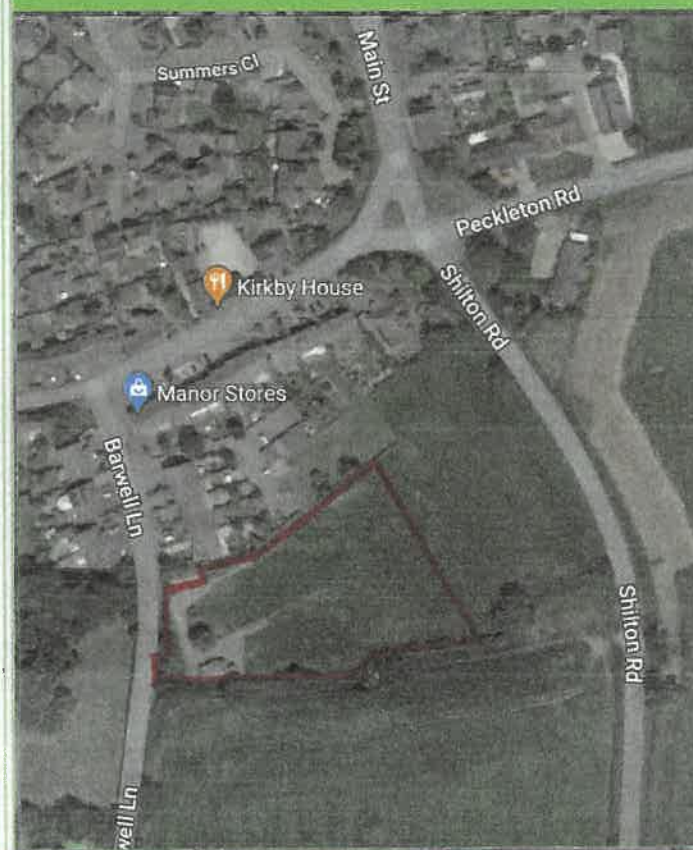


LAND off BARWELL ROAD  
KIRBY MALLORY  
LEICESTER  
LE9 7QA

Grid Ref: SK456 005

## ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Ref: WCL/HD/EAS/1821



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Wildlife Consultants Limited

14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

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## B SUMMARY

Wildlife Consultants Ltd were appointed and commissioned by Mr.J.Lawrence to undertake and an Ecological Assessment Survey on land located to the east off Barwell Lane, Kirby Mallory, Leicestershire with regards to an Outline Planning Submission for the Proposed Erection of up to 7 dwellings

The application site is 1.37acre/0.50ha of permanent semi-improved agricultural grassland used for the grazing of horses with associated stabling and hard standing.

The site has residential properties to the north with public highways to the east and west and intensive agriculture beyond.

The site has mature hedgerows to the north, south, and west (inc.to the east beyond the application site boundary) which will be retained during and post development with the exception of the repositioning of the current site access with the potential loss of some 6.50m of hedgerow and the replanting of a new hedgerow to close the existing access resulting in a potential loss of some 2.50m of hedgerow in total.



Fig. 1: Location of site

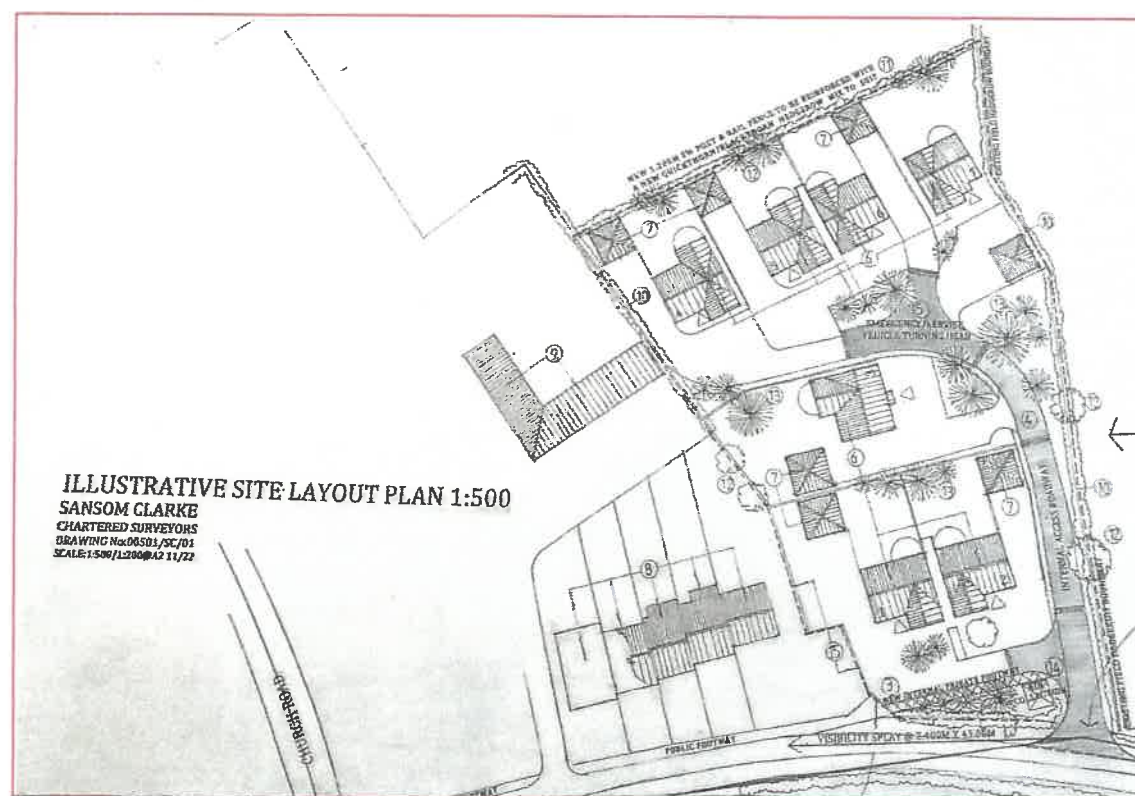


Fig. 2: Site location and proposals.

Wildlife Consultants Ltd. were commissioned to undertake an Ecological Appraisal Survey of the whole site with regard to the presence of protected species incl. badgers, bats, Great Crested Newts (GCN) within the site or using the site for any purpose and a botanical assessment of the proposed site.

Summary of findings:

- No badger activity of any kind was identified on site.
- No protected species were identified as using the site for any purpose.
- The adjacent land to the site is intensively farmed agricultural land with cereal crops being grown to two sides.
- A list of plants identified within the site is contained within this report.
- The site is considered to offer Negligible Potential for roosting bats.
- The site is considered to have a Low Ecological Value.
- The boundary hedgerows are to all be retained
- It is considered the proposed development will not affect the biodiversity of the immediate or the wider area.

## C INTRODUCTION

Wildlife Consultants Ltd were commissioned by Mr.J.Lawrence to undertake an Ecological Assessment Survey on land located to the east off Barwell Lane, Kirby Mallory ,Leicestershire.

The site is 1.37acre/0.50ha of permanent semi-improved agricultural grassland used for the grazing of horses with associated stabling and hard standing.

The site has been managed as stables with associated grazing and winter forage for horses including with some herbicide and fertilizer applications having been applied over the past rolling years.

The site has residential properties to the north and public highways to the west and beyond to the east, with intensive agriculture to the south.

The proposal for the site includes for the erection of up to 7 dwellings with a new hedgerow boundary to be formed to the application site's eastern boundary and a full soft landscaping scheme being the subject of a planning condition to be resolved at a reserved matters planning stage.

The survey was undertaken to identify/assess the habitats within the site, possible presence of Protected Species within the site or using the site for any purpose.

The survey was undertaken in one day - 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in good weather conditions.

Ecological Surveyor :R.S.Davies  
Ass. Ecological Surveyor: J.Lloyd Bsc

No desk study of local protected species records were undertaken.

All survey works undertaken were conducted by qualified and experienced ecologists employed by Wildlife Consultants Limited to the standards expected and required by Natural England and in line with industry best practice as cited by CIEEM (the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management).



Fig. 2: site surveyed

## D RESULTS

### Di: Badgers:

#### ***Protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981***

There was no evidence of badgers discovered within any part of the site or the immediate surrounding area. An in-depth survey was undertaken of the site including boundary vegetation looking for: Badger hairs caught on the vegetation or the underside of fence and other structures, snuffle holes, evidence of badger foraging, latrines or evidence that badgers have established a territory, badger paths, evidence of access and transit of the site.

- **No** active or in-active badger sett or potential sett exists on any part of the site.
- **No** badger latrines identified
- **No** badger paths at any point on the site, either radiating to the site, away from the site or across the site.
- **No** badger hairs on any of the vegetation around the perimeter of the site – or on the underside of any internal fences, rails, etc.

- No evidence on boundary vegetation and fencing of badger hairs caught on the vegetation or the underside of fence and other structures, snuffle holes (evidence of badger foraging), latrines (evidence that badgers have established a territory) and badger paths (evidence of access and transit of the site).

There is significant additional foraging areas within the immediate vicinity which will remain following any development of the site.

Dii: Birds and active avian nest sites *All species*

***Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981***

One bird species (Common Buzzard - *Buteo buteo*) was observed flying over the site.

No active bird nesting sites being identified.

It is not possible to predict how many birds actually use the site as there is significant opportunity within the site –hedgerows.

Diii: Bats and Roosts Sites:

***Protected: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.***

There are no buildings considered as suitable for bats, sub- optimal, on site.

There are no mature trees within the site or trees within the hedgerows which are considered to offer roosting opportunities for any species of bat.

The site offers foraging potential for any bats that may be present in the area and existing bat flight lines / corridors present within the adjacent hedgerows / lands will be retained and remain unaffected by the proposals.

Div: Great crested newts:

***Protected: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010***

No ponds are present and very limited terrestrial habitat within the site.

No ponds were identified within the immediate area with known fishing lakes being present within the village boundaries – Mallory Park.

The site is considered to offer no potential for GCNs.

Dv: Flora identified within site

|                    |                                  |                     |                             |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sow Thistle        | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>         | Meadow Buttercup    | <i>Ranunculus acris</i>     |
| Fat Hen            | <i>Chenopodium album</i>         | Chickweed           | <i>Stellaria media</i>      |
| Prostrate Knotweed | <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>       | Dandelion           | <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> |
| Common Cats ear    | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>      | Red dead-nettle     | <i>Lamium purpureum</i>     |
| Scarlet Pimpernel  | <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>        | Bugle               | <i>Ajuga reptans</i>        |
| Creeping Buttercup | <i>Ranunculus repens</i>         | Common nettle       | <i>Urtica dioica</i>        |
| Creeping Thistle   | <i>Cirsium arvense</i>           | Ragwort             | <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>    |
| Purple vetch       | <i>Vicia americana</i>           | Perennial Ryegrass  | <i>Lolium perenn</i>        |
| Meadow Grass       | <i>Poa annua</i>                 | White clover        | <i>Trifolium repen</i>      |
| Foxtail            | <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>      | Common self-heal    | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>    |
| Red Clover         | <i>Trifolium pratense</i>        | Broad-leaved Dock   | <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>   |
| Couch grass        | <i>Elymus repens</i>             | Yorkshire Fog       | <i>Holcus lanatus</i>       |
| Plantains          | <i>Plantago spp</i>              | Cleavers            | <i>Galium aparine</i>       |
| Common Thistle     | <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>           | Common Daisy        | <i>Bellis perennis</i>      |
| Pineapple weed     | <i>Matricaria discoidea</i>      | Field forget-me-not | <i>Myosotis arvensis</i>    |
| Scentless Mayweed  | <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> | Yarrow              | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> |

Site Hedgerows include:

|             |                       |            |                         |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Hawthorn    | <i>Crataegus</i>      | Blackthorn | <i>Prunus spinos</i>    |
| Ash         | <i>Fraxinus</i>       | Bramble    | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> |
| Elder       | <i>Sambucus</i>       | Hazel      | <i>Corylus avellana</i> |
| Field Maple | <i>Acer campestre</i> | Dog Rose   | <i>Rosa canina</i>      |
| Ivy         | <i>Hedera</i>         |            |                         |

## D DISCUSSION

The proposed site is permanent agricultural grassland which has been managed for the purposes of keeping horses with grazing, forage conservation and stabling. The sward is typical to that to be found in areas kept for the use by horses only and is considered to offer Low Ecological value.

All the sites existing hedgerows are to be retained and unaffected by the proposed development with any wildlife corridors that may be currently present will be retained as will any foraging flight lines for bats.

— the Outline Planning Application will enhance the Biodiversity of the site and the inclusion of Biodiversity Enhancement as proposed within this report – see Appendix 1 will provide Net Gain.

## E CONCLUSION

During the survey no protected species were identified as using the site for any purpose having paid particular attention to the use of the site by badgers for any purpose.

The hedgerows to the site will be retained following the proposed development and any potential for bird nesting sites will remain, as will any possible foraging / flight lines for bats remain unaffected by the proposal.

The Biodiversity Enhancement Net Gain can be achieved with the Reserved Matters and additional measures proposed within this report – see Appendix 1.

The site currently offers Low Ecological Value and Negligible Potential for Roosting Bats.

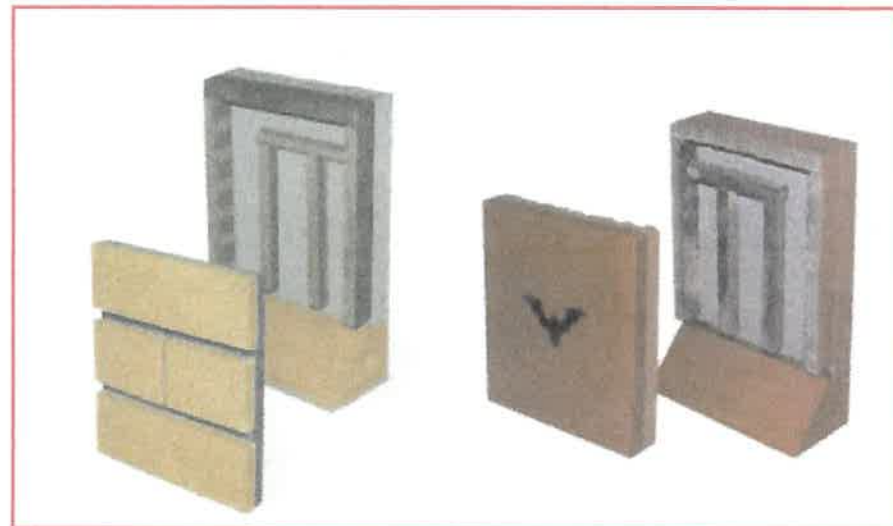
## F APPENDIX

### 1. BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT – NET GAIN

#### A. BAT BRICKS

During the construction works a Bat Brick is included in development of each property to further enhance the potential for bat roosting at the site – east & west sides.

eg. Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'B' or Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C'



## B. LIGHTING

Propose external lighting to be in the form of either wall mounted lighting fixed to the buildings, or floor mounted lighting to designate the parking areas and allow safe access to the proposed dwellings, all lighting to be motion activated.

Wall mounted lighting: Exterior wall lights to be "Atlantis, wall, down light, IP65, 316 stainless steel, 35w GU10" or some such similar product. A photographic example is included under the lighting key description on this drawing sheet.

<https://www.exteriorlightsuk.co.uk/product/atlantis-ip65-35w-gu10-or-led-gu10>

Floor mounted lighting: Exterior ground lights to be "Alto 60 Bollard Light - Stainless Steel IP44 600mm" or some such similar product. A photographic example is included under the lighting key description on this drawing sheet.

<https://www.exteriorlightsuk.co.uk/product/alto-60-bollard-light-stainless-steel-ip44-600mm>

These exterior bollards are to be installed to allow safe entry to the proposed dwelling from the parking area.



### C. Hedgehog Gravel Boards

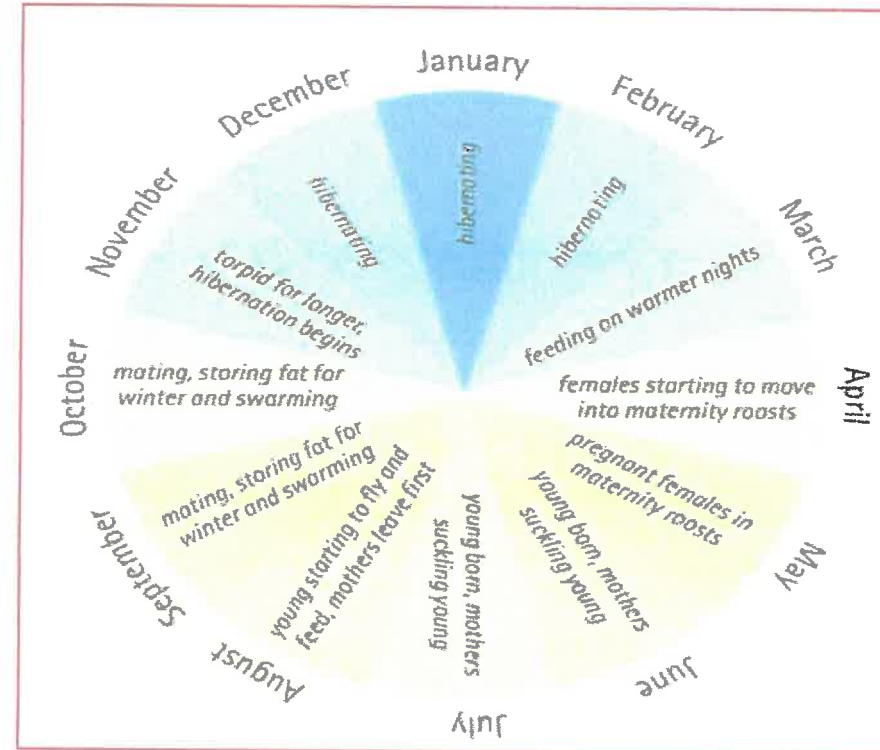
Are installed in all Panel Fencing used on site – to each and every Plot.



## 2. GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING POTENTIAL SUITABILITY

| Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Suitability                                                                                                                                                                                           | Description<br>Roosting habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Commuting and foraging habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Negligible                                                                                                                                                                                            | Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Low                                                                                                                                                                                                   | A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation).<br><br>A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential. | Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.<br><br>Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.                                                                                                          |
| Moderate                                                                                                                                                                                              | A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).                                                                                                                                        | Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.<br><br>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| High                                                                                                                                                                                                  | A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.<br><br>High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.<br><br>Site is close to and connected to known roosts. |

### 3. BAT LIFE CYCLE



### 4. HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

A five-point evaluation scale has been applied to assist with the identification of key ecological features and their significance in relation to the proposed development. This arbitrary scale is effective at this level of assessment and follows guidance as outlined from IEEM (2006).

The five-point scale is:

- **Low Value**
- **Moderate Value**
- **High Value** - Local/District importance e.g. Local Wildlife Site
- **Very High Value** - County importance e.g. Local Nature Reserve
- **Exceptional Value** - National Importance e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

5. WILDLIFE CONSULTANTS LIMITED Biodiversity Checklist – Protected Species

| LAND off BARWELL ROAD, KIRBY MALLORY                                                                                          |     |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| <b>BATS</b>                                                                                                                   |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for bats?                                                                                          | YES |    |
| Are there any structures on site which have the potential to support roosting bats?                                           |     | NO |
| Are there any trees on the site which have the potential to support roosting bats?                                            |     | NO |
| <b>BARN OWLS</b>                                                                                                              |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for barn owls?                                                                                     | YES |    |
| Is there any evidence of barn owls nesting on or near the site or are there suitable nesting areas on the development site?   |     | NO |
| <b>BREEDING BIRDS</b>                                                                                                         |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for breeding birds?                                                                                | YES |    |
| Will areas of hedgerow/scrub/woodland/trees or other features likely to be used by nesting birds be affected by the proposal? | YES |    |
| <b>BADGERS</b>                                                                                                                |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for badgers                                                                                        | YES |    |
| Is there any evidence of badgers on or near the application site?                                                             |     | NO |
| Are badgers commuting through the site to foraging areas?                                                                     |     | NO |
| <b>DORMICE</b>                                                                                                                |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for dormice?                                                                                       | YES |    |
| Is there suitable habitat for dormice on, or close to the application site?                                                   |     | NO |
| <b>GREAT CRESTED NEWTS</b>                                                                                                    |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for great crested newts?                                                                           | YES |    |
| Is there suitable habitat for great crested newts on, or close to the application site?                                       |     | NO |
| <b>REPTILES</b>                                                                                                               |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for reptiles?                                                                                      | YES |    |
| Is there suitable habitat on the site for reptiles?                                                                           |     | NO |
| <b>OTHER PROTECTED SPECIES (E.G. OTTERS, WATER VOLES, WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH)</b>                                              |     |    |
| Has the site been surveyed for (Species Name): all the above                                                                  | YES |    |
| Is there suitable habitat on the site for (Species Name): all above                                                           |     | NO |
| IF 'YES' then the survey report should include details of the species concerned, the population level                         |     |    |
| <b>OTHER FEATURES OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST</b>                                                                         |     |    |
| Does the application site support Habitats of Principal Importance or Local Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats?       |     | NO |
| Does the application site support Species of Principal Importance or Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species?                  |     | NO |

**F PICTURES**



View of site



View of site & residential properties beyond



View of site & residential properties beyond



View of Barwell Road hedge



View of site



View of site & boundary hedge



Overall view of site



View of site boundary hedge



View of site boundary



View of current site entrance



View of southern boundary hedge



View of site & agricultural land beyond

## G REFERENCES

|                                          |                                                           |      |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Bat Workers Manual                       | <i>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</i>                | 2004 |
| Bat surveys Good Practice Guidelines     | <i>Bat Conservation Trust</i>                             | 2007 |
| Habitat Management for Bats              | <i>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</i>                | 2001 |
| Bird Survey Techniques                   | <i>British Trust for Ornithology</i>                      | 2001 |
| Herpetofauna Workers' Manual             | <i>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</i>                | 2003 |
| Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines | <i>English Nature</i>                                     | 2001 |
| Great Crested Newt Conservation handbook | <i>Froglife</i>                                           | 2001 |
| The British Herpetological Society:      | <a href="http://www.bhs.org.uk">http://www.bhs.org.uk</a> | 2009 |
| Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey      | <i>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</i>                | 1990 |

*Please note: All photographs & maps remain the property of Wildlife Consultants Limited.*

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