

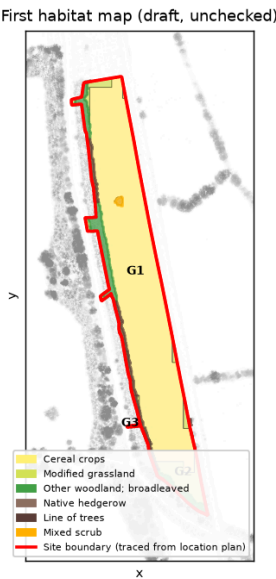
Habitat Draft desk study: Land east of Southampton Road, Romsey

Sample prepared by Fractional Forge, 10 October 2026. Built only from open data and the council's public application.

The application

Council and reference	Test Valley Borough Council, 26/01906/FULLS
Proposal	Construction of 98 dwellings with vehicular access, pedestrian and cycle links (as described on the council record)
Received	2 September 2026
Public record	https://view-applications.testvalley.gov.uk/online-applications/ (search 26/01906/FULLS)
Ecology documents on the portal	Ecology appendices to an Environmental Statement are already published, so this sample shows what the desk study adds before such a report.

First habitat map



Boundary traced from the published location plan (drawing LP.02 A, scale 1:2500 at A1) and placed using the council's map point, so its position is approximate. The ecologist's red line replaces it.

Desk study in plain English

The site covers 6.84 hectares, is fairly low lying with an average height of 16 metres above sea level, and is gently sloping with an average gradient of 1.0 degrees. A desk study of maps and records found no statutory designations within 600 metres, meaning there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (places with legal protection for wildlife), Local Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation, priority ponds or priority rivers, and no long established woodland. However, four areas of ancient woodland, which is woodland that has existed for a very long time, lie within 600 metres, along with 29 features listed on the priority habitat inventory, which is a map of habitats that are important for nature conservation.

The open habitat maps, which classify land cover from satellite images, describe the three parcels as follows. Parcel G1, at 5.8 hectares, the largest part of the site, is mapped as arable and horticultural land, which means farmed ground for crops, with a probability of 0 percent. Parcel G2, at 0.57 hectares, is mapped as grassland of the acid, calcareous or neutral type, meaning grassland defined by soil chemistry, with a probability of 31 percent. Parcel G3, at 0.03 hectares, the smallest parcel, is mapped as fen, marsh and swamp, which means wet ground fed by water, with a probability of 25 percent. The maps also identified 12 patches of tall vegetation across the site, while no streams were found.

For the walkover, which is a visit by an ecologist to look at the site in person and which has not yet been carried out, the ancient woodland within 600 metres and the 29 priority habitat features suggest that habitats near the site may be important and should be checked. The low probabilities for the grassland and fen parcels mean these should be inspected to confirm whether they are genuinely priority habitats, and the 12 patches of tall vegetation should be examined for their value to wildlife. The absence of mapped streams reduces the need to look for water features, though the wet habitat mapped at parcel G3 still warrants attention on the ground.

Protected and priority areas within 600 m

Layer	Features found
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	0
Ancient woodland	4
Local nature reserves	0
Long-established woodland	0
Surveyed priority ponds	0
Priority river habitat	0
Special areas of conservation and protection (500 m)	0
Priority Habitat Inventory features	29

Laser height scan (LiDAR) and ground

Mean height above sea level 16 m; mean slope 1.0 degrees; 12 patches of tall vegetation (hedges, tree lines or woodland) and 0 mapped watercourse(s) found on or touching the site. Heights come from the Environment Agency 1 m laser scan (first-return surface minus ground).

Parcels and what the open maps say

Parcel	Area	Satellite map (Living England)	Second class	Priority habitat overlap
G1	5.80 ha	Arable and Horticultural (0%)	(0%)	none
G2	0.57 ha	Acid, Calcareous, Neutral Grassland (31%)	Scrub (21%)	none
G3	0.03 ha	Fen, Marsh and Swamp (25%)	Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland (17%)	none

Parcel check list for the walkover

Parcel	Priority	What to confirm
G1	High	Confirm Cereal crops and score condition (low confidence).
G2	High	Grassland grade uncertain: called Modified grassland (default grade, no positive evidence); low confidence; satellite-map hint of semi-natural grass 0.43. Confirm species mix and score condition.
G3	High	Grassland grade uncertain: called Modified grassland (default grade, no positive evidence); low confidence; satellite-map hint of semi-natural grass 0.22. Confirm species mix and score condition.
W1	Standard	Confirm Other woodland; broadleaved (medium confidence); measure and score on site.
W2	Medium	Confirm Mixed scrub (low confidence); measure and score on site.
W3	Medium	Confirm Other woodland; broadleaved (medium confidence); measure and score on site.
W4	Standard	Confirm Other woodland; broadleaved (high confidence); measure and score on site.

Limits

No field survey; habitat condition is not scored and no biodiversity units are given. Local wildlife sites held by county records centres were not checked. Habitat types are draft calls from open maps and a decision model (the system) and must be confirmed on site. Sources: Natural England (Living England Phase 4, Priority Habitat Inventory, designated-site layers), Environment Agency LiDAR, OpenStreetMap, read 9 October 2026.