

Companion Document

Templates for use with
Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan
and
Monitoring Report

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1. Baseline and Environmental Information

Biological Records

Designated Sites (BI-T01)

Provide a concise summary of the designated features within the designated sites that could be affected by the project. Categorise any potential impacts from the project, whether positive, negative, or negligible, as determined by your professional judgement.

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Project Site	Potential Impact from Project
Henfield Common SNCI/LWS	SNCI	500.0 m W	Negligible
Broadmere Common SNCI/LWS	SNCI	850.0 m SW	Negligible
Oreham Common SNCI/LWS	SNCI	1.66 km S	Negligible
			Negligible

Summary of Designated Sites (BI-B01)

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km. There are 3 SNCIs/LWs within 2km; there will likely be a negligible impact upon these sites.

Constraints and Opportunities for Project (BI-B02)

These sites do not pose any significant constraints or opportunities.

Protected and Notable Species (BI-T02)

Provide a concise summary of the notable species records within the zone of influence of the project and any potential impacts from the project.

Species	Dates	Conservation Status	Distance of Closest Record	Potential Impact from Project
Soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, and brown long-eared bats	2017	European Protected Species, also Protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Appears to be at Swains Farm House	Positive
Widespread Reptiles	Present	Protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Present on-site	Negligible
Badgers	Likely absent	Protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Not likely to be present on-site	Negligible
Birds	Present	Species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Known to be present locally	Positive
Amphibians	Likely present in pond	Common toad listed under S41 of NERC Act 2006;	Likely present in pond	Positive
Great Crested Newts (GCN)	2009	GCN are a European Protected Species also Protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	GCN - 1.6 km SW	Negligible

Summary of Protected and Notable Species (BI-B03)

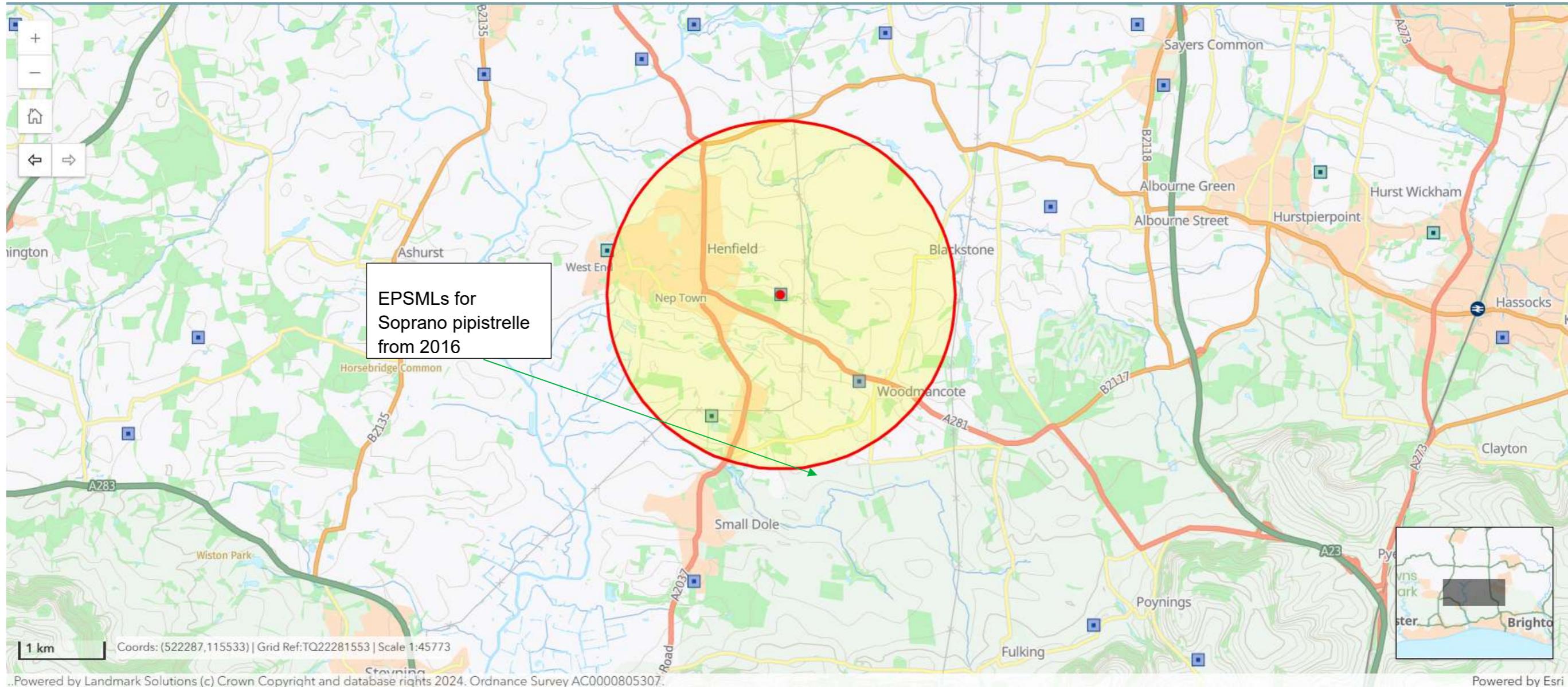
An EPSM Licence for soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, and brown long-eared bats is present from 2017 from a building at Swain's Farm. This is assumed to be the farm house and related to a planning permission of 2016. Low numbers of reptiles were found on site; no evidence of badgers was recorded although mammal tracks are present. The site is likely to be used by birds. The site is unlikely to be used by GCN with the pond being in poor suitability, but widespread amphibians are likely present.

Constraints and Opportunities for Project (BI-B04)

The proposals present negligible risks to wildlife other than some limited potential impacts on reptiles, nesting birds and widespread amphibians. These do not significantly constrain the proposals.

Opportunities for both nesting and foraging birds by planting and enhancing scrub and creating marginal wildflower areas. The proposals remove some suitable reptile habitat but on a very small scale, which would be offset by enhancement of scrub.

Biological Records Plan - Sites and Species (BI-F01)



Baseline Habitats Survey

Ecologist responsible for baseline surveys (BI-T03)	
Name or Initials	George Sayer
Organisation	South Downs Ecology
Survey Date	24/04/2024
Statement of Competency	
I have worked full-time as an ecologist since January 2016. I am a full member of CIEEM and the Arboricultural Association and hold level 2 bat and level 1 GCN licences. I have worked on a range of development and habitat creation projects covering a range of sites, habitats and species. I have worked in BNG since 2020.	
Survey conditions and limitations	
The survey was relatively early in the year for grassland identification; however, the nature of the grassland was clear and this limitation is not considered significant.	

Habitat Degradation

Are there any signs or evidence that the baseline habitats have been purposefully degraded since 30th January 2020? (BI-B05)

There have been no significant degradations. The main body of the site is in constant use for agricultural purposes so whilst some habitat becomes denuded over time this is a natural feature of the site and the grassland has been assessed with denuded areas included in condition assessment.

If habitats have been purposefully degraded, provide details of how this has been accounted for (BI-B06)

All habitats have been input as surveyed.

Baseline Habitat Descriptions and Condition

Use the following tables to provide details of the relevant baseline habitats information. Provide a concise overview of the justification for the condition chosen for each parcel(s) in the appropriate column.

Habitats (BI-T04)

Parcel Refs	Habitat Type and Code	Irreplaceable	Priority	Description and Condition Justification	Condition	Area (ha)
1	Developed Lane – u1b	No	No	Building and hardstanding – condition N/A	N/A - Other	0.0373
2	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface – u1c	No	No	Access and parking area – condition N/A	N/A - Other	0.1674
3	Neutral Grassland – g3c	No	No	Description – small grass areas between the scrub and urban habitats Criterion A – Pass – reasonable number of indicator species Criterion B – Pass – Height up to 40cm but quite varied Criterion C – Fail – Extensive bare ground Criterion D – Pass – No scrub or bracken within grassland Criterion E – Fail – Nettles and creeping thistles abundant Criterion F – Fail – 4-5 species per sqm	Moderate	0.0053
4	Mixed Scrub h3h	No	No	Description – small patches of scrub, mostly single species such as poplar, elder or hawthorn Criterion A – Fail – Each patch is a single species Criterion B – Pass – Several large older shrubs present Criterion C – Pass – No INNS noted Criterion D – Fail – Scrub bordered by urban habitats mostly Criterion E – Fail – Patches too small for glades and rides	Poor	0.0129
5	Bramble Scrub h3d	No	No	Description: Abandoned land covered in dense brambles.	Condition Assessment N/A	0.0302
6	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	No	No	Description: A shady, shallow, leaf-filled pond. Criterion A – Fail – Shallow stagnant water with a protein sheen Criterion B – Fail – Surrounded by access tracks Criterion C – Pass – Extensive bare ground Criterion C – Fail – No duckweed or algae noted	Poor	0.018

				<p>Criterion D – Fail – Culvert to the south and ditch to the west</p> <p>Criterion E – Pass – Water levels fluctuate</p> <p>Criterion F – Pass – No INNS noted</p> <p>Criterion G – Pass – No fish</p> <p>Criterion H – Fail – Almost no plants present</p> <p>Criterion I – Fail – Almost entirely shaded</p>		
7	Rural tree	No	No	<p>Description: Small willow trees scattered around the pond.</p> <p>Criterion A – Pass – All native</p> <p>Criterion B – Pass – Individual Trees</p> <p>Criterion C – Fail – All semi-mature</p> <p>Criterion D – Pass – No regular pruning or damage</p> <p>Criterion E – Fail – Generally small trees with limited wildlife value</p> <p>Criterion F – Pass – Mostly oversailing vegetation</p>	Moderate	0.0244
8	Tall forbs	No	No	<p>Description: Tall stands mostly of nettle with some hogweed and other species.</p> <p>Criterion A – Fail – almost entirely one habitat type (forbs)</p> <p>Criterion B – Fail – Very little diversity</p> <p>Criterion C – Pass – No INNS noted</p>	Poor	0.0443
9	Bramble scrub	No	No	<p>Description: Swathes of abandoned land covered in dense, low brambles.</p>	Condition Assessment N/A	0.015

Hedgerows (BI-T05)

Feature Refs	Habitat Type and Code	Irreplaceable	Priority	Description and Condition Justification	Condition	Length (km)
NA	NA	NA	NA	No Hedges Present		

Priority and Irreplaceable Habitats

Summary of Priority and Irreplaceable Habitats (BI-B07)

None on-site. The pond is considered a non-priority pond due to the low quality and likely lack of notable species.

Potential Constraints and Opportunities for Project (BI-B08)

The baseline habitats are a mixture of urban habitats of very low-low distinctiveness, surrounded by grassland scrub and ponds of moderate distinctiveness. The urban habitats are suitable for replacement whilst the surrounding habitats where possible would need to be retained or enhanced. The scrub in particular is in poor condition and is suitable for enhancement.

Baseline Habitats Plan (BI-F02)



Baseline Distinctiveness and Condition Plan (BI-F03)



Baseline Habitats Photos (BI-F04)

Developed land and unsealed surface



Bramble scrub



Neutral grassland and tall forbs



Tall forbs



Baseline Habitats Photos (BI-F04)

Pond.



Mixed scrub.



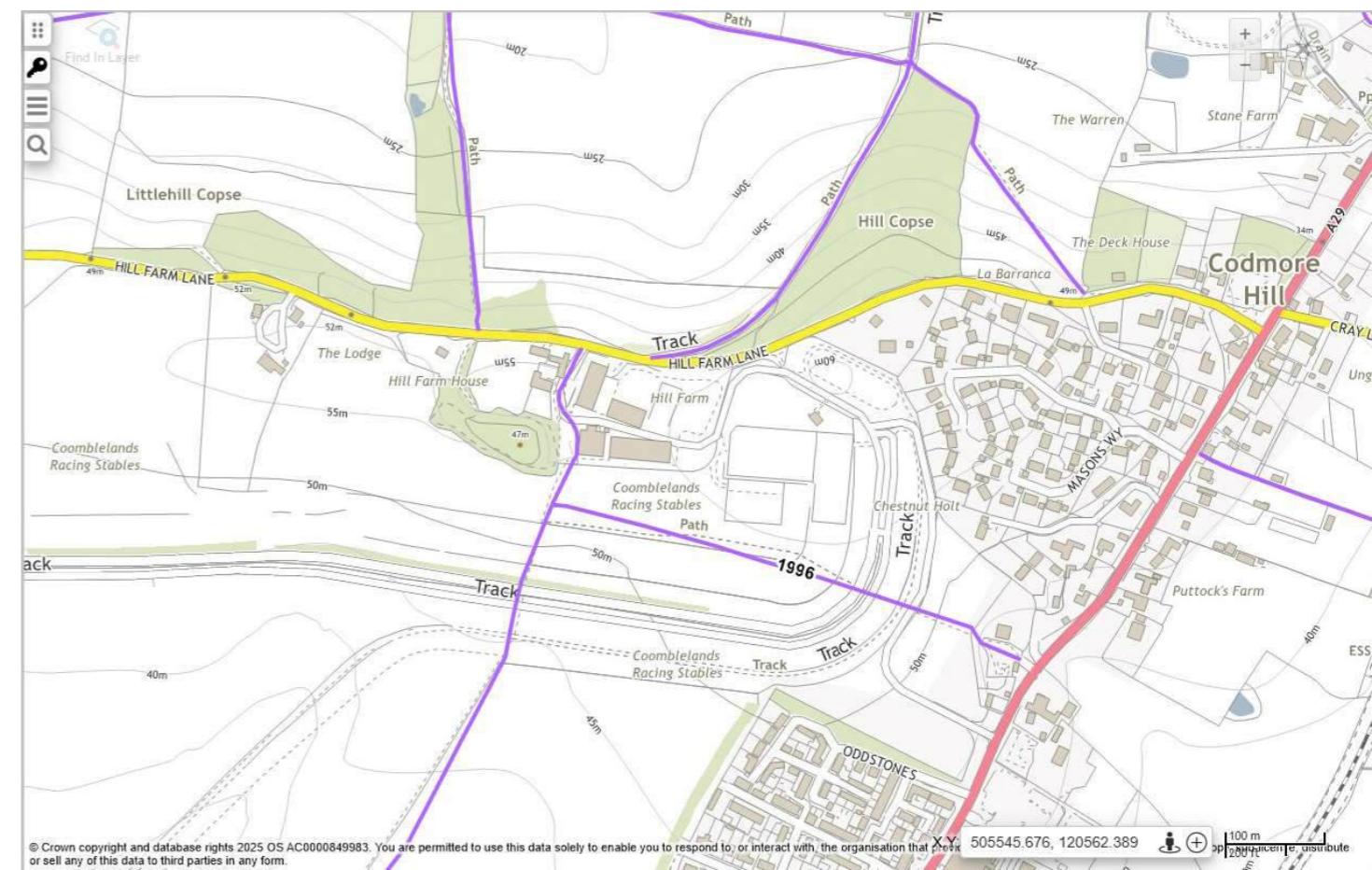
Bramble scrub.



Trees and pond.



Land Tenure and Public Access Plan (EI-F01)



Relevant Land Tenure Information (EI-B01)

The site is private but footpath no. 1996 runs through the centre of site. This allows the public to walk through the site.

Potential Impact to Scheme (EI-B02)

Private tenure allows full management by the applicant.

Public Access Information (EI-B03)

Footpath no. 1996 runs through the centre of site. This allows the public to walk through the site. The footpath will remain but a new hedge will be planted to aid in screening the site from the footpath and preventing walkers from straying from the footpath into the equestrian areas.

Potential Impact to Scheme (EI-B04)

The public access might result in increased disturbance of habitats and issues such as dog fouling. It also limits where hedges can be 'gapped-up' as the footpath runs through several hedges.

Hydrology and Drainage

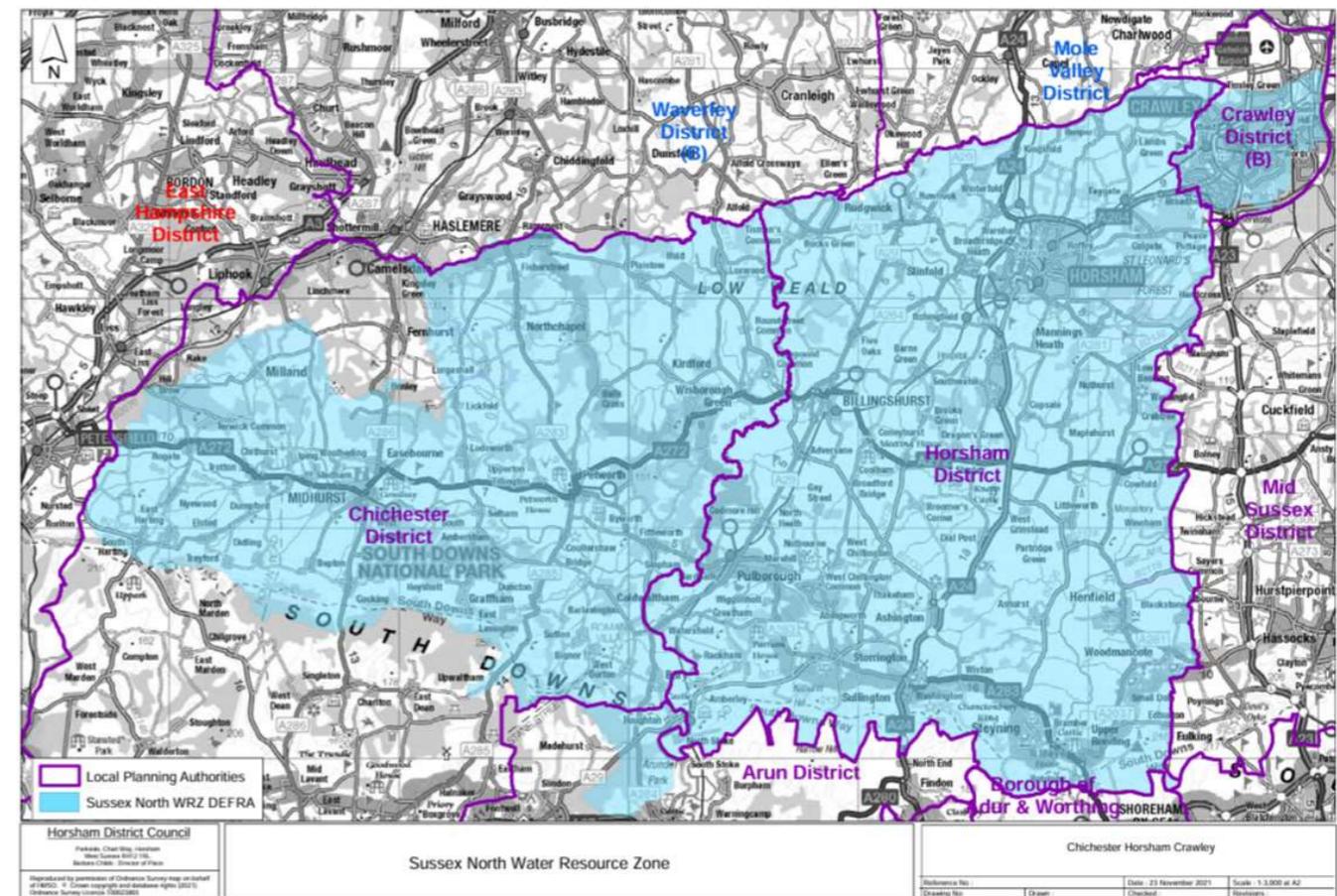
Summary of Hydrological Information (EI-B17)

The site lies within a High Soil Groundwater Vulnerability Area.

The site lies within the Sussex North Water Resource Zone. Within this zone, proposals must not result in increased water use.

In addition, there is a pond on the south of site. The surrounding soil is likely more damp and suited to wetter species.

Hydrology and Drainage Plan (EI-F06)



Potential Impact on Project (EI-B18)

This is usually applied when proposals are increasing overnight accommodation. In addition, no additional water use is proposed. As such, the proposals do not need to demonstrate water neutrality. The proposals could not propose new habitats that would significantly increase water use, e.g. a manually-fed pond.

The proposals include planting of species better suited to damper environments, such as guelder rose, willow, dogwood.