



**BIODIVERSE**  
**CONSULTING**

# **PEMBROKE DOCK**

**PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**FOR: LIDL GB LTD**

**REF: BIOC24-253 | V1**



CLIENT	PROJECT	
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiverse Consulting Ltd was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land at Kingswood Industrial Estate, Isaac Way, Pembroke Dock, SA72 4RA. The Site is proposed to be developed into a retail supermarket with associated infrastructure and landscaping. This report presents the key ecological constraints and opportunities in relation to the development, as summarised in the table below.

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PEMBROKE DOCK PROPOSAL	
Designated Sites	Five internationally designated sites within 10km from the Site and one nationally designated site within 2km of the Site. No non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the Site.
Bats	The Mixed scrub on Site afforded negligible suitability for roosting bats and limited suitability for foraging bats.
Birds	The Mixed scrub on Site afforded limited nesting and foraging potential for breeding birds. The Sparsely vegetated habitat on Site and proximity of the Site to Milford Haven SSSI affords suitable loafing and foraging habitat for waders.
Great Crested Newt (GCN)	The Mixed scrub affords suitable commuting and foraging opportunities for GCN, with good connectivity to off Site ponds. Surveys recommended to further assess the suitability of the ponds.
Reptiles	The habitats on Site provide structural diversity for common reptiles, with good connectivity to suitable habitats off Site. Surveys recommended to further assess the suitability of the Site.
Priority Species	The Site has potential to support priority species such as hedgehog and common toad.
Invasive Non-Native Species	One Schedule 9 invasive species was identified on Site: <i>Cotoneaster sp.</i> .
Further Survey and Assessment	<div>The following surveys and assessments are recommended:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Four monthly non-breeding bird surveys from November – February.</li><li>Seven reptile surveys between March and October.</li><li>HSI and eDNA surveys for GCN.</li><li>A Preliminary Roost Assessment of the structure on Site if the structure is to be impacted during construction.</li><li>Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA).</li><li>Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP).</li></ul></div>



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The Site is located at Kingswood Industrial Estate, Isaac Way, Pembroke Dock, SA72 4RA at an approximate central grid reference of SE 27710 89073 as illustrated in Figure 1. The 1.082ha Site consists predominantly of an area of Sparsely vegetated urban land central to the Site, with an area of Mixed scrub and Developed land; sealed surface to the north and one small building to the west of the Site.

**FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION**







## 1.2 REPORT OBJECTIVES

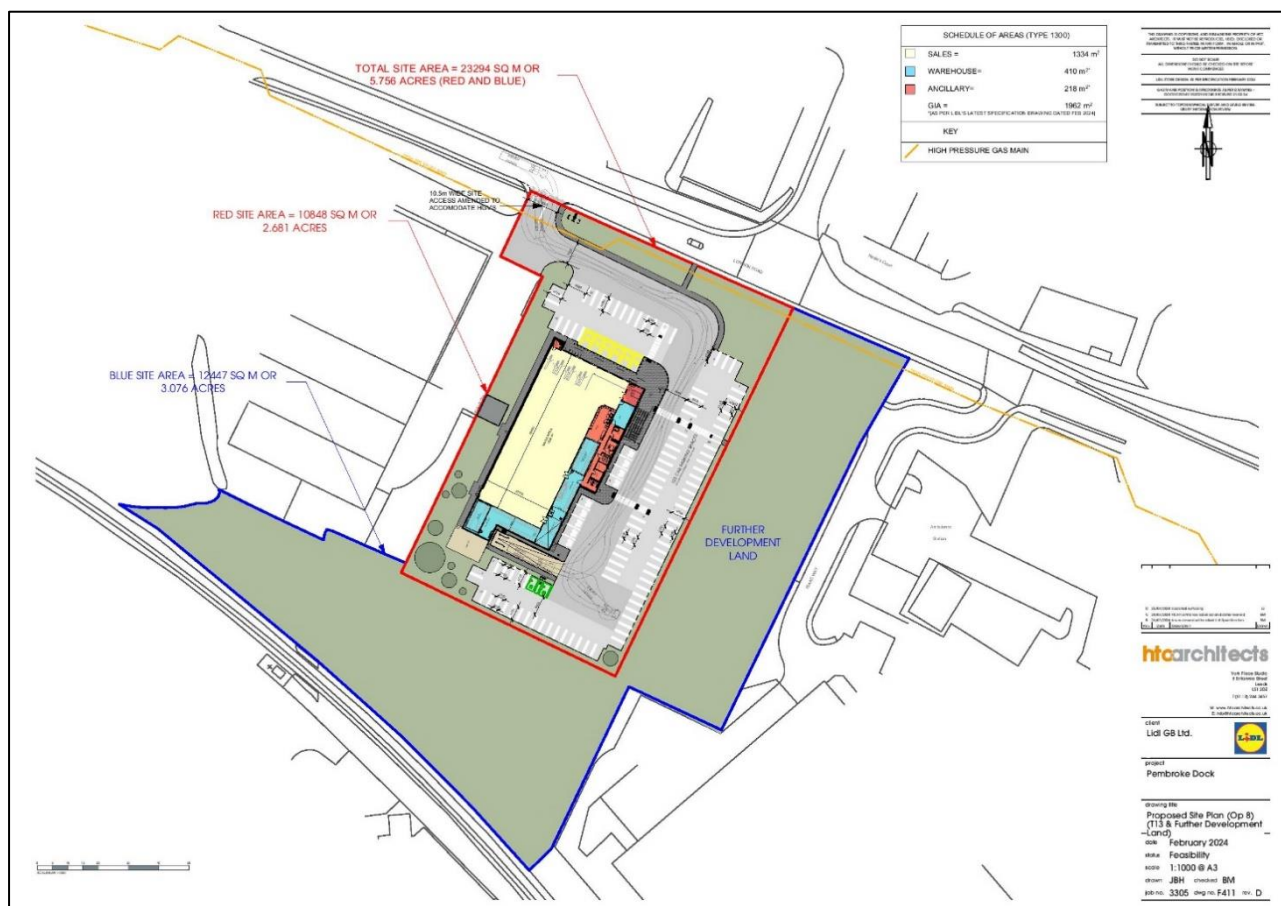
The aim of this report is to determine the potential ecological constraints and opportunities to development. The objectives of this report are to:

- Identify and describe ecological features/receptors that may be present on Site or within an identified Zone of Influence (ZoI).
- Outline potential mitigation, compensation or enhancement measures if required.
- Determine the need for and scope of further surveys.

### 1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The site is proposed to be developed into a retail supermarket with associated infrastructure including landscaping based on plans at the date of the production of this report (Proposed Site Plan (Op 8) (T13 & Further Development-Land)).

## FIGURE 2: DEVELOPMENT PLAN





# 2 METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 SURVEY AREA

The survey area comprised the ‘Site’ (Figure 2) and, where access was available, an appropriate buffer

FIGURE 3: SURVEY AREA







2.2 DESK STUDY

A desk study was undertaken to obtain pre-existing ecological information relevant to the assessment. The desk study included:

- An assessment of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping.
- A search of the MAGIC website<sup>1</sup> for all statutory designated Sites within 2km and any additional Sites outside of this buffer that have the potential to be impacted by the development.
- A request to the Local Record Centre (LRC) for records of non-statutory designated Sites within 1km and protected and priority habitats and species within 2km.

2.3 FIELD SURVEY

Table 1 provides a summary of the field surveys undertaken. Full details of each survey are provided in the subsequent sections. All surveys were undertaken by suitably experienced and licenced ecologists; full details are available on request.

TABLE 1: SURVEY SUMMARY

SURVEY TYPE	DATE	TEMPERATURE	CLOUD	PRECIPITATION	WIND <sup>2</sup>
PEA	30/01/2025	8°C	80%	0%	3BF

2.3.1 Habitats/Protected Species

The Site was subjected to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) walkover survey during which habitats were assessed in line with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methods<sup>3</sup>. As part of the survey, the Site was also checked for evidence of protected and priority species, and habitats were assessed for their potential to support them.

2.3.2 Bats

Survey methods and assessment are based on the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines<sup>4</sup>.

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) assessed habitats for bats to roost, commute, and forage both on Site and in the surrounding area. The aim is to determine the suitability of the Site for bats, to

<sup>1</sup> Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk))  
<sup>2</sup> Beaufort wind force scale available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/guides/coast-and-sea/beaufort-scale>  
<sup>3</sup> UKHAB Ltd (2023) The UK Habitats Classification User Manual Version 2 at <http://www.ukhab.org/>  
<sup>4</sup> Collins, J. (ed) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Bat Conservation Trust



assess whether further bat surveys will be needed and how those surveys should be safely carried out.

## 2.4 LIMITATIONS TO SURVEY

The survey was conducted out of the optimal growing season for plants which poses as a limitation for identifying habitats and their specific species.

A botanical updating survey will be carried out within the optimal growing season to further inform habitat identification on Site.

## 2.5 ASSESSMENT

The PEA surveys may provide sufficient information to accurately determine the value of some features, whereas other features may require further study to allow this. Features for which sufficient information is available at this stage are assigned a value using a geographic frame of reference in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (Appendix F).



# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 DESK STUDY

### 3.1.1 Designated Sites

The desk study returned two Special Protected Areas (SPA), one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and one Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 10km of the Site. No non-statutory designated sites were found within 1km of the Site. A summary of statutory designated sites is provided in Table 2.

The SPA and SAC are considered to be of International value, and the SSSI is considered to be of National value.

TABLE 2: DESIGNATED SITES

DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
Statutory Designated Sites			
SPA	Castlemartin Coast	Regularly supports red-billed chough during the breeding season.	9,000m
SPA	Skomer, Stockholm and Seas off Pembrokeshire	Designated for the protection of European storm-petrel, manx shearwater, Atlantic puffin, lesser black-backed gull, red-billed chough, short-eared owl and breeding seabird assemblage.	9,040m
SAC	Pembrokeshire Marine	Designated for the presence of Large shallow inlets and bays, Estuaries and Reefs along with the presence of grey seal, sea lamprey and shore dock.	1,573m
SAC	Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes	Designated for the hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benethic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i> and the presence of greater horseshoe bat.	6,008m



DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
SAC	Limestone Coast of South West Wales	Designated for the presence of vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts, and grey dune habitats, greater horseshoe bat and early gentian species.	8,050m
SSSI	Milford Haven Waterway	Designated for its geology, ancient woodland, saltmarsh, swamp, saline lagoons, rare and scarce plants and invertebrates, nationally important numbers of migratory waterfowl, and waders including Dunlin, greater and lesser horseshoe bats, and otter.	130m

### 3.1.2 Priority Habitats

There are no records of priority habitats on Site. There is one record of the priority habitat Restored Ancient Woodland adjacent to the Site.

There are records of Priority Habitats within 2km of the Site including: Ancient Semi-natural Woodland, Deciduous Woodland, Neutral Grassland, Pond (Standing Water), Fen, Marsh, Swamp habitat, Intertidal Mudflat and Littoral Rock.

The LRC map of the Priority Habitats is provided in Appendix C.

### 3.1.3 Protected and Priority Species

A summary of recent (2015–present) records of protected, priority or otherwise notable species was provided by the LRC and relevant records are discussed in the results sections below. The full LRC search results are available on request.

## 3.2 FIELD SURVEY

### 3.2.1 Habitats

The 1.082ha Site is dominated by urban land including a building, with an area of scrub to the north of the Site and a small building to the west of the Site. Detailed accounts of the UKHab habitats are provided below. A map of the UKHab habitats is provided in Appendix A.



**IMAGE 1 – MIXED SCRUB**



**IMAGE 2 – SPARSELY VEGETATED URBAN LAND**



**IMAGE 3 – DEVELOPED LAND;  
SEALED SURFACE**







#### 3.2.1.1 h3h - Mixed scrub

A 0.179ha area of Mixed scrub habitat which stretches along most of the northern edge and some of the western edge of the Site (Image 1). Species include red-osier dogwood *Cornus sericea*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, *Prunus* sp., buddleja *Buddleja davidii* and Schedule 9 *Cotoneaster* sp.

The Mixed scrub was of 'local' ecological importance.

#### 3.2.1.2 u1f - Sparsely vegetated urban land

A 0.825ha area of Sparsely vegetated urban land makes up the central area of the Site, consisting of a loose gravel surface with sparse patches of vegetation across the habitat (Image 2). The species include curled dock *Rumex crispus*, dandelion *Taraxacum* spp., buddleja and Schedule 9 *Cotoneaster* sp.. Vegetation density becomes greater to the north and south of the habitat.

The Sparsely vegetated urban land was of 'low' ecological importance.

#### 3.2.1.3 u1b – Developed land; sealed surface (and building)

A 0.072ha area of Developed land; sealed surface located in the north of the Site as a strip of hardstanding stretching the width of the Site (Image 3) and a single building making up 0.00442 ha of the Site located to the west of the Site (B1).

The Developed land; sealed surface was of 'low' ecological importance.

### 3.2.2 Invasive Non-Native Species

One invasive Schedule 9 species was identified on Site; *Cotoneaster* sp.. This was found throughout the Site.

### 3.2.3 Protected Species

Protected species are afforded a level of legal protection which means that their presence may pose a constraint to development. A summary of relevant legislation and associated species is provided in Appendix D.

The following sections describe the results of the field surveys and an appraisal of desk study data. Species not addressed below are considered extremely unlikely to be present and/or affected by the development and so are scoped out of further assessment.

#### 3.2.3.1 Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

The desk study and the third-party data returned no records of GCN within 2km of the Site. The nearest record of GCN was 28.87km north east of the Site.

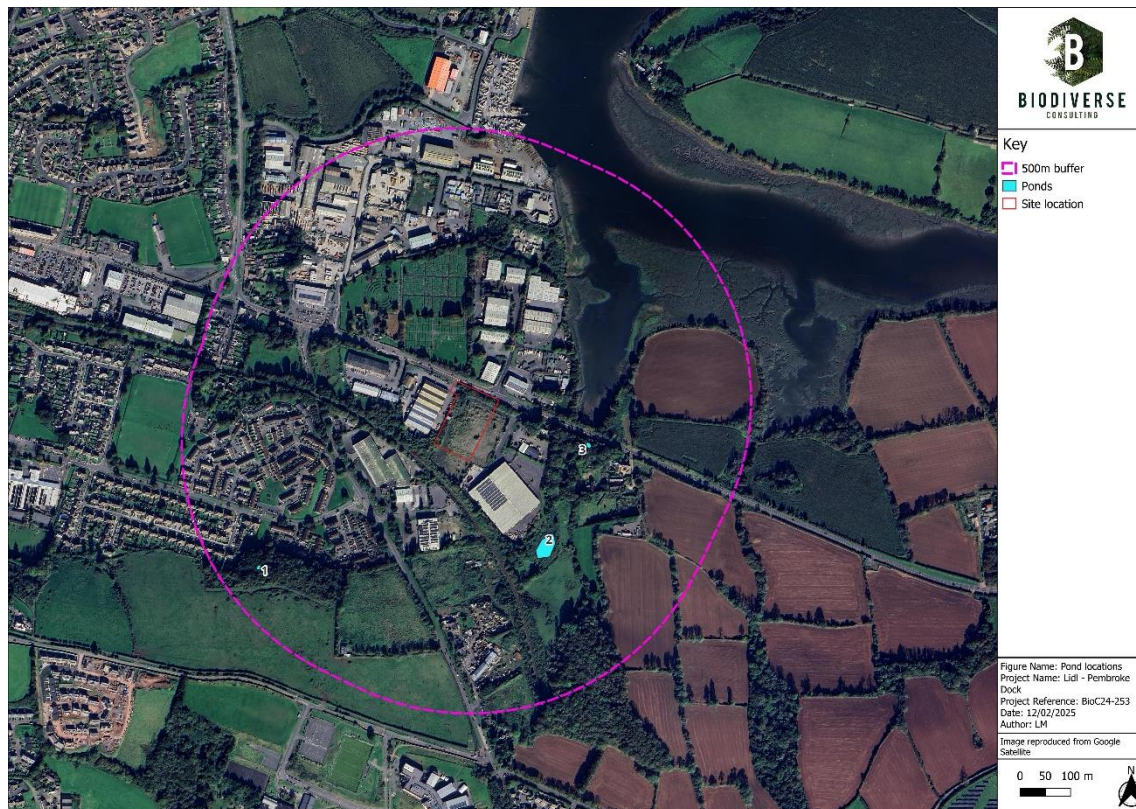
There are no water bodies present on Site but three water bodies are present within 500m of the Site. The woodland, scrub and shrub habitats surrounding the Site provide good connectivity to



the ponds. The railway line to the south of the Site offers further connectivity for commuting GCN.

The Mixed scrub provides suitable foraging and commuting habitat for GCN during the terrestrial phase and provide connectivity to off Site waterbodies. The Site is of low suitability for GCN however further surveys will be recommended for off Site ponds.

**FIGURE 4: POND LOCATIONS**



common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii* brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*.

A single building (B1) was recorded within the Site during the survey. Current proposals identify this building as being retained. However, if updated plans identify that this building will be altered or removed, then further surveys will be required to assess the buildings suitability for roosting bats.

The Mixed scrub to the north and west of the Site affords opportunities for foraging and commuting bats. Foraging and commuting opportunities in the wider area are considered good, with a range of woodland, hedgerows, arable land and waterbodies present. Connectivity to these habitats is partially restricted with the A477 to the north of the Site and a railway track to the south of the Site but connectivity remains good overall.



Despite the Mixed scrub habitat being suitable for commuting and foraging on Site, construction and removal of habitat features on Site will not have a significant impact on the population of bats in the local area due to the good suitability of the surrounding habitats. Therefore, no further surveys are advised.

3.2.3.3 Birds

A number of bird records were returned, including Schedule 1 and Red-Listed<sup>5</sup> species such as two records of Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, three records of Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, one record of Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and three records of Lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus*. There were 20 Dunlin recorded during the walkover survey on Site.

The Mixed scrub habitat provides limited opportunities for nesting and foraging for a range of locally common species and disturbance in the form of noise and light pollution from the A477 to the north of the Site and the surrounding industrial and commercial facilities further limits suitability for birds.

The Sparsely vegetated urban land on Site affords opportunities for coastal birds associated with the nearby SSSI Milford Haven Waterway, including Dunlin which were identified on Site during the walkover survey (see Table 2).

Overall, the Site is of ‘low’ ecological value for breeding birds, however a precautionary approach will be adopted to safeguard the species during construction. Non-breeding bird surveys will be recommended to further assess the value of the Site.

TABLE 3: BIRD SPECIES RECORDED

SPECIES	COMMENT	CONSERVATION STATUS
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	20 Dunlin within the buddleja scrub.	Red List

3.2.3.4 Badger (*Meles meles*)

The third party data revealed 14 records of badger within 2km of the Site.

The Mixed scrub habitat on Site offers suitability for foraging, however the fence to the north of the site separating the Site with the A477 reduces the connectivity of this habitat to the wider landscape which is of greater suitability for badger. The rest of the Site is of negligible suitability for sett building due to the hard underlying substance and no sightings or signs of badger activity such as setts, snuffle holes, latrines or hair were recorded during the walkover survey.

<sup>5</sup>BTO, Birds of Conservation Concern Wales (2022) [birds of conservation concern wales 4 2022.pdf](#)



It is unlikely that badger are present on Site, and are therefore scoped out of further assessment, however a precautionary approach will be adopted to safeguard the species during construction.

#### 3.2.3.5 Reptiles

There is one record of common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* within 2km of the Site. Access is restricted by the A477 to the north of the Site, however the Mixed scrub offers suitable foraging habitat and the Sparsely vegetated urban land and Developed land; sealed surface offer opportunities for basking. There is good connectivity from the Site to railway line to the south of the Site, further enhancing the habitats suitability for common reptiles.

Overall, the structural diversity of the Site and good connectivity to suitable habitats beyond could make the Site a valuable habitat for common reptiles. Therefore, reptile surveys will be recommended to further assess the value of the Site.

#### 3.2.3.6 Priority Species

The Site has the potential to support priority species including hedgehog (12 records) and common toad (three records). However, no evidence of priority species was found at the time of survey.

A precautionary approach will be adopted to safeguard these species during construction.

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## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The development has the potential to adversely impact valuable ecological features and some of these impacts may also constitute legal offences. The broad impacts include:

- Direct harm of animal species
- Disturbance of animal species
- Loss and degradation of valuable habitats
- Loss and degradation of habitats that support protected/priority species

Many of these impacts can be adequately addressed at this stage and therefore a range of good practice avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are recommended below. Impacts to some features cannot be robustly assessed without additional information and so further surveys and assessments are recommended for such features.



## 4.2 FURTHER SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

The following surveys are recommended to provide a robust baseline for the assessment of the potential ecological impacts of the development.

SURVEY/ASSESSMENT/PLAN	DESCRIPTION
Surveys	
Non-breeding Bird Survey	Four monthly visits with at least one nocturnal visit from November - February. A Site walkover will be carried out to record encountered species on Site and adjacent land. Approximate locations of priority species will be plotted on a site map together with behavioural notations where appropriate.
Reptile Survey	Seven survey visits between March and October to set out reptile mats, record species and abundance of reptiles using the Site. Locations of reptile mats will be mapped and sightings will be recorded.
Great Crested Newt (GCN) Survey	Conduct Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessments of the offsite ponds, followed by an eDNA survey of suitable ponds to determine presence/absence of the species. If presence is confirmed, further survey may be necessary to determine populations sizes and apply for a European Protected Species licence.
Assessments	
Ecological Impact Assessment	The results of all aforementioned surveys will be combined into an Ecological Impact Assessment report, which will include assessment of impacts and avoidance, mitigation, and compensation measures of the proposed development on the ecology of the site.
Method Statements	
Construction Ecological Management Plan	Provides method statements to reduce impact on construction activities on ecological features.





## 4.3 AVOIDANCE

The following measures should be incorporated into the design of the development, including the construction phase, to avoid and reduce impacts on wildlife:

- A Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) providing suitable precautionary mitigation measures for protected species including but not limited to, reptiles, GCN, common toad and hedgehog.
- Avoid clearance works during the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) unless the is checked by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) and active nests are confirmed to be absent no later than 48 hours before works commence.
- Internal and external lighting will be designed in line with BCT guidance<sup>6</sup> to reduce impacts bats and a range of other wildlife associated with retained and off- habitats.
- Schedule 9 invasive species will be removed by a licenced specialist contractor.

## 4.4 MITIGATION

Mitigation is proposed to reduce the impacts on wildlife that cannot be avoided through design:

- All construction activities will be programmed to daytime hours to reduce disturbance to sensitive nocturnal species, such as bats and roosting bird species.
- Excavations should be securely covered or fenced overnight, or otherwise provide a means of escape for animals that may become trapped in the form of a ramp at least 300mm wide and angled no greater than 45°. Excavations should be inspected for the presence of animals before work recommences and, in the event of trapped animals being trapped, an ecologist contacted for advice.
- Gaps of at least 13cm x 13cm will be created within boundaries to facilitate movement of hedgehogs and other small animals throughout the Site.

## 4.5 COMPENSATION/ENHANCEMENT

Compensation is proposed to address the impacts on habitats which cannot be avoided or mitigated:

- Landscape planting to compensate for any tree/shrub loss shall include species native to the local area as well as berry and fruit-bearing species alongside pollinator species, to provide increased foraging opportunities in the local area.

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<sup>6</sup> Bat Conservation Trust (2018) Guidance Note 08/18: Bats and artificial lighting in the UK



- The incorporation of opportunities for nesting birds within the development. This should be proportionate to the level of suitable habitat removed once the development plans are confirmed.



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# APPENDICES



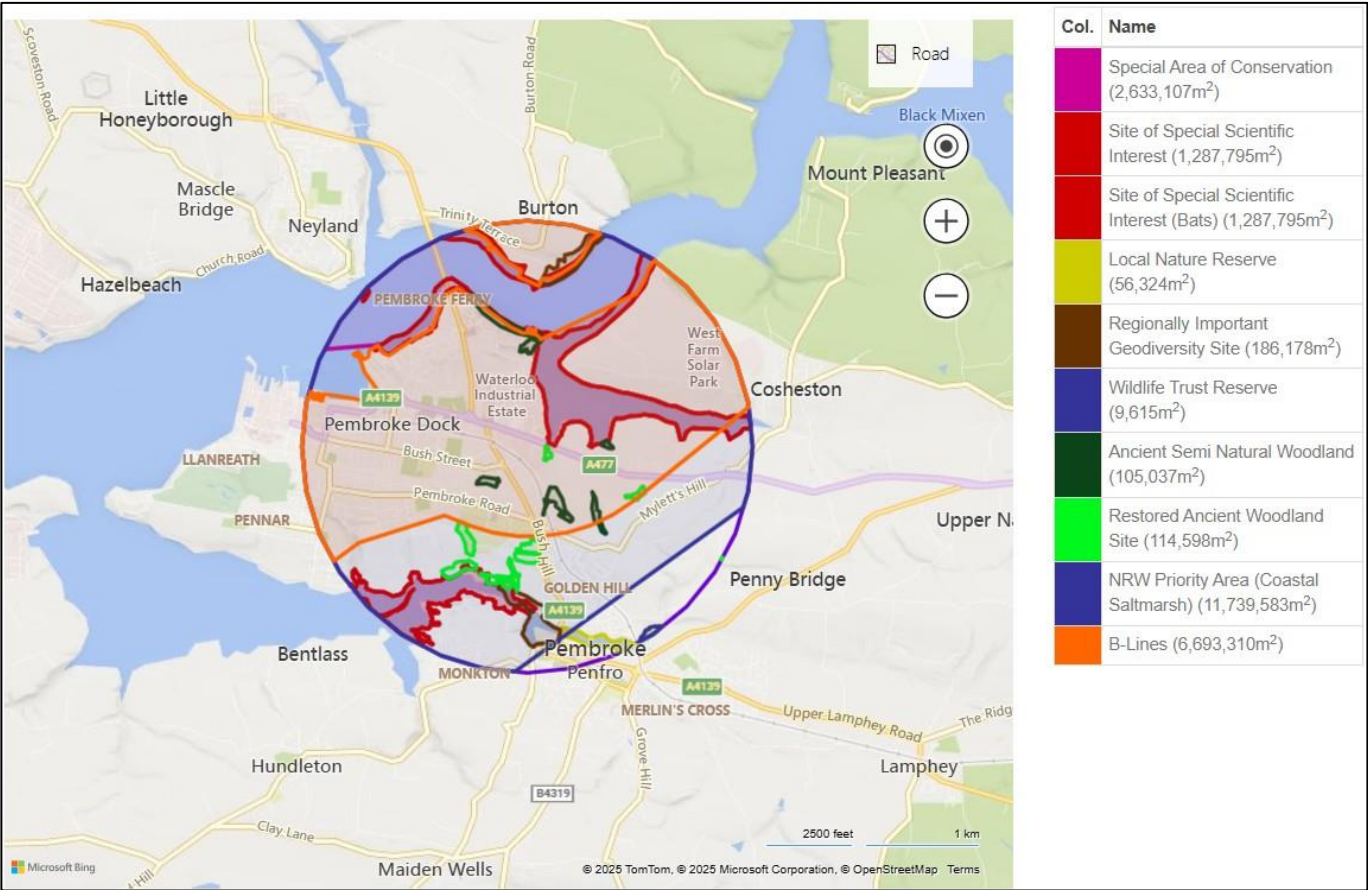
## APPENDIX A – UKHab MAP







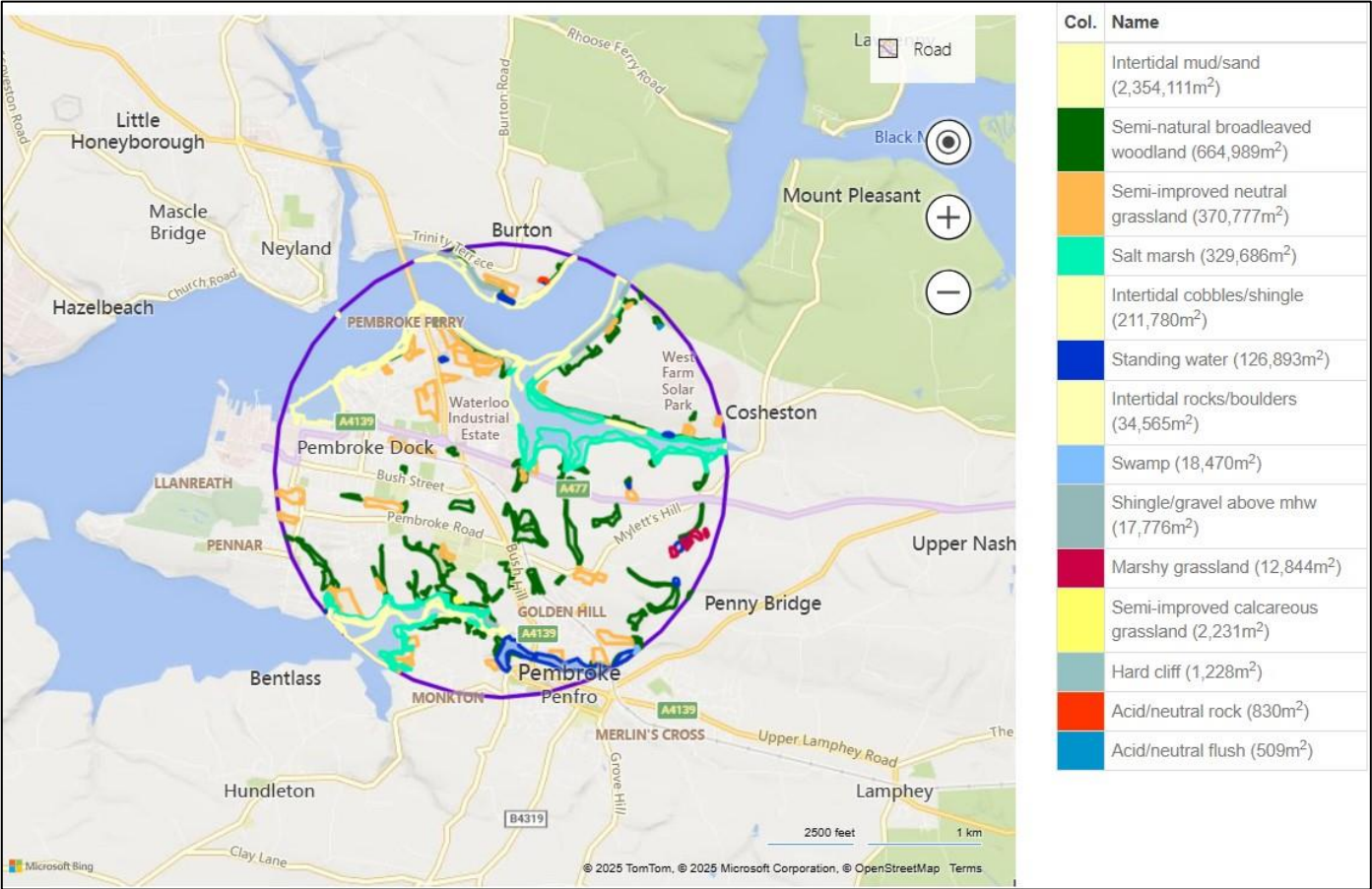
APPENDIX B – DESIGNATED SITES







APPENDIX C – PRIORITY HABITATS MAP





## APPENDIX D – POLICY AND LEGISLATION

### The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981<sup>7</sup>, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000<sup>8</sup> and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006<sup>9</sup>, is the main legislation that protects wildlife in Great Britain and is the mechanism for defining and protecting nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (with certain exceptions) and disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 to the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting;
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly disturb certain Schedule 5 animal species while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection; and
- Pick or uproot any wild plant listed under Schedule 8 of the Act. Schedule 9, Part II of the Act also lists many species for which it is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow, in the wild. Any material containing Japanese knotweed is also identified as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990<sup>10</sup> and must be disposed of properly at licensed landfill according to the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991<sup>11</sup>.

### The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>12</sup> (the ‘Habitat Regulations’), as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019<sup>13</sup>, establish the requirements for protecting sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species – the National Network – and thus the requirement for a ‘Habitat Regulations Assessment’ of plans or developments with potential to affect them.

<sup>7</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

<sup>8</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

<sup>9</sup> Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

<sup>10</sup> The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

<sup>11</sup> The Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1991/2839/made>

<sup>12</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

<sup>13</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111179512/contents>



The Habitat Regulations also establish the strict protection of some species – European Protected Species – and make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb certain wild animals, and to damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal even if the animal is not present at the time.

### **Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**

The NERC Act 2006<sup>9</sup> places a duty on local planning authorities to have due regard for biodiversity and nature conservation during their operations, and thus ensures that biodiversity is a key consideration in the planning process. The Act also establishes a list of species and habitats of principal importance ('Priority' Species and Habitats) for the conservation of biodiversity.

### **The Environment Act 2021<sup>14</sup>**

The Environment Act 2021 provides a framework for environmental protection in the UK. It is a wide-range piece of legislation affecting many aspects of the natural environment, including biodiversity. The act sets clear targets to halt the decline in wildlife populations through a legally binding target for species abundance by 2030 and a requirement to increase species populations by 10% by 2042. The Act also establishes mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain in new developments.

### **Ramsar Convention**

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the 'Ramsar Convention'<sup>15</sup>) provides the only international mechanism for protecting internationally important wetlands; such s are designated as Ramsar s. It is government policy that Ramsar s are afforded the same level of protection as s in the National Network and so they are also subject to HRA.

### **Protection of Badgers Act 1992**

Badgers receive strict protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992<sup>16</sup>, which prohibits the taking, injuring, selling, possessing or killing of badgers and makes it an offence to ill-treat any badger, damage, destroy, disturb or cause a dog to enter a badger sett.

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<sup>14</sup> The Environment Act 2021. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

<sup>15</sup> The Ramsar Convention <https://www.ramsar.org/>

<sup>16</sup> Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>



## The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997<sup>17</sup> establishes the legal protection of important countryside hedgerows, principally ancient and species-rich hedgerows. The Hedgerow Regulations also provide arrangements for planning authorities to protect important hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification.

## Planning Policy Wales

Planning Policy Wales<sup>18</sup> sets out the Welsh Government's requirement for the planning system in Wales and in doing so establishes the framework within which local planning authorities can develop their own planning policies.

## Biodiversity Action Plans

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was developed to fulfil the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992, to which the UK is a signatory. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework<sup>19</sup> succeeded the UKBAP and expired in 2019, but the UKBAP priority species and habitats are retained through the NERC Act 2006. Regional and local BAPs have also been developed for species/habitats of nature conservation importance at regional and local levels.

## APPENDIX E – VALUE OF ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

VALUE	EXAMPLES
<b>International</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An internationally designated or candidate (SPA, pSPA, SAC, cSAC, pSAC, Ramsar ) or an area which meets the designation criteria for such s.</li> <li>Internationally significant and viable areas of a habitat type listed in Annexe 1 of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</li> <li>Any regularly occurring, globally threatened species.</li> <li>A regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK, of uncertain conservation status</li> <li>A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.</li> </ul>
<b>National</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A nationally designated (e.g. SSSI, NNR) or a discrete area which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI)</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/contents/made>

<sup>18</sup> Planning Policy Wales 2021 (edition 11). Available from: [https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Available from: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/587024ff-864f-4d1d-a669-f38cb448abdc>



VALUE	EXAMPLES
	<p>selection guidelines) irrespective of whether or not it has yet been notified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A viable area of a UK BAP priority habitat, or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</li> <li>• A regularly occurring significant number/population of a nationally important species <u>e.g.</u> listed on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</li> <li>• A regularly occurring population of a nationally important species that is threatened or rare in the county or region.</li> <li>• A feature identified as being of critical importance in the UK BAP.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional / County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional or County BAP or smaller areas of such a habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of the larger whole.</li> <li>• Regional/county significant and viable areas of key habitat identified as being of regional value in the appropriate English Nature (now Natural England) Natural Area.</li> <li>• A regularly occurring significant population/number of any important species important at a regional/county level.</li> <li>• Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a Regional/County Red Data Book or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation.</li> <li>• s of conservation importance that exceed the district selection criteria but that fall short of SSSI selection guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>City/District/ Borough</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of habitat identified in a District/City/Borough BAP or in the relevant Natural Area profile.</li> <li>• s that the designating authority has determined meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves selected on District/City/Borough ecological criteria.</li> <li>• s/features that are scarce within the District/City/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/City/Borough habitat resource.</li> <li>• A diverse and/or ecologically valuable hedgerow network.</li> <li>• A population of a species that is listed in a District/City/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation.</li> <li>• A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District/City/Borough important species during key phases of its life cycle.</li> </ul>
<b>Parish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A feature considered scarce within a Parish or which appreciably enriches the Parish resource.</li> </ul>
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas identified in a Local BAP or the relevant natural area profile.</li> <li>• s/features which area scarce in the locality or which are considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context, e.g. species-rich hedgerows.</li> <li>• Local Nature Reserves selected on Parish/Local ecological criteria.</li> </ul>





VALUE	EXAMPLES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant numbers/population of a locally important species <u>e.g.</u> one which is listed on the Local BAP.</li><li>• Any species, populations or habitats of local importance.</li></ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Habitats of moderate to low diversity which support a range of locally and nationally common species, the loss of which can be easily mitigated.</li></ul>



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