

BIRCH AIRFIELD COMPOSTING SERVICES PROPOSED WORKSHOP BUILDING

ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE SCHEME

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MITIGATION
SCHEME

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Site and Description of the Locality



Aerial photograph Google Maps 2018 imagery showing location of the site within the landscape

Birch Airfield Composting Services is located approximately 10 km to the south-west of Colchester and can be accessed off Blind Lane, Birch. The national grid reference is TL91031975. The composting site is located on an area of concrete pad/ hard-standing measuring approximately 240m X 90m. The site slopes gently from south-west to north-east giving a fall of approximately 1 in 200.

Birch Airfield Composting Services is permitted to receive up to 75,000 tonnes per annum of garden, park and vegetable wastes that are collected by local councils and businesses to produce a variety of compost products. The current in put is 40,000 tonnes per annum.

There are no permanent buildings on the composting site, only a temporary weighbridge cabin, sited to the northern end of the facility. The site is bounded to the north-east, south-east and south-west by high well established tree and shrub belts planted on 1-1.5m high bunds.

The surrounding area is open countryside, flat and predominantly intensive arable farming. Most fields are bounded by hedgerows with good numbers of mature hedgerow trees. There are intermittent scattered small deciduous woodlands throughout the landscape. Many of these are clustered around settlements and old farmsteads.

New hedges have been planted around the solar farm, which encompasses the composting facility to the north-east and east. The site can be accessed from Blind Lane along the old airfield runways.

The soil is lime rich, loamy and clayey with impeded drainage and generally of high fertility. The subsoil is heavy London clay. The farming is mainly arable with some improved pastures on agricultural classification Grade 3 land.

The site is situated in the Landscape Character Area 111 Northern Thames Basin. Woodland in the locality is deciduous.



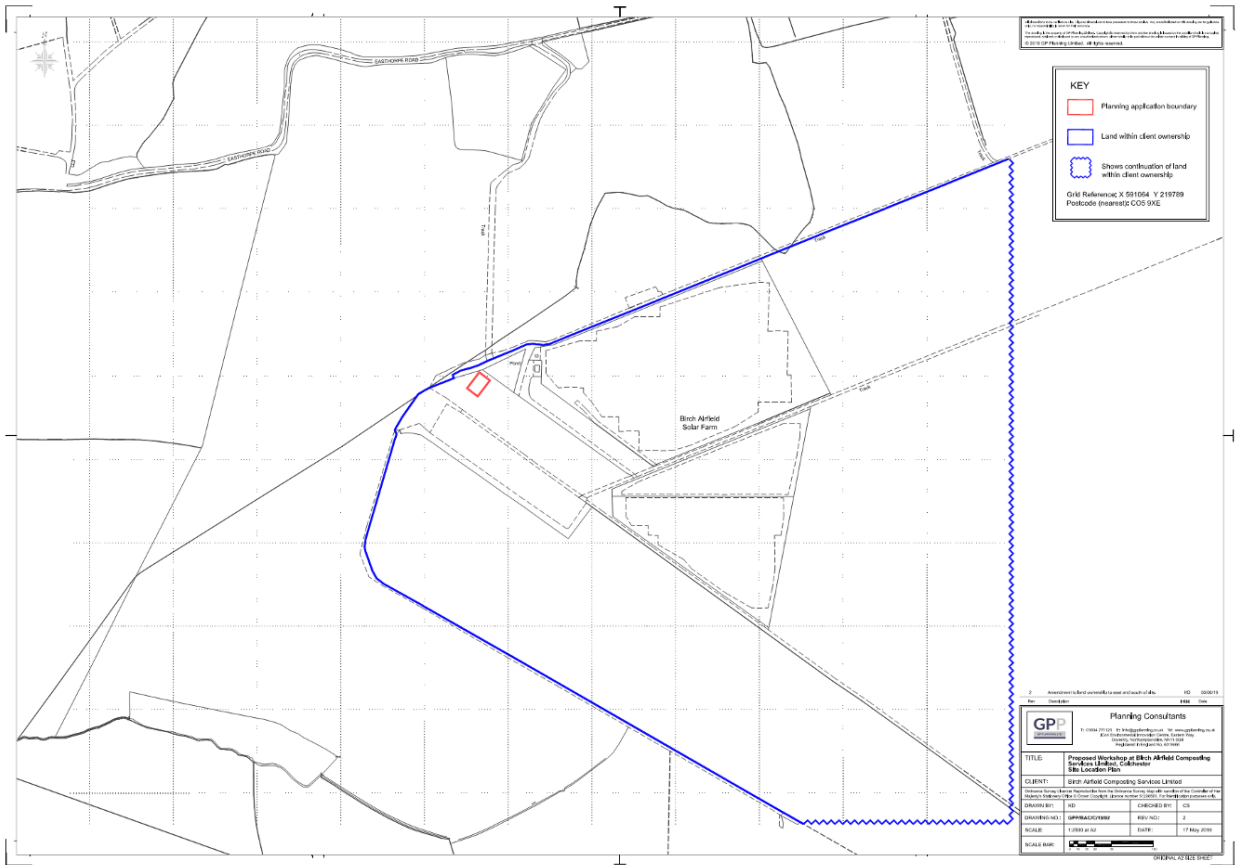
Aerial photograph of Birch Airfield Composting site

The photograph above clearly shows the layout of the site. The windrows of compost are laid-out and worked at the southern end of the site. The machinery is stored on the concrete pad to the north. The port-a-cabin weighbridge office and bridge can be seen in the centre of the site towards the northern end, as can the service buildings for the solar farm located to the east of the lagoon. Belts of trees and shrubs surround the site on 3 sides. The dirty water lagoon is located to the north-eastern corner. Arable fields border the north, west and southwest of the concrete pad.

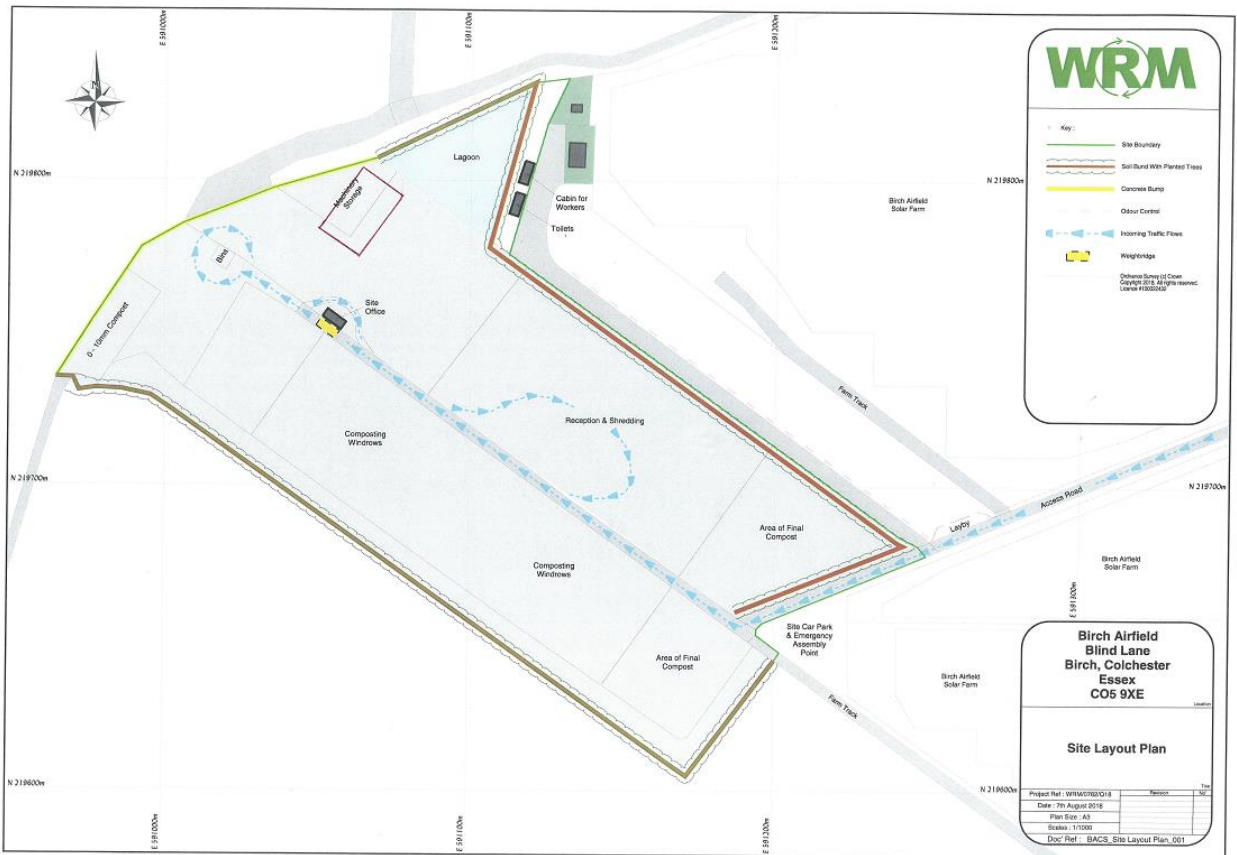
1.2 The Proposed Development

The proposal is for a workshop building to house machinery and tools to improve security and the welfare facilities for the personnel working on site. These are currently extremely limited. The proposed building will be 24m long by 16m wide and a height of 5m to the eaves. It will be located on an existing area of concrete pad towards the north of the composting site. One small low level external light, operated by motion sensor, will be installed above the main door for safety of staff working beyond daylight hours in the winter. There is already an electrical substation building and associated smaller service buildings which are required for the adjacent solar farm in the vicinity. The proposed agricultural shed will be built as close to these as possible.

The plan below shows the location of the proposed shed outlined in red on the existing concrete base, within the land ownership holding outlined in blue surrounding it.



Proposed Workshop at Birch Airfield Composting Services Limited Colchester Site
 Location Plan no. GPP/BAC/C/19/02 GP Rev 2 Planning Ltd dated 17th May 2019



Birch Airfield Site Layout Plan 001 WRM Ltd dated 7th August 2018

The plan above shows the layout of the composting site at a larger scale. The proposed workshop will be located to the northern end of the site.

1.3 Purpose of the Report

This document will accompany a planning application for a workshop building to be submitted to Essex County Council. It will follow the guidelines set out in the pre-application advice for Planning Ref: ESS/13/18/COL/PRE and will be adequate and proportionate for the size and scale of the proposed development.

This document is made up of 5 parts:

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT
- 3 ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE SCHEME
- 4 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
- 5 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MITIGATION SCHEME

The scope of this document will be limited given the small size of the proposal, and the use of the site will to all intents and purposes not change. The development area will be 24m long by 16m wide and a building height of 5m to the eaves. This will be located on an existing concrete pad/ hard standing area measuring 240m X 90m. The day to day operational activities of the composting facility will remain unaltered by the workshop building. The site will be more secure and will have improved conditions for workers.



Photograph looking north-east across the concrete pad at the proposed development location dated 6th May 2019.

The photograph above shows the intended location of the workshop building. Vehicles were observed coming to and from the location at different times throughout the day. No existing habitats will be affected by the development since the new building will be located within the existing well used hard-standing curtilage. This is currently used daily for the parking of plant and is in constant use. A construction ecological management plan will therefore not be required.

This report has been written by Katie Burfitt, an experienced landscape and ecological consultant with more than twenty years' experience within the industry. The methodology has included a desk study with a limited data search due to the size and location of the development and a site visit.

1.4 Site Visit

The site was visited on Monday 6th May 2019 and a lengthy, detailed survey carried out of the site and the local environment. An extensive photographic record of the composting facility and locality was compiled. The morning was bright and sunny, although in the afternoon it became cloudy and overcast. The temperature was between 13-17degrees C and there was a gentle breeze.

The overriding impression of the site was of a very tidy, well run composting facility. The field and road verges within the site were mostly neatly trimmed grass. The location appeared rural and the landscape very flat and linear. There are few large buildings in the locality except for new and traditional agricultural sheds. Intensive arable production is the dominant land use.

2 ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

2.1 Objectives

This is a preliminary ecological appraisal of the Birch Airfield Composting Services site. It will broadly follow the CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) Guidelines for a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal where appropriate for the site, given the very small size of the proposal and the existing use as a composting facility.

This document sets out to:

- Establish baseline conditions at the site giving detailed descriptions of habitats and determine the importance of ecological features at the site.
- Establish any requirements for further surveys as appropriate.
- Identify key constraints and recommend options to avoid significant effects on ecological features at an early stage.
- Identify mitigation and enhancement opportunities for biodiversity where possible.

2.2 Desk Study

A limited desk study, proportionate to the size and impact of the proposed development, has been undertaken to identify significant or protected habitats or species within the locality which could potentially be affected by the proposal. A list of sources of information can be found in Appendix 1 of this document. This desk study is presented as a summary of the results.

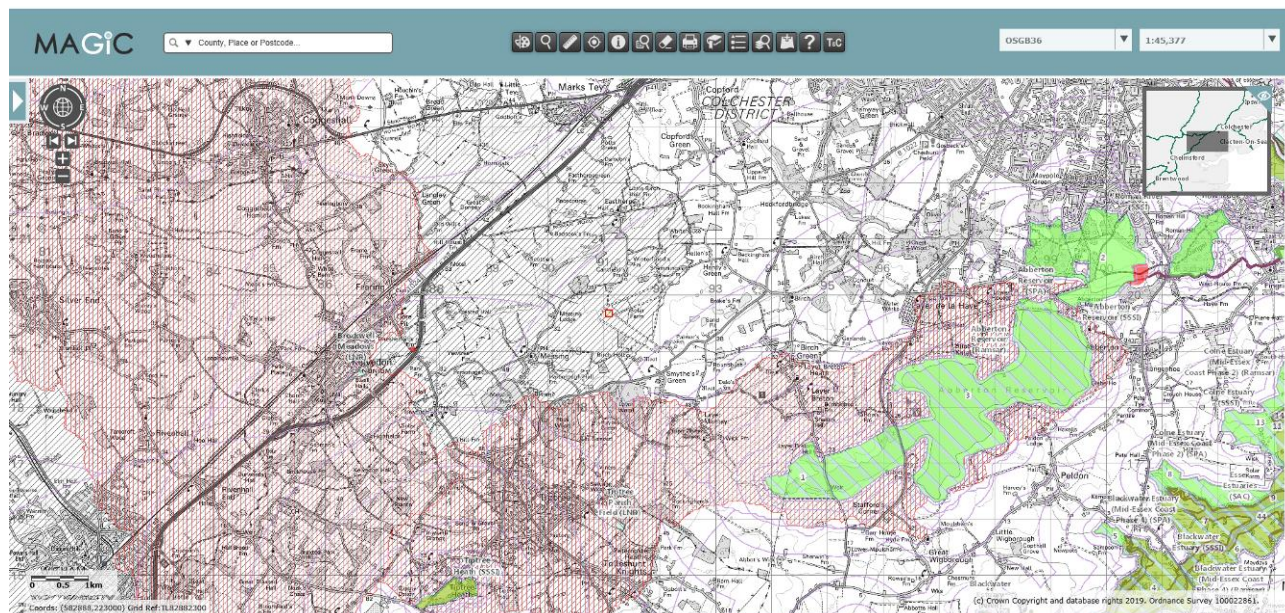


Image from DEFRA MAGIC website showing Abberton Reservoir SPA, Ramsar and SSSI plus Tiptree Heath SSSI, Brockwell Meadows Local Nature Reserve and Tiptree Parish Field Local Nature Reserve

Searches for statutory and non- statutory designations have been carried out. One SPA, one Ramsar Site, 2 SSSIs and 2 Local Nature Reserves have been identified within 5km of the site. 8 local wildlife sites including the southern end of Blind Lane verge have been identified within the Parish of Birch, within 2km. Blind Lane Plantation is a unique site of lime-enriched soil that supports large numbers of bee orchids *Ophrys apifera* and swathes of grass vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia*. (Local within Essex, Jermyn, 1974).

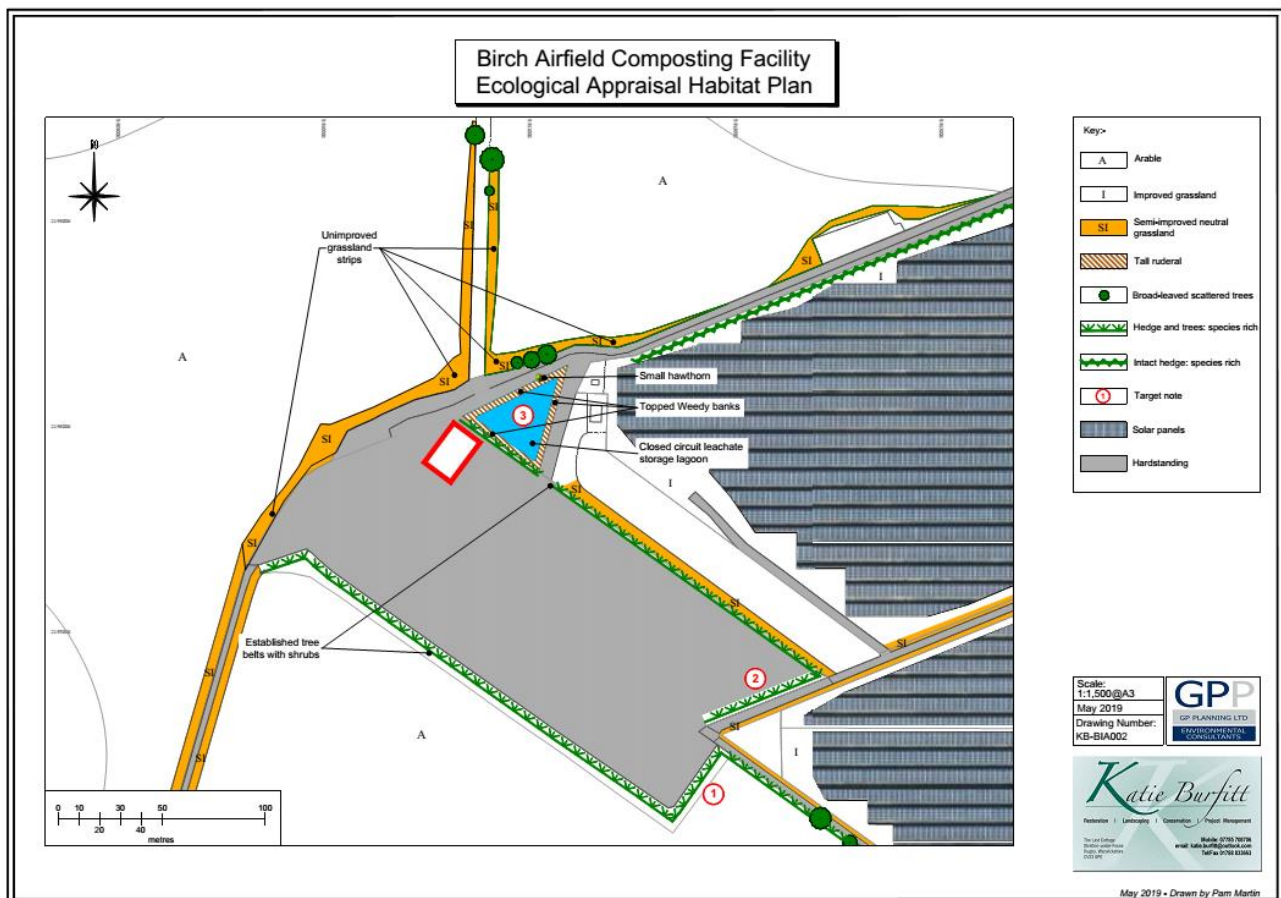
There are no statutory or non-statutory designations within the site boundary.

Records of protected species in the locality have been sourced. The following protected or notable species have been recorded:

Great Crested Newt, Dormouse, Water Vole, Hedgehog, Brown Hare, Barn Owl, Red Kite and four species of bat: Barbastelle, Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat. It is probable that birds and bats are foraging within the composting site, but no records are available.

A list of other common species of plant and bird found on site or known to inhabit the locality is found in Appendix 2 of this document.

2.3 Ecological Appraisal Habitat Plan



Birch Airfield Composting Facility Ecological Habitat Plan dated May 2019

A larger version of this plan can be found in Appendix 3 of this document.

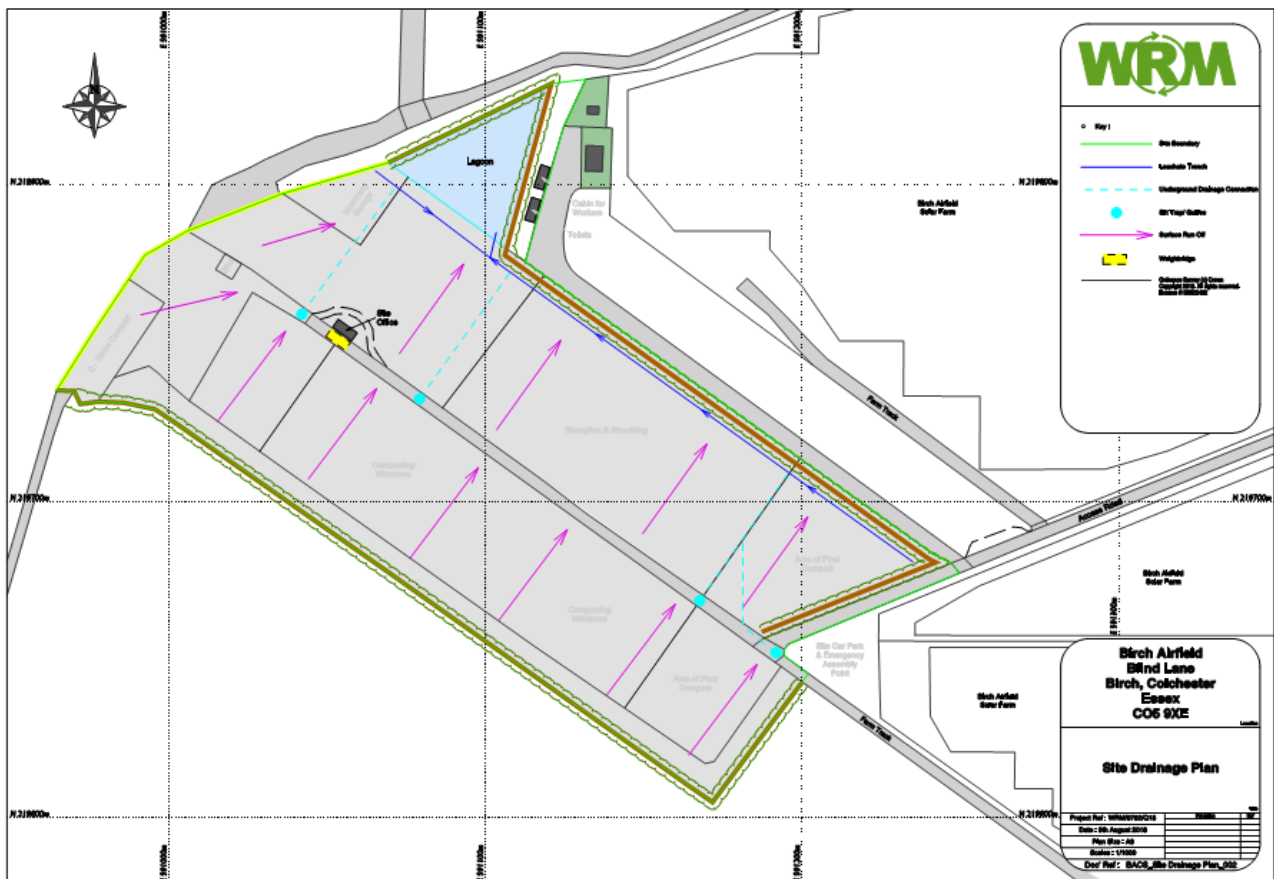
The plan above shows the dominant habitats and notable features of the site at May 2019. The standard key for ecology has been enhanced to more clearly show the habitats for the composting site. Each habitat is described below in item 2.4 to give a detailed indication of the condition of the habitats during May 2019.

2.4 Habitat Descriptions

There are limited habitats suitable for wildlife at Birch Composting site. The composting facility is an area of concrete pad/ hard standing measuring approximately 240m X 90m. The site is surrounded by clay perimeter bunds 1-1.5m high to the south, west and east. The 5m wide bunds are planted with a mixture of native trees and shrubs. A perimeter ditch runs inside the bund to the east of the concrete pad collecting leachate run-off from the wind rows of compost.

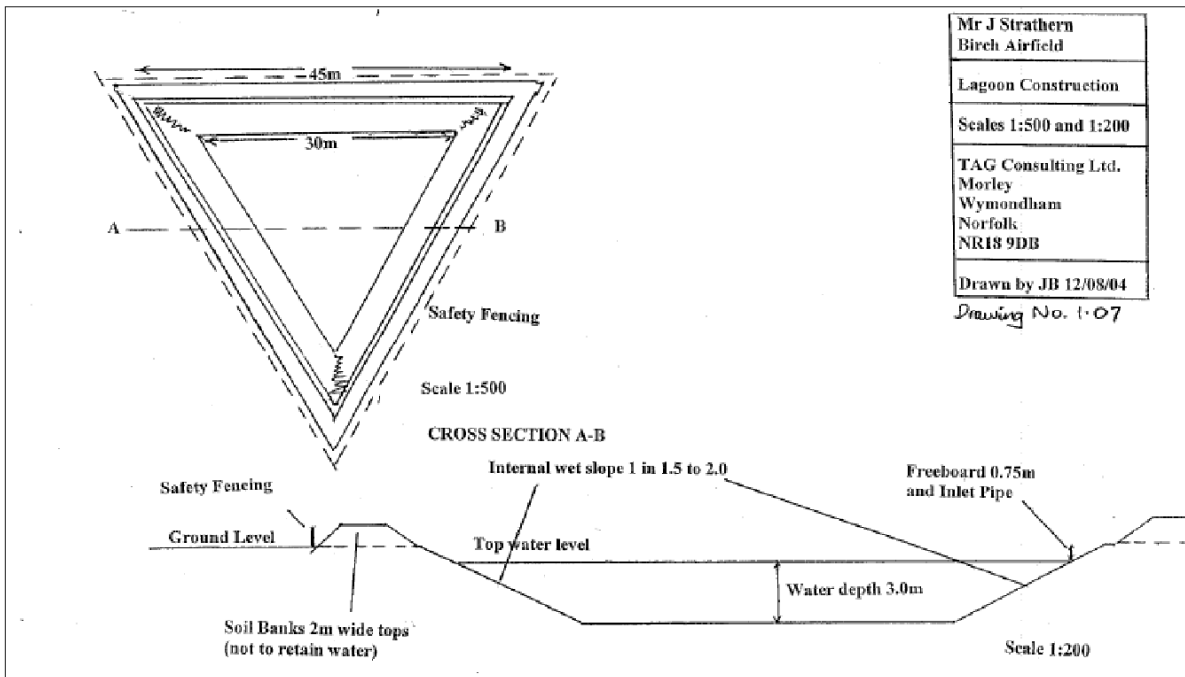
Lagoon (Target Note 3) and Leachate Trench

The plan below shows the collecting system for the drainage of the site leachate



Birch Airfield Site Drainage Plan by WRM Ltd dated 9th August 2018

The plan below details the construction of the lagoon.



Birch Airfield Lagoon Construction plan no. 1.07 dated 12th August 2004 by TAG Consulting Ltd

The lagoon is an equilateral triangle shape with all sides measuring 45m and side slopes of 1 in 2. Leachate from the composting facility flows into the drainage trench to the east of the site and then into the leachate lagoon to the northeast of the site. Should the lagoon reach capacity due to excessive rainfall the dirty water is pumped into tankers and removed from site. This is a closed system. There are no other linkages into the lagoon and no wildlife corridors.



Photograph of steeply bunded leachate lagoon

The quality of the water is considered poor and unlikely to be suitable for amphibians. A previous ecological appraisal ("*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report Birch Airfield, Birch Lane*", Essex by ADAS dated August 2014) found the Habitat Suitability Index score for the lagoon for Great Crested Newts to be 0.24 which is poor. This is unlikely to have changed.



Photograph of bund to the northern side of the leachate lagoon.

The steeply bunded sides of the lagoon are constructed from heavy clay and poorer quality subsoil. A mixture of tall grasses, agricultural weeds, docks and dead nettle have developed as tall ruderal cover.

Planted Bunds

The well established 5m wide bunds surrounding the concrete pad are planted with a mix of trees and shrubs including field maple, hornbeam, willow, hawthorn, dogwood and dogrose. The bunds are between 1-1.5m high



Bund planting to the northeast. This is a dense mix of hawthorn and field maple.



Bund planting Target Note 2. This area is thin and has some gaps.



Dense bund planting to the southwest. This area is well established and quite dense with a good mix of trees and shrubs. There is one gap in this section



Bund planting Target Note 1. This length of planting has failed and is in a poor condition.

Unimproved Grassland Strips

There are narrow strips of grassland along the edges of the access roads and along the bottom of the hedges and shelterbelt plantings. These are currently kept short and mown although there are a few unkept areas with a little more diversity of species.

The 2 photographs below show the grassland adjacent to the concrete access roads. They are predominantly dense grass with the occasional wild flower.



Narrow grassland strip with cow parsley and cranesbill near the northwest access road.



Narrow grass strip between the northwest access road and base of new hedgerow/fence line surrounding the adjacent solar farm.

Species Rich Hedgerow

The photograph below shows the high mature long length of species rich hedgerow with hedgerow trees to the south of the site. There is a small strip of grassland either side of this concrete access road.



High mature hedgerow with mature trees to south of the site. The larger tree shown here is willow. Narrow strips of grass exist at the base of the hedge and the bottom of fencing around the solar farm.

Arable Crops



Photograph of very even crop of winter wheat surrounding the southwest of the site. The high hedge can be seen to the left of the photograph and the Poplar Wood in the distance.



Photograph of field beans to northwest of the site.

Concrete Pad



The photograph above shows the concrete pad at the location for the proposed development, together with the start of the construction of the screening bund to the north. This is newly placed soil. Most of the redundant plant have been removed from site.

2.5 Evaluation, Impact and Mitigation

Notable Species

The site has marginal habitat that might potentially support species that receive specific legal protection. Species of bat are known to frequent the site. None of the habitat associated with these species will undergo negative change during the development.

Reptiles and amphibians: Although the site theoretically has habitat suitable for herptiles (including great crested newts), it is unlikely to be colonized by reptiles and amphibians due to the intense human activity; frequent movement of machinery. The adjacent habitats which could possibly support herptiles will remain unchanged.

Mammals: Foraging bats are potential visitors to the site. This habitat will remain unchanged. Badgers are not known to visit the area. The presence of other protected mammals is considered very unlikely.

Birds: Few species of bird were evident in the locality. The most important habitats for birds: the hedgerows, shelterbelts and grass strips will be retained unchanged or enhanced.

Flora: The ground flora is not considered to be locally or nationally important and this will remain unchanged.

The proposed workshop building will be sited on the existing concrete pad. This is an area used every working day by heavy machinery for storage. There are constant machinery movements. There will be no impact upon any existing habitats.

All the existing habitats on the site will be retained in their current condition and will not undergo any detrimental change due to the proposed new workshop building.

There may be a temporary impact on other adjacent habitats and species due to noise, dust and disturbance during construction. However, it will be insignificant due to the current normal workings of the site. Noisy heavy machinery is in usage daily creating dust and disruption.

It was noted that no animal tracks were observed on or around the site during the site visit. There were very few birds on site and no birds of prey observed.

There will be no affect on any designated sites and protected species. The overall impact of the development is thought to be negligible.

Conclusion of the Impact of the Development

In summary the impact of the development on the biodiversity value of the site and the locality is considered to be very insignificant. The following factors have led to this conclusion:

- The small size of the development area.
- The location of the development site on an existing working area of concrete pad.
- No loss of habitat except an area of hard standing.

- No impact on wildlife sites of any significance.
- The retention of all existing habitats (hedgerow, shelterbelt and grass strips).

2.6 Requirements for Further Surveys

Due to the small size and very limited impact of the development additional surveys are not considered to be required.

2.7 Biodiversity Enhancement

The site has limited space for biodiversity enhancement since it is all located on a concrete pad. A small bund 24m long by 3m high will be created to screen the proposed building on the north side of the site. This will be planted with native trees and shrubs and seeded with a grass mix with 20% wildflowers to include white and red clover and birds foot trefoil for nectar loving butterflies and bees. Details will be specified fully in the Biodiversity Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Scheme in Section 5 of this document.



Section from Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Plan KB-BIA004 May 2019. The full plan can be found on page 45 of this document.

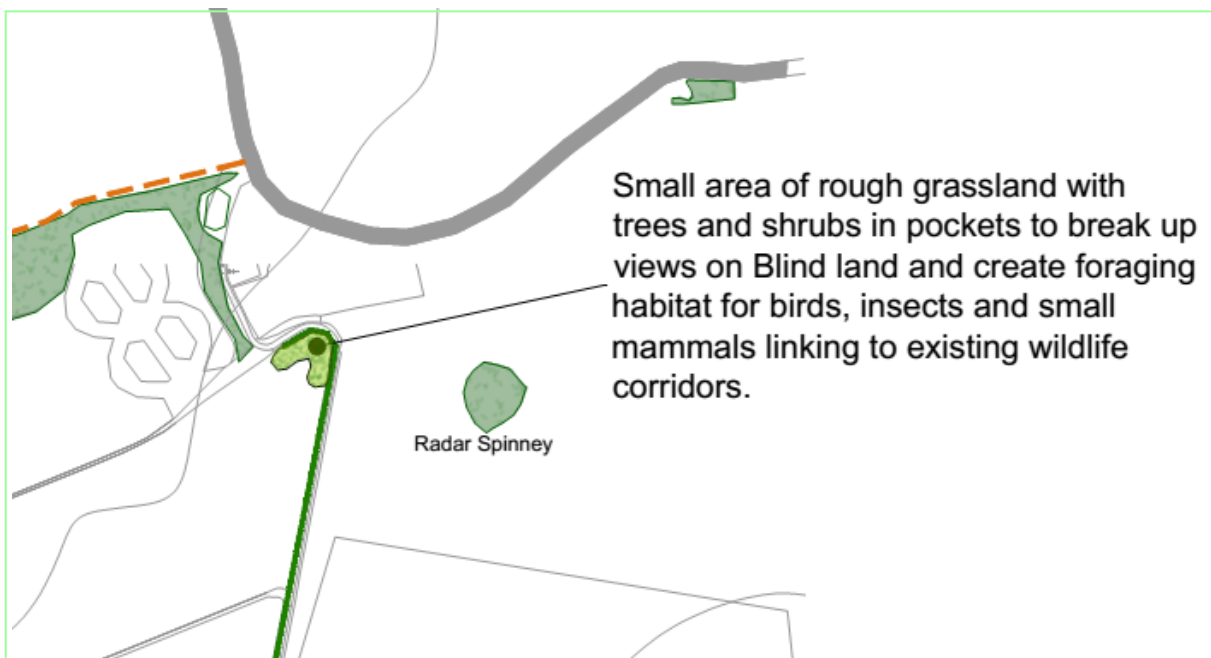
A new barn owl box will be sited following advice from the Essex Wildlife Trust in the Poplar Wood to the south-east. The woodland area is approximately 1 ha. The section of plan above shows the location of the barn owl box. The field, measuring approximately 2.5 ha, to the east of the poplar wood is currently classed as fallow. The field is topped to 150mm once per year during late summer after the nesting season to maintain as rough grassland. Owls are known to use this area for hunting.

The photograph below shows the area of grassland and scattered trees and shrubs which is excellent hunting ground for owls and other raptors.



Google roadside photograph of the owl hunting ground viewed from the southern end of Blind Lane.

A small area of planting will be created at the northern end of Blind Lane. The section of Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Plan KB-BIA004 May 2019 below shows the location of the proposed planting. This will be an area planted with a mosaic of native trees and shrubs in small pockets measuring approximately 0.20ha. It will create an area of foraging for insects, small mammals and birds. It will be seeded with a grass seed mix with wildflowers for nectar loving insects. This will be fully specified in the Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Scheme in Section 5 of this document.

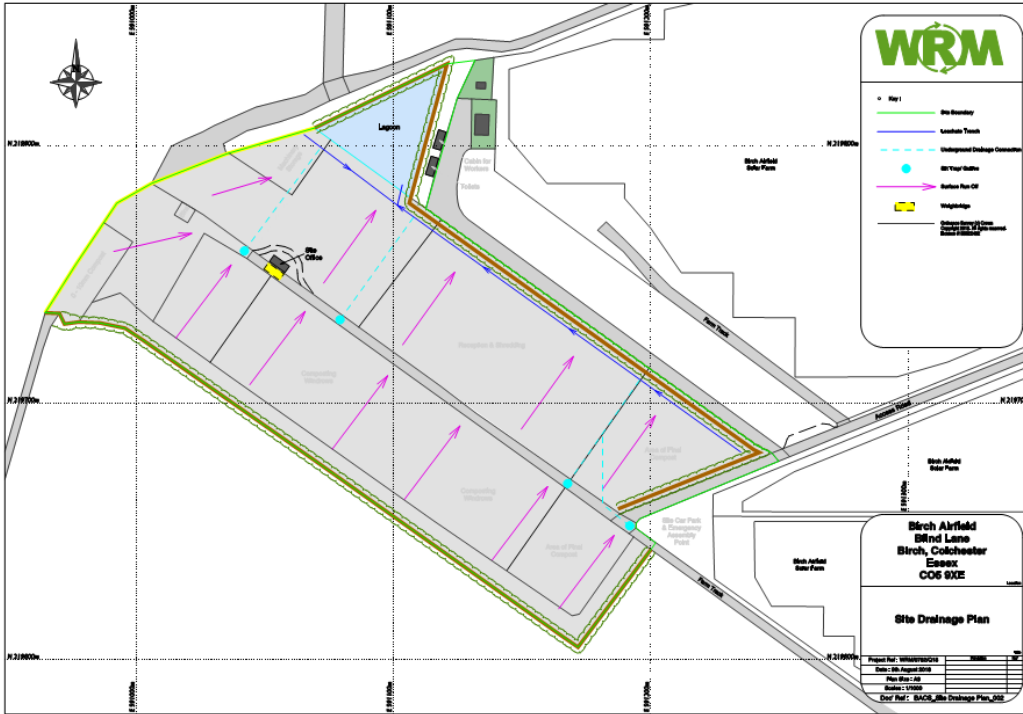


Section from Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Plan KB-BIA004 May 2019. The full plan can be found on page 45 of this document.

The grass strips alongside the concrete roads and at the bases of the hedgerows and fence lines will be allowed to grow during the spring and summer and will only be topped

after the nesting season during late summer. This will control noxious weeds and create habitat for insects and ground nesting birds. A more diverse range of plant species will be allowed to regenerate naturally.

3 ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE SCHEME



Birch Airfield Site Drainage Plan by WRM Ltd dated 9th August 2018, showing screening belts around the concrete pad.

In accordance with the Pre-Application Advice the previous landscape scheme has been assessed. The site drainage plan above shows the layout of the original planting scheme. This was 5m wide strips of perimeter planting to the north-east, south-west and south-east edges of the concrete pad and planting around 2 sides of the lagoon, located on bunds 1-1.5m high. The planting has generally been very successful, creating well established shelterbelts screening the site to the northeast and southwest. This is shown on the 2 photographs below.



Photograph of the south west screening belt with one small 7m wide gap

Photograph of the north-east screening belt



The south-east screening belt has not established well. The 2 photographs below show the screening belt in a poor condition. The eastern side requires replacement planting. The belt to the western side needs to be beaten up.

Photograph of the south east screening belt (eastern side) which has not established well.



Photograph of the south east screening belt (western side) which is failing



A full specification for planting the following areas will be set out in the Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Scheme in Section 5 of this document.

- small 7m gap in the south-west screening belt
- re-planting or beating up the south-east screening belt

The planting on the bunds around the leachate lagoon cannot be planted due to the presence of electric cables for the solar site and a mains water pipe.

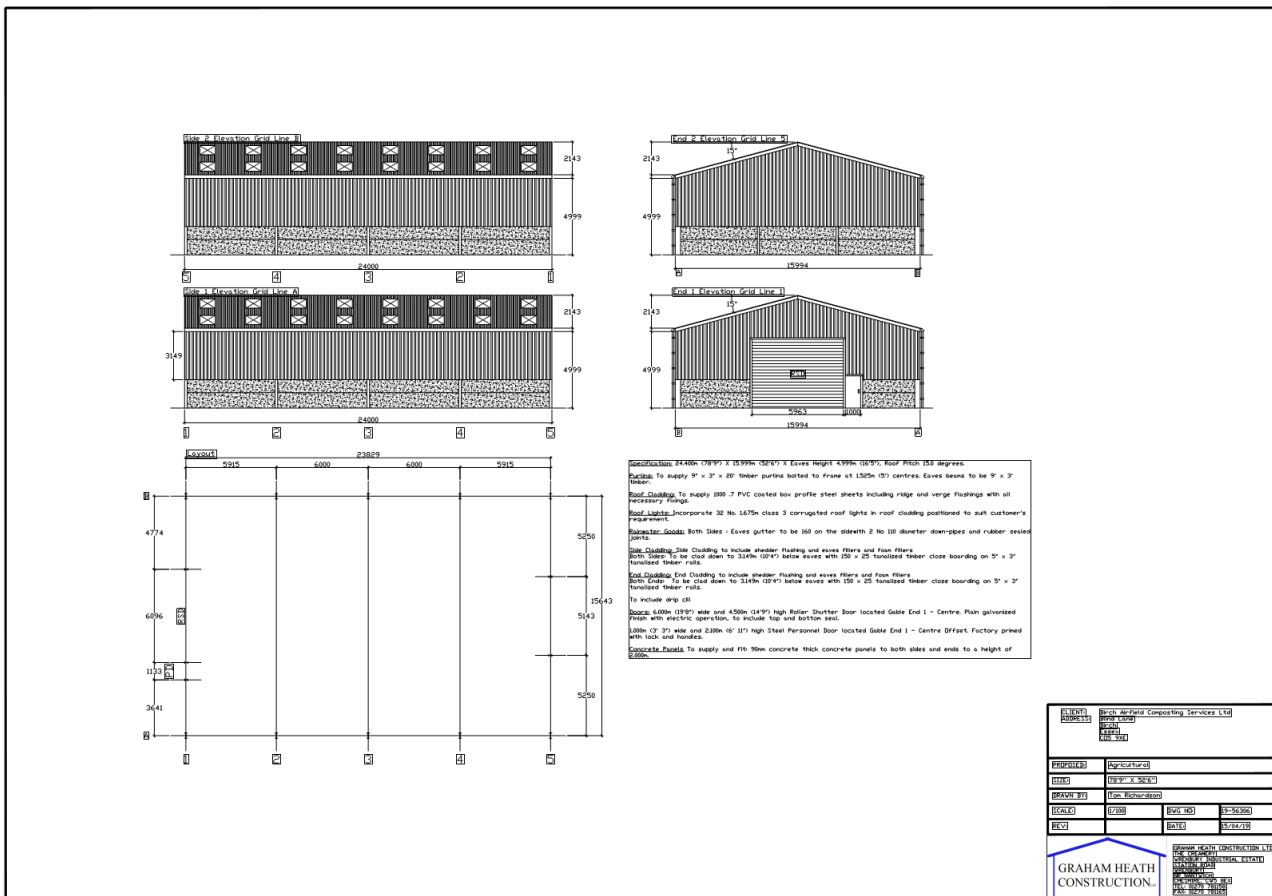
4 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Purpose of the Report

This report is a Landscape and Visual Amenity Appraisal prepared to accompany a planning application for the construction of a workshop building at Birch Airfield Composting Services, Blind Lane, Birch, Colchester. The Appraisal has been prepared by Katie Burfitt. The purpose of the report is to:

- Describe the landscape character of the local area and identify the effects of the proposed development on this landscape.
- Describe the existing visual amenity and identify the effects of the proposed development on this in the locality.
- Identify landscape opportunities to provide measures to mitigate the effects of the proposed workshop building.

4.2 The Proposed Development



Proposed *Agricultural* Building by Graham Heath Construction Drawing number 19-56306 dated 15th April 2019

A larger version of this drawing can be found in Appendix 4 of this document.

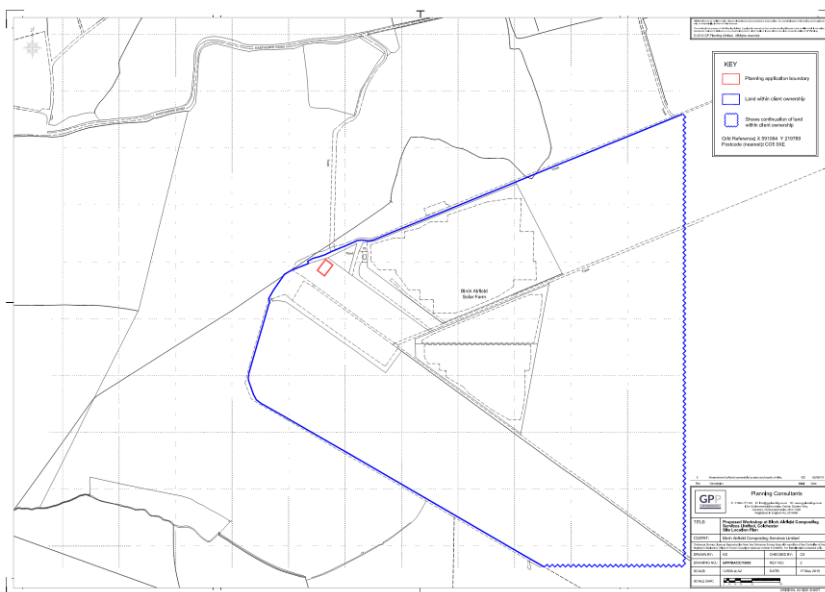
The drawing above shows the construction of the agricultural building.

Birch Airfield Composting Services has been operating on the airfield site, which is an area of concrete measuring approximately 240m X 90m, since 2002. There are currently no permanent buildings on the site. A small mobile port-a-cabin is used as a weighbridge office. The workshop building is necessary for the storage of machinery when the site is not operating as well as improved working conditions for staff.

The proposed steel portal frame building will measure 24m X 16m X 7.14m total height, with 5m to the eaves. The roof will have a pitch of 15 degrees. The roof will be covered in approximately 32 roof lights and will be a mid grey in colour. The building base will be concrete panels to 2m high with tanalised timber close boarding above. There will be 2 doors; a 2.1m high steel personnel door and a 4.5m high roller shutter at one gable end. The close boarding will be a neutral natural wood colouring.

The development will have the appearance of a standard agricultural building. It will be neutral in colour and be neither too dark nor too light.

The plan below shows the proposed location of the development towards the north of the site.



Proposed Workshop at Birch Airfield Composting Services Limited Colchester Site
Location Plan no. GPP/BAC/C/19/02 GP
Planning Ltd dated 29th April 2019

A larger version of this plan can be found on page 5.

4.3 Methodology

In accordance with recommendations of the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment this report broadly follows the guidelines set out in “Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition” dated 2013.

Whilst a full Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment is not required for this development proposal due to its small scale and impact, the methodology will be adopted as set out in Table 3.1 of Chapter 3, Principles and Overview of Processes, of the aforementioned guidance.

The effects of the development proposal on landscape character and visual amenity will be described, but the significance and magnitude of each will not be identified. The importance of topography and intervening vegetation will be described.

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility is the localized area from which the development can theoretically be seen. This has been identified predominantly by carrying out a lengthy site visit to study the views from the surrounding land into the development area and by checking local maps for access routes into these areas. A site visit was made on 6th May 2019 (as described in item 1.4 on page 7). Viewpoint photographs were taken from local roads and footpaths which encircle the property.

Photographs were taken using a Canon Power Shot A650 IS camera 35mm equivalent lens set to automatic. The height of the camera was approximately 1650mm, which is the eyesight level of the author.

Documents used in undertaking this appraisal include:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition
- National Planning Policies Framework, MHCLG, February 2019
- Essex And Southend On Sea Waste Local Plan July 2017
- Colchester Borough Council
 - Core Strategies Dec 2008 Revised July 2014
 - Development Policies Adopted October 2010 Revised July 2014
 - Colchester Borough Council Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033
- Magic.defra.gov.uk (Multi Agency Geographical Information for the Country-side)
- Natural England National Landscape Area Profiles 29 July 2013
- Essex Landscape Character Assessment Final Report 2003

4.4 Planning Policy

The following planning policies have been identified as being relevant to the site and the proposed development in relation to matters concerning landscape and visual amenity.

A, NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK FEBRUARY 2019

6. Building a strong, competitive economy

Supporting a prosperous rural economy

83. Planning policies and decisions should enable:

- a) the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings;
- b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses

84. Planning policies and decisions should recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport. ...The use of previously developed land, and sites that are physically well-related to existing settlements, should be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.

127. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
- c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.

15. Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

B, ESSEX AND SOUTHEND ON SEA WASTE LOCAL PLAN JULY 2017

Open Waste Facilities

8.20 Open windrow composting facilities are likely to be suitable in more rural locations due to their similarity with other agricultural developments (e.g. farms). They can produce odours because of their biodegrading process and therefore, rural, less populated locations for these facilities are preferred. Any particular requirements for minimizing potential adverse effects on residential amenity and rural character will; be expected to be demonstrated through a planning application.

Countryside, Landscape, Townscape Character Impacts and Green Belt

9.30 The character of the Plan Area is important to residents and visitors alike. The visual impact experienced as a result of the development of waste management facilities on the landscape and townscape is a key consideration when deciding planning applications. It is important to protect Essex and Southend -on Sea's landscape and townscape for the sake of their intrinsic character and beauty.

9.31 Most of the plan area is covered by landscape character assessments that consider where locally designated landscapes of importance are situated. Particular features that create local distinctiveness and character should be protected from future loss; this includes features such as topography, habitats that are unique to an area, geology (e.g. unique formations or preserved quarry geology) and historic landscapes which may contain features such as ancient hedgerows and historic field boundaries).

Policy 10 – Development Management Criteria

Proposals for waste management will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development would not have an unacceptable impact (including cumulative impact in combination with other existing or permitted development) on:

- h. The appearance, quality and character of the landscape, countryside and visual environment and any local features that contribute to its local distinctiveness.

C COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Core Strategies Dec 2008 Revised July 2014

Core Policies

Environment and Rural Communities

The natural and historic environment, countryside and coastline will be conserved to protect the Borough's diverse history, archaeology, geology, and biodiversity. Development will be directed away from sites of landscape and conservation importance and land at risk

from flooding. The unique character of Colchester villages will be protected, with only limited development supported to meet identified needs for local employment, affordable housing and community facilities.

Environment

The natural environment, countryside and coastline will be conserved and enhanced to protect the Borough's biodiversity, landscape, geology, history and archaeology. Development will be directed away from sites of international, national, regional and local importance, areas of landscape conservation importance and land at risk from fluvial and coastal flooding. Where new development requires a rural location, it will need to enhance the locally distinct character of the landscape, in accordance with the Landscape Character Assessment.

-Development Policies Adopted October 2010 Revised July 2014

DP1 Design and Amenity

-Colchester Borough Council Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033

The Colchester Borough Council Publication Draft Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector following hearing sessions held in January and May 2018, who commented that more work needed to be carried out before the plan could be found sound, and that more evidence would be required regarding transport, viability and sustainability. Therefore, only limited weight can be given to the policies in the emerging plan relevant to this planning application.

Development in Other Villages and Countryside Policy OV1

Proposals for sustainable rural business, leisure and tourism schemes, development essential to the effective operation of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, infrastructure, renewable energy generation; and minerals or waste operations in the adopted Essex Minerals and Waste Local Plans may also require a countryside location. Policy DM5 Employment in the Countryside, provides further guidance on the topic, in general, proposals for these types of developments will be supported if they are of an appropriate scale, meet a local employment need, minimise negative environmental impacts, and harmonise with the local character and surrounding countryside where they are being proposed.

4.5 Landscape

Landscape Character

The site is located in the following landscape character areas:

NCA Profile:111 Northern Thames Basin (NE466)

The Northern Thames Basin is a diverse area which extends from Hertfordshire in the west to the Essex coast in the east. It is separated from the North Sea and Thames Estuary by a narrow band of land that makes up the Greater Thames Estuary National Character Area (NCA). Included within this NCA are the suburbs of North London and also historic towns and cities including St. Albans and Colchester, as well as new and planned towns such as Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and Basildon. Although arable agriculture is a large industry in the area the soil quality ranges from good to poor quality. The London Clay provides a poor quality soil that becomes waterlogged in winter and cracks and shrinks in summer.

Better quality soil is found in areas that contain alluvial deposits from the Thames and other rivers in the area as they formed and changed position over time. The Northern Thames Basin is an area rich in geodiversity, archaeology and history and diverse landscapes ranging from the wooded Hertfordshire plateau and river valleys, to the open landscape and predominantly arable area of the Essex heathlands, with areas of urbanization mixed in throughout.

Urban expansion has been a feature of this area since the 16th century when wealthy merchants who were conducting business in London built homes on its outskirts, mainly in the Hertfordshire area. This trend increased dramatically from the mid-19th century as infrastructure improved and people could travel to work in London from the surrounding areas in an hour or less. This has put increased pressure on the area in terms of extra housing developments, schools and other necessities for expanding populations, with a consequential reduction in tranquility.

Colchester Borough Landscape Character Assessment November 2005

By Chris Blandford Associates the site is located in:

B2 Easthorpe Farmland Plateau

B - Farmland Plateau

- Elevated gently rolling Boulder Clay/ Chalky Till plateau landscape;
- Network of narrow winding lanes and minor roads;
- Medium to large-scale enclosed predominantly arable fields;
- Long distance views across valleys from certain locations;
- Well wooded in places (with several areas of semi-natural and ancient woodland), interspersed with orchards.

B2 Easthorpe Farmland Plateau

Overall Key Characteristics

- Raised farmland plateau, dissected by the wooded Roman River valley in the east;
- A mixture of small, medium and large irregular, predominantly arable fields;
- Small patches of deciduous woodland and several ponds/ reservoirs;
- Area crossed by a network of narrow, sometimes winding lanes;
- Airfield, surrounded by large open fields has a dominant influence on the landscape character in the south of the area;
- Settlement pattern consists of small villages and hamlets with scattered farmsteads

amongst predominantly arable agricultural land.

Overall Character:

Rolling boulder clay plateau underlies this character area, which is dissected in the east by the upper reaches of the wooded Roman River valley. The open, expansive large triangular World War II airfield at Birch dominates the southern half of the area, with several large open arable fields adjacent. To the south east of the airfield, a large sand and gravel working (Birch Pit) introduces further human influence to this area of the plateau landscape.

The dominant enclosure pattern on the largely arable farmland plateau is one of medium sized irregular fields with gappy-hedged field boundaries and small to medium-sized patches of woodland (e.g. Fan Wood). Enclosure pattern is smaller and more intricate, with more intimate thickly vegetated field boundaries consisting of over-mature hedges with hedge trees, in close proximity to settlements such as Copford. Settlement pattern consists of a combination of linear (Marks Tey) and nucleated (Copford) small settlements, alongside small hamlets (Hardy's Green; Easthorpe; Copford Green) and small farmsteads.

Settlements are connected via a network of narrow, sometimes winding lanes, enclosed by hedges in places. Roads running in an east-west direction tend to be straighter (such as the Roman Easthorpe Road) and the Main A12.

Views across the farmland plateau from roads and public rights of way are limited and framed by hedged field boundaries and small patches of woodland; however, it is generally possible to obtain medium-range views across arable farmland.

Landscape Designations

The MAGIC map below shows the Birch Airfield site in an open farmland setting. The villages of Messing to the south west and Birch to the east have a high number of listed buildings and are both designated conservation areas. There are 2 scheduled monuments: Bowl Barrow in Conyfield Wood, and the rampart south of Haynes Green. These are both approximately 2km to the south and south west of the site respectively. The Birch Airfield site is in an area with no special designations.

Landscape Setting

Birch Airfield is located in a wide expansive open area of rural Essex. The land adjacent is flat, predominantly arable with wide open fields. The field boundary features such as hedge rows and small woodlands are dominant within the landscape. There are numerous small woodlands surrounding the site as shown on the Birch Airfield Surrounding Woodlands and Hedgerows plan below.

The site was used as an airfield for a short time during WW2 from spring 1944 to 1945. The main runway is now used as the site access road. The airfield was covered in an

array of hangers and accommodation buildings housing up to 3000 people. All of this has now gone leaving only part of the previous concrete runways.

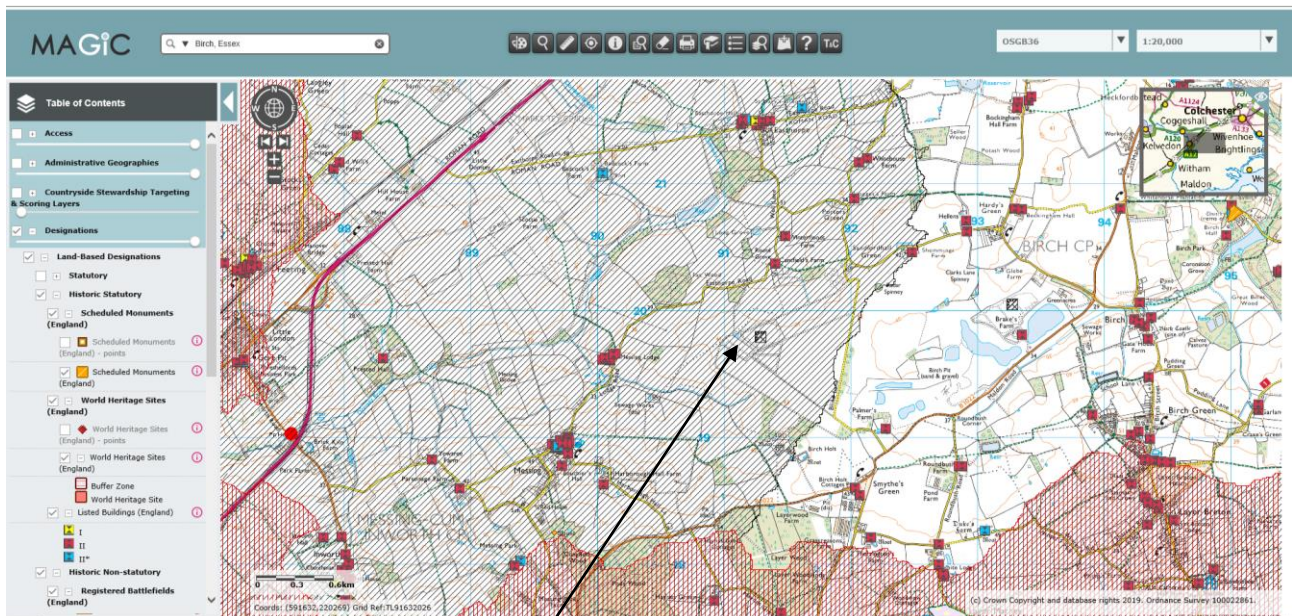
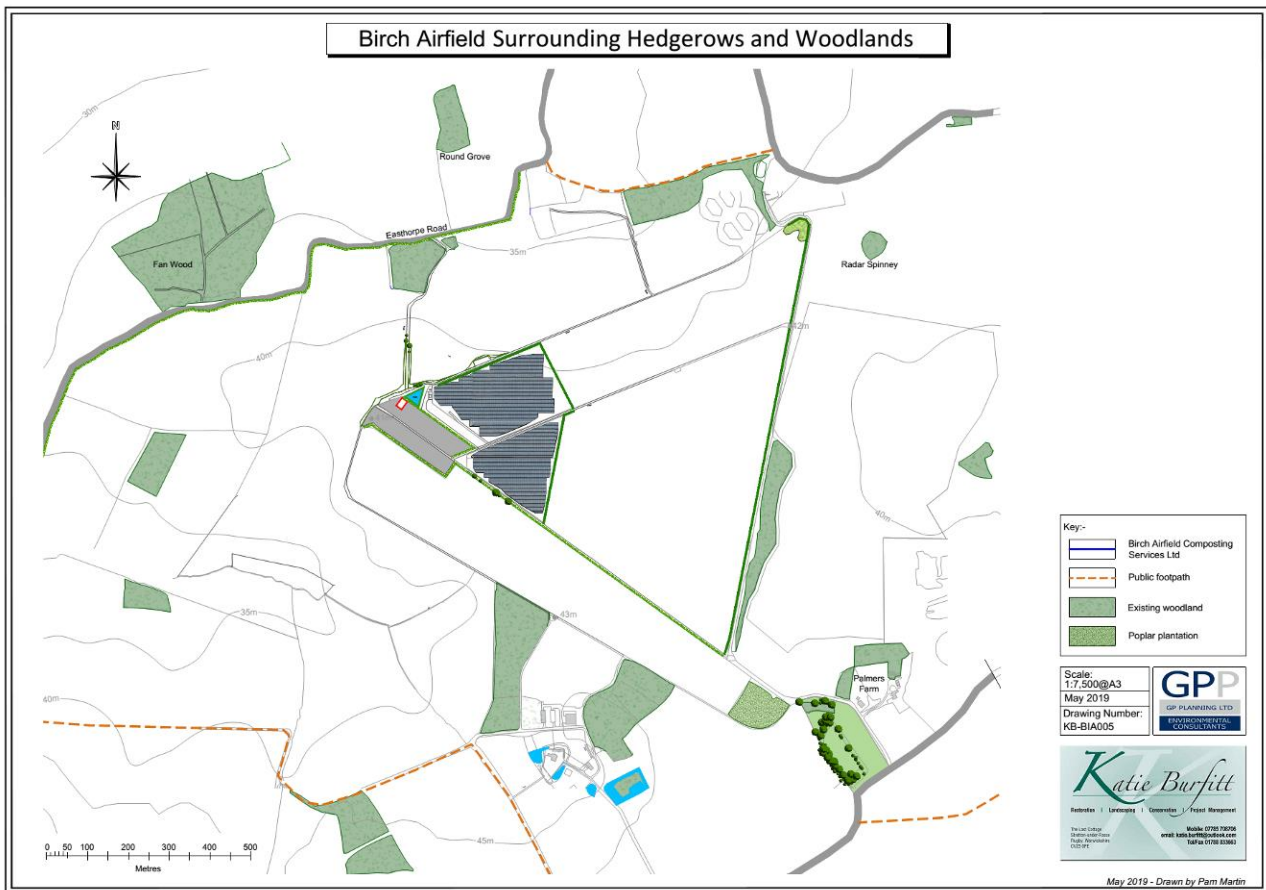


Image from DEFRA MAGIC website showing the listed buildings and scheduled monuments surrounding the Birch Airfield Site

The site is located 3.2km from the village of Birch to the east and 1.5km from the village of Messing to the south west. Villages are small and widely spaced with few properties between them. Buildings closest to the site are mostly farm holdings surrounded by small woodlands and thickets. The closest dwellings are Cantfields Farm which is 720m to the north-east, Birch Holt Cottages 800m to the south and Palmers Farm 1200m to the south-east. There are no dwellings within 500m of the site.

The topography is reasonably flat and low lying. The site falls on a gradient of 1: 200 gently south to north. However, the adjacent land to the north and east is flat ranging from 40-42 AOD, falling to the west to 35AOD and rising to the south of the site to 45 AOD. The land ridge rises between the village of Messing and the site.

The solar farm encloses the north-eastern and eastern side of the site. There are new perimeter hedges surrounding this facility to the east and north. A well-established tree and hedge belt runs adjacent to the old runway in north-westerly to south-easterly direction. There are also new hedges establishing along Blind Lane. The poplar plantation to the south-east is a dominant feature in the landscape. Easthorpe Road, which is the closest Public Right of Way (PROW), is located running east to west approximately 420m to the north of the site. The southern side of this road is bounded by a broad well-established hedgerow with few gaps.



Birch Airfield Surrounding Woodlands and Hedgerows Plan

There are 2 public footpaths in the vicinity of the site: PROW 124 8 Birch (North) to the north of the site and PROW 145 4 (Messing cum Inworth) to the south west of the site.



Google Earth images of Traditional and Modern Agricultural Buildings in the Locality

A larger version of this drawing can be found in Appendix 5 of this document.

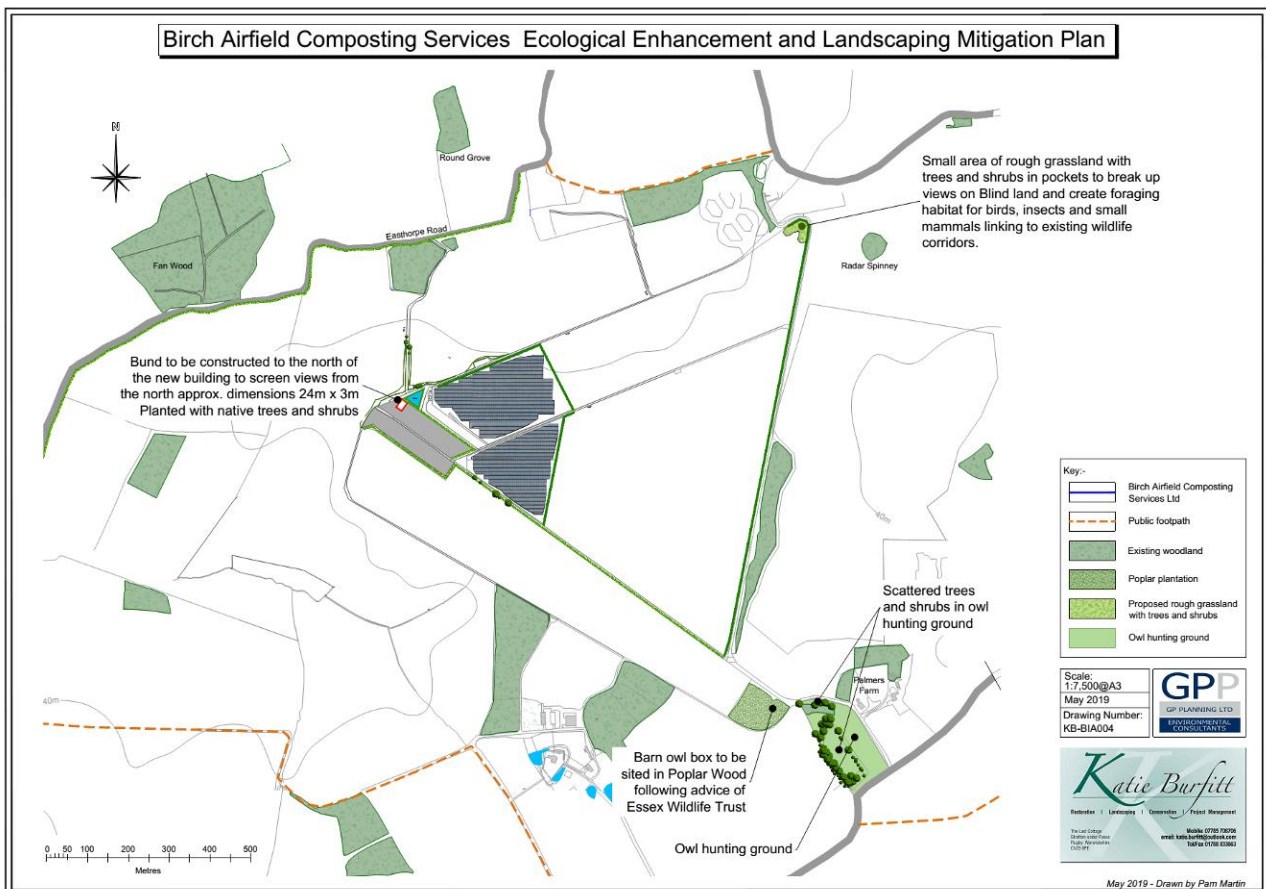
The image above shows traditional and modern agricultural buildings and barn complexes in the locality. These are all within 1.5km of the site.

Potential Landscape Effects and Mitigation

The proposed development will look very similar to the modern weather-boarded barn numbered 4 in the image above, which is located along Harborough Hall Road, Messing 1.4 km to the south-west of the site. The building is on the same scale as a standard agricultural shed and will be like other agricultural buildings within the locality.

Whilst the proposed building will cause an effect on the landscape, it will be no different to other existing buildings on the adjacent farms and is therefore considered characteristic. This development will not change the character of the local landscape. There will be no direct effects on the nearby landscape designations.

All existing trees, hedges or shrubs will be retained. No existing vegetation will be lost. A bund will be created along the northern edge of the building which will be planted. Native-trees and shrubs will be planted to screen the site from the north in a similar way to the bunds to the north-east and south-west, which have been very successful. A small mosaic of planting will be created on the northern end of Blind lane at the top of the northern runway. This will screen the site on the eastern side.



Birch Airfield Composting Services Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Plan dated May 2019

A larger version of this drawing can be found in Appendix 6 of this document.

The plan above shows the location of the proposed bund to the north of the new building and the location of the planting on Blind Lane.

The planting will mitigate fully for the new agricultural building. There will be a positive long term effect on the landscape by the establishment of the planted bund and the area of planting on Blind Lane, which will link into existing lengths of hedgerow.

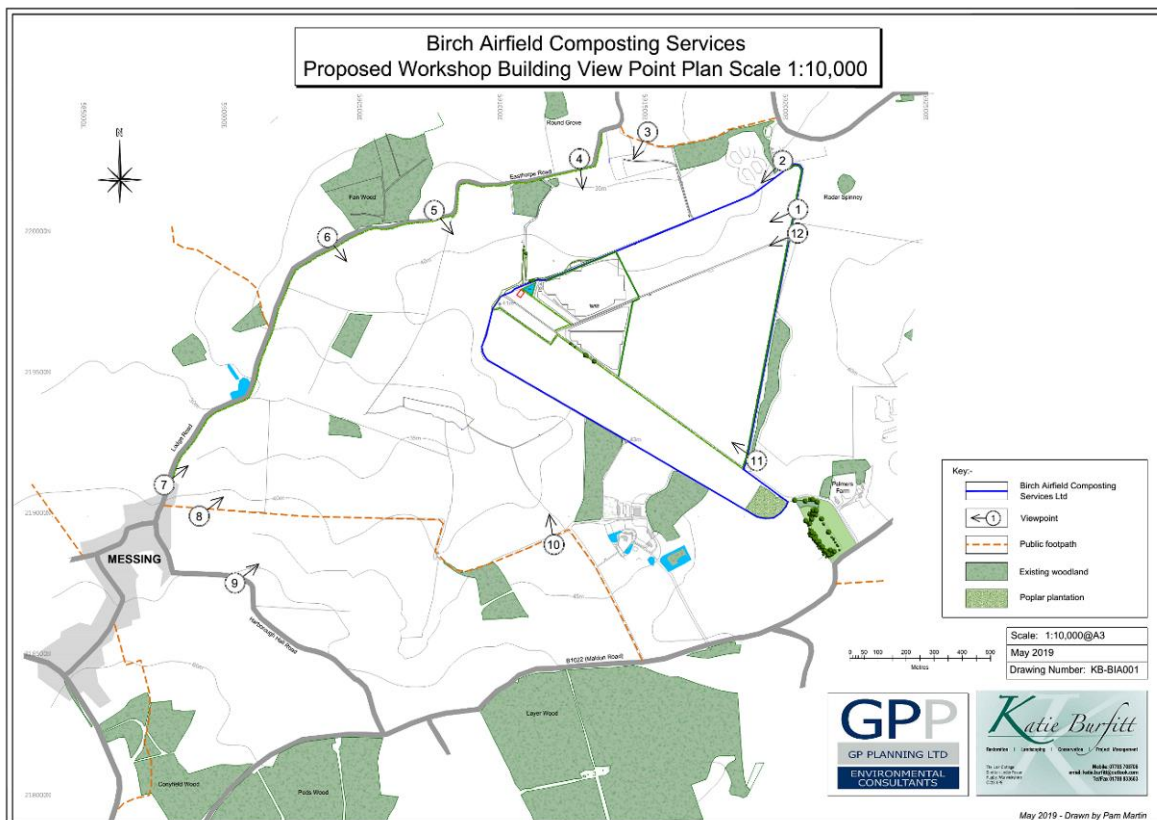
4.6 Visual Amenity

The Visual Setting

Birch Airfield Composting Site benefits from existing landscape planting on bunds to the north-east, south and south-west of the site. In addition, there are new hedgerows establishing directly adjacent to the solar farm to the east and along Blind Lane. This existing landscaping together with the locations of many small woodlands and copses in the locality allows very limited views into the site from any direction.

The topography, with a rising landform between the village of Messing and the proposed building location, prevents and any direct views of the site from the nearest village. There are limited distant views and glimpses of the application site from the roads to the north and east of the site. These are described further below.

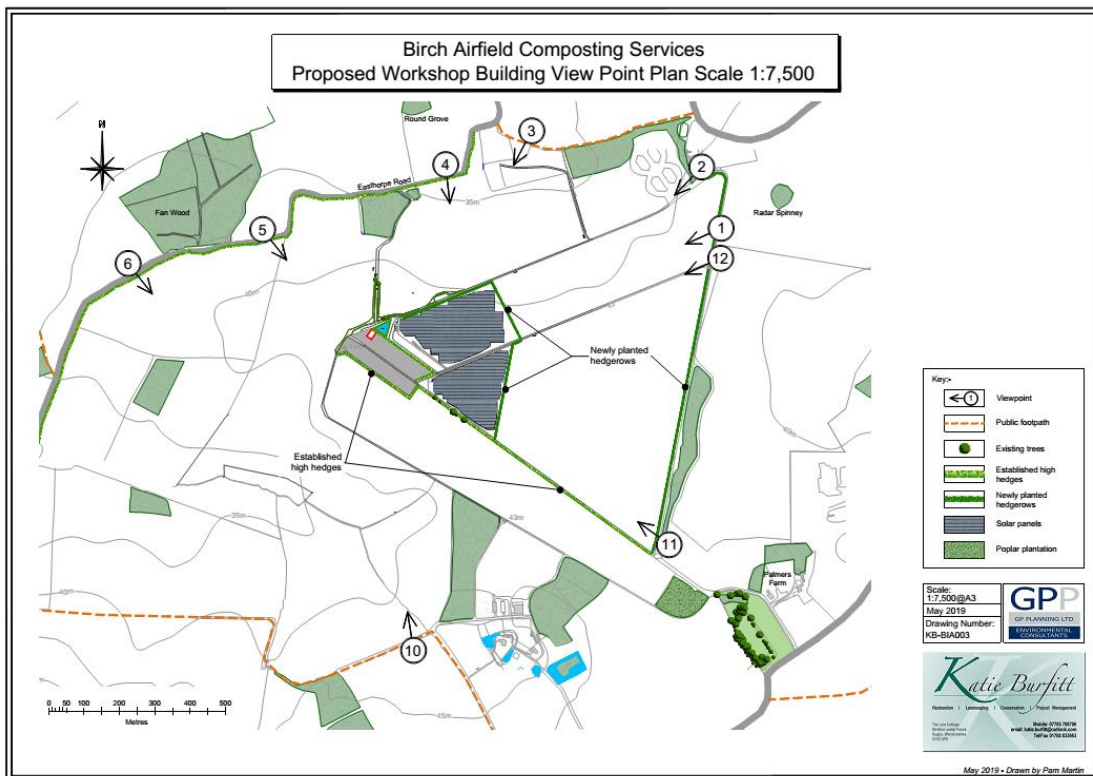
The Zone of Theoretical Visibility



Birch Airfield View Point Plan Scale 1:10,000 showing viewpoints 1-12

A larger version of this drawing can be found in Appendix 7 of this document.

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility is the localized area from which the development can theoretically be seen. This has been identified and is shown on the viewpoint plans above and below.



Birch Airfield View Point Plan Scale 1:7,500 showing viewpoints 1-6 and 10-12
A larger version of this drawing can be found in Appendix 8 of this document.

The zone of theoretical visibility is defined by the following viewpoints 1-12. The arrow shows the location of the new building

Viewpoint 1



Viewpoint 2



Viewpoint 3



Viewpoint 4



Viewpoint 5



Viewpoint 6



Viewpoint 7



Viewpoint 8



Viewpoint 9



Viewpoint 10



Viewpoint 11



Description of Viewpoints and Receptors		
Viewpoint Location	Receptors	Potential Visual Effects and Mitigation
Viewpoint 1 looking south-west from Blind Lane approx 1000m from site	Road users on the northern end of Blind Lane	Mobile road users on Blind Lane will glimpse distant views of the application area from the road. This view will be mitigated once the new hedgerows planted to the east of the solar farm and along Blind Lane have established.
Viewpoint 2 looking south-west from top corner of Blind Lane approx 1000m from site.	Road users on the northern end of Blind Lane	Mobile road users on Blind Lane will glimpse distant views of the application area from the road. This view will be mitigated once the new hedgerows planted to the east of the solar farm and along Blind Lane have established. The small area of planting on the corner of Blind Lane will further reduce views from the road.
Viewpoint 3 looking south from PROW 124 8 approx 480m from site.	Users of PROW 124 8 and agricultural workers in the fields	Walkers on footpath 124 8 will have very limited narrow glimpses of the application area in the far distance through the high dense hedge alongside the footpath. This minimal view will be reduced when the hedge has come into full leaf and the planting on the bund has established.
Viewpoint 4 looking south from Easthorpe Road through gateway gap in hedgerow approx 430m from site	Users of Easthorpe Road	Road users will have a distant narrow glimpse of application site from Easthorpe Road through gateway gap in hedgerow. This minimal view will be reduced when the planting on the bund has established.
Viewpoint 5 looking south-east from Easthorpe Road approx. 430m from site	Users of Easthorpe Road	Road users will have a distant view of application site from Easthorpe Road when the hedgerow is cut low. This minimal view will be reduced when the planting on the bund has established and the road side hedgerow has grown during summer.
Viewpoint 6 looking south-east from Easthorpe Road approx. 670m from site	Users of Easthorpe Road	Road users will have a distant narrow glimpse of application site from Easthorpe Road through gateway gap in hedgerow. This minimal view will be reduced when the planting on the bund has established and the road side hedgerow has grown during summer.
Viewpoint 7 looking north-east approx. 1350m from site	Users of Lodge Road	Road users on Lodge Road will have a narrow very distant view of the site through a gap in the roadside hedgerow. This minimal view will be reduced when the existing bund planting to the southwest of the site has gained more height..
Viewpoint 8 looking north-east approx. 1300m from site	Users of PROW 145 4 and agricultural workers in the fields	Walkers on footpath 145 4 will have a view the application area in the far distance. This distant view will be reduced when the existing bund planting to the southwest of the site has gained more height.
Viewpoint 9 looking north-east approx 1350m from site	Users of Harborough Hall Road	This minimal view will be reduced when the existing bund planting to the southwest of the site has gained more height and nearer field hedgerows have grown in height during the summer months.
Viewpoint 10 looking north approx 860m from site	Users of PROW 145 4 and agricultural workers in the fields	Users of PROW 145 4 will have a view the application area in the far distance. This distant view will be reduced when the existing bund planting to the southwest of the site has gained more height.
Viewpoint 11 looking north-west approx 1000m from site	Road users on the southern end of Blind Lane	Users of the southern end of Blind lane will have a distant view of the site. This will be reduced once the new hedgerows surrounding the solar farm and along Blind Lane have grown up
Viewpoint 12 looking south-west approx 1000m from site	Road users on the northern end of Blind Lane	Mobile road users on Blind Lane will glimpse distant views of the application area from the road. This view will be mitigated once the new hedgerows planted to the east of the solar farm and along Blind Lane have established.

The table above gives the location of the viewpoint and the direction. It details the receptors and the extent of the view, together with mitigation screening the future views.

Viewpoint 12



Other Receptors

There are 3 properties within about 1200m of the proposed development. Palmers Farm some 1200m south-east of the site, is surrounded by woodland to the north and west preventing any long distance views of the site. Birch Holt Cottages are located approx. 800m to the south. Large woodlands between the site and the cottages effectively provide a screen negating any views to the site.

Cantfield's Farm, the nearest dwelling is 720m to the north. It is surrounded in trees and shrubs along its southern edge preventing views of the development area to the south. It is unlikely there are any views of the site from the house. The photograph below shows the planting along the southern side of the property.



Photograph of the southern aspect of Cantfield's Farm

There are no near receptors to the proposed development. All views of the site are from some distance. These are generally very distant, narrow or broken by land-form and local woodland and hedgerow features. The closest views from the north, some 430m from site will be negated by the planting of the bund along the northern side of the building.

Whilst the viewpoint photographs have all been taken during early May, when most trees and shrubs are in full leaf, there will not be a significant change to the viewpoints during winter, when there are no leaves present. The majority of views are from some distance to the site and trees and shrubs without leaves will not alter this. The many numerous small woodlands are dense enough to negate views during winter as well as summer.

The views from Viewpoint 3 from PROW 124 8 which is some 480m from the site may become less narrow, but the hedgerow is very dense. The workshop building will be a very small section of the glimpsed view through the hedgerow adjacent to the path.

Potential Visual Effects and Mitigation

Views of the new workshop building are limited to only a few locations. The new building occupies a very small proportion of much wider and expansive very distant views. There is significant intervening vegetation and landform which screens views from many directions. There are no opportunities for close range views, apart from within the site itself.

The workshop building has been designed to be in keeping with surrounding arable landscape with muted roof colour and natural wood weather boarding. The native tree and shrub planting of the adjacent bund and planting of the northern end of Blind Lane will enhance the landscape features within and around the application site contributing to the visual amenity of the area.

4.7 Summary and Conclusions

This landscape and visual amenity appraisal has been prepared to accompany a planning application for a small agricultural type building on an existing composting facility. The building will be a traditional design, similar to other agricultural sheds in the locality and will be located adjacent to other pre-existing buildings servicing the solar farm. The building application area is 384 m² and the building height 7.14m. The potential effects on the landscape and visual amenity from the new building have been considered.

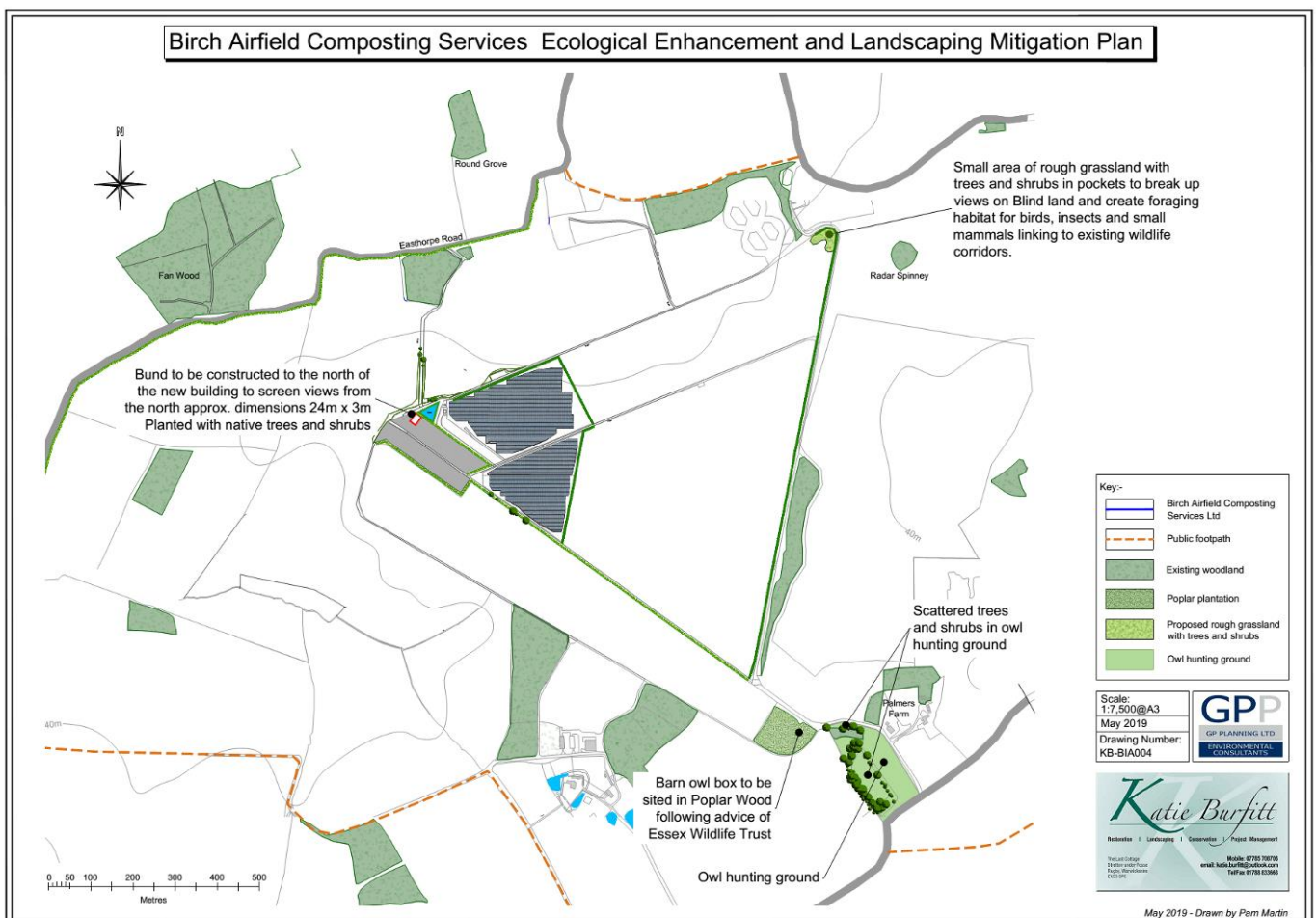
In conclusion, it is considered that the proposed workshop facility will not cause unacceptable effects on the landscape or visual amenity.

5 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MITIGATION SCHEME

Biodiversity Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation will be:

- Construction and planting of a bund approx. area 240m² to the north of the new building.
- Siting of a new barn owl box, following advice from the Essex Wildlife Trust, in the Poplar Wood to the south-east.
- Planting of approx. 2000m² at Northern End of Blind Lane
- Topping of grass strips once per annum.

The plan below shows the location of the proposed biodiversity enhancement and landscape mitigation.



Birch Airfield Composting Services Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Plan dated May 2019

A larger version of this drawing can be found in Appendix 6 of this document.

The landscape scheme provides linkages to existing wildlife corridors adjacent to the lagoon area and the new Blind Lane hedgerows to the east of the site. The late summer topping of grass strips alongside the access tracks and existing hedges will create undisturbed linear habitats for ground nesting birds and insects.

5.1 Bund Construction and Planting

The site has limited space for biodiversity enhancement since it is all located on a concrete pad/ hard standing area. A small bund 24m long by 3m high will be created to screen the proposed building on the north side of the site. This will be planted with native trees and shrubs and seeded with a grass mix with 20% wildflowers to include white and red clover and Birds Foot Trefoil for nectar loving butterflies and bees.

Soil handling will be undertaken following best practice guidelines to industry standards with the intention of preserving soil structure wherever possible. Soil will not be handled during weather conditions which are too wet or too cold. Better quality soil will be reserved for placement after the construction of the bund, stones and other objects greater than 150mm in any dimension will be removed from the topsoil.

Any establishing weeds will be sprayed with herbicide. The surface will be stone-picked and cultivated to break up any compaction and provide a shallow seed bed of approximately 50mm depth. The areas will be broadcast sown with Germinal Seeds WFG6 for Heavy Clay Soils (or similar) with red and white clover and Birds Foot Trefoil at a rate of 5g/m².

Trees and shrubs to be planted at an average of 2m X 2m random spacing to create a natural looking stand in groups of 7 same species plants. Plants will be guarded with 750mm shrub shelters ,1.2m tree shelters or spiral guards as appropriate.

5.2 Barn Owl Box

A new barn owl box will be sited following advice from the Essex Wildlife Trust in the Poplar Wood to the south-east. The woodland area is approximately 1 ha. The plan above shows the location of the barn owl box. The field, measuring approximately 2.5 ha, to the east of the poplar wood is currently classed as fallow. The field is topped to 150mm once per year during late summer after the nesting season to maintain as rough grassland. Owls are known to use this area for hunting.

5.3 Planting at Northern End of Blind Lane 0.2 ha

A small area of native planting will be created at the northern end of Blind Lane. This will be an area planted with a mosaic of native trees and shrubs in small pockets measuring approximately 0.20ha. It will create an area of foraging for insects, small mammals and birds. It will be seeded with a grass seed mix with wildflowers for nectar loving insects.

Any establishing weeds will be sprayed with herbicide. The surface will be stone-picked and cultivated to break up any compaction and provide a shallow seed bed of approximately 50mm depth. The areas will be broadcast sown with Germinal Seeds WFG6 for Heavy Clay Soils (or similar) with red and white clover and Birds Foot Trefoil at a rate of 5g/m².

On good ground notch planting will be undertaken where-ever possible. On poorer ground plants will be pit planted with soil conditioner where necessary. No planting will be under-

taken within 3m of existing infrastructure, ditch lines, fences etc. No planting will be undertaken within 4m of any overhead cables.

Shrubs to be planted at an average of 2m X 2m random spacing to create a natural looking mosaic in groups of 7 plants. Spaces between the groups of planting will form part of the mosaic of habitats. Natural regeneration will be accepted. Plants will be guarded with 750mm shrub shelters or spiral guards.

This will create new areas for ecological enhancement in the form of conservation grassland and scrub. Scrub is of ecological importance. It is identified as the transitional shrubby/open mosaic between woodlands and fields or can develop alongside hedgerows. It is particularly important for birds and butterflies for both habitat and food sources.

5.4 Grass Strip Annual Topping

The grass strips alongside the concrete roads and at the bases of the hedgerows and fence lines will be allowed to grow during the spring and summer and will only be topped after the nesting season during late summer. This will control noxious weeds and create habitat for insects and ground nesting birds. A more diverse range of plant species will be allowed to regenerate naturally.

5.5 South-west Screening Belt Replanting One Small 7m Wide Gap

35 trees and shrubs to be planted to fill the gap in the screen belt to the south west of the site.

5.6 Southern Screening Belt Replacement Planting and Beating Up

175 trees and shrubs to be planted to replace the screen belt to the south of the site. 25 hazel in the eastern part of the belt and 150 new plants in the western section. Trees and shrubs to be protected from browsing as indicated in the table below.

Birch Airfield Planting Schedule							
Botanical Name	Common Name	Size	Bund 240m ²	Blind Lane 2000m ²	Screen Belt 7m wide gap	Screen belt beat up replacement planting	Tree Shelter
Quercus robur	Oak	45-60cm	20			20	1.2m
Acer campestre	Field Maple	45-60cm	15	10	15	20	1.2m
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	45-60cm	10		10	5	1.2m
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	45-60cm	5	100		60	spiral guard
Corylus avellana	Hazel	45-60cm	5	75	10	40	shrubshelter
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	45-60cm	5	65		30	spiral guard
TOTAL			60	250	35	175	520

It is the intention to undertake the planting in the first available planting season following approval of planning permission. However, this will be dependent upon access require-

ments for the construction of the development. Taking this into account, planting will be undertaken in the earliest possible planting season following construction.

5.7 Maintenance

The grassland will be topped annually during late summer or spot application of herbicide will be carried out to control any invasive or noxious weeds.

The planting will be maintained for a 5 year period or until established. All existing trees and shrubs will be retained. Weed growth around individual plants will be controlled by herbicide, 2 applications per annum, to create a 1m width free of weeds. All failures will be replaced in the following planting season to ensure 100% stocking rate. Vegetation between the trees and alongside the new planting will be cut annually or as required. Tree shelters/guards will be repositioned/maintained at each maintenance visit.

Birch Airfield Composting Services Annual Maintenance Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Planting: Spot herbicide applica- tion and repositioning of guards												
1 st Visit												
2 nd Visit												
Planting areas: Topping												
One cut												
Stone picking												
As required												
Replacement planting												
Dormant season												
Grassland maintenance												
Selective herbicide ap- plication												
Topping late summer												

The table above gives a schedule of the annual maintenance of the tree, and shrub planting, any grassland and newly established areas.

6 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Sources of information

DEFRA MAGIC website

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management Guidelines for a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Birch Airfield Site Management System Issue 02 (BACS01) by WRM Ltd dated 9th August 2018

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report Birch Airfield, Birch Lane, Essex by ADAS dated August 2014

Google Earth

Woodland Wildlife Tool Kit Website

Appendix 2 Species List of Common Names

The following species were also noted or known to be present on the site:

Alder

Arable Weeds

Ash

Aspen

Barley

Beech

Birch

Blackthorn

Borage

Bramble

Bristly Ox tongue

Burdock

Buttercup

Cleavers

Common nettle

Conifers various ornamentals

Cow parsley

Cranesbill

Dandelion

Dead nettle

Dock

Dog rose

Dogwood

Deschampsia sp.

Elder

Elm

Field Beans

Field maple

Fruit bushes various

Goat willow

Grasses various species

Groundsel

Hawthorn

Hazel
Hemlock
Holly
Hornbeam
Ivy
Leucanthemum
Lime
Oak English
Plantain
Rye Grass
Rose bay willow herb
Sedum
Sycamore
Teasels
Thistle
Wheat

Barn owl
Black bird
Blue tit
Buzzard
Chaffinch
Coal tit
Collared dove
Crow
Fieldfare
Goldfinch
Great tit
Greater spotted woodpecker
Greenfinch
Green woodpecker
Jackdaw
Kestrel
Long tailed tit
Pheasant
Pied wagtail
Pigeon
Robin
Rook
Sparrow
Sparrow hawk
Spotted Flycatcher
Starling
Swallow
Swift
Thrush
Willow Warbler
Woodcock
Wren

Appendix 3

Birch Airfield Composting Facility Ecological Habitat Plan dated May 2019

Appendix 4

Agricultural Building by Graham Heath Construction Drawing number 19-56306 dated 15th April 2019

Appendix 5

Google Earth images of Traditional and Modern Agricultural Buildings in the Locality

Appendix 6

Birch Airfield Composting Services Ecological Enhancement and Landscape Mitigation Plan dated May 2019

Appendix 7

Birch Airfield View Point Plan Scale 1:10,000

Appendix 8

Birch Airfield View Point Plan Scale 1:7,500