



*Desk Study June  
2018*

**COOMBS ENVIRONMENTAL LTD**

**UNIT 6, NEW BUILDINGS FARM  
WINCHESTER ROAD  
PETERSFIELD  
GU32 3PB**

**DESK STUDY**

**JUNE 2018**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Written by</b>	██████████	3.06.2018
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Coombs Forestry Ltd was commissioned to undertake a Desk Study for a stretch of railway from New Cross Gate Station, Greater London to Sevenoaks Tunnel, London End, Kent (hereafter referred to as "the site").

### **1.2 Site context**

The section of track measures approximately 28km in length (Fig 1.1). The National Grid Reference (NGR) of the site at the north-westernmost point at New Cross Gate Station is TQ36737713 and at the south-eastern most point at the Sevenoaks Tunnel is TQ52595449. – 4m 1298y to 22m 1166y.

Figure 1.1: Location of the site



Fig 1.2 Details of track route and sections. Section L to I - New Cross Gate Station to Grove Park Station

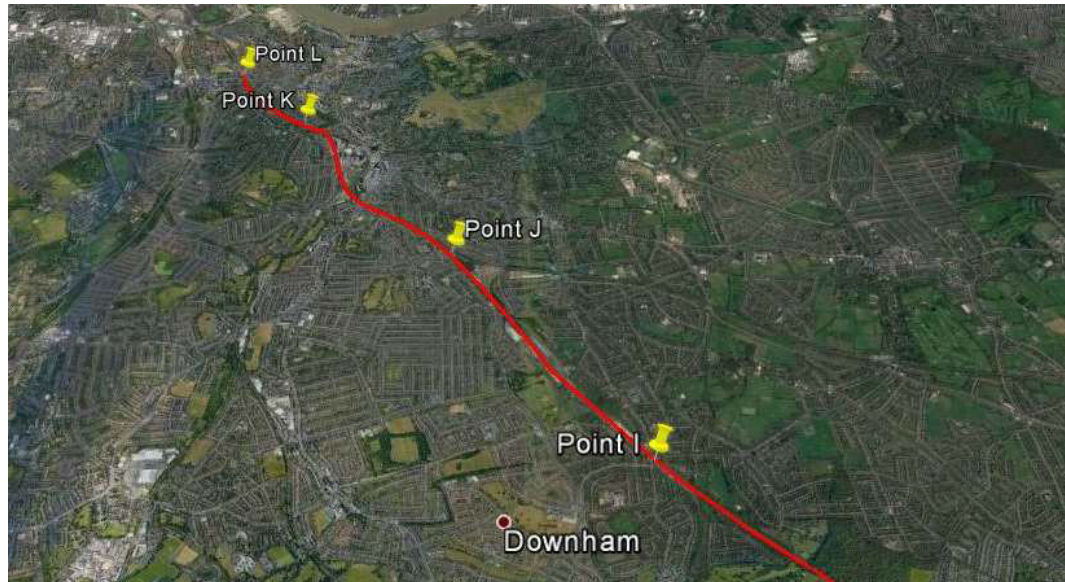


Fig 1.3 Details of track route and sections. Section I to E - Grove Park Station to Orpington Station

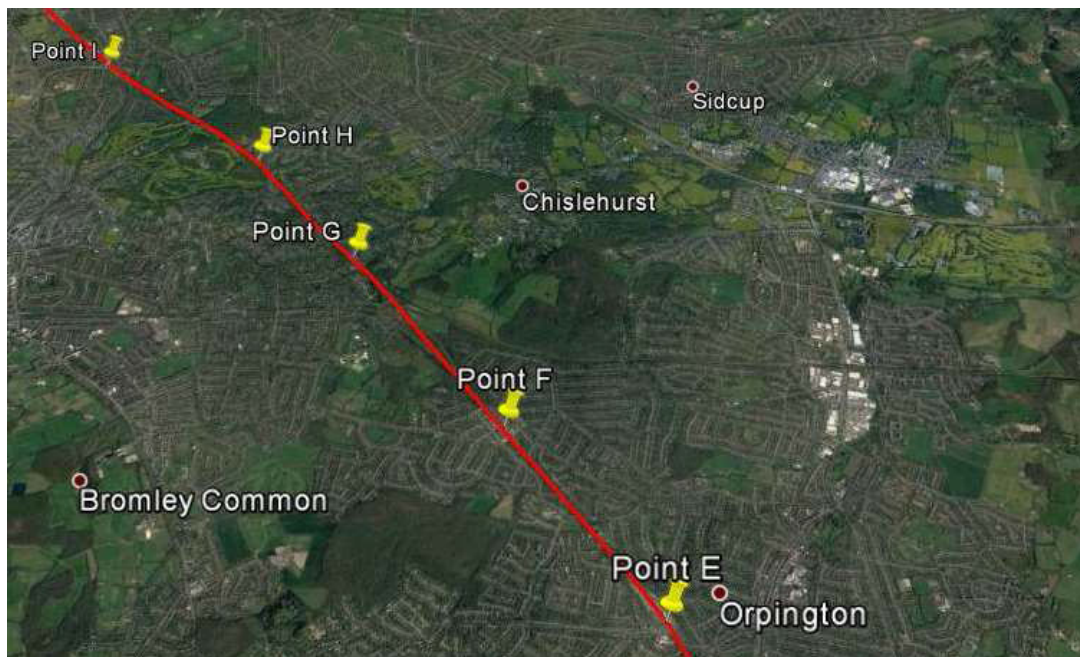
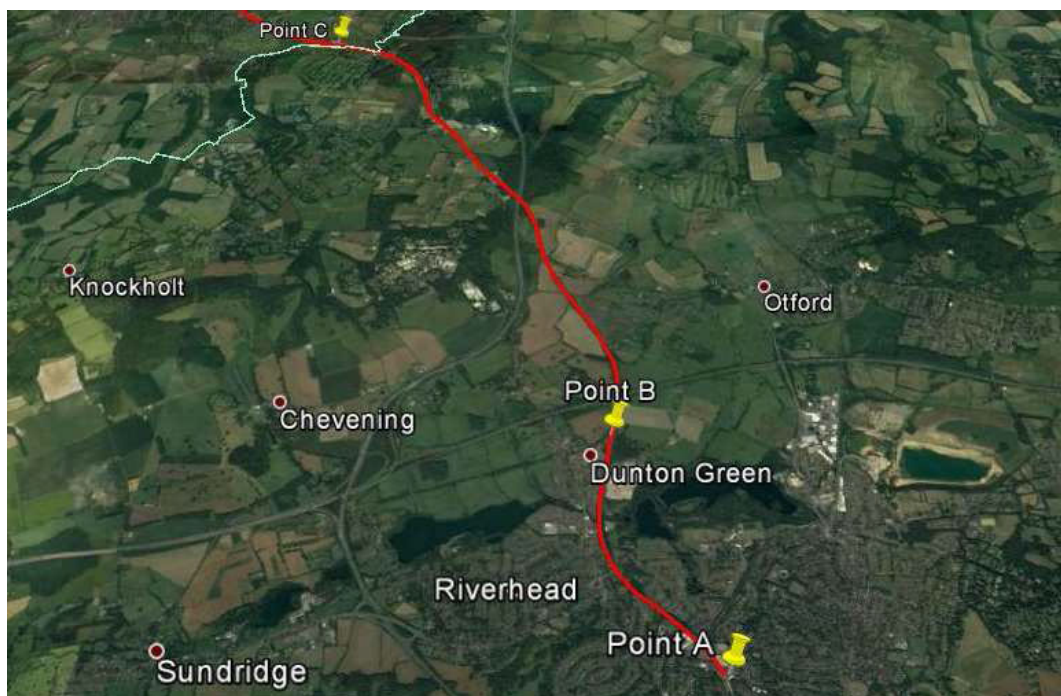




Fig 1.4 Details of track route and sections. Section E to C - Orpington Station to Knockholt Station.



Fig 1.5 Details of track route and sections. Section C to A - Knockholt Station to Sevenoaks Station.



### **1.3 Site description**

The stretch of railway runs out of Greater London through mostly residential areas and urban fringe habitats until it reaches the southern boundary of Orpington. From here until the south-eastern end of the study area at Sevenoaks land use changes, with arable fields and scattered broadleaved woodlands bordering the track.

### **1.4 Purpose of the report**

The purpose of the Desk Study was to:

- identify if any statutorily/non-statutorily designated sites are present within 500m of the site
- list any habitats of conservation concern at county level



## **2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Desk study and consultations**

A Desk Study is a search of the surrounding area of the site and provides an insight into the geographical and ecological scope of the survey. It entails performing searches for protected and notable habitats within and around the site from aerial imagery/OS maps.

The desktop study involved conducting database searches for statutorily and non-statutorily designated sites, and features of interest within a 500m wide zone either side of the track. The study will consider the site in sections between stations (Figs 1.2 to 1.5) based on a review of existing available information including:

- MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside) website;
- Ordnance Survey mapping (to identify potentially notable habitats);
- aerial photography (e.g. Google maps)
- Greater London and Kent Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **2.2 Quality assurance**

CSM Ecology carried out a Desk Study in August 2016. The survey was undertaken by [REDACTED] has over twenty years' experience in environmental management and ecology. [REDACTED] has extensive training and experience of Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys and holds a wide range of protected species licences and regularly co-ordinates and project manages a full range of habitat and protected species surveys.

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### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Statutory and Non-statutory sites

**Table 3.1: Designated sites**

Section	Designation	Site details
New Cross Gate Station to Grove Park Station (L to I)	LNR	Name: Brookmill Nature Reserve Reference: 1122974 Hectares: 0.44 NGR: TQ3758 7645
Grove Park Station to Orpington Station (I to E)	SSSI	Name: Elmstead Pit Reference: 1064049 Citation: 1004877 Hectares: 0.05 NGR: TQ4232 7068 <b>Hyperlink</b> <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1004877">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1004877</a>
	LNR	Name: Jubilee Country Park Reference: 1008974 Hectares: 28.67 NGR: TQ4357 6808
Orpington Station to Knockholt Station (E to C)	AONB	Name: Kent Downs Reference: 18 Date Designated: 1968 Statutory area in sq. km: 879 <a href="http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/visit-aonbs/kent-downs-aonb">http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/visit-aonbs/kent-downs-aonb</a>
Knockholt Station to Sevenoaks Station (C to A)	AONB	Name: Kent Downs Reference: 18 Date Designated: 1968 Statutory area in sq. km: 879 <a href="http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/visit-aonbs/kent-downs-aonb">http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/visit-aonbs/kent-downs-aonb</a>

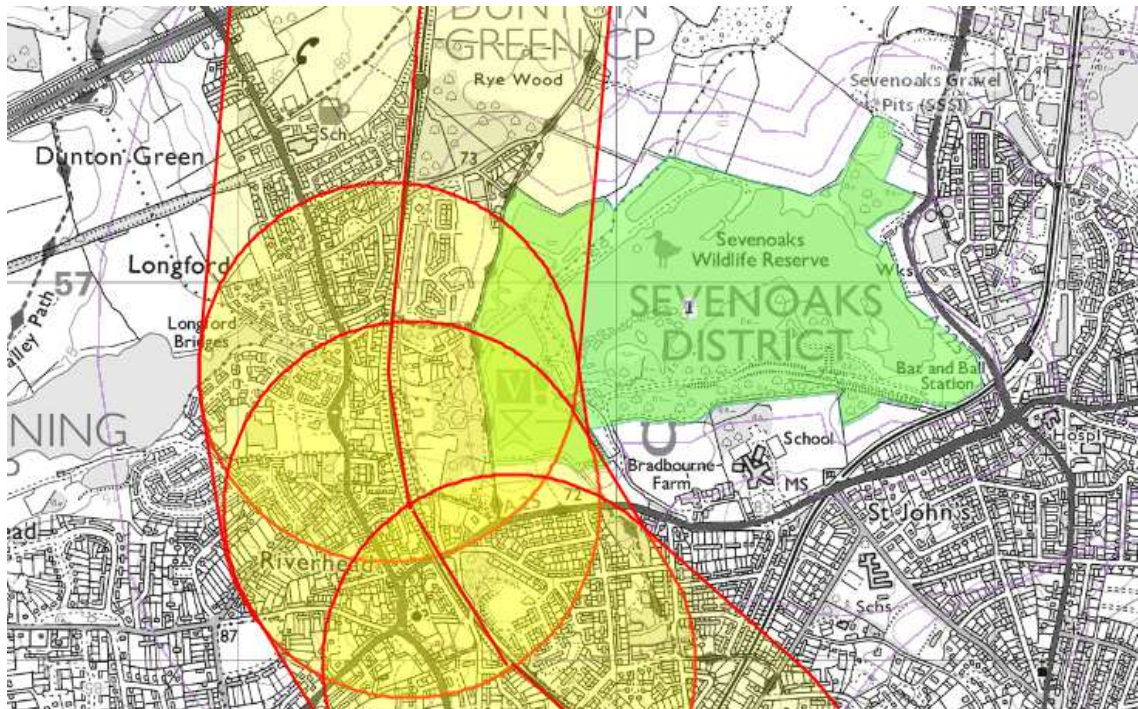
**Table 3.1: Designated sites (Cont.)**

Section	Designation	Site details
Knockholt Station to Sevenoaks Station (C to A)	SSSI	Name: Sevenoaks Gravel Pits Reference: 1062662 Citation: 1006909 Hectares: 73.7 <b>Hyperlink</b> <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1006909">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1006909</a>
See Fig. 3.2 for detailed map		TQ5220 5694

**Figure 3.1 Elmstead Pit SSSI (Green spot) and 1km corridor scope of desk study**



Figure 3.2 Sevenoaks Gravel Pit SSSI (green) and 1km corridor scope of desk study



### 3.2 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs)

#### 3.2.1 Kent Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species

Common name	Scientific name	UKBAP (yes / No)
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Yes
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Yes
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Yes
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Yes
Corn bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	No
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	No
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Yes
Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Yes
Allis shad	<i>Alosa alosa</i>	Yes
Twaite shad	<i>Alosa alosa</i>	Yes
Natterjack toad	<i>Bufo calamita</i>	Yes
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Yes
Sand lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Yes
Brown hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Yes
Pipistrelle species	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> ; & <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeu</i>	Yes
Hazel dourouse	<i>Muscardinus avellenarius</i>	Yes
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Yes
European otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Yes

For full list of LBAP species [www.kentbap.org.uk/habitats-and-species](http://www.kentbap.org.uk/habitats-and-species)



### 3.2.2 Greater London Local Biodiversity Action Plan species

Common name	Scientific name	UKBAP (Yes / No)
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellata</i>	Yes
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	Yes
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	No
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	No
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Yes
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Yes
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Yes
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	No
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Yes
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	Yes
Common Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Yes
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Yes
Grass snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Yes
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Yes
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Yes
Brown hare	<i>Lepus lepus</i>	Yes
Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	No
Barbastelle bat	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Yes
Bechstein's bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Yes
Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	No
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Yes
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	No



Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>	No
Leisler's bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	No
Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	No
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	No
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Yes
Soprano	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Yes

For full list of LBAP species [www.gigl.org.uk/london-bap-priority-species](http://www.gigl.org.uk/london-bap-priority-species)

### 3.3 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs)

#### 3.3.1 Kent Local Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats

LBAP Habitat	UK Habitat	UKBAP (yes / No)
Ancient and Species Rich Hedgerows	Ancient and Species Rich Hedgerows	Yes
Built-Up Areas & Gardens	Built-Up Areas & Gardens	Yes
Chalk Rivers	Chalk Rivers	Yes
Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Yes
Coastal Sand Dunes	Coastal Sand Dunes	No
Coastal Vegetated Shingle	Coastal Vegetated Shingle	No
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Yes
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Yes
Lowland Fen	Lowland Fen	Yes
Lowland Heath	Lowland Heath	Yes
Lowland Meadow	Lowland Meadow	Yes
Lowland Wood-Pasture & Parkland	Lowland Wood-Pasture & Parkland	Yes
Marine Rock	Marine Rock	Yes
Maritime Cliffs & Slope	Maritime Cliffs & Slope	Yes
Mudflats	Mudflats	Yes
Native Woodland	Native Woodland	Yes
Reedbeds	Reedbeds	Yes
Saline Lagoons	Saline Lagoons	Yes
Standing Open Water	Standing Open Water	Yes
Subtidal Sediments	Subtidal Sediments	Yes

### 3.3.2 Greater London Local Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats

<b>LBAP</b>	<b>UKBAP Equivalent</b>	<b>UKBAP (Yes / No)</b>
Acid Grassland	Acid Grassland	Yes
Chalk Grassland	Chalk Grassland	Yes
Heathland	Heathland	Yes
Parks and Urban Greenspace	Wood Pasture and Parkland	No
Gardens Gardens	Built Up Areas and Gardens	No
Reed Beds	Reed Beds	Yes
Rivers and Streams	Rivers and Streams	Yes
Standing Water	Eutrophic Standing Water	No
Tidal Thames	<i>Intertidal Mudflats</i>	No
Wasteland	Built Up Areas and Gardens	No
Woodland	Woodland	Yes