



ecological consultants

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

29 Sapcote Road, Burbage, Hinckley

Report Reference: BG23.124

May 2023



Brindle & Green Ecological Consultants specialise in delivering high quality and affordable ecological surveys and reports-tailored for their suitability for informing planning applications.

Brindle & Green surveyors have the necessary experience, technical ability, qualifications and accreditations to meet the high demands increasingly enforced by Local Authorities and Natural England.

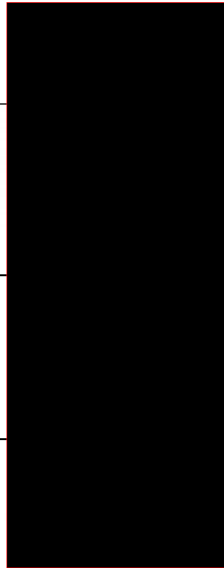
Projects are undertaken against the recognised guidelines for the species or habitats being studied. Brindle & Green reports are uniquely designed to provide the reader with the best possible understanding of our client's proposals and to ensure that the information requested by the Local Planning Authority is easily found and understood.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the CIEEM (2016) **Guidance on Ecological Report Writing**. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester and CIEEM (2016) Technical guidance series, **Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

www.brindlegreen.co.uk



Document Control

Report	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by	Sammy Harcourt Graduate Ecologist		05/04/2023
1 st Check by	Helen Staton Senior Ecologist		02/05/2023
2 nd Check by	Neil Crofts Managing Director		11/05/2023
Issued by (PDF)	Nikki Scott		19/05/2023
Rev1			

Liability

Brindle & Green has prepared this report for the sole use of:

John Martin

The report is in accordance with the agreement under which our services were performed. No warranty, express or implied, is made as to the advice in this report or any other service provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party except the person, company, agent or any third party for whom the report is intended without the prior written permission of Brindle & Green.

The content of this report is, at least in part, based upon information provided by others and on the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested. Information obtained from any third party has not been independently verified by Brindle & Green unless otherwise stated in the report.

COPYRIGHT

© This report is the copyright of Brindle & Green. Unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person is prohibited.

Project Details

Project carried out by:

Brindle and Green

Unit 3, Silverhill Court

Radbourne

Derby.

DE6 4LY

Head Office: 0800 222 9105

Email: info@brindlegreen.co.uk

Website: www.brindlegreen.co.uk

Project carried out for:

John Martin

43 Middle Street

Foxton

LE16 7RE

Tel: 01858 374685

Project site:

29 Sapcote Road

Burbage

Hinckley

LE10 2AS

Grid Ref. SP 44236 93554

Contents

1	Summary	7
2	Introduction	9
3	Methodology	10
4	Site Context	13
5	Results.....	15
6	Evaluation	31
7	Recommendations	33
Appendix 1. Phase 1 Habitat Plan.....		38
Appendix 2. Phase 1 Target Notes.....		39
Appendix 3. General References		40
Appendix 4. Legislation, Policy and Guidance.....		41
Appendix 5. Legislation, Guidance and Methodology		42
Appendix 6. Proposed Plans.....		47
Appendix 7. Magic Data		50
Appendix 8. Ecological Data Search Information.....		50
Appendix 9. Building PRFs		50

1 Summary

- 1.1 Brindle & Green Ecological Consultants Ltd were commissioned by John Martin to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal incorporating a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment at 29 Sapcote Road, Burbage, Hinckley. This report summarises the potential ecological constraints to the outline planning application for the retention of Building 1 and site clearance to facilitate two new residential dwellings. Proposed site plans are provided within Appendix 6. The survey was carried out on the 15th March 2023.
- 1.2 The project area is approximately 0.2 ha and comprises a residential bungalow (B1) and separate garage (B2) central to the site surrounded by areas of amenity grassland, scattered and dense scrub, scattered trees, introduced shrub and tall ruderal herbs. An area of hardstanding was used as a drive on the eastern side of the buildings. The site was evaluated to support site value on a regional scale.
- 1.3 The habitats described within this report have the potential to support a number of protected and/or notable species. As such, this report outlines important measures to protect species during site clearance, and recommendations to improve the biodiversity status of the site post development.

A full description of the recommendations can be found within Chapter 7, the table below is a summary of the ecological issues recommended for further consideration as a result of our initial investigations:

Ecological Consideration	Recommendations (e.g. further survey, mitigation)	Timing
Habitats	A Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) should be undertaken to ascertain the impact of proposals to the overall biodiversity value of the site and identify if there is a net gain or loss to this value.	Pre-construction, secured as condition of planning
Breeding Birds	Works should be sympathetic to this group of species, with vegetation clearance undertaken following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) outlined in Chapter 7.	During Site Clearance (Optimal timing between October -March outside of breeding bird season)

Roosting Bats	Onsite B1 and B2 assessed as providing 'Low' suitability for supporting roosting bats. B2 will be demolished to facilitate the sites redevelopment, one presence/absence survey required. See Chapter 7 for details.	May-September All survey work to be undertaken prior to determination of the application.
Great Crested Newts	Reasonable avoidance measures – see Chapter 7.	During site clearance/construction
Reptiles	Reasonable avoidance measures – see Chapter 7.	During site clearance/construction
MSPI - Western European Hedgehog	Reasonable avoidance measures – see Chapter 7.	During site clearance/construction

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The purpose of this assessment was to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site incorporating a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment to establish the likelihood of the site supporting protected species. The survey provides detail on the need for any additional, more detailed protected species surveys, likely mitigation and any opportunities for enhancement.
- 2.2 The project area is approximately 0.2 ha in extent and comprises a residential building (B1) and separate garage (B2). Dense and scattered scrub dominates the northern boundary with areas of introduced shrub along the south and western boundaries and a pocket along the eastern elevation of B1. Amenity grassland is present on the west of the application site and an area of hardstanding is present on the east of the site providing a driveway and access to the property. Scattered trees border the east, south and western boundaries. Residential properties dominate the land to the south and west of the application site, providing connection to the town of Hinckley. The north-west of the site is dominated by agricultural land leading to a rural area supporting ancient and semi natural, broadleaved woodland. The site is the subject of an outline application for site clearance to facilitate construction of two new residential dwellings. It is understood that the proposal involves the retention of scattered trees, hardstanding and B1. Design proposals are provided in Appendix 6.
- 2.3 The legislation relevant to protected species within the United Kingdom is summarised within Appendix 4.
- 2.4 Results and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared by an experienced ecologist and are therefore the view of Brindle & Green Limited. The survey is based on information provided by our client, the development proposals, results of the desk study, and our survey of the site. This report pertains to this information only.

3 Methodology

3.1 Desk Study

Table 1 below lists organisations and/or resources used as part of the desk study process. Data regarding any known statutory or non-statutory sites, in addition to any records for protected species, were requested from the following sources:

Table 1. Ecological Data Resources

Consultant	Requested Data	Search Radius	Date Requested
Local Ecological Records Centre Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre	Protected and notable species records Local, National and International Site Designations	2km	05/04/2023
MAGIC Maps	National and International Site Designations Granted EPS Development Licences	2km	05/04/2023

3.2 Surveyors

Survey carried out by Helen Staton BSc (Hons), ACIEEM, Natural England Bat Licence Class 1 (2015-14490-CLS-CLS) Natural England Great Crested Newt licence (2015-18041-CLS-CLS), Senior Ecologist and Sammy Harcourt BA (Hons), Graduate Ecologist.

The survey was overseen by Lucinda Sweet PhD, MCIEEM, Natural England Bat Licence Class 2 (2019-39122-CLS-CLS), Director.

3.3 Survey Conditions

The survey was undertaken at 11:00am on the 15th March 2023.

The outside temperature was recorded as 6°C, with dry conditions, and 8/8 cloud cover.

3.4 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

3.4.1 A Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken following survey guidance (JNCC 2007) to establish the presence and distribution of habitat types within the site and potential ecological constraints to development. A Phase 1 Habitat Map was produced (Appendix 1) and where additional details were required Target Notes have been provided (Appendix 2). A plant species list (Appendix 2) summarising all plants identified on site was produced during the survey and all scientific nomenclature was produced according to Stace (2010).

3.4.2 This survey was extended to note the potential for habitats on site to support protected and/or notable species and for evidence of any such species. The habitats on site were assessed for their suitability to support protected species in relation to the habitat type found at the site. Any incidental sightings or field signs were noted at the time of survey. Where evidence of, or the confirmed presence of a protected species was identified, further species specific surveys may be recommended to ensure that the presence or otherwise of a legally protected species is fully considered prior to the determination of any planning approval or to guide an EPS development licence.

3.4.3 Legislation, guidance and methodology for species relevant to this site are presented in full within Appendices 4 and 5 of this report.

3.4.4 **Site Evaluation**

Following the ecological appraisal the site was classified into one of six groups (Table 2), to indicate whether the site is considered to hold ecological value on a local, national or international scale. This evaluation is intended as a guide and only targeted survey work can establish the significance of protected species populations onsite.

Table 2. Definitions of each of the six evaluation brackets, indicating the importance of each habitat type and an example of their possible habitat status. (Table constructed following The CIEEM EcIA Guidelines, Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal (2016) pages 16-17).

Evaluation Value	Comparable example
International	An internationally designated site or candidate site, including habitat or species included within Special Protection Areas (SPA) / Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Sites, listed under Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive.
National	Sites designated at UK level, e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), supporting species considered nationally threatened or rare. A regularly occurring regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species A feature identified as of critical importance within Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).
Regional	Key Habitat type included within the National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) /NERC Habitat of Principle Importance (HPI). A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
County	Designated sites, such as Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) or viable habitat / species populations of value at a county level (LBAP).
District	District level designated sites, such as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) or habitats / species populations of value at a district (Which have features qualifying for LWS status). Sites/features that are scarce within the district or which appreciably enrich the district habitat resource.
Local / Site	Habitats or species populations of value in a local (i.e. within ~ 5km of the site) context. Habitats of poor to moderate biological diversity e.g. established conifer plantations, species poor hedgerows and un-intensively managed grassland which supports species which are common to the local area and whose loss can be easily mitigated.

3.5 Limitations

- 3.5.1 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment. The protected and notable species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of these species occurring on site, based upon the suitability of the habitats, known distribution of the species in the local area and any direct evidence on site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group.

3.6 Report Lifespan

Given the transient nature of the subject we would consider the survey results contained to be accurate for 2 years.

4 Site Context

4.1 Site Description

The application site can be found at: Grid Ref. SP 44236 93554, the site was located on the eastern fringe of Hinckley with residential properties bordering the south and western boundary. The site was well connected to the surrounding environment via a network of arable fields east of the application site, supporting mature hedgerows, tree lines and ancient, semi natural broadleaved woodland. A large pond is situated approx. 100m northeast of the application site. Commuting and foraging habitat for a number of notable species present within the area. The M69 provides a barrier to terrestrial species dispersal located 1.9km of the site respectively.



4.2 **Zone of Influence**

The zone of influence describes the geographic extent of potential impacts of a proposed development. The small scale of the proposed development reduces the likelihood of impact to the surrounding area, however suitable connective vegetation could influence the presence of protected species within the application boundary. Due to the fact that the sites land use will ultimately remain unchanged, the zone of influence was considered to be 250 metres from the application boundary for amphibians and reptiles, 30 metres for terrestrial mammals such as badgers, and within the area of impact for breeding birds. The site was positioned on the fringe of suburban area with extensive connectivity to the wider environment, therefore has the potential to support commuting mammals and birds within the wider environment.

5 Results

5.1 Desk Study

5.1.1 Designated Sites

The site was subjected to a search for designated sites within a 2km radius of the site using data supplied by the Local Records Centre (Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC)) and the online desk-based resource MAGIC.

5.1.2 The data supplied by LRERC was received on the 16/03/2023 and is summarised within Table 3. The search revealed 1 Statutory site and 6 Non-Statutory Sites within a 2km radius of the site, pertaining to Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Notified LWS of varying size surrounding the site.

5.1.3 A search of the online resource Magic Maps found no further sites with Statutory designations within the 2km radius search.

Table 3. Summary of Designated Sites within a 2km radius of the application site

Site Name	Grid Ref	Status	Reason for Designation	Distance from site
Burbage Wood and Aston Firs	SP 452 940	SSSI	Woodland (Ancient, semi-natural woodland)	600m NE
Courting Stiles	SP432933	Local Wildlife Site ((LWS) Notified))	Mesotrophic grassland, with scrub. Community value.	1 km W
Field Rose Hedgerow	SP 451 945	LWS (Notified)	Species-rich hedgerow	1.2 km NE
Burbage Flood Retention Area	SP 430 932	LWS (Notified)	Wet grassland	1.2km W
Burbage Common & Woods	SP446951	LWS (Notified: LNR)	Transitional mesotrophic/acid grassland, ancient seminatural woodland, significant bird & amphibian assemblages and Red Data Book species, with scrub and ponds. Community value.	1.5km N

Elmesthorpe Plantation Hedgerow	SP 456 943	LWS (Notified)	Species-rich hedgerow	1.5km NE
The Borrow Pit Grassland	SP 460 933	LWS (Notified)	Mesotrophic grassland	1.7km E

5.1.4 Protected Species Assessment

Data supplied by LRERC also included records of protected species. Full datasets are available on request. A summary of the closest or most relevant records can be seen in Table 4 below. Magic maps revealed a single granted EPS licence within 2km of the site for soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), which expired in 2012.

Table 4. Summary of relevant protected and priority species records

Species	Grid ref.	Date	Description
Birds			
Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)	SP 4419 36	2021	33 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1.2km NW.
Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	Confidential	2019	5 records within 2km of the site.
Bats			
Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>)	SP 4494	2017	75 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 0.5km N.
Serotine (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>)	SP 4594	2021	15 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 0.8km NE.
Myotis species	SP 4394	2021	34 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 0.8km NE.
Brown Long-eared (<i>Plecotus auratus</i>)	SP 4594	2021	16 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 0.8km NE.
Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	SP 4594	2021	29 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 0.8km NE.
Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	SP 4502 6945 01	2021	142 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1.2km NE.
Herptiles			
Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	SP 4429 36	2016	4 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 0.1km N.
Smooth Newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>)	SP 4339 33	2022	3 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1km SW.
Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	SP 4431 9359	2013	1 record within 2km of the site located approx. 1.2km S.

Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)	SP 4289 9301	2019	10 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1.4km W.
Grass Snake (<i>Natrix Helvetica</i>)	SP 4509 9489	2018	12 records within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1.6km NE.
Mammals			
Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>)	SP 4243 9295	2021	1 record of a latrine within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1.8km E.
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	SP 4237 5929 27	2019	1 record within 2km of the site. The closest record was approx. 1.9km E.
Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)	Confidential	2018	6 records with 2km of the site.

5.2 Habitats

5.2.1 The habitat types recorded on site are summarised below, and the frequency and distribution of habitat types is displayed within a Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map (Appendix 1 and 2).

5.2.2 Table 5 provides a list of habitat types present on site along with their inclusion (or otherwise) as a National and / or Local Habitat of Principle Importance (HPI) (Previously referred to as Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)) (It should be noted that additional information is included within the text where a classification under Phase 1 survey methodology does not mirror habitat types considered to be conservation priorities).

Table 5. JNCC Habitat Types found on site and inclusion within UK BAP habitats.

Habitat Type	N HPI	L HPI	N/A
Buildings			✓
Hardstanding			✓
Amenity Grassland			✓
Scattered Scrub			✓
Dense Scrub			✓
Tall Ruderal Herbs			✓
Introduced Scrub			✓
Scattered Trees			✓

5.2.3 Buildings and Hardstanding

5.2.3.1 The site supports two buildings (Figure 1). A detailed description of the buildings can be found in section 5.3.2 below. Supporting photographs can be found within Appendix 9 The suitability of these structures supporting protected species is discussed in section 5.3 below.

5.2.3.2 An area of hardstanding was present to the east of Building 1 (B1) and Building 2 (B2) providing a driveway leading to 29 Sapcote Road (Figure 1).

A)



B)



C)



Figure 2. A)B1 B)B2 C)Area of hardstanding

5.2.4 Amenity Grassland

Two areas of amenity grassland were present along the eastern boundary and to the northwest of B1 covering a total area of 0.05ha and managed to a height of approximately 5-20cm (Figure 3). The species composition was dominated by perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) with abundant Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and frequent white dead nettle (*Lamium album*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and common thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). Crane's-bill sp. (*Geranium*), mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) were classed as occasional, and daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) was recorded as rare.



Figure 3. Area of amenity grassland located on the southwest of the site.

5.2.5 Scattered Scrub

Scattered scrub was present on the northeast of the site adjacent to the area of hardstanding dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).

5.2.6. **Dense Scrub**

Dense scrub was recorded along the northern boundary of the site, comprising 0.03ha (Figure 4). The area was dominated by bramble with occasional rose (*Rosa sp.*) and rare butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*).



Figure 4. Dense scrub dominating the north of the site.

5.2.7 Tall Ruderal Herbs

A pocket of tall ruderal herbs lined the north-eastern boundary of the site and bordered the area of scattered scrub (Figure 5). The composition of tall ruderal herbs was dominated by common nettle with abundant coper spurge (*Euphorbia lathyris*) and occasional foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).



Figure 5. Area of Tall Ruderal Herbs in the northeast corner of the site.

5.2.7 Introduced Shrub

Bordering the western boundary was an area of introduced shrub comprising 0.03ha and was dominated by spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and conifer sp.. Frequent honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*) were also recorded within the shrub (Figure 6).



Figure 6. An area of introduced shrub along the eastern boundary.

5.2.8 Scattered Trees

Mature, mixed scattered trees were present throughout the site, predominantly bordering the western boundary (Figure 7). Species included occasional conifer sp. hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly, ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and rare goat willow (*Salix caprea*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*).



Figure 7. Scattered trees along the western boundary.

5.2.9 Invasive Weeds Assessment

An assessment of the site was made to establish the presence of invasive weeds included on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). No recordings of invasive weed species were found within, or adjacent to the application area.

5.3 Fauna

5.3.1 Breeding Birds

5.3.1.1 Scrub, scattered trees and introduced shrub on site provide suitable nesting habitat for a number of common bird species. Three species of bird were recorded onsite during the survey, including blackbird (*Turdus merula*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and carrion crow (*Corvus corone*).

5.3.1.2 Based on a review of the habitat types on site and the list of bird species recorded within the data search, the site is considered to support some bird species considered to be of high conservation concern that are either legally protected or UK BAP species, such as fieldfare.

5.3.2 Roosting Bats

5.3.2.1 The data search showed over 200 records of bat foraging and commuting activity, with the closest record located approximately 0.5km to the north. Scattered trees were recorded across the site bordering the west and southwestern boundary whilst also present on the eastern boundary. Scattered trees on site were assessed and categorised based upon Bat Conservation Trust guidance (see Appendix 5), with all scattered trees within the site boundary assessed to have negligible potential to support roosting bats as they did not support suitable cracks, fissures or holes to support roosting bats.

5.3.3.2 Building 1 (B1) and Building 2 (B2) were both assessed to have 'Low' suitability to support roosting bats. The extent of the suitability pertained to the internal and external features where gaps within the soffit boards, mortar and tiles provided crevices for bats to use on an intermittent basis. The main structural features of all the buildings, and their suitability for supporting roosting bats are summarised below (Table 6), and associated figures can be found with Appendix 9.

Table 6. Summary of Bat Roost potential and evidence found within each of the buildings/structures on site (Supporting Figures within Appendix 9).

High		Moderate	Low	Negligible	None
Building Number	Description	Bat evidence / Potential Roosting Features (PRFs)			Roost Suitability
B1	1970s, brick and mortar residential bungalow with cavity walls. Well-sealed, single glazed windows with a bay window on the southern elevation of building. Pitched roof with a gable end on the eastern elevation. Roof supported a brick and mortar chimney surrounded by lead flashing central to the building and a stone chimney at the western elevation of the building. A build up of moss was present around the clay field, gable and ridge tiles. Plastic guttering and timber fascia and soffit boards present. Internally the large, open plan loft void featured a bitumen felt lining, fibre glass insulation supported by concrete blocks, red brick and mortar walls.	• Gaps in the internal mortar works of northern elevation. • Gaps within the brickwork of chimney • Lift within the lead flashing surrounding chimney • Damaged tile on the western elevation of roof No evidence of previous bat activity was recorded during the assessment.			Low
B2	Single storey, double garage located to the north of B1 comprising of brick and mortar with intact, single glazed windows and timber frames. Pitched roof supported clay tiles with timber soffits. Internally, timber floor boards and bitumen felt lined the loft void which were of good condition.	• Slim gap in soffit on gable end on eastern elevation • Missing roof tile on southern elevation No evidence of previous bat activity was recorded during the assessment.			Low

5.3.3 Foraging and Commuting Bats

The application site was positioned on the fringe of an urbanised area with suitable vegetative foraging areas in the wider environment. The plans suggest that scattered trees on site are to be maintained therefore, this species is not considered further within this report.

5.3.4 Badgers (*Meles meles*)

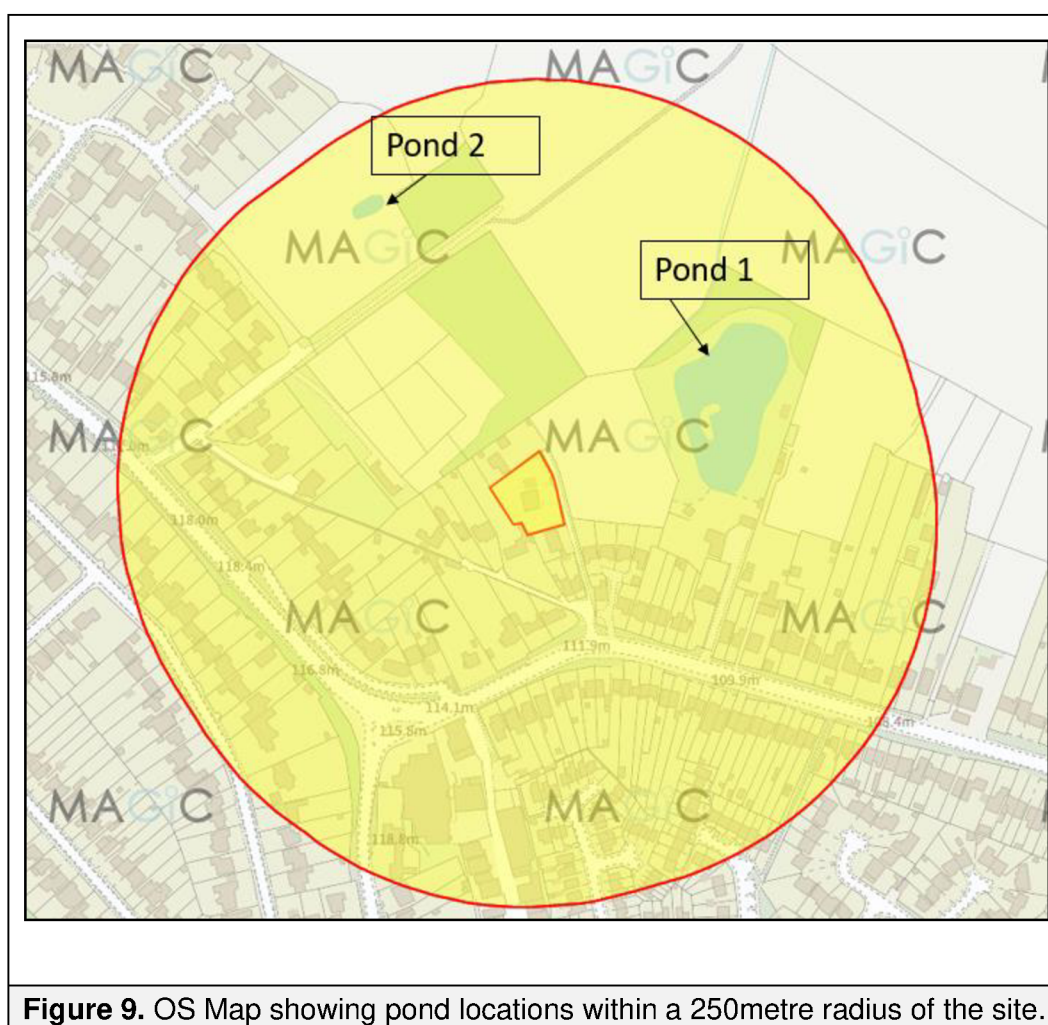
5.3.4.1 No evidence of badger setts, or activity such as mammal runs, snuffle holes and latrines were found during the ecological appraisal of the site. The desk study showed

there to be a limited number of this species within 2km of the site and therefore, no further surveys are required, and this report does not discuss the species further.

5.3.5 Herptiles

5.3.5.1 Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*)

No ponds were present onsite. There were 2 ponds within 250m of the application site (Figures 9). P1 comprises a large pond (circa 5000+ m²) located 100m NE. P2 is located 195m NW. Both ponds were inaccessible at the time of the survey and therefore not subject to Habitat Suitability Index assessment. The desk study showed 4 records of GCN with the closest 0.1km north of the site dating 2016, but did not reveal any records or surveys on ponds within 250m of the site. Onsite scrub, tall ruderal and introduced shrub offer suitable terrestrial habitat for this species, whereas the managed grassland and hard standing are of sub optimal value.



5.3.5.2 Reptiles

No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the survey; however, the dense scrub on site provided limited suitable habitat matrix to support reptiles such as grass snake (*Natrix natrix*).

5.3.6 **MSPI – Western European Hedgehogs** (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

The habitats on site including shrubs, scrub and brash piles (Target Note 1) were considered suitable to support hedgehogs. Connectivity with residential gardens in the area increase the likelihood that hedgehogs may use the site for foraging and commuting.

6 Evaluation

6.1 Development Proposals

The site is the subject of an outline planning application for retention of B1 and site clearance to facilitate two residential dwellings. Design proposals for the site are presented in Appendix 6 of this report.

6.2 Desk Study Impacts

- 6.2.1 The application is located within an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Burbage Wood and Aston Firs SSSI located 600m NE. However, the proposed works do not meet the criteria for consulting Natural England.
- 6.2.2 Direct impacts on nearby Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) as a result of the proposed development are considered unlikely. The nearest LWS is Courting Stiles located 1km west of the site. Given the distance and small scale of the initial proposals, no impacts are envisaged.

6.3 Habitats

- 6.3.1 The habitats on site have been evaluated as having site value in relation to the immediate surroundings and a regional context. The site was dominated by dense scrub to the north of the site and supported introduced shrub, hardstanding, amenity grassland, two buildings, scattered scrub and tall ruderal herbs which are not considered to hold a habitat of principle importance status. Chapter 7 provides recommendations relating to the need for further survey to establish the value of habitats on site to ensure appropriate mitigation is provided.

6.4 Breeding Birds

- 6.4.1 All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird whilst nesting, or take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird while in use or being built. In addition, species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or their dependant young are afforded additional protection from disturbance whilst they are at their nests.

6.4.2 Vegetation on site including scattered trees, dense and scattered scrub was considered to provide suitable nesting habitat for common bird species and has the potential to support populations of birds of local and national interest such as fieldfare. Any clearance works proposed on site should be well researched in order to prevent direct or indirect impacts on individual birds, their young, eggs and habitats. Chapter 7 provides recommendations relating to the need for mitigating impacts to nesting birds within the development site.

6.5 Roosting Bats

6.5.1 All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

6.5.2 *Roosting bats*

Trees on site were assessed to hold 'Negligible' suitability to support roosting bats. Building 1 and Building 2 were identified as having 'Low' suitability to support roosting bats due to the presence of PRFs within the buildings' internal and external features. As such, further survey work is required in order to prevent potential destruction of a roosting site of a protected species and increased disturbance, injury or harm to individual bats and/or their young. Chapter 7 of this report sets out guidance for further survey to determine the potential impacts of development on this group of species.

6.6 Herptiles

6.6.1 *Great Crested Newts*

Great crested newts and their eggs, breeding sites and resting places are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Limited terrestrial habitat such as dense scrub is proposed for clearance which could result in direct (injury, or death of individual GCN) or indirect (loss of suitable breeding, foraging and hibernation habitat) impacts to local newt populations. However, the proposed development covers a small scale of 0.2ha comprising of a small scrub proportion and P1 was recorded as over 5000m² in size, therefore guidance on Reasonable

Avoidance Measures (RAMs) are outlined in Chapter 7 to avoid impacts on this species to support its conservation status.

6.6.2 *Reptiles*

Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) making it illegal to intentionally kill or injure reptiles. No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the survey; however, the site supported a limited suitable habitat matrix comprising dense scrub. As such it is therefore likely that harm or injury could be sustained to this group of species during the pre-construction clearing of the site. Chapter 7 sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species and measures to support its conservation status.

6.7 **MSPI – Hedgehogs**

Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) highlights seventeen species of principal importance in England. From this list, the habitats on site were considered conducive to supporting hedgehogs due to the two brash piles recorded during the preliminary assessment (Target Note 1). No evidence of either species was recorded during the survey. However, there is a risk of harm to individuals that may be using the site during any potential site clearance. As such, Chapter 7 set outs precautionary measures to minimise the risk of harm to these species during development.

7 Recommendations

The site should be the subject of further ecological survey works and/or consideration, where the following indices should be assessed and evaluated further to establish the

extent of impact to the ecological value of the application site. This information can then be used to guide the Master Plan to ensure that mitigation is employed to retain and enhance local biodiversity.

7.1 Habitats

Habitats / Botanical	Timing
Recommendations	
It is recommended that the site is subjected to a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA), incorporating a biodiversity net gain calculation using the DEFRA 4.0 metric (section 7.1 below). The BIA will help guide the masterplan to ensure that mitigation is employed to retain and enhance local biodiversity. As with all development sites, efforts should be made to support National and Local Biodiversity Action Plans and seek opportunities to incorporate ecological enhancement schemes within the proposed development. Such site enhancements are viewed positively in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) which seeks biodiversity enhancements and net gain through the planning process.	Design Phase

7.2 Breeding Birds

Breeding Birds	Timing
Recommendations	
Scattered trees, dense and scattered scrub onsite provide suitable habitats for breeding birds. Given their protection, development must be sympathetic to the value of this habitat and potential impacts on breeding birds, their eggs, nests and young. The breeding bird season is generally accepted as being between March and September. Consideration and implementation must be given to the following options most appropriate to the scheme. a) Undertake any demolition of structures and clearance of vegetation between the months of October and February where possible.	Works outside of the breeding season (Oct-Feb) If unachievable, follow steps in recommendation.

b) Clearance of suitable habitat between the months of March and September should be subjected to a search for active birds' nests 24 hours prior to commencement of works by an ecologist.	
---	--

7.3 Roosting Bats

Roosting Bats	Timing
Recommendations	
B1 and B2 was assessed to offer 'Low' suitability to roosting bats. The buildings should undergo a single further emergence/re-entry survey to confirm presence/absence of roosting bats. If presence of bats is confirmed during the surveys, survey effort will be increased to three visits to characterise the roost, required to inform an EPS license if the structure is to be demolished.	A single dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey undertaken May – September per building. All survey work should be completed prior to determination of the planning application.
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Design proposals may require amendment following the results of further survey work.	

7.4 Herptiles

Great Crested Newts (GCN) and Reptiles	Timing
Recommendations	
Habitats such as dense scrub on site provide suboptimal terrestrial and breeding habitat for GCN and Reptiles. To minimise the developments impacts on amphibian species, reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) should be adhered to if works are completed within the active season between March and October: - Spoil mounds or vegetation piles should be removed as soon as possible or stored within skips so that they are off the ground as much as possible, to prevent colonisation overnight by species.	During construction phase of development between March to October.

- If burning any cleared vegetation, carry out immediately after piling to prevent species moving in prior to burning. - Piping should be capped to prevent the entrapment of amphibians overnight and when not in use materials should be stored above ground on pallets. - Machinery should be stood on pallets if possible or on hardstanding to prevent entrapment of amphibians overnight. - Chemicals such as fuels, should be stored in secure containers and spill kits should be available to use by contractors if spillages occur. - Grassland should be continued to be managed and maintained to a short sward prior to works commencing. - In the unlikely event that GCN and reptiles are encountered during works, all works must temporarily cease, and ecologist sought.	
--	--

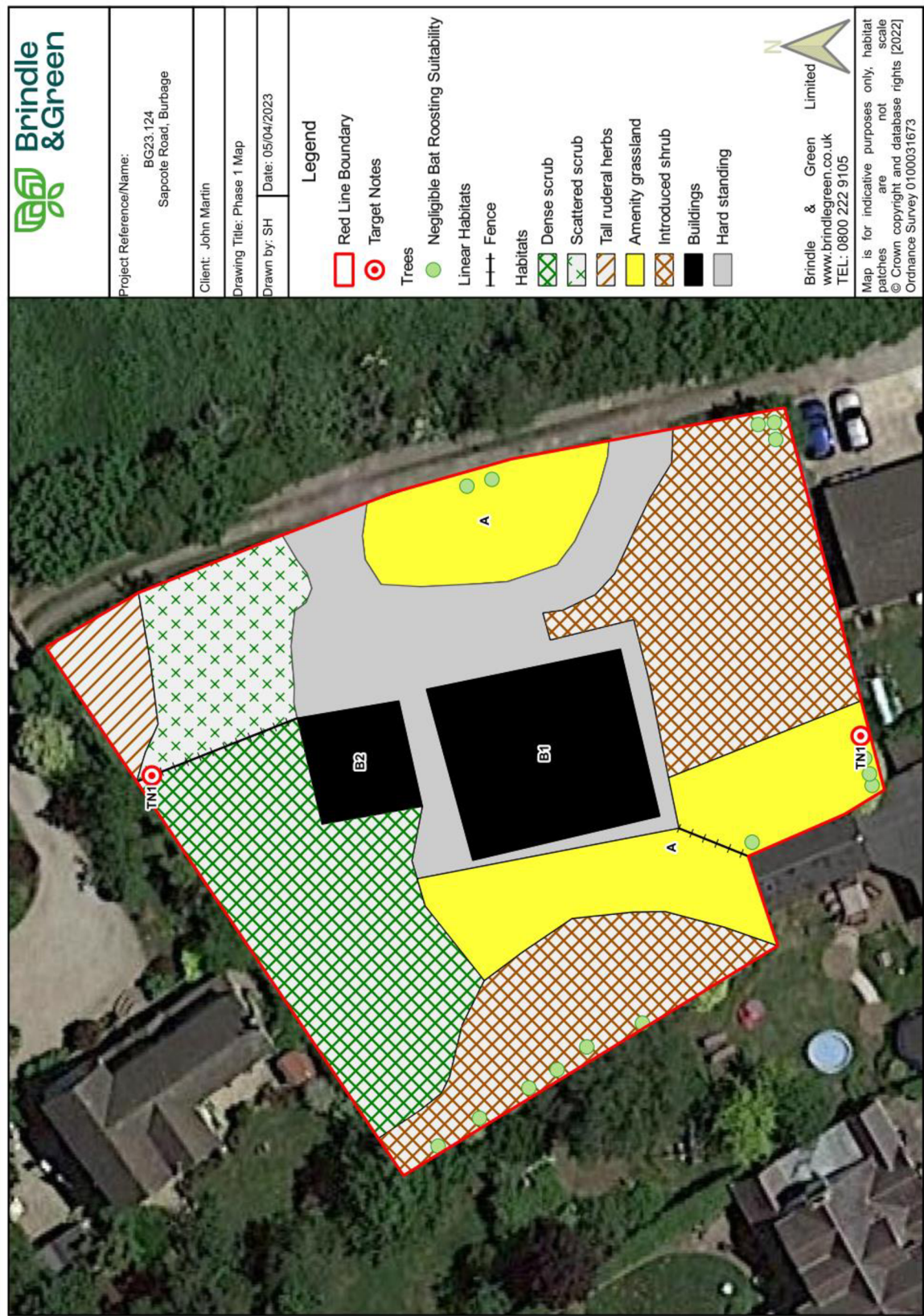
7.5 MSPI: West European Hedgehog

Mammals Species of Principal Importance	Timing
Recommendations	
Hedgehogs may use the site for foraging or commuting purposes. As such, precautionary mitigation measures should seek to minimise the risk to local fauna during construction: The recommended reasonable avoidance measures are as follows: - Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent hedgehogs gaining access. - Undertake works during daylight hours. - If bramble is subject for removal, clear by hand rather than strimming. - Search areas deadwood, brash, scrub and discarded items by hand before removing. - If burning any cleared vegetation, carry out immediately after piling to prevent hedgehogs moving in prior to burning.	During site clearance and construction

- Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day, or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g. a scaffolding plank).

Clearance of potential hedgehog hibernacula such as brash piles should be avoided in winter where possible to minimise risk of harm to this Priority species. If clearance is required, it should be done by hand only.

Appendix 1. Phase 1 Habitat Plan



Appendix 2. Phase 1 Target Notes

Target Note Number	Description
1	Brash Pile

Plant Species List with DAFOR Scale

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and common names follow BSBI List of British & Irish Vascular Plants and Stoneworts.

Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat survey, and does not constitute a full botanical survey.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale as follows: D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare, LF = locally frequent

Common Name	Scientific Name	Estimated Abundance (DAFOR)
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	O
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	R
Cleaver	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Common Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	F
Caper spurge	<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	A
Conifer	<i>Pinophyta</i>	O
Crane's-bill sp.	<i>Geranium</i>	F
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	R
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	O
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	F
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	O
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	R
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	A
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	R
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	F
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	F
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	F
Mayweed	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	F
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	D
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	F
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	O
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	F
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	D
Thistle	<i>Cirsium sp.</i>	F
White Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	F
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	R
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	A

Appendix 3. General References

- Bat Conservation Trust's 'Good Practice Survey Guidelines' (Rev 2012).
- Bell, S. McGillivray, D. (2006) *Environmental Law*. 6th ed. Oxford University Press.
- Byron, H (2000) *Biodiversity and Environmental Impact Assessment: A Good Practice Guide for Road Schemes*. The RSPB, WWF-UK, English Nature and the Wildlife Trusts, Sandy.
- Collins, J (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*, (3rd edition), Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Gilbert G, Gibbons DW, Evans J. (1998) *Bird Monitoring Methods: Breeding Bird Survey* (pages 389-393). RSPB.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey* (2003). JNCC.
- Langton T, Beckett C and Foster J (2001) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife, Halesworth.
- Mitchell-Jones A.J. McLeish, A.P. (2004) *Bat Workers Manual* (3rd Edition). Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
- Mitchell-Jones A.J. *Bat Mitigation Guidelines* 2004. English Nature.
- Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*). *Herpetological Journal* 10 (4), 143-155.
- Rodwell, J.S. Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). *National Vegetation Classification: Users' handbook* (2006). JNCC.
- Shawyer, C. R. (2011). *Barn Owl Tyto alba Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessment: Developing Best Practice in Survey and Reporting*. IEEM, Winchester.
- Rose, F. (2006). *The Wild Flower Key* (Revised edition). Penguin books Ltd, London
- Stace, C. (2010). *Field Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press
- Sutherland, W.J. (1996) *Ecological Census Techniques*. Cambridge University Press.
- Treweek, J. (1999) *Ecological Impact Assessment*. Blackwell Science.
- Williams, C. (2010) *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, A Technical Guide for New Build*. Riba Publishing.

Appendix 4. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

Articles of British wildlife and countryside legislation, policy guidance and both Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are referred to. The articles of legislation are:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Department for Communities and Local Government. National Planning Policy Framework. March 2012
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Land Drainage Act 1991
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan 2006
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP / HPI)

Appendix 5. Legislation, Guidance and Methodology for Preliminary Ecological Appraisals.

Legislation, Guidance and Methodology

Breeding Birds

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition, for species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly cause disturbance at, on or near an 'active' nest.

The bird breeding season is typically accepted to start in February/March and continue through until September/October, however breeding birds can be found all year round depending on the given species and climatic conditions.

A site's habitat composition, locality, association to designated sites as well as current usage and management are all considered in the decision as to whether further bird-related surveys are required. In addition, surveys may be recommended based on incidental bird records collected during a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, species identified within an ecological data search or target species listed within a local biodiversity action plan.

Bird surveys are carried out in accordance with:

Gilbert G, Gibbons DW, Evans J. (1998) *Bird Monitoring Methods*. RSPB.

Bats

Roosting Bats

All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

Areas of concern; can be encountered in many types of structure and care should therefore be taken when undertaking maintenance or demolition of suitable structures and trees.

Site assessments of buildings, commuting and foraging habitat and trees are undertaken in accordance with: Collins, J (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*, (3rd edition), Bat Conservation Trust, London. (Table 1 & 2 Below).

Preliminary Ecological Surveys look for evidence of bat presence such as feeding remains, bat droppings, roosting individuals and staining around potential access points. The suitability of site features are also assessed because absence of bat evidence, is not confirmation of a negative result.

Within trees, features searched for include; natural holes, woodpecker holes, cracks/splits in major limbs, loose bark, hollows, and dense cover of ivy over the tree. If evidence is found, or a building supports features conducive to supporting roosting bats then further presence / absence bat surveys and/or roost characterisation surveys will be recommended.

Foraging and Commuting bats

Habitat features on site are assessed for their suitability to support foraging and commuting bat populations. This assessment is independent from the suitability of the site to support roosting bats, and provides information on the likeliness of bat foraging activity within the local environment, and the dependence of individuals on these features for commuting to alternative roosting sites, foraging and migration.

Table 1: Guideline for assessing the suitability of a structure to support roosting habitat (Buildings and Trees), amended from Collins, J (2016)

Category	Description of roosting habitat	Number of additional presence / absence surveys required
Negligible Suitability	Suitable cavities may exist, but these are less than ideal.	None
Low Suitability	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. The feature and surrounding habitat do not provide enough shelter, conditions* space for larger roost types such as a maternity or hibernation roost. A tree of sufficient size and age to support roosting bats, but with no features observed from the ground, or the features only have a limited potential to support roosting bats.	One survey between May and August Trees – No further surveys required
Moderate Suitability	A structure or tree considered to have one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions* and surrounding habitat but are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (With regard to roost type only – assessments are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Two surveys between May and September (with at least one survey undertaken between May and August) One Dusk emergence and One Dawn re-entry survey to ideally be undertaken at least two weeks apart.
High Suitability	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.	Three surveys between May and September (with at least two surveys undertaken between May and August) One Dusk emergence and One Dawn re-entry survey to be undertaken. The third survey can be either Dusk or Dawn, undertaken at least two weeks apart.
Confirmed	This category is where positive evidence of bats has been recorded. For example, bats are found; bat droppings may be present at a suitable location for roosting bats; existing bat records may be associated with the structure.	

(* in this context conditions refers to the level of disturbance, light, height above ground, temperature, and humidity etc)

Table 2: Potential suitability of foraging and commuting habitat within an application boundary. Features should be assessed following this guide and professional judgement. Adapted from Collins J (2016)

Category	Description of commuting and foraging habitat	Survey effort to establish the value of commuting and foraging habitat**
Negligible Suitability	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.	None
Low Suitability	Habitat which could be used by low numbers of commuting bats such as an isolated gappy hedgerow, or an unvegetated stream unconnected to suitable habitat in the wider environment. Suitable, yet isolated habitat that could be used by foraging bats such as individual trees, or a patch of scrub.	Transect /spot count/ timed search survey: One survey visit per active season AND Static automated surveys: One location per transect, over a five-night period, per season.
Moderate Suitability	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by commuting bats, notably tree lines, hedgerows or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape which could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, open water, scrub or grassland.	Transect /spot count/ timed search survey One survey visit per month At least one survey should comprise dusk and pre-dawn (or dusk to dawn) within one 24-hour period. AND Static automated surveys: Two locations per transect, over a five-night period, per month (April to October)
High Suitability	Continuous, High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape which is considered to be highly conducive to commuting bats including river valleys, stream, hedgerows, and woodland edge 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. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.	Transect /spot count/ timed search survey Up to two survey visit per month (April to October) At least one survey should comprise dusk and pre-dawn (or dusk to dawn) within one 24-hour period. AND Static automated surveys: Three locations per transect, over a five-night period, per month (April to October)

(** This is only a guide for survey effort required, the complexity of the site and the proposed disturbance / loss of features will determine the extent of works required on a site by site basis).

Badgers (*Meles meles*)

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is illegal to wilfully kill, injure, disturb or take any badger, or attempt to do so and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

Site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:
Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*.

During the PEA, the site and the 30 metre zone of Influence considered for this species are searched for evidence of badger activity. The surveyor will identify evidence of activity, or habitat suitability for this

protected species. Even If no evidence of badger activity is found, if local conditions suggest that the habitat may be suitable for badger, further surveys will be recommended.

Amphibians

The great crested newt and natterjack toad are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the wildlife and countryside Act 1981. The legislation protects these amphibians and their place of shelter or protection which may extend 500m from the breeding pond.

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

The great crested newt, is fully protected under the Habitat regulations 2017, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, disturb or take great crested newts, intentionally or recklessly damage destroy or obstruct access to any place used by the animal for shelter or protection.

The legislation protects these amphibians and their place of shelter or protection which may extend 500m from the breeding pond. Sites should be considered suitable to support great crested newts if distribution and historical records suggest newts may be present, there is a pond within 500m of the development or the development site includes suitable terrestrial habitat refuges.

Great crested newt site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:

English Nature. (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough. and Langton T, Beckett C and Foster J (2001) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife, Halesworth.

Prior to a site visit, a desk study pond search is undertaken. When searching for ponds, Brindle & Green apply a total of 4 sources to establish their location. The following online sources are used:
OS MAPPING VIA PRO MAP, GOOGLE EARTH PRO, GOOGLE MAPS and MAGIC MAPS

Each identified pond (Access permitting) is subjected to a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment providing a score for each pond. This survey should be undertaken during the summer period to be fully accurate, however assumptions can be made out of season to guide survey recommendations.

Reptiles

Two species of reptile, the sand lizard and smooth snake, and their habitats are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. All other native British reptiles are protected against intentional killing and injury.

British reptiles are found in exposed, undisturbed areas, such as areas without cultivation with differing areas of grassland sward length. Suitable areas include abandoned sand quarries, fallow farmland land, heathland, post-industrial land, railway corridors etc. If these types of suitable features are found then further reptile surveys are recommended.

Edgar P, Foster J and Baker J (2010) *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

Gent T and Gibson S (2003) *Herpetofauna Workers Manual*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Invasive non-native weeds

Plant species such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) are examples of invasive non-native weeds classified under Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981. Any person who causes these species to grow or spread in the wild by dumping or other means is guilty of an offence. The plant and the soil these species are found growing in are classified as waste material and should be treated as such.

A simple walk over survey of the site to determine if these species are present was carried out during the PEA. A full list of Schedule 9 species can be found at Plantlife.org

Botanical Value

There are 60 plant species listed under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 where it is an offence to intentionally pick or uproot or destroy any of these plant species.

During the PEA, a phase one habitat survey was undertaken following JNCC guidance. Further assessments are made to determine whether habitats comprise those identified as Habitats of principle Importance under S42 of NERC Act 2006.

Surveys can be undertaken year-round, however, if species or site conditions suggest higher botanical interest a full botanical survey will be recommended.

Ecological Enhancement

In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government published the National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity through the planning system. The document states - *opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.*

For new buildings guidance such as in the following will be used:

Williams, C. (2010) *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, A Technical Guide for New Build.* Riba Publishing.

Designated Sites

Designated areas are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while others have been designated as having European protection status. Local authorities can also designate areas for nature conservation and in doing so may impose local authority byelaws to support local nature conservation objectives.

European designated status includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that preserve areas for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which provides protection for habitats and the species which these habitats supports.

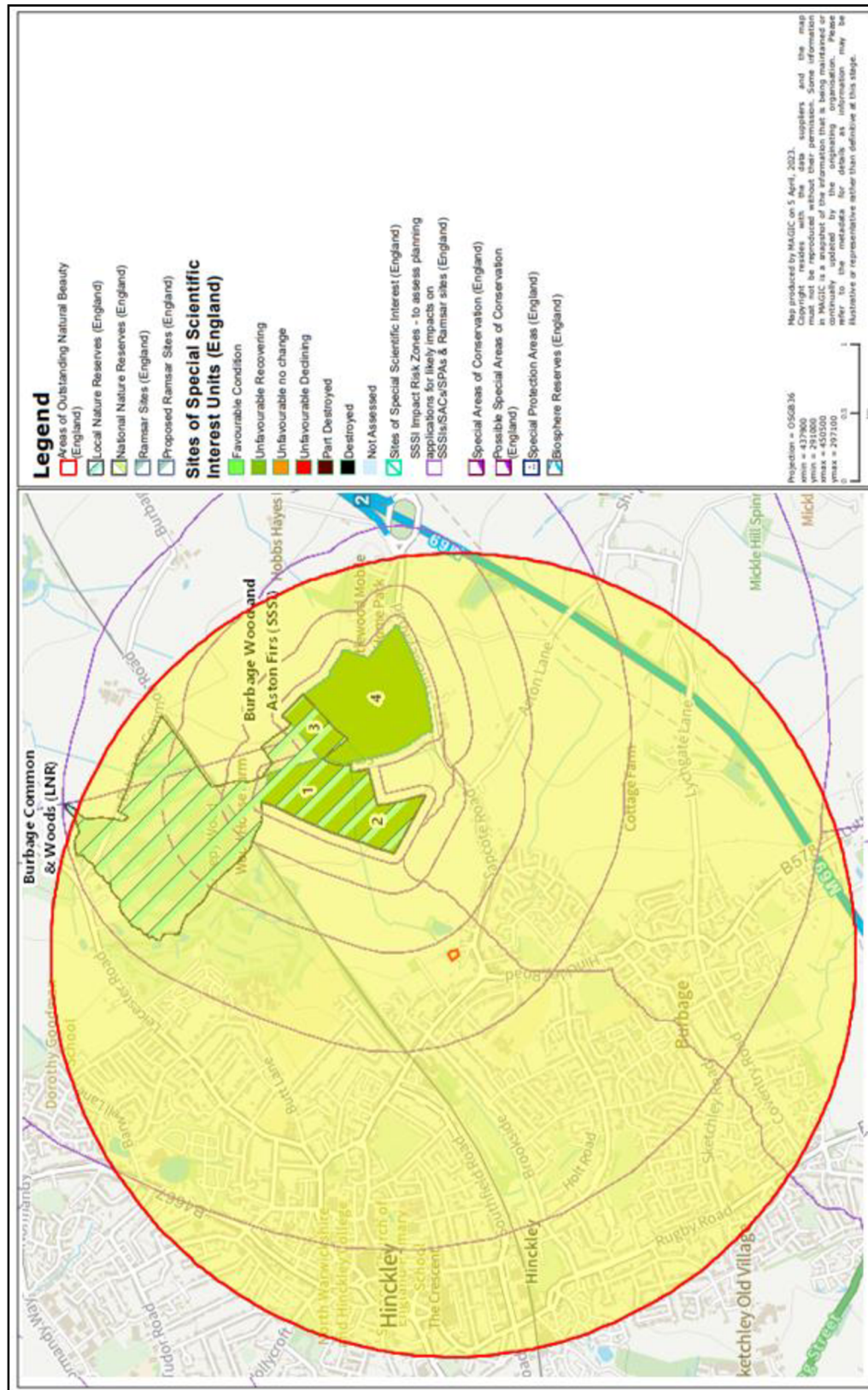
Information of Designated Protected Areas is received through Ecological Data Searches and Magic Map searches.

Appendix 6. Proposed Plans



Appendix 7. Magic Data

Two kilometre radius search of the project site.



Appendix 8. Ecological Data Search Information

The project site can be found at: Grid Ref: SP 44236 93554

Site Check Report Report generated on Wed Mar 15 2023 You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: SP44229355 The following features have been found in your search area:	
Granted European Protected Species Applications (England)	
Case reference of granted application	EPSM2012-4412
Species group to which licence relates	Amphibian
Species on the licence	Great Crested Newt
Site county of licence	Leicestershire
Licence Start Date	25/09/2012
Licence End Date	30/06/2017
Does licence impact on a breeding site	N
Does licence allow damage of breeding site	
Does licence allow damage of a resting place	
Does licence allow destruction of breeding site	N
Does licence allow destruction of a resting place	Y
Does licence impact on a hibernation site	Unknown
NERC agreement reference	Unknown
Local Nature Reserves (England) - points	
Reference	1009392
Name	BURBAGE COMMON & WOODS
Hectares	84.95
Hyperlink	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1009392
Local Nature Reserves (England)	
Reference	1009392
Name	BURBAGE COMMON & WOODS
Hectares	84.95
Hyperlink	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1009392
Sites of Special Scientific Interest Units (England) - points	
Name	BURBAGE WOOD AND ASTON FIRS
Reference	1068540
Site Unit Condition	UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING
Citation	1000510
Hectares	12.95
Hyperlink	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1000510
Name	BURBAGE WOOD AND ASTON FIRS
Reference	1068541
Site Unit Condition	UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING
Citation	1000512
Hectares	8.94
Hyperlink	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1000512
Name	BURBAGE WOOD AND ASTON FIRS
Reference	1068542
Site Unit Condition	UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING
Citation	1000514
Hectares	4.59
Hyperlink	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1000514
Name	BURBAGE WOOD AND ASTON FIRS
Reference	1068543
Site Unit Condition	UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING
Citation	1000515
Hectares	24.67
Hyperlink	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1000515
Sites of Special Scientific Interest Units (England)	
Name	BURBAGE WOOD AND ASTON FIRS
Reference	1068540
Site Unit Condition	UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING
Citation	1000510
Hectares	12.95
Hyperlink	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1000510

Appendix 9. Building PRFs

Figure 1. B1 cracks within the brickwork



Figure 2. Exterior of B1, hole within the soffit board



Figure 3. Exterior of B1,
crevices between wall and
soffit



Figure 3. Exterior of B2,
missing field tile

