

Report for: Northern's of Radwell

Commissioned by: Tom Donovan - Peter George Planning

Ecological Impact Assessment



View of Barn A showing solar panels visible at the edge of the roof.

SITE: Radwell Grange, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5EU

Report No: 3285

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SUMMARY

The desk study showed that legally protected areas of ecological importance would not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

Overall, the study site provides nature conservation value in a local (parish) context, containing ecological features such as boundary trees and shrubs.

The site provides negligible, for bats, badgers and herpetofauna, however, should any of these protected species be found on site during works, then all works must stop and advice from an ecologist sought.

The trees, hedgerow and shrubs provide potential for breeding birds, but the wider area of woodland provides better potential.

Adjacent habitats are of higher conservation value, none of which will be impacted by the development.

As a precaution, it is recommended that the works are undertaken outside of the breeding bird season.

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document Title:	Ecological Impact Assessment Radwell Grange, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5EU
The Client:	Northerns of Radwell

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Report Number 3285	Status FINAL	Date of issue 03/03/2025
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Reviewed by		
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Species identified during this survey, including the date, the location, as well as a brief description of the circumstances of their identification, may be passed on to Biological Records Centre's, local wildlife groups, the Wildlife Trust, Natural England and any other interested parties unless written instructions not to do so are received within 30 days of receipt of this report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

On the instructions of Tom Donovan of Peter George Planning, MS Ecology carried out an Ecological Impact Assessment for Radwell Grange, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5EU.

Proposals for the site include for the conversion of Barns A, B and C to 7 no. residential units by obtaining a Class Q consent.

The desk study, field survey (carried out on 21/02/2025) and evaluation are intended to provide information on the general habitat characteristics of the site and its surroundings including the likely presence of legally protected species and habitats encountered within the study area.

2 METHOD

2.1 DESK STUDY

A desk study was carried out to identify the presence of any statutory or non-statutory sites within 2,000m of the centre of the study area together with records of any known legally protected, rare, or notable species.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was consulted to find records of Natural England Protected Species (NEPS) and statutory sites within the search area.

The Bedfordshire & Luton Biodiversity Recording & Monitoring Centre (BRMC) & Herts Environmental Records Centre (HERC) were asked to provide records of legally protected species, Biodiversity Action Plan species and locally rare and notable species within the search area. Details of any designated sites of importance for nature conservation (both statutory and non-statutory) within the search area were also requested.

The GCN Impact Risk Zone Maps for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire (Natural England) were checked to see what zone the proposed development site falls within.

2.2 FIELD SURVEY

2.2.1 A PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL (PEA)

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the study area was undertaken, broadly following the 'Extended Phase 1' methodology as set out in Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995) amended where necessary to meet the revisions contained in the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (GPEA) (CIEEM 2017). The PEA provides information on the habitats in the study area and assesses the potential for notable fauna to occur in or adjacent to the study area. Plant names follow New Flora of the British Isles (4th edition, Stace 2019) and the frequency of species presence is represented by the DAFOR scale, where D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional and R = Rare.

Preliminary investigations were undertaken where appropriate, to assess whether the site is supporting, or capable of supporting legally protected species by:

- Searching for suitable habitats for breeding populations of great crested newts within 500m of the study area.
- Searching for suitable habitat for reptiles by searching under suitable refugia and paying particular attention to potential basking sites.
- Searching for evidence of water vole activity such as the presence of burrows, feeding stations, faeces and latrines along the drainage ditches and streams and ponds where present within the study area.
- Searching for evidence of otter activity such as spraints, feeding remains, holts and laying up areas along the drainage ditches and streams where present within the study area, along with hedge banks, which can be used as holt sites by otter.
- Searching for suitable habitats for white-clawed crayfish in watercourses where present within and around the study area.

- Searching for signs of badger activity including setts, tracks, snuffle holes and latrines (both within the study area and within a zone of 30m around the study area).
- Searching for signs of potential roosting sites for bats, including urine stains, grease marks, droppings and feeding remains, in structures and mature trees with rot holes, peeling bark, split limbs and suitable cracks and crevices where present within the study area.
- Searching for suitable habitats for dormice and undertaking a 'nut search' where appropriate.
- Searching for signs of bird nests and identifying suitable nesting habitats. No bird surveys have been undertaken but all birds observed during study area visits have been noted.

In addition, the presence of any invasive species listed in Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed) was recorded.

2.2.2 PRELIMINARY (BAT) ROOST ASSESSMENT (PRA)

The PRA assessments were undertaken to view the existing site layout and to inspect the exteriors and interiors of the three buildings within the proposed development footprint to assess their suitability to act as a bat roost site(s) by identifying the presence of any 'potential roost features' that bats could utilise.

These may typically include, but are not limited to, missing or damaged tiles, broken airbricks, ill-fitting soffits, bargeboards or weatherboarding, raised flashings etc., that may act as access routes for bats into the fabric of a building.

Detailed internal and external searches for any direct evidence of past or current bat occupancy, such as droppings, staining on walls, rafters, windows etc., were also conducted at the property.

The assessments were completed on 21/02/2025 when there was full access to all parts of the proposed development footprint and standard 10 x 40 binoculars, together with ladders, torches, mirrors and an endoscope were available, where required, to inspect the exteriors and interiors of each building.

The assessment was conducted according to the current 'best practice' standards as published in the 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines' (Bat Conservation Trust, 4th edition, 2023) and with due regard to the Standing Advice to LPAs (Bats: advice for making planning decisions) published by Natural England on 28th March 2015 and updated on 14th January 2022.

2.2.3 EVALUATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT

Ecological features are evaluated for their nature conservation value using the following criteria:

- International importance: Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites.
- National importance: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves.
- Regional/County importance: Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, ancient woodlands, large area of priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.
- Local (parish) importance: Significant ecological features such as old hedges, woodlands, ponds.

- Negligible importance: Would usually be applied to areas of built development, active mineral extraction, or intensive agricultural land.

The significance of an adverse/beneficial impact is the product of the magnitude of the impact and the value or sensitivity of the nature conservation resources affected. There is no agreed absolute method for assessing the significance of adverse/beneficial impacts on nature conservation receptors/features.

Nevertheless, high levels of significance will generally be ascribed to large impacts on receptors/features of high nature conservation value. Low levels of significance will generally be ascribed to small impacts on receptors/features of high nature conservation value or large impacts on receptors/features of low nature conservation value.

The assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development needs to consider both on-site impacts as well as those which may occur to adjacent areas of ecological value. Impacts can be permanent or temporary, direct, or indirect and can include:

Adverse

- Direct loss of wildlife habitats.
- Fragmentation and isolation of habitats.
- Disturbance to species from noise, light or other visual stimuli.

Beneficial

- Ecological enhancement
 - Habitat management
 - Habitat enhancement

2.3 LIMITATIONS

Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year, migration patterns and behaviour and the ecological survey of this site has not produced a complete list of plants and animals. Nevertheless, the results of the ecological survey allow evaluation of nature conservation value, assessment of the significance of potential impacts that may arise from the proposals and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures.

3 RESULTS

3.1 SITE LOCATION AND SETTINGS

The site is centred on OS NGR TL23483711, post code, SG7 5EU.

The site is surrounded by arable fields and agricultural land.

A small lake is located within Baldock Services ~543m south. A small water course is located ~82m north. 'Cat Ditch' is located ~600m north and runs east to west. The River Ivel is located ~1.2km west.

Field margin hedgerows dominate the 1km search area surrounding the site. Small copses are located ~448m north, ~795m north-east, ~636m east & ~800m west. More significant areas of woodland are located ~1.1km south-west.

The A1(M) runs north to south, ~331m west.

Radwell Grange Spinney is located ~420m north-west.

Grande Cottages are located ~352msouth-west.

St Vincent's Church is located ~963m north-east.

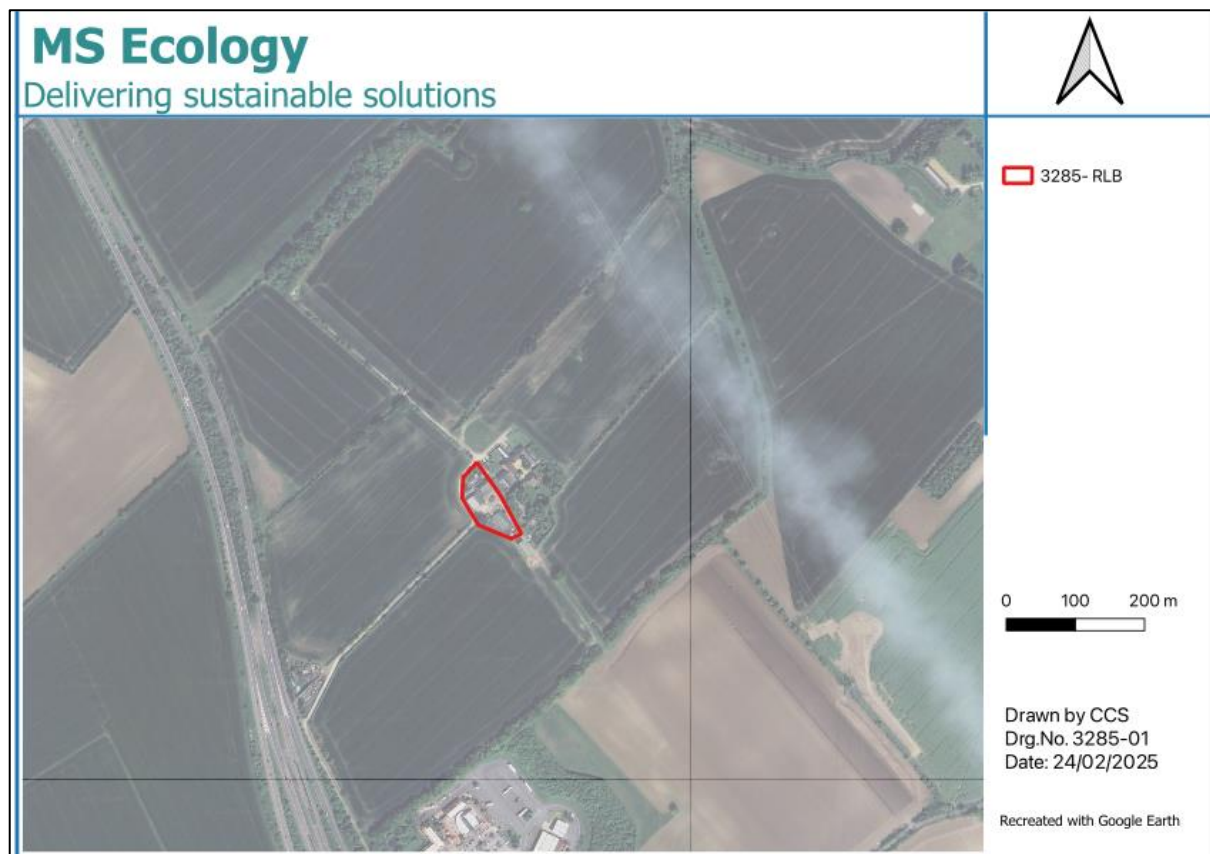


Figure 3-1 Location of proposed development area with red boundary.

3.2 DESK STUDY

3.2.1 MAGIC

Interrogation of the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) showed that the site falls into the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Ashwell Springs (SSSI) ~4.3km north-east & Southill Lake & Woods (SSSI) ~10.6km north-west.

Local Nature reserve Stotfold Mill Meadows (LNR) is located ~1.1km west of the site. There is Ivel Springs (LNR) but this is outside the search area ~2.5km south.

An area of Good Quality semi-improved grassland is located ~1.7km south.

Deciduous woodland is found throughout the search area. The closest area is 24 located ~408m north-west.

Four areas of Traditional Orchards are found within the search area. They are located ~69m east, ~1.5km north-west, ~1.1km north-east & ~1.7km south-west.

No Natural England Protected Species licences (NEPS) were returned in the search area.

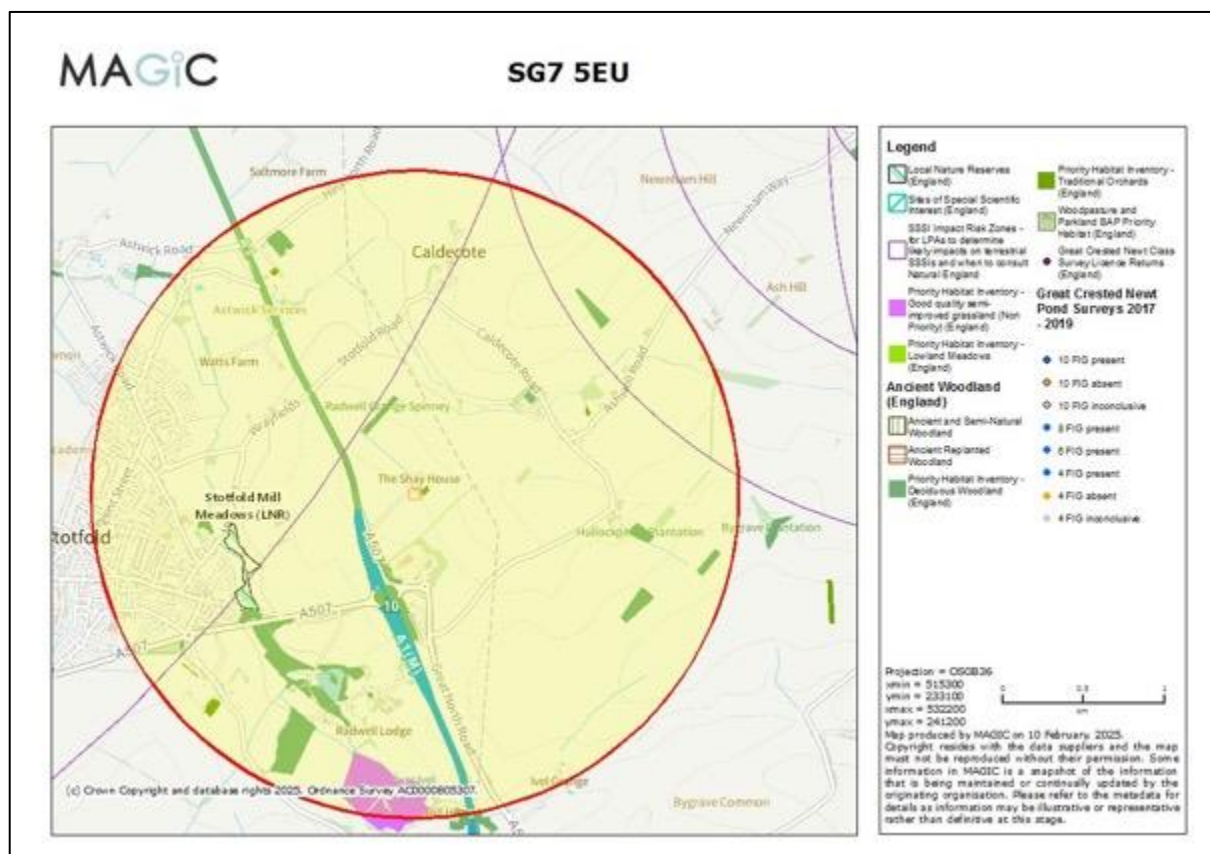


Figure 3-2 MAGIC Map

3.2.2 GCN Risk Zone

The site falls into a green risk zone for GCN. These zones contain sparsely distributed GCN and are less likely to contain important connecting habitat. Developers can use district level licensing in these zones

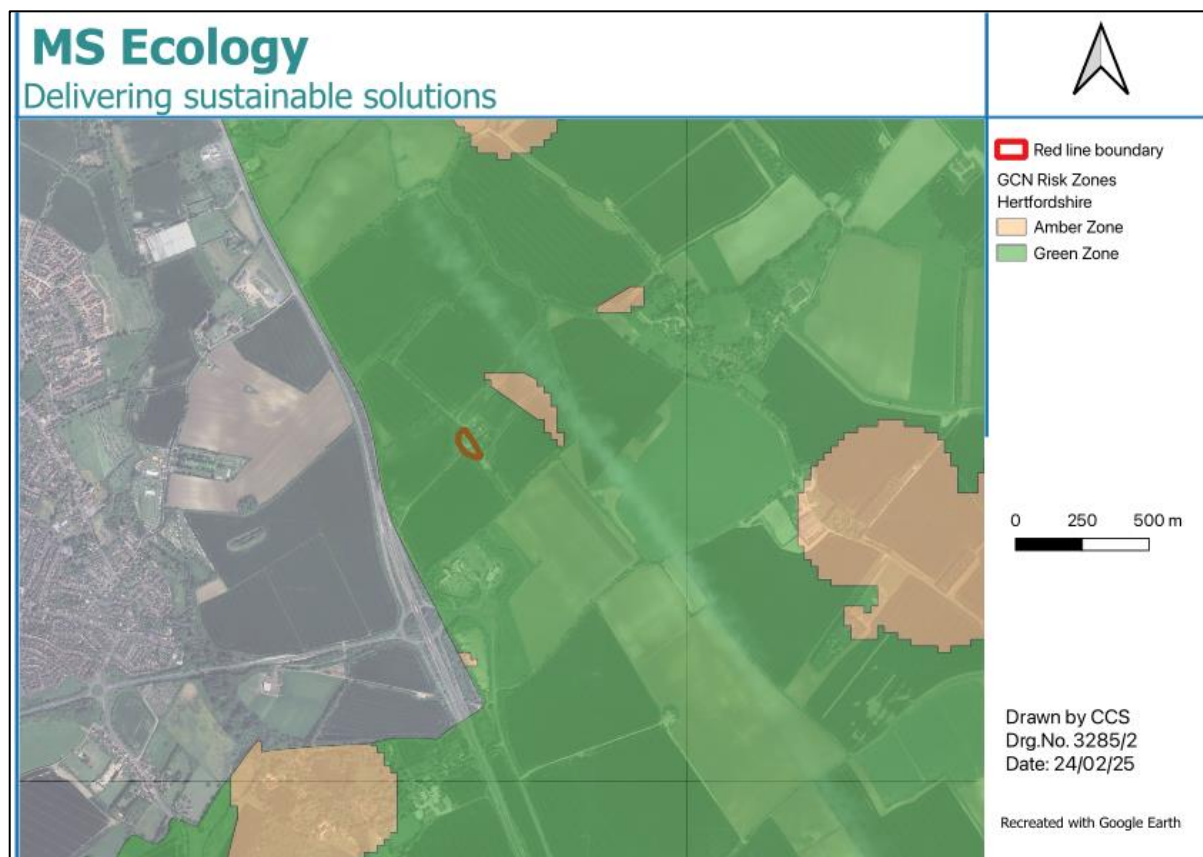


Figure 3-3 Site within a green risk zone for GCN

3.2.3 BIOLOGICAL RECORDS

Table 3.1 Non-Statutory Sites falling within the 2,000m search area

Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Radwell Meadows Northwestern Field
LWS	Radwell Lake
LWS	River Ivel, Nortonbury
LWS	Radwell (A507) Road Banks
County Wildlife Site (CWS)	Stotfold Watermill Wetland
CWS	Rivers Ivel and Hiz

The species records provided include:

- Species – Most Recent Record – Closest Record
- Common Frog - 30/04/2017 - Stotfold Mill Meadows LNR
- Common Toad - 08/03/2021 - ~1.1km
- Eurasian Otter - 22/03/2021 - Stotfold Mill Meadows LNR
- West European Hedgehog - 27/07/2021 – Stotfold & Astwick

Bat Species include:

- Noctule - 08/07/2007 - ~1.2km
- Leisler's Bat - 26/06/2007 - ~1.5km west
- Pipistrelle Bat species - 09/07/2007 - ~1.9km west
- Common Pipistrelle - 08/07/2018 - ~780m

- Brown Long-eared Bat - 10/10/2017 - ~860m
- Daubenton's Bat - 30/07/2007 - ~1.3km
- Myotis Bat species - 11/04/2010 - ~950m
- Natterer's Bat - 09/01/2003 - ~860m
- Serotine - 10/10/2017 - ~1.1km
- Soprano Pipistrelle - 11/04/2010 - ~780m

Several records for Badgers were returned dated 1993 - 2021. None of which fall on or within a 400m radius of the site.

3.3 SURVEY – PEA/PRA

3.3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is accessed from the Baldock exit off the A1 and consists of 3 Barns, A, B and C with a static caravan/house at the rear of Barn B, with hardstanding, amenity grassland and vegetated garden. The static caravan/house is at present a private residence.

Opposite on the southwest end are agricultural fields edged with native hedge species, guelder rose, beech, dogwood and hawthorn, but these are outside of the red line boundary. On the western side there are private residences and woodland.

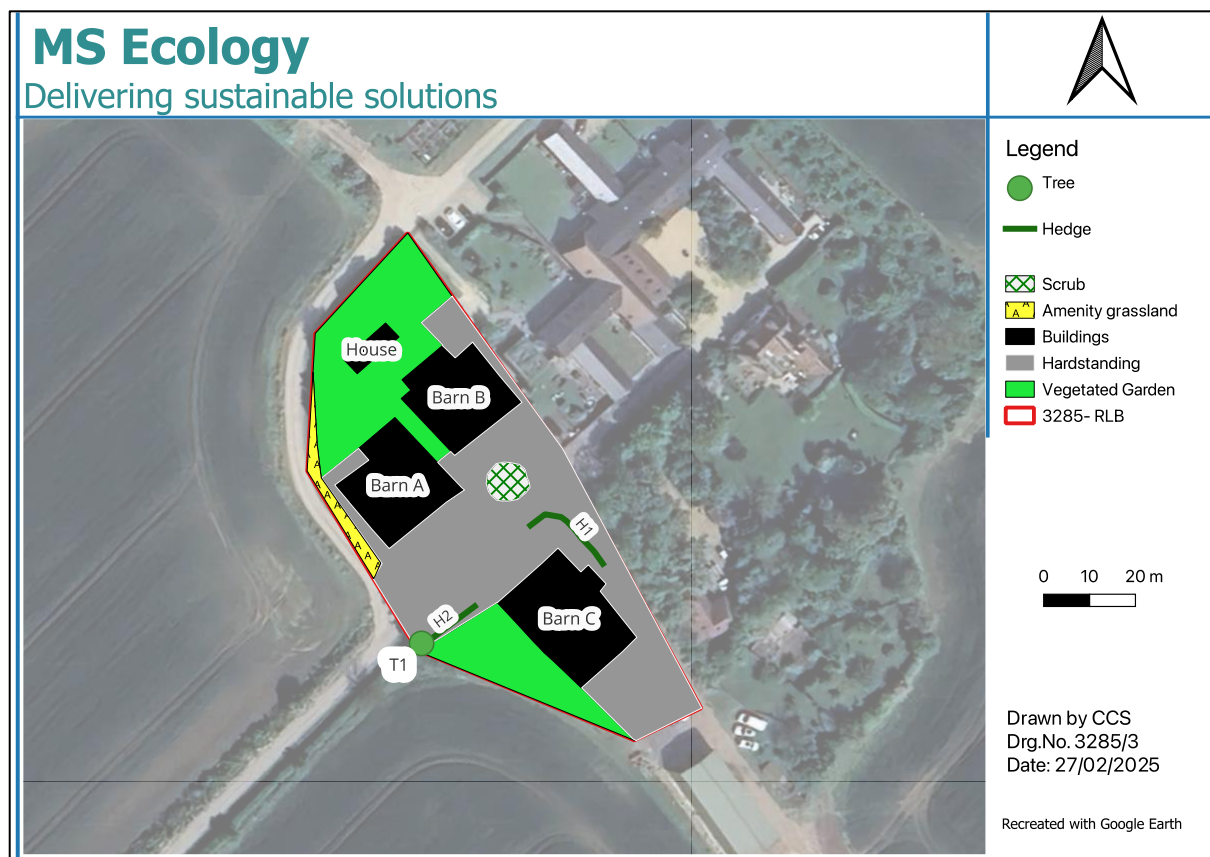


Figure 3-4 Site Plan

3.3.2 HABITATS

3.3.2.1 BUILDINGS

Barn A is of corrugated metal sheet, unlined, with corrugated asbestos sheets above overlapping from the roof down and considered unsuitable for roosting bats. Solar panels are just visible at the roof edge from the ground. Barn A is currently used for storage of agricultural equipment and building material.



Figure 3-5 Barn A

Barn B is constructed with a single sheet of corrugate metal, with small window openings allowing pigeons to fly through and considered unsuitable for roosting bats. Barn B is used for storage of agricultural equipment and cars.



Figure 3-6 Outside and Inside view of Barn B

Barn C is a brick frontage to eave level with metal shutters and corrugated asbestos sheet up to the apex. The eastern side of the barn is corrugated metal sheet with a small extension providing staff welfare. The rear (south facing) is constructed from corrugated asbestos sheet. The barn has been extended westward to provide workstations. Along this western edge a vegetable garden has been planted, ending at the red line boundary. Internally the walls are lined with chipboard and sealed with expanding foam. Both the extension and the main building include skylights constructed from corrugated plastic. This unit is the only one at present being used as a workshop for car repairs, plus retail parts, operated by Parts and Beds Transmission. Barn C holds negligible potential for roosting bats.



Figure 3-7 Front of Barn C showing Laurel hedge

3.3.2.2 HARDSTANDING

The driveway leading to the site is concrete and is in front of all three barns.

3.3.2.3 GRASSLAND

Opposite the agricultural field which lays west of Barn A, there is a small area of amenity grassland forming a verge to the road before a ditch which runs around the western and northern side of the barn. The grass verge includes ragwort, perennial ryegrass, nettles, cut leaf geranium, bristly ox tongue, cow parsley, dandelion, mallow, daisy, speedwell and ribwort plantain.

At the northern end of the site, within the redline boundary, is a private garden accessed via a path between Barns A and B. The garden is surround by close

board fencing with trees mostly inside the fence line with only a few small trees on the verge outside of the fence, including a short length of hawthorn hedge, small leaf lime trees (DBH <5cm) Portugal laurel (DBH <10cm), hazel, spirea, more small leaf lime, a small horse chestnut with ground ivy at the base, stinking iris and cleavers.

At the front of Barn B is a small patch of bramble scrub with an elderberry.

To the front and western side of Barn C there is a small, recently planted laurel hedge. The southern side is all hardstanding leading to the rear where the ground is covered in road scalping's.

At the southwestern side is a vegetable garden with a compost heap and lavender at the side of the vegetable garden. There are also agricultural fields at the southwestern side. At the exit of the site, there is a substantial oak tree, bramble hedge, spurge laurel, dog rose and several oak saplings at the base.

3.3.3 EVIDENCE OF PROTECTED SPECIES

3.3.3.1 MAMMALS

No evidence of bats was found within any of the buildings on site and no evidence of any other legally protected mammals were found within the proposed development on site.

3.3.3.2 BIRDS

No birds' nests were found but pigeons were seen flying in and out of Barn B.

3.3.3.3 HERPETOFAUNA

No herpetofauna were found.

3.3.3.4 INVERTEBRATES

No invertebrate surveys were undertaken.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 HABITATS

4.1.1 BAP PRIORITY HABITATS AND LEGALLY PROTECTED SITES OF CONSERVATION VALUE

The proposed development site contains no priority habitat. There will be no impact on any designated sites of conservation value resulting from the proposed development.

4.2 PROTECTED SPECIES

4.2.1 MAMMALS

The barns were examined externally and internally, and as no evidence of bats were found the structure is considered to offer negligible potential for roosting bats. Both Barns A and B were without lining or insulation.

The trees on site were assessed from ground level, the only one with possible roosting feature is the Oak tree at the edge of the driveway.

Whilst there were few barriers stopping terrestrial mammals from entering the proposed development site and there is good connectivity to other suitable habitat, no evidence was found to suggest this was happening.

4.2.2 BIRDS

The hedgerows, bushes and trees on site and patches of introduced shrub could provide suitable habitat for foraging and nesting birds.

4.2.3 HERPETOFAUNA

An exhaustive search of suitable refugia found no evidence of this group.

4.2.4 INVERTEBRATES

Introduced shrubs and fruit trees in the private garden may provide foraging opportunities and shelter for invertebrates.

5 CONCLUSION

The desk study showed that legally protected areas of ecological importance would not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

Overall, the study site provides nature conservation value in a local (parish) context, containing ecological features such as boundary trees and shrubs.

The site provides negligible, for bats, badgers and herpetofauna, however, should any of these protected species be found on site during works, then all works must stop and advice from an ecologist sought.

The trees, hedgerow and shrubs provide potential for breeding birds, but the wider area of woodland provides better potential.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 MITIGATION

6.1.1 BIRDS

Damaging or destroying the nest of any wild bird (whilst being built or in use) is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Therefore, any vegetation clearance or demolition of structures, in which birds are nesting, should be undertaken outside the breeding season. The bird breeding season can be taken to run between the 1 February and 31 August (in practice, it is usually March to July and is subject to geographical and seasonal factors).

If vegetation clearance outside the breeding season is not possible, further surveys for breeding birds should be carried out prior to any works being undertaken. A minimum of a survey 24 hours prior to commencement of works would be required to minimise opportunities for nest building between the survey and the start of works. Any nest in use or being built during this survey may need to be left undamaged for the entire nesting period and alternative approaches to the works proposed.

To avoid disturbance of birds listed under Schedule 1, it is recommended that no work should be undertaken within 'line of sight' of the nest.

6.1.2 GENERAL

The habitats on site should continue to be managed as they currently are until development begins.

Should any protected species be unexpectedly found on site during works, all works must stop, and an ecologist consulted.

Any excavations that need to be left overnight should be covered or fitted with mammal ramps to ensure that any animals that enter can safely escape. Any open pipework with an outside diameter of greater than 120 mm must be covered at the end of each workday to prevent animals entering/becoming trapped.

6.1.3 LIGHTING

Any lighting on site should be in accordance with the [BCT lighting guidelines](#) (Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023)) to ensure that any commuting routes or foraging areas are unimpacted.

7 LEGISLATION

7.1 ANIMALS (EXCEPT BADGERS)

Wild animals listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and/or Schedules 2 and 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

	Sections of the Act applicable
Bats and GCN	9 (1), (2) (4 a & b) of the WCA and Regulation 39 (1 a-c) of the Habitats Regulation

Species listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are afforded protection subject to the provisions of Section 9. A person will be guilty of an offence if they:

1. intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5,
2. have in their possession or control any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5 or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal,
- 3.
4. intentionally or recklessly—
 - a. damage or destroy any structure or place which any wild animal specified in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection.
 - b. disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
 - c. obstruct access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.
5. Subject to the provisions of this Part,
 - a. sell, offer, or expose for sale, or have in his possession or transports for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5, or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal; or
 - b. publish or cause to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that they buy or sell, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things,
6. In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (5)(a) relating to an act which is mentioned in subsection (1), (2) or (5)(a), the animal in question shall be presumed to have been a wild animal unless the contrary is shown.

Species listed on Annex II and Annex IV of The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations) which transpose into UK law Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (often referred to as the 'Habitats [and Species] Directive.') are afforded further protection. The former Annex relates to the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for some species.

Inclusion on Annex IV ('European protected species') means that member states are required to put in place a system of strict protection as outlined in Article 12, and this is done through inclusion on Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Regulation 39 makes it an offence to:

Deliberately capture or kill an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(a)]

Deliberately disturb an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(b)]

Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of an animal listed on Schedule 2
[Regulation 39(1)(c)]

Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an animal listed on
Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(d)]

Where applicable legislation applies to all life stages of a species.

7.2 BADGERS

Species	Sections of the Act applicable
Badgers & their Setts	All

Badgers were initially protected by inclusion on Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The protection has subsequently been strengthened by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The purpose of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 is to protect badgers from the incidental effects of lawful activities and deliberate attempts to inflict injury or kill badgers.

Under the Protection of Badger Act 1992:

1. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he willfully kills, injures, or takes, or attempts to kill, injure, or take, a badger.
2. If, in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) above consisting of attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, he shall be presumed to have been attempting to kill, injure or take a badger unless the contrary is shown.
3. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he has in his possession or under his control any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger.
4. A person is not guilty of an offence under subsection (3) above if he shows that—
 - a. the badger had not been killed, or had been killed otherwise than in contravention of the provisions of this Act or of the Badgers Act 1973; or
 - b. the badger or other thing in his possession or control had been sold (whether to him or any other person) and, at the time of the purchase, the purchaser had had no reason to believe that the badger had been killed in contravention of any of those provisions.
 - c. If a person is found committing an offence under this section on any land it shall be lawful for the owner or occupier of the land, or any servant of the owner or occupier, or any constable, to require that person forthwith to quit the land and also to give his name and address; and if that person on being so required willfully remains on the land or refuses to give his full name or address he is guilty of an offence.

Cruelty.

1. A person is guilty of an offence if—
 - a. he cruelly ill-treats a badger.

- b. he uses any badger tongs in the course of killing or taking, or attempting to kill or take, a badger.
- c. except as permitted by or under this Act, he digs for a badger; or
- d. he uses for the purpose of killing or taking a badger any firearm other than a smooth bore weapon of not less than 20 bore or a rifle using ammunition having a muzzle energy not less than 160 foot-pounds and a bullet weighing not less than 38 grains.

2.2 If in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(c) above there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was digging for a badger he shall be presumed to have been digging for a badger unless the contrary is shown.

Interfering with badger setts.

3 A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he interferes with a badger sett by doing any of the following things—

- (a)damaging a badger sett or any part of it.
- (b)destroying a badger sett.
- (c)obstructing access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett.
- (d)causing a dog to enter a badger sett; or
- (e)disturbing a badger when it is occupying a badger sett,

intending to do any of those things or being reckless as to whether his actions would have any of those consequences.

Selling and possession of live badgers.

4. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he sells a live badger or offers one for sale or has a live badger in his possession or under his control.

Marking and ringing.

5. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as authorized by a license under section 10 below, he marks, or attaches any ring, tag, or other marking device to, a badger other than one which is lawfully in his possession by virtue of such a license.

7.3 BIRDS

Species
All species of wild birds

All wild birds, with certain exceptions, are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

It is an offence for any person to:

Intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird.

Intentionally take damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built.

Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The penalty for each offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act - in respect of a single bird, nest, or egg - is a fine of up to £5,000, and/or six months' imprisonment.

Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are further protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst nest building or at (or near) a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

To avoid disturbance, recommend that no work should be undertaken within 'line of sight' of the nest. Note Certain activities e.g., pile driving, pneumatic drilling and borehole drilling will require a wider buffer zone.