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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Survey site:

Barlestone St Giles Football Club, Barton Road, Barlestone, Nuneaton, CV13 0EP

Client:

Olivia Blyth

Survey date:

17th February 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. The proposal is described as: A proposed new dance studio.

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

The survey results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion

Site Location and Context					
The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SK 4241 0602 and has an area of approximately 3.23ha. The site is underlain by Mudstone (Gunthorpe Member) which is overlain by Diamicton (Oadby Member) superficial deposits. The soil is described as slightly acid, seasonally wet but base-rich loamy and clayey. The site comprises a main clubhouse building (B1), associated buildings (B2- B7), playing field with scattered trees, bordered by mature native hedgerow. Aerial imagery shows the local landscape to have a rural character with residential buildings to the south. The field adjacent to the east is currently used as a solar panel farm, and other surrounding land appears to have an agricultural arable use. The hedgerows on site extend into the wider landscape and provide vital nature corridors connecting large areas of grassland together. 400m north lies a significant stream which meanders around its associated riparian habitat.					
Survey Details					
The site survey was undertaken by Victoria Walters BSc (Hons) MSc Graduate Ecologist (Natural England Protected Species Licence Numbers: [Bats] (Accredited Agent on Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2018-33540-CLS-CLS).					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
17 th February 2025	4	68	25	9.3	None
Executive Summary					
The planning application must be accompanied by a biodiversity net gain calculation to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.					
Survey limitations					
It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood, and the known distribution of species as recovered during the searches of historical biological records. A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report. The survey was completed outside of the optimal survey period (April to October) for ground flora, and as such the accuracy of botanical assessment and condition assessment data may be limited in terms of species visible and ground conditions at the time of survey. It is not anticipated that this has impacted the outcome of the report, due to the low value of habitats on site.					

Ecological Survey Factor	Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	
Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plan in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4). Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).	
Summary of Survey Findings (UKHab codes used) Primary codes: u1b u1b5 g4 h2a Secondary codes: 32	On-site habitat descriptions u1b- Developed land; sealed surface There is an area of hardstanding covered with loose gravel substrate which is used as a driveway and carpark for the site. This habitat is unvegetated. u1b5- Buildings There are 7 buildings on site; comprising a main clubhouse (B1), associated outbuilding (B2), a cargo container (B3) and 4 brick open wall shelters adjacent to the playing fields. g4- Modified grassland; 32 Scattered trees The site is dominated by modified grassland which is 90% mown strictly as the grassland is used as a sports field maintaining the sward height to approximately 7cm or under. The perimeter of the grassland is subject to a relaxed method of management and sward height in these areas are ~15-20cm with tall grass inflorescence reaching 50cm high. The grassland comprises red fescue (D), perennial rye grass (A), cocks foot (F), common daisy (F), creeping buttercup (F), ribwort plantain (F), white clover (F), greater plantain (R), creeping thistle (R), common chickweed (R) and ragwort (R) Habitat condition assessment: A. There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs FAIL (However it is important to note the seasonal caveat, therefore it should be assumed PASS) B. Sward height is varied PASS C. Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% total grassland area PASS D. Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area FAIL (20% of the grassland is poached) E. Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10% PASS F. Cover of bracken is less than 20% PASS G. There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species PASS Habitat condition score: GOOD Within the grassland, there are 17 scattered trees on site, as detailed below:

Tree ID	Grid reference	Species	Size (Diameter at Breast height in cm)	Criteria passed *	Habitat condition score
T1	SK 42489 05892	Field maple	20cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T2	SK 42484 05898	Cherry	20cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T3	SK 42479 05903	Field maple	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T4	SK 42473 05910	Field maple	20cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T5	SK 42468 05916	Rowan	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T6	SK 42361 06044	Oak	15cm	A, B, D, E, F,	Good
T7	SK 42355 06058	Ash	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T8	SK 42344 06073	Ash	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T9	SK 42335 06093	Ash	10cm	A, B, D, F	Moderate
T10	SK 42330 06099	Field maple	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T11	SK 42326 06106	Field maple	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T12	SK 42322 06114	Ash	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T13	SK 42320 06123	Cherry	15cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T14	SK 42401 06162	Lime	10cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T15	SK 42406 06149	Beech	20cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T16	SK 42415 06130	Oak	20cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good
T17	SK 42435 06090	Cherry	20cm	A, B, D, E, F	Good

*The criteria within the Condition assessment as below:

A. The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native).

B. The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5m wide (Individual trees automatically pass this criterion).

C. The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).

D. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities. And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.

E. Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.

F. More than 20% of the tree area is oversailing vegetation beneath.

h2a - Native hedgerow

The site is bordered by native hedgerow, which comprises 3 distinct hedgerows adjoined by corners.

Hedgerow 1:

Hedgerow 1 comprises the south, west and north boundary hedgerow. The corners of this hedgerow are curved, and the species content and physical features are consistent, hence described as a single hedgerow.

	The hedgerow is approximately 2.5-3m high and 2m wide, species include hawthorn (D), field maple (F), holly (F), ivy (F), ash (F), birch (F), hazel (F), bramble (F), and black thorn (O). Ground flora comprises ivy (D), cleavers (F), herb Robert (O) and bramble (O). The hedgerow is currently unmanaged. Habitat condition assessment: - A1. Height >1.5m average along length PASS - A2. Width >1.5m average along length PASS - B1. Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5m for >90% of length PASS - B2. Gaps make up <10% of the total length and No canopy gaps >5m PASS - C1. >1m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length PASS - C2. Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground PASS - D1. >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species and recently introduced species PASS - D2. Current damage >90% of the hedgerow is free of damage caused by human activities PASS Habitat condition score: Good. Hedgerow 2: The hedgerow lines the east boundary comprises of immature shrubs, largely cherry (D), common dogwood (A), and silver birch (O). There is no ground flora, as the grassland continues under the canopy. There is a large gap between the ground and base of canopy, due to immaturity of the hedging shrubs present. The hedgerow is approximately 1.5m by 1m. Habitat condition assessment: - A1. Height >1.5m average along length PASS - A2. Width >1.5m average along length FAIL (Young hedgerow) - B1. Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5m for >90% of length FAIL - B2. Gaps make up <10% of the total length and No canopy gaps >5m PASS - C1. >1m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length PASS - C2. Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground PASS - D1. >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species and recently introduced species PASS - D2. Current damage >90% of the hedgerow is free of damage caused by human activities PASS Habitat condition score: Good. Hedgerow 3: The hedgerow lines the south part of the east boundary, adjacent to B1. It stands at approximately 2m high and 1.5m wide, and comprises hawthorn (D), blackthorn (F), silver birch (F) and Himalayan firethorn (R). The hedgerow is currently unmanaged. Habitat condition assessment: - A1. Height >1.5m average along length PASS - A2. Width >1.5m average along length PASS - B1. Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5m for >90% of length PASS - B2. Gaps make up <10% of the total length and No canopy gaps >5m PASS
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	C1. >1m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length PASS C2. Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground PASS D1. >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species and recently introduced species FAIL. D2. Current damage >90% of the hedgerow is free of damage caused by human activities PASS Habitat condition score: Good. Local notable habitats The site does not contain any habitats listed as a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Habitats within the site are common and widespread and have low ecological value. Notable habitats are present within 2km: • Lowland meadows, 480m northwest, • Deciduous woodland, 630m west, • Lowland fens, 900m west
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site habitats The habitats on-site are widespread and not notable, however the proposed development will result in the loss of ~1km² modified grassland habitat. Furthermore, 5 trees will be felled to facilitate the development. This is likely to have minimal impact on biodiversity considering the small area of grassland being lost. Furthermore, the trees being felled are young and lack decay features which may provide ecological niches lowering their ecological value. As there are extensive trees within the locality, their loss is unlikely to significantly impact biodiversity. Notable habitats No impacts to any notable habitats are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such habitats as well as the urban location of the site with surrounding physical barriers.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site habitats Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012). Notable habitats None required. Biodiversity net gain The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments (excluding exemptions) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. Therefore, the planning application must be accompanied by a biodiversity net gain calculation to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.
Locality and Designated Sites	

<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	On-site designations The site is not subject to any designation. Statutory designated sites (within 2km) There are no known statutory sites within 2km of the site, however the site lies within the impact risk zone for Newton Burgoland Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 4.8km northwest, designated for wetland habitats. Statutory designated sites (within 10km) No national network sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) are located within 10km. Non-statutory designated sites The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Records Centre.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site designations No impacts foreseen. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known). The site lies within the impact risk zone for Newton Burgoland Marshes SSSI. The proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk for this designation.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site designations None required. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites None required.
Invasive / Non-native species	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	N/A
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.
Invertebrates	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site, including hedgerows, grassland and trees, likely provide common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. The site contains no further notable habitats which may provide niches for specialised or protected invertebrates.

Foreseen Impacts	Modified Grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of this habitat is likely to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations owing to its low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally.														
Recommendations	No further surveys. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The incorporation of bee bricks (e.g. Ibstock BeeHabitat or similar alternative brand) into the fabric of the new buildings would provide sheltering opportunities for pollinators. These should be installed 0.5m above ground level on a south-facing elevation with no obscuring vegetation. The site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates.														
Bats															
Summary of Survey Findings	EPSL data A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites <2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There are 2 EPSLs within a 2km radius of site as detailed below: <table><tr><th>EPSL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Distance from site</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>EPSM2009-481</td><td>Common pipistrelle</td><td>690m south</td><td>Destruction of a resting place and breeding site</td></tr><tr><td>EPSM2010-2594</td><td>Common pipistrelle</td><td>690m south</td><td>Destruction of a breeding site</td></tr></table> There are no Special Areas of Conservation designated for bats within 10km of the site. Foraging and commuting habitat Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of species-poor grassland, and species-rich hedgerow and scattered trees. These habitats are likely to provide micro-climatic conditions that support invertebrates that will in turn provide foraging opportunities for local bat populations. Most notably, the hedgerows on site are mature and extend beyond the site adding to the continuity of vegetated linear features present in the wider landscape. Bats are well known to utilise linear features to aid navigation whilst travelling between foraging resources and roost sites. Roosting habitat Buildings and trees to be impacted by the proposed development are assessed for their suitability to support roosting bats below. There are 7 buildings on site; the main club house (B1), an outbuilding (B2), cargo container (B3) and 4 brick shelters with benches inside on the perimeter of the football pitch. None of the buildings were surveyed as they will be fully retained and not impacted by the proposed development. All trees were subject to a Ground Level Roost Assessment (GLTA), none presented with roosting features that could be utilized by bats.			EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence	EPSM2009-481	Common pipistrelle	690m south	Destruction of a resting place and breeding site	EPSM2010-2594	Common pipistrelle	690m south	Destruction of a breeding site
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<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Roosting habitat [Buildings] The proposed development will not affect any of the buildings on site and the proposed dance studio is far enough away from any of the buildings as to not impact any potential roosts indirectly through noise, vibration or lighting. Roosting habitat [Trees] T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5 will be felled to facilitate the development. No features were identified on this tree and as such there are unlikely to be any impact to bats as a result of felling. Foraging and commuting habitat The proposed development will not result in the removal of any habitats which could be used by foraging or commuting bats. However, the proposed development will include the use of lighting which could spill on to bat roosting, foraging or commuting habitat and deter bats from using these areas. Artificial lighting The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Roosting habitat [Buildings] No impacts to buildings, therefore no further recommendations. Roosting habitat [Trees] In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice. Foraging and commuting habitat No further surveys are required. Artificial lighting A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2 Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of one bat box at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. The bat boxes will be incorporated into the fabric of the new building. This will be suitable for pipistrelles (which have been identified locally through EPSL data). Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar alternative brand. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.

Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	Buildings No evidence of nesting birds was identified on or within any of the buildings on site. All buildings on site are deemed to provide negligible habitat value for nesting birds due to a lack of suitable nesting sites or access points. Trees and vegetation No bird nests were identified within the trees or hedgerow on-site, however they all offer nesting opportunities and nest-building resources for birds. Barn owls The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls. Overwintering birds Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Buildings/trees The proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nest, due to the removal of 5 small trees. Barn owls None foreseen. Overwintering birds None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Buildings/trees Any tree removal should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation should be undertaken immediately, by a qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged. Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged. Barn owls None required.

	Overwintering birds None required. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of a minimum of two bird boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries or on retained buildings will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler No 17 Swift Nest Box (buildings) Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace (buildings) Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes (trees) Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes (trees) Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees) Or a similar alternative brand. Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole.
Reptiles	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, basking and refuge opportunities for reptiles. The hedgerow and longer grassland provide elevated value for reptiles as these habitats provide a suitable structure for refuge, whilst also providing foraging and commuting opportunities. However, it is important to note that the site is dominated by frequently managed grassland which is sub-optimal for reptiles due to an absence of notable habitat structure and diversity, which significantly limits refuge, foraging, and commuting opportunities, albeit they do provide some basking opportunities when located adjacent to potential refugia. The site has good connectivity to further suitable reptile habitat in the wider landscape via a network of mature hedgerows. Wider landscape The adjacent fields of grassland and the network of hedgerows are of elevated ecological value within the wider landscape and may represent important resources for local reptile populations. Furthermore, 400m north there is a stream with associated riparian habitat which also enhances the area for reptiles. The presence of reptiles utilising these adjacent habitats cannot be discounted.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Although a small area of suitable habitat is being removed as part of the development, there is a low risk that a low number of reptiles could be present in the vicinity of the works. These could be injured or killed without mitigation.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures: • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles. • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.

	• Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advise must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be enhanced for reptiles post-development with the inclusion of log piles (created from felled materials) and planting of areas of native shrubs, to provide sheltering opportunities.																			
Amphibians																				
Summary of Survey Findings	EPSL and survey data A review of the MAGIC database returned 2 granted EPSL records for great crested newts within 2km of the site, as detailed below: <table><tr><th>EPSL name</th><th>Distance and orientation</th><th>Impacts allowed by the licence</th></tr><tr><td>2014-2479-EPS-MIT</td><td>1.9km north</td><td>Damage and destruction to both breeding site and resting place</td></tr><tr><td>2014-2479-EPS-MIT-1</td><td>1.9km north</td><td>Destruction of breeding site, and damage and destruction of resting place.</td></tr></table>	EPSL name	Distance and orientation	Impacts allowed by the licence	2014-2479-EPS-MIT	1.9km north	Damage and destruction to both breeding site and resting place	2014-2479-EPS-MIT-1	1.9km north	Destruction of breeding site, and damage and destruction of resting place.										
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	Further, 2 positive class survey licence return or DLL historic survey data (2017 – 2019) were present within 2km of the site (1.5km northwest). Great crested newts exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton <i>et al.</i> 2001). As such, the great crested newt metapopulation known to be present 1.5km northwest are not suitably connected to the site due to the distance.																			
Aquatic habitat suitability (including ponds within 500m) There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of 6 ponds within 500m; all ponds are suitably connected to the site through hedgerows and grassland, and are detailed below:																				
	<table><tr><th>Pond</th><th>Distance from site boundary</th><th>Distance to proposed development area.</th></tr><tr><td>P1</td><td><1m northwest</td><td>220m</td></tr><tr><td>P2</td><td>65m northwest</td><td>300m</td></tr><tr><td>P3</td><td>250m northeast</td><td>370m</td></tr><tr><td>P4</td><td>340m northeast</td><td>470m</td></tr><tr><td>P5</td><td>490msouthwest</td><td>530m</td></tr></table>	Pond	Distance from site boundary	Distance to proposed development area.	P1	<1m northwest	220m	P2	65m northwest	300m	P3	250m northeast	370m	P4	340m northeast	470m	P5	490msouthwest	530m	
Pond	Distance from site boundary	Distance to proposed development area.																		
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P5	490msouthwest	530m																		

	P6	460m northwest	650m
	Terrestrial habitat suitability Areas of hedgerows and grassland may provide foraging and sheltering opportunities for amphibians. The hedgerows provide hibernation opportunities on site. The peripheral areas of grassland are subject to a relaxed management regime and therefore provide greater opportunities for commuting and foraging for great crested newts than the strictly mown amenity grassland.		
Foreseen Impacts	When georeferencing the proposed development plans over scaled mapping of the site, it is noted that the development area is likely to result in the loss or significant disturbance of 0.1ha of grassland. If great crested newts are present within the pond less than 1m to the northwest of the site boundary, (but ~220m from the proposed development area) when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces an Green risk score , which states: Offence Unlikely (see Figure 1 below).		
	Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
	Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
	Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
	Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.1 - 0.5 ha lost or damaged	0.1
	Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
	Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:		0.1
	Rapid risk assessment result:	GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY	
Recommendations	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures: - A staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm and left overnight to allow any amphibians to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter amphibians from the working area. - Any rubble piles will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent amphibians from utilising these areas. - Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby aquatic habitats that amphibians could use. - Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.		

	• If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be enhanced for amphibians post-development through creation of amphibian hibernacula using rubble and logs from site clearance. Information on how to construct a hibernaculum can be found here: https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum
Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No badger setts were noted on site. The site is considered suitable for badgers due to the presence of suitable excavation areas and fruiting trees for foraging. Evidence of foraging was discovered during the site visit, along with mammal paths leading to gaps under the east hedgerow. No mammal holes were identified.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No works will be undertaken within 30m of a badger sett. Grassland and small trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to bat roosts, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: • A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of badgers at the site. • A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for any new badger activity if works do not commence within three months. • Heras fencing will be erected around the working area to prevent encroachment into retained habitats where badger setts could be present. • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which badgers could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities for badgers.
Riparian animals	

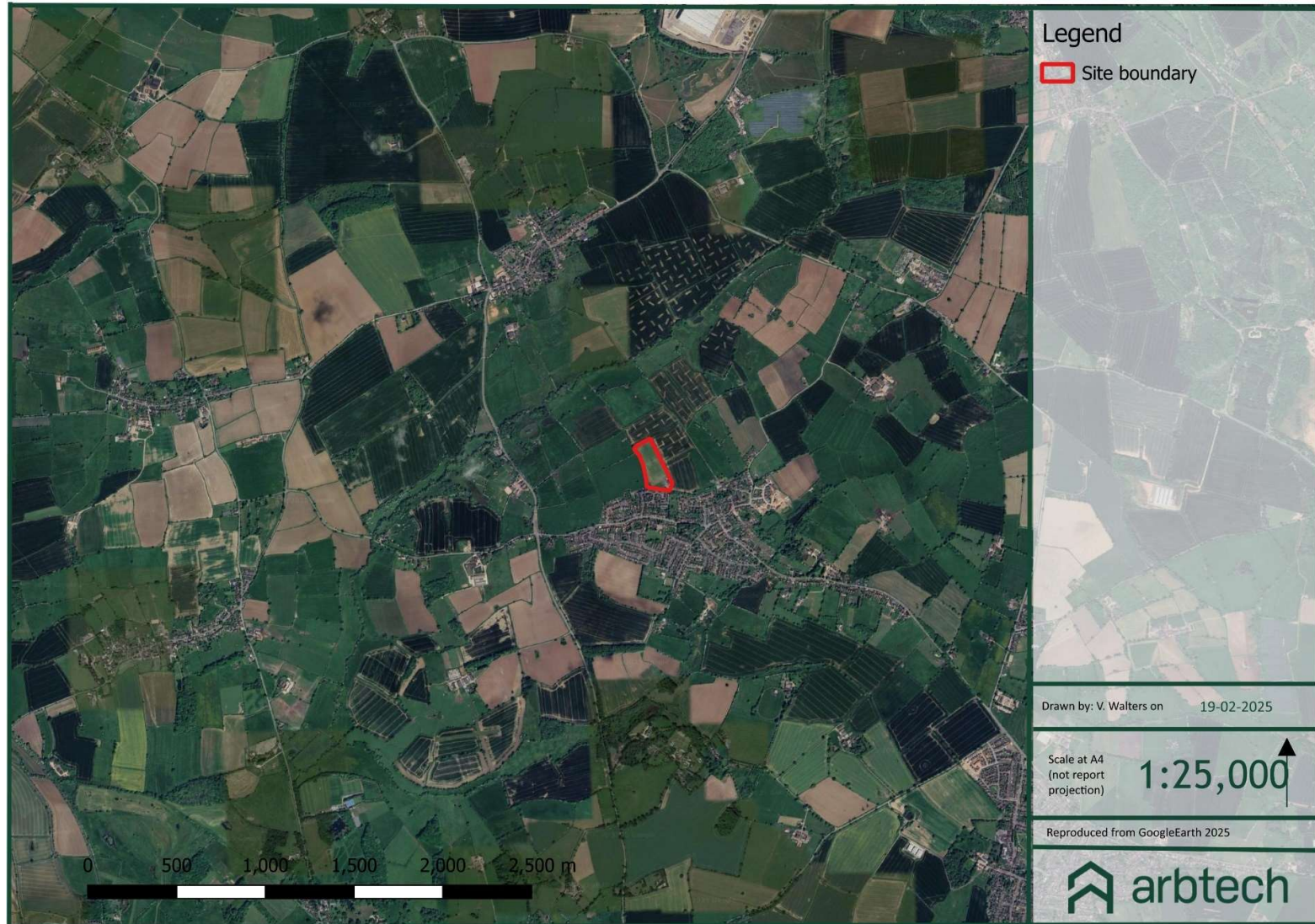
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on or connected to the site. There are also no riparian habitats present on site or within an influencing distance.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.
Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability The site lies outside of the know current range for hazel dormice and there are no suitable habitats within the development area. As such it is considered likely that hazel dormice are absent from site. Dormice typically utilise a three-dimensional habitat structure as to commute between feeding and breeding sites whilst avoiding predation. The native hedgerows on site are suitable commuting habitat however, for isolated habitats in the UK, research indicates that dormice require 20ha of woodland to support a viable population (Bright et al. 1994). The hedgerows do not connect to any significant areas of woodland. As such it is considered likely that hazel dormice are absent from site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None foreseen.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The native hedgerows on site onsite provide foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs. Furthermore, the hedgerows are mature and extend into a wider network of hedgerows connecting further areas of grassland.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	An area of grassland and small trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: - Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. - The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. - Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.

	Suggested biodiversity enhancements The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs: • Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities. • Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas. • Installation of gaps under boundary fencing to enable hedgehogs to move freely through the site.
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Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Proposed plan



Appendix 4: Habitat Photos

Developed land; sealed surface	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 1: Carpark on site south of B1
Modified grassland	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 2: Modified grassland at the west of the car park, where the development is proposed.

Scattered trees		
Photograph		Description
		Figure 3: Scattered trees (set to be removed)
Native hedgerow		
Photograph		Description
		Figure 4: Hedgerow 1 lining the south border.

Native hedgerow and grassland			
Photograph		Description	
			Figure 5: Grassland under relaxed management, and hedgerow 1 lining the west border.
Mammal foraging signs			
Photograph		Description	
			Figure 6: On the west boundary

Native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 7: Hedgerow 1, on the north boundary
Native hedgerow and buildings	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 8: Hedgerow 2, on the east boundary and two of four brick shelters.

Buildings	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 9: Main building on site.
Native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 10: Hedgerow 3, southeast of the site, east of B1.

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