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VERSION RECORD

Version:	Date:	Details:	Author(s):	Reviewed By:	Authorised By:
1	06-02-25	Original version	Fletcher Telling Graduate Ecologist	Tom Cox Senior Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant	Katie Linehan Technical Director of Ecology
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4	25/04/2025	New Proposed Landscaping Plan	Fletcher Telling Graduate Ecologist	Tom Cox Senior Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant	Katie Linehan Technical Director of Ecology

Executive Summary

Report Description	This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report has been prepared by Geosphere Environmental Limited for Darwin Group Ltd and relates to the proposed redevelopment of the site at Hinckley & District Hospital, Hinckley. The purpose of this report is to identify potential ecological constraints to development, particularly in relation to potential legally protected species onsite, confirm the need for further survey work to confirm all baseline ecological conditions, if necessary, and highlight opportunities for ecological enhancement.
Summary of Main Findings	The site comprises buildings, developed land sealed surface, development site, grassland, artificial unvegetated sealed surface, tall ruderal, bare ground, introduced shrub, other native hedgerow and individual trees. The findings of the survey confirm that the habitats onsite have the potential to support breeding birds, roosting bats and hedgehogs. The site is not considered suitable for hazel dormice, water vole, otter, badger, foraging bats, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates or notable plants.
Ecological Constraints	The constraints to development will be the removal of habitats considered suitable for protected species, including trees and hedgerows suitable for breeding birds.
Avoidance Measures & Timings of Works to Reduce Impact	Birds: Given the onsite presence of potential bird nesting habitat, any clearance of vegetation, or buildings that support suitable nesting features, should be timed to avoid the bird breeding season (March-August inclusive). If this is not possible, these habitats can only be removed following confirmation by a suitably qualified Ecologist that they are not in active use by nesting birds.
Further Survey Work Required	The following are recommended at the appropriate time of year to establish an ecological baseline: - Two bat emergence surveys on Building B1 will be required. - Internal PRA of Building B1 should also be undertaken to confirm suitability for hibernation or maternity roosts.
Biodiversity Enhancement Opportunities	The following has been recommended for consideration within the final development scheme: - To help achieve biodiversity net gain on the site, areas of natural habitat would need to be included within the scheme. Metric calculations will likely be a requirement of planning, to show that net gain can be achieved. - Integrated bat and bird boxes as well as planting of native species beneficial to wildlife should be included within the final development design to improve the site for birds, bats and reptiles.
Conclusions	Provided the recommendations within this report are followed and the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement is implemented throughout the detailed design process, potential negative effects from development on important ecological features will be negligible.

CONTENTS

Page No.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Purpose	6
1.2 Site Description	6
1.3 Proposed Development	7
1.4 Background Information	7
2. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT	8
2.1 Current UK Legislation	8
2.2 Planning Policy	8
3. METHODOLOGY	10
3.1 Technical Approach	10
3.2 Personnel	10
3.3 Ecological Desk Study	10
3.4 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	11
3.4.1 Habitats and Flora	11
3.4.2 Species Assessment	11
3.5 Ecological Evaluation	12
3.6 Site-specific Limitations	13
4. RESULTS	14
4.1 Designated Sites	14
4.2 Habitats	14
4.2.1 Buildings	16
4.2.2 Developed Land Sealed Surface	16
4.2.3 Development Site	16
4.2.4 Grassland	16
4.2.5 Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface	16
4.2.6 Tall Ruderal	16
4.2.7 Bare Ground	16
4.2.8 Introduced Shrub	17
4.2.9 Hedgerow, Other Native	17
4.2.10 Individual Trees	17
4.3 Species	17
4.3.1 Species Discounted from Further Consideration	17
4.3.2 Plants	17
4.3.3 Great Crested Newt	18
4.3.4 Birds	19
4.3.5 Bats	19
4.3.5.1 Buildings	20
4.3.5.2 Trees	22

CONTENTS

	Page No.
4.3.5.3 Foraging and Commuting Habitat	22
4.3.6 Hedgehog	22
5. EVALUATION, CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	23
5.1 Nature Conservation Sites	23
5.2 Habitats	23
5.3 Biodiversity Net Gain	24
5.4 Legally Protected and Notable Species	24
6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT	26
7. CONCLUSIONS	27

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – REPORT LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

APPENDIX 2 – REFERENCES

APPENDIX 3 – DRAWINGS

APPENDIX 4 – SPECIES SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

APPENDIX 5 – DESK STUDY DATA

APPENDIX 6 – HABITAT SUITABILITY INDEX

APPENDIX 7 – SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE

APPENDIX 8 – SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS RELATING TO POTENTIAL ROOSTING FEATURES

APPENDIX 9 – EXAMPLE ENHANCEMENT FEATURES

TABLES

	Page No.
Table 1 – HSI Scores and General Assessment of Waterbodies within 500m	19
Table 2 – Birds Identified During the Survey	19
Table 3 – Bat Roost Suitability of Buildings*	20
Table 4 – Habitat Constraints and Recommended Actions	23
Table 5 – Protected Species – Ecological Constraints and Recommended Actions	25

FIGURES

	Page No.
Figure 1 – Indicative Site Boundary	6
Figure 2 – Habitat Survey Plan	15
Figure 3 – Ponds within 500m of the Site Boundary	18
Figure 4 – Preliminary Roost Assessment and PRF Locations	20

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report has been prepared by Geosphere Environmental Limited for Darwin Group Ltd and relates to the proposed redevelopment of the site at Hinckley & District Hospital, Hinckley for which detailed planning permission will be sought. The purpose of this report is to:

- Identify if important ecological features are present that may be affected by development proposals.
- Determine if further survey work is necessary, and if so, provide detailed scope for any further survey and assessment that may be required to support a planning application.
- Highlight opportunities for ecological enhancement.

Any limitations and conditions pertaining to the report are stated within Appendix 1, with a full list of technical references provided within Appendix 2.

1.2 Site Description

The site occupies an area of approximately 0.46 hectares (ha) and is located around National Grid Reference SP 42950 93719. The indicative development boundary is shown on Figure 1 below:



Figure 1 – Indicative Site Boundary

1.3 Proposed Development

The report relates to proposed redevelopment of the site as shown in the Proposed Landscaping Plan Drawing ref. 180769-DG-02-XX-DR-A-1402(P6) included within Appendix 3.

The proposed development largely consists of the demolition of the current building onsite and the development of a new 79m² building and surrounding hardstanding. Car parking is proposed to the north including an ambulance drop off zone and ramps for accessibility leading to the property. Landscaping is largely confine to the southwest and includes maintaining some existing trees and some additional planting.

1.4 Background Information

This site has undergone previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisals the most recent of which was undertaken in 2024 under a larger site boundary. As part of this, a walkover was undertaken on 25 April 2024 by Tom Cox. The report concluded the site to be suitable for both breeding birds and roosting bats (ref. **R.1**).

During 2023, bat emergence surveys were undertaken on the building referred to in this report as Building B1 (ref. **R.2**). The results of three surveys concluded one emergence from a likely day roost, the location of which is highlighted in section 4.3.5.1.

The previous PEA report is completely superseded by this updated PEA report and all relevant findings are reported herein.

2. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 Current UK Legislation

The main legislation that applies to ecological issues within England and Wales is as follows:

- The Environment Act 2021 Act became law on 9 November 2021 and introduced a framework to improve and protect the natural environment, overseen by the Office for Environmental Protection. Under the Act there is a statutory duty for local authorities to create new local nature recovery strategies and a mandatory requirement for developments to achieve measurable biodiversity net gain. All planning permissions in England (subject to exemptions) must be granted subject to a biodiversity gain pre-commencement condition, requiring the approval of a biodiversity gain plan. The planning authority may only approve the biodiversity gain plan if the biodiversity value attributable to a development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by 10%.
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) transposes European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (formally the EC Habitats Directive) into national law. Under the regulations, public bodies have a duty in exercising their functions to provide for the protection of 'Habitats Sites' and 'European Protected Species' (EPS).
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (WCA) (as amended) provides detail on a range of protection and offences relating to wild birds, other animals, and plants. The level of protection depends upon which Schedule of the Act the species is listed on. Licences are available for specific purposes to permit actions that would otherwise constitute an offence in relation to species.
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities, (NERC), Act 2006 imposes an obligation on all public bodies, including local authorities, to consider whether their activities can contribute to the protection of wildlife. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."

Species-specific conservation legislation is detailed within Appendix 4.

The reader is referred to the original legislation for definitive interpretation.

2.2 Planning Policy

The recommendations of this report are in line with the key principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (ref. **R.3**) and Government Circular 05/06: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ref. **R.4**).

Local planning policies relating to ecology are invariably based upon the conservation of species protected under the above legislation, including species and habitats of principal importance listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and the protection of designated sites.

All these features are considered within the scope of this Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, and therefore any recommendations made herein are likely to be in line with this policy.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Technical Approach

The PEA has been undertaken following guidelines provided by CIEEM's Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, (ref. **R.5**), and BS 42020: 2013 Biodiversity standards, (ref. **R.6**) to provide an indication of the ecological value of the site and the potential for the site to be used by protected species.

Scientific names and common names of plant species identified are as they appear in Stace, (ref. **R.7**).

The conclusions and recommendations for further works are in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

3.2 Personnel

This report was produced by Fletcher Telling BSc (Hons) (Graduate Ecologist) who is experienced in ecological consultancy including surveys for a range of protected species and in producing Preliminary Ecological Appraisals. This report was reviewed by Tom Cox HND, QualCIEEM, MarborA, Senior Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant and approved by Katie Linehan BSc (Hons) MSc PIEMA MCIEEM (Technical Director), who is experienced in ecological consultancy including the production of Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and Impact Assessments.

All surveyors used to establish baseline information are suitably qualified and experienced.

3.3 Ecological Desk Study

A data search was conducted of freely available biological records. The sources of information included:

- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) online database (ref. **R.8**) was consulted to obtain geographic information on key statutory designated nature conservation sites and other ecological features of relevance to the site.
- Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) was contacted to provide details of legally protected species and non-statutory designated conservation sites within 2km of the site. Only records of protected species from within the last ten years are considered within this report.
- Ordnance Survey maps were used to identify ponds / ditches within 500m of the site to assess the potential for great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) (GCN) within the immediate vicinity of the site.

3.4 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The surveys used to inform the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprise a habitat survey and protected species scoping survey. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal considers findings of the outcome of the survey work alongside any features highlighted by the desk study.

The site survey was undertaken on 27 January 2025 by Fletcher Telling. The weather conditions at the time of the survey were sunny and breezy and an approximate temperature of 10°C.

3.4.1 Habitats and Flora

A list of plant species was compiled in accordance with methodology required to establish UK Habitat Classification types (ref. **R.9**) aiming to record to level 4, ensuring habitats were recorded to at least level 3 where it was not possible to record to level 4. Level 5 was recorded wherever possible / relevant. Care was taken to accurately record all habitats of principal importance (if present) (ref. **R.10**).

The frequency and cover of each species identified as they are distributed in each habitat is estimated using the DAFOR scale, (ref. **R.11**), as follows:

- Dominant – >75% cover.
- Abundant – 51-75% cover.
- Frequent – 26-50% cover.
- Occasional – 11-25% cover.
- Rare – 1-10% cover.
- Locally dominant (LD), abundant (LA) and frequent (LF) is also used where the distribution is patchy.

3.4.2 Species Assessment

The site was assessed for its suitability to support protected species and other species of conservation importance, which could pose a planning constraint. All signs and areas of habitat considered suitable for protected species or those of conservation interest, were recorded and photographed. These include burrows, droppings, footprints / paths, hairs, refuges and particular habitat types, such as ponds, known to be used by certain class of fauna. Sites are taken in the context of their surroundings and so include the immediate environs outside of site boundaries, where appropriate.

All ponds within 500m of the site were also assessed for their suitability for GCN if the ponds were publicly accessible or if access had been granted prior to the survey. This includes a habitat suitability index (HSI) assessment (ref. **R.12**) which assesses the pond based upon a number of factors including the size, water

quality, permanence, shading, presence of fish, the number of nearby ponds and macrophyte cover. A score between 0 and 1 is given; where 0 represents poor suitability and 1 represents excellent suitability.

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) and external Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of the buildings was undertaken to identify the suitability of the building to provide potential roost space for bats, in line with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) survey guidelines (ref. **R.13**) and Bat Hibernation Assessment: A Practical Approach (ref. **R.14**).

In particular, potential access points and evidence of bats were searched for. This was carried out in full day light with the aid of binoculars to identify the following features:

- Age and structure of the building.
- Condition of the roof noting any missing, dislodged or lifted tiles that would provide entry.
- Condition of the walls, doors and windows that may also provide entry.
- Windowsills, walls and sheltered areas are searched for bat droppings.
- Grease marks, scratch marks and urine staining around possible entry points.

All established trees that could be accessed onsite were inspected during a DBW and underwent a ground level tree assessment (GLTA) to assess their suitability, for roosting bats by identifying and classifying potential roost features (PRFs), subject to leaf cover. The categories for assessment are none or negligible, FAR (further assessment required to confirm if PRFs are present) or PRF (a tree with at least one PRF present).

Where possible, an approximation of the PRF categorisation has been provided as PRF-I (whereby the PRF is only considered suitable for individual bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats) or PRF-M (PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony), in line with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) survey guidelines (ref. **R.13**).

3.5 Ecological Evaluation

The ecological evaluation detailed below is based upon CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom, (ref. **R.15**).

CIEEM Guidelines state that the value or potential value of an ecological resource or feature should be determined within a defined geographical context as follows:

- On an international scale, e.g., Ramsar, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA) site.
- On a UK scale, for example a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or a National Nature Reserve, (NNR).

- On a national scale, e.g., a reserve of importance to England / Northern Ireland / Scotland / Wales.
- On a regional scale, e.g., a local site with important regional habitats of principal importance (HoPI) or good populations species of principal importance (SoPI).
- On a county scale, e.g., a local site with a habitat that is characteristic of the county or rare on a county scale, or with local HoPI / SoPI.
- On a district scale, e.g., a site with wildlife corridors likely to improve the biodiversity of the area.
- On a local or parish scale, e.g., areas of green space in a predominantly urban environment.

The potential for protected species to use the habitats onsite contributes significantly towards the potential value of the habitats onsite.

3.6 Site-specific Limitations

Due to the time of year the survey was undertaken, some plant species are not identifiable. For baseline surveys undertaken between September to April (depending on management at the time), grassland classifications are assumed. This limitation does not affect the classification of the habitats present for the purpose of the PEA.

Much of the western side of the site was inaccessible as illustrated in Figure 2. Observations of these area were still undertaken through Heras fencing and this limitation does not affect the classification of habitat types. It is possible that some PRFs were not visible.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Designated Sites

All relevant desk study data relating to designated sites is attached in Appendix 5.

There are no designated sites within the site boundary.

Consultation of the MAGIC online interactive mapping tool confirms the presence of one internationally important statutory designation within 10km of the site boundary:

- Ensor's pool (SAC) 8645m southwest of the site.

There is one nationally important and one locally important statutory designation present within a 2km search radius of the site boundary:

- Burbage Wood and Aston Firs (LNR) 1785m east of the site.
- Burbage Common & Woods (SSSI) 1785m east of the site

Biological records have confirmed the presence of 26 non-statutory designations within the 2km search radius. The closest of which is Courting Stiles Local Wildlife Site (LWS) 372m south of the site. The designation contains Mesotrophic grassland, with scrub.

Designations that have good habitat connectivity to the site, or whose qualifying features have the potential to make use of habitats present at the site, are considered important ecological features that may be affected by development. Given the non-residential nature of the proposals there is not likely to be increased recreational pressure on designated sites.

4.2 Habitats

A search of Magic Maps (ref. **R.8**) identified the following habitats of principal importance near the site, Deciduous Woodland – 85m north of the site and to the northwest.

The results of the habitat survey and protected species scoping survey are detailed below and annotated on Figure 2 overleaf:

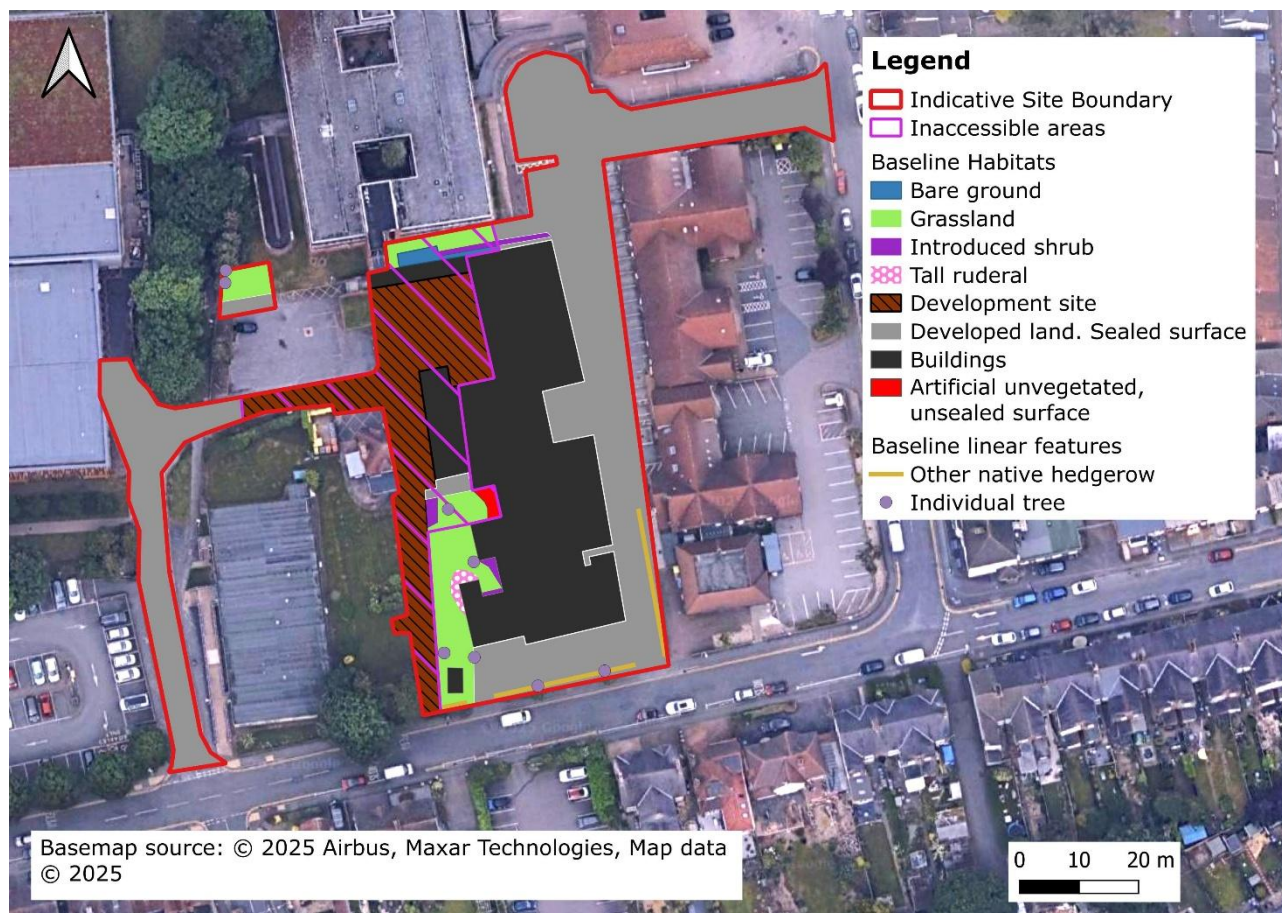


Figure 2 – Habitat Survey Plan

The following area-based habitat types were recorded within the survey area:

- Buildings – u1b5.
- Developed land, sealed surface – u1b.
- Development site - u1, 805.
- Grassland – g1.
- Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface – u1c.
- Tall ruderal – g, 16.
- Bare ground – g, 510.
- Introduced shrub – u1, 847.
- Individual trees.

Linear habitats recorded within the survey area include:

- Hedgerow, other native – h2a6.

4.2.1 Buildings

Two buildings are present onsite the descriptions of which are set out in section 4.3.5.1.

4.2.2 Developed Land Sealed Surface

Some areas surrounding the main building are developed land in the form of car parking or paving as well as entrance roads to the east and the west. A small area of developed land is also present in the parcel to the northwest. These areas remain unchanged from the previous report.

4.2.3 Development Site

To the west a current development is taking place and much of this area was an active building site. As such access was limited. Much of these areas included bare ground, building material and machinery. Much of this area was identified as bare ground on the previous report.

4.2.4 Grassland

A small area of grassland was present in the north and a more extensive area to the southwest. Given the time of year grass species were not identified other plants present include nettle (*Urtica dioica*), *Buddleja* sp., and daisy (*Bellis perennis*). This area remains largely unchanged from the previous survey visit. A small area of grassland is also present in the parcel to the northwest.

4.2.5 Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface

A small area of gravel was present to the west. This area was previously identified as modified grassland.

4.2.6 Tall Ruderal

A small area of tall ruderal was present in the area grassland. This area was previously identified as modified grassland.

4.2.7 Bare Ground

A small section of bare ground is present to the north this area was not accessible. This area was previously identified as developed land.

4.2.8 Introduced Shrub

Introduced scrub is scattered in the area of grassland in the southwest with species including buddleia, elephant ears (*Bergenia sp.*), *cotoneaster sp.* and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) among other species to the north a small stretch is also present including holly and *cotoneaster sp.* An area of introduced shrub was noted in this area on the previous survey visit.

4.2.9 Hedgerow, Other Native

A hedgerow borders the site to the south and southeast and is dominated by holly, with some ivy (*Hedera helix*) present.

4.2.10 Individual Trees

Six individual trees were noted onsite including two large leaved limes (*Tilia platyphyllos*), maple (*Acer sp.*) and three fir species.

4.3 Species

4.3.1 Species Discounted from Further Consideration

Legally protected species for which there is no suitable habitat onsite include hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), badger (*Meles meles*), reptiles and invertebrates.

These species are therefore not considered further in this report.

4.3.2 Plants

LRERC has returned 4 records of rare or otherwise notable plants recorded in the last 10 years within 2km of the site. This includes species such as bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) which is unlikely to be present at the site.

All of the plant species recorded at the site are common and widespread native or naturalised species or else ornamental, non-native species, including a minority of invasive species.

Given the nature of the identified habitats (i.e., themselves common and widespread) within and immediately adjacent to the proposed works areas, no notable plant species are expected within the affected areas.

Cotoneaster was noted onsite; five species of cotoneaster are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act as invasive species.

4.3.3 Great Crested Newt

LRERC has returned 3 records of great crested newt recorded in the last 10 years within 2km of the site. The closest record is 1250m east from the site.

One pond is located within 500m of the site, referenced pond 1 and shown on Figure 3 below:

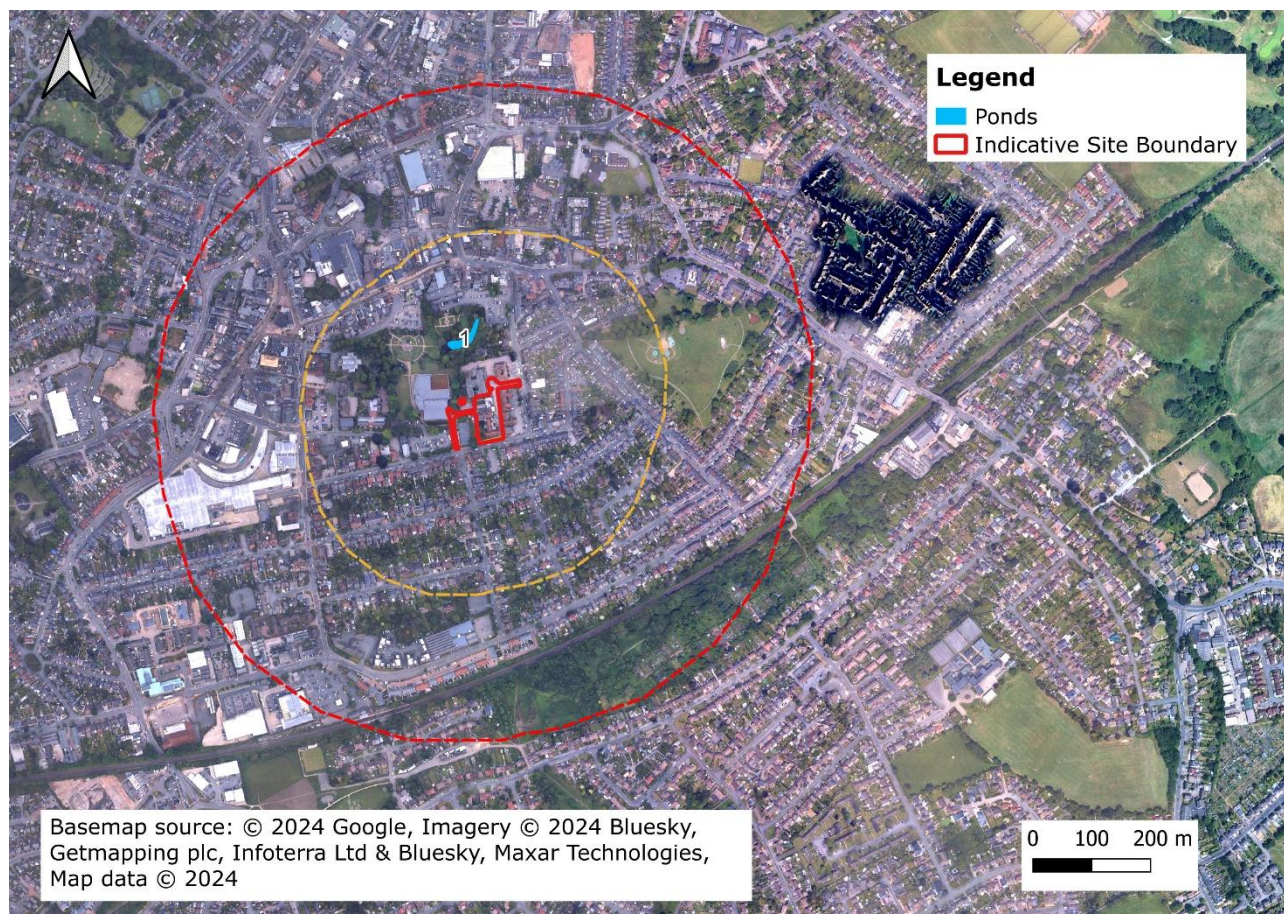


Figure 3 – Ponds within 500m of the Site Boundary

A Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment was undertaken to assess the suitability of the pond to support great crested newt. A score between 0 and 1 is given; where 0 represents poor suitability and 1 represent excellent suitability. The results are provided in Appendix 6 – Habitat Suitability Index and summarised in Table 1 overleaf:

Table 1 – HSI Scores and General Assessment of Waterbodies within 500m

Pond	Distance from Site	Connected or Separated from Site	Pond Size (m ²)	HSI Score	EDNA Survey results from 2023 (ref. R.16)	Pond Suitability for Great Crested Newts
1	90m north	In close proximity to the site but disconnected by current development works	787	Poor (0.43)	Negative	Poor based on HSI; however, considered unsuitable based on professional judgement as this is an anthropogenic pond with steep sides, very little submerged vegetation, and no connectivity to other ponds.

The site provides very limited areas of terrestrial habitat for GCN, and the limited areas stand in isolation away from further suitable terrestrial or breeding habitats. An e-DNA survey was also undertaken on the pond in 2023 which was returned negative. As such, GCN are not considered further within this report.

4.3.4 Birds

LRERC has returned 7 records of birds recorded in the last 10 years within 2km of the site. This includes species such as brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) and fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*).

Table 2 below, shows the species of birds that were noted during the survey:

Table 2 – Birds Identified During the Survey			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Location Notes
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	Foraging in hedgerow
Status abbreviations: Red / Amber / Green: Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BoCC 5) status (ref. R.17) SOPI: species of principal importance, listed on section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 Sch 1: protected species listed on schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 as amended			

The site is not considered suitable for ground nesting birds; however, habitats including, scrub and trees offer foraging value to breeding birds for common passerine birds albeit limited. The buildings, trees and scrub provide suitable nesting habitat for common and widespread species albeit limited.

4.3.5 Bats

LRERC has returned 91 records of bats recorded in the last 10 years within 2km of the site. Records include barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*), serotine bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*)

noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) and Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*).

4.3.5.1 Buildings

The buildings subject to a Preliminary Roost Assessment are referenced as shown on Figure 4 below:



Figure 4 – Preliminary Roost Assessment and PRF Locations

Selected photographs of the scoping survey are included in Appendix 8 – Selected Photographs Relating to Potential Roosting Features and details of the potential roost features identified, and their suitability are provided in Table 3 below:

Table 3 – Bat Roost Suitability of Buildings*				
Ref. No.	Building Description	Potential Roost Feature	Summer Bat Roost Suitability**	Hibernation Suitability***
B1	This large hospital building has pitched roofs consisting of flat clay tiles and areas of flat roofs with concrete block and felt lining	Based upon external inspection roost features were present and consisted of mainly slipped roof tiles as well as gaps in the brickwork. The exposed	Moderate	Low - subject to internal inspection

Table 3 – Bat Roost Suitability of Buildings*

Ref. No.	Building Description	Potential Roost Feature	Summer Bat Roost Suitability**	Hibernation Suitability***
	exterior, much of the exterior is brick solid walls. Timber frames were visible through one window in the southwest with no ceiling present.	timber frames at the soffits also provide likely entry points. The roof lining under the tiles appeared old and unmanaged in the area where this was visible.		
B2	A small utilities type structure with cavity walls and flat felted roof	Possible gap under soffits; however, unlikely to be used by bats.	Negligible	Negligible

*Based upon external PRA unless stated otherwise

- **Negligible potential** has no obvious features likely to be used, but a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
- **Moderate potential** is a structure with one or more potential roost sites but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status such as maternity or hibernation.

*** **Hibernation suitability is defined as follows:**

- **Negligible potential** has no features present within the structure that are likely to be used by bats during the winter period.
- **Low potential** has limited number of features occur on the external surfaces of the structure, but these are exposed and / or shallow (e.g. less than 10cm deep) and / or could be fully viewed. Unable to hold more than one or two bats, not likely to offer protection from weather or provide the favourable temperature and humidity conditions required during the winter period and / or external or accessible internal features that fit the requirements for moderate or high suitability. The building is not situated in an area of suitable habitat for bats.

Building B1 underwent previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey work where the property was considered to have high potential for roosting bats in 2024 (ref. **R.1**). Three bat surveys were also undertaken by CGO Ecology Ltd in 2023 and concluded that one pipistrelle emerged from a likely occasional day roost (ref. **R.2**). Demolition has already taken place in the spot of the emergence. The location of the areas previously demolished as well as the location of emergence is highlighted in Figure 4 above.

The site is currently disturbed by adjacent building works with evidence of external lighting and heavy noise pollution. Parts of the property have been demolished causing further disturbance to the still existing roof spaces. Degradation to the areas of suitable foraging habitat is evident to the southwest of the site with the removal of some trees. The east of this property is less disturbed but is not adjacent to foraging routes. The quality and integrity of internal loft spaces and similar voids is uncertain.

During the previous surveys only one bat was noted to have emerged from the building. Given that since the previous survey the site has been under extensive disturbance it is very unlikely that the site has maintained its high suitability for bats. As such, the suitability of the building has been downgraded from high to moderate.

Based upon the external survey the site is considered to have low suitability for hibernating bats given the features present. A full internal inspection was not able to be undertaken; therefore, the suitability of internal cavities within the property could not be assessed in full. The building is considered likely to be unheated.

4.3.5.2 Trees

The GLTA of the established trees onsite did not identify any trees as having suitability to support roosting bats.

4.3.5.3 Foraging and Commuting Habitat

There are limited foraging opportunities available for bats onsite. The site has very limited vegetation and the hedgerow onsite is not sufficient to support bats of high conservation status. The connectivity of the site with surrounding suitable habitats is not optimal as it is surrounded by residential areas. As such, foraging bats are not considered further within this report.

4.3.6 Hedgehog

There is very limited foraging habitat available for hedgehogs within the areas of grassland and introduced shrub.

5. EVALUATION, CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Nature Conservation Sites

The desk study identified one nature conservation site with statutory designation, and one non-statutory designated nature conservation site within 2km radius of the site. One internationally protected site, Ensor's Pool (SAC) was noted within 10km.

The development site does not contain any habitats which could support the important species associated with either the statutory or non-statutory sites, and there is no potential habitat connectivity between the site and the statutory sites.

The site is within the impact risk zone for Burbage Wood and Aston Firs (SSSI) although the development proposal does not meet the criteria for Natural England to be consulted.

It is considered unlikely, given the distance from the survey area and localised nature of the proposed development works, that the Nature Conservation sites listed above will be directly affected by any construction activity on the surveyed area.

5.2 Habitats

The ecological constraints regarding general habitats onsite are detailed within Table 4 below, along with associated recommendations for avoidance and / or mitigation to reduce likely impact:

Table 4 – Habitat Constraints and Recommended Actions			
Habitat	Value / Importance	Potential Impact / Effect	Recommended Actions (Avoidance Measures or Recommendations to Reduce Impact)
Trees	Trees have intrinsic ecological value, in particular as stepping stones for wildlife as well as foraging and roosting potential for birds and bats.	Loss of foraging and resting habitat suitable for notable and protected species.	Trees should be retained where possible. Protection measures should be implemented according to BS 5837: 2012 'trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' (ref. R.18). Any trees that are removed during development should be compensated for within the landscaping of the final development using species native to the area wherever possible.
Hedgerows	Wildlife resource for foraging / commuting local wildlife.	Loss of foraging and resting habitat suitable for notable and protected species.	Hedgerows should be maintained and enhanced where possible, removal should be compensated for within the final development.

5.3 Biodiversity Net Gain

The proposed development will be subject to the statutory requirement to achieve 10% biodiversity net gain. This may require consideration of offsite compensation for loss of habitats. The biodiversity net gain assessment will require completion of the statutory metric calculator tool to quantify baseline and post-intervention habitats and identify gains / losses (ref. **R.18**).

To provide adequate information to inform the biodiversity net gain assessment, further botanical survey should be carried out between May and August inclusive with an aim to accurately characterise habitats present in accordance with UK Habitat Classification methodology (ref. **R.9**), identify the likely presence of any rare and / or notable species, and include the methodology to assess habitat condition as set out in the statutory guidance for biodiversity net gain assessment (ref. **R.18**).

5.4 Legally Protected and Notable Species

The ecological evaluation for protected species is detailed Table 5 overleaf:

Table 5 – Protected Species – Ecological Constraints and Recommended Actions

Ecological Constraint / Receptor	Biological Records Within 2km	Value of Supporting Feature	Potential Impact / Effect	Recommended Actions (Avoidance /mitigation / compensation Measures and Recommendations for Further Works)	Timing Restrictions
Invasive non-native plant species	No	Wall cotoneaster, a schedule 9 species, has no value and requires removal.	Spreading of a schedule 9 species.	Cotoneaster presence is not considered an offence, and retention of the plant is acceptable; however, allowing it to spread into the wild is considered an offence under WCA. It is recommended that the plant is removed to facilitate the development. The cotoneaster onsite is small, and removal should ideally be undertaken prior to berries growing to reduce the risk of spread during removal (traditionally berries form in autumn). Cotoneaster plants can also regrow from roots left in the ground, so care should be taken to ensure the root mass is fully removed. Plant material and associated soils can be burned or chipped onsite or removed to a licensed landfill as controlled waste.	Cotoneaster can be removed anytime but ideally will be done before the plant berries in autumn.
Breeding birds	Yes	Habitats including trees offer value to breeding birds for common passerine birds albeit limited.	Loss of habitat for breeding and foraging birds.	To ensure that no offences occur under the WCA, it is recommended that any vegetation clearance work is undertaken outside of the bird nesting season. If it is not possible to undertake clearance works outside of the breeding bird season, a suitably qualified ecologist should be employed to determine if nesting birds are using the site prior to works commencing, to avoid negative impact on protected species. Any active nests that are found would need to be provided with a minimum of a 10m buffer (depending on species and site conditions) which would have to be left until the young have fledged. Alternatively, avoidance measures such as habitat retention and protection should be designed into the scheme to avoid negative impact. This should include retention and protection of the trees and hedgerows.	Clearance during September to February only unless supervised by an ecologist.
Bats: roosting habitat-buildings Buildings B1	Yes	The site offers value to roosting bats with Building B1 presenting numerous potential roosting features. A previous bat survey was undertaken by CGO Ecology Ltd on B1 confirming an occasional day roost by a single bat (Ref R.2). Although this section of the build has been demolished, other features on B1 remain that could be utilised by bats to roost.	Loss of roosting habitat. Destruction of a resting place for bats. Death or injury to bats.	A completion report of licenced works for the demolition of the building previously found to have a day roost should be provided for consideration within any future bat report and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Bat roost emergence surveys on Building B1 will be required. Based upon the DBW and external PRA undertaken as part of this PEA, a minimum of two survey events will be required on the moderate potential building. A more detailed Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) comprising a full internal assessment should also be undertaken to assess the condition and quality of internal cavities and void within the build to confirm suitability and inform if any further survey effort is required regarding maternity and hibernation. Additional survey effort to that already stated above, may be required as a result of the roost surveys or detailed PRA.	Internal PRAs of buildings can be undertaken anytime. Roost surveys are restricted to May to September inclusive with at least one survey between May and August (ideally late May to early June) and at least three weeks between each survey event.
				A sensitive lighting scheme should be designed in coordination between a qualified lighting engineer and a suitably qualified ecologist, according to current best practice guidelines (ref. R.20). This should ensure that potential roosting and connective commuting habitat (either retained or created within the development) remains as unlit as possible to allow continued and future use by bats. Reduction measures in terms of noise and vibration during construction phase should be detailed within a CEMP which should be secured as an approved planning condition.	N/A
Hedgehog – Introduced shrub and grassland	Yes	Habitats onsite offer foraging and commuting habitats suitable for hedgehog, albeit very limited.	Loss of foraging habitat.	Reduction of impact: Excavations during development or ground investigation works should be covered overnight to prevent entrapment of hedgehogs.	N/A

6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

The following general enhancements have been recommended to be included within the final development Scheme:

- Planting of native plant species beneficial to wildlife should be incorporated into the final design. This will provide additional habitat for invertebrates, which will in turn provide a food source for reptiles, birds, bats, and hedgehog.
- The final development plan should ideally incorporate integrated bat boxes into the scheme. If integrated boxes are not possible due to the development design, externally mounted boxes should be used. Ideally, bat boxes should not be placed above windows as a) if the box is occupied, the window, which would be hard to reach to clean, would become marked with droppings and urine staining present; b) there is potential for bats to mistakenly enter the property through the window rather than entering the box (especially juvenile bats); and c) light from the window may be sufficient to prevent use of the box access point.
- The final development plan should ideally incorporate integrated bird boxes into the scheme. If integrated boxes are not possible due to the development design, externally mounted boxes should be used. This will provide additional roosting and nesting habitats for birds post-development. Ideally, bird boxes should not be placed above windows as a) if the box is occupied, the window, which would be hard to reach to clean, would become marked with droppings; b) there is potential for birds to mistakenly enter the property through the window rather than entering the box (especially juvenile birds).
- To help achieve biodiversity net gain on the site, areas of natural habitat would need to be included within the scheme. Metric calculations will likely be a requirement of planning, to show that net gain can be achieved.

Examples of potential enhancement features are included in Appendix 9 – Example Enhancement Features.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development will not adversely affect the statutory and non-statutory designated nature conservation sites.

None of the habitats that occur within the survey area were considered to have high ecological importance on an international, national, regional or county scale. The habitats onsite are of less than local significance only.

The findings of the habitat survey and protected species scoping survey confirm that the habitats onsite have the potential to support breeding birds, roosting bats and hedgehogs.

Additional surveys for roosting bats will be required to confirm baseline use of the site by protected species. If present, a detailed mitigation strategy will be required to be provided to the Local Planning Authority prior to the determination of a planning application. Recommendations for mitigation should be in-line with CIEEM guidance (ref. **R.15**) for ecological impact assessment.

The proposed development will be subject to the statutory requirement to achieve 10% biodiversity net gain. This may require consideration of offsite compensation for loss of habitats. The biodiversity net gain assessment will require completion of the statutory metric calculator tool. The completed statutory metric calculator tool will be required to be provided to the local planning authority prior to the determination of a planning application.

Opportunities exist for the provision of ecological enhancements in the form of integrated bat and bird boxes and the incorporation of locally sourced native plant species, or those of known wildlife benefit, into the landscape strategy.

Provided the recommendations within this report are followed and the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement is implemented throughout the detailed design process, potential negative effects from development on important ecological features will be negligible.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report Limitations and Conditions

General Limitations and Exceptions

This report was prepared solely for our Client for the stated purposes only and is not intended to be relied on by any other party or for any other use. No extended duty of care to any third party is implied or offered. Third parties should not rely on the facts, matters or opinions set out in this report without the express written permission of Geosphere Environmental Ltd.

Geosphere Environmental Ltd does not purport to provide specialist legal advice.

The Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations sections of the report provide an overview and guidance only and should not be specifically relied upon until considered within the context of the whole report.

Interpretations and recommendations contained within the report represent our professional opinions, which were arrived at in accordance with currently accepted industry practices at the time of reporting and based upon current legislation in force at that time.

Ecology Limitations and Exceptions

Any limitations associated with the report will be stated. The consequences of any limitations, findings and / or recommendations in the report are made clear in line with CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, and BSI (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – ‘Code of practice for planning and development’.

This report is prepared and written in the context of the proposals stated in the introduction to this report and should not be used in a differing context.

The wildlife and habitats present on any site are subject to change over time. Surveys of this kind can have limited validity, with the possibility of behaviour patterns and territory boundaries varying over time, due to the dynamics of adjacent populations.

New information, improved practices and legislation may necessitate an alteration to the report in whole or in part after its submission. Therefore, with any change in circumstances or after the expiry of one year from the date of the report, the report should be referred to us for re-assessment and, if necessary, re-appraisal.

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation of the natural environment.

The scoping survey does not assess the presence or absence of a species but is used to assess the potential for habitat to support them. Additional surveys may be recommended if, based upon the preliminary assessment or during subsequent surveys, it is considered reasonably likely that protected species may be present.

If bats or any other European protected species are found to be present onsite, and the proposed activities will cause disturbance or destruction of a roost site then this report will only summarise the potential requirements. For works to continue a detailed mitigation plan with appropriate compensation measures would be required and a development licence would need to be sought from Natural England.

This survey does not constitute an invasive species survey and should not be treated as such.

Owing to seasonal variances and prevailing weather, conditions may sometimes be sub-optimal for surveying, and this may delay or disrupt planned survey programmes. If applicable, full details are given in the report.

Geosphere Environmental Ltd may not be aware of information that could be held by other organisations or individuals, and it is always possible for features of nature conservation interest to be unrecorded during surveys.

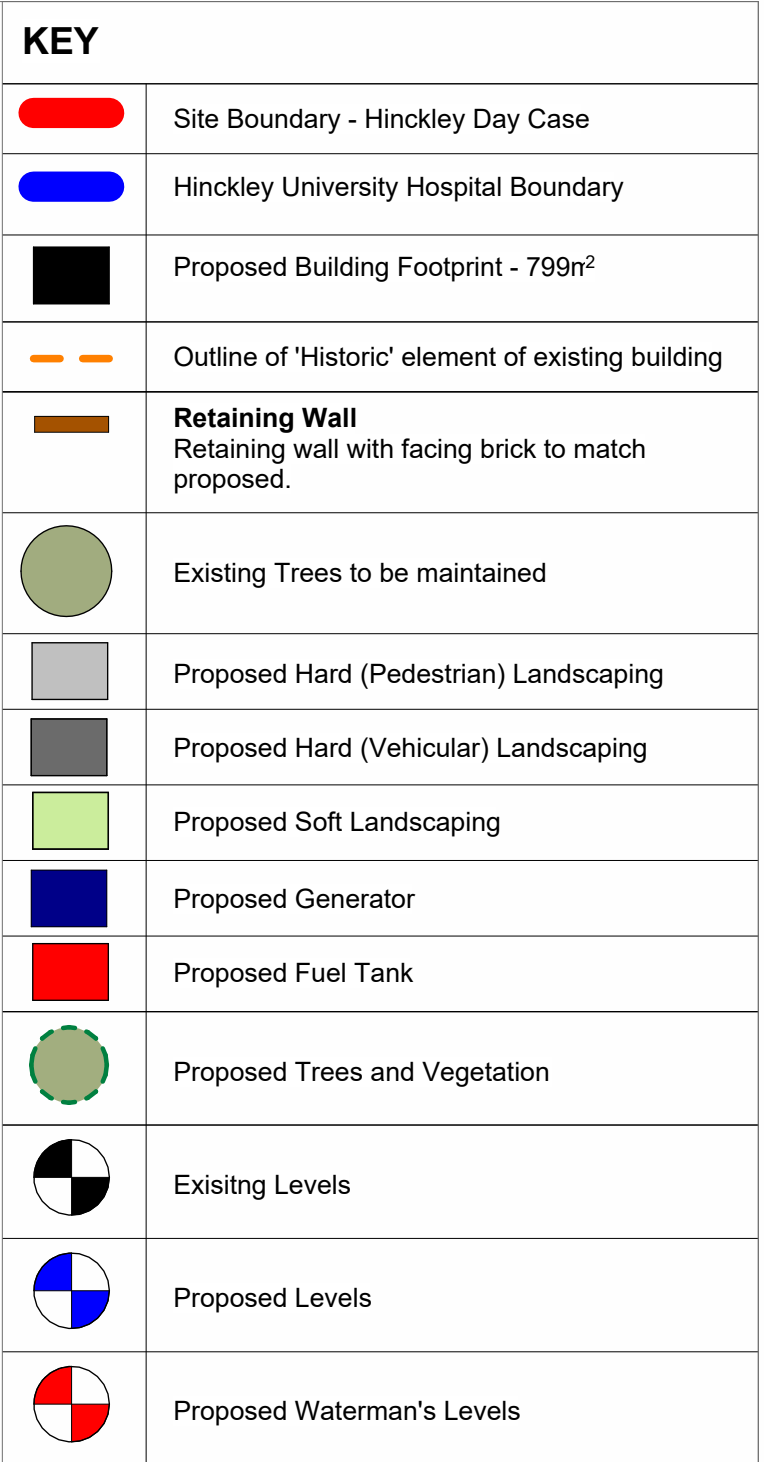
Scientific survey data will be shared with local biological records centre in accordance with the CIEEM professional code of conduct.

Appendix 2 – References

- R.1.** Geosphere Environmental Limited (2024). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Report ref. 8419,EC,PEA,TC,EB,KL,12-06-24,V1
- R.2.** CGO Ecology Ltd (2023). Updated Bat Preliminary Roost Assessment and associated nocturnal surveys for Hinckley and District Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1AG. Report ref. HDHH BNS PRA
- R.3.** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (December 2024) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- R.4.** ODPM (2005) Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system.
- R.5.** CIEEM, (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- R.6.** BSI (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. BSI Standards Limited 2013.
- R.7.** Stace, C. A. (2010). New Flora of the British Isles (third edition), Cambridge University Press.
- R.8.** Magic [Accessed 17th January 2025] Site Check Report. www.magic.gov.uk.
- R.9.** Butcher, B., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2023) The UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 at <http://www.ukhab.org/>
- R.10.** BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock). UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/>
- R.11.** Goldsmith, B. (1991). Monitoring for Conservation and Ecology, Chapman & Hall.
- R.12.** 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.
- R.13.** Collins, J (ed) (2023). 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition.' Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- R.14.** Neil Middleton (08/10/2019). Assessing Sites for Hibernation Potential. A Practical Approach including a Proposed Method and Supporting Notes. Draft/V2.2019
- R.15.** CIEEM (April 2022) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- R.16.** Geosphere Environmental Limited (2023). EDNA letter. ref. 7257,EC,AR,LTR001,TC,KL,31-07-23,V3
- R.17.** Stanbury A. et. al. (2021). The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations>
- R.18.** BS 5837: (2012), 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction'.
- R.19.** Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. (12 February 2024). Statutory biodiversity metric tools and guides. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>
- R.20.** Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023) Bats and artificial lighting at night – Guidance Note 08/23

Appendix 3 – Drawings

Proposed Landscaping Plan– Drawing ref. 180769-DG-02-XX-DR-A-1402(P6)



P6	Blue Line Boundary Updated.	RB			22/04/25
P5	Tarmac, demarcation amended for phase 2, vehicle control point noted off Mount Road.	RB			26/03/25
P3	Fall amended on Slope.	RB			17/03/25
P4	Red line boundary updated	TTN	RB		05/03/25
P3	Outline of historic element of existing building added to plan	CH			22/01/25
P1	Drawings updated to show Generator and Fuel Tank	CH	ST		21/01/25
REV	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK		DATE

DarwinGroup

www.darwingroup.co.uk - tel: 0333 188 5113

CLIENT TITLE
Property Services

PROJECT TITLE

Hinckley Day Case

PROJECT ADDRESS
Hinckley District Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley

DRAWING TITLE

Proposed Landscaping Plan

DRAWING REFERENCE

180769 - DG - 02 - XX - DR - A - 1402

PROJECT	ORIGINATOR	FUNCTIONAL BREAKDOWN	SPATIAL BREAKDOWN	FORM	DISCIPLINE	NUMBER
---------	------------	-------------------------	----------------------	------	------------	--------

01/13/25	CH	ST	925 m ²
ISSUE DATE	INITIAL ISSUE BY	INITIAL CHECKED BY	GIFA

SUITABILITY		As indicated	A1	PERMITS
S1	Coordination			
STATUS CODE	STATUS DESCRIPTION	SCALE	SHEET SIZE	REVISION

Appendix 4 – Species Specific Legislation

Introduction

This is a summary only. The reader is referred to the original legislation for definitive interpretation.

Bats

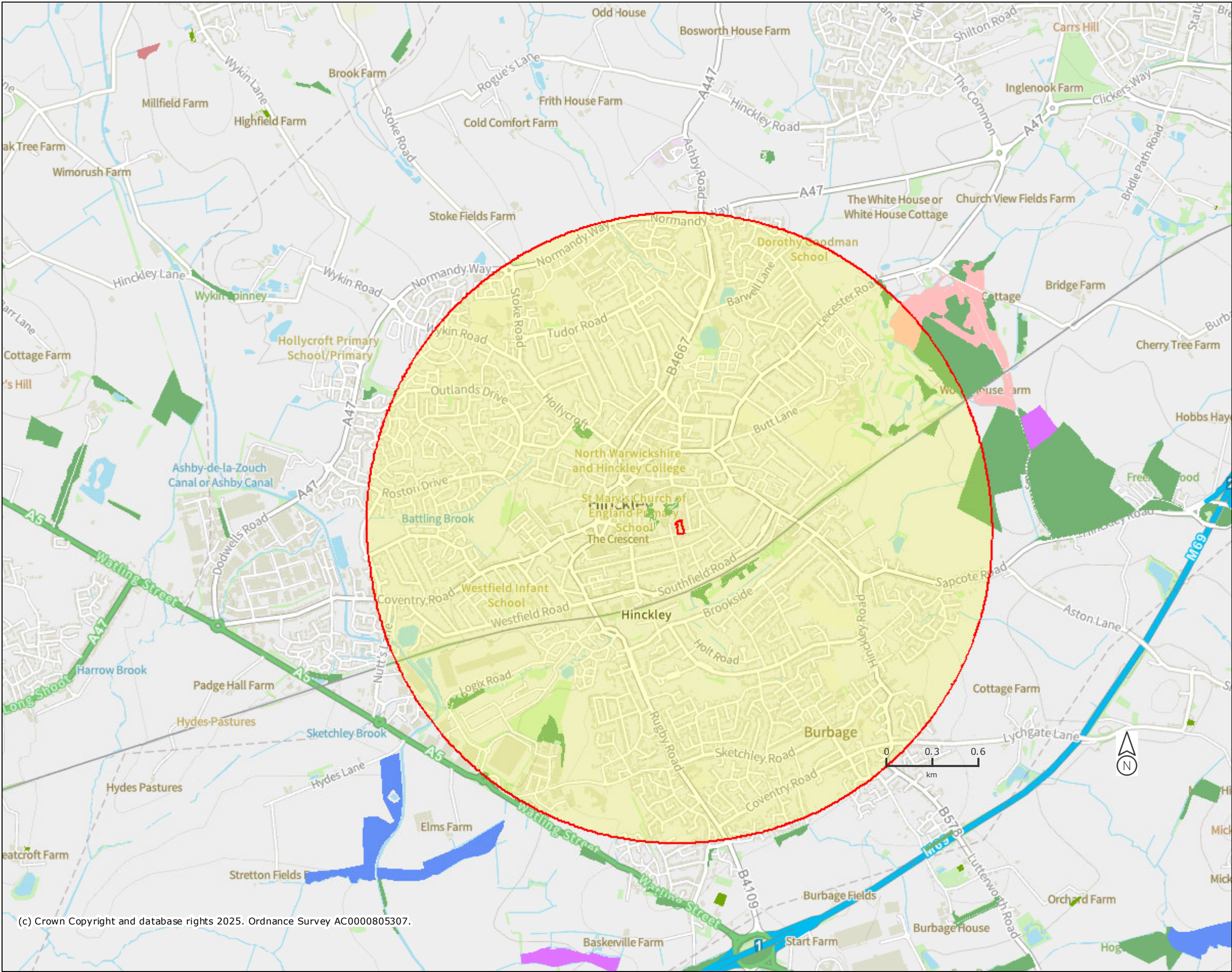
All bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is illegal to kill or injure bats, cause disturbance at their resting places or to block access to, damage or destroy their roost sites.

Birds

Wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to take or harm them, their nests (whilst in use or being built) or their eggs.

Additionally, for some species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the adults while they are in and around their nest or intentionally or recklessly disturb their dependent young.

Appendix 5 – Desk Study Data

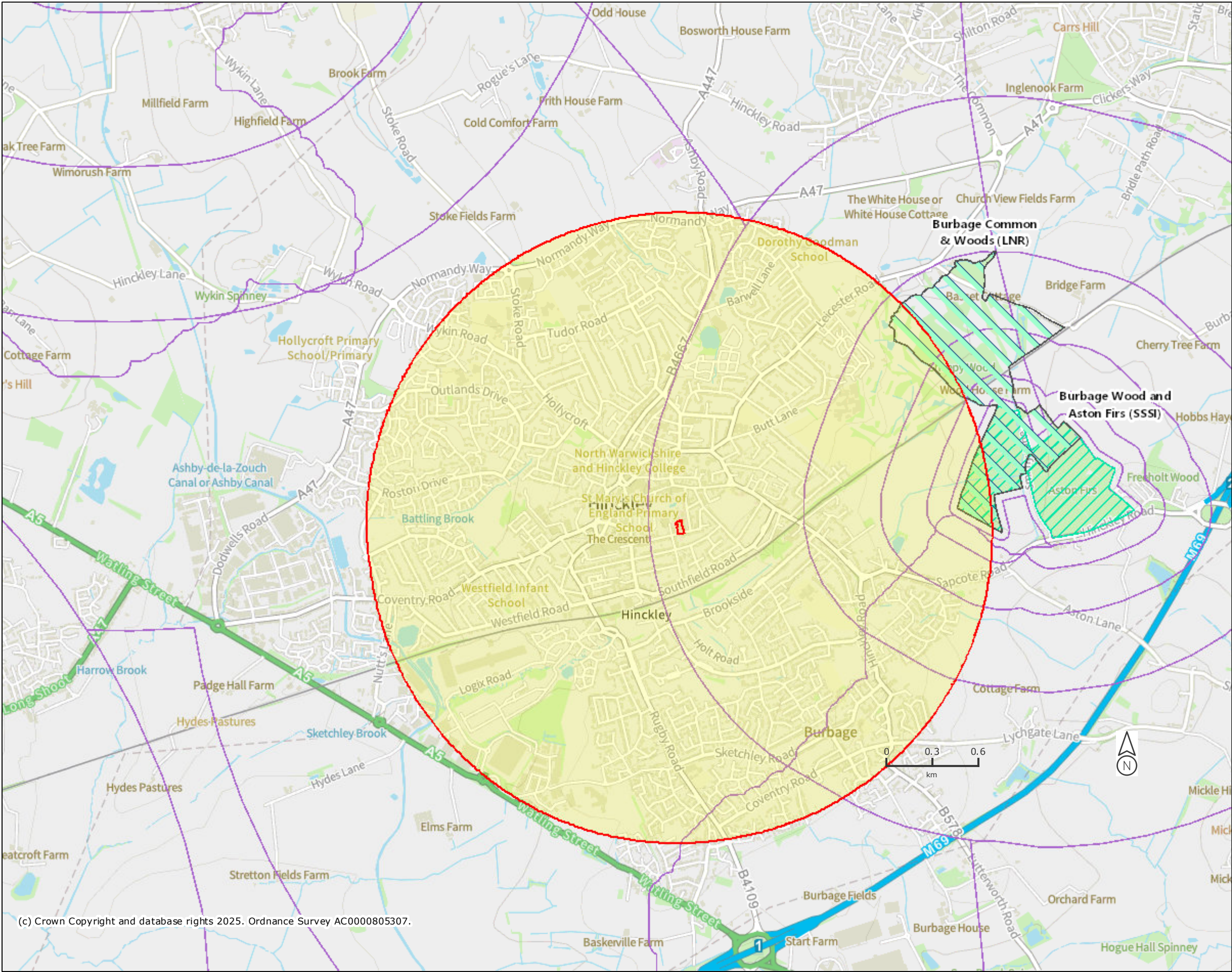


Legend

- Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Good quality semi-improved grassland (Non Priority) (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Fens (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)
- Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat (England)

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 436200
ymin = 290900
xmax = 448900
ymax = 297100

Map produced by MAGIC on 17 January, 2025.
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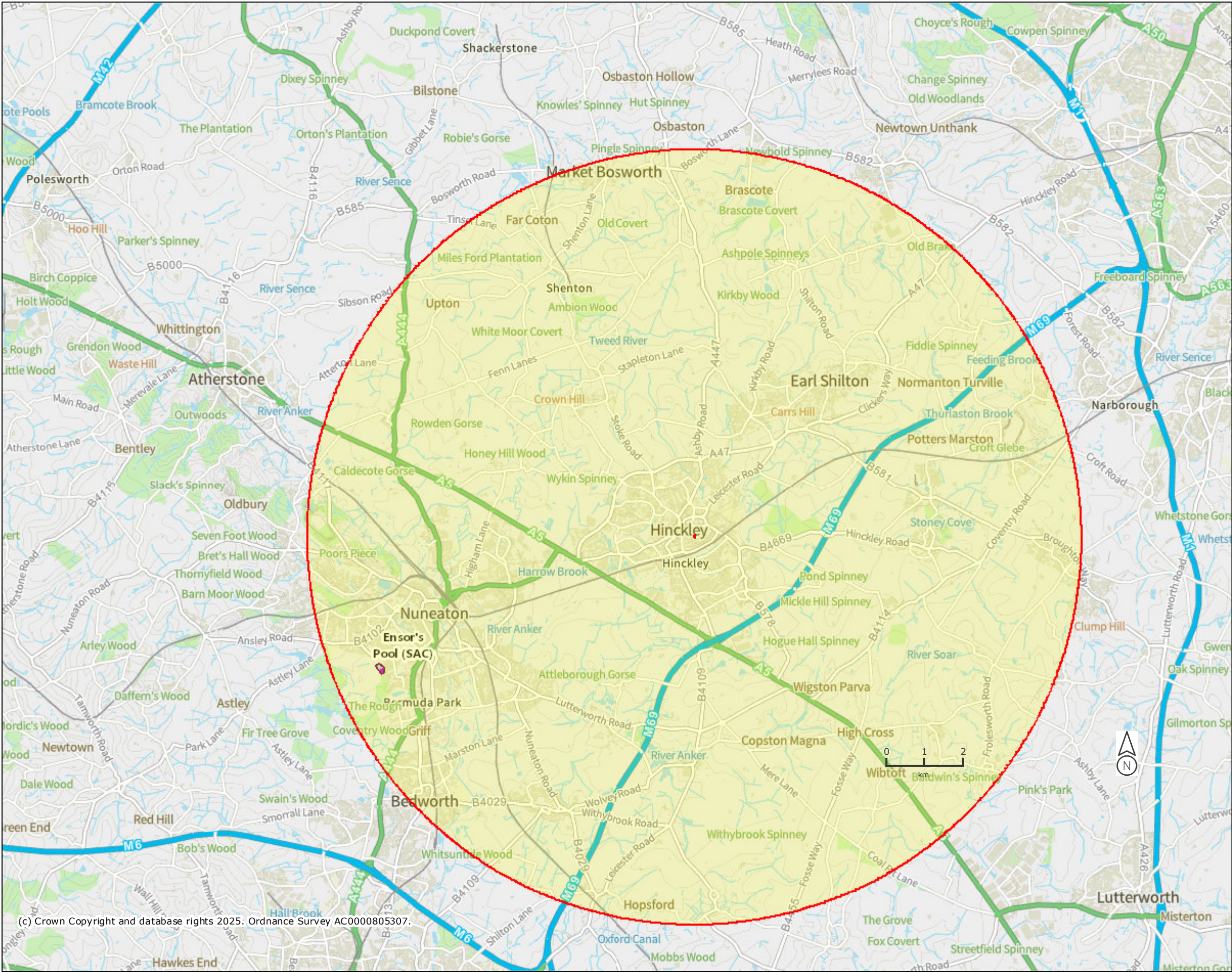
(c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000805307.

Legend

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England)
- Local Nature Reserves (England)
- National Nature Reserves (England)
- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- SSSI Impact Risk Zones - for LPAs to determine likely impacts on terrestrial SSSIs and when to consult Natural England
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 436200
ymin = 290900
xmax = 448900
ymax = 297100

Map produced by MAGIC on 17 January, 2025.
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Legend

- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 415500
ymin = 282500
xmax = 466300
ymax = 307500

Map produced by MAGIC on 17 January, 2025.
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Site Check Report Report generated on Tue Jan 21 2025
You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: SP42959371
The following features have been found in your search area:

Special Areas of Conservation (England) - points

Name	ENSOR'S POOL
Reference	UK0012646
Hectares	3.72
Hyperlink	https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0012646

Special Areas of Conservation (England)

Name	ENSOR'S POOL
Reference	UK0012646
Hectares	3.72
Hyperlink	https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0012646

Ramsar Sites (England) - points

No Features found

Ramsar Sites (England)

No Features found

Special Protection Areas (England) - points

No Features found

Special Protection Areas (England)

No Features found

Appendix 6 – Habitat Suitability Index

HSI SCORES



Project Number: 9212,EC

Surveyor: FT

Project Name: Hinckley Hospital

Survey

Date: 27th Jan 2025

Pond Ref:	SI1	SI2	SI3	SI4	SI5	SI6	SI7	SI8	SI9	SI10	HSI	Suitability
	Location	Pond Area	Pond Drying	Water quality	Shade	Fowl	Fish	Ponds	Terr'I Habitat	Macrophytes		
1	1	1	0.9	0.67	1	0.01	0.33	0.5	0.67	0.35	0.43	Poor

HSI Score	Pond suitability
<0.5	Poor
0.5-0.59	Below average
0.6-0.69	Average
0.7-0.79	Good
>0.8	Excellent

Appendix 7 – Selected Photographs of Site

Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3



Photograph 4



DESCRIPTION

Photograph 1

Area to the north including grassland introduced shrub and bare ground.

Photograph 2

Building B1 looking southwest

Photograph 3

Two storey section in the centre of building B1 including the pitched roof.

Photograph 4

Building B1 looking northwest

PROJECT

Hinckley Hospital, Mount Rd, Hinckley LE10 1AG

PROJECT NUMBER

9212,EC

TITLE

Selected Photographs Relating To Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

DATE

28/01/2025

PAGE NO.

1 of 4

Photograph 5



Photograph 6



DESCRIPTION

Photograph 5

Front of Building B1 looking northwest.

Photograph 6

Building B1 taken from the area of grassland in the south.

Photograph 7

Individual tree.

Photograph 7



Photograph 8



Photograph 8

Area of grassland and tall ruderal.

PROJECT

Hinckley Hospital, Mount Rd, Hinckley
LE10 1AG

PROJECT NUMBER

9212,EC

TITLE

**Selected Photographs Relating To
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

DATE

28/01/2025

PAGE NO.

2 of 4

Photograph 9



Photograph 10



DESCRIPTION

Photograph 9

Building B1 and areas of development work looking southeast

Photograph 10

Front of the property bordering Mount Road.

Photograph 11

Development site to the north.

Photograph 11



Photograph 12



Photograph 12

Building B2 and an individual tree.

PROJECT

Hinckley Hospital, Mount Rd, Hinckley LE10 1AG

PROJECT NUMBER

9212,EC

TITLE

Selected Photographs Relating To Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

DATE

28/01/2025

PAGE NO.

3 of 4

Photograph 13



Photograph 14



DESCRIPTION

Photograph 13

Pond 1.

Photograph 14

Pond 1.

PROJECT

Hinckley Hospital, Mount Rd, Hinckley
LE10 1AG

PROJECT NUMBER

9212,EC

TITLE

**Selected Photographs Relating To
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

DATE

28/01/2025

PAGE NO.

4 of 4

Appendix 8 – Selected Photographs Relating to Potential Roosting Features

Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3



Photograph 4



DESCRIPTION

Photograph 1

Gap above window pane where concrete has fallen apart.

Photograph 2

Possible gap in air vent.

Photograph 3

Slipped tile.

Photograph 4

Some gaps between timber framed roof and external brick wall.

PROJECT

Hinckley Hospital, Mount Rd, Hinckley
LE10 1AG

PROJECT NUMBER

9212,EC

TITLE

**Selected Photographs Relating To
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

DATE

28/01/2025

PAGE NO.

1 of 2

Photograph 5



Photograph 6



Photograph 7



DESCRIPTION

Photograph 5

Slipped tiles.

Photograph 6

Slipped tiles.

Photograph 7

Example of timber framed roof and external brick wall where gaps could be present.

PROJECT

Hinckley Hospital, Mount Rd, Hinckley
LE10 1AG

PROJECT NUMBER

9212,EC

TITLE

**Selected Photographs Relating To
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

DATE

28/01/2025

PAGE NO.

2 of 2

Appendix 9 – Example Enhancement Features

EXAMPLE BIRD BOXES

External Bird House: 1B Schwegler Bird Nest Box (General)



These Woodcrete nest boxes last for at least 20-25 years. Woodcrete is a breathable blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, whilst preventing condensation and maintaining more constant temperatures inside than wooden boxes.

Schwegler bird boxes are backed by conservation organisations, government agencies and forestry experts and experiments have shown that the highest density of bird populations (i.e. breeding pairs per hectare) is achieved with Schwegler nest boxes.

They are carefully designed to provide a stable environment and to mimic natural nest and roost sites with internal brood chamber dimensions that are similar to natural woodpecker cavities. Schwegler have a patented method of installation on trees that prevents the tree trunk from growing over the hanger from which the box is suspended.

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box>

External Bird House: Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box



These attractive nestboxes are manufactured from WoodStone which is a mix of concrete and FSC certified wood fibres. Unlike a traditional wooden nest box, these boxes will not rot away or deteriorate and are guaranteed for 10 years. This robust material safeguards against attacks from predators such as woodpeckers, cats and squirrels, whilst also providing a well-insulated interior with a more consistent internal temperature than an ordinary wooden box. This is especially important during the breeding season and ensures that young birds have a greater chance of survival. Nesting sites have become rare for cavity nesting birds due to changes in woodland management practices, so you can provide much-needed space for rearing chicks and birds that are roosting overwinter with these durable, long-lasting nest boxes.

These open nest boxes are suitable for wrens, robins, spotted flycatchers, pied and grey wagtails, song thrushes and blackbirds, and they are available in brown, green or grey to complement both natural woodland and garden settings.

The best height for your nest box is between 1.5m and 3m high, and open nest boxes should be sited in undergrowth such as ivy to provide cover for the nest.

These nest boxes have a removable front panel for easy cleaning.

SOURCE

<http://www.birdbrickhouses.co.uk/brick-nesting-boxes/nesting-boxes/>

TITLE

Example Bird Boxes for Trees

DATE

06/02/2025

External Bird House: NHBS Wooden Bird Nest Box



Our own range of wooden bird nest boxes have been custom designed and manufactured from substantial 2cm thick FSC-certified wood. These simple, breathable wooden bird boxes have a sloping roof and four drainage holes and are ideal for providing crucial nesting spaces for the smaller garden birds. Nest boxes also provide vital roosting spaces for birds during the cold winter months and the thick walls of these nest boxes will ensure that roosting birds stay warm.

The boxes can be expected to last 5-10 years and are constructed using stainless steel staples which will not rust. These boxes can be installed on a tree or wall and should be placed 2-4m above ground. There should be a clear flight path to the entrance hole and the boxes should be placed so that the entrance is not exposed to strong sunlight or winds.

The 32mm entrance hole is suitable for general garden birds, and the 25mm entrance hole is suitable for the smaller tit species such as blue and coal tits.

- Dimensions: 245mm x 135mm x 185mm (H x W x D)
- Entrance hole: 25mm or 32mm
- Height of backplate: 325mm
- Material: FSC-certified wood

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/nhbs-wooden-bird-nest-box>

External Bird House: NHBS Wooden Bird Nest Box



This nest box consists of a weatherproof outer shell made from UV stabilised 100% recycled plastic. Inside the outer shell is a wooden nest box to provide the ideal environment for birds to nest in. The wooden box has drainage holes in the base and can be removed from the plastic case. The outer shell has been precision cut and uses an ingenious system of tabs to hold it together. This further extends the lifespan by ensuring that there are no metal fixings that could rust or degrade over time.

The internal compartment is constructed from FSC-Certified Oriented Strand Board, which is made from flakes of wood waste or from saplings thinned from forests to make space for larger trees. If you need to check or clean the box, simply twist the fastening at the bottom and the wooden nesting chamber will slide out. The outer shell is made from recycled board which is itself made from discarded bale wrap, fertiliser bags and other plastic waste, gathered mostly from farms across the UK.

These nest boxes are available with a choice of three hole sizes: 25mm, 28mm and 32mm. The 25mm hole is primarily suitable for the smallest tit species such as blue tits, coal tits and marsh tits. The 28mm hole will attract all of these species as well as great tits, crested tits and tree sparrows. The larger 32mm hole will attract a large range of species including blue tits, coal tits, marsh tits, house sparrows, great tits, nuthatches and pied flycatchers.

Fixing to the wall or tree is easy using the three concealed mounting holes in the back of the box (located opposite the entrance hole for easy access). Often this is the only fixing needed, but a further hole is provided at the base if required for stability. The easiest way to mount the box is to remove the inner compartment, fix the outer shell onto the tree or wall then slide the inner roost chamber back into the box and secure it in place

- Materials: Recycled LDPE plastic and FSC Certified OSB
- Finish: Non-toxic water-based stain and preservative
- Dimensions: 26cm x 17cm x 17xcm (H x W x D)
- Weight: 1.1kg
- Fixing: Three concealed keyholes and further fixing hole at base

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/eco-small-bird-box>

TITLE

Example Bird Boxes for Trees

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

2 of 4

Integral Bird Box: WoodStone Build-in Invisible Swift Box



The WoodStone Build-in Invisible Swift Box is constructed from FSC certified WoodStone. The box is designed to be incorporated into the wall and then covered with building materials that form the building's outer skin. An entrance hole of at least three centimetres tall and six centimetres should be left, by leaving a slightly larger entrance, around 3.5cm will encourage other species such as house sparrows to occupy the nest. Leaving most of the entrance exposed and siting the box below five metres will encourage robins, wagtails and black redstarts to occupy the nest box. For swifts the nest box should be sited at least five metres high and not south facing.

Swifts usually breed in social colonies so it is recommended to site multiple boxes together but they must be at least 40cm apart.

Specification

- Manufactured to UK brick size
- Width: 44cm
- Height: 14cm
- Depth: 15cm
- Material: FSC certified WoodStone

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/woodstone-build-in-invisible-swift-box>

Integral Bird Box: Bird Brick Houses Brick fronted swift box



This box has a crescent shaped hole in the swift brick to one side of the box, allowing swifts access but restricting use by starlings. Inside, a rough floor makes it easier for the birds to move around. The centre of the floor has a raised nest cup to assist the birds' nest building. The ideal internal depth of a swift box is 140 mm, however if cavity width is limited, boxes can be manufactured with a reduced depth (minimum 100 mm). Please specify requirements at the point of order.

Non-combustible, and alternative cladding options are available

SOURCE

<https://www.birdbrickhouses.co.uk/brick-nesting-boxes/swift-boxes/>

TITLE

Integral Bird Boxes

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

3 of 4

Integral Bird Box: Manthorpe Swift Brick



The Manthorpe Swift Brick has been developed with the help of conservation experts and is designed to provide a safe and spacious area for swifts to nest within the modern home. Available in six different colours, the box is designed to blend into the brickwork and so provides an aesthetically pleasing addition to any new build or development. Manufactured from PVC and Polypropylene, this nest box is designed to last for an extremely long time and will not rot or degrade.

Specification:

- Width: 347mm
- Depth: 200mm
- Height: 153mm
- Dimensions of protruding "brick" section: 80 x 227mm
- Entrance hole: Obround; 29 x 65mm
- Weight: 0.71kg
- Materials: PVC (base); Polypropylene (top)
- Available colours: Terracotta, Slate Gray, Antique Red, Buff, White, Black
- Manufacturing: Injection moulded



SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/manthorpe-swift-brick?bkfno=242169>

Integral Bird Box: PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box



This build-in nest box is designed to be integrated into the cavity of a building, constructed from long-lasting WoodStone and built to match standard UK brick dimensions.

Specification:

- Width: 44cm
- Height: 14 cm
- Depth: 15cm
- Material: WoodStone

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-rendered-build-in-swift-box-uk-brick-size>

TITLE

Integral Bird Boxes

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

4 of 4

EXAMPLE BAT BRICKS AND BOXES

Integrated Bat Box: Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'B'



Large 215 x 290mm



Large Bespoke
215 x 290 mm



Small Red
215 x 215 mm

The Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'B' is designed for integration into the wall of new buildings or conservation projects and is intended to provide summer roosting space for pipistrelles specifically. It provides a discrete home for bats, with several roosting chambers to provide zones of differing temperatures within the box. The bats are contained within the box itself and the entrance at the bottom allows droppings to fall out, meaning that the box is maintenance free.

Integrated Bat Box: Standard bat Box



Bat boxes can be supplied in brick fronted, half bond and quarter bond brickwork or alternatively with a stainless-steel mesh fitted to the front. The mesh is designed for optimum adhesion in render and stonework applications. A basic version can be fitted directly behind weatherboarding or into studwork.

These bat boxes are best positioned in sunlit clusters, at a height of 3-6 metres and ideally facing a variety of aspects as bats will move around a building as the seasons change.

This product makes an ideal bat house for most of the UK's bat species, including Pipistrelles, who will use it for roosting, hibernating and (in maternity roosts) bringing up their young. The entrance hole and internal design can be tailored to suit different species of bat e.g. Bechstein's and Serotine.

The box is self-cleaning. The bat boxes are supplied with a non-removable front as standard.

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/ibstock-enclosed-bat-box-b>

SOURCE

<http://www.birdbrickhouses.co.uk/brick-nesting-boxes/bat-box/>

TITLE

Example Bat Bricks and Boxes

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

1 of 4

Integrated Bat Box: Istock Enclosed Bat Box 'C'



The Enclosed Bat Box 'C' from Istock is designed for the pipistrelle bat. It is ideal for new builds as it can be integrated directly into the brickwork to produce a discrete but attractive home for bats.

The box has an attractive bat motive on the front and is both durable and fully frost resistant. The inside of the box is designed to create several roosting zones which are ideal for crevice dwelling bats. The bottom entrance means that no maintenance is required as droppings will simply fall out the bottom..

Specification

Small Box

- Height: 215mm
- Width: 215mm
- Depth: 105mm
- Weight: 6.7kg

Large Box

- Height: 290mm
- Width: 215mm
- Depth: 105mm
- Weight: 9.2kg

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/ibstock-enclosed-bat-box-c>

Integrated Bat Box: Vivara Pro Build-in WoodStone Bat Box



The Vivara Pro Build-in WoodStone Bat Box has been specifically designed to fit into the cavity of house walls. It features a slim sized entrance hole which can sit flush in a course of bricks to provide a discreet entry way for bats.

It is manufactured from hard-wearing woodstone and plywood with removable side panels so that several boxes can be placed side by side. Position the box at least 2m above ground level away from artificial light sources. Woodstone is a mixture of sawdust from FSC wood sources and concrete, and it is designed to last for years. It is breathable so there will be no problems with condensation and maintains a consistent temperature inside, providing excellent insulation for roosting bats.

Specification

- Height: 500mm
- Width: 210mm
- Depth: 150mm
- Weight: 5.6kg
- Material: WoodStone

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-build-in-woodstone-bat-box>

TITLE

Example Bat Bricks & Boxes

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

2 of 4

External Bat Box: 1FE Schwegler Bat Access Panel



On its own, the 1FE Access Panel provides access for bats to existing roost sites. With a specially shaped entrance hole and open back, bats can crawl through the entire panel. This is particularly useful when renovation or conservation work is being undertaken in buildings already containing bat roosts. With an overall depth of just 8 cm, it is easily integrated within masonry or insulation. If necessary it can also be attached to the underlying structure using two screws. The light grey material can be over-painted as required using air-permeable exterior wall paint. The design includes a silhouette of a bat which is both decorative and informative. Alternatively the 1FE can be set into masonry and rendered so that only the entrance is visible.

The 1FE Bat Access Panel is made from Schwegler wood-concrete; an exceedingly durable, rot-proof and breathable natural material designed to mimic the properties of natural nest sites. The design is maintenance-free with a sloping shelf to allow droppings to fall out. The 1FE can also be fixed to the underlying structure using two screws (not included).

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/1fe-schwegler-bat-access-panel>

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/1ff-schwegler-bat-box-with-built-in-wooden-rear-panel>

External Bat Box: 1FF Schwegler Bat Box with Built-in Wooden Rear Panel



The Schwegler 1FF bat box is spacious enough for bats to use as a summer roost or nursery site and is open at the bottom, allowing droppings to fall out so it does not need cleaning. The 1FF is, therefore, especially suitable for hanging in inaccessible places such as high in trees, or on steep slopes and house walls.

The 1FF is manufactured from long-lasting Woodcrete, which is a blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, and will last for at least 20 - 25 years, making it suitable for long-term mitigation projects.

The inner dimensions of the 1FF have a reducing width making it ideal for bat species which inhabit crevices such as pipistrelle and noctule bats. For conservation projects and studies, the entire front of the box can be easily swung open for inspection purposes.

The 1FF bat box can be sited in trees or on buildings and is best positioned at a height of between 4 to 6 metres.

TITLE

Example Bat Bricks and Boxes

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

3 of 4

External Bat Box: 2F Schwegler Bat Box with Double Front Panel



This box has a front panel and a second inner wooden panel fitted to it to create a cavity wall. This provides ideal quarters for bats that inhabit crevices, such as Nathusius' Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubetonii*) and the Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).

It has been designed as a summer roosting space for bats and has a simple entrance hole at the front. The Schwegler 2F double front panel is removable and can be converted in to a bird nest box using a replacement 1B front panel if there is no evidence of bat activity after a couple of years. The 2F Double Front Panel is manufactured from long-lasting Woodcrete, which is a blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, and will last for at least 20 - 25 years, making it suitable for long-term mitigation projects. Woodcrete is breathable and maintains a stable temperature inside the box and the 2F is painted black to absorb warmth. It also provides a good rough surface for bats to cling on to and climb.

The 2F Double Front Panel bat box can be sited in trees or on buildings and is best positioned at a height of between 3 to 6 metres.



SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/2f-schwegler-bat-box-with-double-front-panel>

External Bat Box: Vincent Pro Bat Box



This attractive bat box has been designed by leading bat researcher, Collin Morris, based on a tried and tested design from the Vincent Wildlife Trust.

The box features three vertical chambers of different sizes, providing ideal roosting space for a variety of species. Beneath the crevice entrances is a ladder which provides a rough surface for bats to land.

Proven with seven UK species: Barbastelle, Leisler's, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, Natterer's and whiskered bat.

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/vincent-pro-bat-box>

Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost (integrated or external box) they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.

TITLE

Example Bat Bricks and Boxes

DATE

06/02/2025

PAGE NO.

4 of 4



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