

Report for: Bruce Parker

Commissioned by: Tom Donovan – Peter George Town Planning

Ecological Impact Assessment



View across the site

Land at New Pound Farm, Old Hale Way, Ickleford, Herts, SG5 1XT

Report No: 3228-1

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SUMMARY

On the instructions of Bruce Parker, Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out an Ecological Impact Assessment for the Land at New Pound Farm, Old Hale Way, Ickleford, Hertfordshire SG5 1XT.

Proposals for the site include the redevelopment of the site into car parking space for the adjacent community allotments.

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 grassland and hedgerow.

The site provides negligible potential for bats due to a lack of suitable roosting features, however, bats likely use the site for foraging and commuting and lighting on site should be in line with the [BCT lighting guidelines](#) (Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023)).

No evidence of badger presence was found on site, though should badgers be found on site during works then all works must stop and an ecologist consulted.

The site provides low potential for GCN due to a lack of nearby waterbodies and potential for reptiles due to the suitable habitat on site and in the surrounds. As the area of habitat to be impacted is small, it is recommended that the vegetation is cleared under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist.

The hedgerow provides high potential for breeding birds and works should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season.

Further recommendations for the site can be found in Section 6.

CONTENT

1	INTRODUCTION.....	6
1.1	Instructions and Objectives	6
2	Method.....	7
2.1	Desk Study.....	7
2.2	Field Survey	7
2.2.1	Evaluation and Significance of Impact	8
2.3	Limitations.....	9
3	Results	10
3.1	Site Location and Settings	10
3.2	Desk Study.....	10
3.3	Survey - PEA	14
3.3.1	Site Description	14
3.3.2	Habitats	14
3.3.3	Evidence of Protected Species	17
4	Discussion	18
4.1	Habitats.....	18
4.1.1	Bap Priority Habitats And Legally Protected Sites Of Conservation Value	18
4.2	Protected Species	18
4.2.1	Mammals.....	18
4.2.2	Birds.....	18
4.2.3	Herpetofauna	18
4.2.4	Invertebrates.....	18
5	Conclusion.....	19
6	Recommendations.....	20
6.1	Mitigation.....	20
6.1.1	Birds.....	20
6.1.2	General.....	20
6.2	Enhancements	20
6.2.1	Bats.....	18
6.2.2	Breeding Birds	19
6.2.3	Small Mammals & Herpetofauna.....	19
7	Legislation	22
7.1	Animals (Except Badgers)	22
7.2	Badgers	24
7.3	Birds.....	26

TABLES

Table 3.1 County Wildlife Sites falling within the 2,000m search area	12
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Table 3.2 HSI Calculation	14
Table 3.3 HSI Category Definitions	15

FIGURES

Figure 3-1 Proposed development area with red boundary.	10
Figure 3-2 MAGIC Map.....	11
Figure 3-3 Site Plan	14

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The Client:	Bruce Parker

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Prepared by	Clifford Stuckey BSc (Hon's) PhD MCIEEM CEnv Ecologist	
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Page no	Page 5 of 26	

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.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

On the instructions of Bruce Parker, Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out an Ecological Impact Assessment for the Land at New Pound Farm, Old Hale Way, Ickleford, Hertfordshire SG5 1XT.

Proposals for the site include the redevelopment of the site into car parking space for the adjacent community allotments.

The desk study, field survey (carried out on 24/06/2024) 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 Hertfordshire 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 Map for Hertfordshire (Natural England) was checked to see what zone the proposed development site falls within.

2.2 FIELD SURVEY

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.

2.2.1 HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Habitats on site have been converted to the UK Habitat Classifications and, those which require a habitat condition assessment within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, have been condition assessed accordingly. Full details of the condition assessments can be found within the separate 'Statutory biodiversity metric condition assessments' spreadsheet.

2.2.2 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 TL18593116, post code SG4 0AA, in Hitchin, Hertfordshire

The site is surrounded by moderate density residential housing, arable fields, a large area of allotments to the south and occasional woodland areas further afield.

The River Purwell is found ~250m to the north and east, with the River Oughton found ~200m to the northwest. The River Oughton pools at this point, before joining the River Purwell to the north of the site.

A waterbody is found ~540m to the east, on the far side of the River Purwell. No further waterbodies are found within 1km of the site.

A railway line runs north-south ~400m east of the site.



Figure 3-1 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 Oughtonhead Lane SSSI, Knocking Hoe SSSI, Wain Wood SSSI & Deacon Hill SSSI.

Two Local Nature Reserves fall within the search area:

- Purwell Meadows ~1.7km southeast

- Oughtonhead Common ~800m west

There are several areas of Deciduous Woodland near the site. The closest area is found ~250m northeast.

An area of good quality semi-improved grassland is located ~250m east.

Two Natural England Protected Species licences (NEPS) for bats (common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle) were granted within the search area.

1. License no. EPSM2012-5071 ~940m west – Common Pipistrelle – 2012-2013
2. License no, 2016-21240-EPS-MIT ~1.6km southwest – Soprano Pipistrelle – 2016-2021

MAGiC

SG4 0AA

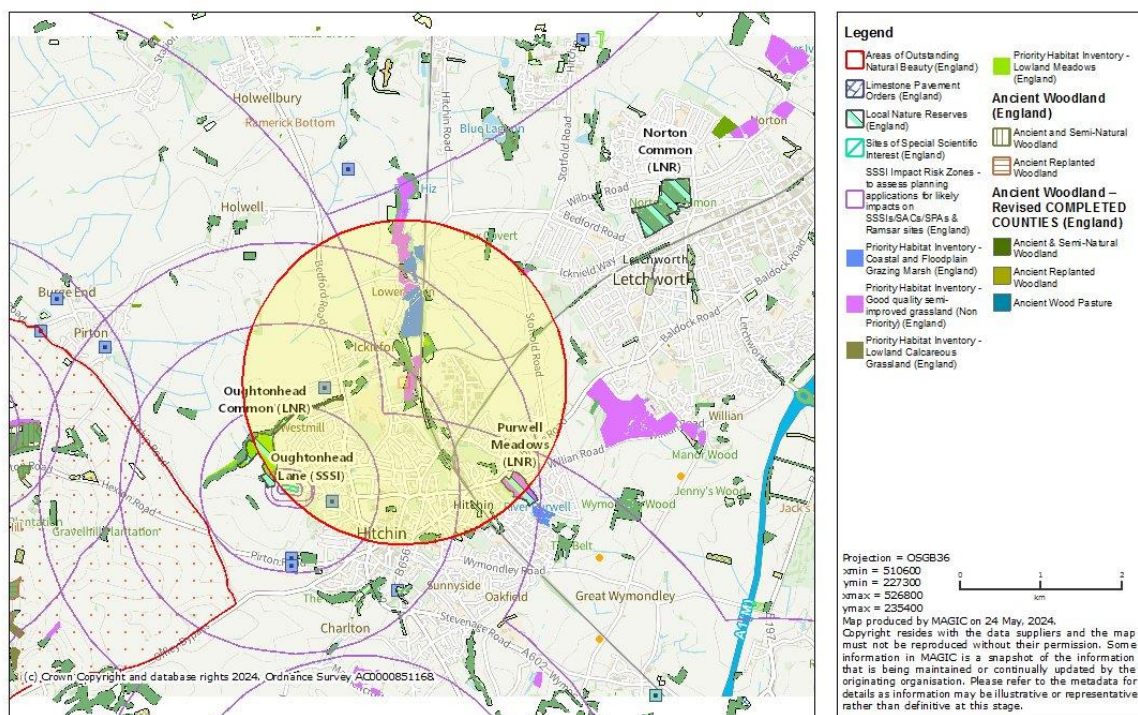


Figure 3-2 MAGIC Map

3.2.2 GCN RISK ZONE

The site falls into a green zone on the Impact Risk Zones map for Hertfordshire, indicating that the site is in an area of sparsely distributed GCN and is less likely to contain important pathways of connecting habitat for GCN.

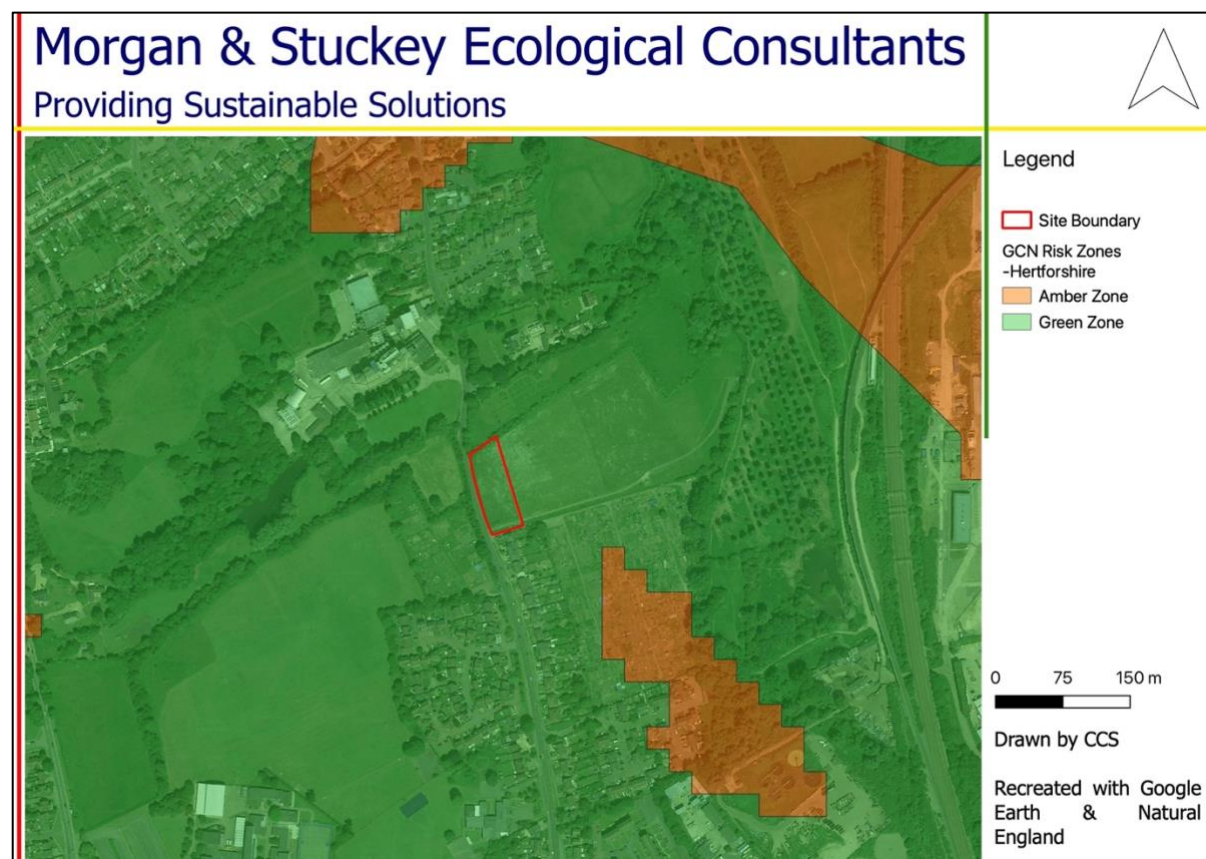


Figure 3-3 Site within a green risk zone for GCN

3.2.3 BIOLOGICAL RECORDS

There are eighteen non-statutory sites within the search area, none of which fall within the boundaries of the proposed development site, these are:

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

Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Oughton Head
LWS	Ickleford Common North
LWS	Lower Green Ickleford
LWS	River Hiz, Ickleford North
LWS	Cadwell Grove Meadows
LWS	Cadwell Crossing
LWS	Icknield Way, Wilbury
LWS	Cadwell Marsh & Burymead Springs
LWS	River Purwell, Walsworth Common
LWS	Cadwell Lane Gasworks Meadow
LWS	Westmill Lane, Ickleford
LWS	River Hiz, Cadwell
LWS	Stotfold Road Verges
LWS	Hitchin Railway Banks
LWS	Wilbury Hill

LWS	Windmill Hill
LWS	Hitchin Railway Cutting
LWS	Purwell Meadows

The species records provided by the HERC hold 8 records of GCN dated from 1934 – 1988.

There were several records of bats returned including Noctule (Noc), Natterer's Bat (Natt), Pipistrelle (Pip), Common Pipistrelle (CP), Soprano Pipistrelle (SP), Daubenton's (Daub), Western Barbastelle (WB) and Brown Long Eared (BLE). The most recent records for each species are as follows:

- BLE – 30/07/2008 ~1310m (1km)
- SP – 30/07/2008 ~1310m (1km)
- CP – 30/07/2008 ~1310m (1km)
- Pip – 25/03/2020 ~1660m (10m)
- Noc – 30/07/2008 ~1310m (1km)
- Natt – 24/02/2006 ~1170m (10km)
- Daub – 28/01/2006 ~1170m (10km)
- WB – 09/2020 ~1410m (10km)

Two records were returned for slow worms in 2020 ~1960m (10km)

There are several records of badgers dated between 1964 and 2020 none of which fall within or close to the proposed development site.

3.3 SURVEY - PEA

3.3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site consists of a section of field, with other neutral grassland, bare ground and lengths of native hedgerow.

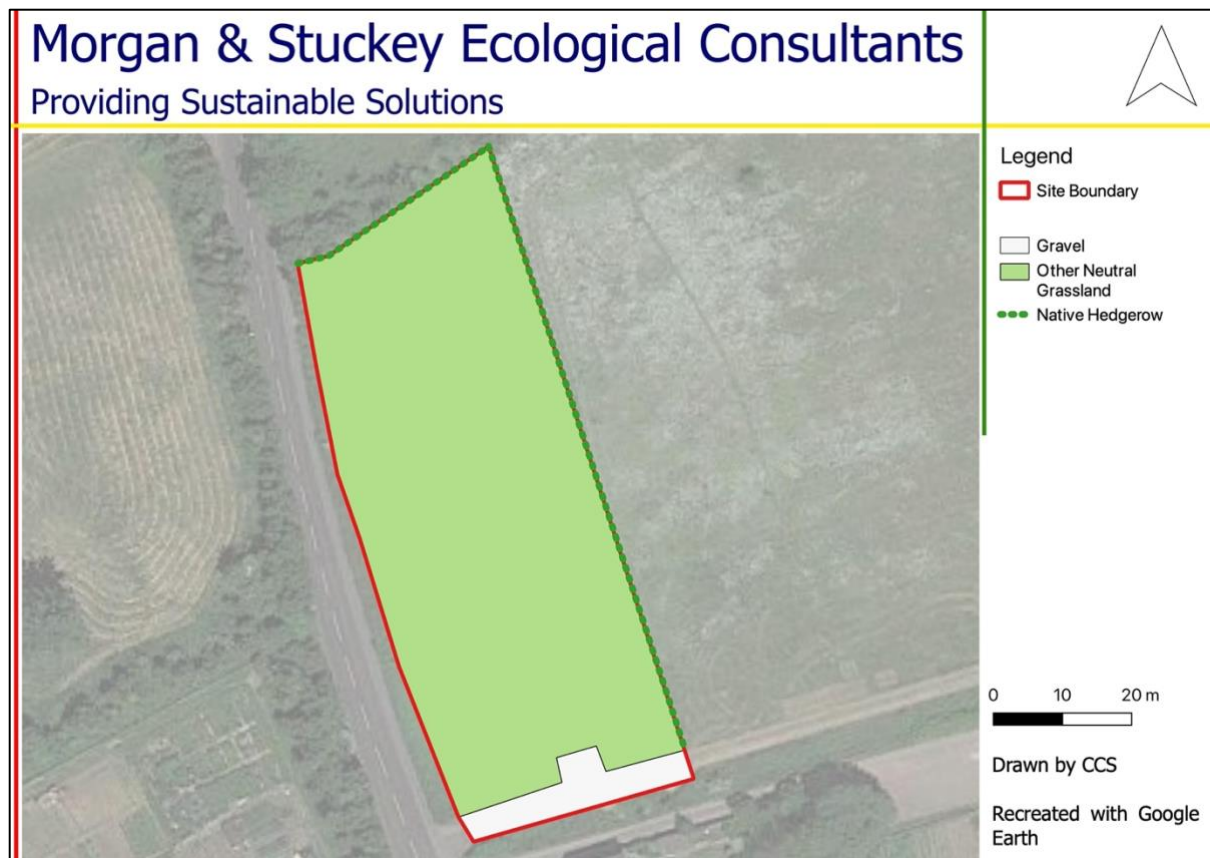


Figure 3-4 Site Plan

3.3.2 HABITATS

3.3.2.1 ARTIFICIAL UNSEALED, UNVEGETATED LAND

A section of gravelled land is found to the south of the site, this is regularly maintained with very little emerging vegetation.



Figure 3-5 Example of gravelled land on site

3.3.2.2 OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND Secondary Code 16: Tall Forb

Most of the site is made up of other neutral grassland. Grass species includes sterile brome and false oak grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot and small amount of red fescue. Forb species included selfheal, lambs tongue plantain, ragwort, creeping buttercup, knapweed, black medic, oregano, birds foot trefoil and oxeye daisy. An average of 8 species were found per m².

The southern and western sections of the grassland were dominated by tall forb species, including nettle, dock, hogweed, cleavers and cow parsley.

A footpath, currently bare ground runs parallel to the western boundary.



Figure 3-6 Grassland on site



Figure 3-7 Example of tall forbs on site

3.3.2.3 NATIVE HEDGEROW

A hedgerow made up of birch, hazel, ivy and bramble runs along the northern boundary of the site and a newly planted field maple hedgerow runs along the eastern boundary.



Figure 3-8 Hedgerow along northern boundary



Figure 3-9 Newly planted hedgerow along eastern boundary

3.3.3 HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The below table provides a summary of the results of the habitat condition assessments carried out on the above habitats. For full details please see the separate excel spreadsheet.

Table 3.2 Habitat Condition Assessments

Habitat	Condition
Other Neutral Grassland	Moderate
A - Native Hedgerow (northern boundary)	Good
B - Native Hedgerow (eastern boundary)	Moderate

3.3.4 EVIDENCE OF PROTECTED SPECIES

3.3.4.1 MAMMALS

No evidence of bats or any terrestrial mammals was found on site.

3.3.4.2 BIRDS

No active or disused nests were found on site.

3.3.4.3 HERPETOFAUNA

No herpetofauna were found during the survey.

3.3.4.4 INVERTEBRATES

No invertebrate surveys were undertaken.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 HABITATS

4.1.1 BAP PRIORITY HABITATS AND LEGALLY PROTECTED SITES OF CONSERVATION VALUE

There will be no impact on any designated sites of conservation value resulting from the proposed development.

The proposed development site contains priority native hedgerow, which will be retained and unimpacted by the development.

4.2 PROTECTED SPECIES

4.2.1 MAMMALS

There were no trees mature enough on site to support roosting bats.

There is access to the site for terrestrial mammals, with suitable connectivity to other suitable habitat, however, no evidence of mammal use was found.

4.2.2 BIRDS

The hedgerow on site provides suitable habitat for nesting birds.

4.2.3 HERPETOFAUNA

The grassland and tall ruderal on site provide suitable terrestrial habitat for this group, with connectivity to other more suitable habitats, particularly the adjacent allotments which provide potential for reptiles.

The nearest water body is over 250m from the site and is located on the far side of the river, with no other known waterbodies within 1km of the site. Therefore, it is less likely for GCN to be present.

4.2.4 INVERTEBRATES

The grassland and tall ruderal 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 grassland and hedgerow.

The site provides negligible potential for bats due to a lack of suitable roosting features, however, bats likely use the site for foraging and commuting.

No evidence of badger presence was found on site.

The site provides low potential for GCN due to a lack of nearby waterbodies and potential for reptiles due to the suitable habitat on site and in the surrounds.

The hedgerow provides high potential for breeding birds.

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 HERPETOFAUNA

There is suitable habitat on site for this group, however, the area to be impacted by the development is small and full reptile surveys are not considered proportionate to the site. Therefore, it is recommended that the vegetation is cleared under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. Following a fingertip search by the ecologist, the grassland will be cleared concentrically from the centre/ directionally northwards, to allow any reptiles present to escape. Should any reptiles need relocating, these will be moved to the north of the site which is to be retained and unimpacted. Should any GCN be found during this then all works must stop, and the ecologist consulted.

This must be undertaken during the active season for reptiles (April to October) to avoid the hibernation period.

6.1.3 GENERAL

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.

6.1.4 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.

6.2 ENHANCEMENTS

6.2.1 HEDGEROW

The newly planted hedgerow along the eastern boundary could be supplemented with additional native species planting. Recommended species for the hedgerows include:

- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*

- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*
- Holly *Ilex europaeus*
- Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*
- Field Maple *Acer campestre*
- Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*
- Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana*
- Dog Rose *Rosa canina*
- Spindle *Euonymus europaea*

The following guidance is adapted from The Wildlife Trusts:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/managing-land-wildlife/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife>

Ideally the hedgerows should be planted between November-March when the trees aren't losing their leaves or producing buds. In the first spring, the shrubs should be cut down to 45-60cm above the ground to encourage a thick hedge. Replace any failures in the following November-March.

Once established, no cutting should take place between March-September as this is peak bird nesting season. Ideally, any maintenance work should be delayed until January/ February as hedgerow berries provide an autumn/ winter food source for birds.

Trim hedges on a two- or three-year rotation as flower buds often form on second-year growth to ensure there are flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn. Hedges cut every three years can produce two and a half times more blossom as those cut annually.

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.