

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Survey site:

142 Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester LE60DP

Client:

Andrew Vallis

Survey date:

13/07/2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The proposal is described as the construction of a dwelling, associated car parking, and driveway.

On the assumption that site conditions and habitats remain unchanged, the results of this assessment will remain valid for 18 months from the date of this survey i.e. until January 2028, in accordance with CIEEM guidance in the lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys. This survey and report should be updated if a planning application has not been submitted within this timeframe.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following is work you will need to commission to obtain planning permission and to comply with legislation. Further information, along with opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, are outlined in the proceeding sections of this report.

Table 1: Summary of key findings arising from this survey.

Key Findings
▪ The habitats on site are of no specific conservation value but have value at the local level. These are to be partially destroyed. Loss or damage will contribute to net losses of biodiversity locally. There are no specific concerns relating to Protected or otherwise Important Species or Assemblages of a scale warranting further investigation. ▪ The proposed development will be exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, as the site falls below the 0.2-hectare threshold and does not impact any priority habitat. ▪ Various precautionary working methods have been recommended which have been fully detailed within the fauna section of this report. ▪ A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during and post-development, which will be designed to incorporate the measures laid out in the latest (2023) bat lighting guide Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting¹.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the PEA was to obtain data on existing ecological conditions, and to conduct a preliminary assessment of the likely significance of ecological impacts on the proposed development.

No previous ecology reports have been produced for this site by Arbtech Consulting Ltd or, to the author’s knowledge, by any other consultancy.

Methodology

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2025](#).

Survey Details

The site survey was undertaken on 13/07/2026 by Joshua New BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist, an ecologist with one year of experience.

Table 2: The weather conditions during the survey.

Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
20.5	54.0	65	24.4	None

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.

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.

2. SITE LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

2.1 Summary of Survey Findings

Site Location & Context

The site is centred at National Grid reference SK 53028 07274 and has an area of approximately 0.10ha. The site comprises a private vegetated garden, the majority being formed of common and widespread grassland species.

An area of mixed scrub is present along the western border of the garden, and a short native hedgerow lies along the northwestern border of the site.

The site is enclosed by fencing to the east, south, and west, whilst to the north lies the wider owned boundary, similarly comprising vegetated garden.

The site is located within an urban setting, surrounded by urban development primarily in the form of housing with associated vegetated gardens, and hardstanding in the form of roads and driveways. The wider landscape is characterised by urban development interspersed with fragmented areas of grassland and woodland. Much of the surrounding development comprises residential housing estates and major transport routes, including the A50 and A46, located approximately 250m and 500m from the site, respectively. Despite this urban setting, small pockets of woodland, networks of hedgerows, and other vegetated linear features remain, providing connectivity between the existing grassland habitats.

A review of historic mapping indicates that the surrounding landscape has undergone substantial change since the 1800s. Historically, the site formed part of a large area of open grassland, but has since been progressively developed, resulting in the predominantly urban character present today.

There are no ponds or watercourses within or adjacent to the site. The closest watercourse is a small brook that lies approximately 350m northwest of the site. A variable soil and subsoil typically Peat or layered clay, sand and silt (riverine). Highly variable pH due to mixed parent materials.

Priority Habitats

There are seven priority habitats within 2km of the site. These comprise deciduous woodland, open mosaic habitats on previously developed land, lowland fens, ancient & semi-natural woodland, ancient, replanted woodland, lowland meadows and infilled ancient wood pasture. The closest priority habitat comprises deciduous woodland, located 255m NW from the site.

Due to the site's surroundings being heavily urbanised, with dense residential development, hardstanding, and main roads dominating the local landscape, the site is not considered to be well-connected to any priority, important, or otherwise more extensive, habitats in the immediate vicinity.

Designated Sites

Statutory Designations within 2km

There are two statutory designations within 2km of the site, as detailed below:

Table 3: The statutory designated sites within 2km of the site boundary.

Designation	Reason	Distance from Site
Grobby Pool And Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Grobby Pool and Woods SSSI is designated for its nationally important wetland and woodland habitats. The site comprises Leicestershire's largest natural lake, together with species-rich aquatic vegetation, extensive reedbeds, marsh communities and wet woodland, which support a diverse assemblage of flora and associated fauna.	985m NW
Sheet Hedges Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Sheet Hedges Wood SSSI is designated for its ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland, comprising one of the best remaining examples of ash-maple and wet alder woodland on clay soils in Leicestershire. The site supports a diverse assemblage of ancient woodland flora and provides important habitat for a range of woodland fauna.	1145m N

SSSI Risk Zone

The site does fall within two impact risk zones for Groby Pool and Woods SSSI however, the proposed development type is not listed as possible high risk with regard to this designation.

Non-Designated Sites

The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from the local records centre. Whilst some habitats in the wider landscape may host designations, the immediate environs of the site do not host habitats likely to be of designable quality.

2.2 Foreseen Impacts

No direct impacts to any designated sites will occur as a result of the proposed development, due to the small scale and low overall impact of the development from such sites (where known), alongside additional factors such as distance in combination with connectivity disrupting barriers.

2.3 Recommendations

No recommendations.

3. ONSITE HABITATS

This section 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.

3.1 Summary of Survey Findings

Modified grassland (g4) - Vegetated garden (828)

An amenity lawn forms the majority of the site; the majority being comprised of grass. This grassland is actively managed via regular mowing, resulting in a short sward of ~4cm. No signs of compaction or damage are present, resulting in areas of bare ground totalling <10% of the site. The western portion of the amenity lawn is formed of an area of mixed scrub.

Table 4a: Species abundance for vegetated garden.

Abundance	Species
Dominant	Perennial Rye-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>)
Abundant	-
Frequent	Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), Yorkshire-fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)
Occasional	Creeping Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla reptans</i>), Smooth Meadow-grass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>), Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>), Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i>), False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)
Rare	Springy turf-moss (<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>), Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>), Wood Avens (<i>Geum urbanum</i>), Early Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>), Caper Spurge (<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>)

In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, this habitat is not subject to a condition assessment.

Native hedgerow (h2a)

The northwestern boundary of the site is enclosed by native hedgerow. The hedgerow does not appear to be actively maintained and is approximately ~2m(h) and ~1.5m(w) and is free of non-native and invasive species. The hedgerow appears densely vegetated at both canopy and understory level, with no vertical or horizontal gaps in the foliage. The hedgerow has a <50cm gap of undisturbed ground vegetation at its base, which was free of plants indicative of nutrient enrichment. The hedgerow appears free of damage caused by human activities along its length.

Species present within this habitat include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble sp. (*Rubus sp.*).

In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets, the native hedgerow was assessed to have a moderate condition value.

Mixed scrub (h3h)

An area of mixed scrub forms the western boundary of the site. The scrub is unmanaged and supports a ground flora comprising species distinct from those associated with the adjacent modified grassland.

Species present within this habitat include bramble sp. (*Rubus sp.*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), cherry sp. (*Prunus sp.*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets, the mixed scrub was assessed to have a poor condition value.

3.2 Foreseen Impacts

The proposed development will result in the loss of some modified grassland associated with the vegetated garden habitat. This is likely to have a minimal impact on biodiversity due to the low ecological value of this habitat. However, this could lead to a net loss in biodiversity at the site.

3.3 Recommendations

Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction. This should include the following measures:

- Remove only the minimum of habitat required to facilitate the development
- Use of Heras or other appropriate fencing to prevent encroachment by contractors onto retained habitats.
- Protect retained turf and soil resource from destruction and compaction using plastic matting and wooden boarding. Do not store skips and other heavy materials on retained turf.
- Grasscrete, cell web or any other porous surface treatment facilitating recovery of vegetation is preferred to hard standing.

The proposed development will be exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, as the site falls below the 0.2-hectare threshold and does not impact any priority habitat.

4. INVASIVE SPECIES

This section 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.

4.1 Summary of Survey Findings

No non-native invasive or otherwise problematic plants were recorded on site or are considered likely to be on site, but given seasonal limitations and the sites wider context, may be visible at other times of year.

4.2 Foreseen Impacts

None.

4.3 Recommendations

No further surveys but remain vigilant.

5. FAUNA: BATS

This section 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.

5.1 Summary of Survey Findings

EPSL data and local records

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 the site, as detailed below:

Table 5: EPSL survey returns for bats within a 2km radius.

EPSL Reference	Bat Species Affected	Distance from Site (EPSL records are accurate to 100m)	Impacts Allowed by Licence
EPSM2013-6361	C-PIP;S-PIP;BLE	1.9km northwest	Destruction of a resting

			place
2015-14513-EPS-MIT	C-PIP;S-PIP;BLE	1.9km northwest	Destruction of a resting place

The site is not within the zone of influence of a bat-designated SAC.

Foraging and commuting habitat

Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of vegetated garden, mixed scrub, native hedgerow, and offsite within 2km including deciduous woodland, open mosaic habitats on previously developed land, lowland fens, ancient & semi-natural woodland, ancient, replanted woodland, lowland meadows and infilled ancient wood pasture. These habitats are likely to provide micro-climatic conditions that support invertebrates that will in turn provide foraging opportunities for local bat populations.

Roosting habitat

There are no buildings or trees on the site to provide suitable roosting habitat.

5.2 Foreseen Impacts

Roosting habitat [Buildings]

There are no buildings on site, therefore no impacts are foreseen.

Roosting habitat [Trees]

There are no trees on site, therefore no impacts are foreseen.

Foraging and commuting habitat

The proposed development will result in the loss of small areas of vegetated garden but given its low value and the presence of more extensive areas of foraging and commuting habitat in the locality, this is likely to be inconsequential for bats.

Artificial lighting

The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats.

5.3 Recommendations

Roosting habitat [Buildings]

None.

Roosting habitat [Trees]

None.

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/news/2023/08/bats-and-artificial-lighting-at-night-ilp-guidance-note-update-released>

5.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

The installation of one bat box at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats.

The bat box will be incorporated into the fabric of the new dwelling. 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.

6. FAUNA: BIRDS

This section 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.

6.1 Summary of Survey Findings

Buildings

There are no buildings on site.

Trees and vegetation

No bird nests were identified within the vegetation on-site, however vegetated garden offers foraging opportunities, whilst the mixed scrub and native hedgerow offer both nesting and foraging opportunities.

Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site is not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.

Barn Owls

The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls due to the absence of trees and buildings.

6.2 Foreseen Impacts

Buildings / trees

No impacts are anticipated on nesting birds as a result of the proposed development.

Trees and vegetation

Vegetated garden habitat will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats could result in a reduction in foraging habitat. Furthermore, the proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests in the native hedgerow and mixed scrub.

Barn Owls

None foreseen.

6.3 Recommendations

Buildings / trees

None.

Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained habitats so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works.

Trees and vegetation

Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained habitats so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works.

Barn Owls

No further barn owl surveys required.

6.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

The installation of a minimum of one bird box integrated into the proposed dwelling will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler No 17 Swift Nest Box, Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace.

Swift and sparrow boxes should be positioned at the eaves of a building and can be incorporated into the fabric of the building during construction.

7. FAUNA: REPTILES

This section 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.

7.1 Summary of Survey Findings

EPSL data and local records

A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site.

Habitat suitability

The habitats recorded on site provide limited opportunities for reptiles. The site is dominated by vegetated garden comprising heavily managed modified grassland, maintained as a short sward. Whilst this habitat may provide occasional basking opportunities, its frequent management and

lack of structural diversity substantially limit its suitability for foraging, refuge and hibernation.

A section of hedgerow and an area of mixed scrub are also present within the site. The hedgerow offers some refuge, commuting and foraging opportunities, although its size limits its overall value. In contrast, the mixed scrub, comprising a range of shrub species, provides the most suitable habitat on site, offering cover, refuge and potential hibernation opportunities, whilst the adjacent grassland may be utilised for basking, though the management regime and associated short sward limit these opportunities. Consequently, although the majority of the site is of limited suitability, the presence of mixed scrub means that the presence of reptiles cannot be discounted.

Wider landscape

The wider landscape is dominated by urban development, including dense residential housing, extensive hardstanding and major transport routes, such as the A46 and A50. Although areas of grassland, woodland and other vegetated habitats are present within the surrounding landscape, these are fragmented and lack functional connectivity with the site. Consequently, the wider landscape is considered to provide limited opportunities for reptiles to disperse to and from the site. Whilst reptiles may be present within isolated areas of suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape, their use of the site is considered unlikely due to the fragmented nature of the surrounding habitats and the absence of well-connected ecological corridors.

7.2 Foreseen Impacts

Vegetated garden habitat will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local reptile populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of reptiles, if present. Additionally, the site does not form a connective pathway or stepping stone between areas of suitable reptile habitat in the wider landscape and the development is unlikely to lead to reptile habitat fragmentation.

7.3 Recommendations

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.
- Removal of any root systems / refugia will be undertaken outside the reptile hibernation season (November – February).
- 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 advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

7.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

None required.

8. FAUNA: AMPHIBIANS

This section 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.

8.1 Summary of Survey Findings

EPSL and survey data

A review of the MAGIC database returned three EPSL records for amphibians within 2km of the site. The MAGIC database also returned evidence indicating the presence of great crested newts (GCN) resulting from historic pond surveys undertaken in 2017. These records are located 1.3km east. 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 et al. 2001). As such, the great crested newt metapopulation known to be present 1.3km east are not suitably connected to the site.

Table 6: EPSL survey returns for amphibians within a 2km radius.

EPSL Reference	Amphibian Species Affected	Distance from Site (EPSL records are accurate to 100m)	Impacts Allowed by Licence
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2017-29076-EPS-MIT	GCN	1.57km south	Destruction of a resting and breeding place
2019-41030-EPS-MIT	GCN	1.6km east	Destruction of a resting place
2015-17284-EPS-MIT	GCN	1.8km south	Unknown

A review of the MAGIC database for EPSL for great crested newts (GCN) within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. 3 EPSL were identified, as detailed below:

Table 7: Great crested newt search results.

Record type	Distance from Site
GCN class survey licence return	1.3km east

Aquatic habitat suitability (including ponds within 500m)

Great crested newts (GCN) 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 et al. 2001).

There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of six ponds within 500m. The closest pond is located 160m north. All ponds located within 500m of the site are considered to have limited potential to support functional connectivity with the site due to the highly urbanised nature of the surrounding landscape. Extensive areas of residential development, hardstanding, roads and vegetated gardens create substantial barriers to amphibian dispersal.

Ponds 1, 2 and 3 are separated from the site by residential development, vegetated gardens and two intervening roads, preventing functional terrestrial connectivity. Ponds 4 and 5 are located on the opposite side of the A50, whilst Pond 6 lies beyond the A46. These major roads are considered significant barriers to the movement of great crested newts and other amphibians. Consequently, none of the ponds within 500m are considered to be functionally connected to the site, and the likelihood of great crested newts dispersing between these water bodies and the site is considered to be very low.

A pond map showing approximate pond locations is provided in Appendix 6.

Terrestrial habitat suitability

The site provides generally limited suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians. It is dominated by vegetated garden comprising heavily managed modified grassland, which offers little shelter, refuge or foraging opportunity due to its short sward and frequent management. Whilst this habitat may be traversed by amphibians, it is considered sub-optimal for supporting terrestrial life stages.

A section of hedgerow and an area of mixed scrub are also present within the site. The hedgerow provides some cover and refuge opportunities, although its size limits its ecological value. The mixed scrub offers the most suitable terrestrial habitat on site, providing structural diversity and potential refuge for amphibians.

8.2 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 0.045ha of vegetated garden habitat. If great crested newts are present within the three ponds closest to the site (P1, P2, P3) when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces a green risk score, which states: Offence unlikely.

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)	0.01 - 0.1 ha lost or damaged	0.01
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:	0.01
Rapid risk assessment result:	GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY	

8.3 Recommendations

No further surveys required for amphibians.

8.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

None required.

9. FAUNA: RIPARIAN ANIMALS

This section 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.

9.1 Summary of Survey Findings

A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed for riparian animals (otters and water voles). No EPSLs relating to riparian animals are present within a 2km radius of the site.

Habitat suitability

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.

9.2 Foreseen Impacts

No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.

9.3 Recommendations

No further surveys for riparian animals required.

9.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

None required.

10. FAUNA: HAZEL DORMOUSE

This section 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.

10.1 Summary of Survey Findings

EPSL data and local records

A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed for hazel dormouse. No EPSLs relating to hazel dormouse are present within a 2km radius of the site.

Habitat suitability

Habitats on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, and nest building opportunities for dormice in the form of mixed scrub and the native hedgerow. However, the site is enclosed by urban infrastructure including roads and significant residential development. These landscape features fragment suitable dormice habitat in the wider landscape and are likely to limit dispersal opportunities to the site. Additionally, instances of hazel dormice in Leicestershire are rare, so the likelihood of finding these species on site is considered acceptably low. In any case, the suitable habitats on site are to be retained as part of the proposed development.

10.2 Foreseen Impacts

No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.

10.3 Recommendations

No further hazel dormouse surveys required.

10.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

None required.

11. FAUNA: BADGERS

This section 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.

11.1 Summary of Survey Findings

No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site. Further, no evidence of foraging badgers was noted within the development area. However, the site was considered suitable for badger sett excavation and foraging habitat due to the presence of grassland and mixed scrub.

11.2 Foreseen Impacts

No works will be undertaken within 30m of a badger sett. Vegetated garden habitat 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.

11.3 Recommendations

Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to badgers, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:

- 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.

11.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

None required.

12. FAUNA: INVERTEBRATES

This section 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.

12.1 Summary of Survey Findings

The habitats present on-site, including vegetated garden, native hedgerow, and mixed scrub 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.

12.2 Foreseen Impacts

None foreseen.

12.3 Recommendations

No further surveys.

12.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

None required.

13. FAUNA: OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES

This section 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.

13.1 Summary of Survey Findings

Hedgehogs

The vegetated garden, native hedgerow, and mixed scrub onsite provide limited foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs.

13.2 Foreseen Impacts

Hedgehogs

Vegetated garden habitat 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.

13.3 Recommendations

Hedgehogs

Similar to the badgers, 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.

13.4 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

Hedgehogs

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.

APPENDIX 1: SURVEY/HABITAT MAP



APPENDIX 2: LOCATION MAP



APPENDIX 3: PROPOSED PLAN



APPENDIX 4: HABITAT IMAGES



Vegetated garden



Vegetated garden



Native hedgerow



Native hedgerow



Mixed scrub



Mixed scrub

APPENDIX 5: BASELINE CONDITION SCORE TABLES

Native hedgerow (h2a) condition assessment.

	Criteria Description	Criteria Passed?
A	Height >1.5 m average along length. (The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).)	Y
A	Width >1.5 m average along length. (The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).)	N
B	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length. (This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).)	Y
B	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m. (This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).)	N
C	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least). (This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.)	N
C	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground. (The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.)	Y

D	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species. (Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website, as well as the BSBI website where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website.)	Y
D	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities. (This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).)	Y
		Total 5/8
	Condition moderate due to passing 5 of 8 criteria.	

Mixed scrub (h3h) condition assessment.

	Criteria Description	Criteria Passed?
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely match its UKHab description (where in its natural range). At least 80% of scrub is native; There are at least three native woody species ² ; And no single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	N
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	N
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	N
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N
		Total 1/5
	Condition poor due to passing 1 of 5 criteria.	

APPENDIX 6: PONDS

Pond Map



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