Proposed Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Canford Resource Park

Update Ecological Baseline Report 2026

Prepared by:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

On behalf of:
MVV Environment Ltd

April 2026

Report Reference
edp7095_r017a

Document Control

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Client	MVV Environment Ltd
Report Title	Update Ecological Baseline Report 2026
Document Reference	edp7095_r017a

VERSION INFORMATION

	Author	**Formatted**	**Peer Review**	**Proofed by/Date**
017_DRAFT	ESu/PFr	CTi	GCr	-
017	ESu/PFr	-	-	GPa 280426

DISCLAIMER TEXT

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Section 1
Introduction

1.1 This Update Ecological Baseline Report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of MVV Environment Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'). This report sets out the current baseline ecological conditions relevant to the proposed Carbon Capture Retrofit Ready (CCRR) Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power (EfW CHP) Facility at Canford Resource Park (CRP) (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').

1.2 The proposals have been the subject of a detailed planning application (planning reference: APP/23/00822/F) and a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The application was therefore supported by an Environmental Statement (ES), Chapter 8 of which related specifically to ecology and biodiversity and details the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) of the proposed development. This was updated with Chapter A8 of the 2024 ES Addendum. Following refusal of the planning application in 2025, the proposals are now subject to a planning appeal, which is being supported by a 2026 ES Update. This report is a Technical Appendix to Chapter A8 of the 2026 ES Update and should be read in conjunction with it.

1.3 This report has been prepared with reference to the following key guidance:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*[1];
- CIEEM *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment*[2];
- *British Standard: Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Planning and Development*[3]; and
- *British Standard: Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain*[4].

1.4 EDP is an independent environmental planning consultancy with offices in Cirencester, Cardiff and Cheltenham. The practice provides advice to private and public sector clients throughout the UK in the fields of landscape, ecology, archaeology, cultural heritage, arboriculture, rights of way and masterplanning. Details of the practice can be obtained at our website (www.edp-uk.co.uk).

[1] CIEEM (2017). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester
[2] CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester
[3] BSI (2013) *Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Planning and Development*. BS 42020:2013. British Standards Institute
[4] BSI (2021) *Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification*. BS 8683:2021. British Standards Institute

SITE CONTEXT

1.5 The Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SZ 03436 96720 and comprises three main components, namely:

- The 'EfW CHP Facility Site' – this refers to the main area where the EfW CHP Facility will be located;
- The 'CHP Connection' – the corridor of land south of the EfW CHP Facility Site identified to connect to the Magna Business Park through which the underground pipes, cables and associated infrastructure would be located to supply heat and/or power;
- The 'Distribution Network Connection' (DNC) – the corridor of land and location for a substation south of the EfW CHP Facility Site identified to connect electricity to the National Electricity Transmission Network through underground pipes, cables and associated overground infrastructure; and
- 'Temporary Construction Compound 1' (TCC1) –located in the arena field to the north of the EfW CHP Facility Site, this area will be used as the construction compound for the duration of the EfW CHP Facility construction.

1.6 The EfW CHP Facility Site measures approximately 8.8 hectares (ha) and is located in the south-western part of an existing integrated waste management park, within the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council ('BCP Council') administrative area. The Site comprises predominantly of bare ground and hardstanding, with natural habitats largely limited to boundaries of tall forbs, grassland, scrub, and strips of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

1.7 TCC1 comprises predominantly of grassland, with areas of ruderal and ephemeral vegetation. The DNC corridor and field includes existing bare ground, grassland, scrub, a Sustainable drainage System (SuDS) feature, and a small section of woodland.

1.8 The EfW CHP Facility Site is almost entirely surrounded by Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Despite the degradation of local habitats associated with the existing waste management operations, the EfW CHP Facility Site falls within an ecologically rich landscape, as reflected by the presence of both statutory and non-statutory designations and records for a variety of protected and/or notable species.

1.9 The principal habitat features within the Site are illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**, with habitat descriptions and illustrative site photographs provided in **Appendix EDP 1**.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

1.10 The primary purpose of the proposed development is to treat Local Authority collected household residual waste and similar residual Commercial and Industrial waste from Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and surrounding areas, that cannot be recycled, reused or composted and that would otherwise be landfilled or exported to alternative EfW facilities further afield, either in the UK or Europe.

1.11 The proposed development will recover useful energy in the form of electricity and hot water from up to 260,000 tonnes of non-recyclable (residual), non-hazardous municipal, commercial and industrial waste each year. The proposed development has a generating capacity of approximately 31 megawatts (MW), exporting around 28.5 MW of electricity to the grid. Subject to commercial contracts, the proposed development will have the capability to export heat (hot water) and electricity to occupiers of the Magna Business Park.

1.12 The ecological sensitivities of the Site (as updated in this report) have influenced the final layout through an iterative design process. Thus, the masterplan incorporates a degree of 'inherent' mitigation to avoid or reduce the severity of potential ecological impacts.

REPORT SCOPE

1.13 This Update Ecological Baseline Report describes the current ecological interest within and around the Site, which has been identified through standard desk- and field-based investigations, to inform the EcIA.

1.14 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** summarises the methodology employed in determining the updated baseline ecological conditions within and around the Site (with further details provided within Appendices and on Plans where appropriate);
- **Section 3** summarises the updated baseline ecological conditions (with further details also provided within Appendices and on Plans where appropriate) and identifies and evaluates any Ecological Features (EFs), with an analysis of any changes since the previous 2023 Baseline Report; and
- **Section 4** summarises the current EFs that are relevant to the EcIA of the proposed development.

1.15 Any changes to potential impacts on EFs resulting from the Proposed Development in light of this updated ecological baseline, together with any additional proposed measures to avoid and mitigate impacts and deliver ecological enhancements alongside any residual significant effects (positive or negative), are described in Chapter A8 of the 2026 ES Update.

Section 2
Baseline Methodology

2.1 This section summarises the methodologies employed in determining the update baseline ecological conditions within and around the Site. This has been undertaken by appropriately qualified ecologists using relevant best practice methodologies wherever possible. Reasons for any departure from best practice methodology are given and normally relate to the timing of EDP's commission and/or the availability of access to parts of the Site or wider study area. Full details of the techniques and process adopted are, where appropriate, provided within appendices and on plans to the rear of this report.

DESK STUDY

2.2 The Site was previously subject to a comprehensive suite of ecological surveys undertaken between 2021 and 2022, as detailed within the Ecology Baseline Report prepared by EDP in July 2023 (edp7095_r002, Appendix 8.1 of the 2024 ES Addendum). This included a desk study, habitat survey, pilot breeding bird, bat, great crested newt, badger and reptile surveys.

2.3 The results of these previous surveys have been used to inform the scope of update surveys and are referenced where applicable throughout this report.

2.4 The update desk study is an important element of the update baseline data gathering, which entails the collation and review of any new contextual information, such as designated sites, together with known records of important habitats or species.

2.5 The update desk study was undertaken during February 2026 and involved collating biodiversity information from the following sources:

- Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC);
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website[5]; and
- National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas website[6].

2.6 The desk study involved obtaining the following information:

- International statutory designations (10km radius around Site);
- National statutory designations (5km radius around the Site with designations up to 10km to the north-east and south-west also reviewed based on area of potential acidification impacts to habitats determined via air quality modelling and previous scoping responses from Natural England and the local planning authority);
- Statutory Designated Sites of County Importance (2km radius);

[5] www.magic.gov.uk
[6] www.nbnatlas.org

- Non-statutory local sites (2km radius);
- Annex II bat species[7] records (6km radius);
- All other protected species, priority species and other notable species records[8] (2km radius);
- The Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), published in December 2025; and
- All other Irreplaceable Habitat or Priority Habitat[9] records (500m radius).

2.7 These search areas are considered sufficient to cover the potential zones of influence[10] of the proposed development in relation to designated sites, habitats and species.

2.8 The adopted Poole Local Plan (adopted 2018) was reviewed as part of the desk study to understand local priorities with regard to protection of ecological features/biodiversity.

HABITAT SURVEY

2.9 The main habitats within the Site, together with their dominant/characteristic plant species, were identified by undertaking an update habitat survey on 22 October 2025. This survey was undertaken following the guidance for habitat surveys as set out in The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide[11], for which the habitat definitions primarily rely on descriptions set out in the UK Habitat Classification[12] and habitat conditions as set out for the Statutory Biodiversity Metric[13].

2.10 This method allows for an assessment of the main habitat types present on Site, including those listed as Priority Habitats or Irreplaceable Habitats. This survey was extended so that any evidence (actual or potential) for protected or notable species present on Site was recorded. Any evidence of Schedule 9 invasive non-native species[14] was also recorded. Plant species lists and their abundance for each habitat type were recorded but only where pertinent to identify the habitat type or condition. It was not the aim of the survey to collate a comprehensive botanical or species inventory of the Site.

[7] Bat species listed in Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive, namely greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, barbastelle and Bechstein's bats

[8] Certain species are listed as Priority Species (also termed Species of Principal Importance), the conservation of which public authorities in England must have due regard to as part of policy or decision making under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Other species of conservation note are also included here, where they are listed under other conservation lists (e.g., red data books).

[9] Certain habitats are listed as Priority Habitats (also termed Habitats of Principal Importance), the conservation of which public authorities in England must have due regard to as part of policy or decision making under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Irreplaceable habitats are those listed under The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024.

[10] Zone of Influence - the areas and resources that may be affected by the proposed development

[11] DEFRA (February 2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide

[12] UKHab Ltd (July 2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 [https://www.ukhab.org]

[13] DEFRA (February 2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessments

[14] Those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

2.11 Full details of the habitat survey methodology are provided within **Appendix EDP 1**.

Limitations

2.12 Although the timing was just outside of the optimum window for habitat surveys, this is not considered to be a significant limitation to the survey, given the types of habitat present and the previous optimal habitat data available for the Site.

Breeding Bird Survey

2.14 Full details of the breeding bird survey methodology are provided in **Appendix EDP 2**.

Limitations

2.15 Although a full discussion of limitations is provided in **Appendix EDP 2**, there were no significant limitations with this survey type.

Bat Surveys

2.16 During bat roost assessments in 2021, five trees within and immediately adjacent to the Site were assessed as having potential to support bat roosting, while buildings and built structures were assessed as having negligible suitability to support bat roosts.

2.17 In addition, the majority of the Site was identified as having low suitability to support foraging and commuting bats owing to the predominance of low-quality habitat, including hardstanding and areas of bare ground. However, it is noted that higher-quality habitats are present on and adjacent to the Site, including woodland, scrub, and ponds. These habitats are limited in extent and are therefore likely to support only low numbers of bats. High levels of light pollution associated with the EfW CHP Facility Site also reduce its suitability for foraging and commuting bats, particularly light-sensitive species.

2.18 The following update surveys for bats were therefore undertaken to provide current information on the status of bat use within the Site, in accordance with best practice guidelines which have been updated since the previous survey work[17]:

Tree Roost Survey:

- Update Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA), undertaken by a bat licenced surveyor on 08 September 2025, of all trees on Site and immediately adjacent to it, to look for features that bats could use for roosting in order to determine the available roosting resource and the need for further survey.

[16] Marchant, J. (1983). *Common Bird Census Method*. BTO

[17] Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Buildings/Built Structures Roost Survey:

- Update Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of buildings and built structures to search for evidence of bats and determine the suitability of features to support roosting, undertaken on 08 September 2025 by a bat licensed surveyor.

Bat Activity Surveys:

- Nighttime Bat Walkover (NBW) surveys completed in summer (early September 2025) and autumn (October 2025), with an additional survey planned for spring 2026; and
- Automated bat detector surveys conducted in summer (early September 2025) and autumn (October 2025); with an additional survey planned for spring 2026.

2.19 Full details of the bat survey methodologies are provided in **Appendix EDP 3**.

Limitations

2.20 Although a full discussion of limitations is provided in **Appendix EDP 3** there were no significant limitations with these surveys.

Badger Survey

2.21 Previous badger surveys in 2021 and 2022 found no evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) or their setts within or immediately adjacent to the Site. An updated survey to record current evidence of badger activity within the Site and the immediately adjacent areas was undertaken in combination with the habitat survey on 22 October 2025.

2.22 During the survey, any signs of badger activity such as holes, faeces, latrines, trails, snuffle holes and hairs on fencing or vegetation were recorded.

2.23 Where holes of a size and shape consistent with badgers were identified, the following signs of badger activity were searched for in order to determine whether they were currently in use:

- Fresh spoil outside entrances;
- Bedding material (typically dried grass) outside entrances;
- Holes being cleared of leaf litter/other debris;
- Badger guard hairs; and
- Footprints and fresh tracks leading to/from the holes.

2.24 Each hole was then categorised into the following[18]:

- Well used (/active): these are clear of any debris or vegetation, and are obviously in regular use;

[18] Harris, S., Cresswell, P. and Jeffries, D. (1989). Surveying Badgers. Occasional publication of Mammal Society, Number 9. Mammal Society.

- Partially used (/partially active): these are not in regular use and have debris such as leaves or twigs in the entrance, or have moss and/ or other plants growing in or around the entrance. They could be in regular use after minimal amount of clearance; or

- Disused: these have not been in use for some time, are partially or complete blocked and cannot be used without a considerable amount of clearance.

2.25 Several categories of badger setts are used to describe a sett as described below[18]:

- Main setts are defined as setts with a 'large number' entrance holes (although this can be fewer) associated with large spoil heaps and well-trodden paths. This is normally where cubs are raised and is in continuous use throughout the year;

- Annexe setts - These setts are intermediate-sized (with 'several holes') and may be used by breeding badgers. These setts are normally close to a main sett (within 150m of the main sett) and connected to it by obvious paths. They may not be in use all the time, even if the main sett is very active;

- Subsidiary setts - These are similar to annexe setts but are likely to be further away (at least 50m from the main sett) and not as well connected to the main sett as annexe setts. They are not continuously active; and

- Outlier setts - Outlier setts are small setts with one or two entrance holes which are used sporadically by badgers as a temporary refuge. Spoil heaps are likely to be small and there may not be obvious paths connecting to other setts. Use may be sporadic. There may be several outlier setts within one badger social group's territory.

Limitations

2.26 Badger surveys can be undertaken at any time of year and are, therefore, not limited by seasonal factors. There were no other limitations to this survey.

Great Crested Newt Survey

2.27 An initial assessment of the Site's suitability to support great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) was undertaken during the update habitat survey and with reference to updated desk study records as described above. Two waterbodies/connected drainage systems were identified within the boundaries of the Site. In addition, five waterbodies/connected series of drainage systems were identified adjacent and within a 250m radius of the Site.

2.28 All waterbodies on Site, and those within 250m of the Site (but not separated from the Site by significant dispersal barriers) to which access was granted, will be subject to the following survey types in accordance with relevant best practice guidance:

- Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Assessment[19]; and

[19] Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (Triturus cristatus). Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155

- Environmental DNA (eDNA) Sampling[20].

2.30 Full details of the great crested newt survey methodology will be provided in an Addendum Note upon completion of the survey.

ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS SCOPED OUT

2.31 **Table EDP 2.1** summarises other survey types which, whilst occasionally required to inform an EcIA of development sites, are not deemed to be necessary/appropriate in this case.

Table EDP 2.1: Ecology Surveys Scoped Out

Survey Type	Reasons for Scoping Out
Detailed Botanical Surveys	Update baseline habitat survey information was sufficient to confirm habitat value, with no indication of particularly high value habitats present. No further surveys are considered necessary in this instance.
Reptiles	The 2022 reptile survey recorded medium populations of slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and low populations of common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), and adder (*Vipera berus*). Rare species, including sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), were not recorded, and the Site offers only limited suitable habitat for them. As there have been no material changes in habitat since 2022, it is likely that the Site continues to support low to medium populations of these common and widespread species, and therefore no updated survey is considered necessary.
Dormouse	No records of dormice were returned within 2km of the Site during the data searches, and the limited extent of suitable habitat on the Site, combined with regular disturbance from ongoing waste management activities, makes the presence of this species unlikely. However, as the presence of dormice cannot be entirely ruled out, appropriate precautionary mitigation measures will be implemented during works.
Wintering Birds	Given the limited suitable habitat on-site and its frequent disturbance, the area is unlikely to support an assemblage of wintering birds. Additionally, it provides little to no habitat for the wintering bird species for which nearby designated sites within the zone of influence are recognised. Therefore, the site is considered unlikely to be of value to wintering birds, and no targeted surveys are deemed necessary.
Invertebrates	The Site comprises predominantly of hardstanding and grassland, which exhibits poor structural and botanical diversity. As a result, it is considered likely to support only a limited assemblage of common and widespread invertebrate species. No further surveys are considered necessary in this instance.
Otter and Water Vole	The Site provides no suitable aquatic habitat for otter or water vole, and both species are therefore considered likely to be absent.

[20] As approved by Natural England. http://www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/eDNA-water-sample-methods-FHT.pdf

Section 3
Baseline Results

3.1 This section summarises the updated baseline ecological conditions determined through the course of desk-based and field-based investigations described in **Section 2**. In particular, this section identifies and evaluates those ecological features/receptors that lie within the Site's potential zone of influence, and which are pertinent in the context of the proposed development. Further technical details are, where appropriate, provided within Appendices and on Plans to the rear of this report.

3.2 Where a particular ecological feature/receptor has been confirmed to be present, or presence is inferred based on habitat suitability, its ecological importance is assessed. The level of ecological importance assigned to each ecological feature is based upon established geographical value systems and the uses the following scale: International and European (highest) > National > Regional > County > District > Local > Less than Local (lowest).

DESIGNATED SITES

3.3 Information regarding designated sites was obtained during the desk study and consultation responses with Natural England. Statutory designations (those receiving legal and planning policy protection) and non-statutory designations (those receiving planning policy protection only) are discussed in turn below.

Statutory Designations

3.4 Statutory designations represent the most significant ecological receptors. Internationally important statutory designations include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites (including potential SPAs, possible SACs and proposed Ramsar Sites). These designations are protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations* 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations). These designations are referred to as 'habitats sites' in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, December 2024) and development which would adversely affect a habitats site (alone or in combination) cannot benefit from the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development.

3.5 Nationally important statutory designations include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs). NNRs are also SSSIs, both of which are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* 1981 (as amended). The NPPF states that development which would adversely affect as SSSI should not normally be permitted.

3.6 Local level statutory designations include Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and are generally considered to be of importance at the County level or lower. LNRs are designated under the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act* 1949, however protection of LNRs is given via local planning policies and/or by-laws.

3.7 Statutory designations are also recognised as key natural assets within the Poole Local Plan.

3.8 No part of the Site is covered by any statutory designations. There are six internationally important designations within 10 km of the EfW CHP Facility Site, and 14 nationally important designations within 5–10km (including seven located over 5km away, included due to the potential for wider-ranging air quality impacts). These sites are summarised in **Table EDP 3.1** and illustrated on **Plan EDP 2**.

Table EDP 3.1: Statutory Designations Within the Site's potential Zone of Influence

Designation	Approx. Distance from Site	Interest Feature(s)
Internationally Important Statutory Designated Sites (within 10km of the EfW CHP Facility Site)		
Dorset Heaths SAC	Adjacent to the southern Site boundary.	Underpinned by numerous SSSIs including Canford Heath SSSI (noted below). This SAC hosts numerous Annex I habitats, including wet and dry heaths, alkaline fens and Molinia meadows in addition to supporting populations of the Annex II species southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercurial*) and great crested newt.
Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar	Adjacent to the southern Site boundary.	The SPA covers fragmented remains of once extensive dry heath, wet heath and valley mire supporting an ornithological assemblage of European importance. Qualifying species for the SPA are Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*), nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Ramsar designated for the heath wetlands, which are amongst the best of their type in lowland Britain. The site supports a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce wetland plant species and invertebrates (28 species).
Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	4.8km south-west.	This SPA is underpinned by several SSSI, including Poole Harbour SSSI (noted below). A natural harbour with tidal mudflats, seagrass beds, and saltmarsh, along with reedbeds, freshwater marsh, and wet grassland, supporting five Annex I species of the EC Birds Directive and two regularly occurring migratory species, including common tern *(Sterna hirundo*) and Mediterranean gull *(Larus melanocephalus*).The Ramsar designation is described as the best and largest example in Britain of a bar-built estuary with lagoon characteristics, supporting two species of nationally rare plants and one nationally rare alga, as well as at least three Red Data Book species of invertebrate.
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC	9.1km south-west	Underpinned by several SSSI, this SAC hosts numerous Annex I habitats, including various types of dunes, wet and dry heaths, alkaline fens and bog woodland in addition to supporting Annex II species including southern damselfly and great crested newt.

Designation	Approx. Distance from Site	Interest Feature(s)
Nationally Important Statutory Designated Sites (within 5–10km of the EfW CHP Facility Site)		
Canford Heath SSSI	Adjacent to the southern Site boundary.	One of the largest heathland areas in Dorset, supports a number of the rare and local species characteristic of Dorset heathland. The diversity of heathland vegetation types supports a corresponding range of heathland fauna.
Corfe and Barrow Hills SSSI	2.3km north-west.	Dry heathland dominated by ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) and western gorse (*Ulex gallii*), the wetter heathland supports several uncommon animals and plants typical of the Dorset heaths. This includes rare reptiles, including sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis)* and smooth snake *(Coronella austriaca*).
Bourne Valley SSSI	2.3km south-east.	This site covers the largest tract of heathland that has survived within urban sprawl on the formerly extensive heaths that once bordered Poole Bay. Sequences of heath, mire and fen woodland vegetation types are well developed. These habitats support a range of rare and uncommon plants, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. The assemblage of dragonfly and damselfly species is especially rich.
Turbary and Kinson Commons SSSI	2.7km south-east.	Heath habitats on higher and sloped ground, which impede drainage, combined with peat accumulation in the valley bottoms, have led to the development of valley mire systems with their associated bog communities. The richness of these relic heathland and bog communities, in terms of both vegetation and associated fauna, is made even more significant by their urban location.
Ferndown Common SSSI	4.1km north-east.	This site, on the edge of Ferndown, comprises a significant block of heathland, which despite its now urban-fringe location, retains considerable interest, including many of the very rare animals confined to lowland heaths.
Upton Heath SSSI	4.5km south-west.	An integral part of the national series of lowland heathlands, one of the largest continuous tracts of heathland in Dorset. It supports many rare plants and animals including sand lizard and smooth snake. The site has a number of uncommon heathland invertebrates and a total of 19 breeding species of dragonfly recorded.
Poole Harbour SSSI	4.8km south-west.	One of the largest natural harbours in the world, with a high proportion of its area comprising intertidal marshes and mudflats. The harbour is important for its assemblage of flora, invertebrate, and bird communities.

Designation	Approx. Distance from Site	Interest Feature(s)
Parley Common SSSI	5.3km north-east.	Part of the original extensive heathland between the Moors River and the River Stour, this site retains much of the outstanding interest which has made the heathland famous. Many of the characteristic and rare species associated with Dorset Heathlands are recorded, whilst the rich invertebrate fauna reveals interesting affinities with the heaths of the New Forest.
Slop Bog and Uddens Heath SSSI	5.6km north-east.	These heathland areas are situated in the valley of the Uddens Water, a tributary of the Moors River. The wetter types of heath are best represented but there is dry heath in limited amount. Plant and animal communities typical of Dorset heathland occur and these include several rare species.
Luscombe Valley SSSI	6.2km south.	Part of the complex of heathland sites, which together comprise the Dorset Heathlands. This site supports a range of important habitats including heath, acid grassland and mire communities within a matrix of pine woodland and the grassland of a close mown golf course. A small stream flows along the valley bottom and into Poole Harbour.
Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI and NNR	6.5km north.	This site comprises areas of heathland lying on acidic sands, clays and gravels between the Upper Moors River and its tributaries. Holt Heath is one of the largest remaining areas of heathland in Dorset.
Hurn Common SSSI	6.8km north-east.	Although now separated into several fragments, it forms one of the largest remaining expanses of heathland in the county. Dry and wet heathland types are well represented, there are interesting areas of acidic grassland, and there is a rich associated fauna.
Moors River System SSSI	7.3km north-east.	A small lowland river that supports an exceptional diversity of aquatic and wetland plants. The vegetation changes along its course, ranging from types typical of mixed-geology, low-gradient rivers in the middle reaches, to types more characteristic of chalk streams near its confluence with the River Stour.
Arne SSSI	8.7km south-west.	The Arne Peninsula, located on the southern shore of Poole Harbour, contains extensive lowland heathland supporting diverse plant and animal communities across dry heath, wet heath, and bog. These heathland areas gradually transition into saltmarsh, reed swamp, and both coniferous and deciduous woodland.

3.9 Habitat that is designated as parcels of Dorset Heaths SAC and Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar, as well as being covered by Canford Heath, Turbary and Kinson Commons, Ferndown Common and Parley Common SSSI designations, lies within an area identified through detailed air quality modelling where significant impacts upon habitats could occur. This is the modelled area where 1% of the Critical Load (deposition flux of an air pollutant below which significant harmful effects on sensitive ecosystems do not occur, according to present knowledge[22]) of pollutants released by the EfW Facility on the particular habitats present is exceeded. These designations are therefore 'scoped in' to the EcIA as EFs of international (and national in relation to the SSSI) importance.

3.10 Given the spatial distance and direction between the Site and the other internationally designated sites, namely Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar (also covered by Poole Harbour SSSI) and Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC, significant air quality impacts from the proposals here are unlikely, as demonstrated by the detailed air quality modelling. Owing to this, in addition to the lack of any other potential impact pathways from the proposals, these sites are therefore scoped out of the EcIA.

3.11 A detailed screening and assessment of potential impacts on these international statutory designations, including further information on the air quality modelling, is provided in the updated shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (sHRA, report ref.; edp7095_r018, Appendix A8.7 of the 2026 ES Update).

3.12 Similarly, the nature of the proposed development means that air quality effects would be the only potential impact pathway for the other nationally designated sites listed above. The detailed air quality assessment undertaken shows that these remaining designations are outside of the modelled area where significant impacts on habitats from air pollutants may arise. These sites are therefore scoped out of the EcIA.

Non-statutory Designations

3.13 Non-statutory designations are also commonly referred to in planning policies as 'local sites', although such designations are typically considered to be of importance at a County level. In Dorset, such designations are termed Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).

3.14 Additional sites such as non-designated nature reserves (e.g., Wildlife Trust nature reserves) are considered here when not covered by other designations. The importance of SINCs is recognised in the NPPF and in the adopted Poole Local Plan.

3.15 The Site is covered by a non-statutory designation, Frogmoor Wood SNCI, through which the DNC corridor passes. There are an additional seven SNCIs located within 2km of the EfW CHP Facility Site, as summarised in **Table EDP 3.2**. Local Community Nature Reserves (LCNRs) are also considered in this table. Whilst these designations are not recognised as formal LNRs, they are often owned or managed by local authorities or community groups as sites for wildlife. They may include areas designated as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG).

[22] Holman et al (2020). A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites – version 1.1, Institute of Air Quality Management, London. www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-impacts-on nature-sites-2020.pdf

Table EDP 3.2: Non-Statutory Designations Within 2km of the EfW CHP Facility Site

Designation/Map Reference	Approx. Distance	Interest Feature(s)
Frogmoor Wood SNCI SZ09/043	Within the DNC corridor part of the Site.	Birch woodland and semi-acid grassland.
Knighton Heath Golf Course SNCI SZ09/041	980m south-east.	The golf course contains scattered remnants of heathland.
Moortown Copse SNCI SZ09/029	1.1km north-west.	Deciduous woodland.
Arrowsmith Coppice SNCI SZ09/014	1.4km west.	An area of woodland and heathland.
Canford Park SANG P1 and SANG Link LNCR SZ09/B013	1.6km north-east.	SANG on previous site of golf course.
Haymoor Bottom SNCI SZ09/033	1.7km south.	Remnant heath.
Delph Woods SNCI SZ09/027	1.8km west.	An area of mainly deciduous woodland.
Alderney Waterworks SNCI SZ09/025	1.9km south-east.	A covered reservoir supporting a large population of green-winged orchids (*Anacamptis morio*).
Bearwood SNCI SZ09/021	1.9km east.	Woodland and a small area of grassland.

3.16 Regarding non-statutory designations, guidance from the Environment Agency in relation to environmental permitting[23] states that when the impact from the Proposed Development is less than 100% of the short-term and long-term relevant Critical Loads, the impact can be considered insignificant. However, the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature sites[22] notes that this likely does not provide adequate protection, and it is normal practice to treat such sites in the same manner as SSSI and European sites (i.e., using a screening threshold of 1% of the long-term and 10% of the short-term Critical Loads).

[23] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit

3.17 As such, using the same detailed air quality modelling and screening thresholds noted above in relation to international designations, no potentially significant impacts are anticipated on most of the identified non-statutory designations (i.e., the percentage increase in pollutant deposition is less than 1% of the relevant habitat's Critical Load) and these have therefore been scoped out of the EcIA. The designations where 1% of the Critical Load is exceeded are:

- Knighton Heath Golf Course SNCI: This designation supports scattered remnants of heath on a golf course. At this designation, 1% of the Critical Load for acid deposition is exceeded;
- Moortown Copse SNCI: This designation supports deciduous woodland over gravel. At this designation, 1% of the Critical Load for nitrogen deposition and acid deposition is exceeded; and
- Bearwood SNCI: This designation supports woodland and a small area of grassland. At this designation, 1% of the Critical Load for nitrogen deposition and acid deposition is exceeded.

3.18 Knighton Heath, Moortown Copse and Bearwood SNCI have therefore been scoped in to the EcIA as EF of County importance.

3.19 In addition, the Dorset LNRS has recently been published. This strategy describes and maps the local priority areas for nature recovery and enhancement.

3.20 The Site falls within an area of local importance for nature recovery but does not, for the most part, support habitats targeted as priorities for enhancement and creation under the LNRS (e.g., heathland and woodland). However, there is potential to deliver biodiversity improvements in the various targeted habitats surrounding the Site's redline boundary.

HABITATS

3.21 There are several mechanisms by which habitats that lie outside of statutory and non-statutory designations are protected, or by which their importance is recognised at a national level. This includes the following:

- 'Important' hedgerows are protected from removal (out with the planning process) by the *Hedgerows Regulations* 1997;
- Certain habitats are listed as priority habitats (also termed Habitats of Principal Importance), the conservation of which public authorities in England must have due regard to as part of policy or decision making under Section 40 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act* 2006. The NPPF states that plans should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats;
- In England, principal amendments to the *Town and Country Planning Act* (1990) including a new Schedule 7A (inserted by the *Environment Act* 2021) introduce a statutory framework for biodiversity net gain (BNG). Under the statutory framework, every grant of planning permission (unless otherwise exempt) is deemed to have been granted subject to the general biodiversity gain condition which requires a Biodiversity Gain Plan to be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development. The Biodiversity

Gain Plan must demonstrate a minimum 10% BNG measured against the baseline value of the on-site habitats;

- Paragraph 193 of the NPPF includes a presumption against development which results in significant harm to biodiversity (including habitats), or results in the loss of Irreplaceable Habitats[24]. This paragraph also encourages development to integrate biodiversity improvements as part of their design especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity; and

- The importance of protecting habitats, and networks of habitats, is reflected in the Poole Local Plan, specifically Policy PP33 Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

Off-site Notable Habitats

3.22 There are multiple priority habitats located within 500m of the Site, as follows:

- Lowland Heathland – There are six parcels of Priority Habitat Lowland Heathland within 500m of the Site, with the closest located approximately 60m south;

- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland – One area of Lowland Dry Acid Grassland is located approximately 290m south of the DNC;

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland – Several pockets of Priority Habitat woodland are present within 500m of the Site. The nearest woodland areas are located immediately adjacent to the northern and southern Site boundaries, including sections bordering the EfW CHP Facility Site and DNC; and

- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land – One large area of this Priority Habitat lies adjacent to the north-west boundary of the EfW CHP Facility Site.

3.23 There are no Irreplaceable Habitats, including Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), located within 500m of the Site.

On-site Habitats

3.24 The distribution of different habitat types within and adjacent to the Site is illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**. The habitats are further described in **Appendix EDP 1** alongside illustrative photographs and species lists. A summary and qualitative assessment of these habitats is provided in **Table EDP 3.3**.

3.25 **Plan EDP 1** also shows the woodland, and waterbody reference numbers referred to below.

Table EDP 3.3: Summary of Habitats Within the Site

Habitat Type	Distribution and Description	Intrinsic Ecological Importance*
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Hardstanding and buildings dominate the Site.	**Negligible** - Owing to the lack of habitat features for wildlife.

[24] As identified in *The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations* 2024

Habitat Type	Distribution and Description	Intrinsic Ecological Importance*
Bare Ground	Areas of bare ground associated with access tracks.	**Negligible** - Owing to the lack of habitat features for wildlife.
Modified Grassland	Several mostly small areas occur within TCC1 and the EfW CHP Facility Site. A larger area is also present within the DNC field.	**Less than Local** - Owing to limited botanical and structural diversity.
Other Neutral Grassland	Within TCC1 and along the DNC corridor.	**Less than local (TCC1 Grassland) –** Owing to limited botanical and structural diversity. The habitat type is common in the surrounding area. **Local (DNC field) -** Although the grassland has limited botanical and structural diversity, the presence of waxcaps, which indicate higher botanical interest, increases its ecological value.
Ruderal/Ephemeral	Occurs within TCC1.	**Less than Local** - Due to limited species richness, low distinctiveness, and small extent.
Tall Forbs	Occurs along the peripheries of the EfW CHP Facility Site.	**Less than Local** - Due to limited species richness, low distinctiveness, and small extent.
Mixed Scrub	Several areas of mixed scrub occur within the EfW CHP Facility Site and along the DNC.	**Less than Local** - Owing to limited botanical diversity, small extent, and habitat is common locally.
Bramble Scrub	Multiple small areas are located within the EfW CHP Facility Site, and the DNC field.	**Less than Local** - Owing to limited botanical diversity, small extent, and habitat is common locally.
Willow Scrub	Small, discrete areas of willow scrub occur within the DNC field and the EfW CHP Facility Site.	**Less than Local** - Owing to limited botanical diversity, small extent, and habitat is common locally.
Wet Ditch	One wet drainage ditch is present crossing the DNC corridor.	**Less than Local** – Owing to seasonal wetness and limited botanical diversity and being unlikely to support protected/notable species.
Other River and Stream	A small section of Broad Work Brook passes the Site via a culvert beneath an access track associated with the DNC corridor.	**Local–** Owing to its function as a wildlife corridor and maintaining connectivity across the local landscape, albeit limited.
Waterbodies	Two relatively new waterbodies (**P4** and **P5**) are located within the Site – one at the EfW CHP Facility Site and a SuDS feature at the DNC field.	**Less than Local** – Owing to poor water quality, limited diversity, seasonal wetness, and small extent.

Habitat Type	Distribution and Description	Intrinsic Ecological Importance*
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (Woodland **W1**, **W2**, and **W4**)	Two small areas of woodland (Woodland W1 and W2) are located within the EfW CHP Facility Site, while a third woodland (Woodland W4) is located to the south of the DNC. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland is a Priority Habitat in England.	**Local**– Owing to being a Priority Habitat but common locally and exhibiting limited ground flora diversity.
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (Woodland **W3**)	A small area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland occurs within the DNC, just south of the EfW CHP Facility Site. This woodland is a Priority Habitat in England and forms part of the Frogmoor SNCI.	**District –** Owing to being designated as an SNCI and also being a Priority Habitat.

*Importance irrespective of any protected, priority or other notable species which may be present

3.26 As noted within **Table EDP 3.3** the majority of the Site is made up of habitats which are of Less than Local intrinsic importance.

3.27 However, the nearby stream and other neutral grassland (located within the DNC) are considered to be of Local ecological importance. Furthermore, the areas of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland are considered to be of Local to District-level ecological importance, with the woodland also classified as a Priority Habitat protected under the NPPF.

3.28 Given that the stream is culverted where it passes through and near the redline boundary of the Site, and the section of the Site is crosses is the DNC corridor where no impacts to this culvert or the steam are anticipated, this feature has been scoped out of the assessment.

3.29 There are no Irreplaceable Habitats present within or immediately adjacent to the Site.

3.30 Furthermore, a number of the habitats, including those which are of limited intrinsic importance, also require consideration in relation to their importance in maintaining populations of protected, Priority or other notable species. This is discussed further below.

PROTECTED, PRIORITY OR OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES

3.31 Certain species receive legal protection in the UK and are commonly known as 'protected species'. In reality, the level of protection for different species varies considerably, from protection solely against 'killing and injury' to full protection of the species and their places of refuge. Where pertinent, details of legal protection afforded to species/species-groups are provided below.

3.32 In addition to protected species there are other species/species-groups that do not receive legal protection, but which are notable owing to their conservation status. This includes Priority Species[8]. The NPPF recognises species as an important component of biodiversity, paragraph 187d of which encourages the incorporation of features which support priority or

threatened species. Similarly, the adopted Poole Local Plan promotes species protection and enhancement.

3.33 The likelihood of presence, or confirmed presence, of protected, priority or other notable[25] wildlife species within the Site is summarised below with reference to desk study records, habitat suitability and detailed surveys where relevant. Further details are made available within the appendices and plans where referenced.

Breeding Birds

3.34 All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* 1981 (as amended) (WCA). This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- Take, damage or destroy the egg of any wild bird; or
- To have in one's possession or control any wild bird (dead or alive) or egg, or any part of a wild bird or egg.

3.35 In addition, further protection is afforded to those wild bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, prohibiting any intentional or reckless disturbance to these species while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or to recklessly disturb the dependent young of such a bird. A number of species are also included as Priority Species.

3.36 A large number of records of bird species were retrieved during the update desk study from the last ten years, including 74 species. These include nine records of WCA Schedule 1 species, 15 records of Priority Species, and numerous records of species included on the latest Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern[26]. The vast majority of records received relate to species that would not normally breed in habitats found within the Site. Records of the species with possible suitable breeding habitats on-site include whitethroat (*Curruca communis*), linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), stock dove (*Columba oenas*)and tawny owl (*Strix aluco*).

3.37 The full results of the update breeding bird survey are provided in **Appendix EDP 2** and on **Plan EDP 3**. In summary, a total of four bird species were recorded as breeding or probably breeding on-site. This includes three Priority Species. Those species include skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), common linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*).

[25] Notable species are those which are not legally protected but are formally identified as being of conservation concern

[26] Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. 2021 (as amended September 2024). The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747.

3.38 Overall, the assemblage of breeding bird species recorded on Site is low, both in terms of abundance and distribution, including a low population of skylark. The breeding bird assemblage on Site is therefore judged to be of Site level importance.

Wintering Birds

3.39 Wintering birds do not receive direct legal protection; however, they may form part of a protected assemblage originating from a statutory designation in the vicinity or significant numbers of Priority Species or other notable species may be present.

3.40 The vast majority of records received relate to species that would not normally winter in habitats found within the Site. Records of the species with possible wintering habitats on-site within the last ten years include redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).

3.41 Habitats present within the Site that may support wintering birds include areas of grassland, woodland and scrub. However, these habitats are limited in extent and quality. Furthermore, the Site is predominantly comprised of bare ground and hardstanding subject to frequent disturbance associated with ongoing site use and human activity, which further restricts the suitability of the Site for wintering birds.

3.42 The Site is therefore expected to support only a small assemblage comprising low numbers of common and widespread species. It can be reasonably predicted that the wintering bird population using the Site is of Less than Local level ecological importance.

Bats

3.43 All species of British bat are listed as European Protected Species (EPS) on Schedule 2 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations* 2017 (as amended) (referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations'). This affords strict protection to bats and their roosts, and makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of an EPS;
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS wherever they are occurring, in particular, any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong, or in the case of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a wild animal of an EPS.

3.44 Additional protection for bats is also afforded under the WCA, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb bats whilst they are occupying a structure or place which is used for shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to this structure or place. In addition, soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), and lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) are also listed as Priority Species.

3.45 The update desk study returned 264 records for bats within the 2km search radius around the Site within the last ten years. These records relate to at least 10 different species/species

groups, including serotine (*Cnephaeus serotinus*), Myotis bat species (*Myotis spp.*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), Leisler's bat *(Nyctalus leisleri*), noctule, Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat. The closest confirmed bat roost (i.e. a day roost) is for soprano pipistrelle, located approximately 420m east of the Site.

3.46 Thirty-five records of Annex II bat species were returned within 6km of the Site over the last ten years. These include eight barbastelle, six Bechstein's bat, two lesser horseshoe bat, and 19 greater horseshoe bat records. The closest returned record of a known Annex II bat species roost (a hibernation roost) relates to Bechstein's bat and greater horseshoe bat (although the latter has not been recorded since the 1980s) and is located approximately 5.5km south-west of the Site.

3.47 Two nearby records relating to European Protected Species Mitigation Licences (EPSML) issued for bats were returned from the MAGIC data search within 2km of the Site. The nearest record relates to a licence (valid from 2012–2014) for brown long-eared bat and serotine and is located approximately 620m north-west of the Site. The licence permitted the destruction of a resting and breeding place. The second licence (valid from 2020–2021) relates to soprano pipistrelle and is located approximately 1.5km to the north. This licence permitted the destruction of a resting place.

Bat Roosting

Trees

3.48 With respect to trees, a total of fourteen trees and three tree groups were identified during the GLTA as requiring further assessment or having Potential Roosting Features (PRF) for bats. Full details are provided within **Appendix EDP 3** with tree locations shown on **Plan EDP 4**.

Buildings/Built Structures

3.49 With respect to buildings, a total of 10 buildings/built structures were inspected for their potential to support bat roosts. No evidence of bat roosting was recorded during the survey. All buildings/built structures were assessed as having negligible or no suitability for roosting bats, which is broadly consistent with the findings of the Preliminary Roost Assessments undertaken in 2021 and 2022. Full details are provided within **Appendix EDP 3** with building locations shown on **Plan EDP 4**.

Bat Activity

3.50 Overall, the habitats present within the Site were assessed as having low suitability for foraging and commuting bats.

3.51 The findings of the NBW and automated detector surveys are provided in detail within **Appendix EDP 3** and the approximate distribution and diversity of bat species recorded during the NBW surveys are illustrated on **Plan EDP 5** and **Plan EDP 6**. These plans also show the automated detector locations .

3.52 In summary, bat activity recorded during the update NBW surveys to date was very low and comprised of common and widespread species, predominantly common and soprano

pipistrelles, with occasional Myotis species. The distribution of this activity was concentrated along the boundary woodland surrounding the EfW CHP Facility Site and largely involved foraging activity. No suggestion of nearby bat roosting was identified during the stationary observation section of the NBW surveys.

3.53 Levels of bat activity recorded during the update automated detector surveys were generally low to moderate and comprised predominantly of common and soprano pipistrelles (both species accounting for 86.8% of all recordings). Lower numbers of long-eared bats, Myotis species, serotine, Leisler's bat, Nathusius' pipistrelle, barbastelle, and noctule were also recorded, with each species accounting for less than 6% of total recordings across the full monitoring period.

3.54 Activity during the 2025 automated detector surveys was generally evenly distributed across the two sampling locations, mostly reflecting foraging activity along woodland edges on the Site boundaries. Slightly higher activity at location **L1** is likely due to lower light pollution and more sheltered conditions.

3.55 These findings to date are broadly consistent with the previous surveys undertaken in 2021-2022.

3.56 Based on Table 3.3 of the Bat Mitigation Guidelines, the bat assemblage recorded using the Site to date would be considered of up to County importance due to species diversity and the Site's location. However, rarer species were recorded only occasionally using the Site, and as such the Site is unlikely to provide a significant resource for these species. Consequently, and based on the survey findings, the bat assemblage supported by the Site is currently considered to be of Local importance.

3.57 This is a provisional assessment based on summer and autumn 2025 update activity surveys, in addition to the full previous results. However, given the similarities with the previous bat activity data in 2021-2022, alongside no other significant changes to the habitats or management of the Site since those surveys, there is a reasonable degree of certainty in this assessment based on the results so far. Nonetheless, the current assessment of the ecological importance of the bat assemblage supported by the Site will be confirmed following the final survey work which covers the spring activity period in 2026.

Dormouse

3.58 Hazel dormouse is an EPS receiving strict protection under the Habitats Regulations as summarised above in respect of bats. Additional protection is also afforded to this species under the WCA as summarised above in respect of bats. This species is also listed as a Priority Species.

3.59 No records for dormouse were returned within 2km of the Site's boundaries during the update desk study. No nearby records relating to EPSMLs issued for dormouse were returned from the data search on MAGIC.

3.60 Woodland on-site and immediately adjacent to the EfW CHP Facility Site remains of limited suitability for dormice due to the lack of understorey, light spill, and regular disturbance. Areas of scrub within the EfW CHP Facility Site also offer limited suitability due to their small extent.

In contrast, woodland (with a scrubby understorey) and scrub within the DNC have the potential to support dormice, as these areas have a scrubby understorey and are less affected by light spill and industrial works disturbance.

3.61 Overall, given the lack of local records and the limited suitability of most habitats within and immediately adjacent to the Site, any dormouse population, if present, is likely to be small. While its presence cannot be entirely ruled out, such a dormouse population is, on a precautionary basis, considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Otter

3.62 Otter is an EPS receiving strict protection under the Habitats Regulations as summarised above in respect of bats. Additional protection is also afforded to this species under the WCA as summarised above in respect of bats. This species is also listed as a Priority Species.

3.63 A total of 13 records of otter were returned within 2km of the Site in the last ten years, with the closest record located approximately 706m south of the Site, associated with a watercourse that is not connected to the Site.

3.64 A small brook runs through the Site via a culvert beneath an access road. It may provide a minor dispersal route for otters, but its tendency to dry out and scrub over, as observed in previous surveys, limits its value for dispersal or foraging.

3.65 One small wet ditch is present within the DNC corridor. Its shallow water depth, tendency to dry out in summer, and lack of connectivity to other suitable watercourses means it offers no viable foraging or dispersal opportunities for otters. For these reasons, both the brook and ditch are considered unsuitable to support otters, and this species is likely absent from the Site.

Water Vole

3.66 Water vole and their burrows receive protection under Schedule 5 of the WCA. This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take (capture) a water vole;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place that a water vole uses for shelter or protection; and
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles while they are in a place of shelter or protection.

3.67 Water vole is also listed as a Priority Species.

3.68 One record of water vole was returned within 2km of the Site boundary within the last ten years. This record is located approximately 1.8km south-east of the Site and is associated with a watercourse that is not hydrologically connected to the Site.

3.69 A small brook runs through the Site via a culvert beneath an access road. The section within the Site is unsuitable for water voles due to the artificial banks and culverting, which provide no foraging or burrowing opportunities for the species. The un-culverted areas of the brook

located immediately adjacent to the Site boundary also offer limited suitability to support water voles, given the brooks tendency to dry out and the dominance of scrub vegetation.

3.70 A wet ditch is present within the DNC corridor. Its shallow water depth, narrow channel, limited aquatic and bankside vegetation, and tendency to dry out in summer provide very limited habitat for water voles. The ditch also lacks connectivity to suitable watercourses in the wider landscape that could support dispersal or colonisation.

3.71 For these reasons, both the brook and ditch are unsuitable to support water voles, and this species is therefore considered absent from the Site.

Badger

3.72 Badgers and their setts are protected under the *Protection of Badgers Act* 1992, which makes it an offence (*inter-alia*) to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or cruelly ill-treat a badger; and
- Damage or interfere with a sett, by doing one of the following things:
    - Damage a badger sett or any part of it;
    - Destroy a badger sett;
    - Obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett;
    - Cause a dog to enter a badger sett; or
    - Disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett.

3.73 The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as "*any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger*".

3.74 The protection afforded to badgers is primarily due to animal welfare issues and history of persecution rather than concerns over their unfavourable nature conservation status.

3.75 A total of 31 records of badger were returned within 2km of the Site over the last 10 years. The nearest record relates to a main sett located approximately 875m north of the Site.

3.76 The grasslands, woodland, and scrub within and adjacent to the Site provide suitable opportunities for badger foraging and sett building, although these habitats are generally limited in extent. However, no setts or other signs of badger activity were recorded during the updated habitat survey or any other update surveys undertaken to date. Given the local records and the availability of suitable habitat, there remains potential for badgers to occur within and immediately adjacent to the Site in the future.

3.77 Taking into account the widespread and common status of badger at a national and district level, and the limited extent of suitable habitat within the Site, any population potentially using the Site in the future is considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Other Mammal Species

3.78 Records of other Priority mammal species within 2km of the Site over the last 10 years include 38 records of European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). Most of these records were associated with the nearby residential development, and the closest record was located approximately 260m west of the Site.

3.79 The Site contains suitable habitats for foraging, shelter, and breeding for this species, including grassland, woodland, tall forbs, and scrub, and there is a reasonable likelihood that this species is present on-site. Populations of hedgehog potentially occurring on the Site are considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Great Crested Newt

3.80 Great crested newt is an EPS receiving strict protection under the Habitats Regulations as summarised above in respect of bats. Additional protection is also afforded to this species under the WCA as summarised above in respect of bats. This species is also listed as a Priority Species.

3.81 One record of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) was returned within 2km of the Site over the last 10 years. This record relates to a positive eDNA result from a pond located approximately 2km north-west of the Site.

3.82 No records of great crested newt associated with European Protected Species Mitigation Licences (EPSMLs) issued within 2km of the Site were returned by the updated data search on MAGIC. In addition, MAGIC held no nearby records of great crested newt from licence returns. However, known populations of great crested newts do occur within the Dorset Heaths SAC, which lies adjacent to the Site.

3.83 Two waterbodies (comprising an overflowing metal water tank and a SuDS feature) are present within the EfW CHP Facility Site and the DNC field. The overflowing water tank within the EfW CHP Facility Site was not recorded within the 2023 Ecology Baseline Report and is therefore newly included in the current assessment. This is likely because the tanks were not previously filled with water, which is now the case, with an established accumulation of water in the depression surrounding the filled metal tanks. In addition, areas of tall forbs, woodland, scrub, and grassland provide suitable terrestrial habitat around the Site, particularly within the DNC corridor and DNC field.

3.84 In 2021 three off-site waterbodies, located approximately 45m north-west of the Site, were surveyed and returned negative eDNA results. Since the previous assessment in 2021, several further waterbodies have been identified within 250m of the Site, with no significant barriers present that would prevent dispersal of great crested newts towards the Site. Therefore, the two on-site waterbodies and identified off-site waterbodies are proposed to be eDNA tested, where access allows, during the 2026 great crested newt survey season.

3.85 The full results of the great crested newt surveys will be provided in an Addendum Note upon completion of the survey. However, given the previously confirmed absence and lack of any new records for this species within the update data search, it is considered unlikely that this species is now present within the Site.

Other Amphibian Species

3.86 Other legally protected amphibians are rare and have a very restricted distribution[28], however common toad (*Bufo bufo*) is a widespread species which is listed as a Priority Species.

3.87 The desk study returned 24 records of common frog (*Rana temporaria*), 11 records of common toad, and seven records of palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) within 2km of the Site over the last ten years. The Site includes a range of suitable foraging and breeding habitats for these species, including waterbodies, woodland, grassland, tall forbs, and scrub. Furthermore, during survey work in 2021- 2022, common frog and common toad were recorded on Site.

3.88 The populations of these species occurring, or potentially occurring, on the Site are considered to be of Less than Local importance.

Reptiles

3.89 All species of common reptile, namely common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow-worm, grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and adder (*Vipera berus*), receive at least limited protection from harm under the WCA, making it an offence to cause intentional killing and injuring of these species. In addition, these species are also listed as Priority Species.

3.90 A total of 198 reptile records were returned within 2km of the Site over the last 10 years, relating to grass snake, adder, slow-worm, smooth snake, sand lizard, and common lizard. The majority of these records relate to Canford Heath SSSI, which lies immediately to the south-west of the Site. The closest records relate to grass snake and sand lizard, located approximately 280m and 390m southwest of the site, respectively, within habitat that is connected to the Site.

3.91 Habitats within the EfW CHP Facility Site, although limited in extent, together with the grassland within TCC1 and the DNC field, provide suitable habitat for common reptile species. These habitats are not typically suitable for rare reptiles, namely sand lizard and smooth snake, which are known to be present within the adjacent heathland. During the full suite of reptile surveys undertaken in 2022, neither sand lizard nor smooth snake were recorded. However, there remains limited potential for these species to utilise the Site habitats given their proximity to the adjacent heathland.

3.92 Given that there has been no material change in habitat across the Site, updated reptile surveys were not considered necessary. It is therefore presumed that the Site continues to support a medium population of slow-worm and low populations of common lizard, grass snake, and adder. Given their limited density within the Site and relative widespread distribution across the County, the populations of common lizard, adder, grass snake and slow worm within the Site are judged to be of Local importance. There remains limited potential for rare reptiles (sand lizard and smooth snake) to utilise the Site, although occurrence is considered unlikely based on previous surveys and the small extent of suitable habitat.

[28] Natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*) and Northern pool frog (*Pelophylax lessonae*) are EPS, protected under WCA and Priority Species

Invertebrates

3.93 The update desk study returned 598 records of invertebrate species within 2km of the Site over the last ten years, including records of spiders, dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies, beetles, moths, bees, ants, and true flies. Several rarer and priority species were also returned, including stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), grayling (*Hipparchia semele*), heath bee-fly (*Bombylius major*), mottled bee-fly (*Bombylius discolor*), and numerous priority moth species. These rarer species have specific habitat requirements that are not present on the Site, so it is considered highly unlikely that the Site represents a significant resource for them.

3.94 The grassland, tall forbs, waterbodies, wet ditch, woodland, and scrub within the Site provide suitable habitat for common and widespread invertebrates. However, given the limited extent of these habitats and the predominance of hard-standing surfaces, the Site is unlikely to support a notable invertebrate assemblage. Accordingly, the invertebrate assemblage supported by the site is considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Rare/Scarce Plant Species

3.95 Multiple records of rare/scarce plants were returned within 2km of the Site and within the last ten years. Of these species none of which originate within the Site or in close proximity. Given none of these species were recorded during the update habitat survey and habitats on Site are predominantly of low distinctness and species-poor, it is unlikely that the Site will support notable numbers of rare or scarce plant species.

Invasive Non-Native Species

3.96 Section 14 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to release, or allow to escape into the wild, any animal which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain, or which is listed on Schedule 9 of the Act. It is also an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Act.

3.97 A total of 46 records of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) were returned within 2km of the Site over the past ten years. These include American skunk-cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), three-cornered garlic (*Allium triquetrum*), montbretia (*Crocosmia* × *crocosmiiflora*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), entire-leaved cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster integrifolius*), Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*), and Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*). None of these species were recorded within the Site. However, Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), a Schedule 9 species listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), was recorded along the southern boundary of the EfW CHP Facility Site (within Woodland W2) during the updated habitat survey. Although currently limited in extent and confined to Woodland W2, this species has the potential to spread if disturbed. Appropriate biosecurity measures and management should therefore be implemented during Site clearance and construction to prevent its further dispersal.

3.98 Subject to the implementation of suitable control and management measures, invasive non-native species are unlikely to represent a constraint to the proposed development.

Section 4
Summary of Ecological Features

4.1 The ecological features/receptors pertinent to the development proposals, based on the update survey findings described above, are set out in **Table EDP 4.1**.

Table EDP 4.1: Ecological Features Identified Within the Site's Zones of Influence

Feature	Summary Description and Relationship with Site	Level of Importance
Statutory Designations		
Dorset Heathlands SPA/SAC/Ramsar	Adjacent to the Site boundary and designated for its important heathland and wetland habitats, including wet and dry heaths, alkaline fens, *Molinia* meadows, and valley mires. These habitats support nationally and internationally important species, such as the southern damselfly, great crested newt, and key birds of European importance, as well as rare and scarce wetland plants and invertebrates.	International (Off-Site)
Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar	Located approximately 4.8km south-west from the Site. The SPA comprises an extensive natural harbour supporting internationally important bird populations associated with tidal and coastal wetland habitats. The Ramsar designation recognises the site as the largest example in Britain of a bar-built estuary with lagoon characteristics, supporting nationally rare flora and notable invertebrate assemblages.	International (Off-Site)
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC	Located approximately 9.1km south-west from the Site. The SAC supports a range of Annex I habitats including dunes, heathland, fen and wet woodland, together with Annex II species such as southern damselfly and great crested newt.	International (Off-Site)
Canford Heath SSSI	Located adjacent to the southern Site boundary. One of Dorset's largest heathland areas, it supports many rare and local species typical of Dorset heathland, with diverse vegetation that provides habitats for a wide variety of wildlife.	National (Off-Site)
Turbary and Kinson Commons SSSI	Located approximately 2.7km south-east from the Site. Heathland on higher slopes and peat-filled valleys has formed valley mires and bog communities, creating rich relic habitats with diverse plants and wildlife, made especially important by their urban setting.	National (Off-Site)

Feature	Summary Description and Relationship with Site	Level of Importance
Statutory Designations		
Ferndown Common SSSI	Located approximately 4.1km north-east from the Site. A large heathland site on the edge of Ferndown that, despite its urban-fringe location, remains important for wildlife, supporting many rare species restricted to lowland heath habitats.	National (Off-Site)
Parley Common SSSI	Located approximately 5.3km north-east from the Site. Part of the original extensive heathland in the area, many of the rare species associated with Dorset Heathlands are recorded, with rich invertebrate fauna.	National (Off-Site)
Non-statutory Designations		
Frogmoor Wood SNCI	A section of the DNC corridor passes through the SNCI, which comprises birch woodland and semi-acid grassland.	County (On-Site)
Moortown Copse SNCI	Deciduous woodland.	County (Off-Site)
Bearwood SNCI	Broadleaved woodland and a small area of grassland.	County (Off-Site)
Knighton Heath Golf Course SNCI	Golf course supporting scattered remnants of heath.	County (Off-Site)
Habitats		
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Four small areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland (**W1**–**W4**) occur within the Site. Woodlands **W1**, **W2**, and **W4** are of local ecological importance, while **W3**, part of the Frogmoor SNCI, is of district-level ecological importance.	Local – District
Other Neutral Grassland	Encompasses an area of grassland located within the DNC field. Frequent waxcaps recorded indicate that the grassland is likely to be long-established and of greater ecological value than other areas within the Site.	Local
Species		
Breeding Birds	The abundance and diversity of bird species recorded on-site was low and consistent with the extent and diversity of nesting habitats present.	Site (included due to legal protection)
Bat Roosting	The GLTA identified 14 individual trees and three tree groups as having bat roosting potential. All buildings and built structures on-site were found to have negligible or no suitability for roosting bats.	Local

Feature	Summary Description and Relationship with Site	Level of Importance
Statutory Designations		
Foraging/commuting bat assemblage	Up to nine species of bat have been recorded within the Site, with the assemblage dominated by common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle. Annex II bat species barbastelle recorded only occasionally.	Currently considered Local, this will be confirmed following final survey
Badger	No evidence of this species' presence within the Site, but due to Site suitability and presence in wider area, future presence cannot be ruled out.	Site (included due to legal protection)
Dormouse	Unlikely to be present within or immediately adjacent to the Site, but presence cannot be entirely ruled out, so precautionary methodologies will be required.	Site (included due to legal protection)
Great Crested Newt	Considered still likely to be absent given previous confirmed absence and lack of habitat changes to the Site/surroundings or any new records for the species in the wider area. This will be confirmed following update eDNA survey in spring 2026.	Likely absent
Reptiles	Presence of common and widespread species including slow-worm, common lizard, grass snake and adder.	Local

Appendix EDP 1
Habitat Survey

METHODOLOGY

Habitat Survey

A1.1 The principal habitats within the Site together with their dominant/characteristic plant species were identified during the baseline habitat surveys undertaken on 22 October 2025 by a suitably experienced surveyor.

A1.2 This survey was undertaken following the guidance for habitat surveys as set out in The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, November 2023), for which the habitat definitions primarily rely on descriptions set out in the UK Habitat Classification[29] and habitat conditions as set out for the Statutory Biodiversity Metric[30].

A1.3 This method allows for an assessment of the main habitat types present on Site, including those listed as Priority Habitats or Irreplaceable Habitats. Plant species lists and their abundance for each habitat type were recorded but only where pertinent to identify the habitat type or condition. It was not the aim of the survey to collate a comprehensive botanical or species inventory of the Site.

A1.4 To determine if a hedgerow is species rich, the middle 30m of all hedgerows up to 100m in length were surveyed, whilst the central 30m of each half of hedgerows up to 200m in length were surveyed. For hedgerows exceeding 200m in length, the central 30m section from each third of the hedgerow was surveyed. This technique is not formally set out within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide or the UK Habitat Classification User Manual but is taken from The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 for determining species richness.

Limitations

A1.5 The survey was undertaken in October, which is just outside of the optimal habitat survey window, and not considered a constraint for the type of habitats known to be present. The Site was fully accessible, and no areas were restricted during the survey. As such, the survey is not considered to have been limited by seasonal, climatic, or access constraints.

A1.6 The survey was limited to recording plant species present in both vegetative and flowering stages at the time of survey. The absence of any species from this report should not be taken to imply that the species is entirely absent from the Site.

[29] UKHab Ltd (July 2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 [https://www.ukhab.org]
[30] DEFRA (February 2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessments

RESULTS

A1.7 The principal habitats within and immediately adjacent the Site together with their dominant/characteristic plant species identified during the survey are discussed in turn below. The type, distribution and species composition of the habitats present is discussed below.

A1.8 The following should be read in conjunction with **Plan EDP 1** and illustrative photographs provided where appropriate.

Developed Land; Sealed Surface and Bare Ground

A1.9 The majority of the EfW CHP Facility Site comprises of developed land; sealed surface, bare ground, and buildings associated with the existing waste management park (as shown in **Image EDP A1.1**). These areas provide working space, parking, and internal access routes.

A1.10 A large building (Building **B1**) is situated centrally within the Site, with several portacabins and shipping containers located immediately adjacent. Additional shipping containers are distributed throughout the Site.

Image EDP A1.1: Developed Land; Sealed Surface and main building within the EfW CHP Facility Site.

A1.11 These habitat types are of negligible ecological importance. The importance of the buildings in relation to roosting bats is discussed within **Appendix EDP 3**.

Modified Grassland

A1.12 Several small areas of modified grassland occur within the Temporary Construction Compound 1 (TCC1) area and along the boundaries of the EfW CHP Facility Site. A larger area of modified grassland is also present within the Distribution Network Connection (DNC) field.

A1.13 The sward composition is broadly consistent across all areas, being dominated by Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). Less frequently occurring grass species include cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), and false oatgrass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Typical herbaceous species present include dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale agg.*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), spotted medic (*Medicago arabica*), cranesbill (*Geranium spp.*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), and vetch sp. (*Vicia spp.*).

A1.14 Species were recorded at an average density of 5–6 species per m^2. The habitat was assessed using the statutory DEFRA metric criteria and based on this assessment, the areas of modified grassland were classified as being in 'poor' condition.

Image EDP A1.2: Modified grassland.

A1.15 Given the comparatively species-poor composition of the grassland sward across these areas, and the common nature of this habitat within the local area modified grassland is judged to be of Less than Local level importance.

Other Neutral Grassland

A1.16 TCC1 and the DNC support areas of other neutral grassland.

A1.17 Within TCC1, the grass sward is dominated by common and widespread grass species including cock's-foot, red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*) and Yorkshire fog. The herbaceous layer includes greater plantain, ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), dandelion, yarrow, spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), hawkweed oxtongue (*Picris hieracioides)*, buckhorn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), cranesbill (*Geranium sp.*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), spotted medic (*Medicago arabica*), chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) and common chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

A1.18 The DNC forms publicly accessible greenspace, supporting informal pathways frequently used by dog walkers. At the time of the survey, the grassland was grazed short by ponies. The sward within these areas is typically dominated by Yorkshire fog, red fescue, cock's-foot and sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), with less frequent false brome, perennial ryegrass, wavy hairgrass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), false oatgrass and reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Other species typically recorded include pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), false fox sedge (*Carex otrubae*), wood sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), compact rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*), hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), common chickweed, and common cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*). Waxcaps were also frequently observed within the sward, indicating that the grassland is long-established.

A1.19 Across the grassland within TCC1 and the DNC corridor, herbaceous species accounted for greater than 20% cover and were recorded at a density of approximately 8–9 species per m^2.

A1.20 Using the statutory DEFRA Biodiversity Metric condition assessment criteria, these areas of other neutral grassland were classified as being in 'poor' condition.

Image EDP A1.3: Other Neutral Grassland within TCC1.

A1.21 The grasslands across TCC1 and the DNC exhibit relatively low species diversity, poor condition, and limited extent. However, frequent observations of waxcap fungi within the DNC grassland indicate that, despite the low recorded plant diversity, this area may represent a long-established grassland of ecological interest. Consequently, the grassland within the DNC is considered to be of Local ecological importance, whereas the grassland within TCC1 is considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Ruderal/Ephemeral and Tall Forbs

A1.22 A large area of ruderal/ephemeral vegetation is present within TCC1, associated with a gravel substrate. Vegetation cover is generally sparse, with areas of vegetation beginning to regenerate. Species recorded include silverweed, spotted medick, black medick

(*Medicago lupulina*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides),* greater plantain, purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), common ragwort and cock's-foot.

A1.23 Earth banks around the peripheries of the EfW CHP Facility Site are dominated by tall forbs. Species present include teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), common nettles *(Urtica dioica*), willowherb (*Epilobium spp.*), and thistle (*Cirsium spp*.).

A1.24 Using the statutory DEFRA metric criteria, the Ruderal/Ephemeral habitat was assessed as being in 'moderate' condition, and the tall forb habitat was assessed as 'good' condition.

A1.25 Given the limited species richness, low distinctiveness, and small extent of the ruderal/ephemeral and tall forb habitats present on site, these habitats are considered to be of Less Than Local level ecological importance.

Scrub

A1.26 Areas of mixed scrub and bramble scrub occur along the boundaries of the EfW CHP Facility Site and across the DNC. Mixed scrub habitat within the Site generally comprises bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*.), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna)* with bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) occurring along the edges in places.

A1.27 Small, discrete patches of willow scrub *(Salix spp*.) also occur to the south of the DNC.

A1.28 Using the statutory DEFRA metric criteria, the scrub habitat across the site was assessed as being in 'poor' to 'moderate' condition.

A1.29 Given the scrub habitat's limited species richness and small extent, the scrub habitat present on Site is considered to be of Less Than Local ecological importance.

Wet Ditch

A1.30 One wet ditch occurs along the DNC corridor. This drainage ditch was constructed to manage overflow from off-site balancing ponds, located to the north of the Site. The relatively shallow banks of the ditch comprise soft rush (*Juncus effusus)*, tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa)*, common reed (*Phragmites australis*), common nettle, bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), and willow sp. (*Salix spp.*).

A1.31 The ditch has a shallow water depth and is likely to dry out during the summer months. However, it is expected to hold water for approximately four months of the year and therefore meets the criteria for a wet ditch as defined within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Image EDP A1.4: Wet ditch.

A1.32 Given its seasonal wetness and limited botanical diversity, the wet ditch within the Site is assessed as being of Less Than Local level ecological importance.

Waterbodies

A1.33 The Site supports a relatively small waterbody within the EfW CHP Facility Site. This was not recorded during the 2023 habitat survey, likely because it did not exist. Waterbody **P5** comprises of a depression in the ground where water has accumulated around and within stored shipping containers (shown in **Image EDP A1.5**). The waterbody surface was largely covered with duckweed (*Lemna sp)*, and the water appeared to be of poor quality. The margins were fringed with stands of common bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and occasional yellow flag iris (*iris pseudacorus*).

Image EDP A1.5: Waterbody **P5**.

A1.34 Given its small extent, poor water quality and tendency to dry out, this waterbody is considered to be of Less than Local level importance.

Sustainable Drainage System

A1.35 The Site contains a SuDS feature (**P4**) comprising one bioswale connected to two attenuation basins, located in the north of the DNC field. These features were created in 2021 as part of the adjacent development, primarily designed for temporary water storage.

A1.36 At the time of the survey, the bioswale was dry and appeared to rarely retain standing water, as indicated by the absence of aquatic and marginal vegetation. Its steep banks support mostly scrub and tall forb species, including common nettle and docks (*Rumex spp.*).

A1.37 Since their creation in 2021, the two attenuation basins have become established with aquatic and marginal vegetation, including common bulrush, soft rush, and yellow flag iris. The banks

are generally steep-sided, and support mostly scrub and tall forbs. At the time of survey, both attenuation basins retained water.

Image EDP A1.6: Attenuation basin **P4** within the DNC field.

A1.38 Given the on-site SuDS features are still immature habitats and support limited diversity, they are considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

A1.39 Immediately adjacent to the EfW CHP Facility Site is Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland bounding the Site to the north, west and south. Two small sections of this woodland (Woodlands **W1** and **W2**) extend into the Site along the western and southern boundaries.

A1.40 The DNC corridor also passes through an area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (Woodland W3), located just south of the EfW CHP Facility Site. This woodland forms part of Frogmoor Wood (SNCI), a locally designated site. A fourth small woodland parcel (Woodland **W4**) is located to the south of the DNC. It forms part of a larger area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland that extends predominantly off-site. All four on-site woodland parcels, as well as the adjacent woodland described above, are identified as Deciduous Woodland within the Priority Habitat Inventory.

A1.41 Typical tree species recorded within these woodlands include English oak (*Quercus robur*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia)*, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris), willow (Salix spp.), and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) was recorded in abundance along the southern

boundary of EfW CHP Facility Site, within Woodland **W2**. Some woodland parcels adjacent to the EfW CHP Facility Site boundary also comprise planted stands of Scots pine.

A1.42 Across all on-site woodland, the ground flora was generally sparse and species-poor, comprising common nettle, bramble, bracken, common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), and docks (*Rumex spp.*)

Image EDP A1.7: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland adjacent EfW CHP Facility Site.

A1.43 The Site contains areas of broadleaved woodland that meet the definition of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, a Priority Habitat in England. These woodlands form part of a larger woodland network and contribute to habitat connectivity across the local landscape. Woodlands **W1**, **W2**, and **W4** are relatively small in extent and, given the widespread occurrence of this habitat locally, are considered to be of local ecological importance. Woodland **W3** is similar in extent and local commonness, but as it also forms part of the Frogmoor SNCI, a locally designated site, it is considered to be of district-level ecological importance.

Other River and Stream

A1.44 A small section of Broad Work Brook passes through the Site via a culvert beneath an access track associated with the DNC corridor. The channel is less than 5m wide and represents a small tributary of the River Stour. On previous surveys, the stream has been recorded as dry, and it was not located during the update habitat survey, likely due to drying.

A1.45 The brook provides limited aquatic and riparian habitat and may facilitate minor wildlife movement across the local landscape. Taking this into account, along with its small size, culverted section, and restricted habitat features, Broad Work Brook is considered to be of Local ecological importance.

Appendix EDP 2
Breeding Bird Survey

METHODOLOGY

A2.1 There is no industry standard guidance for breeding bird surveys in relation to developments in England. Breeding bird surveys are therefore normally undertaken with reference to standard methodology, entailing a modified Common Bird Census (CBC)[31] approach. Due to the lack of adopted guidance, a group of professional ornithologists have put together their recommended approach for how (and when) to do bird surveys[32]. This unofficial guidance has been considered during the survey design of the breeding bird survey as detailed below.

A2.2 As the likelihood of a significant breeding bird assemblage being present was judged to be low, a single-visit update "pilot" survey was undertaken to confirm whether a full breeding bird survey should then be undertaken. Based on the results of the initial survey (as described further below) and similarly to the previous surveys in 2023, it was not deemed necessary to undertake a full breeding bird survey.

A2.3 The Site is considered to be a small 8.8ha site, with a limited extent of complicated habitats (for example those with dense vegetation such as woodland), and is made up of habitats that are of generally lower value for breeding birds. Therefore a single 'pilot' visit undertaken on 14 April 2026 was considered more than sufficient to understand the significance of the assemblage or importance of a population of any particular species on this Site.

A2.4 The single visit was timed to ensure it was completed prior to 11am to cover the peak activity period, therefore, the survey started at 07:14am and was finished by 10:14am. The temperature varied between 07 and 13 degrees Celsius, the wind between 2 and 3 (Beaufort scale), it was mostly cloudy varying between 95% and 99% and there was no rain.

A2.5 During the single 'pilot' visit to the Site, the surveyor walked at a slow pace to enable all birds detected to be identified and located. Frequent stops were made to scan suitable habitats and to listen for singing and calling birds. All areas of suitable breeding habitat within the Site boundary and immediately adjacent areas were approached to within 50m.

A2.6 During the survey the location and activity of each bird detected (including those seen or heard) was recorded and mapped using standard two-letter British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes. The breeding status of each bird species identified at the Site was determined according to the nature and frequency of the behavioural elements recorded, as set out in **Table EDP A2.1**.

[31] Marchant, J. (1983). Common Bird Census Method. BTO

[32] Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2025). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts https://birdsurveyguidelines.org/

Table EDP A2.1: Field Evidence used to Determine Bird Breeding Status

Breeding Status	Examples of Behaviour Exhibited
Confirmed	• Distraction display; • Nest building; • Nest with eggs; • Nest with young; • Used nest; • Recently fledged young; and • Adult carrying faecal sac/food.
Probable	• Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season; • Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song, etc.) on at least two different occasions, a week or more apart at the same place; • Courtship and display; • Visiting a probable nest site; • Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults; • Brood patch on adult examined in the hand; and • Nest building or excavating nest-hole.
Possible	• Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat; • Male in song; and • Adult giving alarm call.
Non-breeder	• Feeding birds only; • Birds flying over only; and • Lack of suitable breeding habitat.

A2.7 Given the ambiguity in some cases between Probable and Possible breeders this is only referred to when pertinent to the results.

A2.8 To inform the assessment in this report, the numbers of potential territories identified, the abundance of species at the County and National level, the quality of the habitat present and the geographical range of the birds concerned have been considered, based on national and regional accounts.

A2.9 The conservation status of each species of bird was also taken into account and the following lists were considered:

- Schedule 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* 1981 (as amended) – affords greater protection to certain breeding species that are considered appropriately at risk nationally and are listed additional legal protection accordingly;

- Priority Species;

- Birds of Conservation Concern[33] - under this approach UK bird populations are assessed, using quantitative criteria, to determine the population status of each species and then placed on one of three lists; Red, Amber or Green; and

- Local conservation status as listed in the Dorset Bird Report[34].

Limitations

A2.10 As with all breeding bird surveys following this technique, the process is open to some subjectivity in interpretation except where active nests are located. Therefore, recorded locations indicate the 'centre' of a territory and not necessarily the breeding location.

A2.11 Following best practice, the survey visit was timed to start around first light, to coincide with the period of peak activity for birds, most particularly passerine songbird species. It was also undertaken during suitable weather conditions, i.e., days/periods with strong winds and heavy or persistent rain were generally avoided. The results are therefore not significantly limited by seasonal or climatic factors.

A2.12 There were no other limitations to this survey.

RESULTS

A2.13 A total of 37 bird species were recorded during the survey and mostly in areas just off-site.

A2.14 Of the four bird species that were recorded as breeding or likely breeding on-site, three are species of nature conservation importance, namely being listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, being a Priority Species and/or being species included on the latest Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern. The distribution of these species recorded within the Site is shown on **Plan EDP 3**.

A2.15 The three species of conservation importance breeding within the Site included common linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) and skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).

A2.16 Two pairs of skylark were observed singing and/or calling within the TCC1 area and two territories are therefore considered to be present in this other neutral grassland habitat. This habitat type is also present just off-site to the west of the TCC1 area, and these two pairs could easily be accommodated here, with consideration that this is a declining breeding resident within the local area.

A2.17 A single pair of common linnet was also recorded within the TCC1 area and a single territory is considered to be present within the very limited extent of scattered scrub. This habitat type is much more common in areas just off-site to the east of the TCC1 area, which can easily

[33] Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. 2021 (as amended September 2024). The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747.
[34] Dorset Bird Report 2023. Dorset Bird Club, Published December 2024.

accommodate a single pair, although considering this is a fairly common, but declining resident within the local area.

A2.18 Dunnock was also found to be breeding within the Site with a single pair present within the TCC1 area. This is a very common breeding resident within the local area, and this single pair can be easily accommodated within the wider landscape.

A2.19 Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*), although not breeding within the Site, was recorded within woodland habitat just off-site of the EfW CHP Facility Site with two singing males, and just off-site of the DNC corridor route, with one singing male. The woodland habitat within the Site is very limited in extent and there are more opportunities for the species to breed within much larger areas of woodland habitat just off-site, with note that this is a schedule 1 species.

A2.20 The abundance and diversity of bird species recorded on-site was consistent with the extent and diversity of nesting habitats present. The majority of species recorded were associated with the other neutral grassland. The limited extent of other suitable habitats such as wetland and woodland, limits the ability of the Site to support large breeding populations of habitat specialist species. For this reason, the breeding bird assemblage is judged to be of Site ecological importance.

A2.21 Considering developed land; sealed surface and short and mown grassland are the most common habitat types within the Site and taking into account the limited amount of bird species making use of the Site to breed, a single breeding bird 'pilot' survey was deemed sufficient to understand the breeding bird assemblage present within the Site.

Appendix EDP 3
Bat Surveys

METHODOLOGY

A3.1 The scope of bat surveys undertaken at the Site was determined following completion of the baseline habitat survey and review of relevant desk study findings and with reference to good practice guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust[36].

Tree Roost Surveys

Ground Level Tree Assessment

A3.2 Owing to the presence of suitably mature trees within or adjacent to the Site, an update Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) of trees across the Site was undertaken to record any external evidence of roosting bats or any features capable of supporting roosting bats that can be seen from the ground. This survey updates the previous bat roost assessment of trees undertaken in 2021.

A3.3 The update survey was completed on 08 September 2025 by a bat licensed ecologist in accordance with the good practice guidelines referred to above. The trees were searched as thoroughly as possible from ground level with all elevations covered where these could be accessed.

A3.4 Suitable features for roosting bats (Potential Roost Features - PRFs) recorded (where present) include features formed by disease, decay, damage and association as listed within the guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust and detailed within the '*Bat Roosts in Trees*' book[37]. In addition, bat, bird and dormouse boxes are also considered to provide potentially suitable roosting opportunities.

A3.5 Signs of roosting bat presence recorded (where present) include seeing a bat within a PRF, or finding bat droppings within, around or beneath a PRF. Other signs which could indicate a roost include smoothing of the entrance to a PRF, staining around or beneath a feature, audible squeaking from the roost at dusk or during warm weather, and large/regularly used roosts may produce a distinctive odour.

A3.6 The roost suitability of each tree was categorised as either:

- None – Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any;
- Further Assessment Required (FAR) – Tree is of a size, age or condition that is likely to have PRFs, further assessment is therefore required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree;

[36] Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London

[37] Andrews, H (2018). *Bat Roosts in Trees. A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-Care and Ecology Professionals.* Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.

- PRF – Tree supports at least one PRF which is visible from the ground; and
- Confirmed roost – Signs of roosting bat presence were found within or around a PRF.

A3.7 For those trees categorised as having a 'PRF', an estimate was made as to whether each PRF visible from the ground was likely to suitable for individual bats (PRF-I) or multiple bats (PRF-M). It should be noted that this categorisation from ground level is an estimate only, as it is often not possible to establish the internal extent of a tree feature from ground level.

Limitations

A3.8 As the survey was undertaken in September, when trees were still in leaf, it is possible that some potential roosting features (PRFs) were obscured by canopy cover or surrounding vegetation and therefore not recorded.

A3.9 Bats are mobile animals and will move between a series of different tree roost sites, frequently establishing and occupying different potential roost features, depending on seasonal requirements and resources available locally. Furthermore, existing potential roost features on trees can be transient, and new features formed regularly. This survey therefore only provides a snapshot of the conditions present at the Site at the time of survey.

A3.10 Dense scrub within Woodland **W3** (as shown on **Plan EDP 1**) made accessing this area not possible. As a precaution, this area was classified as FAR. Therefore, if any trees in this area are to be impacted, a further assessment is required, as the trees are of a size and maturity to potentially support roosting features.

A3.11 It should be noted that this type of assessment is based on features visible from ground level and is not considered to be a definitive bat roosting survey.

Buildings/Built Structures Roost Surveys

Preliminary Roost Assessment

A3.12 Owing to the presence of potentially suitable buildings within the Site, an update Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of these buildings was undertaken to record any evidence of roosting bats or any features capable of supporting roosting bats. This survey updates the previous bat roost assessment of buildings undertaken in 2021.

A3.13 The update survey was completed on 08 September 2025 by a bat licensed ecologist in accordance with the good practice guidelines referred to above. All external features considered potentially suitable for bats were assessed using a high-powered torch and binoculars, from all aspects, where access allowed. Suitable features for roosting bats recorded (where present) include the following:

- Cracks/crevices in stone/brickwork/timber;
- Missing/broken/raised roof/ridge/hanging tiles;
- Loose/lifted lead flashing/bitumen felt;

- Loft voids (particularly if relatively undisturbed, potential bat access points present, clear flight space with simple truss formation, roof lining and insulation present);
- Gaps between lintels above doors and windows;
- Gaps in soffits, barge boards or facias; and
- Cavity walls with potential bat access.

A3.14 Signs of roosting bat presence recorded (where present) include the following:

- Bat(s) roosting *in situ*;
- Bat droppings or urine splashes within or beneath a feature/access point;
- Feeding remains (e.g., insect wings and beetle wing cases);
- Oily marks, smoothly worn surfaces or staining around a feature/access point;
- Audible squeaking from the roost; and
- Large/regularly used roosts may produce a distinctive odour.

A3.15 Based upon the evidence/features identified, each building was assigned to one of the following categories:

- Known or confirmed roost – Evidence of bat use found, European Protected Species (EPS) licence may be required for modifications, and will be required for demolition, to be completed lawfully;
- High suitability – Structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat;
- Moderate suitability - Structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only);
- Low suitability - Structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of year. These roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats;
- Negligible suitability - No obvious features to support roosting bats, although some apparently unsuitable features present; and
- None – No features on Site likely to be used by roosting bats at any time of year.

A3.16 During the PRA, an initial assessment of potential for winter roosting (hibernation) within each building was also undertaken, based on the presence of suitable features, accessibility for bats,

surrounding habitat and the temperature and humidity conditions likely to be present within the building over the winter period.

Limitations

A3.17 Preliminary roost assessments of buildings can be undertaken at any time of year, and these assessments were therefore not limited by seasonal or climatic factors.

A3.18 Internal inspections of the on-site buildings were not possible due to access restrictions. However, given the structure of the buildings, a confident assessment of their bat roosting suitability could be made based on the external inspection alone.

Bat Activity Surveys

A3.19 During the update habitat survey, a re-assessment was undertaken of suitability of the habitats within and immediately adjacent to the Site for foraging and commuting bats. In accordance with the good practice guidelines referred to above, the Site was assigned to one of the following categories:

- High suitability – Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, treelined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts;

- Moderate suitability – Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water;

- Low suitability – Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub;

- Negligible suitability – No obvious habitat features on Site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats; and

- None – No habitat features on Site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of year.

A3.20 Having determined that the overall suitability of the Site is Low, a proportionate level of survey effort was expended in terms of the number and frequency of NBW surveys and automated detector surveys. These are described in further detail below.

Nighttime Bat Walkover Surveys

A3.21 NBW surveys were undertaken across the Site with the objective of identifying important roosting and commuting behaviour as well as foraging areas used by bats. A total of two NBW

surveys were undertaken over the course of the active bat season in 2025 (to cover summer and autumn), with a third survey planned for spring 2026.

A3.22 Details of the date, timing, and weather conditions during each of the NBW surveys to date are given in **Table EDP A3.1**. All visits were completed in weather conditions that were suitable for such surveys.

Table EDP A3.1: Date, Timing and Weather Conditions during NBW Surveys

Survey Date	Sunset Time	Start - Finish Times	Weather Conditions at Sunset			
			Temp (°C)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (Beaufort Scale)	Precipitation
08.09.25	19:39	19:39-21:44	14-15	0	0	Nil
29.10.25	16:49	16:49-18:49	9-11	40-100	2-3	Nil

A3.23 During the NBW surveys, one stationary observation point was surveyed, with surveyors positioned along potential a flight line close to potential roost sources. Following the stationary part of the NBW survey, a transect route was walked by surveyors, with the route designed to provide coverage of all habitats within the Site. The stationary observation point and transect route are illustrated on **Plan EDP 5**. The NBW surveys were carried out by an experienced bat surveyor and an assistant, with the stationary part of the NBW survey starting at sunset and continuing for a minimum of 30 minutes followed by a walked transect part of the survey, carried out until two hours after sunset. The walked part of the NBW survey was carried out at a slow and steady pace and where appropriate surveyors stopped temporarily or took detours from the route to observe bat behaviour.

A3.24 All bats' calls were recorded, time-stamped and location tagged using Elekon Batlogger M bat detectors, and any observed behaviour described on survey forms, in order to characterise the value of the Site and its component habitats for foraging and commuting bats.

A3.25 Bats were identified on the basis of their characteristic echolocation calls, which analysed using computer sonogram analysis BatExplorer to confirm species identification. Species of Myotis bat and long-eared bat are difficult to tell apart solely from their echolocation calls and were therefore grouped as such.

Limitations

A3.26 The identification of calls and species using call analysis software is dependent upon the quality of the recording made, which can be influenced by the following factors, which may limit levels of activity and species recorded; weather conditions including rainfall and wind; distance of bat from detector/surveyor, presence of obstructions through which the noise must pass, i.e. trees, and proximity of other noise sources such as roads.

A3.27 Bat detectors are naturally biased to record bat species that produce louder echolocation calls and may not record some bat passes of quieter echolocating species, such as long eared bats *(Plecotus sp.*).

A3.28 Sections of the NBW route within the DNC corridor could not be surveyed during the September and October surveys due to dense scrub. Survey efforts focused on accessible adjacent habitat, with activity samples recorded where possible. This is not considered to present a constraint to the findings.

A3.29 To date, the NBW surveys were undertaken in optimal weather conditions and were not limited by climatic conditions.

A3.30 Due to the late instruction of the surveys, the summer NBW survey was conducted just after the end of August, which is considered the end of the summer window within the BCT survey guidance. However, the weather was still characteristic of summer and optimal for the survey, being no different from the previous week which would have been within the month of August. Therefore, the timing of this survey is not considered to represent a limitation to the survey findings or to the assessment of the bat assemblage supported by the Site.

Automated Detector Surveys

A3.31 Bat activity within the Site was also sampled using Song Meter Mini Bat 2 detectors (hereafter referred to as 'automated detectors'), which are deployed in fixed locations to automatically trigger and record bat echolocation calls over multiple nights at a time. In this case, automated detectors were deployed at two locations within the Site during each survey, as shown on **Plan EDP 5**, covering all habitat types within the Site and concentrating on locations of potential higher impacts. The automated detectors were fixed in secure locations and the microphone directed away from the tree/branch to maximise detection sensitivity. To date, two surveys were completed over the course of the active bat season in 2025, with an additional survey planned for spring 2026. Each survey comprised sampling using automated detectors for at least five consecutive nights. Details of dates, sampling locations and weather conditions during each of the surveys are given in **Table EDP A3.2**.

Table EDP A3.2: Automated Detector Survey Details

Sampling Period Dates	Location		Microphone		Weather (max, min temp/ rainfall/max, min wind speed)
	Reference Number	OS Grid Reference	Height	Direction	
03.09.25 – 07.09.25	**L1**	SZ 03358 96689	1.75m	E	Temp: 21-12°C Rain: Nil Wind: 3- 13mph
	L2	SZ 03492 96690	1m	NW	
23.10.25 – 27.10.25	**L1**	SZ 03346 96677	2m	SE	Temp: 6 -13°C Rain: Nil Wind: 4- 14mph
	L2	SZ 03492 96690	1m	NW	

A3.32 The sound files recorded by the automated detectors were analysed using Kaleidoscope Pro's Auto ID for Bats software, which uses clustering technology and known bat species calls to classify each call to species level. Except for common and soprano pipistrelle, for which the classifiers are more accurate, all other species files, those classified as 'No ID', and 10% of the

noise files were checked manually using sonogram analysis in accordance with published guides to confirm the species identification of each bat call.

Limitations

A3.33 The identification of calls and species using Kaleidoscope software is dependent upon the quality of the recording made which can be influenced by the following factors, which may limit levels of activity and species recorded:

- Weather conditions - rainfall and wind;
- Distance of bat from the detector's microphone;
- Presence of obstructions through which the noise must pass i.e., trees/leaves; and
- Proximity of other noise sources such as roads.

A3.34 Weather data for the deployment period was taken from an online data source.

A3.35 Species of Myotis bat *(Myotis spp.*) and long-eared bat (*Plecotus spp.*) are difficult to distinguish solely from their echolocation calls and were therefore grouped together for survey analysis.

A3.36 To date, the automated detector surveys were undertaken in optimal weather conditions and were not limited by climatic conditions.

A3.37 Similarly to the NBW surveys, the summer activity survey was undertaken just after the end of August. For the reasons described above in relation to the NBW survey timing, this is not considered to represent a limitation to the survey findings or to the assessment of the bat assemblage supported by the Site.

RESULTS

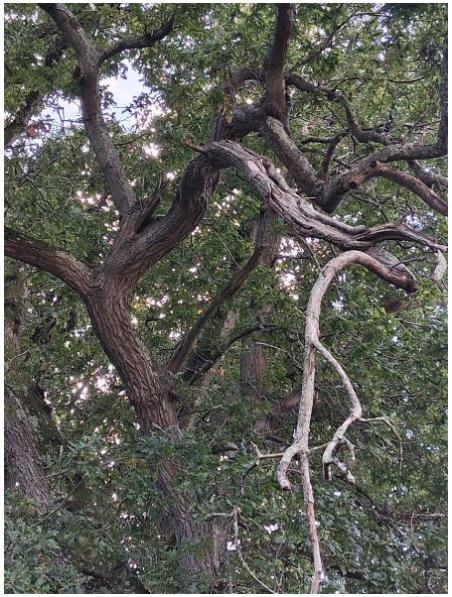
Tree Roost Surveys

Update Ground Level Tree Assessment

A3.38 The update GLTA identified a total of 14 trees and three tree groups with suitable features for bat roosting (PRF) or FAR. No external evidence of any bat roosts was recorded. Further details on each of these trees are provided in **Table EDP A3.3** and their locations are shown on **Plan EDP 4**.

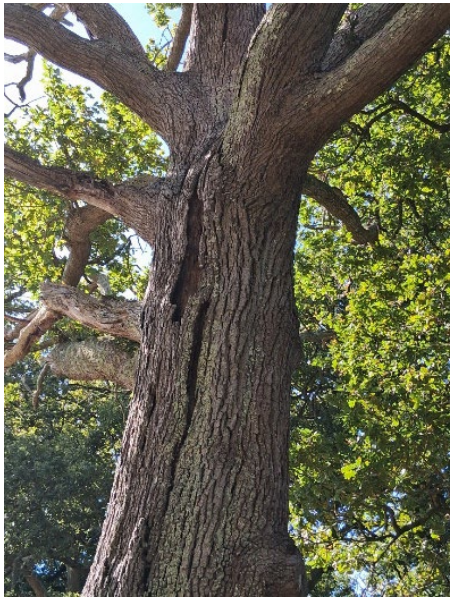
A3.39 All other trees within or immediately adjacent to the Site were assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats and have therefore not been mapped or described.

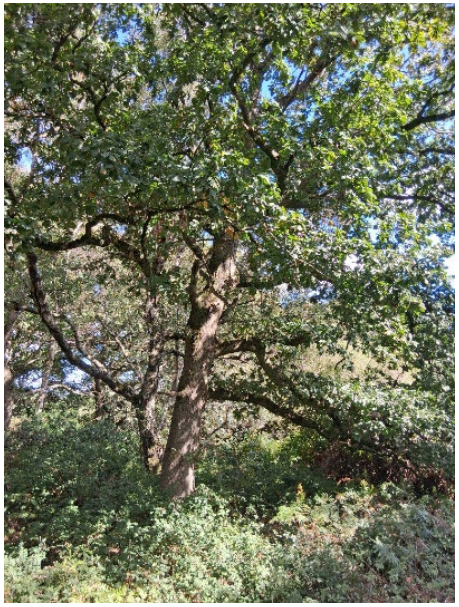
Table EDP A3.3: Details of Trees with Bat Roost Suitability Following the Update Ground Level Tree Assessment

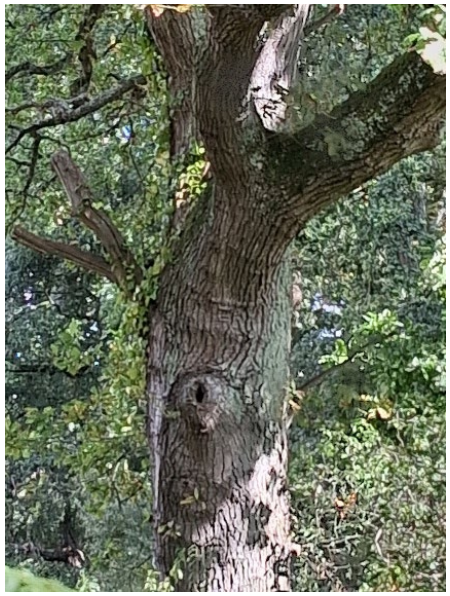
Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T1	No photo available.	English Oak	A wound was recorded at an approximate height of 5m on the north-west facing aspect, estimated PRF-I.	**PRF-I**
T2		English Oak	A hazard beam crack was recorded at approximately 8m on the south-east facing aspect, estimated PRF-I.	**PRF-I**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T3		English Oak	Dead tree with hollow stem and lifted bark. Two woodpecker holes were recorded at approximately 12m above ground on the south-east-facing aspect, both estimated PRF-M.	**PRF-M**
T4a	No photo available	English Oak	Tree of a suitable age and size to support potential bat roosting features (PRFs), but none seen from ground level.	**FAR**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T5		English Oak	A woodpecker hole was recorded at approximately 5m on the west-facing aspect (PRF-M). A knot hole was recorded at approximately 6m on the west-facing aspect (PRF-I).	**PRF-M**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T6		English Oak	Lifted bark was recorded on the stem at approximately 6m on the south-east facing aspect (PRF-I). A hazard beam crack was recorded at approximately 6.5m on the south-west facing aspect (PRF-I).	**PRF-I**
T7a		Sliver Birch (*Betula pendula*)	Four knot holes were recorded at approximately 3m on the north-west-facing aspect (PRF-I). A transverse branch snap was recorded at approximately 5m on the north-west-facing aspect (PRF-I).	**PRF-I**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T8a		English Oak	Tree of a suitable age and size to support potential bat roosting features (PRFs), but none seen from ground level.	**FAR**
T9a		English Oak	A snapped branch with splits and cracks, providing potential crevice roosting features for individual bats, was recorded at approximately 4m on the south-west facing aspect (PRF-I).	**PRF-I**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T10a		English Oak	A knot hole was recorded at an approximate height of 4 m on the west-facing aspect (PRF-I).	**PRF-I**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T11a		*Pine sp.* *(Pinus sp.)*	Standing deadwood is present, with longitudinal splits visible on the main stem (PRF-M).	**PRF-M**
T12a	No photo available	Not recorded	A hazard beam crack was recorded at approximately 5m above ground, and multiple broken branches with crevice features suitable for individual roosting bats were present on all aspects of the tree (PRF-I).	**PRF-I**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	Photograph, where available	Tree Species	Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability	Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree
T13a		English Oak	Tree of a suitable age and size to support potential bat roosting features (PRFs), but none seen. Additionally, the presence of ivy and holly could have obscured features that were not visible at the time of the survey.	**FAR**
T22		English Oak	Hazard beam cracks were recorded within multiple branches at heights of approximately 3m to 10m on the east and west facing aspects (PRF-I). Further Potential Roost Features (PRFs) may be present but were not visible due to dense ivy growth on the tree.	**PRF- I**

Tree/Tree Group Ref. No.*	**Photograph, where available**	**Tree Species**	**Potential Roost Features and their Estimated Suitability**	**Estimated Roosting Suitability of Tree**
Tree Group 1, 2 and 3	 Tree Group 1	Multiple species	Trees of a suitable age and size to support potential bat roosting features (PRFs), although none were seen.	**FAR**

* Reference numbers (**T1**, **T2**, **T5**, **T6**, **T22**) correspond to tree numbers in the 2023 arboricultural assessment for the site (ref: edp7095_r005, Appendix 8.4 of the 2024 ES Addendum), while additional trees that were previously grouped together in that survey have been assigned new reference numbers.

Buildings/Built Structures Surveys

Preliminary Roost Assessment

A3.40 The update PRA comprised an inspection of ten buildings within the Site. No evidence of bat roosting was recorded during the survey. All buildings were assessed as having negligible or no suitability for roosting bats, which is consistent with the findings of the PRA undertaken in 2023.

A3.41 Further details on each of the buildings inspected are provided in **Table EDP A3.4** and their locations are shown on **Plan EDP 4**.

Table EDP A3.4: Update Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment of Buildings

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B1**		**Building B1 – Modern Industrial Building** Structure **B1** comprises a large, modern industrial building currently in active use for waste management operations. The building is constructed of corrugated metal cladding with a pitch roof finished in metal sheeting. Access is provided via large, automated doors located at both ends of the structure. The building was found to be tightly sealed, with no potential bat access or roosting features identified. At the time of survey, the building was fully operational and occupied. High levels of internal noise and disturbance were recorded. The building is internally illuminated, with noticeable light spill occurring when the large access doors are open. Additionally, external security lighting is installed on all elevations, resulting in high levels of artificial illumination around the structure. Security lighting is present throughout the wider EfW CHP Facility Site; therefore, the site and its associated features are subject to significant artificial light pollution. Due to the sealed metal construction, high levels of internal and external lighting, and regular human disturbance, Structure **B1** is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats.	**None**

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B2** and **B2a**		**Building B2 – Portacabin** Building **B2** comprises a temporary portacabin currently in use as an office. The building is of modern modular construction, with sealed panel walls and roof. The structure is well sealed, and no features suitable for roosting bats were identified. Regular human activity associated with its use as an office further reduces any potential for use by bats. As such, Building **B2** is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats. **Building B2a – Portacabin** Building **B2a** comprises a second temporary modular portacabin building currently used as an office. A small gap was identified at the barge boards, together with a slightly lifted external panel on the north-west elevation. These features are minor, shallow, and considered to offer very limited suitability for roosting bats. No evidence of bat use was recorded. External security lighting is present on the north-east elevation, increasing artificial illumination around the structure and further reducing its suitability for bats. Given the temporary construction, the presence of only minor and sub-optimal roosting features, and the influence of artificial lighting and regular human activity, Building **B2a** is assessed as having Negligible suitability for roosting bats.	Building **B2** – **None** Building **B2a** – **Negligible**

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B3** and **B3a**		**Building B3a – Portacabin** **B3a** comprises a temporary modular portacabin structure currently used as an office. The building was accessed internally during the survey. No gaps, crevices, roof voids, lifted panels, or other features suitable for roosting bats were identified internally or externally. External security lighting is present on the north-east elevation, increasing artificial illumination around the structure and further reducing suitability for light-sensitive bat species. The building is of simple, modern construction and is subject to regular human activity and disturbance. The building is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats due to the absence of suitable roost features and the presence of disturbance and lighting. **Building B3 – Portacabin** Structure **B3** comprises a temporary portacabin connected internally to Structure **B3a**. The building is of modular construction with sealed panel walls and roof. No suitable roosting features were identified. Given the modern construction, absence of suitable roosting features, internal disturbance, and associated external lighting, the structure is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats.	Building **B3** and Building **B3a** – **None**

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B4** and **B4a**	 	**Building B4 – Shipping Container** Building **B4** comprises a standard metal shipping container of steel construction with corrugated sides and roof. The structure is of simple, sealed design and does not provide suitable roosting features for bats. The container offers no thermal stability and is subject to regular disturbance associated with site activity. The structure is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats due to the absence of suitable roost features. **Building B4a – Portacabin (Toilet Block)** Building **B4a** comprises a temporary modular portacabin used as a toilet block. At the time of survey, a window on the south-east elevation and a door on the north-east elevation were open. However, no features suitable for roosting bats were identified internally or externally. External security lighting is present on the north-east elevation, increasing artificial illumination around the structure and reducing its suitability for bat. The building is of modern construction and is subject to regular human activity and disturbance. In the absence of suitable roosting features, and given the presence of disturbance and artificial lighting, Building **B4a** is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats.	Building **B4** and Building **B4a** – **None**

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B5**		**Building B5 – Shipping Container** Building **B5** comprises a standard steel shipping container. The structure is of simple metal construction and was found to be tightly sealed, with no features suitable for roosting bats identified. Given the absence of suitable bat roosting features and the high levels of disturbance associated with regular human activity, Building **B5** is assessed as having no suitability for roosting bats.	**None**

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B6**	 	**Building B6 – Portacabin** Building **B6** comprises a temporary modular portacabin structure. A warped timber roof panel was noted, with a section lifted slightly upwards. This lifted section could potentially provide a limited crevice space suitable for opportunistic crevice-roosting bat species. However, the feature appears shallow and exposed Security lighting is present directly above the feature (mounted on adjacent Building **B1**), resulting in high levels of artificial illumination in the immediate area. Such lighting further reduces the suitability of the feature for roosting bats. As such, the building is assessed as having negligible suitability for roosting bats, due to the limited and sub-optimal nature of the potential feature and the presence of direct artificial lighting.	**Negligible**

Building Ref. No.	Photograph	Description and Potential Roost Features	Overall Roosting Suitability
Building **B7**		**Building B7 – Portacabin** Building **B7** comprises a temporary modular portacabin with a bitumen felt roof covering. A small gap was identified on the north-west elevation at the junction between the soffit and wall. The gap was heavily cobwebbed at the time of survey, indicating it is rarely accessed by animals. Combined with its minor and shallow nature, the feature is considered to offer negligible potential for roosting bats. Given the absence of other roosting features and the highly disturbed nature of the building, Structure **B7** is assessed as having negligible suitability for roosting bats.	**Negligible**
Multiple Shipping Containers		There are a number of shipping containers across the EfW CHP Facility Site that are considered unsuitable for roosting bats. The metal construction, together with the absence of insulation or ventilation, causes internal temperatures to fluctuate widely. Furthermore, no potential access points or other features suitable for roosting bats were identified around the containers.	**None**

Bat Activity Surveys

Nighttime Bat Walkover

A3.42 As noted above in relation to the scope and design of the bat activity surveys, the initial habitat assessment of the Site found it to be of low suitability for foraging and commuting bats. This is largely because the majority of the Site comprises low-quality habitat, including developed land; sealed surface, and bare ground. However, some higher-quality habitats are present on the peripheries, including areas of scrub and woodland. Owing to their relatively small extent and the levels of light pollution, these habitats are likely to provide limited foraging and commuting opportunities for a small number of bats.

A3.43 No potential roosts or significant commuting activity were identified during the stationary observation period of the NBW surveys to date.

A3.44 Overall, levels of bat activity recorded during the NBW surveys to date were very low, with 56 and 28 total registrations recorded. The distribution of this activity was concentrated along the boundary woodland surrounding the EfW CHP Facility Site and largely involved foraging activity by common and soprano pipistrelles.

A3.45 These findings are similar to the manual transect surveys undertaken in 2021, which found that the large majority of activity recorded was from common and soprano pipistrelles using the woodland edges surrounding the EfW CHP Facility Site for foraging. However, it should be noted that the update NBW surveys have increased the survey area to include TCC1 and the DNC and were also undertaken according to the updated BNT methodology; therefore, a like-for-like comparison cannot be made. Nonetheless, very similar activity within the EfW CHP Facility Site was noted during the update NBW surveys.

A3.46 The results of the NBW surveys are illustrated on **Plan EDP 5** and **Plan EDP 6**.

Table EDP A3.5: NBW Results– Number of Bat Registrations Recorded per Species

Bat Species	Summer	Autumn
Common pipistrelle	28	25
Soprano pipistrelle	26	1
Myotis species	2	2
Total	**56**	**28**

Automated Detector Surveys

A3.47 A total of nine bat species or species groups (Myotis species and long-eared bat species could not be identified to species level) were confirmed to be present foraging and/or commuting within the Site during the automated detector surveys to date. The majority of recorded bat calls were from common pipistrelle, accounting for 55.7% of the total registrations recorded over the monitoring period. The second and third most abundant species recorded were soprano pipistrelle and Myotis species, accounting for 31.1% and 5.9% of total bat calls, respectively. Calls from long-eared bats, serotine, Leisler's bat, noctule, Nathusius' pipistrelle, and barbastelle made up a small minority of the total recorded calls.

A3.48 This species assemblage and relative abundance are broadly consistent with the findings of the 2021–2022 automated detector surveys, which also recorded the majority of foraging and commuting activity was made by common and soprano pipistrelles, with serotine, barbastelle, long-eared bats, and Myotis species making up a small minority of the overall total registrations. Leisler's bat was also not recorded during previous automated detector surveys, and only very low numbers were recorded during the current surveys, reflecting their rarity and the limited dependence on the Site as a resource. Relatively higher levels of noctule activity were also observed in previous automated detector surveys, likely reflecting natural seasonal variation rather than reduced use of the Site.

A3.49 Levels of bat activity recorded during the automated detector surveys in 2025 were generally low to moderate, with slightly higher activity recorded in September compared to October. This is likely due to natural seasonal variation, with decreasing temperatures in autumn reducing bat activity and prey availability. The distribution of activity was generally evenly spread across the sampling area, with most activity likely attributed to bats foraging along woodland edges adjacent to the automated detector locations. However, slightly higher activity at location **L1** is likely due to lower light pollution and more sheltered conditions from prevailing winds within this part of the woodland.

A3.50 The results of the automated detector surveys to date are provided, in detailed and summary form, within **Tables EDP A3.6** to **A3.8**. These results are also described below for the assemblage as whole and on a species-by-species basis. The species accounts also draw upon information collated during the desk study and published data on national conservation status[38].

Species/Species Groups Recorded

Common and Soprano Pipistrelle

A3.51 Common pipistrelle populations in England have been increasing over the last five years, with soprano pipistrelle populations considered to be stable.

A3.52 MAGIC returned one EPSL roost record within 2km of the Site relating to soprano pipistrelle, which is located 1.5km north of the Site. MAGIC returned no EPSL roost records relating to common pipistrelle within 2km of the Site. The desk study returned five records of roosts relating to common and soprano pipistrelle within 2km of the Site (within the last ten years), with the closest record relating to soprano pipistrelle located approximately 420m east of the Site.

A3.53 Both common and soprano pipistrelle have been recorded frequently and are distributed widely across the Site during the automated detector survey. The highest levels of common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle activity were recorded at location **L2** in September and at location **L1** in October (total activity of both species: September – **L1** = 883, **L2** = 1399; October – **L1** = 209, **L2** = 36). This high activity is likely due to repeated foraging along the woodland edges in these areas given the timing of the activity throughout the night and that no particular commuting activity was observed during the NBWs.

[38] https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/reports/nbmp-annual-report

A3.54 Overall, common pipistrelle made up 55.7% of all bat registrations across the automated detector survey periods, with soprano pipistrelle making up 31.1% of the total. With a combined total of 86.8% of registrations recorded, it is evident that these two species make up a significant portion of the assemblage foraging and commuting within the Site during the survey period to date. These findings are in keeping with the automated detector survey results from 2021 and 2022, which also found common and soprano pipistrelle made up a large portion of foraging and commuting activity within the Site.

A3.55 It is worth noting that high numbers of registrations per night do not translate into the number of bats foraging. Indeed, surveyor observations during NBW surveys recorded only 1–2 common and soprano pipistrelles foraging at any one time. Therefore, high numbers of registrations per night are more likely to have been recorded due to a small number of bats foraging repeatedly.

A3.56 Given the national and local abundance of these species, the number of recordings is not considered to be high and therefore the population utilising the Site is currently considered of up to Local level importance.

Nathusius' pipistrelle

A3.57 Nathusius' pipistrelle is considered rare in the UK, though records have increased in recent years, and they are considered widespread throughout the UK.

A3.58 A total of 27 records of Nathusius' pipistrelle records were returned by the desk study within 2km of the Site within the last ten years, none of which related to roosting.

A3.59 Nathusius' pipistrelle was recorded at very low levels across the Site during automated detector surveys, being recorded on only five occasions across the survey periods. During the automated surveys in 2021/22, Nathusius' pipistrelle was also recorded at very low numbers, consistent with current survey results.

A3.60 Nathusius' pipistrelle was not recorded during the NBW surveys to date.

A3.61 Based on these results, it is considered that this species is not heavily reliant on the Site for foraging, roosting, or commuting. Recordings are likely to represent individuals occasionally foraging or commuting towards more favoured foraging habitats in the local area. However, as Nathusius' pipistrelle is less frequently recorded in the UK, the population using the Site is considered to be of Local level importance.

Myotis species

A3.62 Myotis bat species occur throughout most of the UK, with populations generally considered stable or increasing, except for Bechstein's bat, which is listed in Annex II of the European Commission (EC) Habitats Directive and is considerably rarer. Bechstein's bat is an ancient woodland specialist. Given the lack of suitable ancient woodland on or adjacent to the site, the species is considered unlikely to be present. Furthermore, Bechstein's bat has not been recorded using the site during any automated detector surveys or NBW surveys to date.

A3.63 During analysis, Myotis genus calls were generally not identified to species level. However, Bechstein's bat was considered separately in the analysis, but no sonograms particularly characteristic of this species were recorded.

A3.64 No EPSMLs relating to Myotis bat species were identified within 2km of the Site. Additionally, no EPSMLs relating to Bechstein's bat were identified within 6km of the Site.

A3.65 The desk study returned 26 records of Myotis species within 2km of the Site. The closest confirmed roost, located within a residential property, relates to whiskered bat and is located approximately 900m east of the Site.

A3.66 Regarding Annex II species, the desk study returned six records of Bechstein's bat within 6km of the Site over the last 10 years. The closest known Bechstein's bat roost (a hibernation roost within a building) is located approximately 5.5 km southwest of the Site.

A3.67 Myotis species accounted for 5.9% of all calls recorded during the automated detector surveys to date, making it the third most frequently recorded species overall. However, this represents a substantially lower proportion of recordings compared to common and soprano pipistrelle. The highest activity was recorded at location **L1**, which may be associated with the sheltered woodland edge that provides protection from wind and reduced exposure to artificial lighting.

A3.68 Across both NBW surveys in 2025, Myotis species were recorded at relatively low numbers (four passes in total), with activity generally associated with the woodland edge habitat within the EfW CHP Facility Site.

A3.69 Despite the generally low levels of activity recorded, a number of Myotis species recordings were still made, indicating that the Site forms part of the wider foraging and commuting habitat used by the local population. However, it is unlikely to represent a key resource. Therefore, the Myotis population identified is considered to be of Local level importance.

Serotine

A3.70 Serotine bats are restricted to southern England and Wales where they are widespread, but scarce, albeit populations are stable nationally. In Dorset, this species is considered to be locally common.

A3.71 One EPSMLs relating to serotine were identified within 2km of the Site, located 620m northwest. The desk study returned 18 records of serotine within 2km of the Site, none of which related to bat roosting.

A3.72 Serotine was recorded at low levels using the Site, making up a small minority (0.3%) of the total registrations across all automated detector surveys to date. In regard to NBW surveys in 2025, serotine was not recorded.

A3.73 Based on the results, it is considered likely that individuals use the Site for occasional commuting and foraging only. Therefore, the serotine population using the site is considered to be of Less than Local ecological importance.

Noctule and Leisler's Bat

A3.74 Noctule bats are relatively widespread in England, Wales, and south-west Scotland. The population is considered stable in the long term in England and across the UK. They are listed as a Priority Species, with historical declines primarily attributed to agricultural practices and habitat loss.

A3.75 A Leisler's bat is an uncommon but widespread species throughout England. Populations are under-recorded, and the population trend is considered data deficient by the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP).

A3.76 No EPSML records relating to Noctule and Leisler's bat were identified within 2km of the Site. The desk study returned numerous records of Noctule within 2km over the last 10 years, whereas only a single record of Leisler's bat was returned, reflecting its uncommon status within the county.

A3.77 Noctules use the Site for foraging and commuting at low levels, accounting for a small proportion (2.4%) of the total registrations across all automated detector surveys to date. Noctules were recorded only in September during the automated detector surveys, with activity relatively evenly spread across locations **L1** and **L2**, likely representing individuals foraging higher over the small Site. Noctules were not recorded during the NBW surveys to date.

A3.78 Similarly, Leisler's bat was recorded at very low levels across the automated detector surveys, with a total of 12 registrations. The highest levels of activity for Leisler's bat were recorded at location **L1** in September, with a total of eight registrations. Leisler's bat was not recorded during the NBW surveys to date.

A3.79 Given the low levels of Noctule activity recorded, it is unlikely that this species regularly uses the Site for foraging or commuting. Considering this, along with the widespread distribution of the species, the Noctule population using the Site is considered to be of Local level ecological importance.

A3.80 While Leisler's bat is rarer, given the similarly very low levels of activity recorded on-site, this species is also considered to be of Local level importance.

Long-eared Bat Species

A3.81 The brown long-eared bat is considered widespread and common across the UK, with national populations regarded as stable. In contrast, the grey long-eared bat (*Plecotus austriacus*) has a much more restricted distribution, being largely confined to the south coast of England, although it is often under-recorded. Grey long-eared bats do occur in Dorset; however, the species is considered to be very rare within the county.

A3.82 The echolocation calls of brown long-eared and grey long-eared bats overlap extensively, making species-level identification by call analysis unreliable. Consequently, for the purposes of this report, recordings from both species have been grouped together.

A3.83 One EPSML record relating to brown long-eared bats was identified within 2km of the Site. This record relates to a licence located approximately 620m northwest of the Site. The desk study also returned 19 records of brown long-eared bat and long-eared bat species within 2km of the Site from the last ten years, many of which are associated with bat roosting.

A3.84 Relatively low levels of long-eared bat activity were recorded during the automated detector surveys to date, with a total of 113 passes across all surveys, representing 3.9% of total bat activity. Activity was highest at Location **L1** in September (101 passes), while levels were considerably lower at Location **L2** and during the October survey period, with only 1–3 passes recorded per night. The September peak may reflect foraging along woodland edges in the

sampling areas, as activity occurred well after the typical emergence period. It should be noted that this genus is likely under-recorded due to the relatively quiet echolocation calls of long-eared bats.

A3.85 Given the relatively low levels of activity recorded, the Site is not considered to represent a key foraging resource for long-eared bats. However, the woodland edge habitats present within the sampling area are likely to form part of the wider network of habitats used by the local population for foraging and commuting. Taking into account the possibility of under-recording due to quiet echolocation calls and the small possibility of grey long-eared bat presence, the long-eared bats using the Site are considered to be of Local importance.

Barbastelle

A3.86 Barbastelle bat is listed in Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive and occurs across much of England and Wales, although it is considered rare nationally. Within Dorset the species is also regarded as rare.

A3.87 No EPSML records relating to barbastelle were identified within 6km of the Site. The desk study returned eight records of barbastelle within 6km of the Site over the last ten years, none of which relate to confirmed bat roosting.

A3.88 Only low levels of barbastelle activity were recorded within the Site, with the species accounting for only 0.1% (a total of three passes) of the total automated detector registrations. These three passes occurred in September at location **L1**. This suggests that the Site is not regularly used by barbastelle in high numbers, with the registrations likely representing an individual bat using the Site opportunistically. Barbastelle was not recorded during the NBW surveys to date.

A3.89 These low levels of activity by barbastelle using the Site are consistent with the findings of the automated detector survey in 2021 and 2022, which also recorded very low levels of activity (one pass across all surveys).

A3.90 Given that barbastelle was recorded only sporadically during the automated detector surveys, it is considered likely that the species is using the Site opportunistically for foraging or commuting through the landscape towards more optimal woodland habitat. The Site is therefore not considered a significant resource for this species. However, taking into account the rarity of the species, the barbastelle population using the Site is considered to be of Local level importance.

Automated Detector Data Tables

Table EDP A3.6: Automated Detector Survey Results for Summer 2025

Location	Bat Species	Number of Bat Passes Recorded per Night					Total	Percentage
		05/09/25	06/09/25	04/09/25	03/09/25	07/09/25		
1	Common pipistrelle	75	74	190	56	32	**427**	**36.03**
	Soprano pipistrelle	73	80	140	102	61	**456**	**38.48**

Location	Bat Species	Number of Bat Passes Recorded per Night					Total	Percentage
		05/09/25	06/09/25	04/09/25	03/09/25	07/09/25		
	Nathusius' pipistrelle	0	0	1	0	1	**2**	**0.17**
	Myotis species	28	40	23	30	14	**135**	**11.39**
	Noctule	7	4	15	9	12	**47**	**3.97**
	Serotine	0	0	2	2	2	**6**	**0.51**
	Leisler's bat	2	2	3	1	0	**8**	**0.68**
	Long-eared bat sp.	17	34	26	20	4	**101**	**8.52**
	Barbastelle	1	1	0	1	0	**3**	**0.25**
	Total	**203**	**235**	**400**	**221**	**126**	**1185**	
2	Common pipistrelle	158	755	56	48	81	**1098**	**75.93**
	Soprano pipistrelle	67	98	42	52	42	**301**	**20.82**
	Nathusius' pipistrelle	1	0	0	0	0	**1**	**0.07**
	Myotis species	4	1	4	0	1	**10**	**0.69**
	Noctule	6	12	3	2	0	**23**	**1.59**
	Serotine	1	1	0	0	0	**2**	**0.14**
	Leisler's bat	2	0	1	0	0	**3**	**0.21**
	Long-eared bat sp.	1	1	2	2	2	**8**	**0.55**
	Total	**240**	**868**	**108**	**104**	**126**	**1446**	

Table EDP A3.7: Automated Detector Survey Results for Autumn 2025

Location	Bat Species	Number of Bat Passes Recorded per Night					Total	Percentage
		24/10/25	25/10/25	26/10/25	27/10/25	28/10/25		
1	Common pipistrelle	7	4	4	40	21	**76**	**31.54**
	Soprano pipistrelle	16	16	20	58	23	**133**	**55.19**
	Nathusius' pipistrelle	0	0	0	2	0	**2**	**0.83**
	Myotis species	8	5	4	6	2	**25**	**10.37**
	Leisler's bat	0	0	0	0	1	**1**	**0.41**
	Long-eared bat sp.	0	0	0	3	1	**4**	**1.66**
	Total	**31**	**25**	**28**	**109**	**48**	**241**	
2	Common pipistrelle	1	1	0	13	5	**20**	**51.28**
	Soprano pipistrelle	1	0	0	9	6	**16**	**41.03**
	Myotis species	0	0	0	2	1	**3**	**7.69**
	Total	**2**	**1**	**0**	**24**	**12**	**39**	

Table EDP A3.8: Monthly Summary of Update Automated Detector Surveys

Survey Month	Species	Number of Passes	% of Month Total
Summer	Common pipistrelle	1525	57.96
	Soprano pipistrelle	757	28.77
	Nathusius' pipistrelle	3	0.11
	Myotis species	145	5.51
	Noctule	70	2.66
	Serotine	8	0.30
	Leisler's bat	11	0.42
	Long-eared bat sp.	109	4.14
	Barbastelle	3	0.11
	Total	**2631**	
Autumn	Common pipistrelle	96	34.29
	Soprano pipistrelle	149	53.21
	Nathusius' pipistrelle	2	0.71
	Myotis species	28	10.00
	Leisler's bat	1	0.36
	Long-eared bat sp.	4	1.43
	Total	**280**	

Evaluation of Overall Bat Assemblage

A3.91 The abundance and diversity of bat species recorded within the Site to date are considered typical of a rural site in Dorset. Common and widespread species, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, and Myotis species accounted for the vast majority of foraging and commuting activity on site. Low numbers of registrations by rarer species were also recorded, including barbastelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, and Leisler's bat. These rarer species were recorded only occasionally and at relatively low levels, suggesting the Site does not provide a key foraging or commuting resource for these species, which likely rely on more optimal habitats elsewhere in the wider landscape.

A3.92 The woodland and scrub on and around the Site provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for primarily common and widespread bat species. These habitats are typical of the local landscape and likely function as part of the wider network of foraging and commuting habitat for bats rather than being a key resource themselves.

A3.93 In terms of roosting opportunities, no buildings on Site were considered suitable to support bat roosting. However, 14 individual trees and three tree groups were identified as having or potentially having potential roosting features for bats.

A3.94 Based on Table 3.3 of the Bat Mitigation Guidelines, the bat assemblage recorded within the Site to date would be considered of up to County importance, due to the number of species present, including rarer species, and the location of the Site. However, rarer species were

recorded only occasionally and at relatively low levels. Furthermore, roosting opportunities on the Site are very limited, with no suitable buildings and only a small number of trees and tree groups identified as having potential roosting features. Consequently, the bat assemblage supported by the Site is currently considered to be of Local importance.

A3.95 This is a provisional assessment based on summer and autumn 2025 update activity surveys in addition to previous full survey results. However, given the similarities with the previous bat activity data in 2021-2022, alongside no other significant changes to the habitats or management of the Site since those surveys, there is a reasonable degree of certainty in this assessment based on the results so far. Nonetheless, the current assessment of the ecological importance of the bat assemblage supported by the Site will be confirmed following the final survey work which will cover the spring activity period in 2026.

Plans

Plan EDP 1: Habitat Survey
(edp7095_d002e 28 April 2026 JGr/ESu)

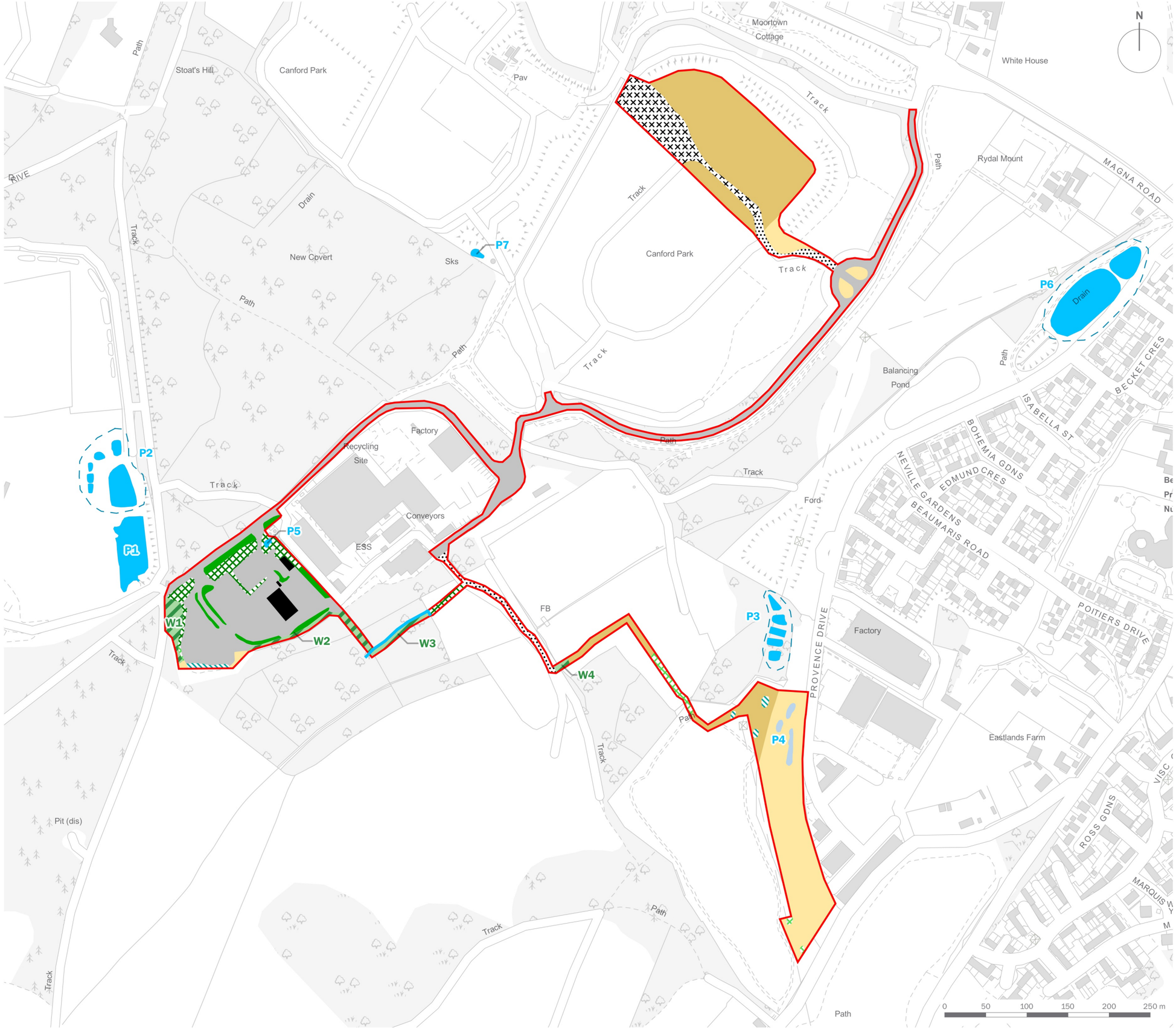
Plan EDP 2: Statutory Designated Sites within 10km
(edp7095_d003c 28 April 2026 DJo/GCr)

Plan EDP 3: Breeding Bird Pilot Survey Plan
(edp7095_d051a 28 April 2026 JGr/PFr)

Plan EDP 4: Bat Roost Assessment of Trees and Buildings/Built Structures
(edp7095_d048a 28 April 2026 JLe/ESu)

Plan EDP 5: Night-time Bat Walkover Results - September
(edp7095_d049a 28 April 2026 JLe/ESu)

Plan EDP 6: Night-time Bat Walkover Results - October
(edp7095_d050a 28 April 2026 JLe/ESu)



Site Boundary

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Other Neutral Grassland

Modified Grassland

Mixed Scrub

Bramble Scrub

Willow Scrub

Ruderal/Ephemeral

Tall Forbs

Waterbody

Sustainable Drainage System

Developed Land; Sealed Surface

Building

Bare Ground

Ditch

client

MVV Environment Limited

project title

Proposed Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Canford Resource Park

drawing title

Habitat Survey

date	**28 APRIL 2026**	drawn by	**JGr**
drawing number	**edp7095_d002e**	checked	**ESu**
scale	**1:4,500 @ A3**	QA	**GYo**

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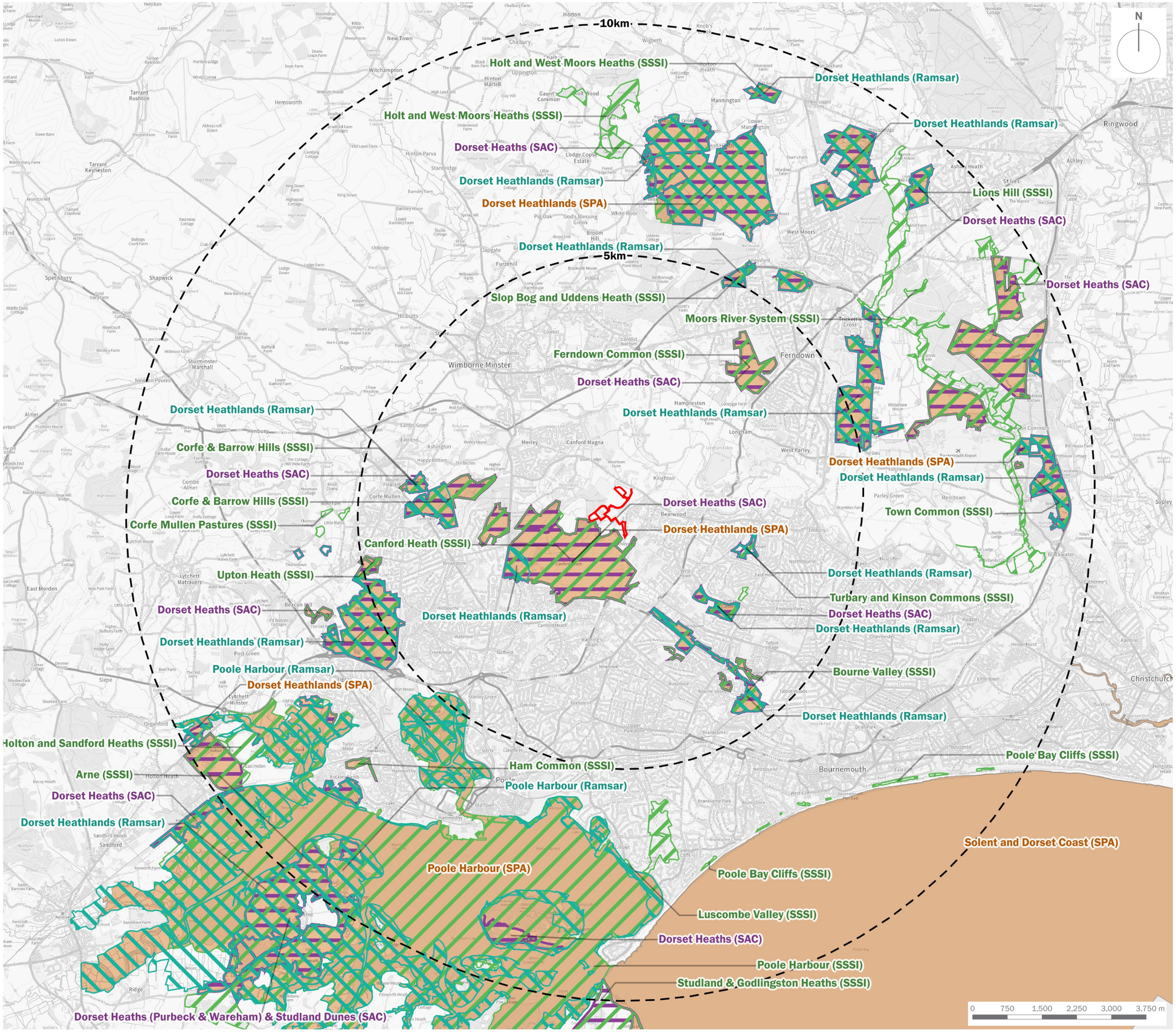

Site Boundary

Range Rings from the EfW CHP Facility Site (at 5km intervals)

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Ramsar Site

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Dorset Heaths

Special Protection Area (SPA)

client

MVV Environmental Limited

project title

Proposed Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Canford Resource Park

drawing title

Statutory Designated Sites within 10km

date	**28 APRIL 2026**	drawn by	**DJo**
drawing number	**edp7095_d003c**	checked	**GCr**
scale	**1:80,000 @ A3**	QA	**GYo**

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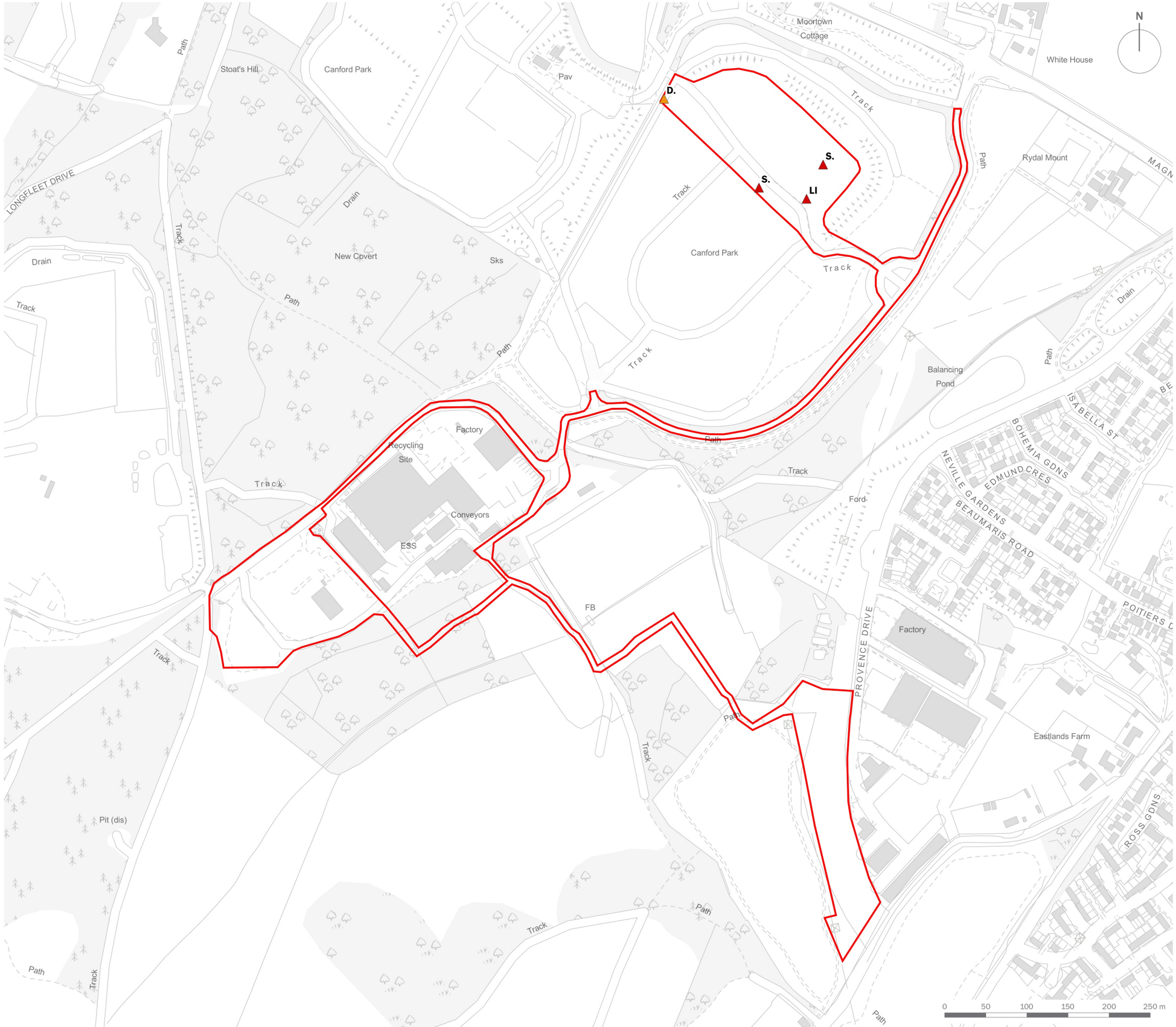

client

MVV Environment Limited

project title

Proposed Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Canford Resource Park

drawing title

Breeding Bird Pilot Survey Plan

date	**28 APRIL 2026**	drawn by	**JGr**
drawing number	**edp7095_d051a**	checked	**PFr**
scale	**1:4,500 @ A3**	QA	**GYo**

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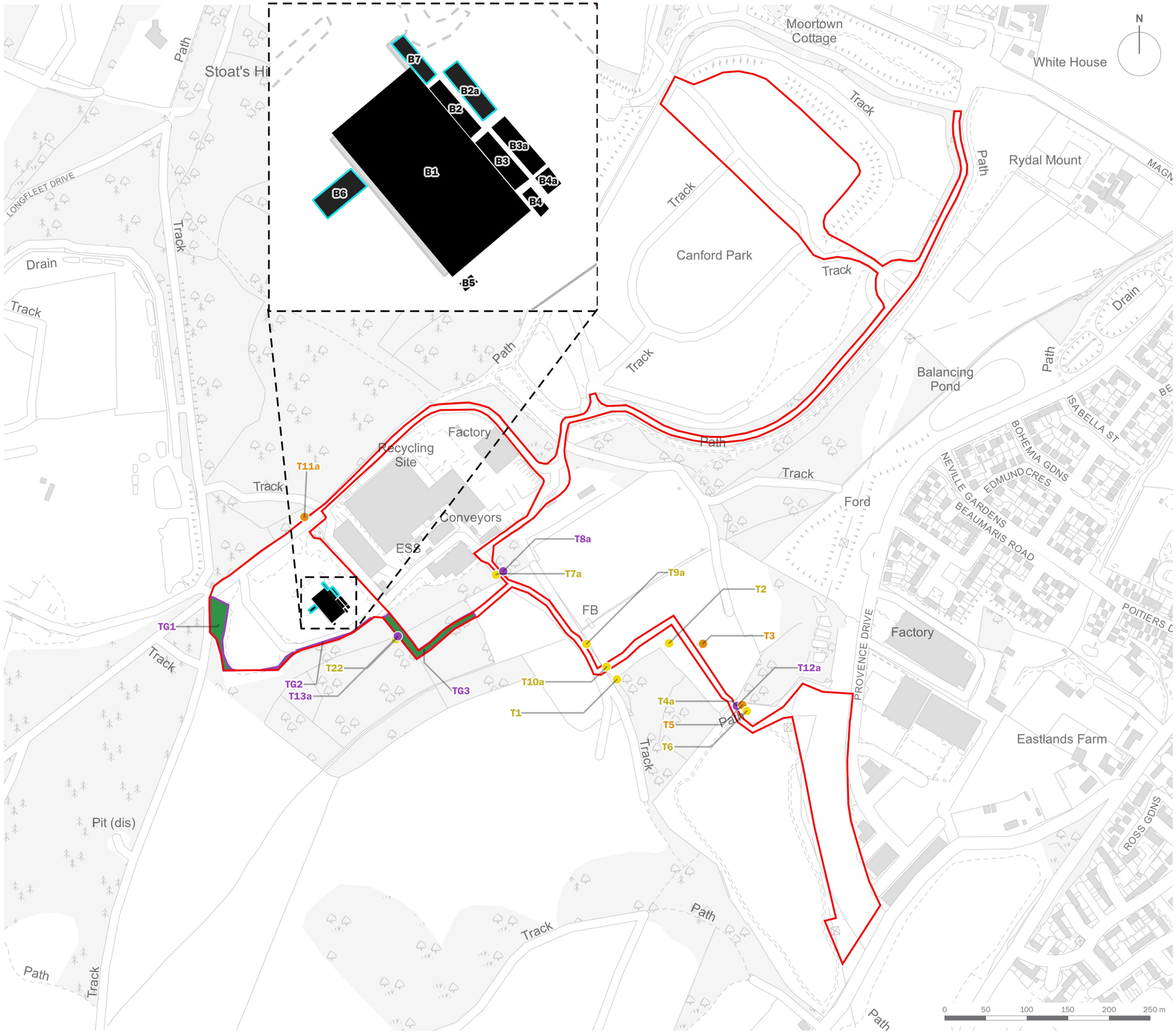

Site Boundary

Potential Roost Assesment (PRA)

None

Negligible

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

Potential Roost Feature - For Multiple Bats (PRF-M)

Potential Roost Feature - For Individual Bats (PRF-I)

Further Assessment Required (FAR)

Tree Group
Further Assessment Required (FAR)

Potential roost feature (PRF) type estimated from the ground. A close inspection survey of any trees to be affected would be required to confirm PRF type. PRF shown is the maximum level for any PRF on a tree.

client

MVV Environment Ltd

project title

Proposed Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Canford Resource Park

drawing title

Bat Roost Assessment of Trees and Buildings/Built Structures

date	**28 APRIL 2026**	drawn by	**JLe**
drawing number	**edp7095_d048a**	checked	**ESu**
scale	**1:4,500 @ A3**	QA	**GYo**

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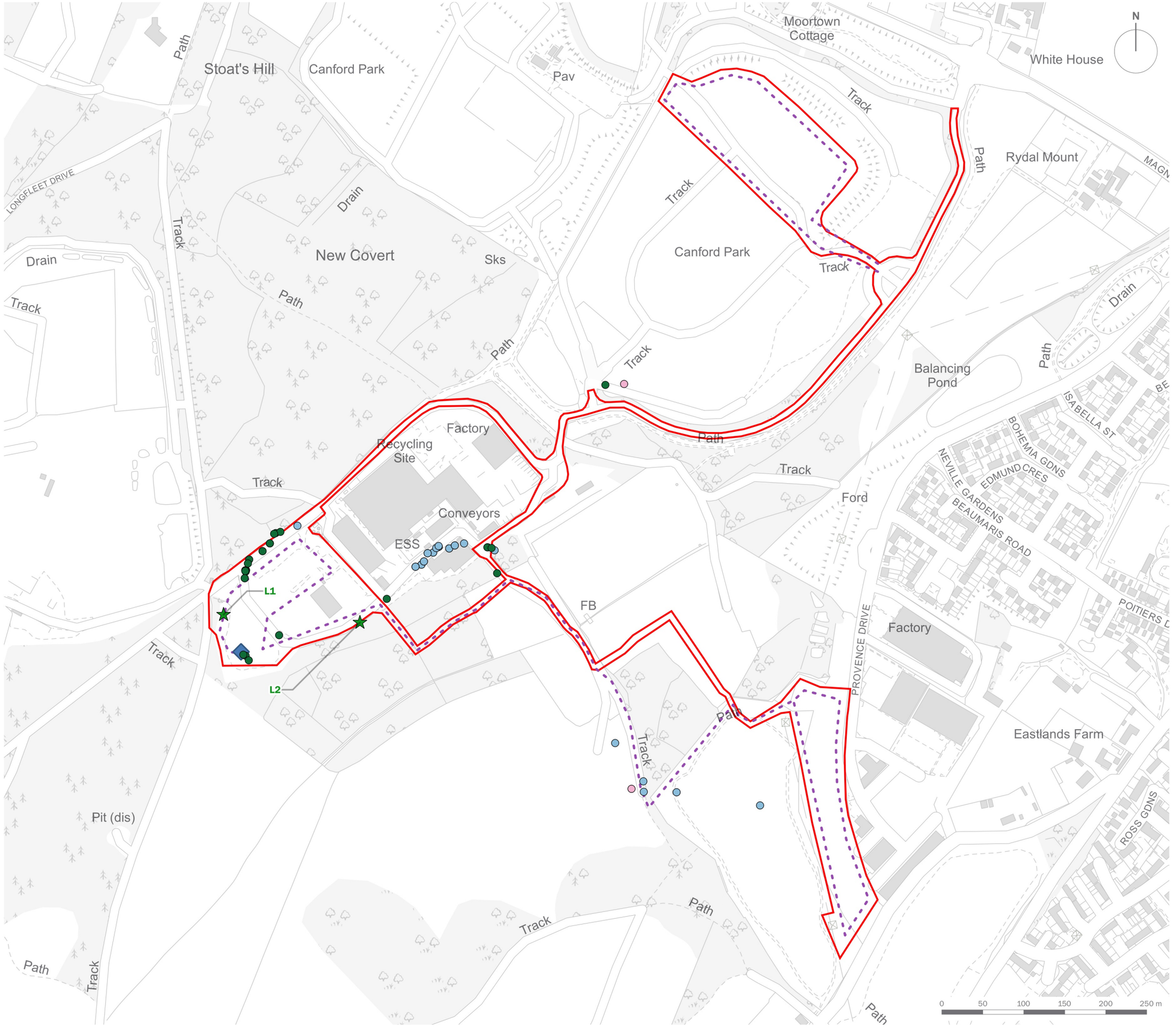

Site Boundary

Stationary Observation Point

Transect Route

Static Detector Location

Common Pipistrelle

Soprano Pipistrelle

Myotis spp.

client

MVV Environment Ltd

project title

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drawing title

Night-time Bat Walkover Results – September

date	**28 APRIL 2026**	drawn by	**JLe**
drawing number	**edp7095_d049a**	checked	**ESu**
scale	**1:4,500 @ A3**	QA	**GYo**

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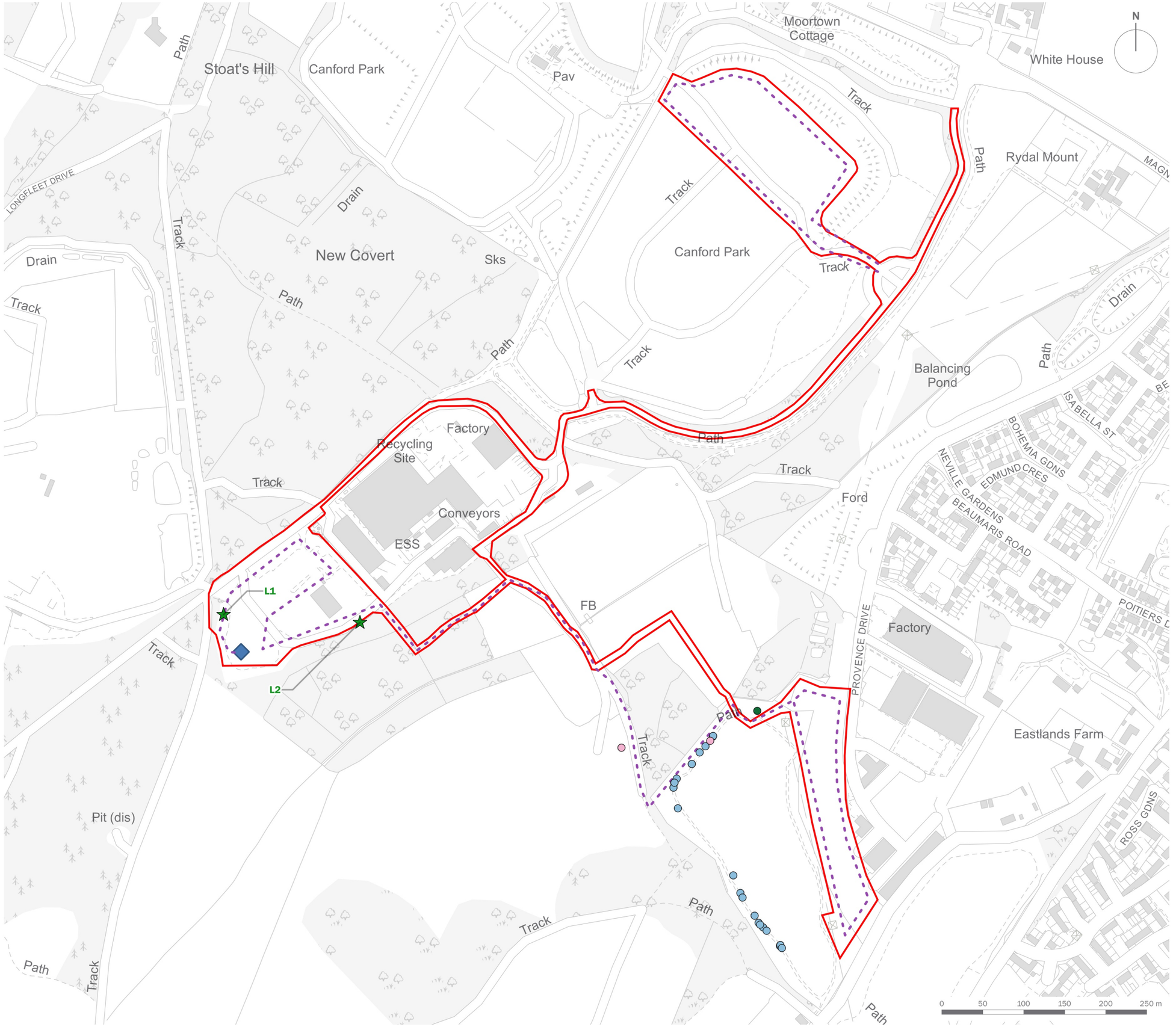

client

MVV Environment Ltd

project title

Proposed Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Canford Resource Park

drawing title

Night-time Bat Walkover Results – October

date	**28 APRIL 2026**	drawn by	**JLe**
drawing number	**edp7095_d050a**	checked	**ESu**
scale	**1:4,500 @ A3**	QA	**GYo**

the environmental dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk

edp | the environmental dimension partnership

CARDIFF
02921 671900

CHELTENHAM
01242 903110

CIRENCESTER
01285 740427

info@edp-uk.co.uk
www.edp-uk.co.uk

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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

URBAN DESIGN GROUP REGISTERED PRACTICE

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Landscape Institute
Registered practice