



The Sizewell C Project

6.3 Volume 2 Main Development Site Chapter 14 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology Appendix 14A1 - General Introduction

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Plates

None provided.

Figures

None provided.

Common abbreviations (used in Ecological baseline)

Abbreviation	Term
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASPT	Average Score Per Taxon
B/hr	Bat passes per hour
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BAT	Broad Assemblage Types
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust
BMWP	Biological Monitoring Working Party
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CCI	Community Conservation Indices
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CMR	Capture-Mark-Recapture
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way
CSM	Common Standards Monitoring
CSZ	Core Sustenance Zone
CWS	County Wildlife Site
DCO	Development Consent Order
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
EDF	Electricité de France
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
GRR	Green Rail Route
GWF	Galloper Wind Farm
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
IEF	Important Ecological Feature
ISIS	Invertebrate Species-habitat Information System
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
km	Kilometre

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Abbreviation	Term
KRS	Key Reptile Site
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
m	Metre
MAGIC	Multi Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside
MCP	Minimum Convex Polygons
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MPPN	Mean Passes Per Night
MW	Megawatt
NARRS	National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme
NERC	National Environment and Rural Communities Act
NKS	National Key Site
NKSMP	National Key Site Monitoring Programme
NNB GenCo	Nuclear New Build Generation Company
NNR	National Nature Reserves
NT	National Trust
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OS	Ordnance Survey
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RDB	Red Data Book
RIS	Ramsar Information Sheet
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
S	Season
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SBIS	Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SNCO	Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation
SIP	Site Improvement Plans (produced for European designated sites)
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWT	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
UK	United Kingdom
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
W&CA	Wildlife and Countryside Act

Abbreviation	Term
ZOI	Zone of Influence

Executive Summary

This appendix provides an introduction to the ecological baseline for the proposed Sizewell C main development site (presented in the form of a number of separate appendices) and defines the terms Zone of Influence (ZOI), study area and survey area. It sets out how the baseline appendices are structured and introduces those elements that are common to all of the individual appendices within this ecological baseline, legislative framework, terminology for ecological data, and the process for assessing the importance of ecological features.

The ecological baseline has been divided into nine separate appendices in this volume covering habitats and species as follows:

- **Appendix 14A1** of this volume – Introduction to the Ecological Baseline [this document]
- **Appendix 14A2** of this volume – Designated Sites.
- **Appendix 14A3** of this volume – Plants and Habitats.
- **Appendix 14A4** of this volume – Invertebrates.
- **Appendix 14A5** of this volume – Amphibians.
- **Appendix 14A6** of this volume – Reptiles.
- **Appendix 14A7** of this volume – Ornithology.
- **Appendix 14A8** of this volume – Bats.
- **Appendix 14A9** of this volume – Terrestrial Mammals.

Each appendix has a set of annexes containing figures to illustrate the biological data, together with the methodologies and results for desk-study, secondary and primary data. The standard format of the annexes is as follows:

- **Annex 14AX.1** – Figures.
- **Annex 14AX.2** – Desk-study.

- **Annex 14AX.3** – Secondary data (surveys undertaken primarily by others pre-2012).
- **Annex 14AX.4** – Primary data (surveys undertaken by post-2012).

1 General Introduction

1.1 Introduction

a) Purpose of this appendix

1.1.1 To carry out a robust Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of the Sizewell C power station at the main development site (referred to throughout this volume as the “proposed development”) for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) / **Environmental Statement (ES)** (Doc Ref. Book 6), it is first necessary to set out a detailed ecological baseline, describing the existing conditions for the habitats and species that could be affected by the proposals. It has thus been necessary to assimilate a considerable volume of technical data from survey work carried out between 2007 to 2019, and to interpret this information for the purposes of the assessment.

1.1.2 This appendix represents an introduction to the ecological baseline appendices provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 14** of the **ES** for the proposed development site (hereafter referred to as the “site”). As such, it is the first of a series of appendices setting out the existing conditions within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) of the proposed development. The ZOI has been defined in **section 1.3c** of this appendix from **Volume 2** of the **ES** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

b) Structure of this appendix

1.1.3 This report is set out as follows:

- **Section 1.2** introduces the legislative framework for the ecological appendices.
- **Section 1.3** sets out the general approach across the appendices for obtaining the ecological data used to compile the baseline and inform the assessment, and defines the terms “site boundary”, “ZOI”, “study area” and “survey area”. It also defines how the data have been classified.
- **Section 1.4** introduces the methodology for the assessment process undertaken within the ecological baseline.
- Finally, **section 1.5** sets out the structure of the individual elements that comprise the detailed ecological baseline (i.e. the various appendices included).

1.2 Legislative and policy framework

a) Introduction

1.2.1 This section provides a summary of the legislative and policy context regarding designated sites, legally protected and/or controlled species, and other habitats and species of nature conservation importance that could be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed development. The aim is to summarise the key implications of this legislation and policy, particularly with regard to how it influences the assessment of potential impacts upon Important Ecological Features (IEFs).

1.2.2 Legislation and policy relevant to the ecological assessment has been considered on an international, national, regional and local level, specifically with regards to how these have influenced the sensitivity of receptors, requirements for mitigation or the scope and/or methodology of the ecological assessment. For full details of the of the legislative requirements for terrestrial ecology and ornithology, please refer to **Volume 1, Chapter 3** of the **ES**.

b) Designated sites

1.2.3 Three classes of designated site are considered within the appendices.

- European designations: (special protection areas (SPAs), special areas of conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites);
- national designations: (sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs)); and
- non-statutory local: (county designations (county wildlife sites (CWSs)).

i. European designated sites

1.2.4 SPAs are classified in accordance with Article 4 of the European Community (EC) “Birds Directive” (Ref. 1.1). They are designated for the protection of rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly-occurring migratory species.

1.2.5 SACs are designated under the EC “Habitats Directive” (Ref. 1.2). Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive. The listed habitat types and species are those

considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds).

1.2.6 Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention (Ref. 1.3). They often cover a similar area to that already designated as a SAC and/or SPA, where these sites support a notable amount of wetland habitat.

1.2.7 Before a site can be designated as a European site, it must first have been designated as a SSSI. In many cases, a single European designation may encompass multiple SSSIs. The constituent habitats and species listed within the citations for European sites (often referred to as “qualifying features”) are considered to be of European/international importance for nature conservation.

ii. **National designated sites**

1.2.8 SSSIs are designated at the national (UK) level. Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (Ref. 1.4), SSSIs were re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Ref. 1.5). Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (Ref. 1.6). The SSSI network in the UK provides statutory protection for the best examples of the country’s flora, fauna, and geological or physiographical features.

1.2.9 These sites are also used to underpin other national and international nature conservation designations (SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and National Nature Reserves (NNRs)). NNRs are declared by the national statutory nature conservation agencies under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (Ref. 1.4) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Ref 14A1.5).

1.2.10 The constituent habitats and species listed within SSSI and/or NNR citations are of national importance for nature conservation.

iii. **Local designated sites**

1.2.11 CWSs are non-statutory sites supporting habitats and/or species considered to be rare or vulnerable across the county.

1.2.12 In Suffolk they are identified via a panel that includes technical expertise from Natural England, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. The panel evaluates proposed CWSs against agreed selection criteria to ensure that the sites meet the threshold for designation.

1.2.13 The constituent habitats and species listed within the citations of non-statutory designated sites are of county importance for nature conservation.

c) **Legally protected and controlled species**

1.2.14 Many species of animals and plants receive some degree of legal protection. For the purposes of this study, legal protection refers to species included on Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Ref. 1.5) and/or included on Schedules 2 and 5 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Ref. 1.7), generally known as the “Habitats Regulations”.

1.2.15 Species that are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Ref. 1.5) and/or Habitats Regulations (Ref. 1.7), known as “protected species” and “European Protected Species” respectively, tend to be the focus of impact assessments and nature conservation action in the UK. However, the geographical scale at which they are important varies from species to species. Thus, the designation of a species as an European Protected Species does not necessarily mean that all individuals of that species are of European importance.

1.2.16 In addition, Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Ref. 1.5) lists “controlled” species of animals that it is an offence to release or allow to escape into the wild, as well as species of plants that it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild. These species are clearly not of any nature conservation importance (other than regarding the damage they can do to habitats and species of importance) and are therefore not a material consideration in planning decisions. They do, however, require careful consideration in the design and implementation of development.

1.2.17 It should be noted that a large number of habitats and species will qualify under more than one of the above instruments and will also need to be considered at the correct spatial scale, so the process of assigning importance to these features is therefore a complex one.

d) **Priority habitat and species**

1.2.18 Public bodies have a duty to conserve biodiversity, in accordance with Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (Ref. 1.8). In addition to designated sites and legally protected/controlled species, discussed in **section 1.2.2** and **1.2.3** of this appendix below, a large number of habitats and species have been identified as a priority for biodiversity conservation within the UK. These features therefore also need due consideration in any EclA, although the level at which they are considered important will vary.

1.2.19 Priority habitats and species groupings considered within the appendices include:

- Habitats and species of “principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity” in England, as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (Ref. 1.8).
- Species listed as being of conservation interest in the relevant UK Red Data Book or Birds of Conservation Concern Red List (Ref. 1.9).
- Nationally Scarce species, which are species recorded from 16-100 10x10km grid squares in the UK.
- Ancient woodland (i.e. areas that have been under continuous woodland cover since at least 1600, and which are listed within the relevant County Ancient Woodland Inventory).
- Habitats and species listed on Suffolk’s Priority Species and Habitats list (Ref. 1.10).

1.2.20 It should be noted that a large number of habitats and species will qualify under more than one of the above instruments and will also need to be considered at the correct spatial scale, so the process of assigning importance to these features is therefore a complex one. For example, under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (Ref. 1.8) those habitats and species of “principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England” would be considered to be of national importance, reflecting the fact that these features have been defined at a national level. However, this status relates to the total amount and/or distribution of the habitat or species in question across the UK (and the fact that their preservation is seen as a national priority for conservation), not to individual areas of habitat or populations of species. Therefore, the assessment of importance of the habitats and species within the ZOI of the site is carried out in this context. **Section 1.4** of this appendix provides further details.

1.2.21 Within these appendices, detailed consideration is therefore given to the importance assigned to each ecological feature (both habitats and species, and species assemblages), on the basis of their distribution and abundance nationally, regionally and locally, and this necessarily requires a degree of professional judgement.

1.3 Ecological data

a) Introduction

1.3.1 This section defines the terms “site boundary”, “ZOI”, “study area” and “survey area”, and the terminology and approach applied to the ecological data.

b) Site boundary

1.3.2 At intervals during the progression of the Sizewell C Project design, the site boundary of the site has been revised to account for changing circumstances and modifications to the scheme design. Survey work conducted between 2007 to 2012 was conducted for an area that differs in some respects from the current site boundary upon which the subsequent ecological baseline surveys post-2012 (2012 to 2019) have been based.

1.3.3 Surveys have thus been carried out post-2012 both to update any data (where ecologically appropriate) and to take into account any changes in relation to the site boundary. Please refer to **Figure 2.2** for the site boundary used within **Volume 2, Chapter 14** of the **ES** and the ecological baseline appendices.

1.3.4 The site boundary identifies the maximum extent of the site but does not imply that all habitats and features would be cleared within this area. For example, land take within the north-eastern corner of Sizewell Marshes SSSI would be restricted to the area inside the sheet piles, leaving a corridor of retained SSSI between the sheet piles and Leiston drain, which would also be retained apart from the section beneath the proposed SSSI crossing, which would be culverted. Small areas of woodland, sections of hedgerow and areas of scrub would also be retained within the site boundary as defined on the relevant plans which accompany the application.

c) Zone of Influence

1.3.5 The ZOI is defined as “*the area over which ecological features may be affected by the biophysical changes caused by the proposed project and associated activities*” (Ref. 1.11). In the ecology baseline appendices and **Volume 2, Chapter 14** of the **ES**, this definition includes biochemical as well as biophysical changes, to cover any biochemical changes in the hydrological regime caused by Sizewell C Project.

1.3.6 It is not a simple task to rigidly define the extent of the ZOI for the proposed development, as it follows that the ZOI will be different for each ecological feature (species assemblages and habitats) and the biophysical/chemical

change being considered. Each ecology baseline appendix defines the ZOI relevant to the ecological receptors it examines.

d) Defining the study area and survey area

- 1.3.7 The study area is the land within the site boundary and ZOI of the proposed development. This includes desk-study data, primary data and secondary data, definitions of these are provided in **section (e)** of this appendix, ‘ecological data’ below. Again, it follows that the study area will differ depending on the type of data and the data sets being considered. For example, desk-study data relating to European designated sites extends over a radius of 20km, whilst information pertaining to breeding bird species associated with the main development site covers a much smaller geographical extent, limited to the development footprint and immediately adjacent areas.
- 1.3.8 Survey area is defined as “*the geographical extent over which a particular field survey activity took place*”. As for study area, it follows that the survey area will differ depending on the type of survey activity being considered, and also commensurate with the likely significance of potential effects. For example, survey work for red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*) took place along a 20km section of coastline from Dunwich in the north to Orford Ness in the south and extended for 2km offshore, as it was considered that effects could theoretically manifest themselves over this distance. In contrast, the breeding bird survey of the site covered a much smaller geographical extent, with effects being limited to the site and immediately adjacent areas.
- 1.3.9 Professional judgement has been used to ensure that sufficient ecological information has been obtained within the likely ZOI that has been defined for each habitat and species/species assemblage. The study area for each habitat/species is likely to closely correspond to the ZOI, whilst the survey area will be more limited in extent, being targeted at key areas where it is envisaged that significant effects (either direct or indirect) on ecological features may manifest themselves. Surveys undertaken at different time periods (see definitions of secondary and primary data) may cover different geographical areas, as site boundaries and development plans have developed and altered over time.
- 1.3.10 For some ecological features it was not considered necessary to undertake specific field survey work. In these instances, the ecological baseline has been informed by desk-study alone and/or other secondary data obtained within the study area. In addition to this, some field survey work carried out to test key assumptions (such as the response of marsh harrier to

anthropogenic noise) have been carried out outside of the immediate study area.

1.3.11 Each ecology baseline appendix defines the study area and survey area relevant to the ecological receptors it examines.

e) Ecological data

1.3.12 The production of the ecology baseline appendices has involved the assimilation and review of a large quantity of biological information, both from desk-studies and from field surveys. Field surveys to inform the proposed development have been conducted over more than a decade as detailed in **section 1.1.1 (a)** of this appendix.

1.3.13 The following terms are used to describe the biological data obtained for the assessment:

- Desk-study – refers to any third-party biological data held, for example, by Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service or Suffolk Wildlife Trust, and that has been requested from them in the context of Sizewell C Project.
- Secondary data – refers to relevant survey work which has been carried out by other parties (undertaken between 2007 to 2012). Whilst these surveys comprised detailed surveys carried out specifically for the site, and is therefore valuable for helping assess the current baseline conditions, the results relate to areas that now differ from the site boundary presented in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application which has been amended as a result of design development and the consultation process, and/or may require updating; therefore, this information has been treated as targeted and detailed secondary data.
- Primary data – refers to survey work carried out from 2012 specifically targeted at informing the current phasing of the proposed development. This has built on the previous survey information and has been scoped with the consultees to ensure a robust and complete data set.

1.3.14 The results of the desk-study, secondary data and primary data that have been used to compile the ecological baseline, and thus inform the subsequent impact assessment, are detailed in each individual part of the baseline i.e. the ecology baseline appendices; further details are provided in **section 1.5** of this appendix.

1.3.15 Given the large volume of biological information collated, only a summary is included within the main body of each ecology baseline appendix. The full survey methodologies and results, together with any figures, are presented in a set of annexes to each ecology baseline appendix. Separate annexes have been produced for figures, desk-study data, secondary data and primary data. The structure of the ecological baseline (i.e. the list of individual ecology baseline appendices and how they have been set out) is detailed in **section 1.5** of this appendix.

1.4 Assessment approach

1.4.1 To comply with Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (Ref.1.11) and with the both the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) standard EIA methodology used elsewhere within the **ES**, both methodologies have been used to evaluate the ecological features described within this ecological baseline.

1.4.2 Under the CIEEM guidelines, habitats and species considered sufficiently important (in nature conservation terms) to be a material consideration in the planning decision, as well as legally protected and/or controlled species for which there is a potential for a breach of their respective legislation as a result of the proposed development, are considered to be IEFs. Ecological features can be important for a variety of reasons (e.g. quality and extent of designated sites or habitats, habitat/species rarity).

1.4.3 Under the CIEEM guidelines, the first stage is to identify IEFs, to include habitats, species and ecosystems, including ecosystem function and processes, with reference to the geographical context in which they are considered important. An assessment is then made of whether these IEFs will likely be subject to impacts and, if so, these are taken forward into the EclA as a material consideration in the planning decision. Where protected species are present and there is the potential for a breach of the legislation, those species are also included in the EclA.

1.4.4 Those IEFs that qualify purely on the basis of legislative considerations (such as badgers) rather than as a result of their conservation status, are addressed separately in the EclA from those that are of material concern, with the latter being assessed in greater detail. For both, the **ES** outlines the measures required to prevent any contravention of the legislation.

1.4.5 In line with the CIEEM guidelines, the importance of an ecological feature, as determined with reference to legal, policy and/or nature conservation considerations, is assessed within the following geographical contexts:

- International and European importance;

- National importance (i.e. UK or England);
- Regional importance (i.e. the East of England);
- County importance (i.e. Suffolk); and
- Local importance (within the ZOI of the scheme).

1.4.6 The criteria in **Table 1.1** have also been used to assess the ecological features in accordance with the wider EIA methodology. For some receptors, additional elements have been added to qualify their value. These are presented within the relevant appendices.

Table 1.1: Criteria for assessment of ecological importance*

Importance	Criteria	
High	International; UK; National (England).	Very high importance and rarity. Feature/resource possesses key characteristics which contribute significantly to the distinctiveness, rarity and character of the site (for example, designated features of international/national importance, such as SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and SSSIs).
Medium	Regional (East Anglia); County (Suffolk).	Medium importance and rarity, regional scale. Feature/resource possesses key characteristics which contribute significantly to the distinctiveness and character of the site/receptor (for example, designated features of regional or county importance, such as CWSs, County Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, etc.).
Low	Local - district/ borough (Suffolk Coastal).	Low or medium importance and rarity, local scale. Feature/resource only possesses characteristics which are locally significant. Feature/resource not designated or only designated at a district or local level (for example, Local Nature Reserve).
Very low.	Within the ZOI.	Feature/resource characteristics do not make a significant contribution to local character or distinctiveness. Feature/resource not designated.

*As part of the assessment process, the sensitivity of the ecological features should also be assessed. Sensitivity has not been addressed within the ecological baseline. Sensitivity and a detailed rationale explaining how a particular sensitivity rating has been arrived at for each ecological features is addressed in the Environment Statement. [Note that importance and sensitivity should be assessed separately, as they are to an extent independent of each other (e.g. a feature of high value could be of low sensitivity, and vice versa)].

1.4.7 Within each ecology baseline appendix, the section setting out the relevant ecological features and their importance discusses each IEF in turn. For each feature, importance is described under two headings:

- Description and distribution: in which the habitat or species is described in terms of its distribution and abundance locally, regionally and nationally.

- Assessment: in which the habitat or species is described by its protected/nature conservation/legal status, and other relevant measures, to determine its relative importance, both in terms of the CIEEM guidelines and wider EIA assessment methodology.

1.4.8 As outlined in **section 1.2** of this appendix, the legislative and policy framework for each IEF is considered and, together with professional judgement, is used to assign a level of importance to be taken forward into the assessment. Each ecology baseline appendix gives a detailed rationale for the importance assigned to each IEF and the conclusions reached.

1.5 Structure of the ecological baseline

a) Overview

1.5.1 The ecological baseline of the site has been divided into nine separate ecology baseline appendices covering habitats and species as follows:

- **Appendix 14A1** of this volume – Introduction to the Ecological Baseline.
- **Appendix 14A2** of this volume – Designated Sites.
- **Appendix 14A3** of this volume – Plants and Habitats.
- **Appendix 14A4** of this volume - Invertebrates.
- **Appendix 14A5** of this volume – Amphibians.
- **Appendix 14A6** of this volume – Reptiles.
- **Appendix 14A7** of this volume – Ornithology.
- **Appendix 14A8** of this volume – Bats.
- **Appendix 14A9** of this volume – Terrestrial Mammals.

b) Appendix structure

1.5.2 Within the main text of all the ecology baseline appendices, the structure follows the same format as described below:

- Executive summary which gives a summary of the appendix and the key conclusions reached.
- **Section 1.1** provides an introduction to the appendix and defines the ZOI as well as study area and survey area for the ecological receptors concerned.
- **Section 1.2** sets out the approach and methodology used for obtaining the desk-study and secondary data used to inform the assessment, as well as the results of this data acquisition. Figures are produced in **Annex 1**, whilst the desk-study is presented in **Annex 2** and secondary data presented in **Annex 3**.
- **Section 1.3** first sets out the approach and methodology for obtaining the primary data, then provides the results of this survey work. The detailed data underpinning these results are presented in **Annex 4**.
- Finally, **section 1.4** brings together all of this information into a detailed consideration of the baseline conditions for the relevant ecological receptor within the ZOI of the proposed development. This section considers the nature conservation importance and legal protection of the relevant ecological receptor and follows CIEEM guidelines (Ref. 1.11) to assess whether the ecological receptors considered can be categorised as IEF's potentially affected by the proposed development. The value and sensitivity of the ecological features are also assessed in accordance with the wider EIA methodology used elsewhere within the **ES**.

1.5.3 The exceptions to this format are:

- **Appendix 14A2** – Designated Sites, where the format has been amended slightly as this appendix does not include secondary or primary data; and
- **Appendix 14A4** – Invertebrates, where due to the complexity of the secondary and primary data, it was more logical to combine the reporting of these within **section 1.3**, with desk-study data reported in **section 2** of this appendix.

c) Annexes

1.5.4 Each ecology baseline appendix has a set of annexes containing figures that illustrate the biological data together with the detailed methodologies

and data for the desk-study, and secondary and primary data. Using the example of the **Appendix 14A3** – Plants and Habitats as an example, the format of the annexes are as follows:

- **Annex 14A3.1** – Figures (related to plants and habitat distribution).
- **Annex 14A3.2** – Desk-study (information related to plants and habitats).
- **Annex 14A3.3** – Secondary data (plants and habitat surveys undertaken by others pre-2012).
- **Annex 14A3.4** – Primary data (plants and habitats surveys undertaken from 2012).

1.5.5 **Appendix 14A7** of this volume – Ornithology and **Appendix 14A8** of this volume – Bats are the largest elements of the ecological baseline, as both groups are IEFs and the baseline is underpinned by an extensive suite of survey work, reflecting the importance of the habitats within and adjacent to the site for these species groups. To ensure that the ecological baseline for these two elements is comparable to the other habitat and species sections, a slightly different approach has been adopted. Additional annexes have been provided with each of these sections to reduce the volume of text within the individual appendix, as follows:

- Ornithology – two additional annexes have been included, one covering survey methodologies, and the second containing species accounts (that is a summary of the ecological information about the individual bird species that have been the subject of the survey work).
- Bats – two additional annexes have been included, one covering survey methodologies, and the second containing survey results.

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