

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Volume 2: Figures & Appendices

Chapter 11: Ecology

Appendix 11.3 Ecology Headlines Technical Note



LAND TO THE EAST AND SOUTH OF BALDOCK

Ecological Headlines Technical Note

BMD.21.0045.RPE-TN.806.EcoHeadlines

DATE: AUGUST 2025

Ecological Headlines: Baldock

Technical Note

Project: BMD.21.0045 **Ref:** BMD.21.0045.RPE-TN.806.EcoHeadlines

Subject: Additional Desk Study Information **Date:** March 2023

Status: FOR INFORMATION **Rev:** -

Originated
JW

Technical reviewed
JP

Approved
JP

BACKGROUND

Client Urban&Civic plc
Consultant Bradley Murphy Design Ltd.

SITE

Location Baldock, Hertfordshire
National Grid Reference ... Approx. centre: TL 25319 34539
Over-view The Site is approximately 223 ha in total however is dissected by a railway running east west through the middle of the Site effectively creating a northern and southern portion of the Site. The northern area comprises approximately 150 ha. The southern area comprises approximately 73 ha. The northern area of the Site is composed of land parcels to the north and south of Bygrave Road/Ashwell Road in Baldock, Hertfordshire, centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 25369 34942. It comprises a combination of arable fields and grazed pasture, with a mixture of residential and farm buildings located along Bygrave Road. North and east of the site is dominated by farmland, with the town of Baldock located to the south-west. To the west, beyond North Road, is Ivel Springs LNR, Blackhorse Farm Meadow LWS and Ivel Springs, Norton Road LWS. The southern section of the Site is located to the east of the town of Baldock in Hertfordshire and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 25643 33923. The site comprises arable fields with occasional boundary hedgerows, with a mixture of residential and farm buildings. It is bound by a railway line to the north, the A505 to the south and east with the residential areas of Clothall Common and Baldock to the west.

Landscape context The Site is situated on the eastern extent of the town of Baldock. As such, the Site sits within a transitional landscape, with an agricultural field matrix to the north, and an urbanised area characterised by residential developments with occasional industrial use to the south and southwest.

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING BACKGROUND

Proposed works The Site has been allocated as an urban extension to the east of Baldock in the North Hertfordshire Local Plan, and will comprise residential, retail, community, education and employment uses, a network of open spaces and associated supporting infrastructure. The Local Plan policy for the site allocation requires the production of a Strategic Masterplan (SMP). This PEA has been produced as part of the baseline stage of the SMP to inform the emerging masterplan.

Planning stage Outline Planning Application

ASSESSMENT

Date March 2023
Assessor Jonathan Wood BSc MCIEEM

Declaration of compliance with professional code of ethics or conduct

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bonafide opinions.

Every reasonable attempt has been made to comply with the relevant best practice guidelines and BS42020:2013 (Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development).

Data sources *MAGIC*. The Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory. Readily available maps and imagery and eCountability local records.

This Technical Note has been produced as an addendum to BMD.21.0045.RPE-P1.801.-.Ecology to document the ecological headliners of a desk-based assessment including local records with the principal purpose of identifying potential constraints and opportunities and what further survey work would be necessary to inform a series of planning applications at the Site.

The full ecological assessment is provided in BMD.21.0045.RPE-P1.801.-.Ecology.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Site

Historic Context

- 1.1.1 Readily available historic aerial imagery and maps indicate that the Site has largely remained in its current state of arable land with the surrounding landscape largely being used for agricultural purposes since at least the late 18th century. The surrounding landscape has also remained largely unchanged from its 19th century landscape character, with the exception of localised urban expansion of inhabited areas surrounding the Site; most notably the town of Baldock and city of Letchworth to the southwest, the town of Stotfold to the northwest. The surrounding habitats have also seen changes with the removal of woodland parcels for further agricultural land occurring throughout the 19th century.

Present Context

- 1.1.2 The Site is approximately 223 ha in total however is dissected by a railway running east west through the middle of the Site effectively creating a northern and southern portion of the Site. The northern area comprises approximately 150 ha. The southern area comprises approximately 73 ha.
- 1.1.3 The northern area of the Site is located within the north of Hertfordshire, approximately 7.6 km north of the borough of Stevenage, at the north-eastern extent of the market town of Baldock. The Site is dissected by the Cambridge Train Line which splits the Site into a northern and southern area.
- 1.1.4 The train line running through the centre of the Site borders the northern area of the Site to the south; North Road to the west and chiefly agricultural land to the north and east. Several residential avenues, pathways, gardens and homes are also present within the vicinity of the Site boundaries, particularly along the southwest border of the Site.
- 1.1.5 The Bygrave Road runs southwest-northeast within the centre of the northern area of the Site, dividing arable farmland. Multiple footpaths run within the north Site's boundaries, connecting to North Road, Bygrave Road and multiple residential pathways. There are also some urban features within the Site, such as the roundabout connecting the B656 and A505 to the northeast of the Site. The surrounding landscape, with the exception of the town of Baldock to the southwest, has a commensurate character to that within the Site: agricultural land, chiefly arable, interspersed by residential pockets, roads and hedgerows. The residential areas surrounding the Site are all primarily associated to the town of Baldock situated to the southwest of the Site and the village of Bygrave approximately 1 km northeast of the Site.
- 1.1.6 In the southern area of the Site the A505 (Royston Road) borders the Site from the south to the northeast; the Cambridge Train Line to the north; Wallington Road to the west and the Ashville

Trading estate at the northwest border—several residential avenues, gardens and homes are also present within the vicinity of the Site boundaries.

- 1.1.7 The A507 (Clothall Road) runs southwest-southeast along the southern section of the Site, dividing arable farmland within the Site. Multiple footpaths run within the southern areas boundaries, connecting to the B656, Wallington Road and multiple residential areas. There are also some urban features within the Site, such as the roundabout connecting the B656 and A505 to the northeast of the southern area. The surrounding landscape, with the exception of the town of Baldock to the southwest, has a commensurate character to that within the Site: agricultural land, chiefly arable, interspersed by residential pockets, roads and hedgerows. The residential areas surrounding the Site are all primarily associated to the town of Baldock situated to the southwest of the Site and the village of Bygrave approximately 1.3km northeast of the Site.
- 1.1.8 Considering the outlined above contextual features regarding the Site and its surrounding landscape, while there is some overland connectivity of the Site to its adjacent habitats, particularly from the north, the presence of multiple dispersal barriers within the vicinity, including highways and rail lines, is deemed to leave dispersal capacity of terrestrial fauna to/from the Site as moderate. It is further estimated that more mobile species, such as bats, birds, and insects, would be more readily able to commute to the Site from surrounding habitats.

Ecological context

- 1.1.9 WYG carried out a suite of breeding bird surveys in 2017 (WYG, 2017a). The Site was found to support a population of corn bunting considered to be of County importance. Other farmland birds were also recorded and this assemblage was also considered to be of County level importance.
- 1.1.10 In 2019 the ecological appraisal was updated along with a series of species-specific assessments including corn bunting and reptile reports which were produced between 2019-2020. These reports are as follows:
- Baldock North - Updated Ecological Appraisal (2019a);
 - Baldock Southeast - Updated Ecological Appraisal (2019b);
 - Baldock Reptile Survey Report (2019c);
 - Baldock Southeast - Bat Activity Report (2020a); and
 - Baldock North and Southeast - Corn Bunting Report (2020b).
- 1.1.11 No further previous ecological surveys or assessments are known for the Site or adjacent land.

1.2 Methods

Desk Study

- 1.2.1 The desk study involved gathering and analysing existing ecological focused data within the site boundary and extending up to 5 km. The results of the desk study aid in the interpretation of the walkover survey results.
- 1.2.2 Desk study data was collated as follows:
- Statutory European Sites – up to 5 km;
 - Statutory National Sites – 2 km search area;
 - Priority and Notable habitats – 1 km search area; and
 - Protected and notable species – development licence applications and returns – 1 km search area (5 km for bats).

2. DETAILED DESK STUDY SCOPING EXERCISE

2.1 Statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance

2.1.1 A data search on MAGIC was completed on 15th April 2022. A summary of features checked is provided in the tables below.

Table 2.1 Summary of statutory nature conservation sites within 2 km of the Site (extending to 5 km for European designated sites)

Site designation	Number of sites				
	Total	On Site	0-1 km	1-2 km	2-5 km
AONB	0	0	0	0	0
LNR	4	0	2	0	2
NNR	0	0	0	0	0
National Park	0	0	0	0	0
Ramsar	0	0	0	0	0
SSSI	0	0	0	0	0
SAC	0	0	0	0	0
SPA	0	0	0	0	0
Impact Risk Zone	No				

2.1.2 The Site itself does not lie within any Statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance. Details of designated sites returned by the desk study within 2 km of the Site are provided in Table 2.2

Table 2.2 Detail of statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 2 km of the Site

Site	Designation ¹ & area	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description ²
Weston Hill Ref: 1481548	LNR & LWS 17 ha	Borders the Site at the south east boundary.	This site is designated for its calcareous grassland habitat, beech and ash woodland and wildflower grassland that are managed for conservation purposes. Numerous notable and protected species are present within the site such as slow worms, yellow meadow ants and turtle doves.
Ivel Springs Ref: 1475816	LNR & LWS 14.71 ha	Borders the Site at the northwest boundary.	This site is designated for its mosaic of habitats including wildflower meadows, glades, chalk grassland, wetland and springs that are a key source for the river Ivel.
Notes ^{1,2} Provided by MAGIC (15/04/2022)			

- 2.1.3 The Site does not lie within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of any statutory designated sites of nature conservation.

Non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance

- 2.1.4 There are a total of ten non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 1 km of the Site as provided by Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC), returned 15th of April 2022. These sites are summarised in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance (Local Wildlife Sites only) within 1 km of the site

Site	Designation ¹	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description ²
Bygrave Road Verge TL256349	LWS 0.06 ha	Located within the Site to the centre along Bygrave Road.	Adjacent narrow roadside banks with good calcareous grassland habitat containing high flora diversity such as lady's bedstraw and great pignut.
Blackhorse Farm Meadow TL240348	LWS 3.2 ha	~90 m northwest Good connectivity via watercourses, drains and associated riparian corridors.	A series of meadows situated on the alluvial deposits of the River Ivel which support unimproved marshy grassland, rivers, ditches, wetland and hedgerows. The large amount of grassland indicators present on the site gives rise to its designation.
River Ivel, Nortonbury TL235352	LWS	~90 m northwest Good connectivity via watercourses, drains and associated riparian corridors.	The River Ivel watercourse and associated riparian corridor with scrub, mature trees and marginal vegetation. The river flows north as a tributary to the River Great Ouse and is extremely important as a wildlife corridor and for protected species such as water vole and kingfisher.
Wallington Road Verge by Clothall Common TL264342	LWS 0.41 ha	~100 m east Good connectivity of the Site via arable landscape and grassland.	A series of roadside verges on calcareous soil which holds a variety of calcareous flora and important arable weed species, such as prickly poppy and rough poppy along the field edges.
Blackhorse Farm Storm Drain TL239349	LWS 1.21 ha	~320 m northwest Good connectivity via the River Ivel watercourses, drains, woodland and associated riparian corridors.	A storm drain constructed to receive water from the A1(M) which has subsequently been surrounded by embankments with planted trees, scrub and wetland. Multiple fen and swamp flora indicators are present within the site.
Newfield Hill, Weston Hills TL256323	LWS 6.91 ha	~670 m southeast Good connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, agricultural landscape and grassland.	A site consisting of chalk grassland banks, scrub, plantations, old hedgerows and ancient woodland remnants which contain a variety of flora species such as hairy violet and bulbous buttercup.
Icknield Way Railway Bank TL233335	LWS 1.74 ha	~870 m west Good connectivity via railway corridors, woodland parcels, watercourses and arable landscape.	A disused railway track that is utilised as a wildlife corridor for many notable and protected species.
St Margaret's Churchyard, Bygrave TL266361	LWS	~930 m northeast Some connectivity via grassland, arable landscape, residential pathways and woodland parcels.	A churchyard building and associated landscape that is seen as high value for protected species.

Site	Designation ¹	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description ²
Radwell Meadows Northwestern Field TL231352	LWS (Local Wildlife Site) 7.53 ha	~1 km northwest Good connectivity via the River Ivel riparian corridor, watercourses, woodland and arable landscape.	A mosaic of habitats including neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, streams, meadows, the River Ivel and its riparian corridors. The large amount of grassland indicators present on the site gives rise to its designation.
Ashanger Hill Green Lane TL267316	LWS 1.65 ha	~1 km southeast Some connectivity via roadside verges, arable landscape and grassland habitat.	A green lane that runs off Clothall road forming a Parish boundary, consists of a hedge bank, mature trees, grassland and scrub. Traditional management methods such as coppicing and pollarding are present on this site.
Notes ^{1,2} Provided by Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC)			

2.2 Habitats

2.2.1 A summary of Priority and Notable habitats within 1km of the Site is presented in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Summary of priority (and notable) habitats within 1 km of the Site

Broad category	Priority Habitat Inventory	Other habitats	On Site	0-1 km
Coastal	Saltmarsh		0	0
	Sand Dunes		0	0
	Vegetated Shingle		0	0
	Maritime Cliffs and Slopes		0	0
	Mudflats		0	0
	Saline Lagoons		0	0
Grassland	Calaminarian Grassland		0	0
	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh		0	0
		Good quality semi-improved grassland (non-priority)	0	3 blocks of 6 parcels
	Lowland Calcareous Grassland		0	4 parcels
	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland		0	0
	Lowland Meadows		0	5 blocks of 8 parcels
	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture		0	0
	Upland Calcareous Grassland		0	0
	Upland Hay Meadows		0	0
Heath	Lowland Heathland		0	0
	Mountain Heaths and Willow Scrub		0	0
	Upland Heathland		0	0
Limestone pavements	Limestone Pavements		0	0
Marine	Intertidal Substrate Foreshore		0	0

Broad category	Priority Habitat Inventory	Other habitats	On Site	0-1 km
Wetland	Blanket Bog		0	0
	Lowland Fens		0	0
	Lowland Raised Bog		0	0
	Reedbeds		0	0
	Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps		0	0
Woodland		Ancient: Semi-natural	0	3 parcels
		Ancient: Replanted	0	1 parcel
	Deciduous Woodland		0	20 blocks of 46 parcels
		National Inventory of Woodland & Trees ¹	0	20 parcels
	Traditional Orchards		0	2 blocks of 4 parcels
	Wood pasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat		0	0
Trees ²		Ancient, veteran or notable trees	0	0
Other		Fragmented heath (Non-Priority)	0	0
		Grass Moorland (Non-Priority)	0	0
		No main habitat but additional habitat exists	0	0
	Open Mosaic Habitat		0	0
Notes 1. Not notable habitats but provide information to guide mitigation 2. Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory				

Priority Habitats

2.2.2 Priority habitats returned by the desk study are listed in Appendix D. In summary, the following UK Priority Habitats occur (as depicted on *MAG/C*) within 1 km of the Site:

- **Good quality semi-improved grassland:** 3 blocks of 6 parcels, the closest of which lies approximately 10 m from the Site across North Road to the northwest of the Site.
- **Lowland calcareous grassland:** 4 parcels, the closest of which lies adjacent the Site to the south associated with Weston Hills LNR.
- **Lowland meadow:** 5 blocks of 8 parcels, the closest of which is located approximately 100 m northwest of the Site associated with landscape around the River Ivel corridor.
- **Traditional orchard:** 2 blocks of 4 parcels, the closest of which is located approximately 280 m southwest of the Site.
- **Deciduous woodland:** 20 blocks of 46 parcels, the closest of which is located adjacent the Site at the southern boundary to Weston Hills LNR.
- **No main habitat but additional habitats present:** 1 parcel which is located approximately 380 m northwest of the Site.

Notable Habitats (including irreplaceable habitat and Priority habitat)

- 2.2.3 Notable habitats returned by the desk study are listed in Appendix D. In summary, the following UK Notable Habitats occur (as depicted on MAGIC) within 1 km of the Site:
- **Semi-natural ancient woodland:** 3 parcels associated with Weston Hills LNR, these parcels are located approximately 640 m southeast of the Site.
 - **Replanted ancient woodland:** 1 parcel associated with Weston Hills LNR, this parcel is located approximately 980 m southeast of the Site.
- 2.2.4 A review of the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory (Woodland Trust, 2022) as of 15/04/2022 highlighted no known ancient, veteran or notable trees on the Site or within 1 km.

National Habitat Networks Map

- 2.2.5 The following UK National Habitat Networks occur (as depicted on MAGIC) within the Site:
- **Fragmentation Action Zone:** A small area of grassland within the Site to the far west associated with the LWS within Enhancement Zone 1 that connects existing patches of primary and associated habitats which are currently highly fragmented and where fragmentation could be reduced by habitat creation.
 - **Network Expansion Zone:** An area of grassland and arable to the south of the Site lies within the expansion zone. These are areas of land beyond the Network Enhancement Zones with potential for expanding, linking/joining networks across the landscape.
 - **Network Enhancement Zone 1:** A small area of grassland to the south of the Site lies within Enhancement Zone 1. These are areas of land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat.
 - **Network Enhancement Zone 2:** An area west of the Site associated with the Fragmentation Action Zone is within Enhancement Zone 2. These are areas of land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is less likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat 2 areas.

Hertfordshire Ecological Networks Map

- 2.2.6 There are areas of habitat within the Site that occur within the Hertfordshire Ecological Networks Map:
- **Existing S41 NERC Act Habitat:** A number of small areas of existing S41 NERC habitats occur on Site. These include areas of chalk grassland within Clothall Common and Ivel Springs.
 - **Existing Habitat not currently qualifying under S41 NERC Act:** A number of small areas of existing habitats not currently qualifying under S41 NERC occur on Site. These include areas of calcareous and neutral grassland within Clothall Common and Ivel Springs.

- **No Habitats Mapped (high priority for habitat creation):** Small areas of this category are shown within the Site. These are extensions of existing S41 NERC habitats, including target areas of chalk grassland.
- **No Habitats Mapped (medium priority for habitat creation):** The majority of the Site falls under this category dominated by arable land, residential, grassland and current development.
- **No Habitats Mapped (lower priority for habitat creation):** A small area of the Site within the north falls under this category. Habitats within this area are primarily arable.

2.3 Protected Species

2.3.1 No statutory designated sites within 5 km of the Site are designated for bats.

2.3.2 A search on *MAGIC* returned a total of thirty-seven licence applications within 5 km of the Site relating to bats. Table 2.5 summarises the development bat licence applications within 5 km of the Site within the last 10 years.

Table 2.5 Development bat license applications within 5 km of the Site identified during the data search via MAGIC

Species	Date	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Licensed activity
Brown long-eared and soprano pipistrelle bat	01/03/2016-31/03/2021	~ 4 km southeast Some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, woodland parcels/edges and hedgerows.	Destruction of a resting place
Brown long-eared and soprano pipistrelle bat	19/04/2016-31/03/2021	~ 4 km southeast Some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, woodland parcels/edges and hedgerows.	Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle	18/03/2014-30/09/2016	~ 600 m west Good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, residential pathways and urban features.	Damage to a resting place Destruction of a resting place
Brown long eared bat	04/12/2012-30/09/2015	~5 km southeast Some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, woodland parcels/edges and hedgerows.	Destruction of a resting place
Brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat	23/04/2013-30/08/2014	~3.6 km south Some connectivity to the Site via residential pathways, arable landscape and woodland parcels/edges.	Destruction of a resting place
Brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat	24/11/2017-31/01/2022	~3.6 km south Some connectivity to the Site via residential pathways, arable landscape and woodland parcels/edges.	Destruction of a resting place

Species	Date	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Licenced activity
Brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat	17/01/2017-17/01/2017	~3.6 km south Some connectivity to the Site via residential pathways, arable landscape and woodland parcels/edges.	Destruction of a resting place
Brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat	19/09/2011-31/12/2012	~ 840 m west Good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, residential pathways and urban features.	Destruction of a resting place
Brown long eared bat	07/04/2016-30/04/2021	~3.5 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via watercourses, woodland parcels and arable landscape.	Destruction of a resting place
Brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat	08/05/2014-30/08/2014	~3.6 km south Some connectivity to the Site via residential pathways, arable landscape and woodland parcels/edges.	Destruction of a resting place

- 2.3.3 No waterbodies are present within the Site other than dry ditch courses. However, a number of waterbodies are present within 500 m of the Site, this includes: an agricultural drain that runs along the western boundary of the Site; the River Ivel watercourse that runs south-northwest adjacent North Road approximately 60 m northwest of the Site. However, considering that these are not standing water, it is considered that generally the site lacks suitable breeding habitat for great crested newt.
- 2.3.4 A review of *MAGIC* returned no great crested newt licence returns within 1 km of the Site.
- 2.3.5 No European protected species applications for great crested newt were granted within 1 km of the Site.
- 2.3.6 Table 2.6 summarises great crested newt data within 1 km of the Site, as depicted on various online data sources.

Table 2.6 Great crested newt data within 1 km of the Site

Data source	Number of records		
	Total	On Site	0-1 km
NE Great Crested Newt Class Survey Licence Returns ¹	0	0	0
NE country-wide survey data ¹	0	0	0
Granted European Protected Species Application licenses ¹	0	0	0
Notes 1. As depicted on <i>MAGIC</i> 2022 2. Downloaded April 2022			

- 2.3.7 Table 2.7 summarises the protected species records, provided by eCountability (returned 03/04/2022) that occur within 1 km (extending to 2 km for bats) of the Site within the last 10 years.

Table 2.7 Protected species recorded within 1 km (2 km for bats) of the Site (as provided by eCountability; returned 03/04/2022)

Species	Level of protection ¹	Summary of records ²		
		N ^o , distribution & connectivity	Distance, direction & date	
Amphibians & Reptiles				
Common lizard	UK (En)	2 records, both with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland edges and scrub.	Adjacent to the Site, within the centre, along Royston Road -/07/2014	Adjacent to the Site, within the centre, along Royston Road -/07/2014
Slow-worm	UK (En)	2 records with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, scrubland and woodland parcels.	~50 m south (associated with Weston Hills) /04/2012	~50 m south (associated with Weston Hills) /04/2012
Bats				
Bat species	EU & UK (En.)	3 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via residential pathways, woodland parcels, arable landscape and hedgerows.	~610 m west -/-/2015	~610 m west -/-/2015
Brown long-eared bat	EU & UK (En.)	4 records, all with some connectivity to the Site via urban pathways, hedgerows, woodland and the River Ivel.	~450 m west 24/01/2018	~450 m west 24/01/2018
Common pipistrelle	EU & UK (En.)	4 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via urban/residential pathways, river corridors, woodland and hedgerows.	~290 m southwest 03/08/2018	~290 m southwest 03/08/2018
Long-eared bat species	EU & UK (En.)	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via urban/residential pathways, river corridors, woodland and hedgerows.	~1.8 km southeast 12/06/2017	~1.8 km southeast 12/06/2017
Myotis species	EU & UK (En.)	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland parcels and arable landscape.	~1.9 km southeast 12/06/2017	~1.9 km southeast 12/06/2017
Noctule bat	EU & UK (En.)	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via urban/residential pathways, river corridors, woodland and hedgerows.	~2 km west 11/06/2015	~2 km west 11/06/2015
Pipistrelle bat species	EU & UK (En.)	3 records in 2 locations, all of which have some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, woodland parcels, residential/urban features and hedgerows.	~1.4 km northwest 10/10/2017	~2 km southeast 30/04/2021
Serotine	EU & UK (En.)	2 records with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland parcels and watercourses.	~1.4 km northwest 10/10/2017	~1.4 km northwest 10/10/2017

Species	Level of protection ¹	Summary of records ²		
		N- ^o , distribution & connectivity	Distance, direction & date Nearest	Most recent
Soprano pipistrelle	EU & UK (En.)	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via watercourses, arable landscape, woodland parcels, residential/urban features and hedgerows.	~2 km west 11/06/2015	~2 km west 11/06/2015
Birds				
Black redstart	UK (En.)	2 records, both with some connectivity to the Site via residential/urban features and arable landscape.	~620 m east 01/04/2013	~620 m east 01/04/2013
Brambling	UK	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via residential/urban features, arable landscape and hedgerows.	~610 m west 28/03/2018	~610 m west 28/03/2018
Firecrest	UK (En.)	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, edges and hedgerows.	~620 m south 15/05/2016	~620 m south 15/05/2016
Fieldfare	UK	50 records in 9 locations, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland, field margins and hedgerows.	Onsite (along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common) 01/12/2018	~950 m east 28/12/2018
Hen harrier	UK (En)	3 records in 2 locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland and woodland.	~60 m east 07/07/2015	~60 m east 07/07/2015
Hobby	UK (En)	12 records in 5 locations, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland and woodland.	~400 m southwest 20/09/2014	~1 km northwest 09/05/2016
Merlin	UK (En)	6 records in 4 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland, field margins and hedgerows.	~920 m east 23/09/2018	~920 m east 23/09/2018
Montagu's harrier	UK (En)	7 records in 3 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland and arable landscape.	~60 m east 06/07/2015	~1 km southwest 07/07/2015
Peregrine falcon	EU & UK (En.)	7 records in 2 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, urban features and arable landscape.	~390 m west 24/01/2015	~390 m west 24/01/2015
Quail	UK (En)	3 records in 2 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland and arable landscape.	~730 m northeast 15/07/2014	~1 km southwest 05/07/2017
Red kite	UK (En)	70 record sin 9 locations, the majority of which have good	Onsite (along the western boundary	Onsite (along the western

Species	Level of protection ¹	Summary of records ²		
		N- ^o , distribution & connectivity	Distance, direction & date	
			Nearest	Most recent
		connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland, field margins and hedgerows.	adjacent Clothall Common) 22/09/2018	boundary adjacent Clothall Common) 22/09/2018
Redwing	UK (En)	28 records in 6 locations, the majority of which have good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland, field margins and hedgerows.	Onsite (along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common) 01/12/2018	Onsite (along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common) 01/12/2018
Barn owl	UK (En)	18 records in 4 locations, the majority of which have good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland, field margins and hedgerows.	~430 m east 14/02/2017	~960 m northeast 11/03/2017
Western marsh harrier	UK (En)	1 records with slight connectivity to the Site via grassland and watercourses.	~490 m west 17/08/2015	~1 km southwest 05/07/2017
Mammals				
Eurasian badger	UK (En.)	12 records in 13 locations, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, arable field parcels and grassland.	Onsite (within north-western hedgerow adjacent North Road) 31/03/2015	~400 m west 23/03/2020
European water vole	UK (En)	1 record associated with the River Ivel, this record has some connectivity to the Site via watercourses.	~230 m west -/2014	~230 m west -/2014
Polecat	UK (En)	1 record with direct connectivity within the hedgerow and arable landscape within the centre of the Site north of Bygrave Road.	Onsite (within the centre of the Site north of Bygrave Road) 02/03/2015	Onsite (within the centre of the Site north of Bygrave Road) 02/03/2015
Notes 1. EU – European; UK – UK; (En) – also a notable species in England, e.g. UK Priority/S41 species. Refer to Glossary for details and definitions. 2. As provided by Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre.				

2.4 Notable species

- 2.4.1 There is one grassland farmland bird assemblages with a maximum of two species, as depicted on MAGIC, which overlap with the Site itself. Species known to overlap with the Site includes lapwing and snipe, therefore there is potential that such species may occur on or use the Site if suitable habitat is present.

Table 2.8 farmland bird assemblages in relation to the Site

Species	On Site	0-1 km
Farmland bird assemblages¹		
Arable (max number of species)		
Grassland (max number of species)	2	2
Black grouse		
Cirl bunting		
Corn bunting		
Curlew		
Grey partridge		
Lapwing	✓	✓
Redshank		
Snipe	✓	✓
Stone curlew		
Tree sparrow		
Turtle dove		
Twite		
Yellow wagtail		
1. Mammals		
European hedgehog ²	0	1
2. Notes 3. As depicted on MAG/C 4. Aa depicted on the Big Hedgehog Map (PTES, 2022).		

2.4.2 There are a total of fifty-seven hedgehog records present within 1 km of the Site as depicted on the Big Hedgehog Map (PTES, 2022) as of the 15/04/2022. The closest of these records borders the Site itself near to the centre along Royston Road, while the vast majority of additional records are located southwest of the Site with strong connectivity via residential gardens and hedgerows.

2.4.3 Table 2.9 summarises the notable species records, provided by as provided by HERC, 25/03/22) that occur within 1 km (extending to 2 km for birds) of the Site within the last 10 years.

Table 2.9 Notable species recorded within 1 km of the Site (2 km for birds) (as provided by HERC, 25/03/22)

Species	Status				N- ^o , distribution & connectivity	Summary of records	
	BAP ¹	S41	BoCC ²	Other ³		Distance, direction & date	
						Nearest	Most recent
Amphibians							
Common toad	U K	✓		LSC C LPS	3 records with good connectivity to the Site via woodland, waterbodies/water corridors and grassland.	~420 m southeast 08/05/2013	~420 m southeast 08/05/2013
Birds							

Cuckoo	U K	✓	✓	LSC C LPS	4 records, all of which have some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, edges and hedgerows.	~560 m north 22/06/2016	~560 m north 22/06/2016
Lesser black-backed gull			✓	LPS	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and scrubland.	~500 m northwest 18/06/2016	~500 m northwest 18/06/2016
Lesser whitethroat				LPS	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, hedgerows and grassland.	~50 m southwest 17/05/2016	~50 m southwest 17/05/2016
Linnet			✓	LPS LSC C	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and scrubland.	~500 m northwest 18/06/2016	~500 m northwest 18/06/2016
Mistle thrush			✓	LPS LSC C	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, edges and grassland.	~500 m northwest 01/07/2013	~500 m northwest 01/07/2013
Reed bunting	U K	✓	✓	LSC C	5 records, all of which with some connectivity the Site via grassland, hedgerow and waterbodies.	~500 m northwest 24/02/2016	~500 m northwest 24/02/2016
Skylark	U K	✓	✓	LPS LSC C	5 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via grassland and arable landscape.	~500 m northwest 18/06/2016	~500 m northwest 18/06/2016
Song thrush	U K	✓	✓	LPS LSC C	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, hedgerows, woodland parcels and edges.	~500 m northwest 01/07/2013	~500 m northwest 01/07/2013
Swift			✓	LPS	4 records, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, residential/farm features and grassland.	~300 m northwest 05/07/2016	~300 m northwest 05/07/2016
Whinchat			✓	LSC C	2 records with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland parcels/edges and scrub land.	~500 m northwest 14/09/2016	~500 m northwest 14/09/2016
Invertebrates							

Large skipper				LPS	21 records, with the majority having some connectivity to the Site via grassland, scrubland and woodland edges.	~960 m southeast 16/06/2019	~960 m southeast 16/06/2019
Purple emperor		✓		VU LPS LSC C	2 records, both with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, scrubland and woodland edges.	~770 m northwest 10/07/2015	~770 m northwest 10/07/2015
Small copper				LPS	9 records with the majority having good connectivity the Site via grassland, scrubland and woodland edges.	~650 m north 19/07/2013	~650 m north 19/07/2013
Small skipper				LPS	13 records, with the majority having some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/edges, residential gardens and grassland.	~960 m southeast 29/06/2018	~960 m southeast 29/06/2018
White admiral	✓	✓		VU LPS LSC C	6 records, with the majority having some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/edges, residential gardens and grassland.	~870 m north 26/07/2013	~1 km northeast 01/07/2015
Mammals							
West European hedgehog	✓	✓		LPS LSC C	5 records, the majority with good connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, grassland and residential pathways.	~610 m west -/2019	~610 m west -/2019
Plants							
Large-leaved lime				NS	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins, woodland and residential gardens.	~990 m east 01/01/2020	~990 m east 01/01/2020
Notes 1. Biodiversity Action Plan: UK – UK; L – Local 2. Birds of Conservation Concern: R – Red listed; A – Amber listed 3. Other: Great Britain Threat Status: EN – Endangered; NT – Near Threatened; VU – Vulnerable; NS – Nationally Scarce; L – Locally Scarce; LPS – London Priority Species; LSCC – Local Species of Conservation Concern. Refer to Glossary for definitions							

2.4.4 Table 2.10 summarises the notable species records, provided by the Hertfordshire Ecological Records Centre (HERC), returned 25/03/2022, that occurred within 1 km of the Site and within the last 10 years. This Table excludes any species that are specifically protected (see Table 3.4).

Table 2.10 Notable species recorded within 1 km of the Site (as provided by HERC, 25/03/22)

Species	Status				N ^o , distribution & connectivity	Summary of records	
	BAP ¹	S41	BoCC ²	Other ³		Distance, direction & date	
						Nearest	Most recent
Amphibians							
Common toad	✓	✓			1 record with some connectivity to the Site via grassland.	~460 m east 16/10/2016	~460 m east 16/10/2016
Birds							
Black-headed gull			✓		8 records, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and residential pathways.	~30 m east 16/02/2018	~370 m southwest 01/12/2018
Common gull			✓		2 records, both with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable fields, urban/residential pathways and roadside verges.	~1 km southwest 14/03/2017	~1 km southwest 14/03/2017
Common house-martin			✓	LR	4 records, all with some connectivity to the Site via residential/urban pathways and arable landscape.	~450 m east 20/06/2013	~1 km southwest 03/06/2017
Common reed bunting	✓	✓	✓		5 records, all with some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland and residential gardens.	~440 m southwest 16/02/2016	~880 m east 09/07/2017
Corn bunting			✓		64 records in 19 locations, the majority of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, hedgerows and residential gardens.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 24/06/2018	~780 m east 27/12/2018
Cuckoo	✓	✓	✓		1 record with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, edges and residential gardens.	~1 km southwest 27/04/2014	~1 km southwest 27/04/2014
Dunnock			✓		85 records in 6 locations, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland and arable landscape.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 22/09/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 22/09/2018
Eurasian bullfinch			✓		11 records in 4 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland parcels and edges, hedgerows and residential gardens.	~650 m northeast 14/05/2016	~1 km south 18/05/2017

Eurasian skylark	✓		✓		72 records in 5 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and hedgerows.	~60 m east 29/05/2017	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common
European herring gull			✓		7 records in 3 locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, residential/urban pathways and arable landscape.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 24/06/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 24/06/2018
Grey partridge	✓	✓	✓		53 records in 11 locations, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via arable fields and grassland.	~60 m east 07/10/2018	~530 m east 27/10/2018
Grey plover			✓		7 records in 2 locations, all of which have low connectivity to the Site via watercourses.	~440 m southwest 08/11/2016	~440 m southwest 08/11/2016
Grey wagtail			✓		5 records in 3 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, watercourses and residential gardens.	~250 m west 27/07/2016	~1 km northeast 16/10/2016
House sparrow	✓	✓	✓		58 records in 5 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential/urban features and hedgerows.	~60 m east 24/06/2018	~1 km southwest 28/09/2018
Kestrel			✓		41 records in 8 locations, with the vast majority having good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland, residential/urban features and roadside verges,	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018
Lapwing	✓	✓	✓		13 records in 3 locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland and watercourses.	~400 m southwest 17/01/2016	~920 m east 18/11/2017
Lesser black-backed gull			✓		16 records in 6 locations, all with the good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and residential/urban features.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 22/09/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 22/09/2018
Linnet			✓		61 records in 8 locations, all with the good connectivity to the Site via grassland,	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common	~380 m south 20/07/2018

					arable landscape and residential/urban features.	24/06/2018	
Mallard			✓		9 records in 2 locations, all of which have some connectivity to the Site via grassland and watercourses.	~740 m northeast 28/05/2016	~740 m northeast 28/05/2016
Marsh tit			✓		1 record with some connectivity to the Site via woodland and grassland.	~1 km west 10/01/2016	~1 km west 10/01/2016
Meadow pipit			✓		53 records in 6 locations, the majority of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018
Mistle thrush			✓		27 records in 4 locations, the majority of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018
Mute swan			✓		1 record with some connectivity to the Site via watercourses and grassland.	~1 km west 31/03/2015	~1 km west 31/03/2015
Redstart					1 record with good connectivity to the Site via woodland, residential gardens and grassland.	~380 m west 28/03/2013	~380 m west 28/03/2013
Ring ouzel					1 record with some connectivity to the Site via residential gardens and grassland.	~1 km west 17/04/2015	~ 1 km west 17/04/2015
Short-eared owl			✓	✓	5 records in 2 locations with some connectivity to the Site via woodland, hedgerows and arable landscape.	~490 m southwest 24/02/2015	~1 km west 25/02/2015
Song thrush	LB		✓		44 records in 4 locations, the majority with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018
Spotted flycatcher	✓	✓	✓		2 records with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape and hedgerows.	~970 m south 06/09/2015	~1 km south 18/05/2017
Starling			✓		107 records in 10 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 10/04/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common

					landscape, residential gardens and hedgerows.		10/04/2018
Stock dove			✓		16 records in 6 locations with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential gardens, urban features and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 22/09/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 22/09/2018
Swift			✓		40 records in 10 locations with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential gardens, urban features and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/06/2012	~490 m southwest 28/08/2018
Turtle dove	✓	✓	✓		35 records in 3 locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential gardens, and hedgerows.	~490 m southwest 07/07/2013	~490 m southwest 07/07/2013
Western yellow wagtail			✓		45 records in 4 locations, with the majority having some connectivity to the site via watercourses, woodland patches and hedgerows.	~490 m southwest 31/05/2017	~490 m southwest 31/05/2017
Whinchat			✓		8 records in 6 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential gardens, and hedgerows.	~490 m southwest 18/09/2014	~980 m east 02/09/2018
Willow warbler			✓		10 records in 3 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential gardens, and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 29/04/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 29/04/2018
Woodcock			✓		1 record with some connectivity to the Site via grassland and hedgerows.	~960 m northeast 02/01/2017	~960 m northeast 02/01/2017
Yellowhammer	✓	✓	✓		52 records in 9 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, residential gardens, and hedgerows.	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018	Along the western boundary adjacent Clothall Common 01/12/2018
Invertebrates							
Beaded chestnut	✓	✓			1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins and woodland edges.	~240 m south 22/09/2014	~240 m south 22/09/2014
Blood-vein					2 records, both with good connectivity to the Site via	~230 m south 14/07/2013	~580 m west 08/08/2015

					grassland, field margins and woodland edges.		
Brassy long-horn				LR	7 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, residential gardens and arable field margins.	~70 m west 23/07/2015	~70 m west 23/07/2015
Brown-spot pinion	✓	✓		LR	2 records, both with good connectivity to the Site via residential gardens, woodland, hedgerows and arable field margins.	~280 m south 12/09/2014	~610 m southwest 13/09/2015
Buckthorn bent-wing				LE	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via arable field margins, woodland edges, hedgerows and grassland.	~1 km south 26/09/2013	~1 km south 26/09/2013
Buff ermine	✓	✓			3 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via residential gardens, hedgerows, woodland and grassland.	~360 m south 09/05/2014	~600 m southwest 06/06/2015
Centre-barred sallow	✓	✓			2 records, both with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, edges and hedgerows.	~310 m south 28/08/2013	~1 km southwest 04/09/2013
Chamomile shark				LR	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via roadside verges, grassland and residential pathways.	~470 m west 16/05/2015	~470 m west 16/05/2015
Chalk hill blue	✓			NT LR	5 records, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via roadside verges, grassland, arable field margins and hedgerows.	Onsite (within field to the west of the B656 roundabout) 16/07/2018	Onsite (within field to the west of the B656 roundabout) 16/07/2018
Cinnabar	✓	✓			8 records, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadside verges and arable field margins.	Onsite (within field to the west of the B656 roundabout) 06/06/2016	Onsite (within field to the west of the B656 roundabout) 06/06/2016
Dark green fritillary				LR	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via scrub, woodland parcels and woodland edges.	~620 m south 18/07/2015	~620 m south 18/07/2015
Deep-brown dart	✓	✓			1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, residential gardens and hedgerows.	~170 m south 25/09/2013	~170 m south 25/09/2013
Dot moth	✓	✓			51 records in 2 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via residential gardens, grassland and hedgerows.	~170 m south 07/06/2014	~170 m south 07/06/2014

Dusky brocade	✓	✓			19 records in the same location with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins, scrub and hedgerows.	~1 km southwest 31/07/2013	~1 km southwest 31/07/2013
Dusky thorn	✓	✓			8 records in 2 locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via arable field margins and hedgerows.	~470 m southwest 04/09/2015	~470 m southwest 04/09/2015
Ear moth	✓	✓			2 records, both with good connectivity to the Site via arable field margins and hedgerows.	~170 m south 18/07/2014	~470 m southwest 22/08/2015
Feathered gothic	✓	✓			2 records, both with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins, scrub and hedgerows.	~190 m south 04/09/2013	~470 m southwest 31/08/2015
Four-spot lift				LR	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via field margins, woodland edges, hedgerows and grassland.	~1 km south 08/07/2013	~1 km south 08/07/2013
Five-spot burnet				LR	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via field margins, woodland edges, hedgerows and grassland.	~620 m south 16/08/2012	~620 m south 16/08/2012
Ghost moth	✓	✓			5 records in 2 locations, both with good connectivity to the Site via residential gardens, grassland and arable field margins.	~430 m west 15/06/2015	~430 m west 15/06/2015
Green-brindled crescent	✓	✓			1 record with good connectivity via residential gardens and grassland.	~190 m south 27/10/2014	~190 m south 27/10/2014
Grey dagger	✓	✓			12 records in 2 locations, both with good connectivity to the Site via roadside verges, grassland and woodland edges.	~60 m east 07/10/2012	~1 km west 26/07/2013
Knot grass	✓	✓			1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, scrub, hedgerows and residential gardens.	~470 m southwest 05/10/2013	~470 m southwest 05/10/2013
Large nutmeg	✓	✓			53 records in 2 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via residential gardens, grassland and hedgerows.	~290 m south 01/06/2014	~290 m south 01/06/2014
Latticed heath	✓	✓		LR	6 records in 5 locations, the majority with good connectivity to the Site via	Onsite (within field margin bordering the Baldock bypass)	~480 m west 23/05/2015

					field margins, roadside verges and grassland.	09/06/2014	
Mottled rustic	✓	✓			53 records in the same location, with some connectivity to the Site via field margins, roadside verges and grassland.	~1 km west 31/07/2013	~1 km west 31/07/2013
Mouse moth	✓	✓			4 records in 2 locations, both with good connectivity to the Site via field margins, roadside verges and grassland.	~250 m south 01/09/2014	~450 m west 26/08/2015
Oak hook-tip	✓	✓			1 record with good connectivity tot the Site via grassland, field margins and hedgerows.	~260 m south 27/07/2014	~260 m south 27/07/2014
Plain golden Y				LR	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, woodland edges and residential gardens.	~430 m west 22/06/2015	~430 m west 22/06/2015
Red-tailed mason bee				NT	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, woodland edges and residential gardens.	~610 m west 22/06/2018	~610 m west 22/06/2018
Rosy rustic	✓	✓			4 records in 2 locations, all of which with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, woodland edges and residential gardens.	~240 m south 01/10/2014	~430 m west 11/09/2015
Rustic	✓	✓			4 records in 2 locations, all of which with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, woodland edges and residential gardens.	~240 m south 05/06/2014	~430 m west 06/06/2015
Shaded broad-bar	✓	✓			6 records in 4 locations, with the majority having good connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, woodland edges and residential gardens.	Onsite (eastern boundary of Clothall Common) 23/07/2015	~430 m west 19/08/2015
Sallow	✓	✓			1 record with good connectivity to the Site via residential gardens, woodland edges and grassland.	~310 m west 02/10/2013	~310 m west 02/10/2013
Small emerald	✓	✓			13 records in 2 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, scrub, roadside verges and field margins.	~240 m south 19/07/2014	~240 m south 19/07/2014

Small heath	✓	✓		NT	15 records in 12 locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadside verges and field margins.	Onsite (eastern boundary of Clothall Common) 16/07/2018	Onsite (eastern boundary of Clothall Common) 16/07/2018
Small ranunculus				EX	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadside verges and field margins.	~60 m east 07/09/2013	~60 m east 07/09/2013
Small square-spot	✓	✓			5 records in 1 location, with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadside verges and field margins.	~240 m south 31/08/2014	~240 m south 31/08/2014
White ermine	✓	✓			7 records in 2 locations, the majority with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadside verges and field margins.	~320 m west 17/05/2014	~640 m west 16/06/2015
White-letter hairstreak	✓	✓		LR	6 records in 3 locations, the majority with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadside verges and field margins.	~460 m west 01/07/2017	~460 m west 01/07/2017
Mammals							
Brown hare	✓	✓		LR	5 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland and field margins.	~100 m southwest 16/06/2019	~100 m southwest 16/06/2019
West European hedgehog	✓	✓		V U	65 records in locations, all with good connectivity to the Site via field margins, roadside verges, woodland edges and patches.	Onsite (within field margin bordering the Baldock bypass) 10/03/2019	~100 m west 24/06/2021
Plants							
Aggregate-headed hawkweed				N R	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via roadside verges, grassland and woodland edges.	~550 m south 16/08/2012	~550 m south 16/08/2012
Autumn gentian				NT LR	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins and woodland edges.	~680 m south 16/08/2012	~680 m south 16/08/2012
Eyebright				LR	7 records in 2 locations, all associated with Weston Hills LNR with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland and field margins.	~200 m south 07/07/2016	~570 m south 13/07/2016
Harebell				NT	1 record with good connectivity to the Site via woodland edges, grassland and arable field margins.	~570 m south 16/08/2012	~570 m south 16/08/2012

Hoary Plantain				NT	7 records, all with good connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins and woodland edges.	~290 m south 07/07/2016	~540 m south 13/07/2016
Quaking-grass				NT	7 records in 2 locations, all of which have good connectivity to the Site via grassland, field margins and woodland edges.	~110 m south 07/07/2016	~480 m south 13/07/2016
Sanicle				NT	3 records in 2 locations, all of which have some connectivity to the Site via woodland and woodland edges.	~480 m south 16/08/2012	~530 m south
White helleborine	✓	✓		V U	2 records with good connectivity to the Site via woodland, scrubland and grassland.	~480 m south 16/08/2012	~480 m south 16/08/2012
Yellow bird's nest	✓	✓		E N	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via woodland, scrubland and grassland.	~480 m south 16/08/2012	~480 m south 16/08/2012
Notes 1. Biodiversity Action Plan: UK – UK 2. Birds of Conservation Concern: R - Red listed; A – Amber listed 3. Other: Great Britain Threat Status/England Threat Status or Local Threat Status: EN – Endangered; NT – Near Threatened; VU – Vulnerable; LR – Locally Rare; EX – Locally Extinct. Refer to Glossary for definitions							

Non-Native Invasive Species

2.4.5 Three non-native invasive species that occur within 1 km of the Site and within the last 10 years were returned by HERC (25/03/2022). Qualifying species are principally those with legislative classification, listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) but excludes widely naturalised species such as grey squirrel. The following includes the invasive species records returned in the search:

- Three records of giant hogweed, the closest of which is located approximately 270 m west of the Site (-/-/2013) with slight connectivity to the Site via watercourses.
- Two records of Indian balsam, the closest of these records is located along the River Ivel watercourse approximately 360 m west of the Site with good connectivity via grassland, woodland and arable field margins.

3. LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

3.1 Ivel Springs

- 3.1.1 Ivel Springs LNR is situated to the north western boundary of the Site. Ivel Springs Local Nature Reserve is a 15 hectare open space just north of Baldock which is owned by North Hertfordshire District Council and managed in partnership with the Countryside and Rights of Way Service (CROW) and Friends of Baldock Green Spaces (FoBGS).
- 3.1.2 The site was designated a Local Wildlife Site in 2007 and over time a diverse mosaic of habitats has developed, including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, reedbeds, wetlands and woodland. Chalk springs on the site give rise to the River Ivel which flows north into Bedfordshire to join the Great Ouse River.
- 3.1.3 The meadow contains a wide range of wildflowers including common knapweed, cowslip, yellow rattle and common birds-foot trefoil, along with more unusual species such as pyramidal orchid and common broomrape. The woodland contains a variety of tree species including alder and a range of willow trees, as well as a number of fruit trees. The mosaic of habitats hosts a broad range of bird species, and evidence of water vole has been recorded in the wetland areas.
- 3.1.4 The local records provided in section 2 identified no notable or protected species associated specifically with the LNR, however it is assumed the LNR will support various notable and protected species identified in the wider landscape. The Ivel Springs Greenspace Action Plan provides various information of previous surveys conducted in the LNR.

Habitats

- 3.1.5 Grassland: the main area of grassland within the site is the wildflower meadow. It is understood that mowing and grazing are implemented at the Site. Species include cowslip, abundant lady's bedstraw, yellow rattle, meadow cranesbill and common knapweed. Pyramidal and bee orchids are also present. There are small patches of thistle and nettle, along with occasional ragwort within the sward.
- 3.1.6 Woodland: semi-natural woodland is found along the river corridor which species including sycamore, willow, silver birch and oak. The shrub canopy is dominated by elder and hawthorn.
- 3.1.7 Scrub: largely dominated by bramble and elder, are found across the site, primarily along grassland and woodland edges.
- 3.1.8 Reed beds: large areas of the LNR are inundated vegetation. The LNR supports reed beds comprising flag iris and redshank, along with common reed, rushes and sedges.

Species

- 3.1.9 Ivel Springs LNR help support a rich variety of wildlife. The findings are provided below:

- 3.1.10 *"The wetland is known to support water shrew, and there has been evidence of water vole observed in the recent past. The mosaic of habitats will provide feeding opportunities for bats, and mature trees on site are potential roost sites. Meanwhile, grassland and scrub provide suitable habitat for small mammals."*

"Water vole droppings found in 2015"

"Bird species recorded include breeding reed warbler and reed bunting within the reedbed."

"Wildflower rich grasslands provide a habitat for pollinating invertebrates including butterflies and bees, along with other grassland species such as grasshoppers and crickets, whilst wetlands attract dragonflies and damselflies."

"Common lizard has been recorded on site, and the habitats found are also highly likely to support both grass snake and slow worm."

- 3.1.11 No protected or notable species provided by Hertfordshire Ecological Records Centre (HERC), returned 25/03/2022) were recorded within the LNR itself.

3.2 Weston Hills LNR

- 3.2.1 Weston Hills is a mixture of broadleaved woodland, ancient species-rich grassland and scrub-grassland mosaic, covering a north-west facing chalk slope overlooking the western edge of Baldock, North Hertfordshire. The 17 hectare site is listed as both a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) in recognition of its importance for biodiversity.

- 3.2.2 Weston Hills supports ancient chalk grassland, with a diverse plant community which is important for invertebrates including butterflies. Other habitats noted in the LWS citation are secondary chalk grassland, beech plantation transitioning to secondary woodland, and open and closed scrub.

Habitats

- 3.2.3 Grassland: there are three areas of grassland within the LNR. Gibbet Hill is a grazed areas of grassland, the orchid meadow is located centrally on flat ground; and the Northern Grassland occupies the north portion of the site. The most species-rich grassland on Weston Hills is found on Gibbet Hill which is partially grazed species include quaking grass, common-spotted orchid, salad burnet, fairy flax, yellow wort, wild basil, and restharrow. The Orchid Meadow is located on the north west boundary of the site. This grassland supports an abundance of native wildflowers including southern-marsh orchid, yellow rattle, wild thyme, wild carrot, and ladies-bedstraw. The Northern Grassland is a mix of species-rich and secondary chalk downland, with patches of hawthorn-dominated scrub. Species in this area includes pyramidal orchid, ladies-bedstraw, common knapweed and field scabious.

- 3.2.4 Scrub: Scattered scrub within the Northern Grassland and Gibbet Hill is characterised by chalk tolerant shrub. Species include hawthorn, dogwood and buckthorn, wayfaring tree and spindle.

- 3.2.5 Woodland: The southern portion of Weston Hills is covered with broadleaved woodland chiefly comprising mature beech trees. Other species include sycamore, wych elm, beech, and field maple.

Species

- 3.2.6 The following is summarised in the Weston Hills Green Space Action Plan:

“The site provides habitat for protected wildlife including common lizard and slow-worm, a diversity of nesting birds, badger, and bat species. Small mammals recorded on site including field voles, wood mouse, harvest mouse and shrews. Grey squirrels are common in woodland (including the local ‘melanic’ form), and there are also records for brown hare, fox, and muntjac. Invertebrate species include yellow meadow ant, which are strongly associated with ancient pasture, and a variety of butterfly species, although a former colony of small blue is now extinct. Weston Hills is on the Invertebrate Site Register for scarce and localised species.”

- 3.2.7 Slow worm was identified by Hertfordshire Ecological Records Centre (HERC), returned 25/03/2022) were recorded within the LNR itself.

4. EVALUATION

- 4.1.1 It is considered that the desk study findings detailed in this report do not alter the conclusions previously presented in BMD.21.0045.RPE-P1.801.-.Ecology.
- 4.1.2 The two LNR's discussed above provide strong wildlife corridors for numerous species some of which may use the Site. Ivel Spring is of particular importance as it falls within the Sites boundaries. The Ivel Springs Greenspace Action Plan 2020 – 2025 provides prescriptive management advice for the LNR. It is recommended these prescriptions and management approaches are adopted and reviewed on a 5 yearly basis.
- 4.1.3 Slow worm and other species mentioned in anecdotal observations in both LNR's will benefit from a range of enhancements and newly created habitat areas strategically proposed for the Site. These include new SuDS features, woodlands and wildflower grassland.
- 4.1.4 Similarly the proximity of both LNRS means there is a perceived risk of increased recreational pressure on both LNRs owing to the influx of more residential dwelling locally. The Proposed Development evolving strategy includes the provision of open space, which follow Natural England's recommended minimum creation of Areas of Natural Greenspace, at a ratio of 2 ha per 1,000 population the new greenspace could cater for up to 10,000 people (English Nature, 2003). Although this figure is meant to cover all urban areas in England (including dense inner city areas), it indicates the Site is likely to absorb some of the existing visitor pressure from the other LNR and LWS, e.g. Weston Hills LNR and Ivel Springs, as people visit the Proposed Development site instead. This is likely to have a significant positive impact at the district level.

5. REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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6. GLOSSARY

6.1 Scientific Names

6.1.1 Scientific names of species mentioned within this report are outlined in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Scientific names of species mentioned within this report

English Name	Scientific Name
Amphibians	
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
Bats	
Bat species	<i>Chiroptera sp.</i>
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Long-eared bat species	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Myotis bat species	<i>Myotis sp.</i>
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Pipistrelle species	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>
Birds	
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
Common house-martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Common reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
Grey plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Marsh tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Ring ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Western yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Invertebrates	
Beaded chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>
Brassy long-horn	<i>Nemophora metallica</i>
Brown-spot pinion	<i>Agrochola litura</i>
Buckthorn bent-wing	<i>Bucculatrix frangutella</i>
Buff ermine	<i>Spilarctia luteum</i>
Centre-barred swallow	<i>Atethmia centrargo</i>
Chamomile shark	<i>Cucullia chamomillae</i>
Chalk hill blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
Dark green fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>
Deep-brown dart	<i>Aporophyla lueneburgensis</i>
Dot moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>
Dusky brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>
Dusky thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>
Ear moth	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>
Feathered gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>
Four-spot lift	<i>Antispila metallella</i>
Five-spot burnet	<i>Zygaena lonicerae</i>
Ghost moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>
Green-brindled crescent	<i>Allophyas oxyacanthae</i>
Grey dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>
Knot grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>
Large nutmeg	<i>Apamea anceps</i>
Latticed heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Mottled rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
Mouse moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>
Oak hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>
Plain golden Y	<i>Autographa jota</i>
Red-tailed mason bee	<i>Osmia bicornis</i>
Rosy rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>
Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>
Sallow	<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>
Shaded broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>
Small blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Small emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Small ranunculus	<i>Hecatera dysodea</i>
Small square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>
White clawed crayfish	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
White ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>
White-letter hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>
Yellow meadow ant	<i>Lasius flavus</i>
Mammals	
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Field vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Harvest mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus</i>
Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>
Shrew sp.	<i>Soricidae sp.</i>
Water vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>
Wood mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>
Plants	
Aggregate-headed hawkweed	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Autumn gentian	<i>Gentianella amarella</i>
Bee orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus sp.</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
common birds-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
common-spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>
Fairy flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
Greater pignut	<i>Bunium bulbocastanum</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Hairy violet	<i>Viola hirta</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>
Indian balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Meadow cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Prickly poppy	<i>Argemone sp.</i>
Pyramidal orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Quaking-grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>
Reed sp.	<i>Phragmites sp.</i>
Restharrow	<i>Ononis repens</i>
Rough poppy	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>
Rushes sp.	<i>Juncus sp.</i>
Salad burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>
Sedges sp.	<i>Carex sp.</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Southern-marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>
Spindle tree	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Thistle sp.	<i>Asteraceae sp.</i>
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>
White helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>
Wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild thyme	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>
Willow sp.	<i>Salix sp.</i>
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
Yellow bird's nest	<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
Yellow wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>
Reptiles	
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>
Grass snake	<i>Matrix helvetica</i>
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>

6.2 Scientific Terms and Acronyms

EPS European Protected Species For the purposes of this report EPS are species that require particular licences to allow certain works to go ahead. Species falling within the following situations are not considered as EPS within this report:

Birds listed on Appendix 2 of the Bern Convention (European legislation). The protection requirements of this Appendix are fully integrated in UK law, notably through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Birds listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (European legislation). The protection of such species survival and reproduction within their geographic distribution is ensured through special conservation measures in relation to their habitats. Such measures are implemented through the establishment of Special Protection Areas. Therefore, any implications are considered at regional habitat and country level rather than individual bird/species level.

Level of protection – ‘EU’ Protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017).

Level of protection – ‘UK’ Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

LISI London Invasive Species Initiative, encourages better co-ordination and partnership working to prevent, reduce and eliminate the impacts caused by invasive non-native species across the city. It is a sub-group of the London Biodiversity Partnership.

LNR Local Nature Reserve. Statutory designation.

LPS London Priority Species, composed in relation to The London Biodiversity Partnership (LBP) which published its original Audit of habitats and species in 2000. This lists all habitats of interest in London, as these relate to the UK BAP. The Audit also lists some 300 species of conservation interest occurring in London that are in need of greater local protection.

NNR National Nature Reserve. Statutory designation.

Non-native invasive species For the purposes of this report: species listed on Schedule 9 of the wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Widely naturalised species, such as grey squirrel, are excluded.

Notable species A species which is listed as a UK Priority Species, carries an unfavourable conservation status (e.g. scarce, rare, threatened, Red-listed), is invasive or is otherwise worthy of note from an ecological perspective.

NS Nationally Scarce, occurring in 16-100 hectares in Great Britain.

Protected species A species protected under specific UK or European legislation, including Habitats Directive, Wildlife and Countryside Act.

SAC Special Area of Conservation. Designated under European Union Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) to protect species and habitat of European interest.

SBI Site of Borough Importance. Borough sites are further divided into Metropolitan Importance: these are sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London; Borough Grade I and Borough Grade II categories; both types are of significant nature conservation value, but Borough I sites are of greater importance.

SINC Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

SPA Special Protection Area. A site designated under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

SSSI Site of Species Scientific Interest. Statutory designation of biological or geological importance.

UK Priority Habitat and species A habitat or species identified as a priority for conservation in accordance with Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Section 40 of the Act places a duty on public authorities to have regard

for the conservation objectives of these habitats and species. (Also known as Section 41 (S41) habitats/species).

UK BAP The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).

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