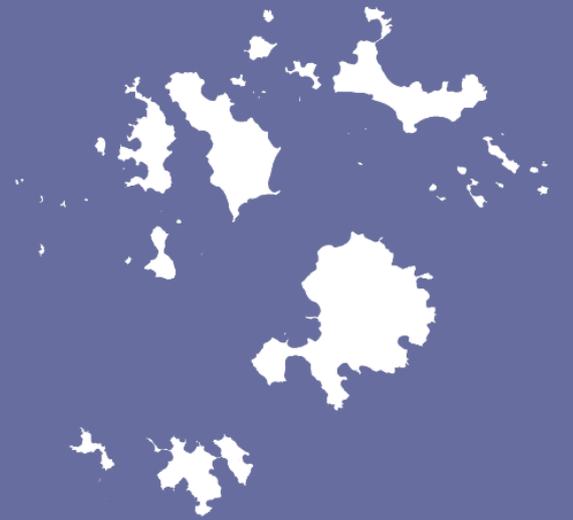


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Isles of Scilly Capital Delivery Programme

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening Report

St. Mary's Welfare Compound

107780-PEF-XX-500-T.RP-EN-0001

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

Pell Frischmann has been commissioned by Trant Engineering Limited to prepare Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening for the proposed development of a temporary welfare compound on the Island of St. Mary's. The proposed welfare compound is required to support the proposed wastewater capital improvement project for the Isles of Scilly covering St Mary's, St Martins, St Agnes, Bryher and Tresco.

Isles of Scilly Council, as the competent authority and Local Planning Authority, are required to carry out (or request) an HRA '*to test if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a European site*' (in line with the UK government guidance 'Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site'¹).

There are no designated European sites within the welfare compound boundary itself, however HRA screening is deemed to be required due to the proximity of the application site to designated features within the waters surrounding the island. The Isles of Scilly Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Isles of Scilly Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are archipelago-wide designations and are located approximately (at the closest point) 600m and 645m south, respectively. The location of the designations is shown in Figure 1.1, overleaf. A more detailed figure is shown in Appendix A of this report.

The HRA process can have up to three stages. This report presents the HRA Stage 1 Screening assessment. The purpose of this stage is to check if the Proposed Scheme are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the relevant European site's conservation/8 objectives. If not, the HRA process can stop at Stage 1 Screening and will not need to progress onto Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment or Stage 3 Derogation.

1.2 Proposed Scheme Location

The site of the temporary welfare compound (hereafter referred to as the application site) is located on land south of the A3110 Parting Carn Lane (National Grid Reference - SV 91762 10782). The footprint of the application site occupies area of 0.39 hectares and is bound to the north, east, and south by hedgerows (traditional stone-faced hedgebanks) and to the west by a woodland.

The application site is situated approximately 400m north of runway 14 at the Isles of Scilly Airport, in a relatively rural setting with very few residential properties in local vicinity. The nearest neighbouring residential properties are located approximately 170m / 200m west / southwest of the site on Parting Carn Lane (the A3110) and Old Town Lane respectively.

The application site is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall and when not in use in support of development it provides land for the grazing and rearing of livestock.

The location for the compound has been used previously by other contractors for some previous infrastructure projects on the island.

Figure 1.2 overleaf shows the location of the site compound.

Transport routes between the compound site and shipping locations are shown within Figure 1.3 of this report.

¹ Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Natural England, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (2021) Guidance – Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

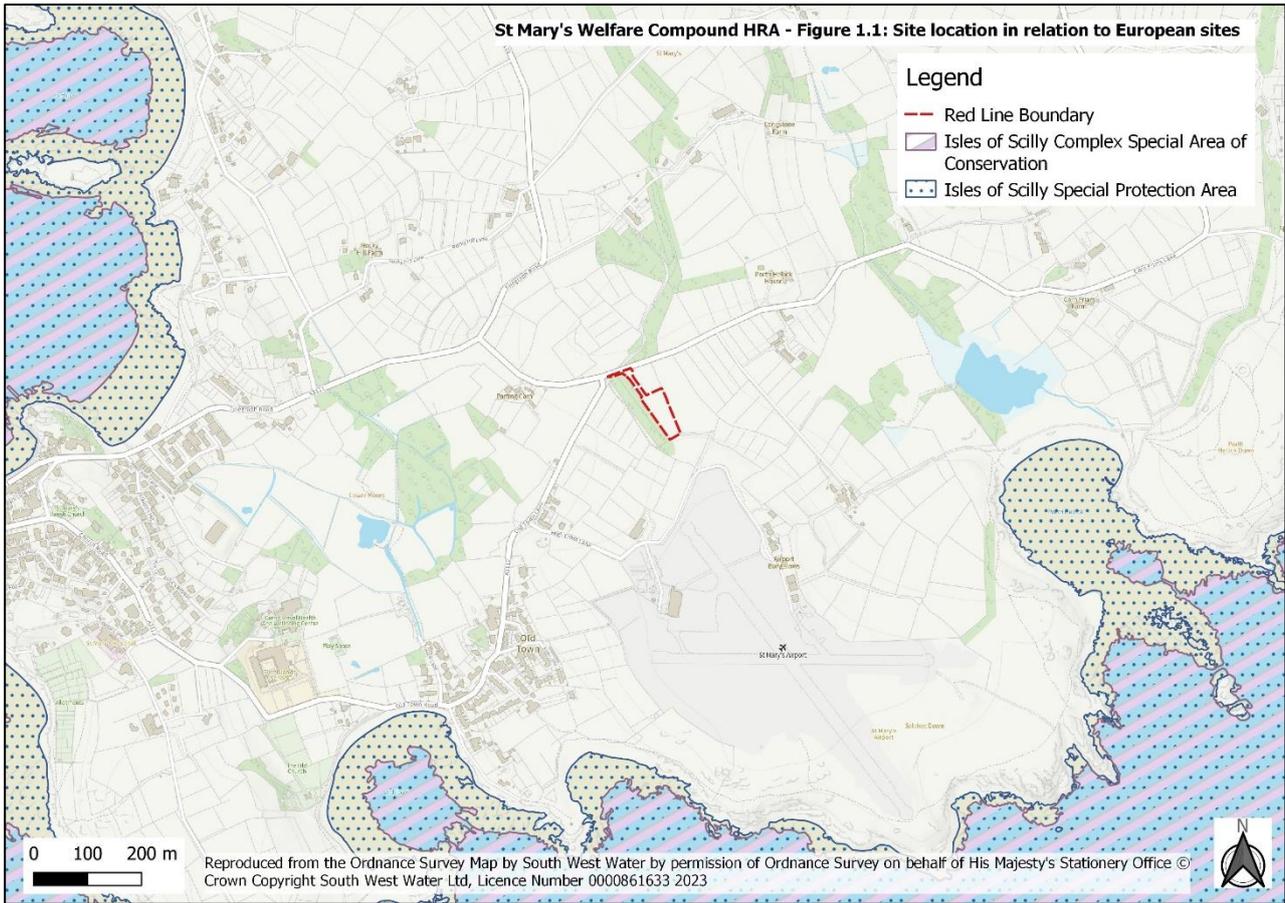


Figure 1.1: Site location in relation to European designations

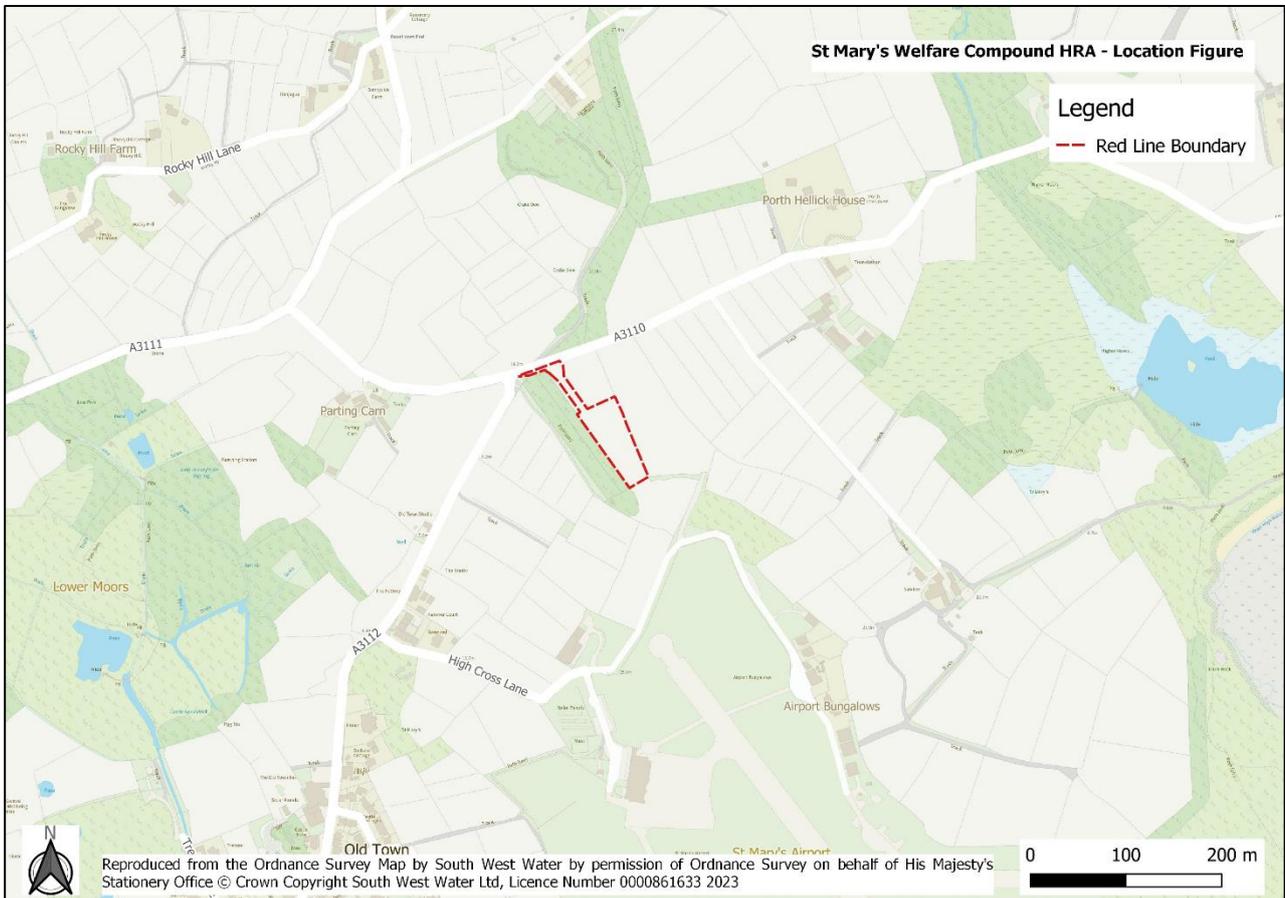


Figure 1.2: Proposed Scheme location

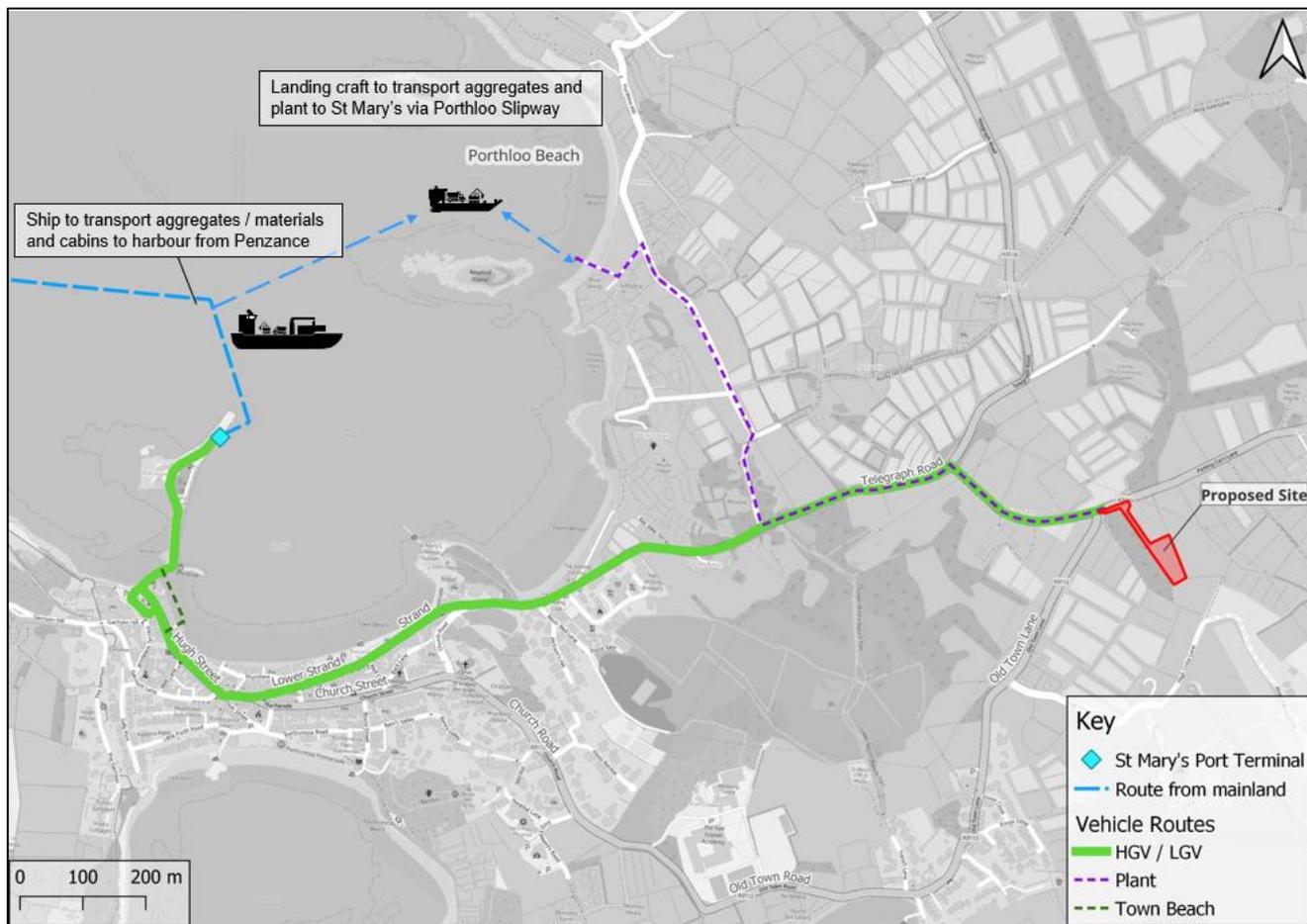


Figure 1.3: Transport Routes from Shipping Locations Figure

1.3 Proposed Scheme Overview

The proposed scheme comprises the development a temporary welfare compound to support the proposed wastewater capital improvement project for the Isles of Scilly. The temporary welfare compound will be in use for up to 4 years and will consist of an access road, parking and laydown area, recreation room, canteen, smoking shelter, meeting room, drying room, 10 sleep units, toilets with cess pit and power supply.

The layout of the proposed scheme is shown on planning drawing 107780-PEF-XX-500-D.DR-T-0003. The compound is separated in to three internal areas with each delineated by seeded topsoil berms. The site layout disaggregated by area is as follows:

- Access, parking and laydown, including:
 - Internal site access track running north-south parallel to the western field boundary.
 - 6 x car parking spaces;
 - Laydown area; and,
 - Vehicle turning area.
- Offices and amenities, including:
 - Generator;
 - Offices;
 - Meeting room;
 - Recreation room;
 - Canteen;
 - Drying room;
 - Material storage area; and
 - Toilet / cess pit.

- Habitation, including:
 - 10 x cabin-type sleep units.

1.4 Programme

A phased mobilisation approach is planned to commence in January 2024 and be completed in March 2024.

To enable efficient on-island construction activities, material deliveries will need to be substantially completed prior to construction commencement to reduce the impact of inclement weather. Materials can be delivered during good weather and then stored securely and be easily accessible on the island.

2 Methodology

2.1 Legislation and Guidance

There are two key pieces of legislation associated with HRA:

1. *The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2017*, which provides for the retention of existing EU law. The key piece of legislation retained and transposed into UK legislation related to this HRA is the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. This retained EU legislation includes the *Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)* and *Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)*. The Birds Directive aims to protect all 500 wild bird species naturally present in the EU. The Habitats Directive aims to protect over 1,000 animal and plant species, as well as over 200 habitat types; and
2. *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*, also known as the “Habitats Regulations”. The Regulations were amended in 2019 followed the UK’s exit from the EU. One of the amendments was that SACs and SPAs in the UK are no longer part of the EU’s Natura 2000 ecological network, but instead belong to a (UK) national site network.

This Habitat Regulations Assessment has been undertaken in line with the following:

- UK Government Guidance: Habitats regulations assessment: protecting a European site, and Appropriate assessment: guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment²; and
- Highways England standard LA 115 Habitats Regulations Assessment³, published as part of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).

The standard LA 115 provides a clear approach to identify potential significant effects upon a European site using screening matrices. The DMRB screening matrices have been adapted for this HRA.

2.2 HRA Stages

The UK Government guidance outlines the three stages of the HRA process:

1. Screening – to check if the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on a site’s conservation objectives either alone or in-combination. If not, it is not required to go through the appropriate assessment or derogation stages;
2. Appropriate assessment – to assess if the proposal would have an adverse effect on site integrity either alone or in-combination. In this stage, measures can be identified to avoid or minimise effects; and
3. Derogation – to consider if the proposal that would have an adverse effect on a European site qualifies for an exemption.

This report presents Stage 1 of this process.

² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019) Guidance – Appropriate assessment: Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>

³ Highways England (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Sustainability & Environment Appraisal – LA 115 Habitats Regulations assessment (formerly HD 44/09), Revision 1. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/tses/attachments/e2fdab58-d293-4af7-b737-b55e08e045ae?inline=true>

The HRA process is underlined by the precautionary principle when assessing potential impacts. If it is not possible to rule out the risk of harm, based on the available evidence, then it is assumed that a risk may exist and it should be dealt with using the appropriate assessment process.

2.3 Stage 1 Screening Process

The '*Habitats Regulations Assessment: Protecting a European Site*' guidance¹ also outlines the HRA screening process. This information has been summarised into the following steps:

1. Identify which European sites the Proposed Scheme could affect;
2. Describe how the Proposed Scheme alone, and in combination with other schemes, may have the potential to cause likely significant effects to the European site(s);
3. Identify the potential effects upon the European site(s);
4. Assess the significance of the potential effects on the European site; and
5. Report the findings, ensuring the evidence is thorough and complete with clear conclusions.

In line with ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union, competent authorities cannot consider any mitigation measures when making a decision during the Stage 1: Screening process. This report has therefore assessed the potential effects without mitigation measures.

2.4 Information Sources

Information sources used during the writing of this report include the following (although specific documents are referenced, where relevant, using footnotes later in this report):

- Natural England – European site conservation objectives;
- Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) – Standard data forms;
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – MAGIC mapping⁴;
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) bird species webpages;
- Isles of Scilly Council Planning Applications webpage⁵; and
- Online mapping (for example, Google Maps).

⁴ Defra (2023) Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Mapping. Available at: [Magic Map Application \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk/magic/)

⁵ Isles of Scilly Council (2023) Planning Applications. Available at: <https://www.scilly.gov.uk/planning-development/planning-applications>

3 Stage 1 Screening Assessment

3.1 European Sites

There are two European sites within 2km of the Proposed Scheme: the Isles of Scilly SPA and the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC. The qualifying features for designation of the two designations are covered within Table 3-1, below. Qualifying features include species and habitats.

It is also noted that the DMRB LA 115 standard recommended that a 30km zone of influence is also considered for SACs where bats are a reason for designation. Due to the location of the works on an island, the 30km zone of influence is scoped out.

Table 3.1: European sites considered within this HRA

Isles of Scilly Complex SAC	
Aspect	Description
Location	Isles of Scilly Complex SAC – approximately 645m to the south of the application site at its nearest point.
Qualifying Features	<p>According to Natural England⁶, the qualifying features of the SAC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (subtidal sandbanks); ➤ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (intertidal mudflats and sandflats); ➤ Reefs; ➤ Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>); and ➤ Shore dock (<i>Rumex rupestris</i>).
Isles of Scilly Complex SPA	
Aspect	Description
Location	Isles of Scilly Complex SPA – approximately 600m to the south of the application site at its nearest point.
Qualifying Features	<p>According to Natural England⁷, the qualifying features of the SPA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>); ➤ Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>); ➤ European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>); and ➤ Great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>). <p>The site is also noted for its seabird assemblage.</p>

3.2 Cumulative Effects

A search of the Isles of Scilly planning applications list was undertaken in September 2023 to capture any major developments, in the previous three years, within 2km of the Proposed Scheme (i.e. within the island of St Mary's). Only full applications were considered when searching for the other schemes, using the distance and date criteria. Table 3-2 below details the findings of the search.

A search was also carried out using the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning project search⁸, although none were identified within the Isles of Scilly.

⁶ Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives for Isles of Scilly Complex Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0013694. Available at: [file:///C:/Users/esamways/Downloads/UK0013694%20IslesofScillyComplex%20SACv2018%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/esamways/Downloads/UK0013694%20IslesofScillyComplex%20SACv2018%20(1).pdf)

⁷ Natural England (2022) Isles of Scilly SPA Citation – Updated 2020. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5846031572926464>

⁸ Planning Inspectorate (2023) National Infrastructure Planning – Projects. Available at: [Projects | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/)

Table 3.2: Planning applications for notable nearby other schemes

Distance and direction from:		Description	Planning Reference and Date
Compound	European Sites		
Approx. 600m south-east of the compound boundary	Approx. 210m north of the SAC Approx. 5m north of the SPA	<u>Porth Hellick Beach, Porth Hellick, St Mary's</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raising of the existing dune at the eastern end of Porth Hellick Bank to match the existing dune profile, new vehicular access ramp through the new section of dune onto the beach. Formalising beach access track at southern end. ➤ (EIA Development). ➤ It is noted that the Environmental Statement for this project is combined with the one for P/21/050/FUL and P/21/049/FUL. 	P/21/051/FUL Decision provided on 21 Oct 2021 (Permitted)
Approx. 660m north-west of the compound boundary	Approx. 85m south of the SAC Located within the SPA	<u>Porthmellon Beach, Porthmellon, St Mary's</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Construction of a rock armour revetment in the south west corner of Porth Mellon Beach. Formalising pedestrian beach access track. ➤ (EIA Development), (Major Development). 	P/21/050/FUL Decision provided 20 Oct 2021 (Permitted)
Approx. 850m north-west of the compound boundary	Approx. 5m east of the SAC Located within the SPA	<u>Porthloo Beach, Porthloo, St Mary's</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Construction of concrete retaining wall faced with greenheart wood to continue the existing wooden retaining wall and placement of granite rock armour revetment on the beach side of the retaining wall. ➤ (EIA Development), (Major Development). 	P/21/049/FUL Decision provided 20 Oct 2021 (Permitted)
Approx. 375m south-west of the compound boundary	Approx. 315m north of the SAC Approx. 250m north of the SPA	<u>Land to the North of Ennor Farm, Old Town, St Mary's</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outline planning application for 12 detached and semi-detached self-build homes with appearance as a reserved matter. ➤ (Major Development), (Amended Plans). 	P/21/002 Decision provided 13 April 2021 (Permitted)
Approx. 145m to the east of the compound boundary	Approx. 530m north-west of the SAC Approx. 315m north-west of the SPA	<u>Land at Salakee Farm, Salakee, St Mary's</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Temporary change of use of land for food waste composting and storage of compost including installation of an in-vessel composting system contained inside a 20-foot shipping container. 	P/23/049/COU Decision due 19 Sept 2023
Approx. 15m to the west of the compound boundary	Approx. 580m north-west of the SAC Approx. 505m north-west of the SPA	<u>Land at Parting Carn Farm, Parting Carn, St Mary's</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Change of use of land for the siting of two self-contained glamping pods for visitor accommodation. 	P/21/023/COU Decision provided 21 May 2021

It is not possible to establish whether the above listed works have yet been completed or not. However, none of the other schemes overlap with the delivery of the proposed welfare compound. Whilst some other developments overlap the boundary of the European designations, as those schemes do not fall close to the site compound, it reduces the likelihood for potential cumulative impacts that occur upon the SAC or SPA. Equally, the nature of the works means that the other schemes are considered to be low impact and unlikely to act cumulatively with the Proposed Scheme.

The three developments located at Porth Hellick, Porthmellon and Porthloo beaches are either within, or very close to, the designations but it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Scheme would cause a combined impact upon the designations when considered together with the Proposed Scheme. Therefore, no significant cumulative effects are considered likely.

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Isles of Scilly Complex SAC

The below table covers the assessment of potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme upon the SAC and its qualifying features. The table has been adapted from a screening matrix template within DMRB LA 115.

Some of the factual information within the table has been extracted from the JNCC standard data form⁹ for the SAC.

Table 3.3: Isles of Scilly Complex SAC Assessment Matrix

Isles of Scilly Complex SAC Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
Characteristics of the European site	
Name of European site (EU Code)	Isles of Scilly Complex Special Area of Conservation (UK0013694)
Size of European site	26,848.62 ha
Site details	<p><i>The Isles of Scilly SAC “encompasses all of the main islands and outlying rocky islets and protects a range of habitats. Rocky reefs in Scilly stretch from the intertidal to deep circalittoral reefs and are recognised for the diversity of the species they support. These include corals, sponges, seaweeds and bryozoans...</i></p> <p><i>Extensive intertidal sandflats are present in the shallow water between the islands and again support a wide range of species, including some not often found in the intertidal...</i></p> <p><i>In addition to habitats the Isles of Scilly SAC is designated for supporting a sizeable population of grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>, which are present all year round and shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i> on a number of the islands. The Isles Scilly SAC overlaps with 10 of the 11 more recently designated Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The MCZs complement the SAC designation by offering protection to species and habitats that are not protected by the SAC”¹⁰.</i></p>
Site character, habitat class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Habitat class N02 , which is defined as: Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)– 20% coverage; ➤ Habitat class N01, which is defined as: Marine areas, Sea inlets – 75% coverage; and ➤ Habitat class N05, which is defined as: Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets – 5% coverage.
Qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (subtidal sandbanks); ➤ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sweater at low tide (intertidal mudflats and sandflats); ➤ Reefs; ➤ <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (grey seal); and ➤ <i>Rumex rupestris</i> (shore dock).
Natural England Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintain or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➤ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; ➤ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species; ➤ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely; ➤ The populations of qualifying species; and ➤ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerability of the European site (i.e. threats and pressures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Threat and pressure code H02: pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources); ➤ Threat and pressure code G01: outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; ➤ Threat and pressure code I01: invasive non-native species; ➤ Threat and pressure code F02: fishing and harvesting aquatic resources; and ➤ Threat and pressure code J03: other ecosystem modifications.

⁹ Joint Nature Conservation Council (2015) Standard Data Form for the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC. Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SAC-N2K/UK0013694.pdf>

¹⁰ Natural England (2023) Designated Sites View – Isles of Scilly Complex SAC. Available at: [Designated Sites View \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/)

Isles of Scilly Complex SAC Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
Project Information	
Land take	The Proposed Scheme will not involve any land take within the SAC, and there is a distance of approximately 645m between the Proposed Scheme and the nearest part of the SAC.
Functionally linked land	There are no habitats within or immediately surrounding the Proposed Scheme boundary which could be functionally linked with the SAC (which is a coastal water body) or its qualifying habitats (sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats, and reefs). As the SAC is not in immediate proximity to the Proposed Scheme, it limits the potential for there to be functionally linked land considering the coastal nature of the SAC and its qualifying features.
Excavation requirements	No excavation is required within the SAC.
Resource requirements	It is not expected that any resources within the SAC, such as seawater, would be required for the construction or operation of the Proposed Scheme.
Maintenance requirements	As the compound will be a temporary one and not a permanent structure, maintenance requirements are likely to be limited.
Transportation, including access routes	<p>As part of the Proposed Scheme, an access road is being constructed within the Proposed Scheme boundary. The access road will be located within the northern part of the compound and will join with the A3110, just to the east of where it branches from the A3112 Old Town Lane. A parking area for vehicles is also proposed as part of the compound.</p> <p>During the construction of the compound, it is estimated within the Construction Traffic Management Plan (report reference: 710013-NMX-WFD-XX-RP-Y-0002) that there will be approximately 75 vehicles attending the site (equating to 150 two-way vehicle movements) for delivery of materials, plant and prefabricated cabins. There are expected to be 2 goods vehicle movements per day and 2 staff minibus movements per day (making a total of 8 two-way movements daily).</p> <p>In Figure 1.3 of this report, the routes are shown for vehicles (both HGV and LGV) between the compound and the two shipping locations (St Mary's Port / quay and the Porthloo Slipway near Porthloo Beach). Both of these two shipping locations fall within the boundaries of the SAC. As the existing routes and shipping locations are being used and a minimal number of movements are expected per day, no impacts additional to the existing usage of such shipping locations or vehicle routes are predicted upon the qualifying features of the SAC.</p>
Invasive species	No scheduled invasive non-native species were identified during the site visit carried out for the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (report reference: 107780-PEF-XX-500-T.RP-GE-0002). The presence of invasive species is considered unlikely. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal identified that the contractor should adhere to biosecurity best practice during excavation and clearance to further the risk of invasive species spread or introduction. This also includes for Dutch elm disease and rats. There is not expected to be a risk of introduction or spread of invasive species to / within the SAC site.
Surface water runoff	Drainage ditches with topsoil berms will be constructed perpendicular to the slope to slow and direct flows through silt traps consisting of strawbales / geotextile. To limit silt run-off, stripping back will be limited to necessary areas (access track, parking and laydown). Due to distance between the SAC and the Proposed Scheme, it is considered unlikely that runoff from the compound would have an interaction with the SAC.
Assessment of potential impacts	
Reduction in habitat area	No reduction of habitat area within the SAC is anticipated as no direct works will be occurring within the SAC as a result of the Proposed Scheme.
Habitat fragmentation	<p>The Proposed Scheme will not cause habitat loss for habitats within the SAC, particularly the qualifying habitats (sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats, and reefs). The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal identified that the habitats within the Proposed Scheme comprised modified grassland and bare ground. No habitats that are qualifying features of the SAC were present. In addition, no habitats suitable to support shore dock or grey seal were present within or adjacent to the Proposed Scheme.</p> <p>Whilst it is possible that there could be some local disturbance to habitats within the immediate vicinity of the compound, the compound is a temporary structure and it is not anticipated that changes local to the compound will have an impact upon the SAC in terms of habitats.</p>
Disturbance to key species (including species density)	<p>The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal identified that the habitats within the Proposed Scheme comprised modified grassland and bare ground. No habitats suitable to support shore dock or grey seal were present within or adjacent to the Proposed Scheme.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Scheme would result in higher levels of disturbance at the compound, due to the distance and absence of functionally linked land within or adjacent to the compound that</p>

Isles of Scilly Complex SAC Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
	could support grey seal, no direct impacts or disturbance of qualifying features of the SAC are anticipated.
Species fragmentation	No species fragmentation is considered likely as result of the Proposed Scheme due to the distance to the SAC and habitats present within the Proposed Scheme. No impact pathways that could affect connectivity for or distribution of shore dock or grey seal within the SAC or functionally linked land have been identified.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – water quality	As there are no watercourses within the compound boundary, or within proximity to the compound, there are not considered to be hydrological linkages between the compound and the SAC (which covers a coastal water body). Therefore, it is not anticipated that there would be adverse impacts upon the SAC's water quality as a result of the Proposed Scheme. In terms of possible groundwater impacts, excavation and stripping back of soil will be limited to the surface layers as far as possible. This should limit silt run-off and minimise the potential for impacts upon groundwater which may be found within the ground profile. It is also expected that best practice measures will be followed during the establishment of the compound site which would further limit impacts.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – air pollution and dust	Whilst there may be some dust caused by the construction of certain areas of the site (such as the parking and laydown area, and the access track) the majority of the facilities within the compound are likely to be prefabricated units which are designed for temporary / short-term developments. Dust is not likely to have an adverse effect upon the SAC due to distance from the compound. In terms of air pollution, there will be vehicles coming to and from the compound associated with both the construction of the compound and also the operation of the compound. As stated above, vehicle numbers are not expected to be significant with an expected number of 8 two-way vehicle movements daily associated with the construction of the compound. Consequently, it is not expected that vehicles associated with the compound construction will have a significant adverse effect upon surrounding receptors. Equally, due to there being a distance of at least 600m between the proposed compound and the SAC, no significant impacts are considered likely.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – visual disturbance	Due to distance between the compound and the SAC, there will not be visual disturbance for the grey seals.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – noise disturbance	Whilst there will be noise and vibration during construction and operation of the site compound, prolonged, high noise activities such as piling or drilling into the ground are not expected. Due to distance, it is not expected that any such noise would have a significant adverse effect on the SAC, and in particular grey seals. A construction traffic noise assessment has been scoped out of the planning application because the low number of planned daily construction vehicle movements are unlikely to result in adverse impacts upon sensitive noise receptors, including nearby protected habitats. This approach has been agreed through pre-application consultation with the Isles of Scilly Council.
Cumulative effects	Various other schemes have been mentioned within Section 3.2 of this HRA report. Of the schemes that were relevant to the search criteria, only some have potential relevance to this assessment. But as explained within Section 3.2, it is considered unlikely that there would be significant cumulative effects. There is limited potential for overlapping impacts due to distance and also considering the nature of the some of the schemes. Of the three schemes within closest proximity to the SAC (i.e. those on Porth Hellick, Porthmellon and Porthloo beaches), it is not thought that there would be significant overlapping effects upon the SAC or its qualifying features.
Assessment of significance of effects	
Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No, the site compound is not connected with or necessary to the management of the European site.
Has consultation been undertaken?	Consultation with a statutory nature conservation body is not mandatory until Stage 2: appropriate assessment. Some initial consultation with the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has been undertaken. No specific concerns were identified for the Proposed Scheme.
Outcome of the screening stage	It is not considered that the Proposed Scheme would result in likely significant effects upon the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC or its qualifying species and habitats. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to progress to Stage 2: appropriate assessment of the HRA process.
Assessment information	
Who carried out the assessment?	Prepared by: E Samways (Environmental Consultant) Checked by: W Thornton (Senior Environmental Consultant) and T Priestley (Principal Ecologist)

Isles of Scilly Complex SAC Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
	Approved by: J Davey (Technical Director – Environmental Management & Sustainability)
Level of assessment completed	Stage 1 Screening

3.3.2 Isles of Scilly SPA

The below table covers the assessment of potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme upon the SPA and its qualifying features. The table has been adapted from a screening matrix template within DMRB LA 115.

Some of the below factual information within the table has been extracted from the JNCC standard data form for the SPA.

Table 3.4: Isles of Scilly SPA Assessment Matrix

Isles of Scilly SPA Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
Characteristics of the European site	
Name of European site (EU Code)	Isles of Scilly Special Protection Area (UK9020288)
Size of European site	13,332.68 ha
Site details	<i>According to Natural England¹¹: “The isolated nature of the islands and rocks, together with their low levels of disturbance, make them particularly suitable for nesting seabirds, with the SPA supporting a breeding seabird assemblage of European importance. The waters adjacent to the colonies are used by large numbers of seabirds for a wide range of activities, including bathing, preening, displaying, loafing and local foraging. The site supports the fifth largest UK population of European storm petrels <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (and the largest in England), the sixth largest population of lesser black-backed gulls <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, the third largest population of European shags <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> (and the largest in England), and the largest population of great black-backed gull <i>Larus marinus</i> in the UK (Natural England, 2018¹²).</i>
Site character, habitat class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Habitat class N01, which is defined as: Marine areas, Sea inlets – 97.24% coverage; ➢ Habitat class N05, which is defined as: Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets – 1.23% coverage; ➢ Habitat class N04, which is defined as: Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair – 0.18% coverage; ➢ Habitat class N02, which is defined as: Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) – 0.01% coverage; ➢ Habitat class N08, which is defined as: Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana– 1.34% coverage.
Qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (European storm-petrel); ➢ <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> (lesser black-backed gull); ➢ <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> (European shag); and ➢ <i>Larus marinus</i> (great black-backed gull)
Natural England Conservation Objectives ¹³	<p>The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintain or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying features; ➢ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; ➢ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; ➢ The populations of each of the qualifying features; and

¹¹ Natural England (2023) Designated Sites View – Isles of Scilly SPA. Available at: [Designated Sites View \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk)

¹² Natural England (2018) Departmental Brief: Isles of Scilly potential Special Protection Area (pSPA).

¹³ Natural England (2023) Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas – Isles of Scilly SPA. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9020288&SiteName=Isles%20of%20scilly&SiteNameDisplay=Isles%20of%20Scilly%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=4&HasCA=1#h1co>

Isles of Scilly SPA Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The distribution of qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerability of the European site (i.e. threats and pressures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Threat and pressure code I01: invasive non-native species; ➤ Threat and pressure code F02: fishing and harvesting aquatic resources; ➤ Threat and pressure code D04: airports, flightpaths; ➤ Threat and pressure code E03: discharges; ➤ Threat and pressure code G01: outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; and ➤ D03 – shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions.
Project Information	
Land take	The Proposed Scheme will not involve any land take within the SPA, and there is a distance of approximately 600m between the Proposed Scheme and the nearest part of the SPA.
Functionally linked land	<p>The qualifying features of this site include a number of bird species. Whilst storm petrels and shags predominantly stay near to the sea / along the coast due to their food supply being fish, crustaceans and molluscs^{14, 15}, the lesser and great black-backed gull^{16, 17} may be found further inland as they are omnivorous and do not necessarily rely on food sources within the marine environment. This therefore means that there could be some functionally linked land where the gulls may scavenge or find its food inland.</p> <p>The works are localised to the compound and are not expected to have a significant adverse effect upon the land which the gulls may use.</p>
Excavation requirements	No excavation is required within the SPA.
Resource requirements	It is not expected that any resources within the SPA, such as seawater, would be required for the construction or operation of the Proposed Scheme.
Maintenance requirements	As the compound will be a temporary and not a permanent structure, maintenance requirements are likely to be limited.
Transportation, including access routes	<p>As part of the Proposed Scheme, an access road is being constructed within the Proposed Scheme boundary. The access road will be located within the northern part of the compound and will join with the A3110, just to the east of where it branches from the A3112 Old Town Lane. A parking area for vehicles is also proposed as part of the compound.</p> <p>During the construction of the compound, it is estimated within the Construction Traffic Management Plan (report reference: 710013-NMX-WFD-XX-RP-Y-0002) that there will be approximately 75 vehicles attending the site (equating to 150 two-way vehicle movements) for delivery of materials, plant and prefabricated cabins. There are expected to be 2 goods vehicle movements per day and 2 staff minibus movements per day (making a total of 8 two-way movements daily).</p> <p>In Figure 1.3 of this report, the routes are shown for vehicles (both HGV and LGV) between the compound and the two shipping locations (St Mary's Port / quay and the Porthloo Slipway near Porthloo Beach). Both of these two locations fall within the boundaries of the SPA. As the existing routes and shipping locations are being used and a minimal number of movements are expected per day, no impacts additional to the existing usage of such shipping locations or vehicle routes are predicted upon the qualifying features of the SPA.</p>
Invasive species	Whilst there may be records of invasive species within 2km of the compound, no scheduled invasive non-native species were identified during the site visit carried out for the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (report reference: 107780-PEF-XX-500-T.RP-GE-0002) and therefore, it is not considered that there is a high risk of species being present. The Contractor should adhere to best practice during excavation and clearance to further the risk of invasive species spread or introduction. This also includes for Dutch elm disease and rats. There is not expected to be a risk of introduction or spread of invasive species to / within the SPA site.

¹⁴ RSPB (2023) Storm petrel. Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/storm-petrel/>

¹⁵ RSPB (2023) Shag. Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/shag/>

¹⁶ RSPB (2023) Lesser black-backed gull. Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/lesser-black-backed-gull/>

¹⁷ RSPB (2023) Great black-backed gull. Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/great-black-backed-gull/>

Isles of Scilly SPA Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
Surface water runoff	Drainage ditches with topsoil berms will be constructed perpendicular to the slope to slow and direct flows through silt traps consisting of strawbales / geotextile. To limit silt run-off, stripping back will be limited to necessary areas (access track, parking and laydown). Due to distance between the SPA and the Proposed Scheme, it is considered unlikely that runoff from the compound would have an interaction with the SPA.
Assessment of potential impacts	
Reduction in habitat area	No reduction of habitat area within the SPA is anticipated as no direct works will be occurring within the SPA as a result of the Proposed Scheme.
Habitat fragmentation	As no direct works will be occurring within the SPA as a result of the Proposed Scheme, the Proposed Scheme will not result in loss or fragmentation of habitats within the SPA. Due to the small scale, low suitability of habitats for supporting qualifying features of the SPA and distance to the SPA, no habitat fragmentation is anticipated as a result of the proposed scheme
Disturbance to key species (including species density)	As the works are not located close to the SPA or within the water environment (or the coastal edge), it is considered unlikely that there would be disturbance impacts upon the qualifying bird species. This is particularly the case for storm petrels and shags which will likely remain along the coast / in the water due to their food source being the sea. Whilst the lesser and black-backed gulls may venture further in land due to not being fully dependent upon the sea for their food, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Scheme would cause significant disturbance to the species or reduce its numbers. Particularly for the lesser black-backed gull which can scavenge food (including from humans), it is expected that they already have some familiarity with human noise sources (such as from tourists) which makes them less likely to be disturbed.
Species fragmentation	No species fragmentation is considered likely as result of the Proposed Scheme, as the compound will not cause fragmentation of the habitats that the qualifying species may use or affect the species directly.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – water quality	As there are no watercourses within the compound boundary, or within proximity to the compound, there are not considered to be hydrological linkages between the compound and the SPA (which covers a coastal water body). Therefore, it is not anticipated that there would be adverse impacts upon the SPA's water quality as a result of the Proposed Scheme. In terms of possible groundwater impacts, excavation and stripping back of soil will be limited to the surface layers as far as possible. This should limit silt run-off and minimise the potential for impacts upon groundwater which may be found within the ground profile. Best practice measures should be followed during the establishment of the compound site which would further limit impacts.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – air pollution and dust	Whilst there may be some dust caused by the certain construction activities (such as the parking and laydown area, and the access track) which require some excavation or soil stripping, the majority of the compound's facilities are likely to be prefabricated units which are designed for temporary / short-term developments. Dust generated during construction is not likely to have an adverse effect upon the SPA or its qualifying features due to distance from the compound. In terms of air pollution, there will be vehicles coming to and from the compound associated with both the construction of the compound and also the operation of the compound. As stated above, vehicle numbers are not expected to be significant with an expected number of 8 two-way vehicle movements daily associated with the construction of the compound. Consequently, it is not expected that vehicles associated with the compound construction will have a significant adverse effect upon surrounding receptors. Equally, due to there being a distance of at least 600m between the proposed compound and the SPA, no significant impacts are considered likely.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – visual disturbance	Although the proposed Scheme would result in higher levels of visual disturbance at the Site compound from vehicle and human activity, due to the distance and absence of functionally linked land within or adjacent to the compound no disturbance of qualifying features of the SPA are anticipated from visual disturbance.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value – noise disturbance	Whilst there will be noise and vibration caused as a result of the construction and operation of the site compound, prolonged, high noise activities such as piling or drilling into the ground are not expected. Due to distance, it is not expected that any such noise would have a significant adverse effect on the SPA. It is also important to note that birds are mobile species which can take flight and move elsewhere which further reduces the likelihood of significant impact. A construction traffic noise assessment has been scoped out of the planning application because the low number of planned daily construction vehicle movements are unlikely to result in adverse impacts upon sensitive noise receptors, including nearby protected habitats. This approach has been agreed through pre-application consultation with the Isles of Scilly Council.
Cumulative effects	Various other schemes have been mentioned within Section 3.2 of this HRA. Of the identified other schemes, only some have relevance to this assessment. But as explained within Section 3.2, it is considered unlikely that there would be significant cumulative effects as there is limited potential for overlapping impacts due to distance and also considering the nature of the other schemes. Of the

Isles of Scilly SPA Assessment Matrix	
Project	St Mary's Site Compound
	three schemes which are located either within the SPA or immediately outside of the SPA (i.e. those on Porth Hellick, Porthmellon and Porthloo beaches), significant overlapping effects upon the SAC or its qualifying features are thought unlikely.
Assessment of significance of effects	
Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No, the site compound is not connected with or necessary to the management of the European site.
Has consultation been undertaken?	Consultation with a statutory nature conservation body is not mandatory until Stage 2: appropriate assessment. Some initial consultation with the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has been undertaken. No specific concerns were identified for the Proposed Scheme, particularly relating to breeding seabirds (the reason for SPA designation).
Outcome of the screening stage	It is not considered that the Proposed Scheme would result in likely significant effects upon the Isles of Scilly Complex SPA or its qualifying bird species. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to progress to Stage 2: appropriate assessment of the HRA process.
Assessment information	
Who carried out the assessment?	Prepared by: E Samways (Environmental Consultant) Checked by: W Thornton (Senior Environmental Consultant) and T Priestley (Principal Ecologist) Approved by: J Davey (Technical Director – Environmental Management & Sustainability)
Level of assessment completed	Stage 1 Screening

3.4 Overview of 'No Significant Effects'

Overall, it is not expected that there would be likely significant effects upon either the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC or the Isles of Scilly SPA or their qualifying features. This is because of:

- There being a distance of at least 645m and 600m from the closest point of the SAC and SPA, respectively, and the proposed site compound;
- The use of offsite manufactured and prefabricated components, such as sleeping units and offices which have been designed for temporary / short-term usage;
- There being limited construction activities which could generate high noise or dust emissions; and
- There is not considered to be functionally linked land between the compound and the designations.

When considering the potential impacts of the compound (during construction and operation) alongside the potential impacts from other developments, no significant cumulative effects have been identified due to limited potential for overlapping impacts and the nature of both the Proposed Scheme and some of the other schemes.

3.5 Conclusions

Overall, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Scheme – a site compound primarily for accommodation, welfare and material storage – will have a significant effect upon the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC or the Isles of Scilly SPA, or the relevant qualifying features (habitats and species).

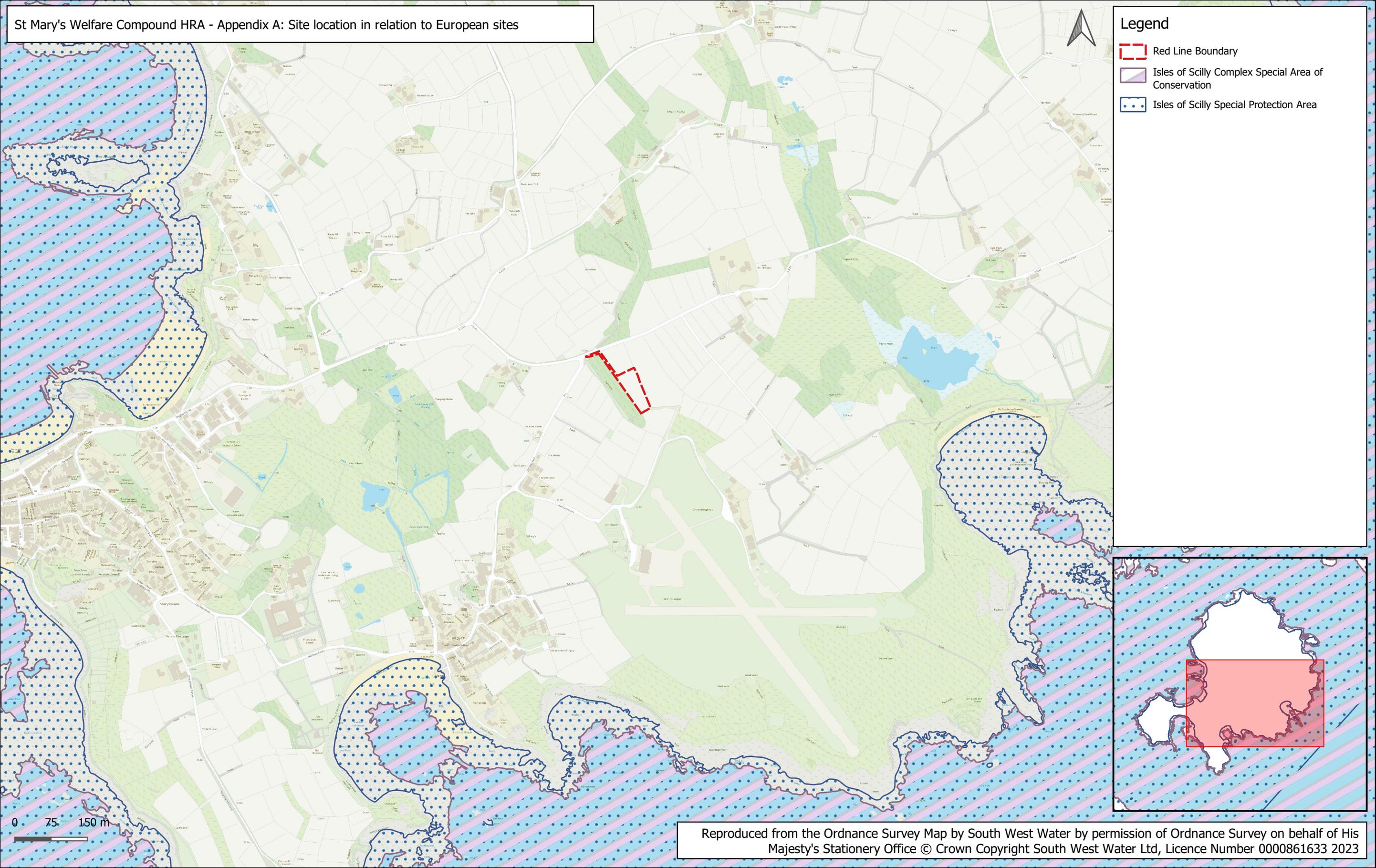
No significant cumulative effects with other nearby schemes have been identified.

Whilst it is possible that there could be some localised impacts in the surroundings of the site compound, these are not likely to affect the European sites which are located at the coast. The qualifying features of the designations are also focused on a more coastal location than where the Proposed Scheme is located which reduces potential for interactions and disturbance for the majority of the qualifying habitats and species.

This means that the HRA does not need to progress onto Stage 2: appropriate assessment.

Appendix A European Site Location

St Mary's Welfare Compound HRA - Appendix A: Site location in relation to European sites

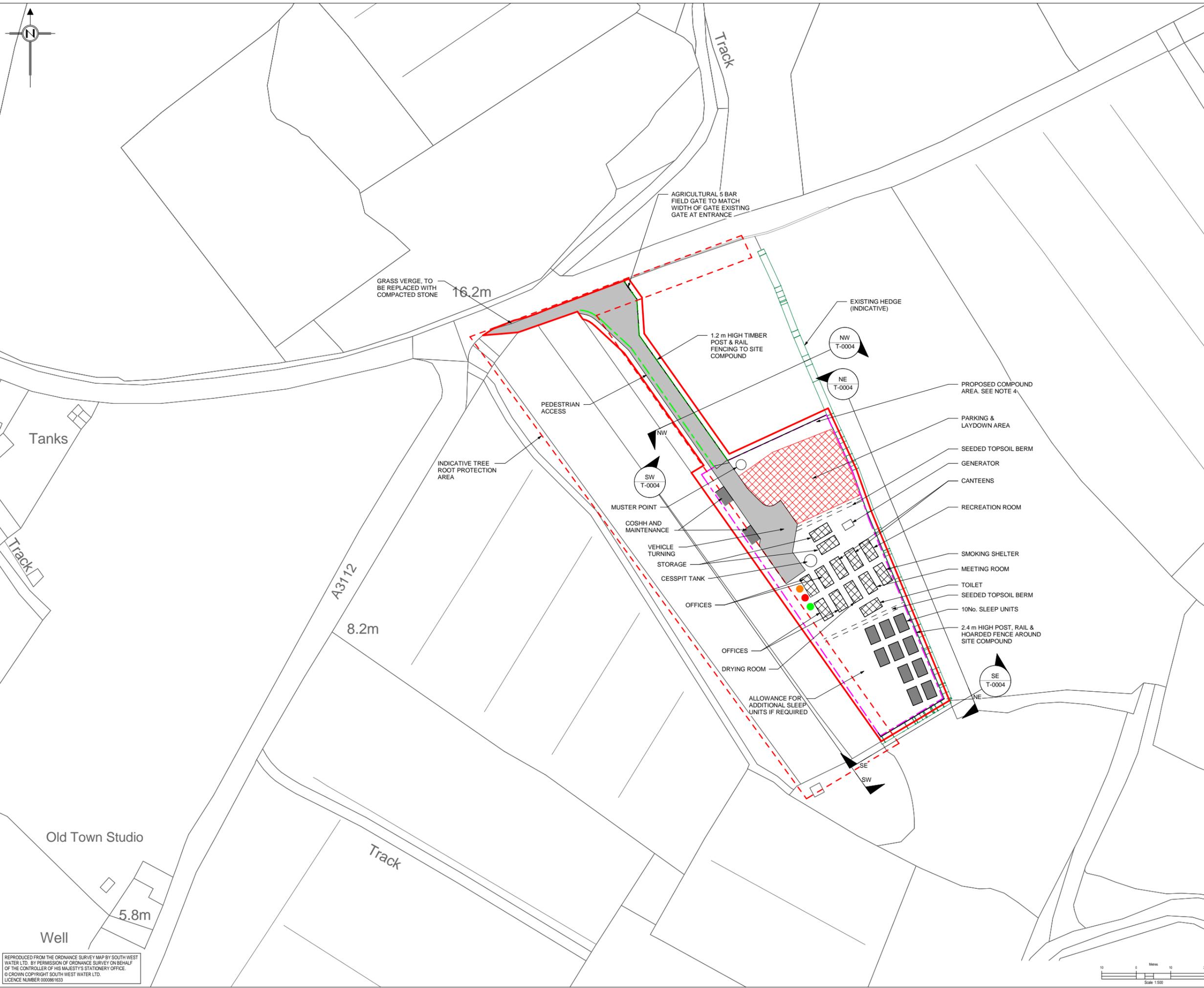


Legend

- Red Line Boundary
- Isles of Scilly Complex Special Area of Conservation
- Isles of Scilly Special Protection Area

0 75 150 m

Appendix B Proposed Site Plan



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- NOTES**
- UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES AND ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES ABOVE ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM (NEWLYN).
 - DO NOT SCALE FROM THE DRAWING.
 - COMPOUND AREA LIGHTING TO BE LOW LEVEL AND MINIMAL DUE TO DARK SKIES STATUS.
 - PROPOSED COMPOUND AREA (3200m², EXCLUDING ACCESS TRACK)

LEGEND

- ACCESS ROAD (STONE SURFACE, WHERE TREE ROOT PROTECTION IS REQUIRED A NO-DIG, RAISED ACCESS TRACK WITH STONE FINISH OR SIMILAR IS PROPOSED)
- PARKING & LAYDOWN AREA (TOPSOIL STRIPPED, STONE SURFACE)
- FIRE EXTINGUISHER POINT
- FIRE POINT
- FIRST AID POINT
- COMPOUND FENCING
- ACCESS ROAD FENCING
- INDICATIVE TREE ROOT PROTECTION AREA
- DEVELOPMENT SUBJECT TO A PLANNING APPLICATION (3900 m²)

UNIT SIZES

- 4.9m x 3m
16' x 10'
- 6m x 3m
20' x 10'

REV	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DSN	CHK	APP	DATE
P02	FENCE AND HOARDING AMENDED	IC	KT	RN	LJW	05.10.23
P01	FOR INFORMATION	IC	KT	LJW	LJW	06.09.23

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Project Status: **OUTLINE DESIGN**

Project: **ISLES OF SCILLY CAPITAL DELIVERY PROGRAMME**

Drawing Title: **ST MARY'S - WELFARE COMPOUND - PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT - PLANNING DRAWING**

Drawing Status: **FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

Name	Date	Status Code
Drawn I. CERDAN	05.10.23	S3
Designed K. THORNE	05.10.23	Scale 1:500
Eng Chk R. NEWELL	05.10.23	Revision
Approved L. WARDELL	05.10.23	P02

Drawing No. **107780-PEF-XX-500-D.DR-T-0003**

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