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Ecological Appraisal

Client

Miller Homes

Project

**Land off Charity Close,
Desford**

Date

October 2025

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	BPA /03/03/25	JAW / 29/10/25

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. on behalf of Miller Homes and details the results of an Ecological Appraisal of a site on Land off Charity Close, Desford, Leicestershire (Central grid ref: SK 486 037). The survey comprised a desk study and UKHAB survey and condition assessment.
- 1.2 This report should be read in conjunction with the Bat Report¹ produced for the site.

Site Context

- 1.3 The site is located to the northeast of Desford, Leicestershire. It is approximately 3.9ha in size, comprising a single arable field compartment with associated boundary hedgerows. Three individual broadleaved trees and two small areas of mixed lowland woodland were present along the boundary of the arable field. At the site entrance is a small area of modified grassland, a short ditch and the hardstanding associated with the built linear feature and access road, Charity Close. To the south of the Site two bunds colonised by tall forbs and a line of small Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees were present.
- 1.4 The village of Desford is situated immediately to the west of the site, while to both the south and east of the site the local and wider landscape is characterised by agricultural land. Approximately 300m to the north of the site a railway line runs latitudinally.

Development Proposals

- 1.5 Proposals are for the Full planning application for residential development of 85 dwellings with associated vehicular access, footpaths, public open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure including pumpstation (n2235_008 Technical Planning Layout).

¹ (FPCR, 2025) Land off Charity Close, Bat Report

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Desktop Study

- 2.1 To support a field survey and compile existing baseline information relevant to the Site, ecological information comprising records of protected or notable species and non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation interest was sought from the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC).
- 2.2 Online sources of ecological data were also sought from the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website.
- 2.3 The search area for biodiversity information was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence, as follows:
- Five kilometres around the Site was searched for sites of with an Internationally Important ecological statutory designation i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Ramsar sites;
 - Two kilometres around the Site was searched for sites of National or Regional Importance with a statutory designation of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or National Nature Reserve (NNRs); records of bat species (e.g. protected, Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) or notable species); and any current or previously granted European Protected Species Licences;
 - One kilometre around the proposed development site for sites of County Importance with a statutory designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNRs), or non-statutory designation (e.g. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)/ Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs)) and records of protected (e.g. protected, Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) or notable species);
 - Any SSSI Impact Zones which overlapped the Site.
- 2.4 Further inspection, using colour 1:25,000 OS base maps and aerial photographs from Google Earth, was also undertaken to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.

Field Survey

Flora

- 2.5 A habitat survey was undertaken on the 9th April 2024. Survey methods followed the Extended Phase 1 survey technique and using UKHAB habitat classifications which involved a systematic walkover of the site to classify the broad habitat types and identify any 'Habitats of Principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity as listed within section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- 2.6 Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types and identify potential features of interest. Each species was also graded in terms of abundance (D – dominant, A – Abundant, F – Frequent, O – Occasional, R – Rare).

Fauna

- 2.7 During the habitat survey, observations, identification, and signs of any species protected under the following list of Acts and Regulations (collectively referred to herein as 'Protected Species') were recorded:
- Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 2.8 Consideration was also given to the existence and use of the Site by other fauna listed as one or more of the following (collectively referred to herein as 'Notable Species'):
- Species of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England on Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006;
 - Species listed on any Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) initiatives; and
 - Red Data Book species.
- 2.9 The likely presence or absence of protected and notable species has been assessed by several factors including the availability or suitable habitat, connectivity, known species distribution, local records and an understanding of the ecology and habitats requirement of the individual species assessed.

Birds

Breeding Bird Scoping Survey

- 2.10 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified in the best practice guidelines – Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts². All birds encountered (seen or heard) were recorded on a field survey plan using standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities and to denote activity, sex, and age where appropriate. Breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC)³ and their corresponding definitions, in addition to four additional codes to classify non-breeding species as birds recorded away from suitable breeding habitat, summering non-breeders, passage migrants, or flyovers. Birds were considered to be holding a territory and therefore likely to be utilizing the Site for breeding activities if they were displaying breeding behaviours, such as: singing, nest building, food carrying or territorial defence. If birds did not display such behaviours, e.g. they were only recorded flying over the Site, they were considered non-breeders.
- 2.11 In relation to the site, a single survey is considered to provide a reasonable level of accuracy for determining the population and status of breeding birds on site. In this case, the small area is

² Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 26.06.24]

³ Sharrock, J.T.R (1973) Ornithological Atlases. *Auspicium* 5:13-15.

considered unlikely to provide a substantial resource for breeding bird species given the local context of ample larger areas of well-connected, similar habitat in the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, the initial walkover identified internal habitats dominated by arable cropland lacking seasonally constrained habitat features such as temporary wetland areas that would necessitate increased survey effort. The detailed survey undertaken falls within the season in which most breeding activity occurs for typical species, and no species with vastly differing breeding cycles are reasonably expected to occur at this Site following the desk study results and assessment of the habitats present. The scoping survey returned a basic and limited assemblage of common and widespread birds and therefore no further surveys were considered necessary. Given the law of diminishing returns, the likelihood that further survey effort would find significant additional information to change the impact assessment or mitigation requirements is expected to be minimal. This is based on the widespread retention of suitable breeding habitat for the majority of species recorded and the negligible significance of any adverse impacts at larger spatial scales.

- 2.12 The requirement for a dusk survey was scoped out on the basis that the Site is outside the known breeding ranges of most crepuscular or nocturnal singing species and the habitat parcels were of too limited size and suitability to nocturnal species that could feasibly be present in the locality.
- 2.13 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows, and other features such as ponds and scrub. Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions, such as heavy rain or persistent strong wind (conditions which can negatively affect the results).
- 2.14 During the survey species which fit the following criteria were noted;
- Species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is also considered an offence.
 - Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (NERC S.41).
- 2.15 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK:
- 2.16 Red list (high conservation concern) species meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria.
 - Their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years.
 - They have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
- 2.17 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.
 - Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years.
 - Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery.
 - They are rare breeders.

- They have internationally important or localised populations.

2.18 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

Great-Crested Newts

eDNA Survey

- 2.19 Pond access letters were sent out to landowners of ponds P1, P2 and P3, of which, access to undertake eDNA surveys was granted for P3, only.
- 2.20 Water sampling/analysis of P3 (located off-site) was undertaken in accordance with the guidance as set out in the Analytical and Methodological development for Improved Surveillance of Great Crested Newt; WC1067; Appendix 5; Technical advice note for field and laboratory sampling of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) environmental DNA. This methodology has been approved by Natural England for the determination of GCN presence/absence.
- 2.21 Sampling was undertaken on the 4th of June 2024 during the recommended survey season (15th April – 30th June, inclusive) by licensed ecologists who collected samples of water from the ponds. Sampling was undertaken using kits obtained from ADAS. This comprised taking samples of agitated water from 20 locations around the pond and mixing thoroughly. Fifteen millilitres of each water sample was placed into 6 sterile sample tubes containing preservative, precipitates and a DNA sequence that was used for degradation control. All samples were stored in accordance with the protocols provided by the laboratory. The samples were transported to under suitable conditions to the ADAS laboratory for analysis. Following analysis, the results provided by the laboratory could have one of three outcomes which are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Description of Possible Results of eDNA Analysis

Result	Description
Positive	A positive result means that eDNA from GCN was detected and they have been present within the water in the 20 days preceding sampling. An eDNA score would be provided indicating the number of positive replicates from a series of twelve.
Negative	DNA from GCN was not detected; in the case of negative samples the DNA extract is further tested for PCR inhibitors and degradation of the sample.
Inconclusive	Controls indicate degradation or inhibition of the sample, therefore the lack of detection of GCN DNA is not conclusive evidence for determining the absence of the species in the sample provided. Degradation can occur through poor storage of the samples or kits and inhibition can occur through unexpected chemicals in the sample.

Limitations

- 2.22 Access to survey the ponds around the site was only permitted for P3, and therefore no surveys were able to be carried out on ponds P1 and P2.

3.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

Designated Sites

- 3.1 The locations of all statutory and non-statutory designated sites described in the subsequent sections are shown in Figure 1.

Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.2 One nationally designated site of nature conservation importance was identified within 1km of the site boundary, and subsequently the site falls within the Impact Risk Zone of the Botcheston Bog SSSI. Details are presented in Table 2 below.
- 3.3 No internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance were identified within a 5km radius of the site boundary, respectively.

Table 2: Statutory Sites of Conservation Value

Site Name	Designation	Location	Reason for Designation
Botcheston Bog	SSSI	North 710m	Acid grassland/marsh

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.4 Thirteen non-statutory sites are located within 1km of the site boundary comprising three Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), eight historic LWS sites and two potential Local Wildlife Site (pLWS), details of which are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Non-Statutory Sites of Conservation Value

Site Name	Designation	Location	Reason for Designation
Charity Fields	LWS	0m (Directly adjacent to northwest boundary)	Meets criteria for mesotrophic grassland and mixed grassland
Semi-improved grassland	Historic	105m north	No data available
Station Road Ash	LWS	220m west	Mature tree
Rothley Brook	Historic	300m north	Mesotrophic grassland
Hedgerow	Historic	490m east	Hedgerow
Hedgerow	Historic	540m east	Hedgerow
Leicester Lane, Semi-improved grassland	LWS (Potential)	545m south	Potential mesotrophic grassland
Dismantled Railway	Historic	790m north east	No data available
Hedgerow	Historic	930m south	Hedgerow
Pond	Historic	935m north east	Hedgerow
Peckleton Lane Ash	LWS	980m south west	Mature tree
Peckleton Lane (east)	LWS (Potential)	980m south west	Hedgerow
Hedgerow	Historic	990m south east	Hedgerow

Protected Notable Species

- 3.5 Several records of protected and/or notable species such as those of Principal Importance or LBAP species are present within 1km of the site. An extended search has been undertaken for species of bats, with search results inclusive of records within 2km of the site boundary. A summary of these are provided in Table 4 with their locations shown on Figure 2.

Table 4: Notable and Protected Species Recorded within 1-2km of the Site Boundary

Species	Conservation status	Number of records	Most recent record	Distance and bearing relative of nearest record to site
Mammals				
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	4	2020	Locations available on request.
Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	WCA Sch5, NERC S41, CHSR	20	2023	210m northeast
Common Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	102	2023	210m northeast
Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis Daubentonii</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	1	2016	1910m north
Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	NERC S41	4	2014	0m on southeast site boundary
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	NERC S41	18	2023	30m west
Long-eared bat species <i>Plecotus sp.</i>	WCA Sch5, NERC S41, CHSR	1	2017	1000m north
Myotis bat species <i>Myotis sp.</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	8	2019	200m northeast
Nathusius' pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	1	2019	1510m west
Natterer's bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	2	2016	275m west
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	10	2019	215m northeast
Nyctalus' Bat species <i>Nyctalus sp.</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	2	2019	195m east
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	NERC S41, CHSR	22	2015	375m northeast
Pipistrelle bat species <i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	6	2019	1150m north
Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	10	2023	215m northeast
Unidentified Bat species <i>Chiroptera sp.</i>	WCA Sch5, CHSR	2	2009	1330m south
Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	1	2015	215m northeast
Invertebrates				
Blood vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	NERC S41	1	2022	210m east
Dusky Thorn <i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	NERC S41	3	2022	210m east
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	NERC, S41	1	2007	720m west

Species	Conservation status	Number of records	Most recent record	Distance and bearing relative of nearest record to site
Mottled Rustic <i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	NERC S41	1	2022	300m east
Shaded Broad-bar <i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	NERC S41	1	2022	290m east
Small Phoenix <i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	NERC S41	1	2022	290m east
Small Square-spot <i>Diarsia rubi</i>	NERC S41	1	2022	290m east
Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	NERC S41	1	2000	720m west

- 3.6 A number of existing records were returned from the record centre for species of bird and plants. Details of both can be found in Figure 2.
- 3.7 Two records of European Protected Species Licenses were returned within 2km of the site boundary which are detailed in table 5 below.

Table 5: EPSL licenses within 2km of the Site Boundary

Species	Case Reference	Date	Licensable Actions	Distance and bearing relative to site
Brown Long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	EPSM2010-1623	2010-2011	Destruction of breeding and resting site	900m North
Brown Long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i> and Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	2017-28013-EPS-MIT	2017-2022	Destruction of a resting site	1800m North

Field Results – Habitats/Flora

Overview

- 3.8 The site comprised an arable field compartment with hedgerows, broadleaved woodland and ruderal vegetation forming the site boundaries. Two broadleaved trees were also present at the Site's peripheries.
- 3.9 The locations of the habitats described, referred to in the following sections can be found on Figure 3: Habitat Plan. Full vegetative species-lists are provided in Appendix A.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland;

- 3.10 To the east of the site the boundary hedgerow (H2) widens into a section of lowland mixed deciduous woodland approximately 10m wide, of which a small portion falls within the site boundary. The woodland was dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elm *Ulmus procera* standards and featured an understorey approximately 4m high, with scrubby species up to 2m. The ground flora was dominated by ivy *Hedera helix* with occasional lords and ladies *Arum maculatum*.
- 3.11 To the south of the site a small strip of woodland up to 10m wide situated within a depression in the field margin was dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elm *Ulmus procera* with an understorey of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and elder *Sambucus nigra*. The ground flora was

dominated by ivy *Hedera helix* with occasional nettles *Urtica dioica* and cleavers *Galium aparine*. One large, mature ash tree (T3) was present within the block.

Hedgerows

- 3.12 One line of trees and five hedgerows (H1-H6) were present along the boundary of the site, canopy compositions in addition to the physical characteristics of the hedgerows (profile, length, % gaps etc. are presented in table 4).

Table 6: Hedgerow Summary

Ref.	Canopy Species (Total Length)	Length	Notes	Associated Features	Species-rich	Important Hedgerow
H1	Ash	60m	Line of small Ash trees.	Arable field	No	No
H2	Haw, Elder, Elm, Dogwood, Apple, Oak, Field Maple, Willow	200m	Mature ash x 1. Some parts of hedgerow younger than others with gapping up taking place approx. 10-15 years ago.	Woodland	Yes	No
H3	Elm, Elder, Hawthorn, Yew	80m	-	Garden	No	No
H4	Hawthorn, Holly, Elder, Yew	50m	-	Garden	No	No
H5	Privet, Holly	35m	-	Garden	No	No
H6	Hawthorn, Ash, Yew, Cherry Laurel	200m	-	Garden	No	No

- 3.13 All hedgerows present contain over 80% native species and are therefore identified as Habitats of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act. No hedgerows were found to be species-rich except H2 and none were found to be 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations.

Arable

- 3.14 The site was dominated by arable land sown with a perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* ley consisting of 60-70% bare ground. At the time of survey, the ground was very wet. Arable margins were approximately 1-1.5m wide and composition consisted primarily of common species indicative of nutrient rich ground such as common nettle *Urtica dioica*, cleavers *Galium aparine* and broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* alongside species associated with hedgerows such as ivy *Hedera helix* and hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*.

Tall Forbs – Ruderal

- 3.15 A 2m high, vegetated mound comprising common nettle with sparsely planted cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, suspected to be historic failed hedge planting, was present along the southern boundary. The lower half of the mound was dominated by Yorkshire fog *holcus lanatus*.

Modified Grassland

- 3.16 Two small sections of mown modified grassland associated with the neighbouring development were present along the western boundary of the site. In the southern grassland five light standards of broadleaved trees were present. The sward was dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* which was mown to a height of approximately 5cm.

Individual Trees

- 3.17 Three individual ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees were noted on site. Tree T1 was a mature specimen situated within H2 with exposed heartwood due to failure of the main stem. Tree T2 was situated along the northeast site boundary and was heavily covered in ivy. T3 was situated within the small area of lowland mixed deciduous woodland in the south of the site and was also covered in dense ivy.

Ditch

- 3.18 An 8m long ditch was present within the modified grassland at the entrance to the arable field compartment. There was an absence of aquatic vegetation and species present comprised cock's foot *Dactylus glomeratus*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*. A small outflow pipe was present on the western end.

Field Results – Fauna

Badgers

- 3.19 The hedgerows, woodland, arable land, and tall ruderal vegetation offers some suitable foraging habitat for this species whilst the woodland also offers suitable sett creation habitat, albeit being limited in area. Additionally, the woodland and hedgerows act as commuting corridors, both on-site and into the wider environment.
- 3.20 A single mammal hole large enough to be utilised by badger was noted during the survey to the north of site between H3 and H4. However, with an absence of field signs, and cobwebbing present, there was no direct evidence of use by badger or any other mammal, and it was concluded that the hole was abandoned.
- 3.21 No further signs or evidence of badger was noted during the survey.

Bats

- 3.22 The hedgerows and mature trees present on-site offer suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats; however, the arable land is likely to be of low value to bats, being without varied floristic diversity or structure to attract invertebrate prey.
- 3.23 Two trees (T1 and T2) were identified as supporting potential for roosting bats during the habitat survey. Tree T3, was not considered to support any potential for roosting bats.

Breeding Birds

- 3.24 A total of 14 bird species were recorded during the single breeding bird survey occasion (for complete list see Appendix B). Of these, two were recorded overflying the Site only and therefore considered to be non-breeders and are not considered to be impacted by any proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.
- 3.25 Of the remaining 12 species that were recorded within the Site, four meet the criteria of at least one of the following pieces of legislation/classifications discussed above: Schedule 1 of the WCA; Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and BoCC Red or Amber lists. These species are referred to as 'notable' species and their distributions are shown on Figure 4.
- 3.26 Of the 12 species recorded as present within on-site habitats, two were confirmed as breeding. Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* is considered notable whilst the other confirmed breeding

species, great tit *Parus major*, is an abundant and widespread generalist of low conservation concern i.e. BoCC Green-listed.

- 3.27 A further two species were considered probable breeders neither of which were notable. Blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* is a common and widespread generalist of low conservation concern (BoCC Green-listed) whilst pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* is not assessed for conservation priority as all birds are descended from feral stock and are therefore of no ecological value.
- 3.28 The remaining eight species included seven possible breeding species where birds were observed in potentially suitable breeding habitat, but no further evidence collected to suggest breeding actually occurs on-site. Possible breeders included two notable species, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and dunnock *Prunella modularis*, in addition to five common and widespread species of low conservation concern: chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, and chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. A small aggregation of rook *Corvus frugilegus*, a notable species frequently found in arable landscapes and abundant within the county, was observed in a large tree in the southeastern corner of the Site but were seen to be using this as a perch in between feeding visits to the larger arable field to the east.

Great Crested Newts

- 3.29 No ponds were situated within the site boundary (Figure 5) and the arable habitat dominating the site was sub-optimal for supporting great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN), providing little opportunity for foraging, rest or shelter. Hedgerows and marginal woodland were considered to provide some suitable foraging and movement habitat. Overall, the site was considered to be of extremely limited value to this species.
- 3.30 A review of aerial photography and OS maps indicated the presence of three waterbodies within 250m of the site, the closest of which was a recently constructed SUDs Pond (P3) associated with the adjacent residential development, situated 30m to the west of the site.
- 3.31 The results of the eDNA assessment of the pond were negative for GCN DNA, confirming the likely absence of GCN from pond P3. Full results of the analysis are provided in the attached laboratory report (Appendix B).

Reptiles

- 3.32 Habitats on site were considered generally unsuitable to support a viable reptile population, although the hedgerows could provide some limited habitat to more mobile species, such as grass snake *Natrix helvetica*.

4.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The degree to which habitats and species receive consideration within the planning system relies on a number of mechanisms, including:

- Inclusion within a specific policy, for example veteran trees, ancient woodland and linear habitats within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- A non-statutory site designation (e.g. Local Wildlife Site);
- Habitats considered as Habitats of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity and species considered as Species of Principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity as listed within section 41 of the NERC Act (2006);
- Habitats identified as being a Priority Habitat and species identified as being a priority Species within the local Biodiversity Action Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

4.2 Following publication of the revised NPPF in December 2024 the premise of 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' embedded within the previous NPPF has been carried forward to the current version. The NPPF considers that to achieve this, the planning system has three overarching objectives: economic, social and environmental. It considers these to be interdependent with a need for them to be mutually supportive of one another.

Relevant Local Policy – Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan

4.3 The current plan⁴ provides details of policies to be considered at a county level during the development phase, several of which are relevant to this report. This includes both spatial objectives 10: Natural Environment and Cultural Assets, which details the importance of delivering a linked network of green infrastructure, enhancing and protecting the borough's distinctive landscapes, woodlands and biodiversity and encourage its understanding, appreciation, maintenance and development; and Spatial Objective 11: Built Environment and Townscape Character which makes reference to safeguarding, enhancing and regenerating the borough's Conservation Areas.

Statutory Sites

4.4 Botcheston Bog (SSSI) is located 710m to the north of the site boundary and as such there will be no direct impacts such as land loss as a result of the development proposals.

4.5 Although Botcheston Bog falls within the impact risk zone, due to the distance between Botcheston Bog and the site it is expected that indirect impacts such as dust pollution would be avoided. However, in order to ensure no adverse impacts to Botcheston bog arise as a result of

⁴ Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Core Strategy adopted document [online] Available at: https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/core_strategy_adopted_document

the development it is recommended that a Construction and Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) detailing best practise guidelines is implemented during the construction phase.

- 4.6 A public right of way is present along a short length of southeast boundary of Botcheston Bog SSSI. However, it is expected that while there may be a slight increase in recreational pressure as a result of the development, it will be both localised to existing footpaths, and infrequent, due to the provision of more accessible recreational areas within the GI being more frequently visited than Botcheston Bog, which is approximately a 1 mile walk from site. Consequently, adverse impacts arising as a result of recreational pressure from the development are expected to be negligible.

Non-statutory Sites

- 4.7 Non-statutory designated sites do not receive statutory protection. They do however receive policy protection (as "Local Sites"), as reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). NPPF suggests that Local Sites can have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and that appropriate weight should be attached to designated sites when making planning decisions.
- 4.8 There were no non-statutory sites present within the site boundary, although thirteen sites (four LWS, eight historic sites and one pLWS) were identified within 1km of the Site, with the closest site 'Charity fields LWS', a mixed grassland and mesotrophic grassland field located adjacent to the eastern site boundary. Given the close proximity of Charity fields to the development Site, there is some potential for adverse impacts during construction. Whilst there will be no direct impacts, precautionary mitigation is recommended to avoid potential indirect impacts arising as a result of construction activities, including best practice Site protocols with regards to avoidance of accidental pollution/contamination incidents, dust pollution and the safe storage of site materials as detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- 4.9 The remaining sites are to be considered to be sufficiently distant from the proposed Site, and it is therefore considered that these are unlikely to be impacted by the construction phase.

Habitats/Flora

- 4.10 The degree to which habitats receive consideration within the planning system relies on a number of mechanisms, including:
- Inclusion within specific policy (e.g. veteran trees, ancient woodland and linear habitats in NPPF, or non-statutory site designation),
 - Identification as a habitat of principal importance for biodiversity under Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 and consequently identification as a Priority Habitat within England and the local area.
- 4.11 The majority of the site comprises arable land which is considered to be of negligible conservation value. Similarly, the limited pockets of tall ruderal vegetation are also deemed to be of low ecological value due to the lack of species diversity. It is not considered that the loss of these habitats to the proposed development poses a constraint to development.
- 4.12 To the east of the site a small section of broadleaved woodland falls within the site boundary. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland is a habitat of Principal Importance on the NERC Act and a

Priority Habitat on the Leicestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The woodland will be retained in its entirety as part of the proposals and therefore its presence poses no constraints to the development. It is however recommended that appropriate mitigation measures to safeguard the woodland during construction are detailed within the recommended CEMP to ensure that it is retained unmodified as a result of the scheme. Measure should include installation of appropriate protection fencing at the boundary of woodland, avoidance of lighting the woodland via nighttime hours, measures to avoid accidental pollution run-off and dust pollution, both of which could adversely impact upon the woodland's fauna and flora.

- 4.13 The existing network of hedgerows and trees surrounding the site is largely continuous with relatively few gaps and provides good connectivity between habitats both around the site and within the immediate landscape. Under NPPF, development should seek to contribute a net gain in biodiversity with an emphasis on improving ecological networks and linkages where possible. Hedgerows are to be retained under current proposals with the exception of two breaches in hedgerow H6 to facilitate vehicular around the site.
- 4.14 The existing hedgerow network on site will be supplemented through the creation of additional native hedgerows which will be managed appropriately (see below) to enhance the hedgerow structures and overall ecological value of the site. The creation of new hedgerows is considered to compensate for the small sections of hedgerow to be lost.
- 4.15 Retained hedgerows should be managed to maximise their nature conservation potential. This would involve trimming on a three-year rotational basis once established, with any existing gaps planted up with native berry bearing tree and shrub species. Where feasible, hedgerows will benefit from the creation of 1-2m wide headlands to promote the establishment of woodland indicator species where these are absent or poorly represented and to allow for the development of a diverse tussocky grassland habitat which would increase the value of the hedgerows as wildlife corridors. Measures will be put in place to ensure hedgerows are safeguarded from direct impacts during the construction
- 4.16 All retained hedgerows and trees will be protected by appropriate fencing based on their calculated Root Protection Areas (RPA) and protected from damage and disturbance during construction through the implementation of best practice standards and recommended guidance and as outlined in any Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or similar for the lifetime of the construction phase.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 4.17 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity it encourages developers to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected in such a way it is hoped that the current loss of biodiversity through development will be halted and ecological networks can be restored.
- 4.18 The revised NPPF (2024) seeks to ensure that the planning system contributes to and enhances the natural and local environment, protects and enhances biodiversity and geodiversity by:
- “187. d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and

incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;

192. b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."In order to demonstrate measurable BNG, DEFRA has developed a metric in order to aid its calculation in a transparent and prescriptive way. The most recent iteration, the Statutory Biodiversity Metric provides a way of measuring and accounting for biodiversity losses and gains resulting from development or land management change."

- 4.19 In order to ensure that the proposed Site can deliver BNG, the development design will seek to avoid habitats of greatest value (such as hedgerows and mature trees) where feasible, using these as a framework for the green infrastructure and creating new habitats alongside these.

Fauna

- 4.20 Principal pieces of legislation protecting wild species are Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Some species, for example badgers, also have their own protective legislation (Protection of Badgers Act 1992). The impact that this legislation has on the planning system is outlined in ODPM 06/2005 Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the Planning System.
- 4.21 This guidance states that as the presence of protected species is a material consideration in any planning decision, it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species and the extent to which they are affected by proposals is established prior to planning permission being granted. Furthermore, where protected species are present and proposals may result in harm to the species or its habitat, steps should be taken to ensure the long-term protection of the species, such as through attaching appropriate planning conditions.
- 4.22 In addition to protected species, there are those that are otherwise of conservation merit, such as species of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. These are recognised in the NPPF which advises that when determining planning applications, LPA's should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying a set of principles including:
- If significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided....., adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be encouraged.
- 4.23 The implications that various identified species or those that are thought reasonably likely to occur may have for developmental design and programming considerations are outlined below.

Badgers

- 4.24 A single mammal hole was recorded on-site, although no evidence to suggest that it is in use by badger was noted and no further evidence, such as mammal pathways, latrines or other

evidence of badgers utilising the site was recorded. As there are records of badger in the local area, precautionary measures should include the following:

- Storage of chemicals off the ground and away from badger suitable habitat (site boundary features such as woodland and hedgerows).
- Providing ramped access for any trenches or holes left open overnight to prevent animals being trapped.
- Compacting of any spoil mounds with digger bucket to help discourage sett creation.
- Capping of any exposed pipes of 250mm diameter or more.

- 4.25 Whilst it is unlikely that the on-site mammal hole was in use by badger at the time of the survey, as badger are a mobile species it is recommended that the hole is subject to a period of monitoring to determine if it is used by badger or another species. Should the monitoring confirm the results of the initial survey then the hole can be removed within further survey or mitigation. Should monitoring confirm that the hole is now in use by badger then a sett closure licence will likely be required from Natural England prior to works commencing on-site within 30m. Badger setts can be closed under licence between July and November, inclusive, and on receipt of full planning permission.

Bats

- 4.26 All bat species and their habitats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). In summary these make it an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct any place used by bats for breeding and shelter, disturb a bat, or kill, injure or take a bat.
- 4.27 There are no existing records of bats on-site but there are numerous records of bats within 2km of the site boundary including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, natterer's bat, brown long-eared bats, noctule, pipistrelle bat species, unidentified Long-eared bat species, unidentified *Nyctalus* sp. bats and unidentified *Myotis* sp. bats.
- 4.28 The arable land is considered to provide only limited suitability for bat use and its loss is considered to have a negligible impact on the Favourable Conservation Status of the local bat population. However, the woodland, hedgerows and mature trees do provide foraging and commuting habitat for the local bat population, the majority of these features are to be retained as part of the proposals with the exception of a small section of hedgerow H6 which is to be lost.
- 4.29 Following the Bat Survey Good Practice Guidelines 2023 (Bat Conservation Trust 2023) this site is considered to have 'moderate' suitability for bats. The guidelines therefore suggest seasonal night-time bat walkover surveys (spring, summer and autumn) should be conducted to provide sufficient information upon which to base likely impacts on the local bat population and ensure sufficient mitigation is provided to ensure the favourable conservation status of the local population.
- 4.30 Furthermore, automated static bat detector surveys are to be undertaken for a minimum of five consecutive nights per month (April-October) in order establish species composition of bats on site and approximate numbers.

Trees

- 4.31 One tree T1 was considered to offer bat roosting potential which will require further aerial assessments to establish the presence/absence of roosting bats.
- 4.32 The results of the above recommended surveys are detailed in the corresponding Bat Report produced for the Site.

Birds

- 4.33 The majority of the species recorded are typical of the habitats present within the Site, being heavily influenced by the current agricultural management. The internal sections of arable fields support a very limited assemblage of birds and provide few breeding opportunities for most species recorded with the exception of pheasant.
- 4.34 Of some limited importance for breeding birds are the areas of scrub, woodland, and hedgerows forming the boundary of the Site. These areas supported all of the breeding bird assemblage recorded including a variety of resident and migratory generalist species. The assemblage recorded is typical of such habitat in the region and whilst the assemblage did include a few notable species, all occurred in low numbers, and none are of conservation priority in the county. Given the exceedingly small size of the Site and the wider landscape context which includes substantial areas of equivalent arable habitat such that the habitats within the Site are not locally limited, the assemblage associated with this habitat should be considered of Site nature conservation importance only.
- 4.35 The retention of all perimeter features of value to breeding birds ensures that the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the status of local breeding bird populations.
- 4.36 Any removal of woody vegetation should occur outside the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive) to minimise the risk of disturbance to breeding birds. If this is not possible, vegetation should be checked prior to removal by a suitably experienced ecologist. If active nests are found, vegetation should be left untouched and suitably buffered from works until all birds have fledged.

Great Crested Newts

- 4.37 The site itself has negligible potential for GCN in their breeding phases and limited suitability for GCN in their terrestrial phase. The possible presence of GCN in the adjacent pond, P3, was ruled out using eDNA survey techniques. An additional two ponds (P1 and P2) were identified within 250m of the site boundary. Pond P1 is a field pond located 120m east of the site boundary. Access was not granted to survey the pond, but optimal terrestrial habitat surrounds the pond in the form of a woodland parcel. Pond P2 is a garden pond situated 150m west of the site boundary. Access was not granted to survey the pond, but optimal terrestrial habitats were also present immediately surrounding this pond in the form woodland habitats.

- 4.38 Research published by Natural England⁵ suggests that:
- "...at distances greater than 200-250m, capture and exclusion operations will hardly ever be appropriate. These recommendations are broadly consistent with findings in literature, since although a maximum routine migratory range has been estimated as approximately 250m from a breeding pond (Franklin, 1993; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986; Jehle, 2000), Jehle, (2000) determined a terrestrial zone of 63m, within which 95% of summer refuges were located. In addition, following the breeding season, (Jehle and Arntzen, 2000) recorded 64% of newts within 20m of the pond edge."*
- 4.39 Both off-site ponds are located over 100m from the site boundary and are surrounded by optimal terrestrial habitat for this species. As per the above research, it is considered unlikely that, should GCN be present in these ponds, they would migrate from the off-site areas of higher quality habitats to the lower quality on-site habitats.
- 4.40 As impacts to on-site habitats will be confined to intensively managed arable habitat, with all habitat of higher value retained except for two short sections of H6 planned for removal to facilitate access, it is considered reasonable to assume that with an absence of records within 1km, the likely absence of GCN in the adjacent P3 and distance of all other off-site ponds that GCN do not pose a constraint to the works and no further survey or mitigation is recommended.

Reptiles

- 4.41 The site provided limited to negligible suitability for reptiles which prefer a habitat mosaic of varying structure for over-wintering, basking and foraging. No records of reptiles were returned by the Local Records Centre for the site or close vicinity and as such no further survey or mitigation is recommended in regard to this group.

⁵ Cresswell and Whitworth 2004. *An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt*

5.0 ENHANCEMENTS

Biodiversity Enhancement

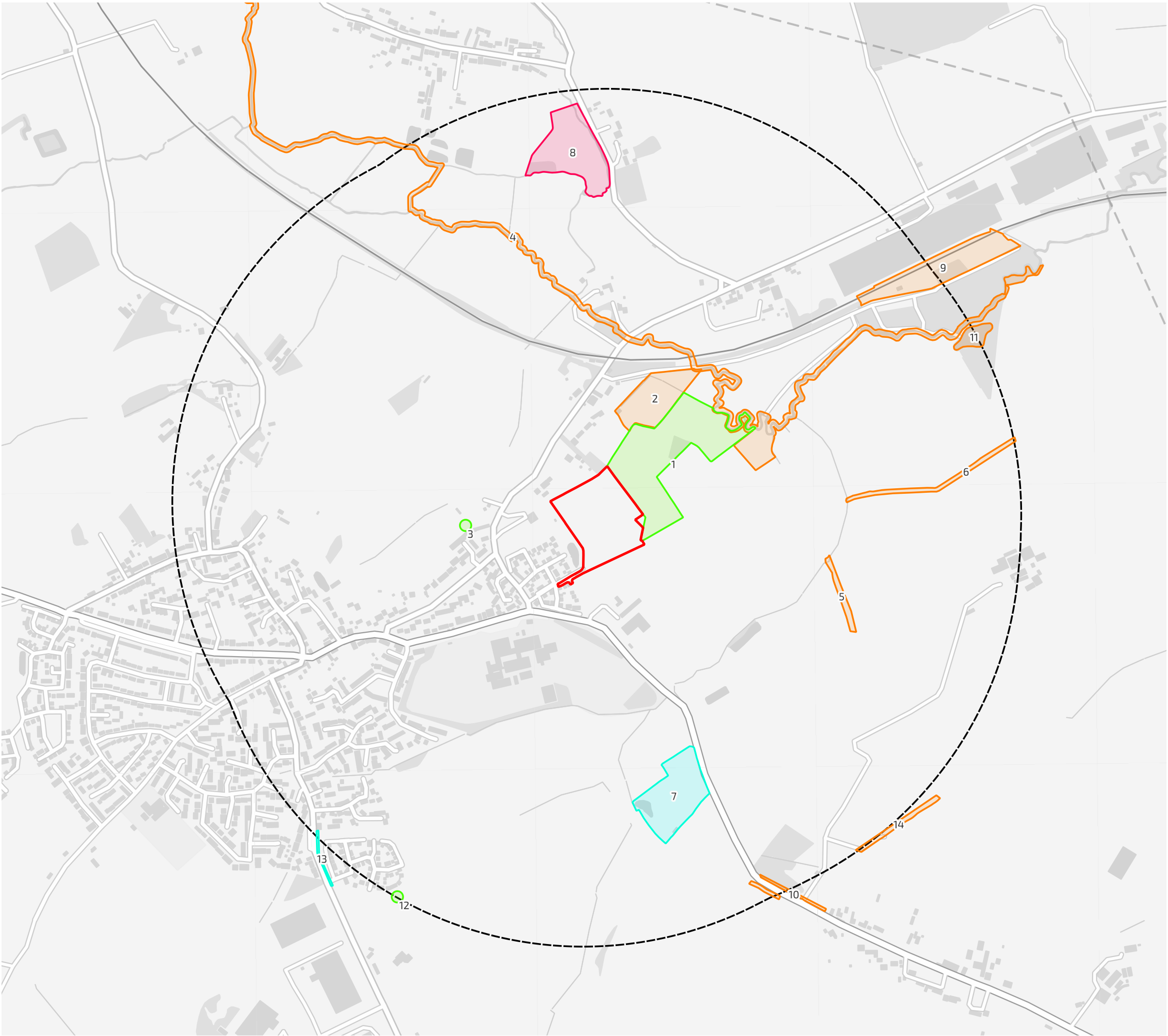
- 5.1 Preference should be given within the planting scheme to the use of locally native woody species, with an emphasis on species bearing nectar, berries, fruit and nuts, as these enhance the foraging opportunities for local wild fauna including birds, invertebrates and particularly dormice. Suitable small tree species for inclusion in hedgerow and garden planting schemes include field maple *Acer campestre*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, bird cherry *P. padus*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. Other shrub species suitable for inclusion within the soft landscaping design include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, blackthorn *Prunus. spinosa*, dog-rose *Rosa canina*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* and wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*.
- 5.2 Two attenuation features are proposed in both the north and east of the site within the GI. At this stage it is unknown whether this attenuation feature will be designed to hold permanent water or if it is to hold water seasonally. It is recommended that this balancing facility is designed to maximise its biodiversity whether dry or wet and is planted with native species and sensitively managed to increase its ecological value for the local wildlife, such as nesting birds. Where possible, it would be beneficial if an area of permanent water could be created to maximise its biodiversity value. Further details can be provided once the type of facility is known.
- 5.3 Planting attenuation features with an appropriate native marginal vegetation mix that includes common reed *Phragmites australis* will provide suitable nesting opportunities for species not recorded on-site, such as reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniculus* and sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Non-native wetland plants should be avoided as many are invasive.
- 5.4 The GI should be designed to incorporate a mosaic of habitats including tussocky grassland sown with a species-rich seed mix which will benefit invertebrate communities and provide additional foraging and commuting habitat for a variety of species which may use the site including reptiles and badgers.

Fauna

- 5.5 It is recommended that a scheme of bat boxes is included in the development, sited on suitable mature trees or incorporated into new buildings. The inclusion of these boxes will increase the availability of suitable roosting sites for bats in the locality. Detailed recommendations are provided in the bat report.
- 5.6 Hedgehog Highways should be provided through residential gardens. Where fences are installed, leaving gaps of 13cm x 13cm at the base of panels will help to retain connectivity for hedgehogs and other species. Signs above the holes and leaflets within the homeowner packs can also be provided to ensure these are maintained.
- 5.7 In accordance with British Standard BS42021:2022 – Integral nest boxes – Selection and installation for new developments, the specification is provided on the number and type of bird boxes that should be sought within new developments. Under BS42021:2022 all new residential developments should provide new and enhanced opportunities for nesting via the installation

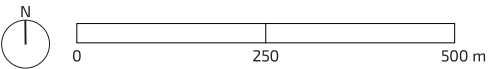
of integrated nest boxes with the number of boxes to be at least equal to the number of dwellings. These boxes should be installed in clusters of 3-5 on suitable aspects close to open areas with scattered trees and shrubs.

- 5.8 Although targeting swifts the provision of integral nest sites through hollow chambers fitted into the fabric of a building while in construction will also be used by house sparrows, tits and starlings so are considered a 'universal brick'.
- 5.9 External nest boxes are additional enhancements to the BS42021:2021 guidance and do not contribute towards the one nest box per dwelling requirement. Such enhancements that could be integrated with the on-going management of the Site include the erection of a mixture of nest box types within the retained scrub-woodland. The following provides details of suggested suitable nest box types:
- a) A mixture of small hole (26mm and 32mm) boxes placed on suitable tree standards around the perimeter of the Site will provide nesting opportunities for a range of tit species. These boxes generally have a high uptake rate.
 - b) Small open fronted nest boxes again should be placed throughout the Site especially on trees which support a climber such as ivy which provides a degree of concealment. These boxes typically attract robin and blackbird.
 - c) Consideration should subsequently be given to the provision of nest boxes for birds found in built environments, including house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, and house martin *Delichon urbicum* identified as breeding locally in the desk study.



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-  Red Line Boundary
-  Buffer (1km)
-  SSSI
-  LWS
-  Historic LWS
-  pLWS

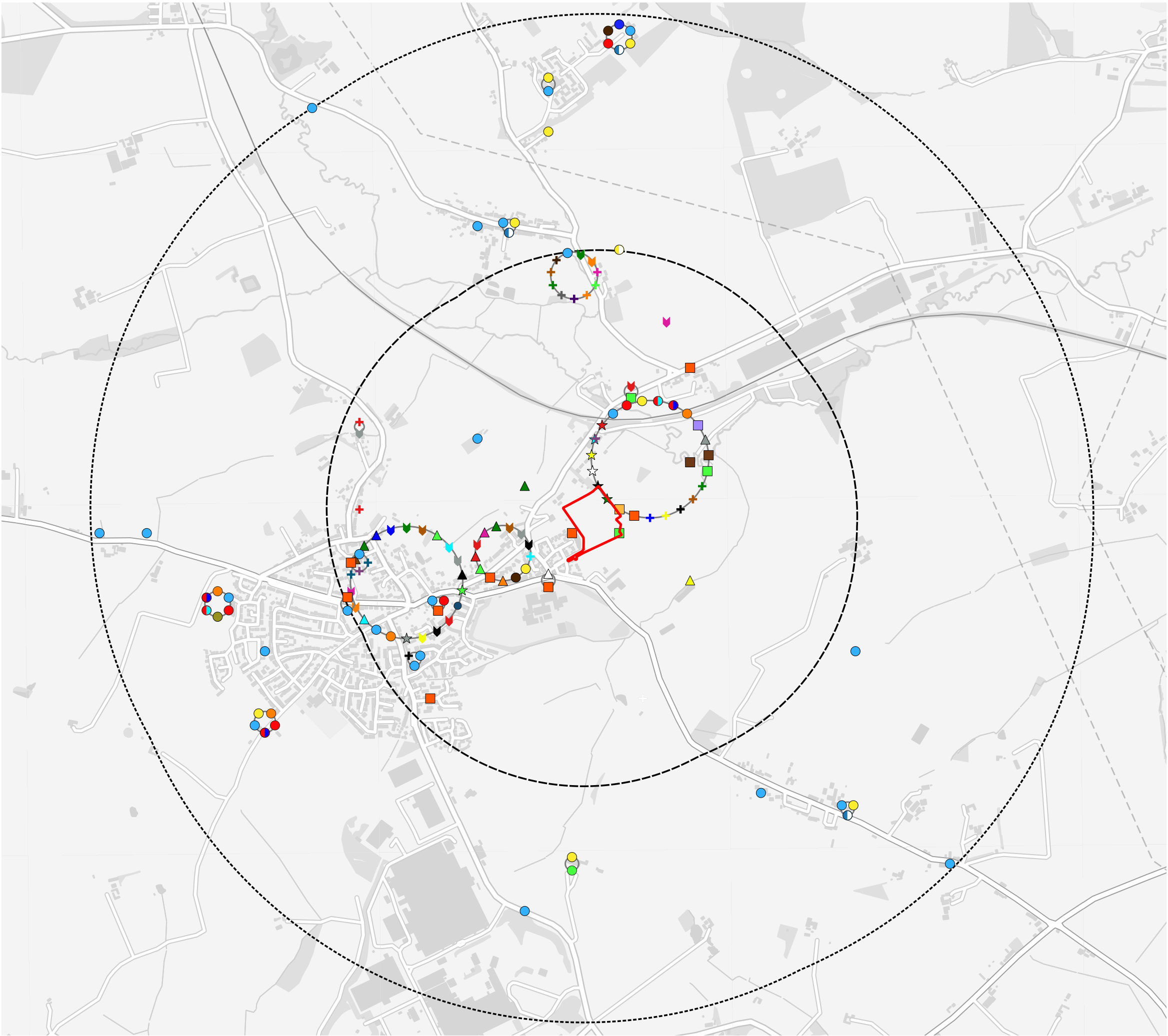
- 1. Charity Fields
- 2. Semi-improved grassland
- 3. Station Road Ash
- 4. Rothley Brook
- 5. Hedgerow
- 6. Hedgerow
- 7. Leicester Lane, Semi-improved grassland
- 8. Botcheston Bog
- 9. Dismantled Railway
- 10. Hedgerow
- 11. Pond
- 12. Peckleton Lane Ash
- 13. Peckleton Lane (east)
- 14. Hedgerow

date	drwn/chkd
06/11/25	BPA / JAW

client
Miller Homes
project
Land off Charity Close, Desford

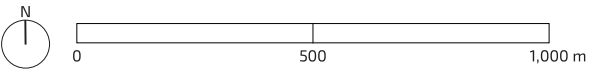
title	scale
DESIGNATED SITES PLAN	1:10,000 @ A3

number	rev
FIGURE 1	-



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- Red Line Boundary
 - Buffer (1km)
 - Buffer (2km)
- Protected and Notable Species**
- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Barn Owl ★ Blood-vein + Bluebell ▼ Brambling ● Brown Long-eared Bat ▲ Bullfinch + Cherry Laurel + Columbine + Common Cottongrass ● Common Pipistrelle + Common Valerian ▲ Cuckoo ● Daubenton's Bat + Devil's-bit Scabious ▲ Dunnock ★ Dusky Thorn ▲ Fieldfare + Greater Burdock ▲ Grey Partridge ★ Grizzled Skipper ■ Hare ■ Harvest Mouse ■ Hedgehog + Hoary Plantain ▲ Hobby △ House Sparrow ▲ Kingfisher ▲ Lesser Redpoll ▲ Linnet ● Long-eared Bat species + Marsh Ragwort | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Marsh Valerian ★ Mottled Rustic ● Myotis Bat species ● Nathusius's Pipistrelle ● Natterer's Bat ● Noctule ● Nyctalus Bat species ▲ Osprey ■ Otter ● Peregrine ● Pipistrelle Bat species + Quaking-grass + Ragged-Robin ▼ Red Kite ▼ Redwing ▼ Ring-necked Parakeet ★ Shaded Broad-bar ▼ Skylark ★ Small Phoenix ☆ Small Square-spot ▼ Song Thrush ● Soprano Pipistrelle ▼ Spotted Flycatcher ▼ Swallow ▼ Swift + Tawny Sedge + Tubular Water-dropwort ● Unidentified bat species ☆ Velvet Bent ★ Wall ■ Water Vole + Wild Strawberry ▼ Yellowhammer |
|--|---|

date 06/11/25 drwn/chkd BPA / JAW

client Miller Homes
project Land off Charity Close, Desford

title PROTECTED & NOTABLE SPECIES PLAN
number
scale 1:16,000 @ A3
rev -

FIGURE 2



- Red Line Boundary
- Trees With Bat Potential
- Baseline Habitats
 - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
 - Built linear features
 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
 - Modified grassland
 - Temporary grass and clover leys
 - Tall forbs
- Baseline Hedgerow
 - Line of trees
 - Native hedgerow
 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- Baseline Watercourse
 - Ditches

date	06/11/25	drwn/chkd	BPA
client	Miller Homes		
project	Land off Charity Close, Desford		
title	Baseline Habitat Plan	scale	1:1,200 @ A3
number	FIGURE 3	rev	-



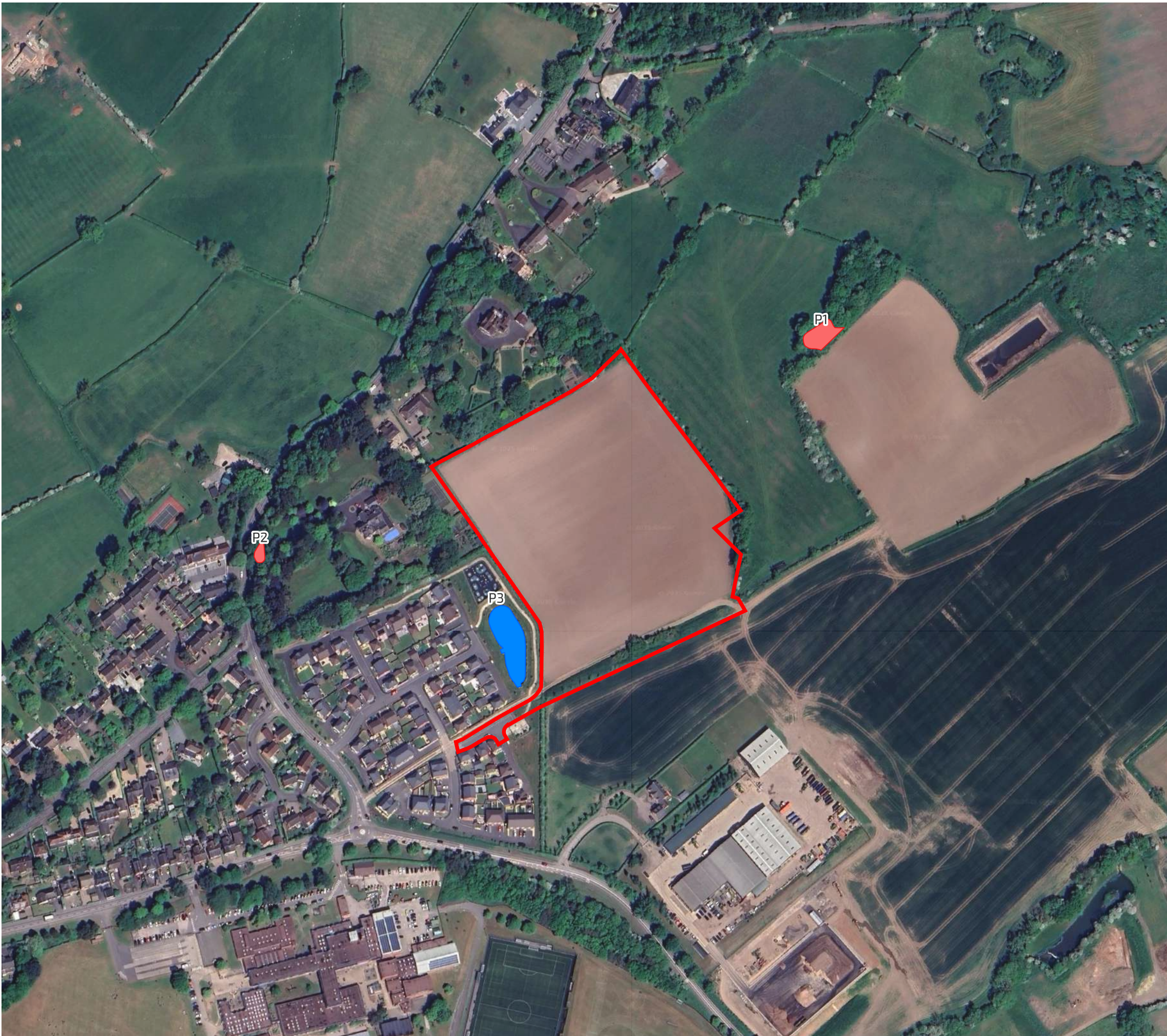
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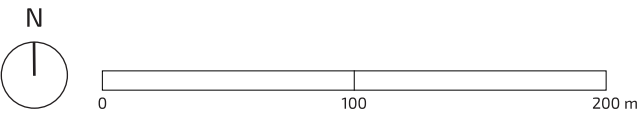
- Red Line Boundary
- BoCC 5 Amber List Species
 - D Dunnock
 - RO Rook
 - WP Woodpigeon
 - WR Wren
- Additional Protections
 - NERC Species of Principal Importance

date	06/11/25	drwn/chkd	OJB / BPA
client	Miller Homes		
project	Land off Charity Close, Desford		
title	BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN - DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES	scale	1:1,250 @ A3
number	FIGURE 4	rev	-



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 Red Line Boundary

Waterbody

 No Access

 eDNA Negative

date	drwn/chkd
06/11/25	BPA / JAW

client
Miller Homes
project
Land off Charity Close, Desford

title	scale
WATERBODY PLAN	1:3,000 @ A3

number	rev
FIGURE 5	-

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& design

APPENDIX A: BOTANICAL SPECIES LISTS (KEY: D – DOMINANT, A – ABUNDANT, F – FREQUENT, O – OCCASIONAL, R – RARE, L – LOCAL)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Field Margin
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	R
Broadleaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	R
Common field speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	R
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	R
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	F
Doves foot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	R
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	R
Ivy	<i>Hedera araliaceae</i>	R
Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	D
Silverweed	<i>Pontilla anserina</i>	R
White dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	O
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	A

Common Name	Scientific Name	Tall Forb Bank
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	R
Broadleaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	R
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus larocerasus</i>	R
Cleavers	<i>Gallium aparine</i>	R
Cock's foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	O
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	R
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	D
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	R
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	R
Silverweed	<i>Pontilla anserina</i>	R
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	D

Common Name	Scientific Name	Modified Grassland
Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	D
Cock's foot	<i>Dactylus glomeratus</i>	O
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	F
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	LF
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	O
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvaticus</i>	R
Dove's foot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	R

Common Name	Scientific Name	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	D

Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	R
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	O
Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	A
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	O
Ivy	<i>Hedera araliaceae</i>	D
Lords and ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	O
Nettles	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ditch
Bindweed species	<i>Convolvulus sp.</i>	O
Broadleaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	O
Buttercup species	<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	F
Cock's foot	<i>Dactylus glomeratus</i>	A
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	F
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	F
False oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	F
Willowherb species	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>	O

APPENDIX B: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 03.06.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1	Not Listed	Probable A,H
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	8	Amber List	Possible S,H
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1 flyover	Red List NERC S.41	Non-breeder F
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	2 flyovers	Green List	Non-breeder F
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	8 + 3 flyovers	Amber List	Non-breeder UH,F
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1	Green List	Probable A,H
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	6	Green List	Confirmed FL,P,S,H
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	Green List	Possible S,H
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	Green List	Possible S,H
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3	Amber List	Confirmed FF,A,P,S,H
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	Green List	Possible H
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2	Green List	Possible S,H
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	Amber List NERC S.41	Possible H
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	Green List	Possible S,H
Total No. Species	14	14		

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