

<p>Habitats and flora</p>	<p><b>Notable habitats</b> The site contains bare ground, grassland and trees.</p> <p>Data from GiGL states that acid grassland is present within the Strawberry Hill Golf Club SINC may be present on site and therefore some grassland within the site may qualify as such, however given the time of year and availability of identifiable ground flora, it was not possible to characterise the grassland during the survey.</p> <p>Two notable habitats are present within 2km of the site, the closest being lowland mixed deciduous woodland (LMDW) located ~90m southwest from the site boundary. This woodland is located within the wider golf course boundary.</p> <p><b>Protected/Invasive flora</b> No protected or notable plant species were recorded during the survey.</p>	<p><b>Notable habitats</b> Seven holes measuring 600mm x 600mm, and 1500mm deep will be excavated within the grassland to create concrete anchors that support the aluminium fence posts. The total area of habitat likely to be lost as a result will be minimal (<math>7 \times 0.36\text{m}^2 = 2.52\text{m}^2</math>). The concrete anchors will sit 100mm below ground level, spoil will be back-filled to cover the anchors. The areas of spoil can then be left to recolonise by the surrounding vegetation. Direct impacts to the grassland are likely to be minimal, however indirect impacts, such as pollution from construction activities could impact the surrounding grassland.</p> <p>No direct impacts to any other notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development. However, due to the proximity of the site to LMDW, indirect effects such as pollution or tree damage could occur during construction.</p>	<p><b>Notable habitats</b> Owing to the small-scale of the proposed development and minimal loss of grassland habitat, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented in order to protect the grassland habitat during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excavation and construction works should be conducted using methods that minimise impacts to the grassland, such as post-hole diggers/borers, earth augers and spades, to minimise habitat damage within the SINC.</li> <li>Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution and habitat damage must be implemented during construction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other habitats</b> Retained trees around the development area should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012).</p> <p><b>Biodiversity Net Gain</b> This development is considered to be exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain as it falls below the 'de minimis' threshold (i.e. the development impact &lt;math&gt;&lt;25\text{m}^2&lt;/math&gt; habitats). BNG exemptions can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain</a></p>	<p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting of native shrubs or hedgerows to create sheltering areas for wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Species-specific enhancement opportunities are detailed later in this table.</p>
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