.

Land North of Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Prepared for Wheeldon Brothers 1867

November 2025

Revision 01

TURNSTONE ECOLOGY LIMITED

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SURVEY AND REPORT VALIDITY

It is important that planning decisions are based on up-to-date ecological reports and survey data. However, it is difficult to set a specific timeframe over which reports or survey data should be considered valid, as this will vary in different circumstances. In some cases there will be specific guidance on this (such as for the age of data which may be used to support a protected species licence application) but in circumstances where such advice does not already exist, the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) has provided the general advice set out below.

Age of Data / Survey / Report	*Validity*
Less than 12 months	Likely to be valid in most cases.
12-18 months	Likely to be valid in most cases with the following exceptions: • Where a site may offer existing or new features which could be utilised by a mobile species within a short timeframe; • Where a mobile species is present on site or in the wider area, and can create new features of relevance to the assessment; • Where country-specific or species-specific guidance dictates otherwise.
18 months to 3 years	A professional ecologist will need to undertake a site visit and then review the validity of the report. Some or all of the other ecological surveys updated.
Protected Species Licensing	Licence applications usually only possible using data less than 2 years old

The likelihood of surveys needing to be updated increases with time and is greater for mobile species or in circumstances where the habitat or its management has changed significantly since the surveys were undertaken. Factors to be considered include (but are not limited to):

- Whether the site supports, or may support, a mobile species which could have moved on to site, or changed its distribution within a site;
- Whether there have been significant changes to the habitats present (and/or the ecological conditions/functions/ecosystem functioning upon which they are dependent) since the surveys were undertaken, including through changes to site management;
- Whether the local distribution of a species in the wider area around a site has changed (or knowledge of it increased), increasing the likelihood of its presence.

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1 INTRODUCTION

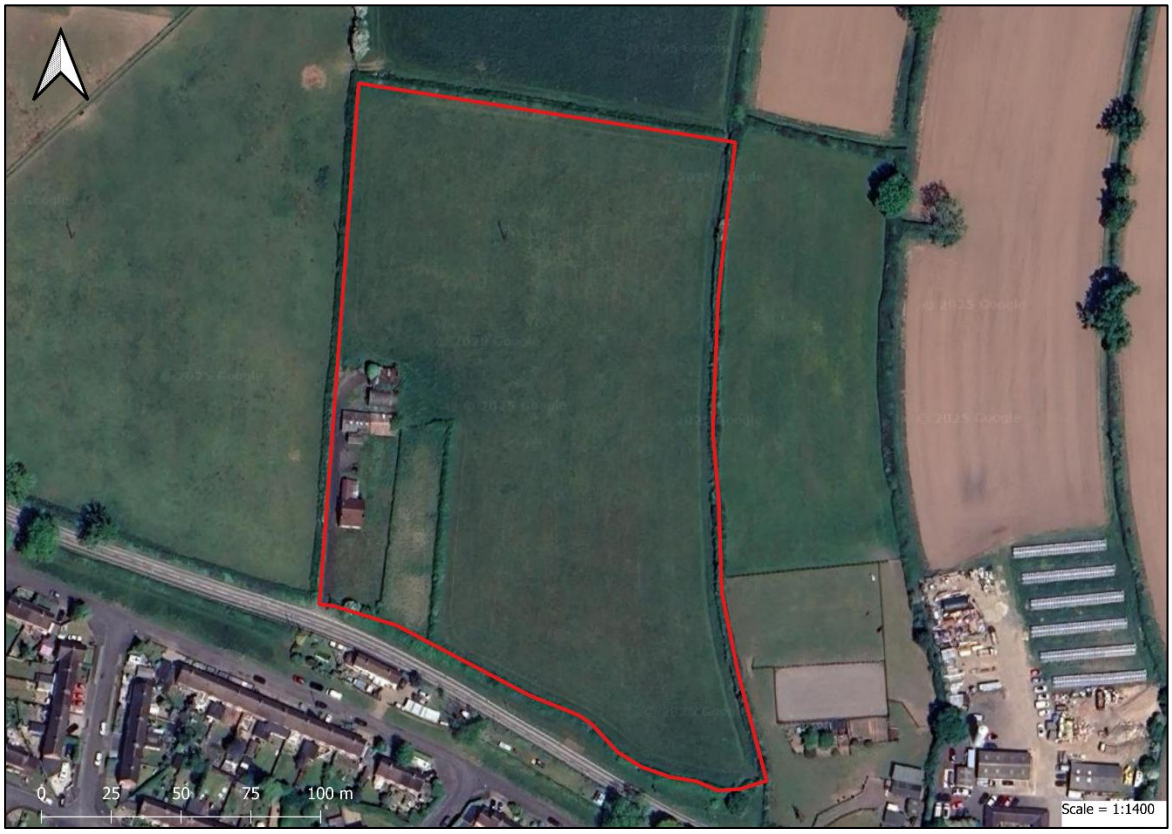
1.1 Purpose of Report

This report has been completed in connection with the proposed development at land north of Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (National Grid Reference: SK 45086 04044). The location of the proposed development site (the 'Site') is shown in *Figure 1* and the proposed development plans are fully detailed in *Section 4*. The proposed development involves the demolition of a residential building with associated barns and the construction of up to 67 dwellings with associated gardens and access roads.

A survey was conducted on the 15th of July 2025 by Turnstone Ecology Ltd and consisted of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal using the UK Habitat Classification Approach, a Protected Fauna Survey and Habitat Suitability Assessment, and a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNG) using the Statutory Metric (full version). A Preliminary Roost Assessment was also undertaken on the residential building and associated barns onsite. Bat activity surveys were completed in August 2025, in accordance with the latest survey guidelines.

This report details survey and assessment methodology along with the results of a desk-based study and on-site survey. It also provides a quantitative assessment of potential impacts from retention, loss, enhancement and creation of habitats on-site and appropriate mitigation to offset any impacts associated with the proposal and to satisfy national and local planning policies in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Figure 1. Location of proposed development ((© Google Maps 2025)

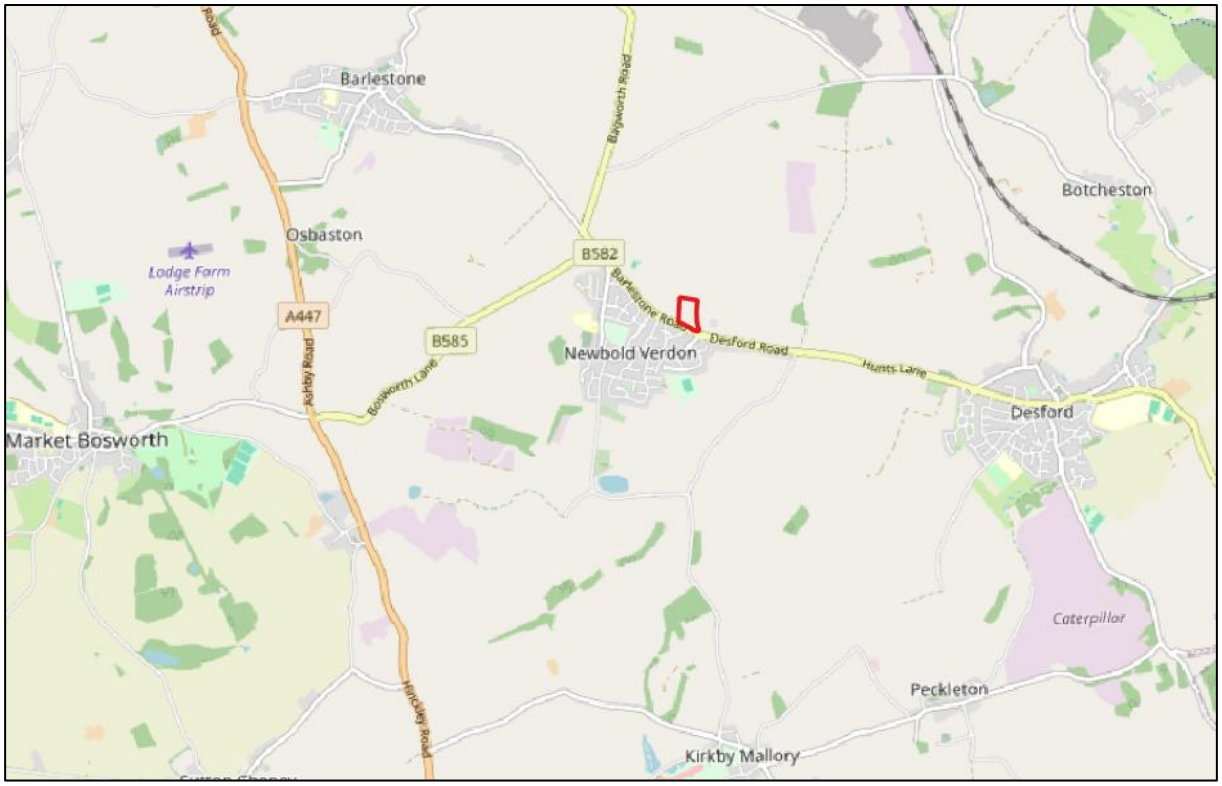


1.2 Ecological Context

The proposed development site is located within the village of Newbold Verdon (*Figure2)*, approximately 12 km west of Leicester city centre. The site comprises a disused residential building with four outbuildings, associated garden and a grassland field bordered by hedgerows. To the north, east and west of the site there are further arable and pastoral fields, and hedgerows with occasional trees.

Barlestone Road runs to the south of the site with residential and commercial properties beyond that. The wider landscape consists of the village of Newbold Verdon, agricultural fields, and hedgerows.

Figure 2. Location of proposed development



2 METHODS

2.1 Desk-based Study

A data request through the local environmental records centre was not undertaken as the site is small, the habitats that will be impacted are limited and it is very unlikely that the records obtained would impact the site assessment and mitigation proposed.

Information relating to designated sites, and historic records of protected species within 2 km of the proposed development site were obtained from Magic (www.magic.gov.uk) and other freely available information on the internet, such as planning portals.

Any relevant historic records within 2 km of the proposed development have been obtained from freely available information on the internet, such as planning portals and NBN Atlas (https://nbnatlas.org/) where unless stated otherwise, all records are provided to the NBN Atlas under licences CC-BY or OGL.

2.2 Baseline Habitat Assessment

The survey methods were based on the UK Habitat Classification approach (https://ukhab.org, updated January 2021), which is a standardised method to survey main habitat types in the UK. Plant nomenclature in this report follows Rose (Revised Edition 2006) for native, naturalised and garden varieties of vascular plant. Introduced species and garden varieties are not always identified. UK Habitat Classification is the industry standard survey method used when determining baseline conditions for Biodiversity Net Gain Assessments using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric[1].

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool has been used to determine the baseline biodiversity units for this site and how the proposed development will impact biodiversity by calculating the lost, retained, enhanced and created habitats using a quantitative approach.

2.3 Protected Fauna Survey and Assessment

The habitats on site were assessed for suitability for protected fauna that occur in the region and obvious signs and incidental sightings of protected species were noted where present. Taking into consideration the geographical region and habitat types on and adjacent to site, the protected species and species groups that could be encountered are listed below.

- Badger
- Bats
- Nesting birds
- Great Crested Newt
- Reptiles

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides

Details of initial survey methods for each relevant species are given below.

2.3.1 Badger

Where access allowed, a comprehensive assessment was carried out to identify areas that are used by Badgers (*Meles meles*) for foraging and sett digging. Signs of Badgers including setts, foraging signs, paths and latrines were recorded where present.

2.3.2 Bats

Habitats were assessed for their suitability for use by foraging or commuting bats. Areas of particular interest vary between species, but generally include sheltered areas and those habitats with good numbers of insects, such as woodland, scrub, hedges, watercourses, ponds, lakes and more species-rich or rough grassland.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

A Preliminary Roost Assessment was conducted on the buildings within the site. The Preliminary Roost Assessment was carried out during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal walkover by Anastasia Reeves who is a licenced Senior Ecologist at Turnstone Ecology (2021-10045-CL20 BAT). The licence covers the disturbance of bats in all counties in England.

A detailed inspection was made of the exterior and interior of the buildings for any evidence of bat use, such as live or dead bats, droppings, scratch marks, staining and prey remains, and in some cases the absence of cobwebs. Large quantities of cobwebs in roof voids or at access points tend to be suggestive of no bat use, although this evidence is not conclusive. Features identified as possible bat access points or potential roosting locations were thoroughly searched where possible, using powerful torches and binoculars to facilitate the process. The surveys were undertaken in good light conditions and no recent sweeping or other cleaning had been undertaken

Buildings are categorised according to their suitability for roosting bats as follows (Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn.) (2023):

None – No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bat at any time of the year (i.e., a complete absence of crevices/suitable at all ground/underground levels).

Negligible – No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.

Low – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats).

Moderate – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only).

High – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. These structures have potential to support high conservation status roosts such as maternity roosts or classic cool/stable hibernation sites.

Confirmed – where roosting bats are confirmed as being present, either by the discovery of live or dead bats, droppings, prey remains, scratching or fur-staining.

Activity Surveys

Dusk Emergence and Dawn Re-entry surveys are the primary methods for locating roosts in buildings or built structures, as bats are not always found by internal and external inspection surveys (*e.g.* if the bats roost in areas that cannot be searched and/or leave little or no visible trace). Dusk Emergence and Dawn Re-entry surveys can also give a reasonable estimate of the number of bats present and help understand how bats are using a site for foraging and commuting.

As the main farmhouse was assessed as offering moderate potential suitability for roosting bats, two activity surveys were carried out on this structure, the remaining buildings across the site were assessed as offering low potential suitability so were only subject to a single activity survey. All surveys were carried out by experienced ecologists from Turnstone Ecology and building layout and surveyor locations are show in *Figures 3 & 4*.

The surveyors used Wildlife Acoustics EchoMeter Touch 2 Pro detectors, Canon XA11 and XA30 infrared cameras, Nightfox infrared cameras and infrared floodlighting. Surveyors were positioned so that all potential exit/re-entry points could be viewed. During the surveys, bat activity was recorded on survey forms including information on time, species recorded and behaviour. Continual recording was undertaken for the duration of each survey to ensure all bat activity was recorded. Audio tracks were downloaded and assessed using the Kaleidoscope software package to confirm the identity of bats recorded during the surveys.

The surveys at the proposed development site were undertaken in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn, BCT, 2023) and covered the appropriate timings (up to 0.5 hours before sunset until at least 1.5 hours after sunset). The surveys were carried out during appropriate weather conditions (details presented in *Table 1*).

Table 1. Bat activity survey timings and weather conditions

	Dusk Survey 07.08.25		Dusk Survey 12.08.25		Dusk Survey 14.08.25		Dusk Survey 28.08.25	
Buildings Surveyed	**B5**		**B4 & B3**		**B1 & B2**		**B5**	
Time	**Start 20:33**	**End 22:18**	**Start 20:25**	**End 22:10**	**Start 20:19**	**End 22:04**	**Start 19:49**	**End 21:34**
Sunset/rise	20:48		20:40		20:34		20:04	
Temp (°C)	18	17	24	21	21	19	15	14
Wind (Beaufort)	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Cloud (Octas)	5	5	3	0	6	7	7	0
Precipitation	Rain until 21:00		None		None		None	

Figure 3. B5 Building locations and surveyor positions

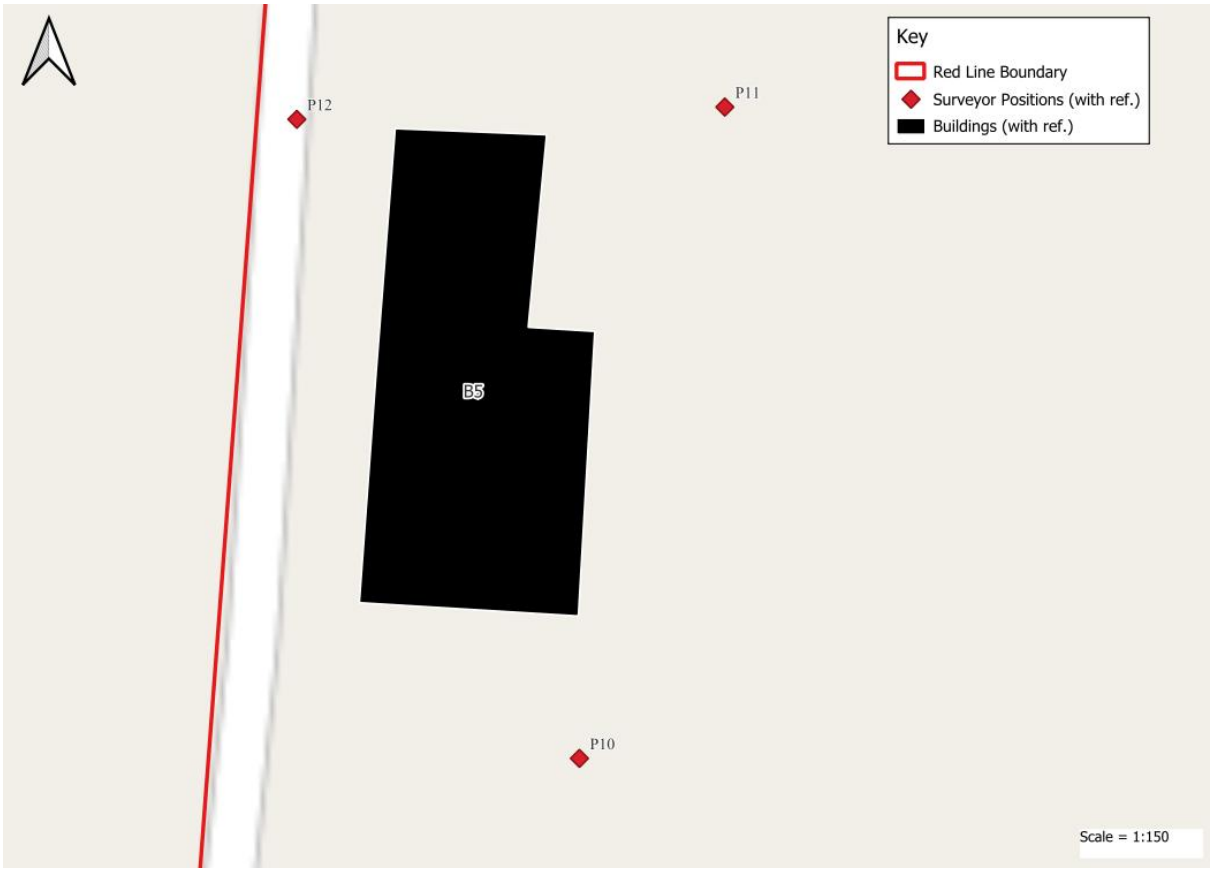
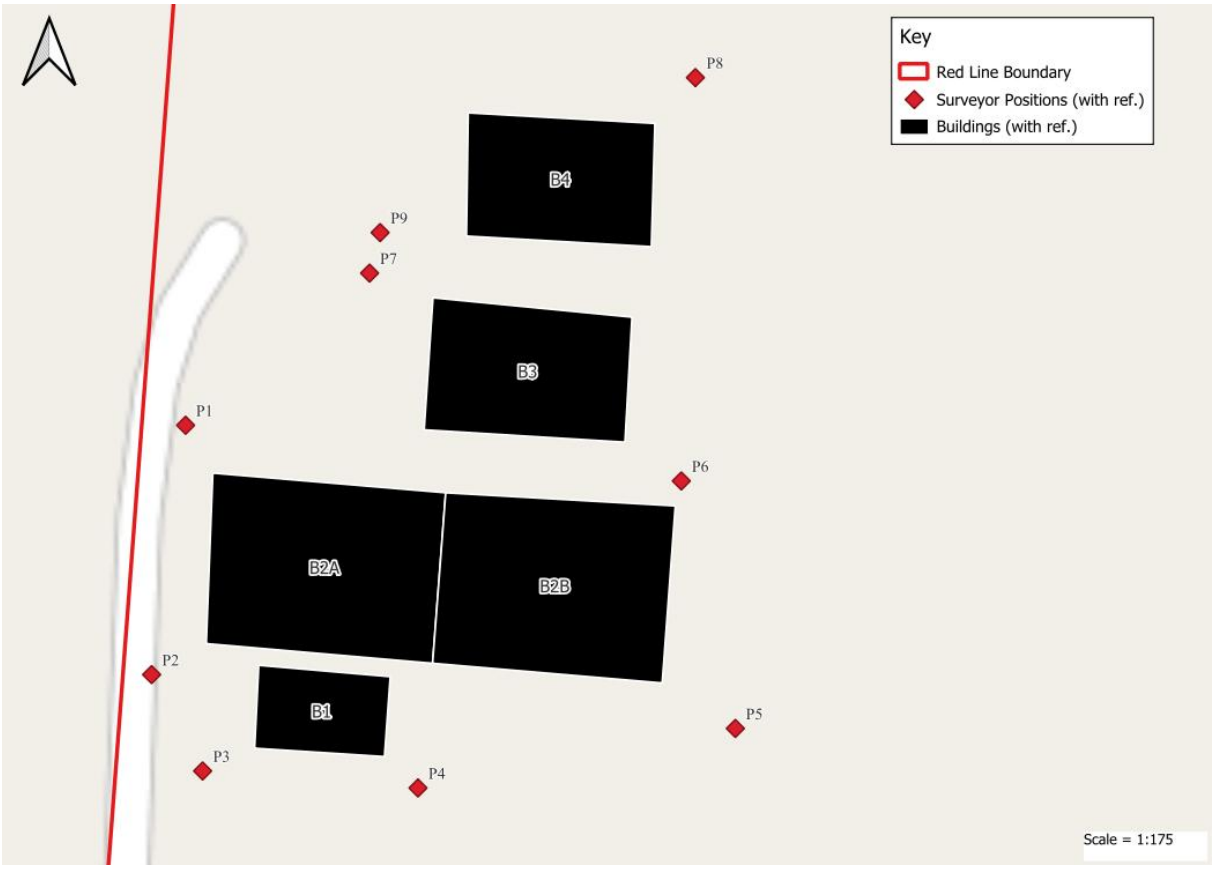


Figure 4. B1-B4 Building locations and surveyor positions



2.3.3 Nesting birds

Habitat that might be used by nesting birds was identified and actively nesting birds or evidence of nesting birds noted where present.

2.3.4 Great Crested Newt

The suitability of any aquatic and terrestrial habitat on the site, and in the immediate vicinity, was assessed for suitability for use by Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*). Great Crested Newts are known to travel up to 500m between breeding ponds and suitable terrestrial habitat, however, are only likely to travel up to 250m away from a breeding pond if there is suitable terrestrial habitat within that distance. Therefore, a desk-based search was undertaken for any ponds up to 250m from the site using OS maps and aerial imagery. The terrestrial habitat between the site and any ponds, and therefore connectivity to the site, was also considered.

2.3.5 Reptiles

The site was assessed for suitability for use by widespread species of reptiles, with particular attention paid to those features that could be used as basking areas (*e.g.* south-facing slopes), hibernation sites (*e.g.* banks, walls, piles of hardcore) and opportunities for foraging (*e.g.* rough grassland and scrub). The site was assessed for its suitability for the commoner reptile species which have broadly similar habitat requirements, but more specific requirements include those shown below (Beebee & Griffiths 2000).

- Common Lizards (*Zootoca vivipara*) use a variety of habitats from woodland glades to walls and pastures, although one habitat they use is brownfield sites
- Slow-worms (*Anguis fragilis*) use similar habitats to Common Lizards, and are often found in rank grassland, gardens and derelict land
- Grass Snakes (*Natrix natrix*) have broadly similar requirements to Common Lizards but with a greater reliance on ponds and wetlands, where they prey on amphibians
- Adder *(Vipera berus*) use a range of fairly open habitats with some cover, but are most often found in dry heath.

2.4 Constraints

During the first survey on building B5 there was rain for the first thirty minutes of the survey, however this is not considered a constraint as once the rain stopped bat activity levels were comparable to that of the other surveys.

The surveys were undertaken at a suitable time of year and full access to the entire Site was granted. As such, there were no constraints to the surveys.

2.5 Criteria for Assessment

The scientific value of habitats for nature conservation is assessed according to widely accepted criteria of which the most important are naturalness, extent, rarity, and diversity.

The assessment of impacts is based on the principles within Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) Guidance (2024) which assesses the impacts of the proposal on ecological receptors taking into consideration extent, duration, reversibility, timing, frequency and certainty.

Mitigation and enhancement is designed to reduce the level of impact upon receptors and provide ecological enhancement in order to meet current legislation and planning policy. The information below has therefore been considered during assessment.

- Criteria that have been developed to assist in the identification of statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (JNCC 2013)
- Habitats and species of Principal Importance included under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- The legal status of habitats and species according to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- CIEEM Guidelines (2024) for assessing the value of ecological receptors within a defined geographical context using the following categories: international (*i.e.* Europe); UK and national (England); regional; county; Unitary Authority; local or parish; and zone of influence. Receptors are identified as 'important' at these levels, or as 'not important
- Species protected by European directives
- Species protected by the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended)

- Other species listed as scarce or notable in literature issued by conservation organisations or learned societies *e.g.* vascular plant species listed in Stewart *et al.* (1994) and Red and Amber List Birds of Conservation Concern (Stanbury *et al.* 2021)
- Local Wildlife Site selection criteria
- National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF), 2024
- BS42020:2013 – Biodiversity Code of practice for planning and development
- Protected species handbooks and best practice guidelines

- Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
  - Habitats: Habitat targets have been set for the following habitat types found within the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland area. Broadleaved woodland, wet woodland, lowland wood-pasture and parkland, hedgerows, mature trees, eutrophic standing water, mesotrophic lakes, floodplain wetland, reedbed, fast-flowing streams, sphagnum ponds, springs and flushes, neutral grassland, heath grassland, calcareous grassland, roadside verges, field margins, rocks and built structures, urban habitat, and rivers.
  - Species: Specific targets have been set for the following species/groups found within the Leicestershire and Rutland area; Barn Owl, bats, Black Hairstreak Butterfly, Black Poplar, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper Butterflies, Dormouse, Nightingale, Otter, Purple Small-reed, Redstart, Sand Martin, Violet Helleborine, Water Vole, White-clawed Crayfish, Wood Vetch, Swifts, Swallows, and House Martins.

Biodiversity net gain is required in England under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). This statutory framework is referred to as *biodiversity net gain* in Planning Practice Guidance. Under the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain, subject to some exceptions, every grant of planning permission is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition that the biodiversity gain objective is met. This objective is for development to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat. This increase can be achieved through onsite biodiversity gains, registered offsite biodiversity gains or statutory biodiversity credits.

The biodiversity gain condition is a pre-commencement condition: once planning permission has been granted, a Biodiversity Gain Plan must be submitted and approved by the planning authority before commencement of the development. There are exemptions and transitional arrangements which disapply the condition from certain planning permissions, as well as special modifications for planning permissions for phased development and the treatment of irreplaceable habitats.

The statutory framework for biodiversity net gain also includes provisions about information requirements for planning applications and the treatment of the condition on decision notices on the grant of planning permission.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Designated Sites

There are no statutory designated sites within 2 km of the site.

3.1.2 Protected Species Licence Sites

There are no records for Protected Species Licences within 2 km of the site.

3.1.3 Great Crested Newt Licence Returns

There are no records of Great Crested Newt Licence Returns within 1 km of the site.

3.2 Ecological Surveys

UK Habitats Classification was used to record habitat types within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development site. The habitats found onsite are listed below and shown in *Figure 5*:

Habitats present onsite include:

- Other neutral grassland
- Bramble Scrub
- Hedgerows
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Buildings
- Scattered Trees

Figure 5. UKHabs Habitats Map

The site or immediately adjacent areas contain habitat suitable for the protected species listed below.

- Badger
- Bats
- Nesting birds
- Great Crested Newt
- Reptiles

3.3 Baseline Habitat Survey

3.3.1 Other Neutral Grassland (UKHabs code: g3c)

The majority of the Site consisted of other neutral grassland (*Plate 1*) which was abundant with False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). The grassland field surrounding the residential property area had recently been cut for hay, with the hay bales left in situ at the time of survey. The fenced garden area in the south of the site associated with the residential property appeared to lack regular management and had an average sward height between 50-70 cm. The grassland areas were frequent with Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus Iantus*) and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), and had occasional instances of Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), and Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata).* There were rare occurrences of Common Cat's Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Common Nettle (*Urtica Dioica*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) and Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*). Species such as Foxglove, Horsetail, and Prickly Lettuce were more common on the boundary of the grassland areas.

An area west of B3 and B4 consisted of ruderal species. Common Nettle was abundant with frequent Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). There were occasional occurrences of Willowherb spp (*Epilobium*), Foxglove, and Yorkshire Fog.

Plate 1. Other neutral grassland field on-site (looking northeast)

3.3.2 Bramble Scrub (h3d)

An area of Bramble dominated scrub was situated between the barns and surrounding the eastern end of B3 & B4. False Oat-grass frequently occurred within the scrub.

Plate 2. Bramble Scrub (Looking east)

3.3.3 Native Hedgerow (h2a6)

Six native hedgerows were present within the site, mainly occurring as borders of the site. H1 was situated along the west border of the site and was abundant with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). There were frequent instances of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium),* with occasional occurrences of Bramble and Oak (*Quercus robur*). Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) rarely occurred within the hedgerow. No margin was present along the south of the hedgerow as the access road is situated immediately adjacent to the hedgerow. However, along the north of the hedgerow, the margin consisted of False Oat-grass, Cocks Foot (*Dactylus glomerata*), Common Nettle, Bramble, and Common Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). No gaps were present within hedgerow canopy and the hedgerow appeared to have a 'relaxed' *i.e.,* infrequent management regime allowing the hedgerow to grow in width and height.

Plate 3. H1 along western boundary (Looking northwest)

H2 was situated along the southwest of the site and was abundant with Field Maple (*Acer campestre).* Holly was frequent and there were occasional instances of Oak and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*). The hedgerow did not have any gaps in the canopy and had a wide width.

H3 was located within the south of the site as a boundary to the unoccupied residential garden. The hedgerow was dominated by Hawthorn and had occasional instances of Cut-leaved Bramble (*Rubus laciniatus*) and Elder. There was rare occurrences of Holly. The hedgerow had a similar management to other hedgerows on site and the grassland margin was consistent with that of H1.

H4 was situated along the southeast border of the site and was abundant with Hawthorn. The hedge was frequent with Holly and Field Maple, with rare instances of Elder, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Oak, and Field Maple. The hedgerow was managed in a similar manner to other hedges onsite.

H5 was situated along the east boundary of the site and was frequent with Hawthorn, Holly, and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*). There were occasional instances of Blackthorn and Bramble. The hedgerow was managed in a similar manner to other hedges onsite.

H6 was located along the north boundary of the site and was dominated by Hawthorn with occasional instances of Bramble, Elder, and Oak. The hedgerow was managed in a similar manner to other hedges onsite. Rabbit warrens were observed along the hedgerow.

3.3.4 Developed land; sealed surface (u1b6)

A surfaced access road was present along the southwest of the site.

3.3.5 Buildings (u1b5)

Five buildings were present on site, including an unoccupied residential building and four disused agriculture buildings. Detailed building descriptions can be found in *Section 3.5.2.*

Plate 4. External of Building B5

3.3.6 Scattered Trees (g4 32)

Three scattered trees are present within the site. T1 is located between B1 and B2a and is a young Wild Cherry tree (*Prunus avium*). T2 is located to the east of barn B2b and is a semi-mature Ash tree. T3 is located within B4 and is a semi-mature Elder tree.

Plate 4. T2 located to east of Barn 2 (Looking south)

3.4 Biodiversity Net Gain Metric: Baseline Data

The red line area totals 2.9 Ha with 0.8 km of hedgerows. Individual area sizes per habitat were measured during the 2025 survey when habitat borders were defined and mapped. Where condition scores differed across the site for the same habitats these have been separated out to ensure proposed management prescriptions can be targeted per habitat and are based upon the current baseline habitat conditions.

A summary of the habitats present on site, current habitat condition scores and their total area size (per habitat) in hectares can be seen in *Table 3* with the same including length for hedgerows shown in *Table 4*. Habitat/hedgerow unit values, as calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Tool have also been included within the tables below.

Table 3. Area sizes and condition scores for all baseline habitats present on site

Habitat Type	Condition	Area Size (Ha)	Habitat Units
Other Neutral Grassland	Poor	2.8234	11.29
Bramble Scrub	Poor	0.0051	0.02
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A – Other	0.0908	0
Tall Forbs	Moderate	0.0061	0.02
Urban Tree	Poor	0.0081	0.03
Urban Tree	Moderate	0.0041	0.03
Total: (Not including Individual Trees)		2.93	11.33 (11.39 with trees)

Table 4. Length and condition scores for all baseline hedgerows present on site

Hedgerow Ref	Hedgerow Type	Condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow Units
H1	Native hedgerow	Moderate	0.186	0.75
H2	Native hedgerow with trees	Good	0.037	0.44
H3, H4, H5, H6	Native hedgerow	Good	0.58	3.48
Total:			0.803	4.67

3.5 Protected Fauna

3.5.1 Badger

There are twelve records of Badger within 2 km of the Site. No signs of Badger evidence were observed within the Site boundary. The hedgerows bordering the Site are suitable for sett creation. Grassland, scrub, and scattered trees within the Site provide suitable foraging habitat for Badgers.

3.5.2 Bats

The grassland, tall forbs, trees and hedgerows on site offer some foraging and commuting habitat for bat species and provides commuting routes to the wider environment.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

The detailed results of the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) can be found in *Table 5* below.

Table 5. Preliminary Roost Assessment results

Building ref.	External Building Description	Internal Building Description	Potential Access Points and Roosing Features	Evidence of Bats	Potential Suitability
B1	Single-storey corrugated composite clad barn with a pitched corrugated composite roof with a metal ridge. Wooden cladding and barge boards were present on the eastern aspect.	The roof was not underlined. Very bright inside due to clear PVC panels on the eastern aspect and gaps in the corrugated sheets. Currently disused. Simple wooden frame with wooden ridge board and purlins. Mouse droppings were present.	Potential access points included gaps between the roof and wall sheets and gaps in the wooden cladding. Potential roosting features were limited to small superficial gaps in the wooden frame and wooden barge boards.	No evidence of bats.	**Low**
B2a	Single-storey breezeblock and brick-built barn with corrugated composite pitched roof. A wooden door was present on the west aspect, and the building adjoined B2b on the east aspect.	Very bright inside due to PVC rooflights. Wooden purlins present. Used for storage.	Potential access points included gaps around the wooden door and gaps between the roof sheets and walls. Potential roosting features were limited to gaps around the wooden purlins and some small areas of missing mortar on the internal brick and breezeblock walls.	No evidence of bats	**Low**
B2b	Single-storey brick-built outbuilding with pitched corrugated composite roof. Adjoins B2a on western aspect. Wooden barge boards present. Old wooden framed windows present on north and south aspect.	Internally, the roof was unlined and PVC skylights were present. The skylights and windows result in the building being very bright inside. Wooden purlins and rafters were present. Currently used for storage.	Potential access points include gaps around old window frames, and gaps between the roof and walls. Potential roosting features were limited to gaps around the wooden purlins and rafters and some small areas of missing mortar on the internal brickwork.	No evidence of bats	**Low**
B3	Breezeblock and brick construction Dutch barn with curved corrugated	Internally the roof is underlined and it is a large empty space. Daylight	Potential access points include gaps between the roof and wall top on the	No evidence of bats.	**Low**

	roof. Wooden barn doors present on east and west aspect.	can be seen from gaps at the western wall top.	western aspect, and gas around the wooden doors. Potential roosting features are limited to small areas of missing mortar in the breezeblock walls.		
B4	Single-storey brick, breezeblock construction outbuilding with single pitched corrugated roof. Corrugated doors are present on the west aspect, with an adjoining breezeblock construction lean to present on the eastern aspect. Ivy has grown up and over the building on the northern aspect	Internally, the roof was underlined and the building had a wooden frame. It was very bright internally due to the PVC windows. Currently used for storage.	Potential access points included gaps around the doors and roofing sheets. Potential roosting features were limited to small crevices in the wooden frame.	No evidence of bats.	**Low**
B5	Single-storey brick-built farmhouse with a pitched tile roof that is currently unoccupied. A single-storey extension was present on the northern aspect, with a section of pitched tile roof on the west and a section of flat plastic corrugated roof on the west. Three chimney stacks were present with associated lead flashing. Wooden fascia boards were present on the extension. All windows had wooden frames. Overall, the roof was in good condition, with only a small number of raised tiles on the extension. A boarded-up doorway	Internally, the building was in varying states of disrepair with a number of holes in the ceiling and water damage. A single roof void was present, the roof was lined with bitumen felt and a wooden ridge board, purlins and rafters were present.	Potential access points included a gap around the boarded-up doorway. Potential roost features included, the lifted tiles on the extension, the lifted lead flashing around the chimney stacks and the roof void.	No evidence of bats	**Moderate**

	was present on the western gable wall that leads into the roof void.

Plate 5. External of B1

Plate 6. Internal of B1

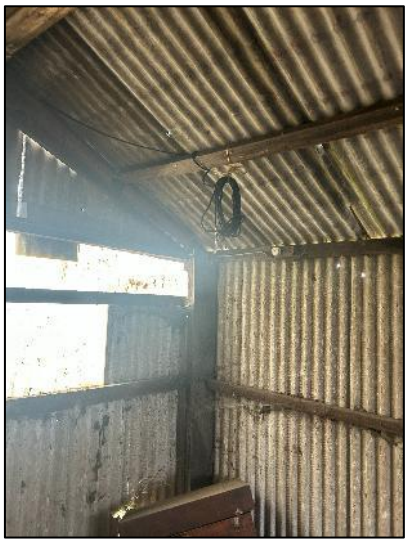


Plate 7. External of B2a

Plate 8. Internal of B2a

Plate 9. External of B2b

Plate 10. Internal of B2b

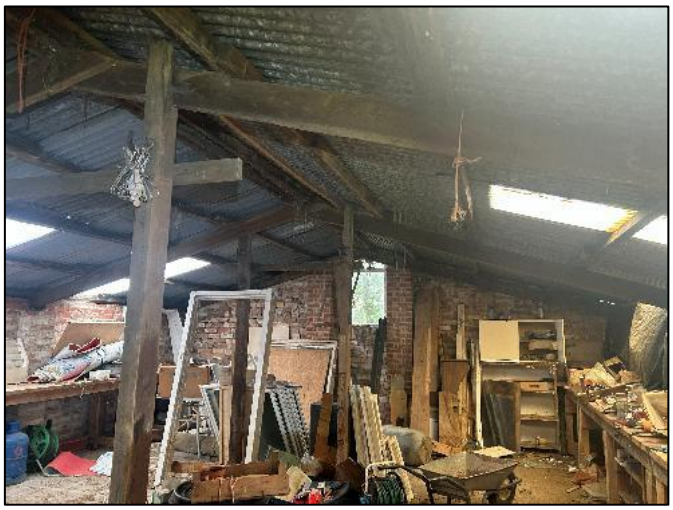


Plate 11. External of B3

Plate 12. Internal of B3

Plate 13. External of B4

Plate 14. Internal of B4

Plate 15. External of B5

Plate 16. Roof void of B5

Activity Surveys

No bats were recorded emerging from any of the buildings on site during the four surveys. Activity levels were low with individual commuting passes from Common Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*, Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus)*, Noctule *(Nyctalus noctula)*, Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus)* and *Myotis* species recorded.

3.5.3 Birds

The trees, scrub, buildings and hedgerows on and around the site provide good nesting habitat for birds. Evidence of nesting birds was present in building B4, with two old nests present in the rafters. The grassland around the buildings was unsuitable for ground nesting birds due to close boundary features. The larger grassland field had a short sward which is unsuitable for nesting birds.

3.5.4 Great Crested Newt

There were 10 records of Great Crested Newt returned within 2 km of the Site and the closest record was located approximately 0.8 km north of the Site[2]. There are two waterbodies within 250m of the site, situated approximately 140m east and 180m north of the Site. No significant dispersal barriers are present between these ponds and the site.

The adjacent proposed development (24/01061/OUT)[3] located directly to the west of this site carried out Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys of the ponds within 500m of the site in April 2024, the detailed results of which can be found in *Ecological Appraisal – Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon (March 2025, FPCR*. These surveys returned negative results for Great Crested Newts, including the pond located 180m north of this site. Access was not granted for the pond located 140m east. However, this

[2] Record: 33605348 | Occurrence record | NBN Atlas

[3] https://pa.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=externalDocuments&keyVal=SN9BLSIIH1M00

pond is isolated and surrounded by largely unsuitable arable habitat. As such Great Crested Newts are considered likely absent from the site and surrounding areas.

The hedgerows and bramble scrub provide suitable resting habitat for Great Crested Newts. In addition, the other neutral grassland provides foraging and commuting habitat for Great Crested Newts across the Site.

3.5.5 Reptiles

Three records of Grass Snake were returned within 2 km of the site, with the closest located approximately 1.3 km south of the site.

The hedgerows, bramble scrub, and neutral grassland offer some opportunities for foraging and dispersal.

3.5.6 Other Species

There are various records for Hedgehogs within 2 km of the site. Hedgerows onsite are suitable habitat for commuting, hibernating, and foraging Hedgehogs.

4 EVALUATION

4.1 Summary of Proposals

The proposed development involves the construction of up to 67 dwellings with associated gardens and access roads (*Figure 6*). A play area is proposed in the centre of the site with a Sustainable Drainage System basin located in the south of the site. A public right of way will be retained in the east of the site.

Figure 6. Landscape Plan

4.2 Designated Sites

There are no statutory designated sites within 2 km of the site, as such, statutory designated sites will not be impacted by the works.

4.3 Habitats, Impacts and Mitigation

4.3.1 General

The proposed development will affect habitats of ecological value, including other neutral grassland, hedgerows and trees. All of H3 and a small section of H4 is to be lost to facilitate the proposals, however, all other hedgerows will be retained. An area to the south of the Site is to be utilised for habitat creation.

Figure 7. Proposal Plan of the development

4.3.2 Habitat Retention

The proposed development will result in the retention of the following habitats:

Table 6. Retained and enhanced on-site hedgerow lengths

Hedgerow Type	Length to be retained (km)	Length to be enhanced (km)
Native hedgerow with trees	0.037	0
Native hedgerow	0.478	0.182
Total:	0.515	0.182

4.3.3 Habitat Creation

The proposed development will result in the creation of up to 67 dwellings. An area in the south of the site and the boundaries of the development are to be other neutral grassland and 45 native trees are to be planted across the site. A hedgerow is to be planted along the existing east hedgerow of the site to increase width and provide enhancement. A SuDS basin is to be created within the south of the site with mixed scrub planting in localised areas. A play area is to be created within the centre of the site, with public open space surrounding the area. The areas of proposed habitats and hedgerows are displayed in *Table 7*.

Table 7. Proposed on-site habitat creation (red line development area only)

Proposed development	Habitat Type	Condition Score	Area (Ha)	Habitat Units
Residential properties, access roads, private roads	Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	1.2471	0
Public Open Space	Modified Grassland	Poor	0.3089	0.60
Wildlife area in the south of Site	Other Neutral Grassland	Poor	0.6229	2.32
Scrub planting	Mixed Scrub	Moderate	0.0685	0.46
Children's Play Area	Artificial Unvegetated, Unsealed Surface	N/a - Other	0.0107	0
Sustainable Drainage System Basin	SuDS	Moderate	0.1494	0.36
Residential Gardens	Vegetated Garden	Condition Assessment – N/A	0.5179	1
Tree planting	Individual Trees	Poor	0.1832	0.51
Total:			2.93 (Not including trees)	5.25

Table 8. Proposed on-site hedgerow creation (red line development only)

Proposed development	Hedgerow Type	Condition Score	Length (Ha)	Habitat Units
Hedgerow planting along H1	Species rich hedgerow	Moderate	0.296	1.98
Hedgerow planting within development area	Native hedgerow	Poor	0.282	0.54
Total:			0.58	2.52

4.4 Statutory Metric Summary

The proposed development will result in a net loss of 6.16 habitat area units which equates to a **53.98% net loss on habitats** and a net gain of 2.24 hedgerow linear units which equates to a **47.92% net gain on hedgerows.** It is not possible to achieve a net gain onsite with the current proposed layout, as such, offsite units will be sought to achieve a biodiversity net gain in habitat area units. Approximately 7.30 habitat units will be required.

Trading rules have been met for hedgerow linear units but not for habitat area units. Habitats of medium distinctiveness or higher will be required. Biodiversity Net Gain habitat plans and full habitat trading rules tables can be seen in Appendix 6 and 7.

Figure 8. Statutory Metric Summary

On-site baseline	*Habitat units*	11.40
	Hedgerow units	4.67
	Watercourse units	0.00
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	5.25
	Hedgerow units	6.90
	Watercourse units	0.00
On-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	-6.16
	Hedgerow units	2.24
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	-6.16
	Hedgerow units	2.24
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	-53.98%
	Hedgerow units	47.92%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	11.40	12.54	7.30
Hedgerow units	10.00%	4.67	5.13	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

4.5 Habitat Management

4.5.1 General

Management prescriptions will be implemented for all retained and created habitats on site to ensure the net gains detailed within this report are met.

Full details of required management, per habitat type, will be detailed in full within the accompanying Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. This plan will cover a period of 30 years and will include the following management prescriptions for each habitat (prescriptions below are summarised, detailed management will be found in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan).

4.5.2 Other Neutral Grassland Creation

Other neutral grassland will be created by sowing a suitable seed mixture such as Emorsgate EM3 Special General-Purpose Meadow Mixture, or similar. The grassland will be managed to encourage varied sward height and grazing will be reduce in this area to selected periods. The seed mixture will need to include Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) which is a plant which promotes floral diversity through controlling vigorous grass populations.

4.5.3 Individual Tree Planting

Approximately 45 trees are to be planted within the site. The trees will be of native origin and from a local source. Species such as Field Maple, Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia), Apple, Pear (*Pyrus communis)*, and Plum can be used. Pit planting will be used as a method for planting the saplings. Mulching or a weed suppressing mats will be used to aid good establishment of the tree. The saplings will be planted between November and March and staked and protected with bio-degradable tree guards to prevent pest damage. This will provide enhancement to the site for species such as nesting birds and foraging bats, resulting in an overall improvement. The new saplings will be monitored for a minimum of 5 years to check establishment and if die-back or failure to establish occurs then re-planting will be required. Tree planting will replace the original species and be of a similar size. Once established, the tree guards will be removed.

4.5.4 Hedgerow Creation

New hedgerow plants should be fully hardened off 40 – 60 cm bare root whips (1 + 1), planted at a density of six plants per metre (double spaced) between November and March and staked and protected with a bio-degradable tree/rabbit guard.

Locally occurring native species from British grown stock of local provenance will be used and hedgerow planting can include a mix of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana)*, Elder, Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Holly, Dog Rose and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum)*. At least five native species will be planted to form the hedge along H1.

A water supply will be provided at planting of a minimum 170 litres per standard/large, feathered tree, 10 litres per transplant tree or 4 litres per shrub and mulching or weed suppressing mats used to aid good establishment of woody species. Herbicides (*e.g.* Glyphosate) will not be used either at the planting stage or in long-term site management practices.

4.5.5 Mixed Scrub Creation

Shrub planting must use standard or heavy standard stock, these shrubs have a higher chance of survival once planted and offer immediate value to wildlife. Scrub species will be of native origin and will consist of a mixture of at least three of the following species: Hawthorn, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder, Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Holly, Bramble. Where possible a higher proportion of fruiting or nut producing shrubs should be used as these offer year-round food resources for wildlife locally. Management of newly planted shrubs will be required with rabbit guards, weed suppressing mats and regular watering carried out to ensure the shrubs establish and thrive. Any shrubs that fail to establish will be replaced with a like-for-like specimen.

4.5.6 Attenuation Basin

The SuDS feature is to be managed for wildlife purposes and will be sown with a water-tolerant seed mixture such as Emorsgate EP1 Pond edge mixture, to enhance the botanical value of the feature and benefit invertebrates.

4.6 Protected Fauna

To protect species of note and maintain and increase biodiversity of the site, the following mitigation measures and safe working methods will need to be incorporated into the proposals.

4.6.1 Badger

No evidence of Badgers were observed during the survey. Suitable habitat for sett creation was present within the site (boundary hedgerows). To ensure no setts have been created since the survey, a pre-construction walkover of the site will be conducted.

There is potential for Badgers to commute through the Site during construction works. To ensure Badgers are not harmed during construction, the following best practice measures will be followed:

- Ensure excavations or trenches left overnight are covered or have an escape route such as a shallow gradient at one or both ends (or a mammal ramp placed at one end).
- Ensure excavations or trenches are inspected each morning and evening to ensure no mammals have become trapped.
- Open pipework with a diameter of more than 120mm will be properly covered or capped at the end of the working day to prevent small mammals from entering and becoming trapped.
- During the work, the storage of any chemicals will be contained appropriately so that they cannot be accessed or knocked over by any roaming mammals.
- Litter, tools and potentially dangerous materials on site will be cleared at the end of the working day. Care will be taken that there are no sharp metal objects or pointed protrusions on the ground.

4.6.2 Bats

Based on the results of the PRA the Farmhouse (B5) was assessed as *Moderate* potential suitability for roosting bats and was subject to two dusk emergence surveys, the remaining building on site were assessed as *Low* potential suitability for roosting bats and were subject to a single dusk emergence survey as per best practice survey guidelines.

No bats were identified roosting within the buildings on site during the surveys, as such bats are not considered a constraint to this development.

To provide enhancement for bats across the development integrated bat boxes (Habibat built in bat box or similar) should be fitted into five of the new dwellings on southern elevations. The design of these boxes allows any droppings to fall out and they will therefore not require any maintenance. As the bats

will be contained in these roosting features there are no restrictions on the use of Breathable Roofing Membranes (BRMs) or dry-ridge technology providing that tightly fitting or interlocking roof tiles are used.

If any new lighting is proposed, then the following measures will be considered:

- Any lights will have a Corrected Colour Temperature of less than 2700K and a brightness of under 500 lumens.
- Each light will be directed downwards with a 0-degree tilt angle and 0% upward light ratio.
- Where possible, the lights will be controlled by a PIR sensor with a maximum over-run time of 10 minutes.
- The lighting will be directed away from roosting provisions, hedgerows, and trees, and the use of downlighting will ensure that suitable foraging and commuting habitats remain unlit.
- All existing and any new lighting will also be directed away from access / egress points including those of the recommended bat boxes, and this will likely improve the suitability of the new buildings for roosting bats.

4.6.3 Nesting Birds

The removal of the hedgerows, scrub, and trees and the demolition of buildings will need to occur outside of breeding bird season, which is between March-August inclusive. If the vegetation clearance and demolition works cannot occur within this time, a nesting bird check will be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure no active nests are present within the vegetation to be removed. The vegetation clearance will need to occur within 24 hours of the nesting bird check. If an active bird nest is found, works will cease and an appropriate buffer maintained around the nest until all young have fledged.

Enhanced nesting opportunities on site will be provided through the provision of additional nesting bird habitat. Integrated nest boxes will be installed on five of the newly erected houses.

4.6.4 Great Crested Newt

Two waterbodies are located within 250m of the Site, with the closest pond located 140m from the site. Ten records of Great Crested Newt were recorded within 2 km of the Site, however, the closest record was situated approximately 0.8 km from the site. Furthermore, there are no protected species licences for Great Crested Newts within 2 km of the site. eDNA surveys showed that Great Crested Newt were absent from the pond to the north of the site and access was not granted to the pond to the east.

Habitat suitable for Great Crested Newts within the site consisted of a small area of Bramble scrub, hedgerows. Only hedgerows and scrub in the site are suitable for hibernating and dispersing Great Crested Newts as the majority of grassland had a short sward and was not tussocky, therefore has limited suitability for commuting. H3 and a small section of H4 is to be lost to facilitate the proposals, however, all other hedgerows are to be retained.

Great Crested Newts are considered to be absent from the site and surrounding areas however to mitigate any potential impacts to commuting Great Crested Newts the following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be adhered to:

- Vegetation is to be maintained at a short sward height.
- Prior to commencement of works the ecologist will give a tool box talk to the contractors and staff on site, informing them of the areas suitable for amphibians and reptiles, safe working measures to be followed and what to do in the highly unlikely event of a Great Crested Newt being found at any time during works.
- Groundworks to only take place after a hand search by and under supervision of an experienced ecologist and when amphibians and reptiles are normally active (mild and damp conditions between February and November) under an ecological watching brief.
- Pre and during construction, building materials should be stored raised up off the ground (i.e. on pallets) and away from the site boundaries.
- Any excavated earth should be removed off-site the same day it is excavated where possible however if it is to be stored on site temporarily it should be stored in bulk bags or a skip away from the site boundaries to reduce the risk of amphibians using it for cover.
- If a Great Crested Newt is found at any stage of the works, then works will cease and an appropriate course of action agreed with Natural England (likely to be obtaining a mitigation licence before works can re-start).
- If works have not commenced by 2026 then an update eDNA survey should be carried out before works begin.

4.6.5 Reptiles

The hedgerows and scrub have some suitability for foraging and dispersing reptiles. H2 and a section of H4 is to be lost, however, the rest of the hedgerows are to be retained. Due to the extent of suitable habitat to be lost and distance of the site to know Reptile records, a significant impact on Reptiles by the development is not expected.

However, precautionary Reasonable Avoidance Measures will be adhered to and will include:

- All methods to be undertaken with regard to and within the requirements of any other species mitigation;
- Vegetation that will be removed will be cut down and maintained at 100 mm prior to the commencement of the development and up to the start of construction;
- Any areas of more suitable habitat being impacted (such as hedgerows) should be searched by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal.
- All building materials to be stored a minimum of 5m away from site boundaries and raised on pallets; and
- In the highly unlikely event of reptiles being found during works, all work must stop immediately. An ecologist should be contacted, and an appropriated course of action agreed before works continue.

4.6.6 Other Species

Habitats onsite are suitable for Hedgehogs. To ensure small mammals are not impacted by the works, best practice guidelines stated for Badgers (Section 4.6.1) will be followed throughout construction. As H3 and a section H4 are to be removed, this could impact commuting Hedgehogs across the Site. As such where any permanent fencing is to be constructed, small 15x15cm mammal holes will be installed within these fences. 'Hedgehog Highway' signs (available from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society) will be installed above these holes to prevent them being filled in in the future. This will help to maintain their permanency and so the connectivity for mammals, such as hedgehogs, around the site and to the surrounding landscape.

5 LEGAL PROTECTION

This section briefly describes the legal protection afforded to the protected species referred to in this report. It is for information only and is not intended to be comprehensive or to replace specialised legal advice. It is not intended to replace the text of the legislation but summarises the salient points.

5.1 Badger

Badger is protected in Britain under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* and *Schedule 6* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). The legislation affords protection to Badgers and Badger setts, and makes it a criminal offence to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a Badger, or to attempt to do so;
- interfere with a sett by damaging or destroying it;
- to obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a Badger sett; or
- to disturb a Badger when it is occupying a sett.

5.2 Bats

All species of British bat are protected by *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) extended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take a bat;
- possess or control a bat;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost; and
- intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat whilst is occupies a bat roost.

Bats are also listed on *Schedule 2* of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat;
- deliberately disturb bats in such a way as to be likely to (a) impair their ability to: (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b), to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong; and
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat; and
- possess, control, transport, sell, exchange a bat, or offer a bat for sale or exchange.

All bat roosting sites receive legal protection even when bats are not present.

Where it is necessary to carry out an action that could result in an offence under the regulations protecting bats and their roosts it is possible to apply for Mitigation Licence from Natural England (NE) or Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Three tests must be satisfied before this licence (to permit otherwise prohibited acts) can be issued:

- Regulation 55(1)(a) states that licences may be granted to "preserve public health or public safety or 55(6)(a) other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment."
- Regulation 55(2) and 55(7)(a) states that a licence may not be granted unless "there is no satisfactory alternative".
- Regulation 55(7)(b) states that a licence, in respect of imperative reasons of overring public interest (IROPI), cannot be issued unless the action proposed "will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range".

5.3 Nesting Birds

All species of bird are protected under *Section 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). The protection was extended by the CRoW Act.

The legislation makes it an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Certain species of bird are listed on *Schedule 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and receive protection under *Sections 1(4)* and *1(5)* of the Act. The protection was extended by the CRoW Act. The legislation confers special penalties where the above-mentioned offences are committed for any such bird and also make it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb any such bird, whilst building its nest or it is in or near a nest containing dependant young; or
- disturb the dependant young of such a bird.

5.4 Great Crested Newt

Great Crested Newt is listed on *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), and receive full protection under *Section 9*. These species are also listed on *Schedule 2* of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*. Protection was extended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* (the CRoW Act).

Under the above legislation it is an offence to:

- kill, injure or take an individual of such a species;
- possess any part of such species either alive or dead;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place or structure used by such species for shelter, rest, protection or breeding;

- intentionally or recklessly disturb such a species whilst using any place of shelter or protection; or
- sell or attempt to sell any such species.

The Great Crested Newt is included as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and also as a species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England under *Section 74* of the CRoW Act.

5.5 Common Reptile Species

Common Lizard, Grass Snake, Slow-worm and Adder are listed under *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), in respect of *Section 9(5)* and part of *Section 9(1)*. This protection was extended by the CRoW Act.

Under the above legislation it is an offence to:

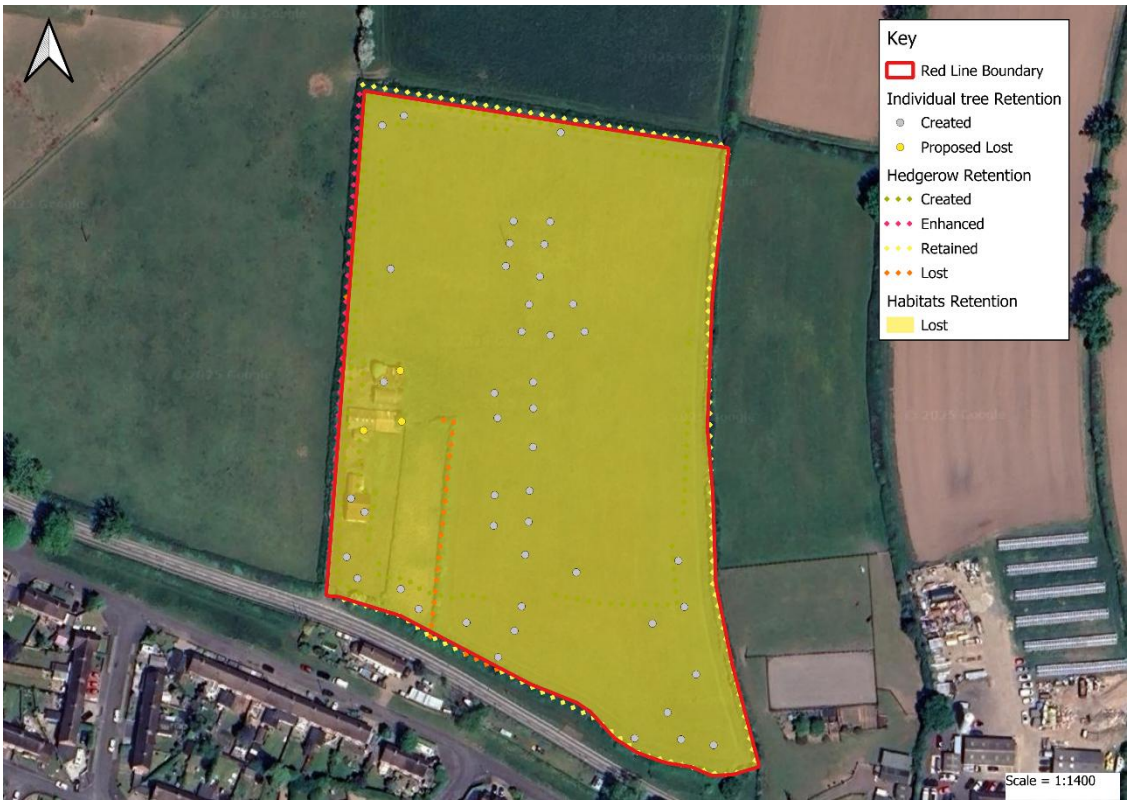
- intentionally or deliberately kill or injure any individual of such a species; or
- sell or attempt to sell any part of the species alive or dead.

6 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN PLANS

Figure 9. Baseline Plan

Figure 10. Proposed Habitat Plan

Figure 11. Retention Plan



7 HABITAT TRADING RULES SUMMARIES

Figure 12. Habitat Area Unit Trading Summary

Trading Summary		
Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required – bespoke compensation option ⚠	Yes ✓
High	Same habitat required =	Yes ✓
Medium	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (≥)	No ▲
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	Yes ✓

Figure 13. Hedgerow Linear Unit Trading Summary

Trading Summary		
Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required =	Yes ✓
High	Like for like or better	Yes ✓
Medium	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓
Very Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓