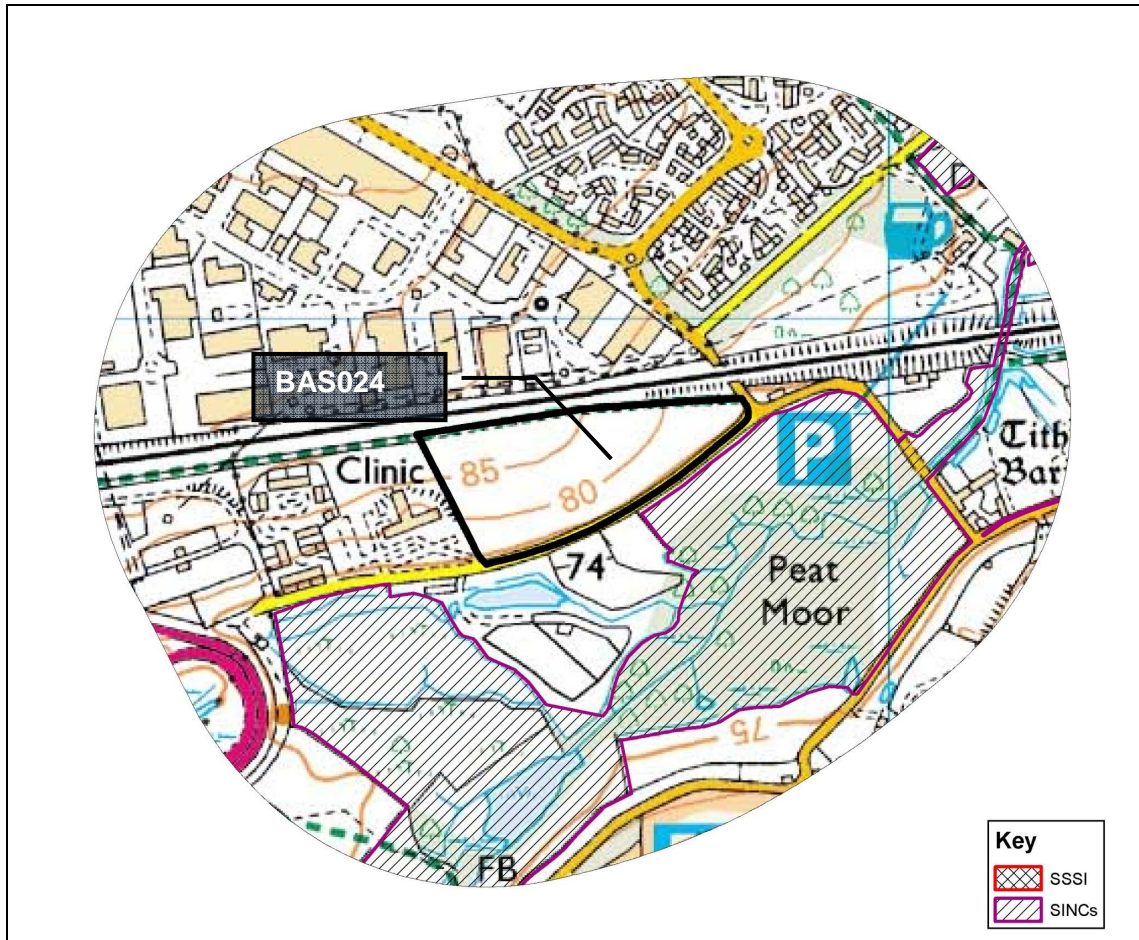
| Table 16: Summary of Site Assessments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Criteria Assessment | BAS02 4 | BRAM00 5 | OV00 2 | OV00 3 | OV00 4 | OV00 6 | OV00 7 | OV01 0 | SOL00 2 | WHIT00 6 | WHIT00 7 | WHIT009 | WHIT010 a | BAS121 & SOL002 |
| Avoids a significant effect on European sites or adversely affecting the integrity of such a site. | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Avoids adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | C | C | PC | PC | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | PC | PC | C |
| If it is likely to influence a SSSI, furthers the conservation and enhancement of the features for which it is designated. | NL | NL | PC | C | NL | NL | NL | NL | NL | NL | NL | PC | PC | NL |
| Avoids disturbing a European protected species, or damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such a species or, where this is unavoidable due to an overriding public interest in favour of development within the area, and there being no satisfactory alternative, the impact will not be detrimental to maintaining the population of the | C | C | C | PC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seeks to avoid full or partial loss of SINC and LNRs. | C | C | C | PC | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Avoids full or partial loss of priority habitats | PC | PC | PC | PC | PC | PC | PC | C | PC | PC | C | PC | PC | PC |
| Seeks to avoid indirect impacts on SINC or LNRs (inc recreational pressure, hydrological effects and interference with other natural processes and interference with land management practices on which biodiversity interests depend) | LBC | LBC | C | PC | C | PC | LBC | PC | PC | C | C | C | PC | PC |
| Avoids indirect impacts on other priority habitats | LBC | LBC | LBC | PC | C | PC | LBC | PC | PC | C | C | PC | PC | PC |
| Avoids severing a landscape scale habitat network of borough wide or greater significance | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | PC | C | C |
| Avoids causing further fragmentation or creation of barriers to species movement between habitats | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | PC | C | C |
| Avoids negative impacts on the conservation status of a protected species or a species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. | PC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC | LBC |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Has the potential to contribute to regional and local habitat restoration and creation targets from the South East Biodiversity Strategy and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan | PC | C | C | C | C | PC | C | C | C | C | C | PC | PC | PC |
| Has the potential to positively contribute to other biodiversity conservation objectives, including strengthening of habitat networks; improving habitats for priority species; providing appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance. | PC | C | C | C | C | PC | C | C | C | C | C | PC | PC | PC |
| Contributes to the positive management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. | PC | C | C | C | C | PC | C | C | C | C | C | PC | PC | PC |

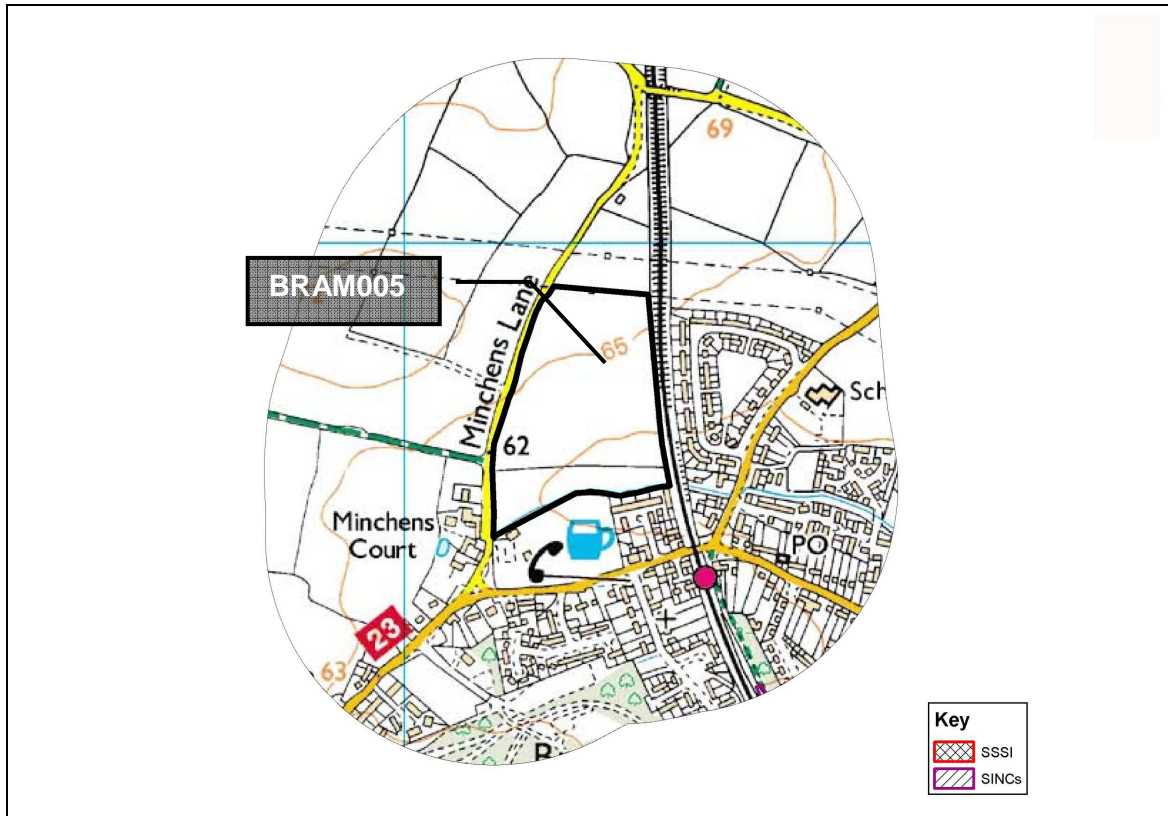
| Table 17: Overall Assessment | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| BAS024 | 2 |
| BRAM005 | 2 |
| OV002 | 2 |
| OV003 | 2 |
| OV004 | 1 |
| OV006 | 1 |
| OV007 | 1 |
| OV010 | 1 |
| SOL002 | 1 |
| WHIT006 | 2 |
| WHIT007 | 1 |
| WHIT009 | 3 |
| WHIT010a | 2 |
| BAS121 & SOL002 | 2 |

Appendix A: Site Maps



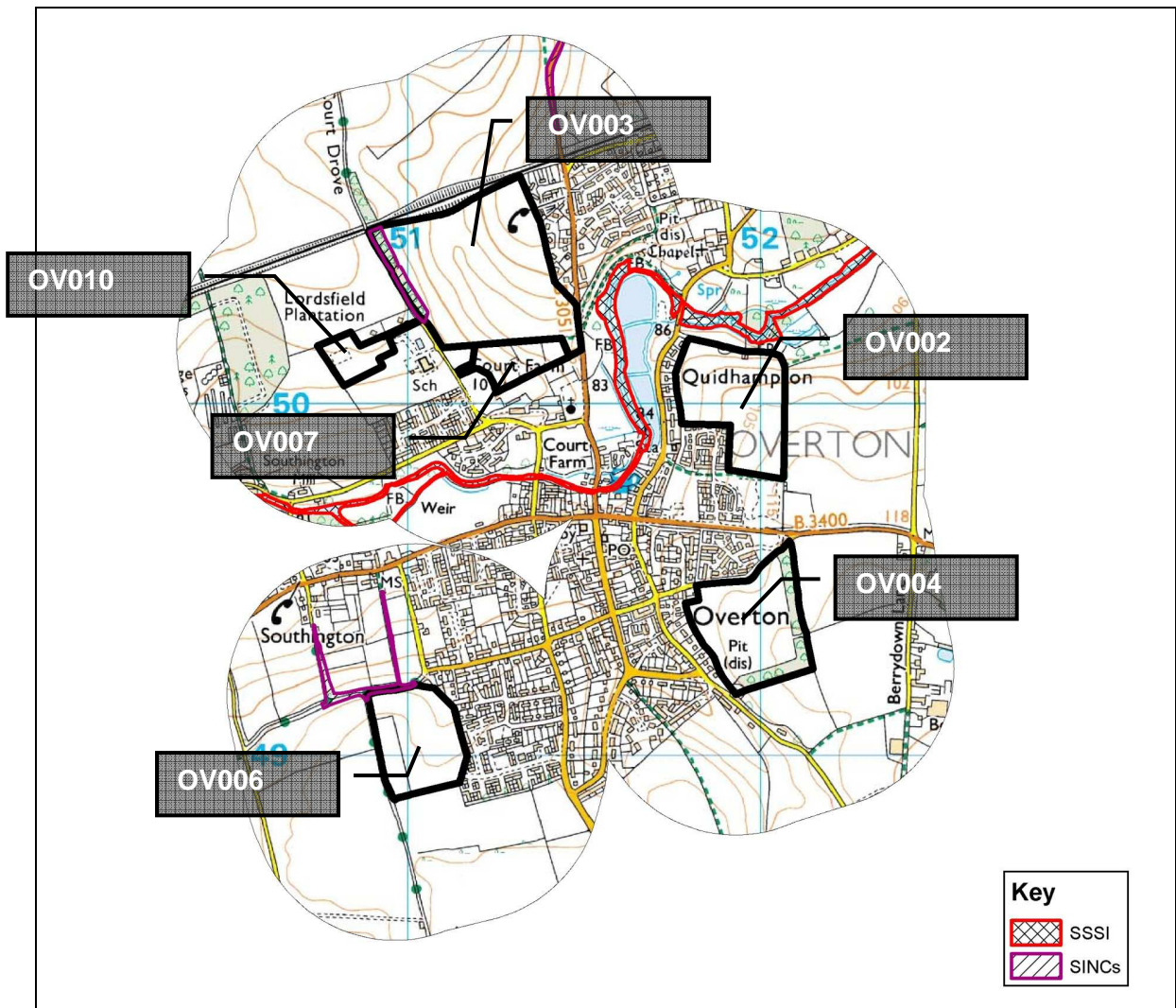
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Figure 1: BAS024 Site Boundary and Relationship to Designated Sites

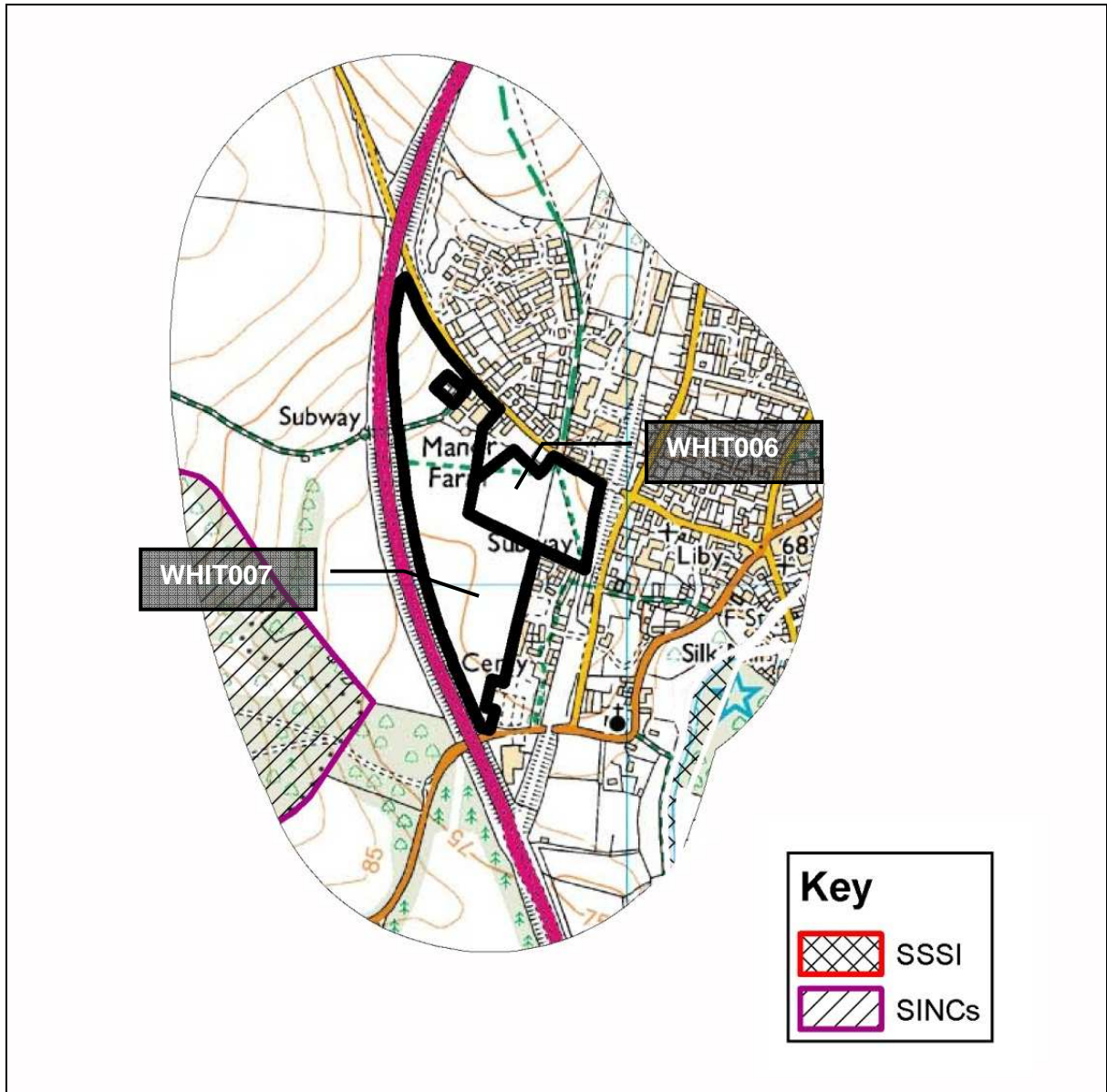


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Figure 2: BRAM005 Site Boundary and Relationship to Designated Sites

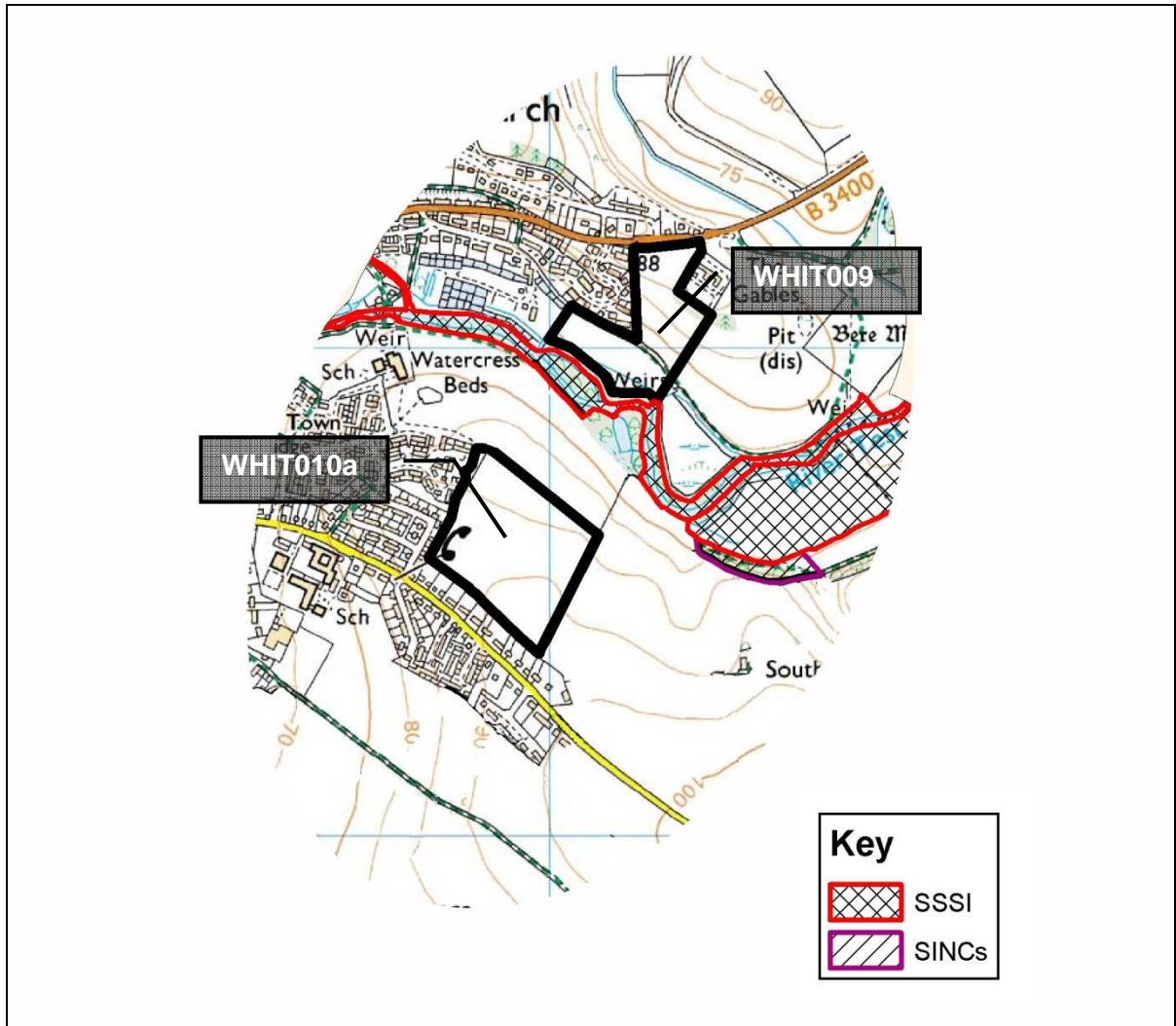


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Figure 3: Overton Site Boundaries and Relationship to Designated Sites



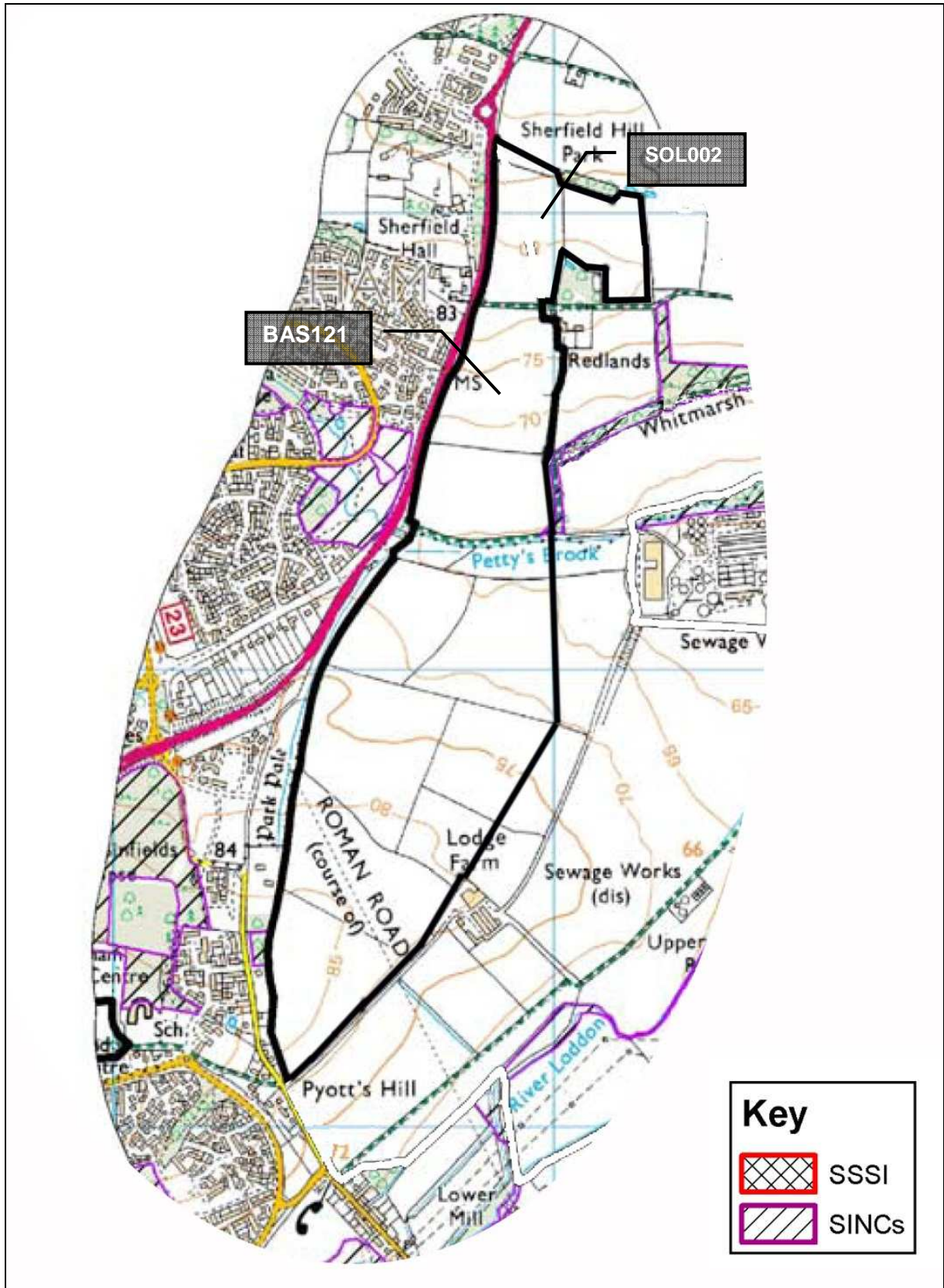
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Figure 4: WHIT006 & 7 Site Boundaries and Relationship to Designated Sites



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Figure 5: WHIT009 & 10a Site Boundaries and Relationship to Designated Sites



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Figure 6: BAS121 & SOL002 Site Boundary and Relationship to Designated Sites