

UPDATE ECOLOGY SURVEY

MyPad

Barlestone – Phase 2

September 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following note has been prepared by FPCR Environment & Design Limited (FPCR) on behalf of MyPad and provides the details of update surveys on Phase 2 of the wider Site at Barlestone.
- 1.2 The wider site was granted outline planning permission in 2021 (planning ref: 21/00096/OUT), with part of the granted scheme currently under construction. This was supported by a suite of ecology survey work undertaken in 2019 including:
 - Habitat survey;
 - Ground level tree assessments;
 - Bat activity surveys;
 - Badger survey; and
 - Waterbody Habitat Suitability Index.
- 1.3 The results of the survey work undertaken in 2019 are set out within the Ecological Appraisal submitted to inform the outline application (FPCR, 2020).
- 1.4 An update site visit was undertaken in September 2025 to inform the full applicaiton for Phase 2. These results are provided below.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 An update site visit to confirm the current habitats present and faunal opportunities was undertaken on 1st September 2025.
- 2.2 During the visit, updated badger survey and ground level tree assessments were undertaken to assess potential changes to baseline conditions since the 2019 surveys.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Habitats

- 3.1 Phase 2 previously comprised intensely managed arable land. During the 2025 update survey, the majority of the field had been left fallow and modified grassland comprising largely perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* had developed.
- 3.2 The site compound for the adjacent Phase to the east, for which construction has begun, is present in the east of Phase 2 along with a soil stockpile which at the time of the 2025 update survey had ruderal forbs including broadleaf dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and creeping thistle establishing on it.

- 3.3 Whilst there has been a change in baseline conditions, the grassland was not assessed as being particularly diverse and given the limited period it has been present the grassland is not considered to be of significant ecological importance.
- 3.4 The area of scrub and pond in the south east of the Phase 2 Site was recorded to be largely unchanged.
- 3.5 The hedgerows present at the site boundaries were recorded to not have significantly changed since the previous survey work undertaken, apart from a small loss for the granted access to the adjacent Phase in the eastern boundary hedgerow.

Species

Badger

- 3.6 No evidence of active badger setts were recorded within 30m of the Phase 2 Site, with the previously recorded sett no longer present during the 2025 survey work undertaken.

Bats

- 3.7 No new trees were identified as having the potential to support roosting bats during the 2025 survey.
- 3.8 The value of the habitats within Phase 2 for foraging bats is not considered to have significantly increased due to the change in management of the land. .
- 3.9 The development proposals for Phase 2 includes significant area of green infrastructure in the west which will continue to provide opportunities for the local bat population in the long term. As such, significant impacts on the local bat population are not anticipated as a result of the proposals within Phase 2.
- 3.10 In line with the approved outline application, it is recommended that appropriate lighting schemes are implemented during construction and in the long term to minimise potential light spill onto retained habitats and newly created habitats, maintain dark corridors around the Site.

Reptiles

- 3.11 The grassland recorded within Phase 2 in 2025 is considered to provide opportunities for reptiles,
- 3.12 Although no records of reptiles were returned within 1km of the Site during the desk study undertaken to inform the outline application in 2020, it is recommended that the following precautionary working methods are followed during ground clearance in order to protect any individuals in the unlikely event they are present within the Site at the time of works:
- Pre-works toolbox talk;
 - Ground clearance outside hibernation period;
 - Tall sward areas subject to staged and directional strimming; and
 - Cleared areas maintained as unsuitable.
- 3.13 If any reptiles, or any other protected speceis, are found during works, work in the vicinity will stop immediately and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted for advice.

GCN and other amphibians

- 3.14 The pond within the site was recorded to have not significantly changed in 2025, and such is still considered to be of poor suitability to support GCN. No new waterbodies were recorded within 250m of the Phase 2 Site and as such the conclusion within the Ecological Appraisal to support the outline application (ref: 21/00096/OUT) that GCN do not pose a constraint the proposed development is considered to still be valid .
- 3.15 The grassland recorded within Phase 2 in 2025 is considered to provide opportunities for amphibians. The method statement set out above in relation to reptiles would also protect individual amphibians should they be present within the Site at the time of works.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Site was dominated by modified grassland of limited botanical or biological interest during the update survey undertaken. No significant changes to the boundary vegetation was recorded (apart from consented loss to the eastern hedgerow).
- 4.2 Opportunities for reptiles are present within the Site and as such precautionary working methods during construction are recommended.
- 4.3 No significant changes for any other protected or notable faunal species were identified, with the results and assessments set out within the Ecological Appraisal submitted to inform the outline application considered to still be valid.

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH

Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] mail@fpcr.co.uk [W] www.fpcr.co.uk

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