APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2016 (AS AMENDED)

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

ACKHURST WASTE TRANSFER STATION,
ACKHURST ROAD, CHORLEY,
PRESTON, PR7 1NH

ECL Ref: CHBC.01.01/ERA
Version: Issue 1
January 2025

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ACRONYMS/TERMS USED IN THE TEXT

AW	**Ancient Woodland**
CCTV	**Closed Circuit Television**
CBC	**Chorley Borough Council**
DEFRA	**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**
EA	**Environment Agency**
ECL	**Environmental Compliance Limited**
EMS	**Environmental Management System**
EP	**Environmental Permit**
ERA	**Environmental Risk Assessment**
FRA	**Fire Risk Assessment**
LNR	**Local Nature Reserve**
LWS	**Local Wildlife Site**
MAGIC	**Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside**
NGR	**National Gid Reference**
NNR	**National Nature Reserve**
OMP	**Odour Management Plan**
OS	**Ordnance Survey**
PPMR	**Planned Preventative Maintenance Regime**
Ramsar	**Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance**
SAC	**Special Area of Conservation**
SPA	**Special Protection Area**
SSSI	**Site of Special Scientific Interest**
The Depot	**Operational Depot for Chorley Council Streetscene Services**
The Facility	**Chorley Council Transfer Facility**
The Site	**Ackhurst Business Park, Ackhurst Road, Chorley, Preston, PR7 1NY**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview

1.1.1. Environmental Compliance Limited ("ECL") have been commissioned by Chorley Council ("CBC") to prepare an Environmental Risk Assessment ("ERA") to form part of the Environmental Permit ("EP") application for their new waste transfer hereafter referred to as "the Facility", located at Ackhurst Business Park, Ackhurst Road, Chorley, Preston, PR7 1NY ("the Site"). It should be noted that the Facility is located within the operational depot for Chorley Council Streetscene Services, herein after referred to as "the Depot".

1.1.2. An ERA has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Environment Agency ("EA") online environmental risk assessment guidance[1] in order to:

- identify potential risks that site operations may present to the environment;
- screen out any insignificant risks;
- assess potentially significant risks in detail; and
- decide on appropriate control measures.

1.1.3. Accordingly, the assessment has addressed the potential risks relating to the operation of the proposed Facility, namely:

- amenity risks (e.g. point source emissions to sewer, fugitive emission to air and water (sewer), odour, noise, pests etc.): and
- accidents (e.g. fire, loss of containment, vandalism).

[1] EA online guidance – 'Risk assessments for your environmental permit' Available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/risk-assessments-for-your-environmental-permit, accessed September 2024.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF RECEPTORS

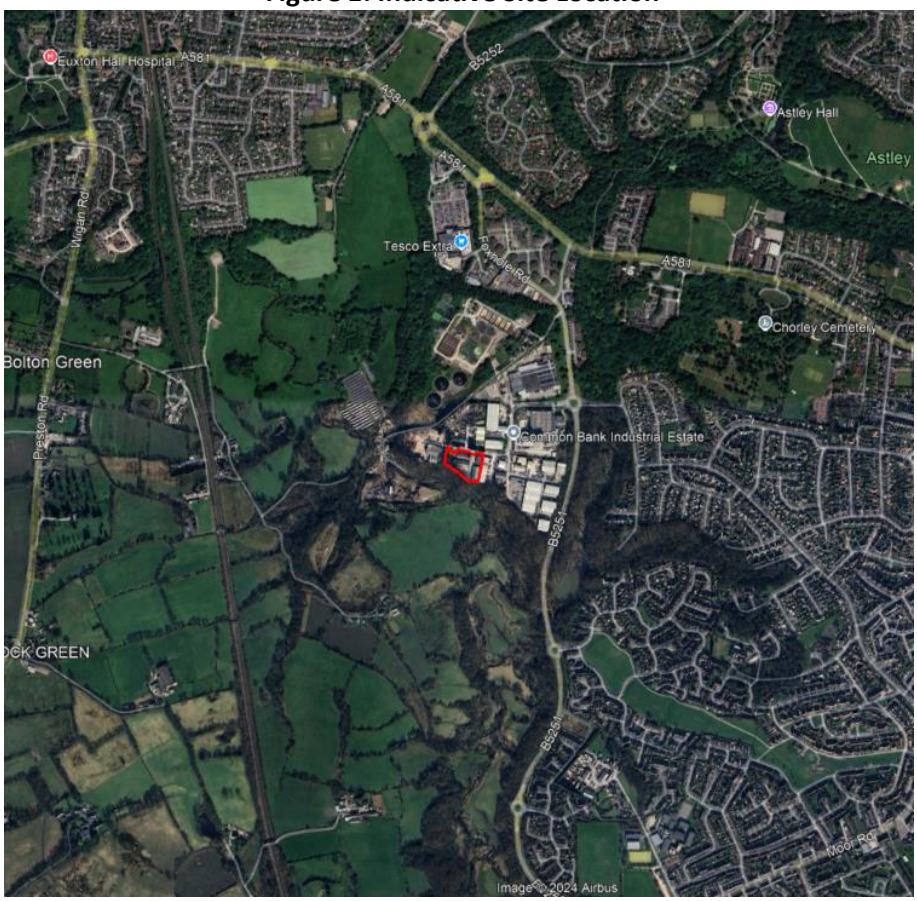
2.1. Site Setting

2.1.1. The Facility is located on Ackhurst Road, Chorley, Preston, PR7 1NH. The Facility covers an area of approximately 0.88 hectares.

2.1.2. The Site Location Plan (CHBC.01.01-01) details the Environmental Permit Boundary (outlined in green) and is provided in Section 3 of this application submission.

2.1.3. Figure 1 provides the indicative location of the Facility (red outline) within the context of the surrounding environment.

Figure 1: Indicative Site Location



2.1.4. The Facility is located within Common Bank Industrial Estate which consists of numerous industrial/commercial units, a sewerage works, quarrying activities and a solar farm.

2.1.5. The River Yarrow is located approximately 40 metres south of the Facility boundary.

2.1.6. Residential housing is located to the east, southeast and north of the Facility, the nearest property being approximately 0.37km east.

2.1.7. Open green space and farmland is located to the west and south of the Facility.

2.2. Potentially Sensitive Ecological Receptors

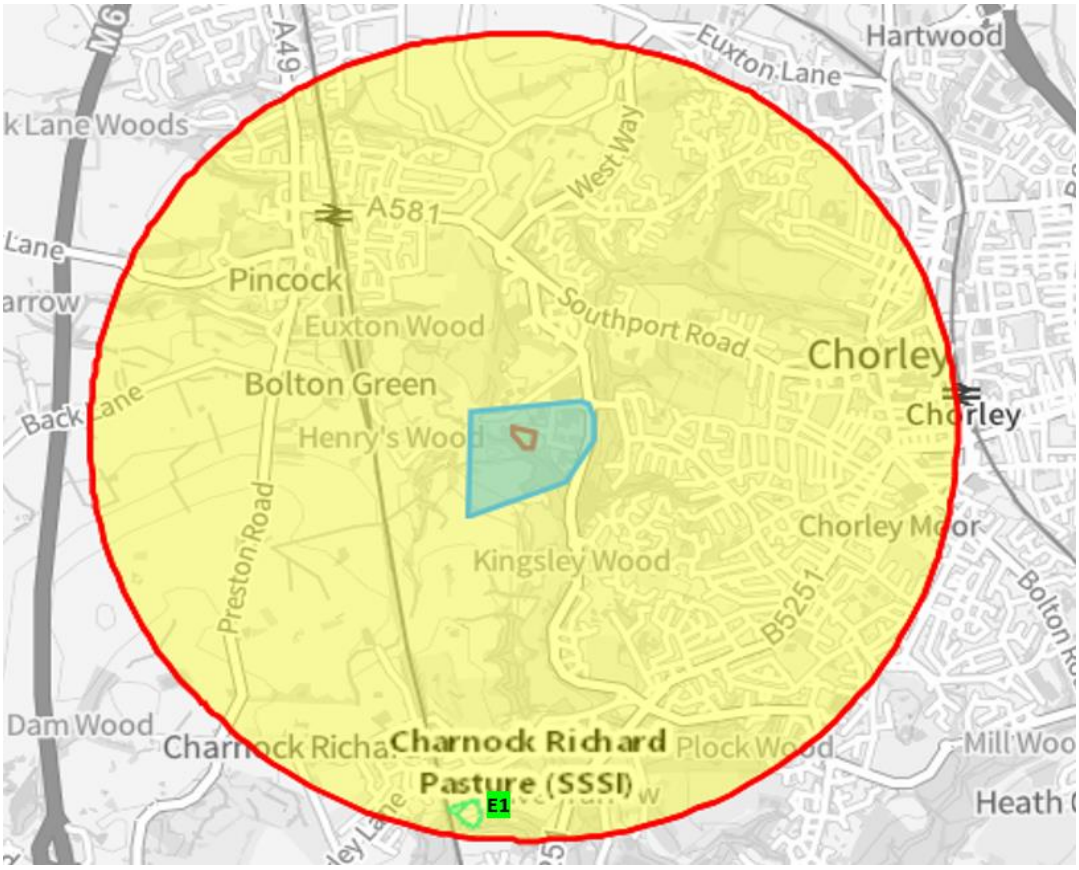
2.2.1. A Nature and Heritage Conservation Report has been obtained from the EA as part of enhanced pre-application advice. This is provided in Appendix I of this ERA. This should be read in conjunction with this ERA.

2.2.2. A review of the area using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside[2] ("MAGIC") online tool identified that the Facility is not located within 10km of any Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance ("Ramsar"), Special Area of Conservation ("SAC") or Special Protection Area ("SPA").

2.2.3. No National Nature Reserves ("NNR") or Local Nature Reserves ("LNR") are located within 2km of the boundary.

2.2.4. One Site of Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI") was identified within 2km of the proposed boundary, namely Charnock Richard Pasture, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 2: SSSI identified within 2km of the Boundary



2.2.5. The Ordnance Survey ("OS") National Grid Reference ("NGR") of the identified ecological receptor, at the approximate nearest point to the Facility, is provided in Table 1.

[2] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ("DEFRA") MAGIC Online Mapping Tool, available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx, accessed September 2024.

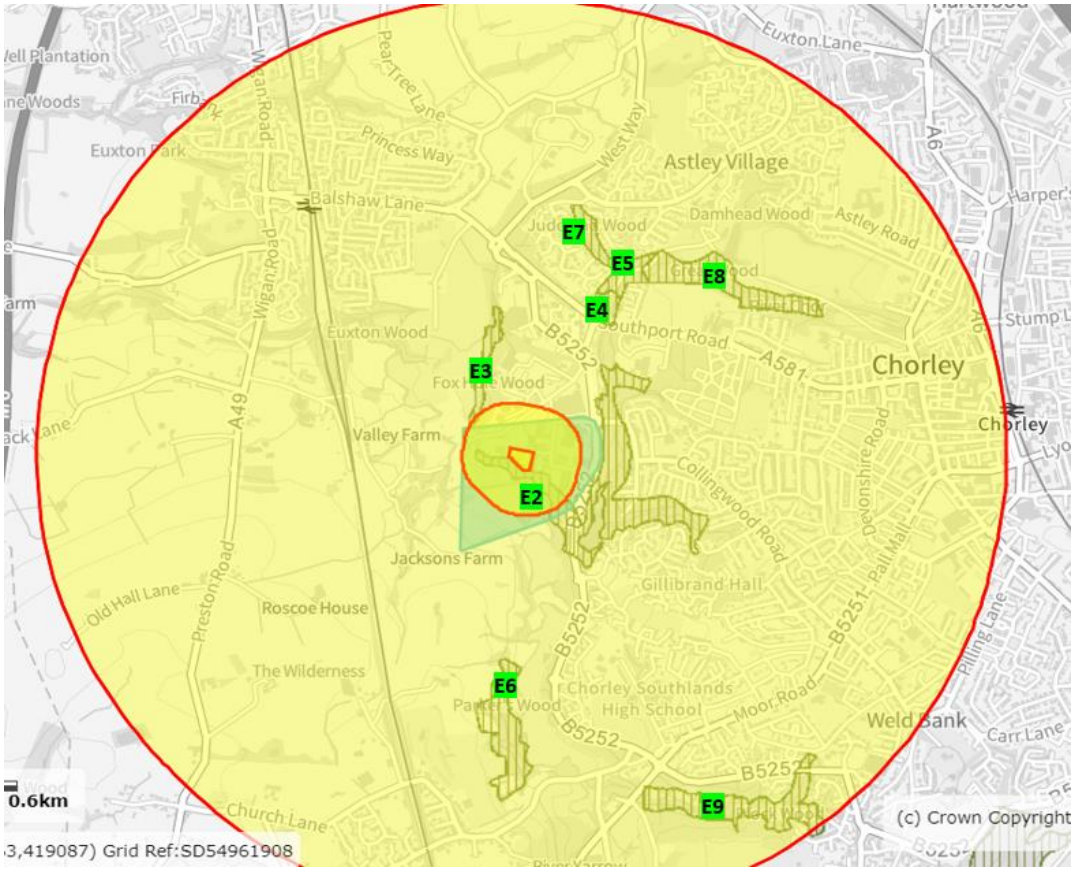
Table 1: SSSI identified within 2km of the Facility Boundary

Ref	Description	Designation	Easting (X)	Northing (Y)	Distance from Facility* (km)	Heading (°)
E1	Charnock Richard Pasture	SSSI	356328	415407	1.91	188

* Distances are calculated as the crow flies from the specified receptor coordinates to on-site NGR: SD 56590 17301.

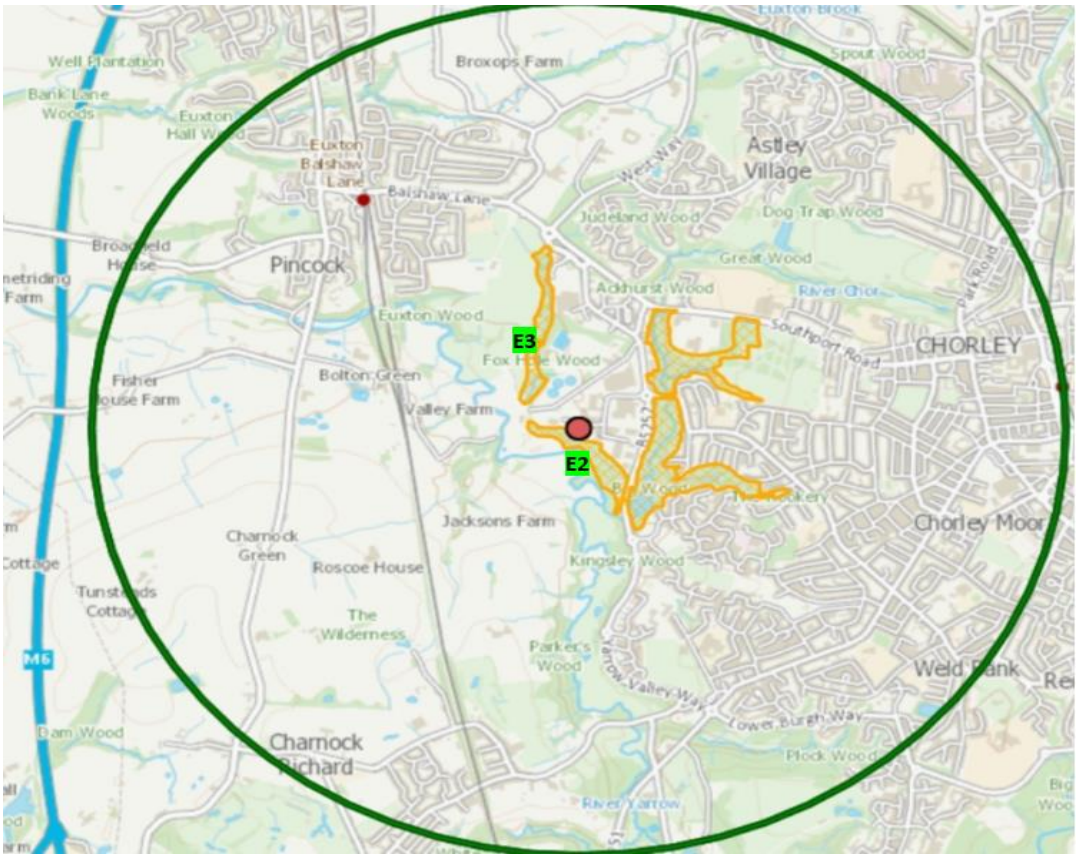
2.2.6. Eight Ancient Woodland ("AW") sites have also been identified within 2km of the Facility. These are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: AW within 2km of the Facility Boundary



2.2.7. Two Local Wildlife Sites ("LWS") have also been identified within 2km of the Facility according to the EA's Heritage and Conservation Screening Report (see Appendix I). These are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: LWS within 2km of the Facility Boundary



2.2.8. The OS NGRs of the identified ecological receptors, at the approximate nearest point to the Facility, are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: AW and LWS identified within 2km of the Facility Boundary

Ref	Description	Designation	Easting (X)	Northing (Y)	Distance from Facility* (km)	Heading (°)
E2	Wallets Wood / Copper Works Wood	AW/LWS	356586	417248	0.05	184
E3	Fox Hole Wood	AW/LWS	356386	417441	0.25	304
E4	Ackhurst Wood	AW	356957	418001	0.79	28
E5	Not named	AW	357000	418095	0.89	27
E6	Parker's Wood	AW	356537	416369	0.93	183
E7	Judeland Wood	AW	356900	418274	1.02	18
E8	Great Wood	AW	357160	418125	1.00	35
E9	Plock Wood	AW	357139	415821	1.58	160

* Distances are calculated as the crow flies from the specified receptor coordinates to on-site NGR: SD 56590 17301.

2.2.9. In addition to the above, other potentially sensitive land uses within 1km of the Facility were also considered. A review of the area using the MAGIC tool indicated that none of the following sensitive land uses are located within a 1km radius of the Facility:

- Scheduled Monuments;
- World Heritage Sites;
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;

- Groundwater Source Protection Zones; or
- Nitrate Vulnerability Zones.

2.2.10. The EA's Nature and Heritage Conservation Report provided as part of pre-application advice is contained in Appendix I.

2.3. Potentially Sensitive Human Receptors

2.3.1. Potential sensitive human receptors within 1km of the boundary have been identified and are displayed in Figure 5 with nearest distances to the Facility boundary and direction given in Table 3.

Figure 5: Potentially Sensitive Human Receptors within 1km of the Facility Boundary

Table 3: Potentially Sensitive Human Receptors within 1km of the Facility Boundary

Ref	Name	Easting (X)	Northing (Y)	Distance from Facility* (m)	Heading (°)
H1	Commercial activities (1)	356661	417297	71	93
H2	Commercial activities (2)	356625	417363	71	29
H3	Residential properties off Common Bank Lane	356736	417629	359	24
H4	Residential properties off Woodford Copse	356986	417153	423	110
H5	Yarrow Farm	356356	416886	476	209
H6	Residential properties off Parkers Close	356985	416981	508	129
H7	Residential properties off Hornchurch Drive	357046	417543	516	62
H8	Residential property east of German Lane	356073	417403	527	281
H9	Residential properties off Little Wood Close	356904	416870	533	144
H10	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	357202	417394	619	81

* Distances are calculated as the crow flies from the specified receptor coordinates to on-site NGR: SD 56590 17301.

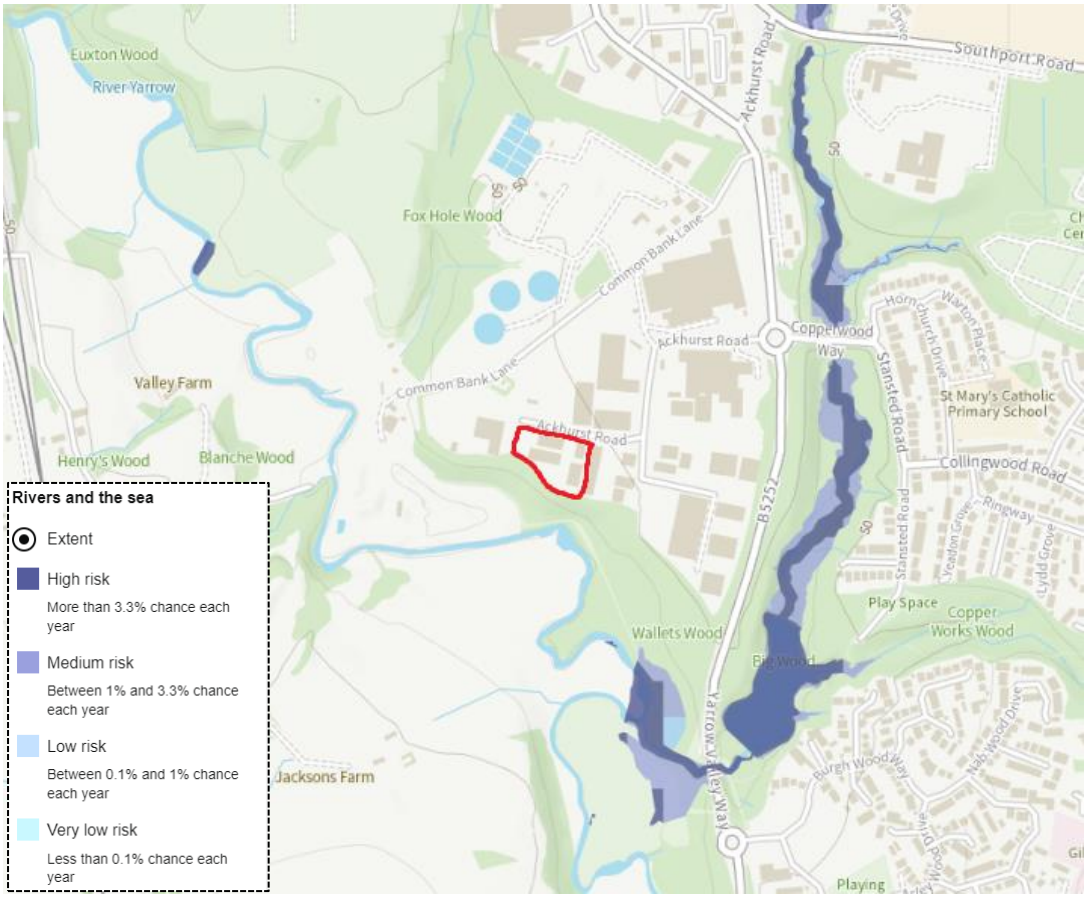
2.4. Risk of Flooding

2.4.1. As shown on the EA's Long Term Flood Risk Map[3], the Facility is not covered by a flood risk category for flooding from rivers or the sea and is therefore deemed to have a very low probability of flooding (defined as having less than 0.1% chance of flooding annually).

2.4.2. Similarly, the Facility is not covered by a flood risk category for surface waters (and is therefore deemed to have a very low probability of flooding).

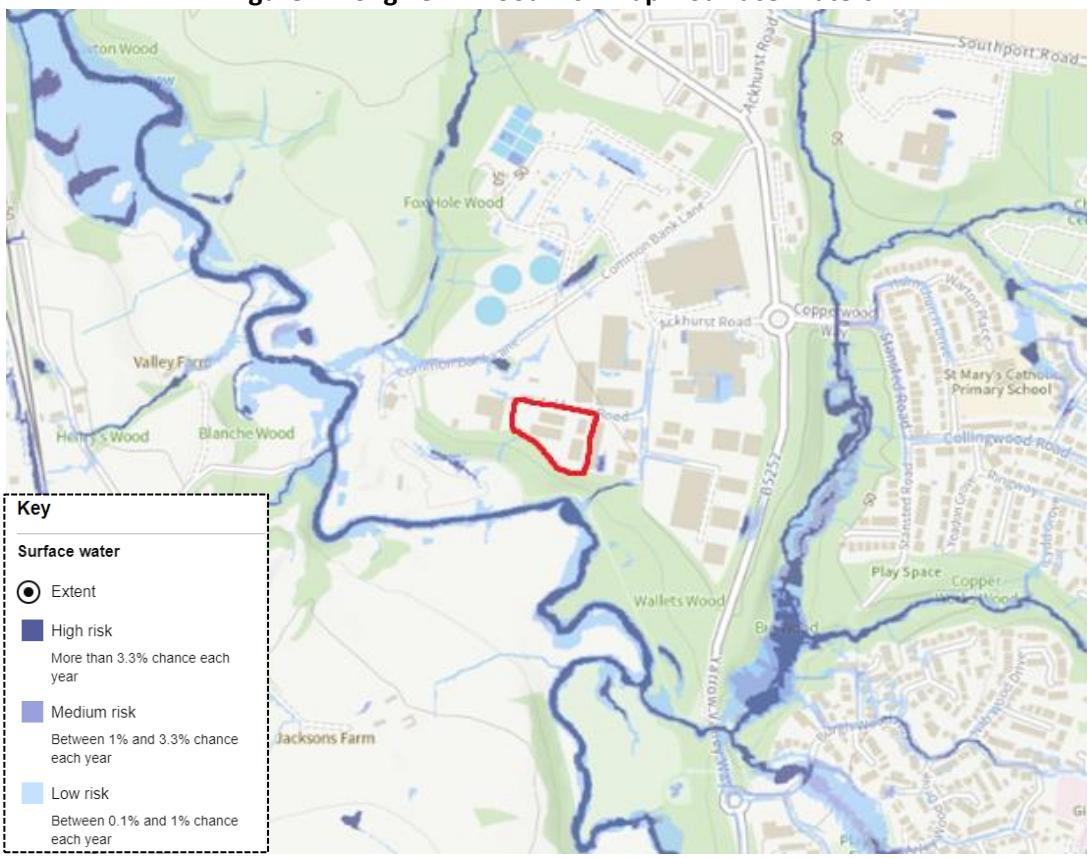
2.4.3. Figures 6 and 7 have been provided to reproduce the information displayed in the EA's mapping service for rivers and the sea and for surface waters, respectively. In Figures 6 and 7, the approximation location of the Facility has been depicted by the red outline.

Figure 6: Long Term Flood Risk Map – Rivers and the Sea



[3] EA's Long Term Flood Risk maps, available at: https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk, accessed November 2024.

Figure 7: Long Term Flood Risk Map – Surface Waters



3. IDENTIFICATION OF THE RISKS

3.1. Amenity Risks

3.1.1. Taking into account the nature of the activities that will be undertaken at the Facility, the main amenity risks identified as part of this variation are as follows:

- fugitive emissions to air (odour);
- fugitive emissions to surface water and sewer;
- noise and vibration; and
- pests.

3.1.2. As the proposed activities do not involve any point source emissions i.e. process contributions to land or surface water, no assessment has been undertaken. Furthermore, all proposed activities will be undertaken in areas sealed with an impervious barrier to prevent a pollution pathway. Consequently, no further assessment has been undertaken for fugitive emissions to land or groundwater.

3.2. Accident Risks

3.2.1. The main potential accident risks have been identified as:

- fire;
- loss of containment of potentially polluting materials; and
- vandalism.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS

4.1. Methodology

4.1.1. The risk assessments have been undertaken using the following approach for amenity and accident risks:

- identification of hazards associated with the risk that have the potential to cause harm;
- identification of potential receptors i.e. what is the risk (for the purposes of this assessment, typical potential receptors have been identified)?
- pathway, i.e. how can the hazard get to the receptor?
- risk management measures employed to reduce the risk to an acceptable level;
- probability of exposure i.e. how likely is this contact?
- consequence i.e. what is the harm that can be caused? and
- assessment of overall risk.

4.1.2. The assessments for the amenity and accident risks identified above are presented in Tables 4 and 5 respectively.

Table 4: Amenity Risk Assessment

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Emissions to Air						
Fugitive Emissions to Air						
Odour emissions from site operations.	Human population in the surrounding area.	Release to Air. Facility is close enough for potential odour emissions to reach potentially sensitive receptors.	The Facility will operate under an Odour Management Plan ("OMP"). The OMP details the control measures to be implemented to ensure that odour is effectively managed at the Facility. This document should be read in conjunction with this ERA. General odour management measures include: • regular cleaning and inspection to prevent the buildup of odorous residues; • equipment subject to regular maintenance and servicing as per the planned preventative maintenance regime ("PPMR"); • daily odour monitoring via sniff testing; and • relevant personnel trained in odour management procedures and all personnel will be trained in the prompt reporting of any abnormal noise so it may be rectified.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Possible odour nuisance.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.

Table 4: Amenity Risk Assessment (cont.)

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Noise						
Noise emissions from on-site operations.	Ecological and human sensitive receptors in surrounding area (see Section 2.2 and 2.3 of this ERA).	Release to Air. Facility is close enough to potentially sensitive receptors for noise to potentially be audible.	It is not anticipated that the activities at the Facility are significant noise generating sources. The location of equipment has been selected with due regard to local receptors. The selection of low noise equipment and implementation of general operational measures reduce the potential for any noise and vibration emissions, such as: • daily site checks for noise and vibration in external site areas; • implementation of a PPMR; • all plant and equipment are turned off when not in use; • all site plant and equipment is subject to daily checks; • relevant personnel trained in noise management procedures and all personnel will be trained in the prompt reporting of any abnormal noise so it may be rectified. In the event of elevated noise being experienced at the Facility, it will be recorded and an investigation will be undertaken to establish the root cause and implement corrective actions.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Possible noise nuisance.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.

Table 4: Amenity Risk Assessment (cont.)

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Pests						
Attraction of pests due to waste activities.	Ecological and human sensitive receptors in surrounding area (see Section 2.2 and 2.3 of this ERA).	Release to Air. Facility is close enough for potential odour emissions to reach potentially sensitive receptors.	Pest control measures are summarised as follows: • regular cleaning and strict housekeeping standards. Infrastructure kept clear and subject to housekeeping inspections and procedures. • surfacing kept clear to ensure easy cleaning where necessary; • daily site checks which include checks for the presence of pests and to ensure housekeeping standards are maintained; • all storage skips are sealed; and • all relevant employees are also trained to understand the signs of pest activity and the need to report any evidence of pests or pest activity to a designated manager; and • where required, employment of an external contractor to implement and monitor a pest control programme at the Facility will be implemented.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Possible pest nuisance.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.

Table 5: Accident Risk Assessment

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Fire						
Fire at the site.	Ecological and human sensitive receptors in surrounding area (see Section 2.2 and 2.3 of this ERA).	Release to Air – windblown dispersion in atmosphere.	A Fire Risk Assessment ("FRA") is undertaken on a regular basis in accordance with relevant legislation, including the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The purpose of the FRA is to evaluate and to remove/minimise the fire risk by implementation of relevant control measures. The FRA has been reviewed and updated to account for changes to fire risk as a result of the variation. Regular inspections and preventative maintenance on all equipment is undertaken to prevent any faults occurring which may lead to a fire. Fire extinguishers are in strategic positions throughout the Facility and inspected on an annual basis. Nominated personnel are trained in the appropriate use of fire extinguishers. Procedures for the reporting and management of incidents and potential emergency situations including fire have been developed. Evacuation drills are undertaken annually to ensure all staff are aware of the emergency procedures.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Combustion gases (smoke) and localised nuisance.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.

Table 5: Accident Risk Assessment (cont.)

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Fire (Cont.)						
Fire at the site (cont.).	Ecological and human sensitive receptors in surrounding area (see Section 2.2 and 2.3 of this ERA).	Release to Air – windblown dispersion in atmosphere.	The Head of Streetscene and Waste has overall responsibility for the review and implementation of the Facility emergency procedures and training nominated emergency response staff in their responsibilities.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Combustion gases (smoke) and localised nuisance.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.
Releases of potentially contaminated firewater.	Local watercourse network, offsite wastewater treatment plant and subsequently controlled waters, ground or groundwater.	Via site drainage network, percolation through ground or via overland flow.	Potentially contaminated firewater will be appropriately contained and tested prior to disposal. Depending on the scale of the fire and the volume of firewater to be contained, booms, bunds and drain mats will be used to capture small volumes of firewater. Drain mats will be deployed in order to prevent any firewater from entering any surface water drains.	Medium Risk management measures should prevent any release from reaching the identified receptors.	Contamination of controlled waters. Contamination of offsite wastewater treatment plant and subsequent contamination of controlled waters.	Not significant if risk management measures are adhered to.

Table 5: Accident Risk Assessment (cont.)

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Spillage of Potentially Polluting Substances						
Loss of containment during loading, unloading and storage of potentially polluting substances.	Local watercourse network, offsite wastewater treatment plant and subsequently controlled waters, ground or groundwater.	Via site drainage network, percolation through ground or via overland flow.	The Facility benefits from impermeable surfacing to prevent any downward migration of potentially pollution substances entering the ground or groundwater. Site personnel supervise waste deliveries at all times. Storage vessel levels are checked prior to unloading to prevent overfilling. Waste will be stored in secure, enclosed and segregated waste storage areas. This will minimise the risk of odour, litter and pest infestation and will also further reduce the risk of emissions arising from a spillage / loss of containment. Barriers and signage are in place to prevent the risk of vehicle collision with storage vessels. Weekly site inspections are undertaken to observe any spillages and to inspect the integrity of the waste containers. The checks are recorded on a check sheet whilst any remedial action required is recorded electronically.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Contamination of controlled waters. Contamination of offsite wastewater treatment plant and subsequent contamination of controlled waters.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.

Table 5: Accident Risk Assessment (cont.)

Hazard	Receptors	Pathway	Risk Management	Probability of Exposure	Consequence	Overall Risk
Spillage of Potentially Polluting Substances (Cont.)						
Loss of containment during unloading and storage of potentially polluting substances (cont.).	Local watercourse network, offsite wastewater treatment plant and subsequently controlled waters, ground or groundwater.	Via site drainage network, percolation through ground or via overland flow.	Loss of containment will be dealt with in accordance with the Facility's robust spill response procedure. Site vehicles and equipment will be regularly maintained as per the manufacturer's recommendations All relevant employees are suitably trained in the spill response procedure and the rapid deployment of spill kits which are strategically located throughout the Facility. Spill kit inventory is checked during the site inspections and contents replaced in line with manufacturer instructions.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Contamination of controlled waters. Contamination of offsite wastewater treatment plant and subsequent contamination of controlled waters.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.
Vandalism						
Any of the above.	Any of the above.	Any of the above.	The Facility is secured by perimeter palisade fencing and brick walls with lockable entrance gates with stop barriers and security lighting. A remote closed-circuit television ("CCTV") monitoring system surveys all areas of the Facility. Key members of staff (e.g. Senior Management) are also on call to attend the Facility out of normal working hours if required. All visitors are required to sign in at reception. All staff are also encouraged to report unidentified or unknown visitors.	Low Risk management measures should prevent unauthorised releases from reaching the identified receptors.	Any of the above.	Not significant if risk management measures are strictly adhered to.

5. SUMMARY

5.1. Results of the Assessment

5.1.1. The results of both the amenity and accident risk assessments (Tables 4 and 5) indicate that none of the risks relating to the proposed operation of the Facility will be significant if it is operated and managed in accordance with the risk management measures detailed and the Facility's Environmental Management System ("EMS").

5.1.2. It is not considered that there is a significant risk of odour to be experienced by sensitive receptors in the surrounding area, however, due to the nature of the wastes that may be accepted e.g. fly tipped waste, there is the potential for occasional odorous loads to be accepted. Consequently, an Odour Management Plan (Document Reference CHBC.01.01/OMP) has been prepared and is submitted with the application.

5.1.3. In the event that any odorous materials are accepted, the load will be held in the quarantine area and removed off site within 24 hours.

5.2. Conclusion

5.2.1. The risks in terms of accident and amenity risk can be considered not significant providing all risk management measures are implemented and strictly adhered to.

APPENDIX I
EA NATURE AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION REPORT

Nature and Heritage Conservation

Screening Report: Bespoke Waste

Reference	**EPR/SP3697CC/P001**
NGR	**SD5661817313**
Buffer (m)	**70**
Date report produced	**18/09/2023**
Number of maps enclosed	**4**

The nature and heritage conservation sites and/or protected species and habitats identified in the table below must be considered in your application.

Nature and heritage conservation sites	Screening distance (m)	Further Information
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	200	Appropriate Local Record Centre (LRC)
Fox Hole Wood		
Ancient Woodland	200	Woodland Trust
Fox Hole Wood		Forestry Commission
Wallets Wood		Natural England
Copper Works Wood and Big Wood		

Protected Species	Screening distance (m)	Further Information
Brown/sea trout	up to 500m	Natural England
Bullhead		Appropriate Local Record Centre (LRC)
European eel		

European eel migratory route	Environment Agency. Dial 03708 506 506 for your local Fisheries and Biodiversity team

Protected Habitats	Screening distance (m)	Further Information
Deciduous woodland	up to 50m	Natural England

Where protected species are present, a licence may be required from Natural England to handle the species or undertake the proposed works.

The relevant Local Records Centre must be contacted for information on the features within local wildlife sites. A small administration charge may also be incurred for this service.

Please note we have screened this application for protected and priority sites, habitats and species for which we have information. It is however your responsibility to comply with all environmental and planning legislation, this information does not imply that no other checks or permissions will be required.

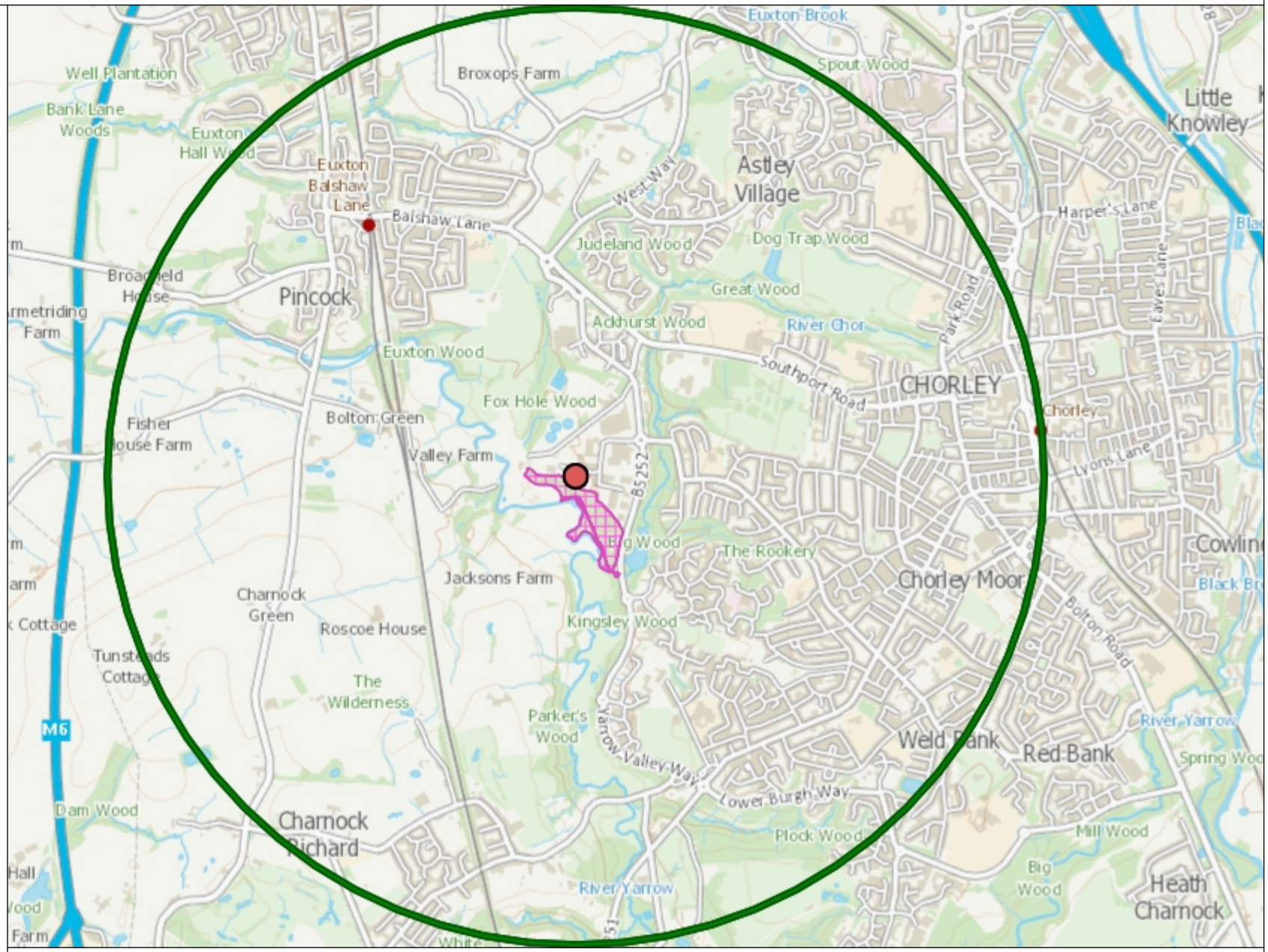
Please note the nature and heritage screening we have conducted as part of this report is subject to change as it is based on data we hold at the time it is generated. We cannot guarantee there will be no changes to our screening data between the date of this report and the submission of the permit application, which could result in the return of an application or requesting further information.

Protected Habitats

Environment Agency

Legend

Protected Habitats screened for Env Permits



1: 25,000

0 625

Metres

N W E S

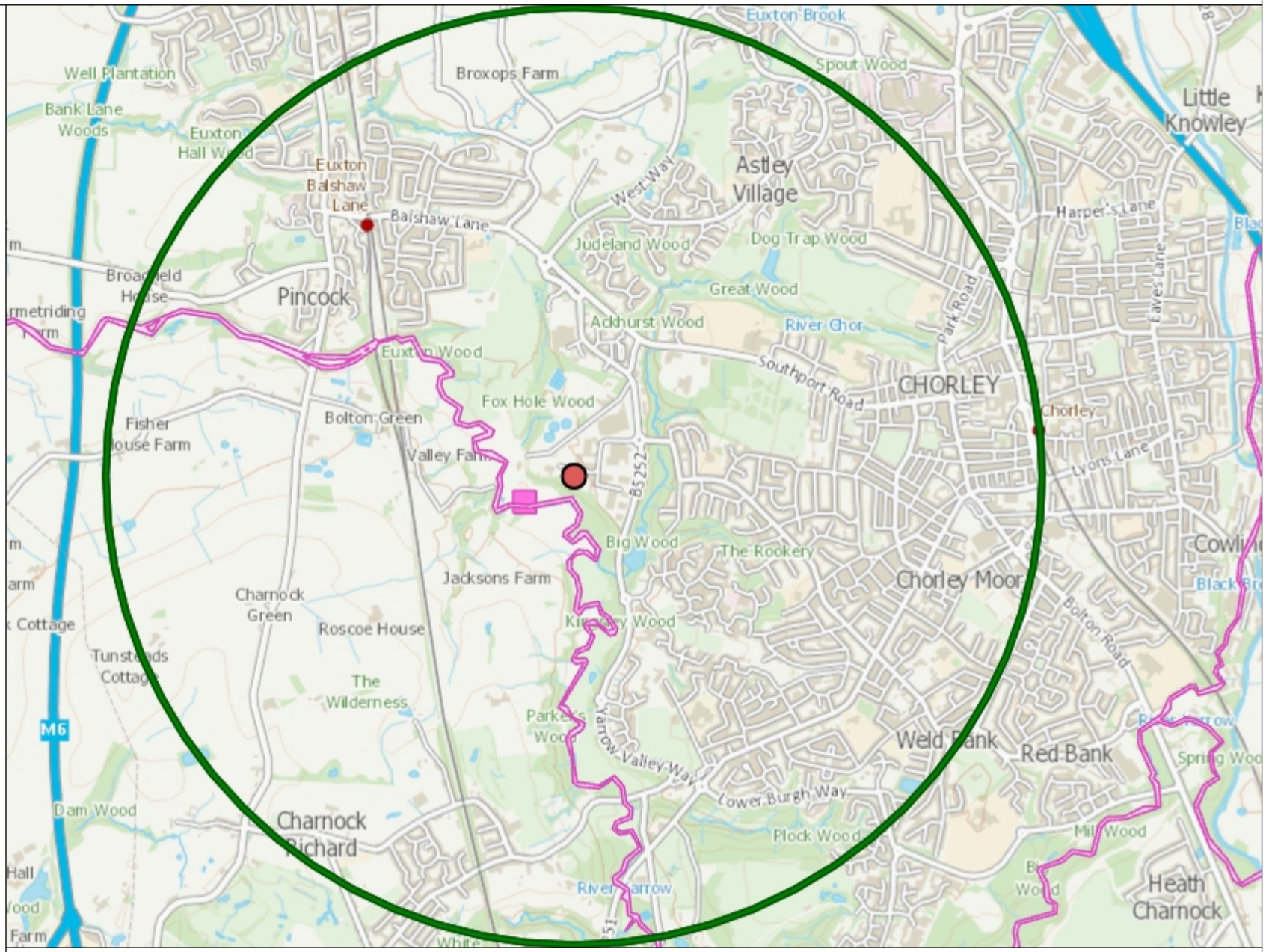
Protected Species

Environment Agency

Legend

Protected species screened for Env Permits - complete set

- Protected species, non fish
- Protected fish
- Protected fish migratory route



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0 625

Metres

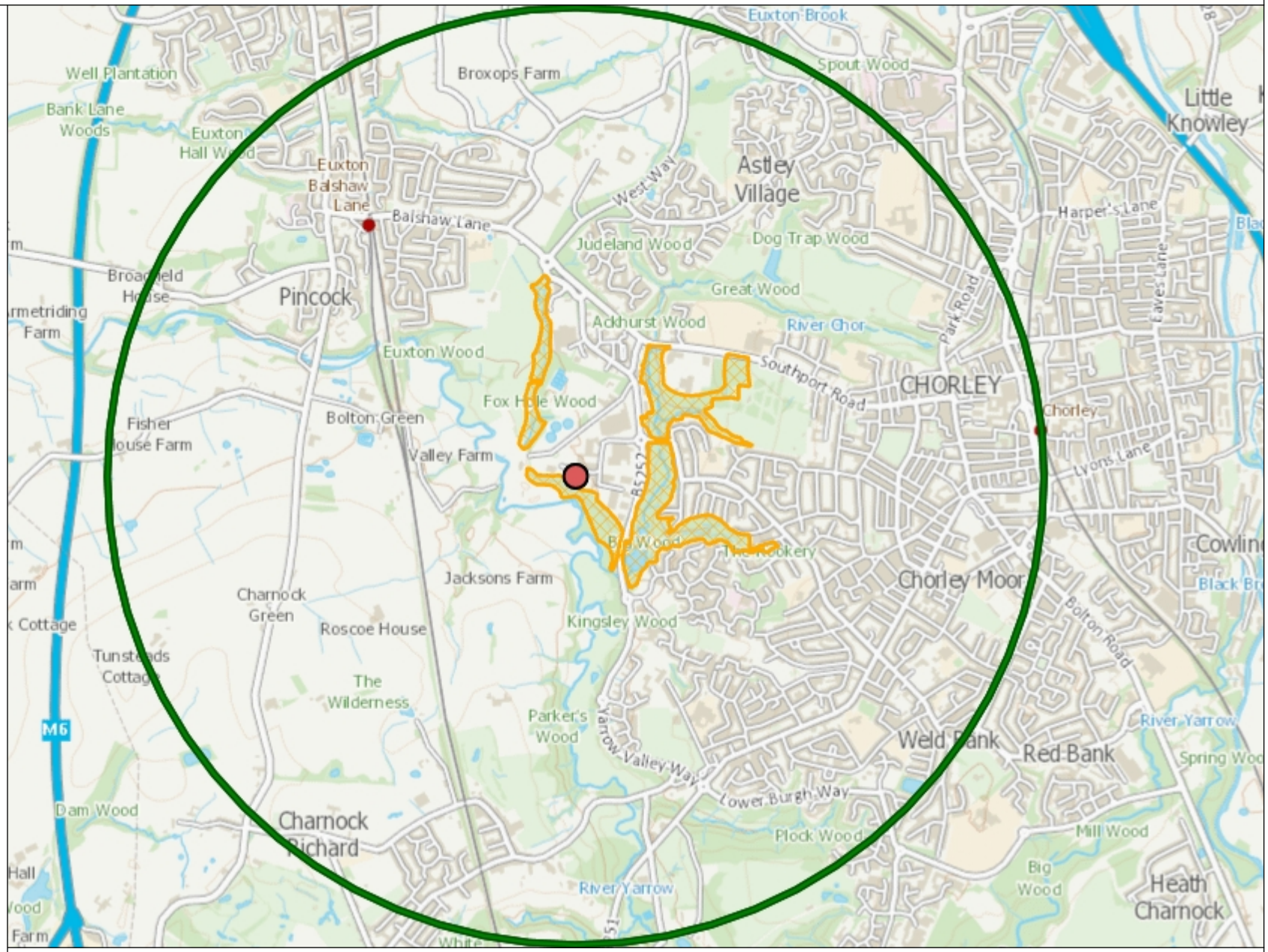
N W E S

Local Wildlife Sites

Environment Agency

Legend

Local Wildlife Sites



1: 25,000

0 625

Metres

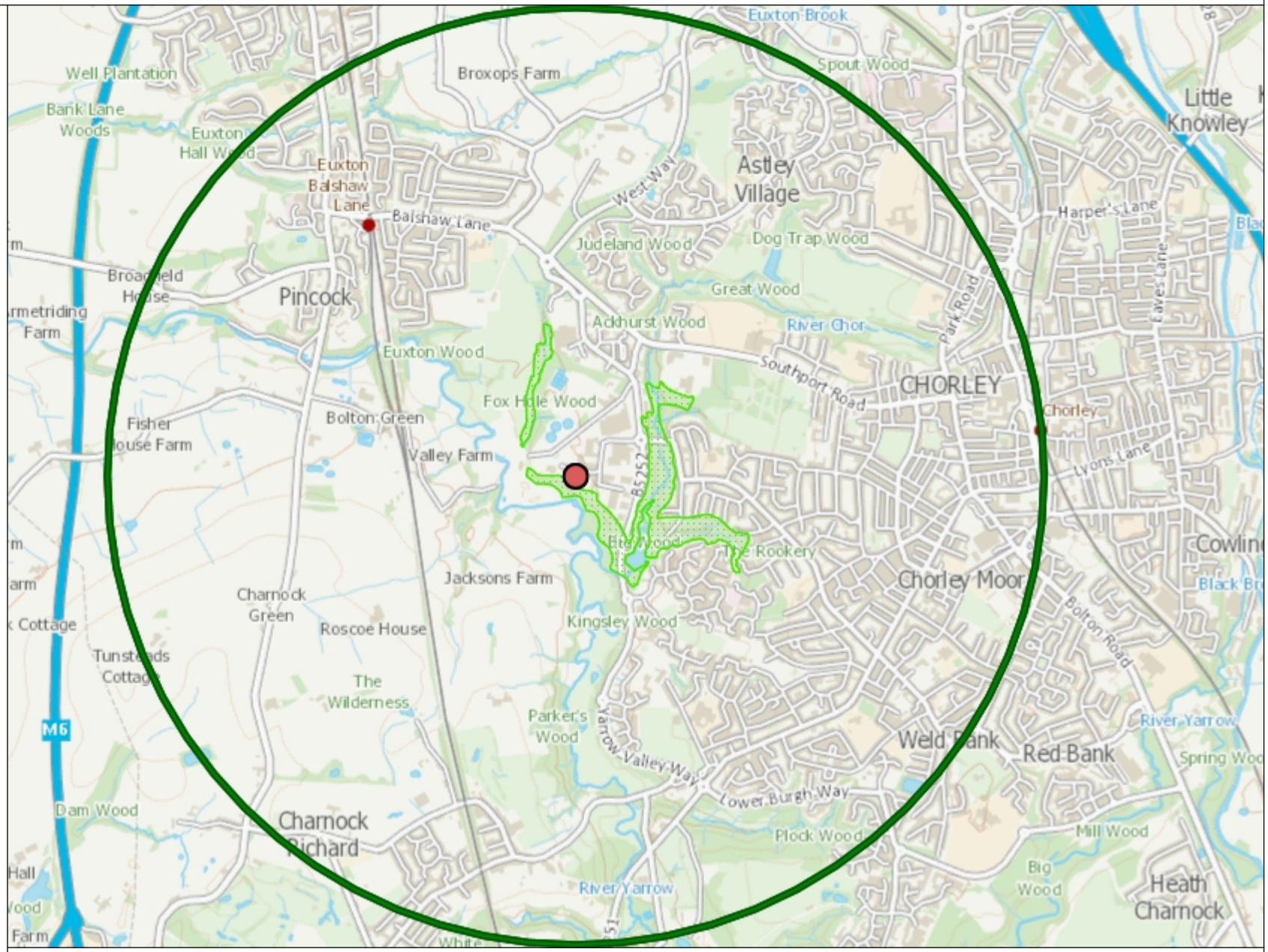
N W E S

Ancient Woodland

Environment Agency

Legend

Ancient Woodland (England)



1: 25,000

0 625

Metres

N W E S