Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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
			Positive
			Negative
			Negligible
Park Farm Cutting	SSSI	1.36 km SW	Negligible
Upper Arun	SSSI	1.5 km W	Negligible
Arun Valley	SPA, Ramsar, SAC	1.83 km S	Negligible
Pulborough Brooks	SSSI	1.83 km S	Negligible
The Mens	SAC	3.2 km NE	Negligible
Middle Barn Farm Meadow	SNCI	1.0 km S	Negligible
Toates Wood	SNCI	1.65 km N	Negligible

Summary of Designated Sites (BI-B01)

The closest site is Park Farm Cutting SSSI, 1360.0 m south-west. This is a geological designation. The site lies 1.5 km east of the Upper Arun SSSI, 1.83km north of the Arun Valley SPA, Ramsar, SAC and Pulborough Brooks SSSI. Within the 12.0 km buffer zone of these sites, impacts upon Bewick's swan must be considered. The site is within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone, but as it does not increase overnight accommodation the proposals do not have to achieve water neutrality.

The Impact Risk Zones of the SSSI suggest that all planning applications (except householder) outside or extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings/structures require consultation with Natural England.

The site is 3.2 km south-west of The Mens SAC, and therefore within the 6.5 km Key Conservation Area of South Downs Bat SACs, whereby any impacts upon bats must be considered (SDNPA and NE 2018).

The closest non-statutory sites are Middle Barn Farm Meadow, 1.0 km south and Toates Wood SNCI, 1.65km north.

Constraints and Opportunities for Project (BI-B02)

Given the proximity to The Mens SAC, the potential for both positive and negative impacts upon bats which form the qualifying features of the SAC has been considered.

The potential for both positive and negative impacts upon Bewick's swans, which form the qualifying features of the Arun Valley SPA has been considered.

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
				Positive
				Negative
				Negligible
Soprano pipistrelle	2016	European Protected Species	1.56 km S	Negligible
Widespread Reptiles	Present	Protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Present Locally	Negligible
Badgers	Present	Protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Known to be present locally	Negligible
Birds	Present	Species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Known to be present locally	Negligible

Summary of Protected and Notable Species (BI-B03)

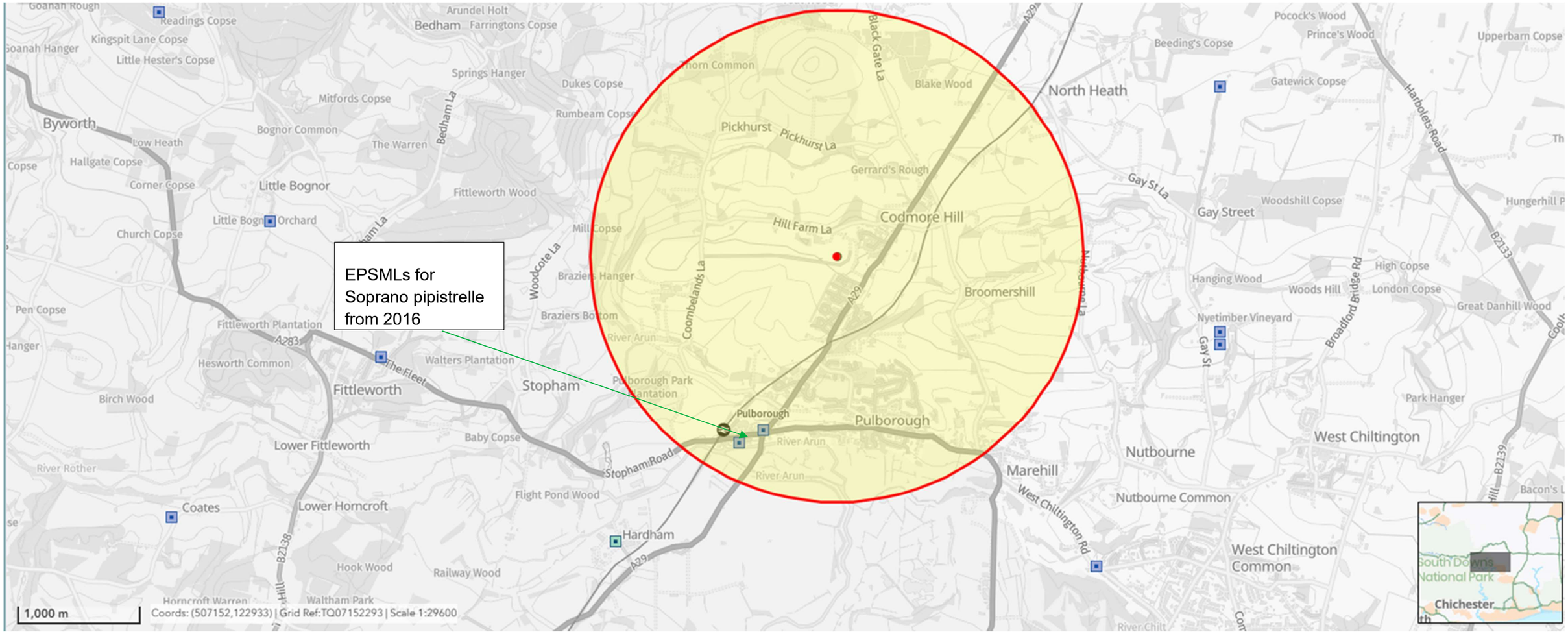
There was limited potential for protected and notable species locally. Birds, bats, badgers and widespread reptiles are all present locally but would not be impacted by proposals.

Constraints and Opportunities for Project (BI-B04)

The proposals present negligible risks to wildlife other than some very limited potential impacts on nesting birds. These do not significantly constrain the proposals.

opportunities for both nesting and foraging birds by planting and enhancing hedges and creating marginal wildflower areas. Species such as woodlark would use such habitats as would barn owls. The proposals also present significant opportunities for reptiles, invertebrates and small mammals.

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	05/03/2024

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 site is in constant use for equestrian purposes so whilst some grassland 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)
Example: 1,2,5,6	Other neutral grassland – G3C	No	Yes	Habitat description - criteria 1 - pass criteria 2 - not targeted criteria 3 - pass	Moderate	7.2
1	Modified Grassland	No	No	Description – well-tended amenity grass areas used for horse track Criterion A – Fail -4.3 species per sqm Criterion B – Fail – generally 10cm height Criterion C – Pass – No scrub Noted Criterion D – Fail – Extensive areas worn bare Criterion E – Pass – Bare ground between 5-10% Criterion F – Pass – No bracken Criterion G – Pass – No NNIS	Poor	3.77
2	Artificial Unvegetated, Unsealed Surface	No	No	Horse arena, parking, access track and bare earth surrounds – Condition Assessment N/A	N/A	1.35
3	Developed Land	No	No	Building, tarmac drive and hardstanding – Condition Assessment N/A	N/A	0.16

Hedgerows (BI-T05)

Feature Refs	Habitat Type and Code	Irreplaceable	Priority	Description and Condition Justification	Condition	Length (km)
1	Native hedgerow	No	Yes	Well-maintained hedges surrounding the grassland on site. Mostly hawthorn.	Moderate	0.74

				A1 – Pass – above 1.5m height A2 – Fail – below 1.5m width B1 – Pass – dense down to the ground B2 – Fail – several gaps over 5m C1 – Pass – Undisturbed ground present to both sides C2 – Pass – such species below 20% D1 – Pass – none noted D2 – Fail – regular management up to the hedge and regular flailing		
2	Native hedgerow with trees	No	Yes	Hedgerow with regular emergent trees to north of site. A1 – Pass – above 1.5m height A2 – Fail – below 1.5m width B1 – Pass – dense down to the ground B2 – Pass – no gaps over 5m C1 – Pass – Undisturbed ground present to both sides C2 – Pass – such species below 20% D1 – Pass – none noted D2 – Fail – regular management up to the hedge and regular flailing E1 – Fail – all similar age E2 – Pass – generally in good condition	Moderate	0.078
3	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	No	No	Coniferous hedge – Condition Assessment N/A	Poor	0.096

Priority and Irreplaceable Habitats

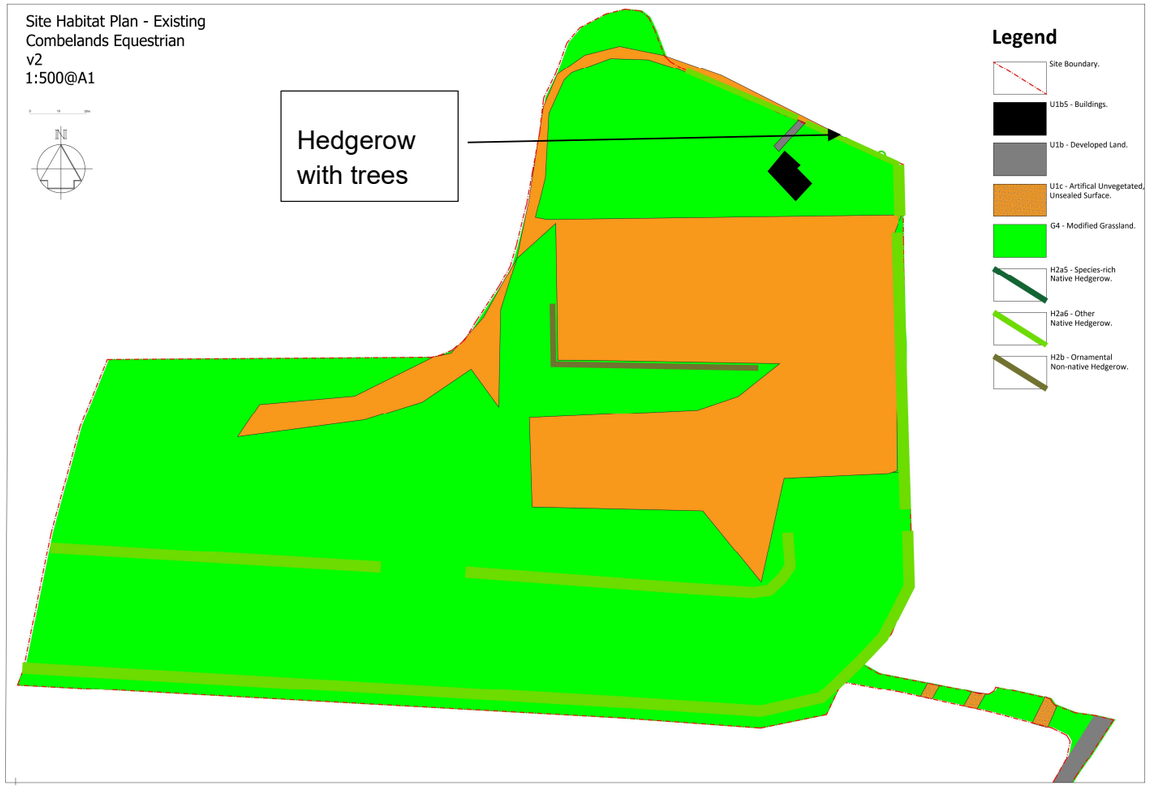
Summary of Priority and Irreplaceable Habitats (BI-B07)

Hedges on-site are all priority habitats.

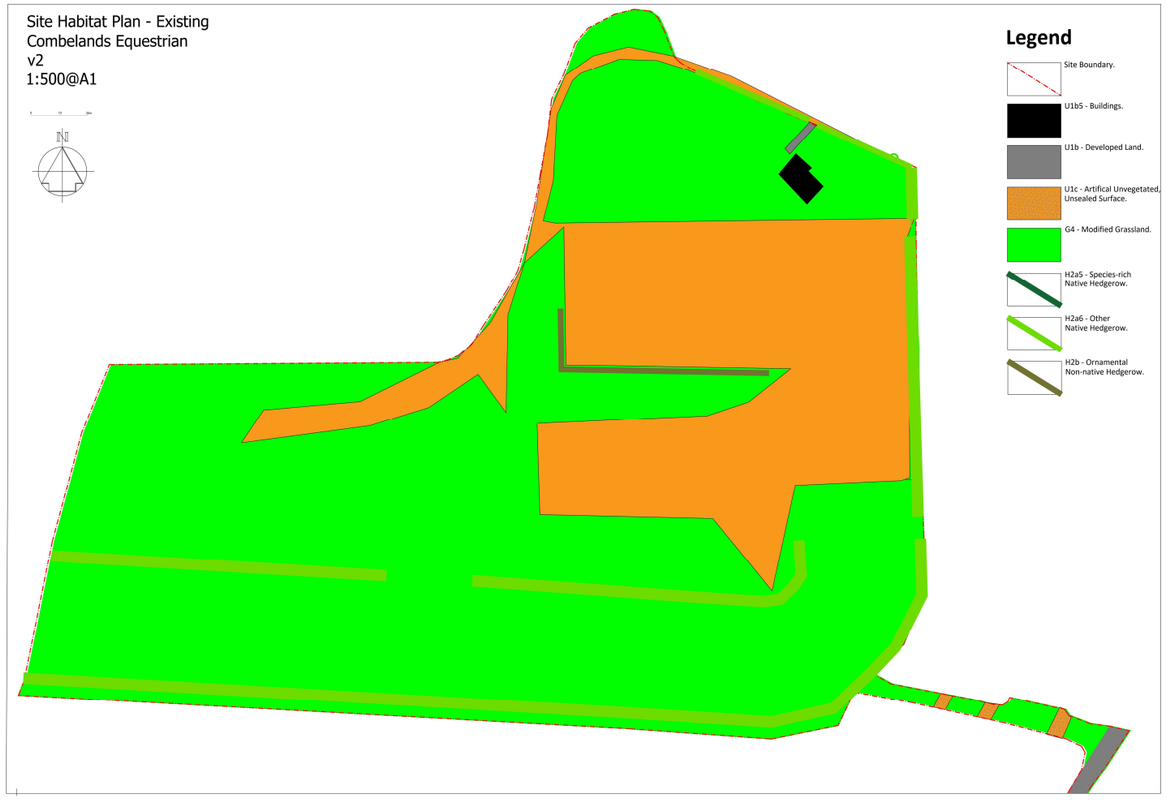
Potential Constraints and Opportunities for Project (BI-B08)

As priority habitats the hedges should be retained where possible. These have several large gaps and are not well-connected, presenting the opportunity to improve connectivity across the site. The margins of the hedges are currently well-maintained and of little interest. There is an opportunity to enhance these.

Baseline Habitats Plan (BI-F02)



Baseline Distinctiveness and Condition Plan (BI-F03)



Baseline Habitats Photos (BI-F04)

Provide a range of photographs representative of the baseline. Add additional pages for photos as required.









Land Tenure and Public Access

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.

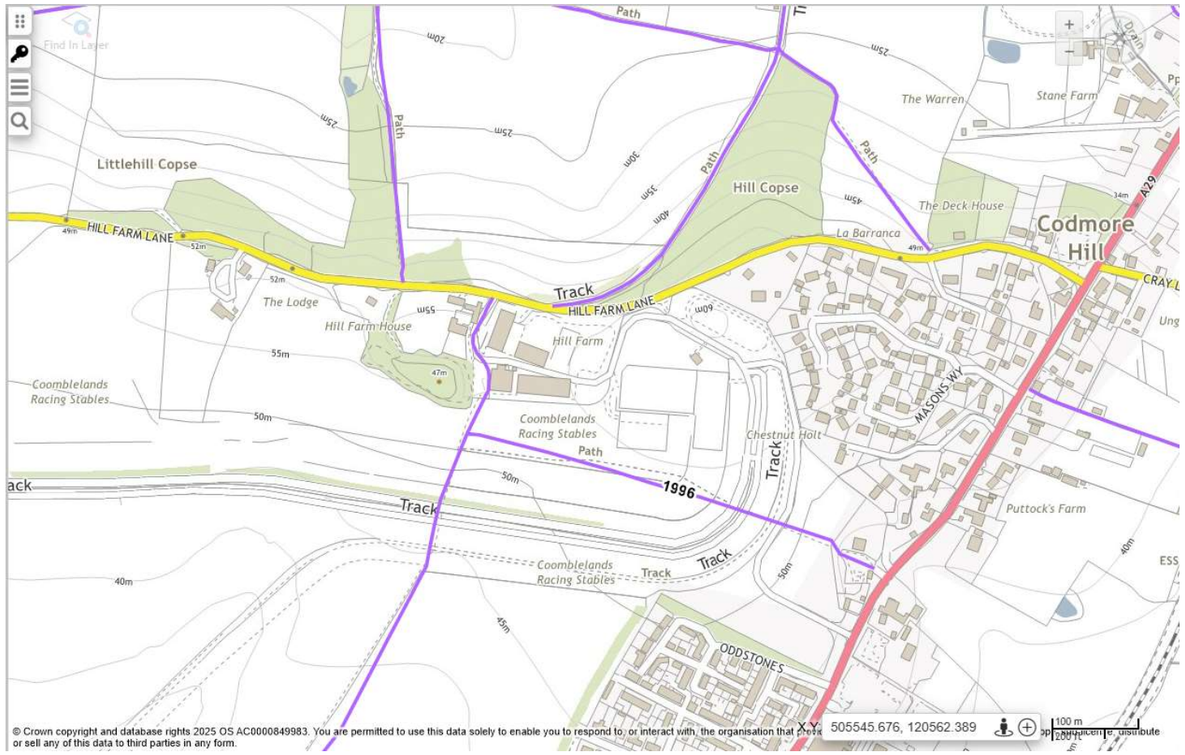
Public Access Information (EI-B03)

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.

Land Tenure and Public Access Plan (EI-F01)



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.

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.

Hydrology and Drainage Plan (EI-F06)

