

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment

Survey site:

Land North of The Crescent, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 7RE

Client:

Hornbeam Homes

Survey date:

16th October 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the North Hertfordshire District Council. The proposal is described as:
Erection of 5 no. new family dwellings.

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

The site survey was undertaken by James Fielding PhD BA (Hons) PGcert (merit) (Natural England Bat Licence Number 2022-10412-CL17-BAT)					
Consultant Ecologist					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
13/10/25	12	68	100	0	None

Ecological Survey Factor	Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	
Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plan in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4). Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).	
Summary of Survey Findings (UKHab codes used)	Site Context The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference TL 19264 27196 and has an area of approximately 0.6ha. The site is a small area of tussocky grassland, blackthorn scrub and scattered trees on the eastern edge of the hamlet of Gosmore, south of Hitchin and west of St Ippolyts village, located immediately to the north of the Crescent and the west of London road. The site contains an electricity substation, and historical plans indicate a building was previously in the site before it fell into disuse. The boundaries of the site are lined with fir trees to the north and south. To the south, the immediate landscape is suburban, whilst the landscape to the north, east and west is predominantly arable, with hedgerow boundaries, whilst a small stand of deciduous woodland is located to the north-east. Such features likely enhance the area for a variety of species, including bats, amphibians and reptiles. No protected or notable plant species were recorded during the survey. On-site habitat descriptions <u>h3a</u> – Blackthorn scrub <u>g3c</u> – Other neutral grassland <u>u1d</u> –developed land; sealed surface <u>u1e</u> – built linear feature <u>w1g6</u> – line of trees

	<u>h3a – Blackthorn scrub</u> The site contains two large patches of dense, blackthorn-dominated scrub on the eastern and western ends of the site. The scrub is dominated by blackthorn, with other tree species present including hazel, rosehip, ash, oak saplings and beech. Other species present include common ivy and bramble, which is abundant in a few patches. <u>g3c – Other neutral grassland [32 scattered trees]</u> A small area of tussocky neutral grassland is present at the centre of the site. Species present include Yorkshire fog, false oat grass, cocks foot and perennial ryegrass. Other species present include pennywort, yarrow, daisy, dandelion and white clover. At least ten defunct ant hills are present, indicating prolonged continuity of habitat and boosting the biodiversity of the area. Scattered trees are present, including a small oak tree. Two large mature oaks are present, and a third mature oak is situated just off-site to the north. <u>u1d – developed land; sealed surface / u1e – built linear feature</u> An electricity substation is present to the east of the site, with a slat wooden fence with concrete posts surrounding it. A small hard standing access road is also present at the south-eastern corner of the site. <u>u1e – built linear feature</u> A slat wooden fence with concrete posts surrounds the substation. A wire and post fence is present on the northern and southern boundaries. <u>w1g6 – line of trees</u> A line of fir trees is present on both the north and southern boundary of the site. Local notable habitats Patches of lowland mixed deciduous woodland (LMDW) are present within the wider landscape. The closest is located ~0.2km to the northeast, with a second patch of LMDW ~0.3km to the south. The trees on-site likely have some limited connectivity to these patches of woodland, given their proximity to the site and the presence of numerous trees throughout the nearby landscape. LMDW is classed as a priority habitat under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006. Further priority habitats are present within 2km of the site, including ancient woodland and traditional orchard.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site habitats

	The proposed development will result in the loss of blackthorn scrub, neutral grassland, and several small trees. This will likely result in a net loss in biodiversity at the site. The large mature oaks on site (and off-site) will be retained. Notable habitats No direct impacts to any notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site habitats Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012). A biodiversity net gain (BNG) report is likely to be required for the proposal, as more than 25m² of habitat is affected by the proposal. The oak trees on site will be retained during the proposal. Notable habitats None.
Locality and Designated Sites	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	On-site designations The site is not subject to any designation. Statutory designated sites (within 2km) There is one statutory site within 2km of the site: Wain Wood SSSI, located 1850m southwest of the site. The site lies within the impact risk zone for Wain Wood SSSI and Oughtonhead Lane SSSI, however the proposed development is not listed as a possible high risk for these designations. Non-statutory designated sites The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Herts Environmental Records Centre.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site designations No impacts foreseen. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites

	No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known) as well as the location of the site with surrounding physical barriers.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site designations None required. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites None required.
Invasive / Non-native species	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	N/A
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.
Invertebrates	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site, including blackthorn scrub, tussocky grassland and scattered trees, likely provide common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. The site contains mature oak trees and some fallen deadwood which will offer habitat to other invertebrates, particularly saprophytic invertebrates.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Scrub, scattered will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats may have a minor impact on local invertebrate populations.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The incorporation of bee bricks (e.g. Ibstock BeeHabitat or similar alternative brand) into the fabric of the new buildings would provide sheltering opportunities for pollinators. These should be installed 0.5m above ground level on a south-facing elevation with no obscuring vegetation. The site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates.

Bats																												
Summary of Survey Findings	EPSL data A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites <2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There are 5 EPSLs within a 2km radius of site as detailed below:																											
	<table><tr><th>EPSL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Distance from site</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>2017-32120-EPS-MIT</td><td>Common pipistrelle</td><td>~750m south</td><td>Impacts on a breeding roost, destruction of a breeding roost, destruction of a resting place</td></tr><tr><td>EPSM2009-533</td><td>Common pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat</td><td>~775m south</td><td>Impacts on a breeding roost, destruction of a breeding roost, destruction of a resting place</td></tr><tr><td>EPSM2012-4641</td><td>Common pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat, natterer’s bat</td><td>~1500m south-west</td><td>Impacts on a breeding roost, destruction of a resting place, destruction of a breeding roost.</td></tr><tr><td>EPSM2012-5034</td><td>Common pipistrelle</td><td>~1550m north</td><td>Destruction of a resting place</td></tr><tr><td>2017-32115-EPS-MIT</td><td>Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle</td><td>~1600m south-east</td><td>Destruction of a resting place</td></tr></table>				EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence	2017-32120-EPS-MIT	Common pipistrelle	~750m south	Impacts on a breeding roost, destruction of a breeding roost, destruction of a resting place	EPSM2009-533	Common pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat	~775m south	Impacts on a breeding roost, destruction of a breeding roost, destruction of a resting place	EPSM2012-4641	Common pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat, natterer’s bat	~1500m south-west	Impacts on a breeding roost, destruction of a resting place, destruction of a breeding roost.	EPSM2012-5034	Common pipistrelle	~1550m north	Destruction of a resting place	2017-32115-EPS-MIT	Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle	~1600m south-east	Destruction of a resting place
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Foraging and commuting habitat Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of lines of fir trees, scattered trees (including mature oaks), blackthorn scrub and neutral grassland. These habitats are likely to provide micro-climatic conditions that support invertebrates that will in turn provide foraging opportunities for local bat populations.																												
Roosting habitat Trees to be impacted by the proposed development were assessed for their suitability to support roosting bats below. No evidence of roosting bats was identified on or within any of the surveyed trees on-site. Of note, however, are two mature oak trees (on-site) and a third mature oak tree (off-site). All three trees are mature and of considerable height: although no roosting features were noted from the ground, it is possible that they support roosting features for bats higher up which could only be perceived via a tree climbing survey or aerial inspection. These three trees will not be directly impacted by the works.																												
Foreseen Impacts	Roosting habitat [Trees] No features were identified on any of the trees scheduled for removal and as such there are unlikely to be any impact to bats as a result of their felling. However it is noted that the mature oak trees on site are tall and likely have bat roosting features not visible from the ground: these trees are not scheduled for removal, however if plans are altered to impact then further survey work may be needed.																											
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	The proposed development will result in the loss of blackthorn scrub, but given the small size of the site and the presence of more extensive areas of foraging and commuting habitat in the locality, this is likely to have only a minor impact upon bats. Artificial lighting The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Roosting habitat [Trees] In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice. Foraging and commuting habitat No further surveys are required. Artificial lighting A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2 Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of five bat boxes (one per new building) at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. The bat boxes will be incorporated into the fabric of the new dwellings. They will be suitable for pipistrelles (which have been identified locally through EPSL data). Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar alternative brand. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.
Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	Trees and vegetation A nesting bird nest was noted within the northern blackthorn scrub on site. No other birds nests were noted on the site, however the blackthorn scrub, scattered trees, line of trees and other thick vegetation on site will provide excellent bird nesting habitat. Several foraging wood pigeons and a great tit were noted foraging through the site during the survey, indicating its suitability for birds. Barn owls The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls.

	Overwintering birds Due to the small size of the sit, the site not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Buildings/trees The proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests. Barn owls None foreseen. Overwintering birds None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Buildings/trees Any vegetation removal should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation should be undertaken immediately, by a qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged. Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged. Barn owls None required. Overwintering birds None required. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of a minimum of five bird boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries or on new buildings (one per building) will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler No 17 Swift Nest Box (buildings) Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace (buildings) Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes (trees) Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes (trees) Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees) Or a similar alternative brand.

	Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole. Swift and sparrow boxes should be positioned at the eaves of a building and can be incorporated into the fabric of the building during construction.
Reptiles	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide suitable foraging, commuting, and refuge opportunities for reptiles in the form of scrub and tussocky neutral grassland. However the small size of the site limits the number of opportunities it can provide for reptiles. The surrounding habitat to the south is suburban, whilst to the north, west and east it is dominated by agricultural fields which will be suboptimal for reptiles (beside small strips of hedgerow boundaries and marginal habitat).
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Although a small area of suitable habitat is being removed as part of the development, due to the small overall size of the site there is a low risk that a low number of reptiles could be present in the vicinity of the works. These could be injured or killed without mitigation.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures: • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles. • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be enhanced for reptiles post-development with the inclusion of log piles (created from felled materials) and planting of areas of native shrubs, to provide sheltering opportunities.
Amphibians	

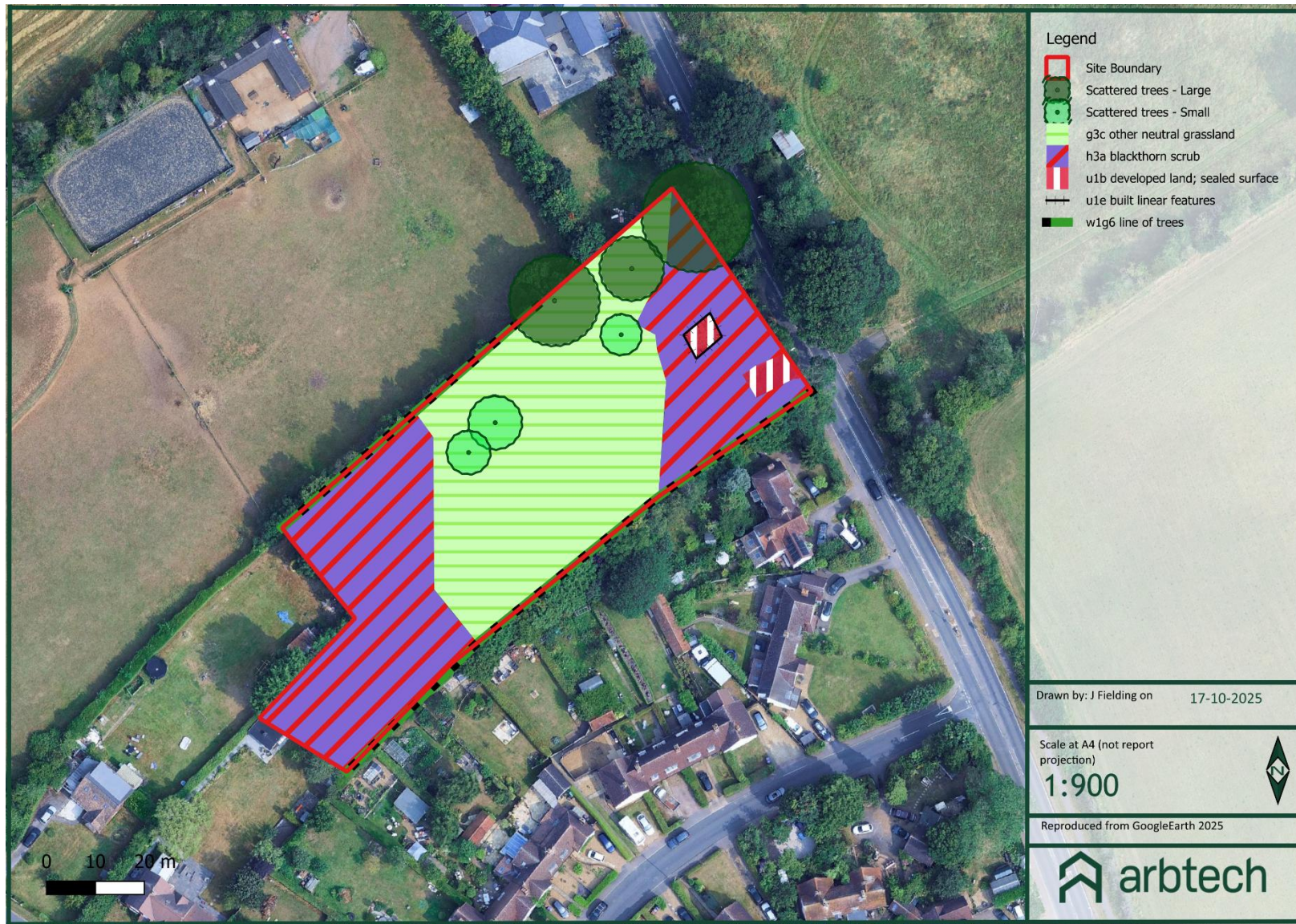
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL and survey data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for great crested newts within 2km of the site. Further, no positive class survey licence return or DLL historic survey data (2017 – 2019) were present within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of a singular pond within 500m; the pond (P1) is located 430m north of the site and is separated from the site by the B656 road, which is likely to represent a significant barrier to dispersal due to heavy traffic flow and high kerbs along the road, eliminating connectivity to the site for great crested newts. Given the lack of suitably connected breeding ponds, the presence of great crested newts on site is considered unlikely. However, common amphibians may still be present within suitable areas of habitat on-site as they can travel great distances from ponds. The scrub on site and tussocky grassland is likely to offer good opportunities for amphibians, and the presence of a low number of common amphibians on the site cannot be discounted.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Given the lack of suitably connected breeding ponds within 500m of the site, the presence of GCN on-site is considered unlikely and therefore impacts to amphibians as a result of the proposed development are deemed to be acceptably low.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures: • A staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm and left overnight to allow any amphibians to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter amphibians from the working area. • Any rubble piles will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent amphibians from utilising these areas. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby aquatic habitats that amphibians could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be enhanced for amphibians post-development through creation of amphibian hibernacula using rubble and logs from site clearance. Information on how to construct a hibernaculum can be found here: https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum

Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site. No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site. Further, no evidence of foraging badgers was noted within the development area. However, the site was considered suitable for badger sett excavation and foraging habitat. Moreover, badger droppings were noted in the northern half of the site, likely deposited by foraging badgers moving through the site. As such, it is considered likely that commuting/foraging badgers could be present during the works.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No works will be undertaken within 30m of a badger sett. Areas of scrub and grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to the small scale of the works and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present whilst commuting/foraging through the site.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the lack of badger setts within 30m of the site, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: • A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of badgers at the site. • A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for any new badger activity if works do not commence within three months. • Heras fencing will be erected around the working area to prevent encroachment into retained habitats where badger setts could be present. • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which badgers could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities for badgers.
Riparian animals	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on or connected to the site. There are also no riparian habitats present on site or within an influencing distance.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.

<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.
Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability Dormice typically utilise a three-dimensional habitat structure as to commute between feeding and breeding sites whilst avoiding predation – the lines of trees and scrub on site could offer suitable habitat to dormice. However, for isolated habitats in the UK, research indicates that dormice require 20ha of woodland habitat to support a viable population (Bright <i>et al.</i> 1994). 20ha of woodland is not present on site, and the hedgerows and trees surrounding the site do not offer connectivity to any such expansive woodland in the wider landscape. As such, it is considered relatively unlikely (although cannot be ruled out entirely) that dormice are present within the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Areas of scrub, scattered trees and tussocky grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local dormouse populations owing to the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of dormice, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to dormice, further dormouse surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: • Site clearance will be undertaken outside of the dormouse hibernation season (November to March) insofar as is possible. • A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of dormice at the site. • Heras fencing will be erected around the working area to prevent encroachment into retained habitats where dormice could be present. • A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for dormice. In the unlikely event that a dormouse or evidence of dormouse is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The scrub, tussocky grassland and trees on site provide good foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs, which could access the site from the adjacent suburban gardens, arable fields and the small areas of deciduous woodland connected to the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Scrub, tussocky neutral grassland and trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to have minor impacts on local hedgehog populations. Moreover, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Similar to the badgers, a precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.

	• The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs: • Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities. • Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas. • Installation of gaps under boundary fencing to enable hedgehogs to move freely through the site.
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Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Proposed plan



MSAD

Notes

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CDM
All design and construction is to be in accordance with the Construction, Design and Management Regulations 2015.
DESIGN CRITERIA
All of the contractors' works on site are to comply with and meet the approval of the relevant British Standards and the Local Authority's Design Guides, including Building Control and Planning Departments.
DIMENSIONS:
Please note, all dimensions on the drawing are shown in millimetres, unless otherwise stated and should be checked prior to any works on site. It is the responsibility of the client or appointed contractor to notify the designers of any discrepancies of the walls and general layout.
DO NOT SCALE FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES
MATERIALS:
Please note, all the materials specified and the construction details shown, are not to be changed without the full knowledge and prior approval of the agent, as any changes may have a detrimental effect on the designed/required carbon emissions of the structure as designed.

Address: Land At London Road
Gosmore
SG4 7RE

Drawing Size	Scale	Drawn by
A3	1/500	MS
Job No.	Work Stage	Drawing No.
1171	Sketch	03b

Site Plan
As Proposed

M Scott /
Architectural
Design
BANCROFT HOUSE
34 BANCROFT
INTERIM
HERTS SG5 1LA
www.msad.co.uk
Tel:01462 402440

Appendix 4: Photos

Figure 1: power substation in the east of the site	Figure 2: central grassland within site
 A photograph of a power substation located in a wooded area. Two large, grey metal cabinets are visible, with electrical equipment and cables. A wooden fence runs behind the cabinets. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and some green plants. A timestamp "Oct 13, 2025 14:07:33" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.	 A photograph of a central grassland area within the site. The grass is tall and green, with some trees in the background. A timestamp "Oct 13, 2025 14:08:31" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.
Figure 3: anthills in grassland	Figure 4: deadwood in site boundary
 A photograph of a grassland area showing several anthills. The grass is green and the ground is uneven. A timestamp "Oct 13, 2025 14:09:27" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.	 A photograph of a deadwood log lying on the ground in a grassy area. The log is weathered and has some moss or lichen on it. A timestamp "Oct 13, 2025 14:10:14" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

Figure 5: scattered trees	Figure 6: mature oak tree on site northern boundary
 Oct 13, 2025 14:09:04	 Oct 13, 2025 14:21:47
Figure 7: blackthorn scrub	Figure 8: bramble dominated area of scrub
 Oct 13, 2025 14:07:39	 Oct 13, 2025 14:23:06

Figure 9: hard-standing access path	Figure 10: line of fir trees on the northern boundary
	
Figure 10: bird nest in scrub (circled in red, below)	
	

Hornbeam Homes

Land North of the Crescent SG4 7RE

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Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	James Fielding PhD BA (Hons) PGcert (merit) Consultant Ecologist	15/10/25
Final	1.0	James Fielding PhD BA (Hons) PGcert (merit) Consultant Ecologist	16/10/25