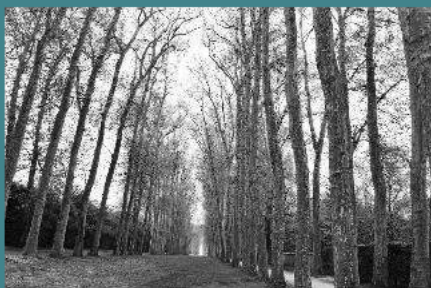


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& design



Ecological Appraisal

Client

Miller Homes Ltd

Project

**Ashby Road and Normandy Way,
Hinckley**

Date

August 2026

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Appendix A: Relevant Legislation, Policy and Guidance

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Checked/Date	Approved/Date
-	Draft	LC/14.04.26		RJS/14.04.26
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 FPCR Environment and Design Ltd were instructed by Miller Homes to provide an Ecological Appraisal to inform a Full planning application for a residential development at a site spanning two separate areas, Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley (central OS grid references SP428 963 and SP429 957 respectively).
- 1.2 This report provides the results of a Habitat survey and Preliminary Protected Species survey conducted on 28th July 2023 and updated on 30th May 2024 and 14th July 2026. The objective of the study was to determine habitats and species present within the Site and to make an initial assessment of their ecological value, along with identifying any potential ecological constraints to Site proposals.
- 1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the other ecological documents prepared for this application which included surveys and reporting for badgers¹, bats², birds³ and great crested newts⁴ along with the Biodiversity Net Gain Report⁵.

Site Context

- 1.4 The application sites, hereafter referred to as 'the Ashby Road site', 'the Normandy Way site' or collectively as 'the sites', comprise two separate redlines. The larger of the two sites (Ashby Road) is c.17.8ha, with the Normandy Way site c.2.8ha. Both sites are situated to the north of the town of Hinckley and are located approximately 350m from each other.
- 1.5 The Ashby Road site comprises three large primarily arable fields bound by native hedgerows with occasional mature tree standards. Other habitats present include a single pond (P1) and seasonally wet ditch (D1) towards the eastern boundary, narrow field margins and small areas of ruderal vegetation and bare earth soil mounds.
- 1.6 The Normandy Way site comprises a single modified grassland field under agricultural management, bound by native hedgerows, wooden boundary fencing to the south, and residential gardens to the east.
- 1.7 Land use in the surrounding area consists of a mixture of large open arable and grassland pasture fields with boundary hedgerows, and a stream situated over 200m west of both sites.

Site Proposals

- 1.8 Full planning application for the erection of 482 dwellings on land at Normandy Way and Ashby Road, Hinckley, comprising development across two parcels including:
 - the northern parcel (off Ashby Road) for residential development, public open space, play provision, structural landscaping, sustainable drainage infrastructure and the provision of a new vehicular route;
 - the southern parcel (off Normandy Way) for residential development, public open space, landscaping and drainage infrastructure.

¹ FPCR (2026) Badger Survey Report, Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley, August 2026

² FPCR (2026) Bat Survey Report, Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley, August 2026

³ FPCR (2026) Bird Survey Report, Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley, August 2026

⁴ FPCR (2026) Great Crested Newt Survey Report, Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley, August 2026

⁵ FPCR (2026) Biodiversity Net Gain Report, Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley, August 2026

- 1.9 Together with associated access, internal roads, pedestrian and cycle connections, utilities and all other associated infrastructure.

Study Objectives

- 1.10 FPCR were commissioned to undertake a walkover survey of the site in order to identify habitats or species that may be affected by the proposals. The objectives of the study were to:
- a) Check for evidence of, or potential for, protected species;
 - b) Identify potential ecological impacts relating to the development proposals;
 - c) Identify requirements for further survey; and
 - d) Proposed mitigation measures to avoid or reduce ecological impacts as necessary.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 Details regarding the relevant national policy and legislation in relation to ecology and development sites are provided in Appendix A. Those most relevant include:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (CHSR) 2017 (as amended) in relation to:
 - European Protected Species (EPS) great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) and bats (all species).
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) in relation to:
 - All wild birds (including Schedule 1 species)
 - Schedule 5 species
 - Flora listed under Schedules 8 and 9
- Protection of Badgers Act (PBA) 1992.
- Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 in relation to various Species and Habitats of Principal Importance.
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- Environment Act 2021.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2026.
- Non-statutory protected local sites including County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) sites.
- Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP); and
- Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 In order to compile existing baseline information, relevant ecological information was requested from both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations including:
- Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)⁶;
 - Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)
- 3.2 Further inspection of colour 1:25,000 OS base maps (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk) and aerial photographs from Google Earth (www.maps.google.co.uk) was also undertaken in order to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.
- 3.3 The search area for biodiversity information was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence, as follows:
- 10km around the application area for sites of International Importance (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites).
 - 2km around the application area for sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
 - 1km around the application site for sites of County Importance (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Ecosites) and species records (e.g. protected, Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) or notable species).
- 3.4 When reporting consultation data, records were filtered to include only those from the previous 20 years (since 2006), however, professional judgement has also been used and older records included where deemed appropriate to the overall assessment.

Walkover Habitat Survey

- 3.5 The initial field survey was conducted on 28th July 2023 and then updated on 30th May 2024 and 14th July 2026. In July 2026, the redline boundary was increased to include additional areas which had previously not been surveyed, and so these areas were initially surveyed during the update walkover on 14th July 2026. This involved a systematic walkover of the site based on the UKHab Methodology to classify the broad habitat types and identify any Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) for the conservation of biodiversity as listed within Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Habitats were broadly mapped in the field using an OS base map.
- 3.6 Where feasible, target notes and species lists were compiled for individual areas and assessments of abundance were made using the DAFOR scale. Vascular plant nomenclature follows Stace (2019)⁷. Whilst the species lists collected should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was gained during the survey to enable classification and assessment of broad habitat types and identify features likely to be of interest.

⁶ magic.defra.gov.uk

⁷ Stace, C.A. (2019). *New Flora of the British Isles*. (4th Ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Hedgerows

- 3.7 The hedgerows were assessed against the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997⁸ to ascertain whether any qualified as 'Important' for nature conservation. All hedgerows were also assessed as to whether they qualified as Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006⁹ (NERC), i.e. they consisted of 80% or more native woody species. An assessment of archaeological importance as defined under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 was beyond the scope of this assessment.

Preliminary Protected Species Assessment

- 3.8 During the walkover survey, observations, signs of, or suitable habitat for, any species protected under Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA), the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (CHSR) and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 were recorded. Consideration was also given to the existence and use of the Site by other notable fauna such as WCA Schedule 1 bird species, Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) or Red Data Book (RDB) species.
- 3.9 Following this, a range of surveys were recommended for protected species that formed the baseline for the assessment and included the following reports:
- Badger Survey Report (FPCR 2026);
 - Bat Survey Report (FPCR 2026);
 - Combined Bird Survey Report (FPCR 2026);
 - Great Crested Newt Survey Report (FPCR 2026).

Limitations

- 3.10 Following the initial habitat survey in July 2023 and May 2024, the redline boundary was amended to include small areas of grassland road verge which were located on the eastern and southern extents of the Ashby Road site and Normandy Way site, respectively. In light of this, the update walkover survey in July 2026 included these additional areas of road verge, however, at the time of survey the grassland had been recently cut. Furthermore, like any vegetation surveys in England during the summer of 2026, the effects of the unprecedented long, hot and dry weather, were noted during the survey. In order to obtain detailed survey information, species identification was undertaken vegetatively where feasible, and as an additional measure, areas adjacent to the redline (along the same road verge) which supported a longer, uncut sward were also surveyed as it was considered they would be similar in species composition and abundance. Therefore, using professional judgement and as a precautionary approach, these areas of grassland have been classified as other neutral grassland, to ensure that the value of these habitats has been suitably accounted for.

⁸ The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. (SI 1160). London:HMSO. [Online]. Available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/ contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made)

⁹ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. London:HMSO. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

- 3.11 This assessment aims to provide baseline ecological data for the site and as such presents an overview of the habitats and features present. Due to the transient and complex nature of ecosystems, no investigation can provide a complete representation of prediction of the natural environment present, however, every effort has been made to ensure an accurate description of the site is presented following best practice guidance, experience and professional judgement.
- 3.12 The habitat map has been reproduced from detailed field notes and informed by aerial imagery, OS mapping and site maps provided by the client. The accuracy of this figure is therefore ultimately guided by the accuracy of these sources and can only be relied upon to a certain degree of resolution.

4.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

Designated Sites

- 4.1 Results of the desk study are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 A single internationally designated site is present within 10km of the sites. Ensor's Pool (SAC) was situated approximately 9.5km to the south-east of the sites and is designated for its population of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.
- 4.3 There are no nationally designated sites within 2km of the sites.

Non-statutory Designated Sites

- 4.4 There are three candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS), one potential Local Wildlife Site (pLWS) and four historic potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS.hist) within 1km of the site boundary (Table 1).

Table 1: Non-statutory Designated Sites

Site Name		Designation Feature	Approximate Distance and Orientation from Sites Boundary
Trees N of Normandy Way cLWS	1	Five mature ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> trees, with dead wood	170m South-west
Hedgerow pLWS.hist	2	Hedgerow	240m East
Little Pig Fishery cLWS	3	An area of standing water	490m South
Pond (pLWS.hist)	4	Pond	610m West
Hinckley, Semi-improved Grassland (pLWS.hist)	5	Grassland	690m West
Hinckley Playing Fields Hedge 1 pLWS	6	Hedgerow	700m East
Barwell Hedgerow cLWS	7	Hedgerow	730m North-east
Barwell Lane (pLWS.hist)	8	Hedgerow	900m South-east
Richmond School Ash, Hinckley cLWS	9	Mature tree	910m South-west

Protected/Notable Species

- 4.5 Several protected or notable species records from the previous 20 years were provided Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC). Two of the records were located within or on the site boundary.

Mammals - CONFIDENTIAL

- 4.6



4.7

4.8

Herpetofauna

- 4.9 Two records of grass snake *Natrix helvetica* were returned, the closest individual recorded 400m east and the other being recorded 750 north-west.
- 4.10 Two records of common toad *Bufo bufo* were also recorded to the south of the site, at 385m and 800m.

Invasive Species

- 4.11 Three records of notable invasive non-native species were returned from within 1km of the Site boundary including harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* and two records of wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis* which were located 575m south-west, 140m east and 500m south-west, respectively.
- 4.12 A search of MAGIC identified that there were no EPS mitigation licences issued within 1km of the site.

Field Survey - Habitats and Flora

- 4.13 The locations of habitats described in the following sections can be found mapped on Figure 3 and Figure 4. Plant species lists for the habitats are provided in Appendix B.

Broadleaved Trees

- 4.14 There were numerous mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees situated within hedgerows along the eastern and southern boundaries of the Ashby Road site with a single mature oak *Quercus robur* and willow *Salix sp.* tree located within hedgerow H6, and a single ash tree located along hedgerow H3. Two ash trees were also located in the eastern extent of Ashby Road, and a total of 30 early mature and mature standards were recorded in hedgerow H11 which comprised ash, field maple *Acer campestre* and Norway maple *Acer platanoides* species.
- 4.15 Numerous mature trees were also located along the northern, western and southern boundaries of the Normandy Way site. Species here included ash, oak, field maple and silver birch *Betula pendula*.
- 4.16 Twelve trees (T1-T12) across the sites were noted to have potential for supporting roosting bats and further details are provided in the bat report (FPCR, 2026).

Other Neutral Grassland

- 4.17 A small linear strip of other neutral grassland was located at the Ashby Road site, adjacent to hedgerow H10 and pond P1. The sward was short with grass species dominating the eastern extent of the linear strip. Grass species included frequent Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and

occasional cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and black-grass *Alopecurus myosuroides*. Limited herb species were recorded including occasional common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, and rarely recorded creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*. Towards the western extent, field horsetail *Equisetum arvense* had become the dominant species with grass and forb species rarely recorded where this species had taken over. During the update survey in 2026, this habitat was no longer present as the area had been incorporated into the cereal crop field through normal agricultural practices.



Photograph 1: Other Neutral Grassland in Ashby Road Site with Dominant Field Horsetail

- 4.18 The red line was increased during 2026 to incorporate two small areas of road verge; one adjacent to hedgerow H10 in the Ashby Road site and one along the southern boundary of the Normandy Way site. Both of which supported other neutral grassland as discussed within the limitations section.
- 4.19 The grassland adjacent to the A447 in the Ashby Road site comprised a short sward, measuring <20cm, which had recently been cut. Grass species dominated the sward with meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* the most abundant species. Red fescue *Festuca rubra* agg. was frequently recorded, with occasional false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cock's-foot, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Poa* species also identified. Herb species included occasional yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and hogweed, and rarely recorded common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. A number of undesirable species including common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping thistle, curled dock *Rumex crispus* and spear thistle were also present throughout the sward.
- 4.20 The other neutral grassland to the north of Normandy Way Road comprised a largely unmanaged tall sward, measuring c.70cm. False oat-grass was abundant within the sward, with other grass species such as frequent cock's-foot, occasional meadow foxtail, and rarely recorded red fescue, barren brome *Anisantha sterilis* and *Poa* species. Herb species included locally frequent common knapweed and hairy tare *Ervilia hirsuta*, occasional field horsetail, creeping cinquefoil and ribwort plantain. Several undesirable species including common

ragwort, curled dock, creeping thistle and common nettle were also recorded. The grassland to the south of Normandy Way Road supported a short sward, measuring c.10cm and had recently been cut. The species composition differed slightly with grass species dominating the sward and fewer herbs recorded.



Photograph 2: Other Neutral Grassland in Normandy Road site along southern boundary.

Modified Grassland

- 4.21 A small linear strip of modified grassland was present along the eastern boundary of the Ashby Road site, adjacent to the northern extent of hedgerow H10. Field horsetail was the dominant species with few other herbs recorded. During the update survey in 2026, this small linear strip of grassland was no longer present as the area had been incorporated into the cereal crop field through normal agricultural practices.
- 4.22 The Normandy Way site comprised a modified grassland field, which at the time of the initial survey in July 2023, was dominated by perennial rye-grass, and subject to rotational grazing and cutting regime. The sward height was low, with only a few areas, such as along the hedgerow bases and boundary fencing, left uncut. Other grasses present included frequent Timothy *Phleum pratense*, false oat-grass, and locally frequent Yorkshire-fog and Italian rye-grass *Lolium multiflorum* along with occasional cock's-foot, creeping bent and soft brome.
- 4.23 Present in the sward was a limited range of forb and herb species, with abundant meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* most prominent. Other species recorded were largely confined to the boundaries where the sward was uncut and included field horsetail, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, ribwort plantain, common ragwort, creeping thistle, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common daisy *Bellis perennis* and common nettle.
- 4.24 During the May 2024 survey, it was noted that the sward composition had changed and comprised a taller, more homogenous sward. Grass species recorded were limited to frequent Yorkshire-fog, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, rough meadow-grass and rarely recorded meadow foxtail. Herb species were very limited, with frequent meadow buttercup still prominent within the sward. Other herb species were rarely recorded and were limited to dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, common sorrel, ribwort plantain, red clover, common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* and field horsetail within the sward.



Photograph 3: Modified Grassland in Normandy Way Site during May 2024 Survey

- 4.25 During the update walkover in July 2026, the sward had recently been managed and comprised a short sward which was still dominated by grass species such as frequent perennial rye-grass, creeping bent, and false oat-grass, and occasionally recorded cock's-foot and Timothy. Meadow buttercup was still frequently recorded throughout the sward, with other herb species rarely recorded.



Photograph 4: Modified Grassland in Normandy Way Site during July 2026 Survey

Arable

- 4.26 Arable land dominated most of the Ashby Road site. At the time of initial survey in July 2023 and during the update survey in July 2026, the land was wheat crop with the presence of common arable weeds encroached from field margins and corners. Species present included groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, chickweed *Stellaria media*, common nettle, black-grass and red fescue, amongst others. During the May 2024 survey, the crop was identified as a non-cereal legume crop.
- 4.27 The field margins were predominantly narrow, generally less than 1m wide and were associated with bordering hedgerows. Therefore, they have been included as part of the hedgerow ground flora.

Scrub

- 4.28 A single small pocket of dense hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub was recorded on the western boundary of the Normandy Way site. The scrub was a homogenous habitat comprising of a single species (hawthorn) which was of a single age class with no structural diversity.

Ruderal/Ephemeral

- 4.29 Two small unmanaged areas of ruderal vegetation were located in field corners of the Ashby Road site. The larger of these areas, located to the west of site, was dominated by dense coverage of common hogweed, with patches of wet ground. Other tall herb and forbs species present included abundant field horsetail, occasional scentless mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, creeping thistle, wild-oat *Avena fatua*, nettle and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* [agg], alongside frequent great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. Prickly sow-thistle *Sonchus asper*, fat hen *Chenopodium album*, field forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, and hoary willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum* were also present but rarely recorded. Occasional grass species included false oat-grass and creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*.
- 4.30 The smaller area of ruderal, to the east of site, located at the intersection of hedgerow H1 and H10, was located on higher, uneven ground and was dominated by great willowherb, with an area of dense scentless mayweed separating the ruderal vegetation and the arable crop. Limited areas of bare ground were present. Species present included abundant field forget-me-not and occasional nettle and creeping buttercup. Species which occurred frequently included scentless mayweed, creeping thistle and broad-leaved dock. Bramble and spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* occurred rarely. Grasses present included rarely recorded tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and frequent creeping soft-grass.
- 4.31 Also on the Ashby Road site were two soil mounds, both consisting of loose soil and located adjacent access routes/gateways. To the south, along the hardstanding track, whilst predominately bare ground/disturbed earth, the spoil mound was dominated by a squash sp., presumed to have grown from discarded seeds within the soil. Other arable weeds were present and included abundant scentless mayweed, frequent wild-oat and colt's-foot *Tussilago farfara*. Fat hen, bristly oxtongue *Helminthotheca echioides* and greater plantain *Plantago major* occurred occasionally. Butterfly-bush *Buddleja* sp. also occurred frequently, along with rare occurrences of sunflower *Helianthus annuus*.
- 4.32 The second soil mound was, again, predominately bare ground, but dominated by fat hen, abundant scentless mayweed and knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare*. Pineappleweed *Matricaria discoidea* occurred frequently, whilst nettle and field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* occurred occasionally. Great willowherb was recorded as rarely occurring.
- 4.33 During the May 2024 update survey, it was noted that a large proportion of the bare ground associated with the soil mounds had been colonised with vegetation. Species composition was largely similar to that recorded during June 2023, with the addition of occasional cleavers *Galium aparine*, and rarely recorded common poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, foxglove *Digitalis* sp. and yellow rocket *Barbarea vulgaris*.



Photograph 5: Ephemeral Soil Mound in Ashby Road Site

- 4.34 During the update survey in 2026, both of these soil mounds were no longer present and the ground they had been located on had been planted with cereal crop and incorporated into the arable field through normal agricultural practices.

Pond

- 4.35 Pond P1 was a small field pond situated at the junction of hedgerows H1 and H10 to the east of the Ashby Road site. Water depth measured c.50cm, with vegetation dominated by bulrush *Typha latifolia*, with occasional amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, and marginal rarely occurring soft-rush *Juncus effusus*. An area of scrub in association with the pond and hedgerows was dominated by blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, with occasional bramble and rare hawthorn, ash and hazel *Corylus avellana* also present.



Photograph 6: Pond P1 in Ashby Road Site

- 4.36 Pond P2 was not accessible at the time of the survey, however, sits immediately adjacent to the west, along hedgerow H8 at the Ashby Road site.

Wet Ditch

- 4.37 A single seasonally wet ditch (D1) was located within the Ashby Road site which ran adjacent to the southern extent of hedgerow H10 connecting to pond P1. The channel of the ditch was narrow, <0.5m wide, with a mud/soil substrate and a water depth of between 1 – <10cm at the time of the May 2024 survey. During subsequent surveys, it was noted that the ditch was often dry or had a water depth of <5cm, suggesting the ditch is ephemeral wet at most. The banks were steep, measuring c.1m high and were vegetated with grass species, creeping thistle, spear thistle and curled dock. No aquatic/marginal species were recorded to the south of P1. Great willowherb and fool's-water-cress *Helosciadium nodiflorum* were rarely recorded to the north of P1.



Photograph 7: Ditch D1 in Ashby Road Site

Hedgerow

- 4.38 Fifteen hedgerows were recorded within the survey area. With the exception of H15, all other hedgerows comprised more than 80% native woody species and therefore qualify as a HPI under NERC.
- 4.39 Four hedgerows qualified under the Hedgerow Regulations as important. H1 and H5 qualified due to the presence of, on average, 6 woody species and 3 associated features. H6 also qualified under Hedgerow Regulations as important, due to having 7 or more woody species, on average, present.
- 4.40 The hedgerow survey results are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Hedgerow Survey Results

Ref	Canopy Species	Height/Width (m)	Length (m)	Associated Features and Notes	Important under Hedgerow REGs.	NERC HPI
H1	Ca, Ps, Cm, Ros, Fe, Ac, Um, Gp	1-2m/0-1m	278	5% gaps; >0 trees, 4 end connections; three or more woody species	Yes	Yes

Ref	Canopy Species	Height/ Width (m)	Length (m)	Associated Features and Notes	Important under Hedgerow REGs.	NERC HPI
H2	Cm, Fe, Sn	>4m/1-2m	208	>0% gaps; 2 trees, 4 end connections	No	Yes
H3	Sn, Cm, Fe	1-2m/1-2m	100	30-10% gaps; 1 tree1, 2 end connections	No	Yes
H4	Cm, Sn, Um, Fe, Ms	>4m/2-3m	68	>5% gaps; 1 tree, 4 end connections	No	Yes
H5	Fe, Cm, Ca, Ps, Ms, Ac	2-4m/1-2m	228	>10% gaps; 7 trees, 4 end connections; 6 woody species average	Yes	Yes
H6	Ca, Cm, Sn, Ps, Fe, Ac, Ms, Sx, Ia, Qr, Ap	>4m/2-3m	353	>5% gaps; 8 trees, 3 end connections; 6 woody species average	Yes	Yes
H7	Ac, Sn, Ru, Cm	1-2m/1-2m	132	>5% gaps; >0 trees, 0 end connections	No	Yes
H8	Cm, Fe, Ps, Sn	1-2m/1-2m	109	>0% gaps; >0 trees, 4 end connections	No	Yes
H9	Cm, Fe, Sn, Sx	1-2m/1-2m	321	>0% gaps; >0 trees, 3 end connections	No	Yes
H10	Cm, Sx, Ps, Cos, Fe, Ca, Ac	1-2m/1-2m	326	>0% gaps; >0 trees, 4 end connections	No	Yes
H11	Cm, Fe, Fs, Ps, Ac, Sxc, Ap, Um, Apl, Ms, Ros, Pa	>4m/2-3	325	>0% gaps; 30 trees; 5 end connections	No	Yes
H12	Cm, Fe, Sn, Ps, Qr, Ca, Ac	1-2m/1-2m	268	>0% gaps; >12 trees, 2 end connections	No	Yes
H13	Gp, Fe, Bpe, Co	2-4m/1-2m	46	>0% gaps; 1 tree, 3 end connections	No	Yes
H14	Ia, Ca, Fe, Pa, Sc, Co, Cm	2-4m/1-2m	54	>0% gaps; 1 tree, 1 end connections	No	Yes

Ref	Canopy Species	Height/Width (m)	Length (m)	Associated Features and Notes	Important under Hedgerow REGs.	NERC HPI
H15	Co, Sn	2-4m/1-2m	52	>0% gaps; >0 trees, 0 end connections	No	No
Ps - Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , Fe - Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , Ia - Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , Cm - Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , Ac - Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i> , Qr - Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i> , Ca - Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , Ros - Dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i> , Sn - Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , Ms - Crab apple <i>Malus sylvestris</i> , Um - Elm <i>Ulmus</i> sp., Gp - Garden privet <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> , Sx - Willow <i>Salix</i> sp., Ap - Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , Ru - Raspberry <i>Rubus</i> sp., Cos - Dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> , Bpe - Silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> , Co - Conifer sp., Pa - Wild cherry <i>Prunus avium</i> , Sc - Sweet chestnut <i>Castanea sativa</i> , Apl - Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>						

Field Survey - Fauna

- 4.41 Assessment of the sites suitability for faunal species including badger, bats, birds and great crested newts are provided in separate documents. Further species considered are provided below.

Reptiles

- 4.42 Habitats on site were considered suboptimal to support reptiles with the majority of the Ashby Road site comprising fields under arable cultivation. Narrow field margins comprising other neutral grassland and modified grassland present on site lacked any tussock structure and were considered to provide only very minimal suitability for reptiles. The seasonally wet ditch, pond and hedgerow bases did provide limited foraging, resting and hibernation habitat for reptiles.
- 4.43 The large majority of habitats within the Normandy Way site which comprised a homogenous modified grassland field under agricultural management, did not provide any suitable habitat for reptiles as it lacked any tussock structure due to regular management. The hedgerow bases and scrub provide very limited suitable habitat for reptiles.

Riparian Mammals

- 4.44 Habitats on site were considered suboptimal to support riparian mammals. Although the banks of the seasonally wet ditch within the Ashby Road site were considered suitable for burrow creation by water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, only very limited suitable aquatic and marginal vegetation was present. As a result, and in-conjunction with the very shallow water depth and regular drying of the ditch, and lack of connectivity to any suitable offsite waterbodies, it is considered that water vole are likely to be absent to the site. Furthermore, no records are water vole were returned through the desk study, therefore water vole are considered likely absent from the site and do not pose a constraint.
- 4.45 One record of otter was returned during the desk study c.820m north-east of the site. However, due to the seasonally wet/shallow nature of the ditch, and lack of connectivity to any suitable offsite waterbodies, ditch D1 is considered to be wholly unsuitable for otter.
- 4.46 No suitable habitat for riparian mammals was present within the Normandy Way site. Riparian mammals therefore do not pose a constraint and are not considered further in this report.

Other Protected Species

- 4.47 The Ashby Road site provided foraging and refuge opportunities for brown hare *Lepus europaeus* and both sites provided foraging and refuge opportunities for hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, however, no evidence of these species was identified during the field survey. The site offers limited habitat suitability for invertebrates, and therefore is not considered to support an important assemblage.

5.0 DISCUSSION

Designated Sites

- 5.1 The degree to which designated sites receive consideration under the planning system and legislative protection depends on the designation itself and its level of importance and value. This ranges from sites of international importance protected by UK legislation that transposes European directives, to protection under UK legislation or national and local planning policy.

Statutory Designation

- 5.2 There is one internationally designated statutory site of nature conservation interest within 10km of the sites, Ensor's Pool SAC which lies c.9.5km southeast. This site is designated for its population of white-clawed crayfish. Given the distance, nature of site designation and the scale of the proposals, it is considered that the development would not have a significant impact on any internationally designated site.
- 5.3 No nationally designated sites are located within 2km of the site, however, the sites do fall within the IRZ for Kendal's Meadow SSSI and Burbage Wood and Aston Firs SSSI.
- 5.4 IRZs have been developed by Natural England to provide an initial assessment of the potential risk to statutory designated sites from development proposals. These zones are defined around designated sites which reflect the sensitivity of the site and indicates the types of development within these zones which could potentially have adverse impacts. From reviewing the IRZs that the sites fall within on Natural England's MAGIC website (<http://magic.defra.gov.uk>), this application does not fit the criteria of a development which may have an adverse impact upon the local SSSIs, and as such it is considered that the proposals will have no impact upon them.

Non-statutory Designation

- 5.5 Three candidate Local Wildlife Sites, one potential Local Wildlife Site and four historic potential Local Wildlife Sites are located within 1km of the site boundary. Trees N of Normandy Way cLWS, Hedgerow pLWS.hist, Hinckley Playing Fields Hedge 1 pLWS, Barwell Hedgerow cLWS, Barwell Lane pLWS.hist and Richmond School Ash cLWS comprise distinct habitat features rather than areas of open space, and it is therefore unlikely that residents would frequent them. Little Pit Fishery cLWS is not open to the public with entry only open to members, and pond pLWS.hist and Hinckley semi-improved grassland pLWS.hist are situated in private land with no public access. As such the development is unlikely to impact any of these sites due to increased visitation pressures. Furthermore, under the current proposals, Public open Space (POS) and recreational areas will be available within the development, thus minimising the likelihood of any footfall to any designated sites.

Habitats

- 5.6 The degree to which habitats receive consideration within the planning system relies on several mechanisms, including:
- Inclusion within a specific policy, for example veteran trees, ancient woodland and linear habitats within the National Planning Policy Framework¹⁰ (NPPF);

¹⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2026). *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. [Online]. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6jjhnu>

- A statutory or non-statutory designation (e.g. SSSI or Local Wildlife Site); and
- Habitats considered as Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) for the conservation of biodiversity as listed within Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

Broadleaved Trees

- 5.7 Mature trees provide continuity of habitat, providing structural diversity and biodiversity value and as such, the large majority will be retained. Five semi-mature ash trees are proposed to be lost on the southern boundary of the Normandy Road site to facilitate access, however, a large number of small trees will be planted throughout the sites to compensate for this loss and as such, the removal of these trees is not considered a constraint to proposals.
- 5.8 All mature trees and young trees that form standards within retained hedgerows will be protected from damage and soil compaction during works by maintaining appropriate root protection areas.

Grassland

- 5.9 The large majority of the grassland on the sites was modified, with two small areas of other neutral grassland present adjacent to H10 of the Ashby Road site and the southern boundary of the Normandy Way site. All grassland areas had low species diversity and did not meet the selection criteria as a HPI or BAP Priority Habitat.
- 5.10 The majority of the proposed green infrastructure is located along the eastern, northern and western boundaries of the Ashby Road site and within the western extent of the Normandy Way site. These areas will be planted with a native species-rich wildflower seed mix which will compensate for the loss grassland on site. The proposed Sustainable Urban Drainage systems will be seeded with a species rich grassland mixture appropriate for the ground conditions present (i.e. a wet grassland mix). The incorporation of these species-rich mixes will continue to provide a food source for the local pollinators and maximise the biodiversity within the sites.
- 5.11 All created and retained habitats will be managed appropriately to enhance their long-term botanical diversity.

Arable (Cereal Crops)

- 5.12 The large majority of the habitat to be lost to proposals within the Ashby Road site comprised arable habitat which at the time of the latest survey was supporting a cereal crop identified as a legume species. This habitat is considered to provide low ecological value, the loss of which is not considered to be a constraint to proposals.

Scrub

- 5.13 Scrub habitat within the sites included a small single area of dense hawthorn scrub. This habitat provides biodiversity value for a range of local wildlife, providing shelter. Under current proposals this habitat will be retained and enhanced, with additional areas of scrub created around the peripheries of the POS within the Ashby Road site. Scrub planting will include a diverse array of species which will contribute to the establishment of habitat mosaics and appropriate long-term management will also be implemented.

Ruderal/Ephemeral

- 5.14 Two small unmanaged areas of ruderal vegetation were located in the Ashby Road site. These habitats, although of a low ecological value, did provide some diversity and a food source for

pollinators within the sites. Under current proposals these habitats will be lost, however the creation of species-rich grassland and scrub habitats will provide enhanced diversity and food sources throughout the sites, therefore the loss of this habitat is not considered a constraint to proposals.

Pond/Ditch

- 5.15 A small pond and single wet ditch were located within the Ashby Road site. Under current proposals these habitats will be lost in order to facilitate access into the site. To compensate for this loss, two wet ditches are to be created in the eastern extent of the Ashby Road site, and a pond will be incorporated within a SUDs basin in the northern extent. The pond and ditches will be permanently wet features, with the pond and one of the ditches being planted with aquatic and marginal vegetation such as including lesser water parsnip *Berula erecta*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus* along with a selection of sedges and rushes, and managed for the benefit of wildlife. The loss of these habitats are not considered to be a constraint to the proposals.

Hedgerows

- 5.16 A total of 15 hedgerows were recorded within the sites. Hedgerows provide good connectivity around the sites and into the wider landscape, offering shelter, foraging and nesting opportunities and creating important wildlife corridors for wildlife. Thirteen of the hedgerows support >80% native woody species meaning they qualify as Habitats of Principal Importance under the NERC Act (2006) and three of the hedgerows were classified as 'important' under REGs.
- 5.17 Where possible, the hedgerows will be retained and enhanced, however small losses are proposed within hedgerows H1 and H10 to facilitate access and H3 and H7 which will facilitate the installation of roads and footpaths within the Ashby Road site. These small losses of hedgerows will be adequately compensated for through hedgerow enhancement and additional hedgerow creation throughout the scheme.
- 5.18 Additional planting and future management will encourage the creation of mature, dense, species-rich hedgerows and seek to retain connectivity around the sites (this is further detailed in the Biodiversity Net Gain report (FPCR, 2026). This will ensure there is no negative impact on commuting and foraging routes for bats and other wildlife.

Fauna

Reptiles

- 5.19 Common native reptile species are partially protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) which protects these animals from: killing and injury, from selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of the sale or publishing advertisements to buy or sell a protected species.
- 5.20 Two records of grass snake were returned, the closest individual recorded 400m east and the other being recorded 750 north-west.
- 5.21 Very limited suitable habitat was present on site comprising a seasonally wet ditch, pond, hedgerow bases and scrub. The grassland present within the sites lacked any tussock structure and the sites did not provide the mosaic of habitats, or hibernaculum required by these species.

In addition, the habitats within the immediate surrounding area comprise arable fields and main roads (A47 and A447) and therefore the sites are isolated from any adjacent suitable habitats where reptiles could commute from. Reptiles are therefore considered to be likely absent from the site and do not pose a constraint.

Other Protected Species

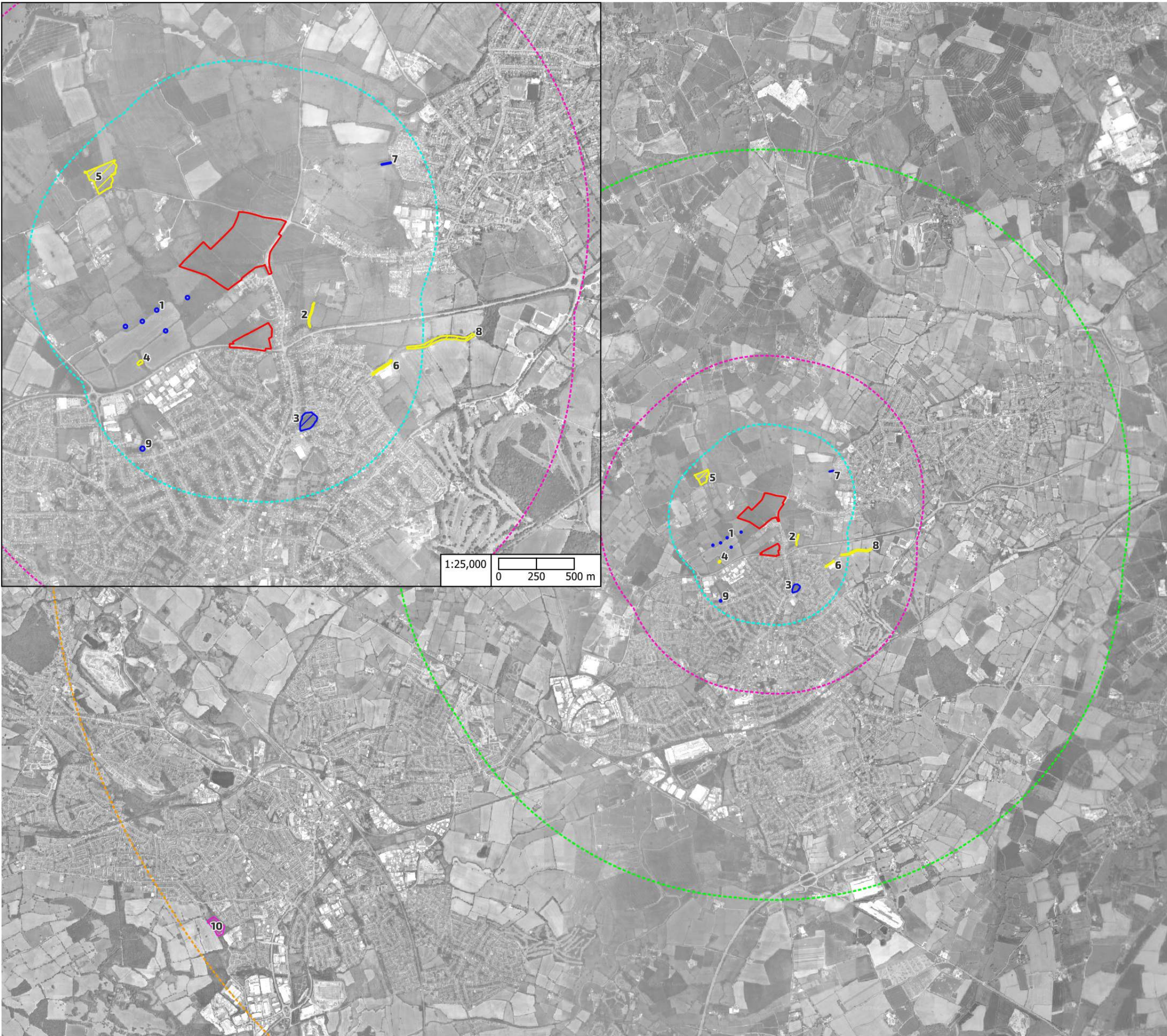
- 5.22 The site offers limited habitat suitability for invertebrates, and therefore is not considered to support an important assemblage other than common and widespread species.
- 5.23 No other species constraints were identified.

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH

Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] mail@fpcr.co.uk [W] www.fpcr.co.uk

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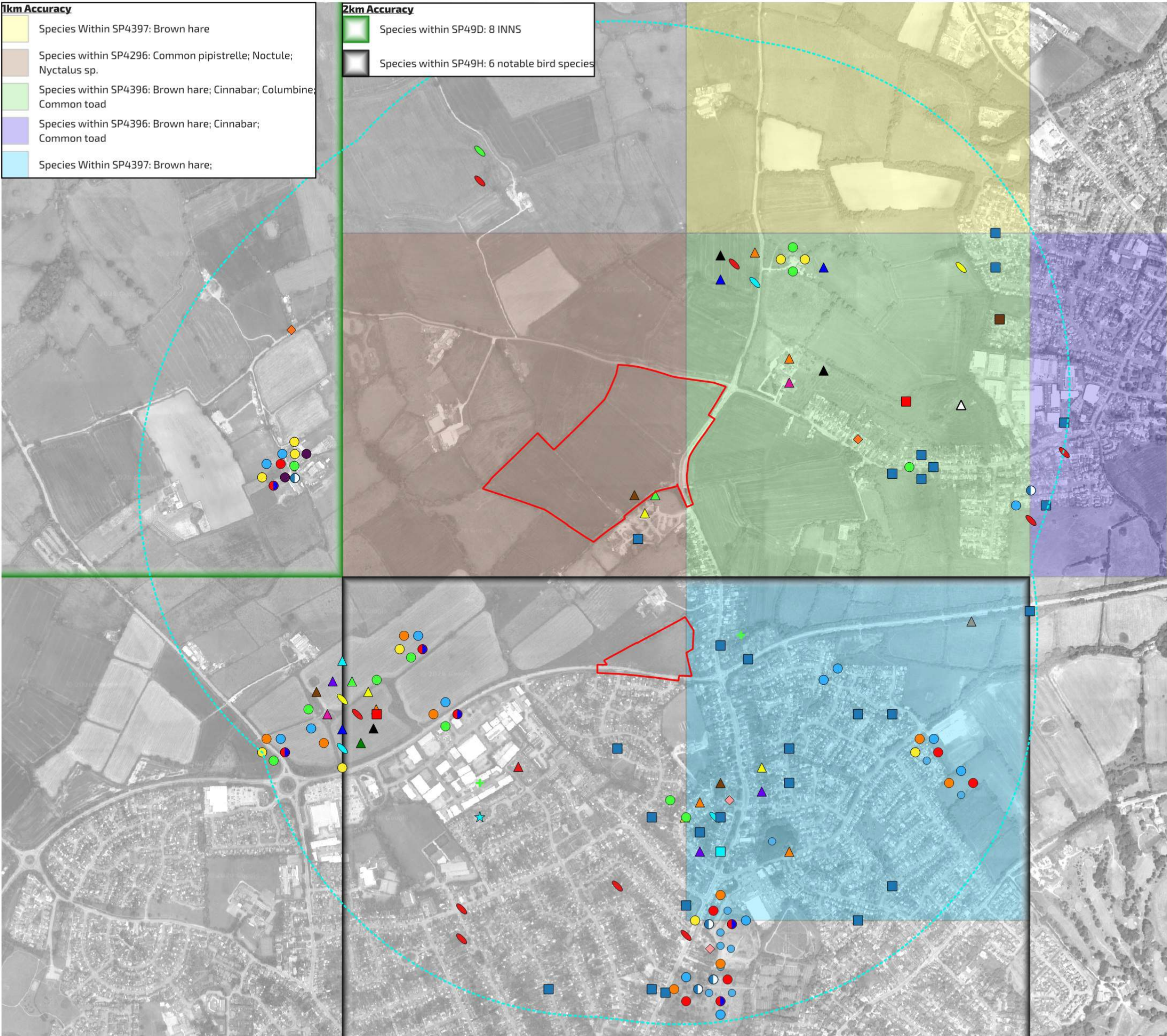
date 03/08/26 drwn/chkd JP / LC

client Miller Homes
project Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinkley

title SITE LOCATION AND CONSULTATION RESULTS PLAN - DESIGNATED SITES scale 1:55,000 @ A3

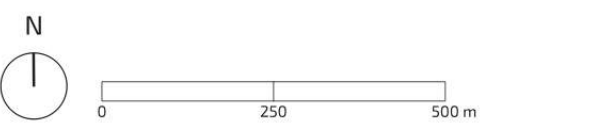
number FIGURE 1 rev A

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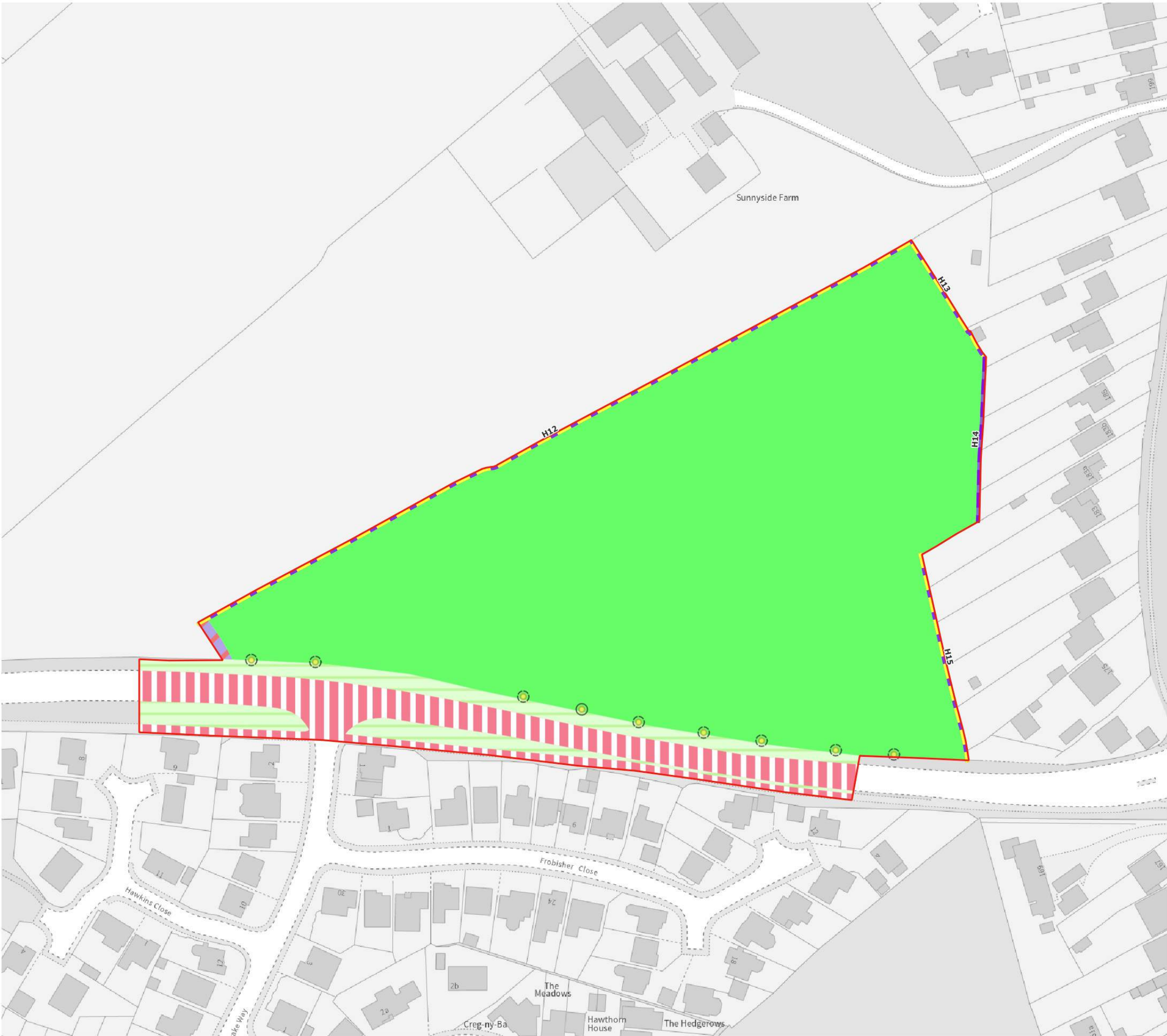
date 03/08/26 drwn/chkd EM/LC

client Miller Homes
project Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinckley

title SITE LOCATION AND CONSULTATION RESULTS PLAN - SPECIES RECORDS scale 1:11,000 @ A3

number FIGURE 2 rev A

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- Site Boundary
- Baseline Habitats
 - Developed land; sealed surface
 - Hawthorn scrub
 - Modified grassland
 - Other neutral grassland
- Baseline Trees
 - Existing medium rural tree
 - Existing small rural tree
- Baseline Hedgerows
 - Native hedgerow
 - Species-rich native hedgerow

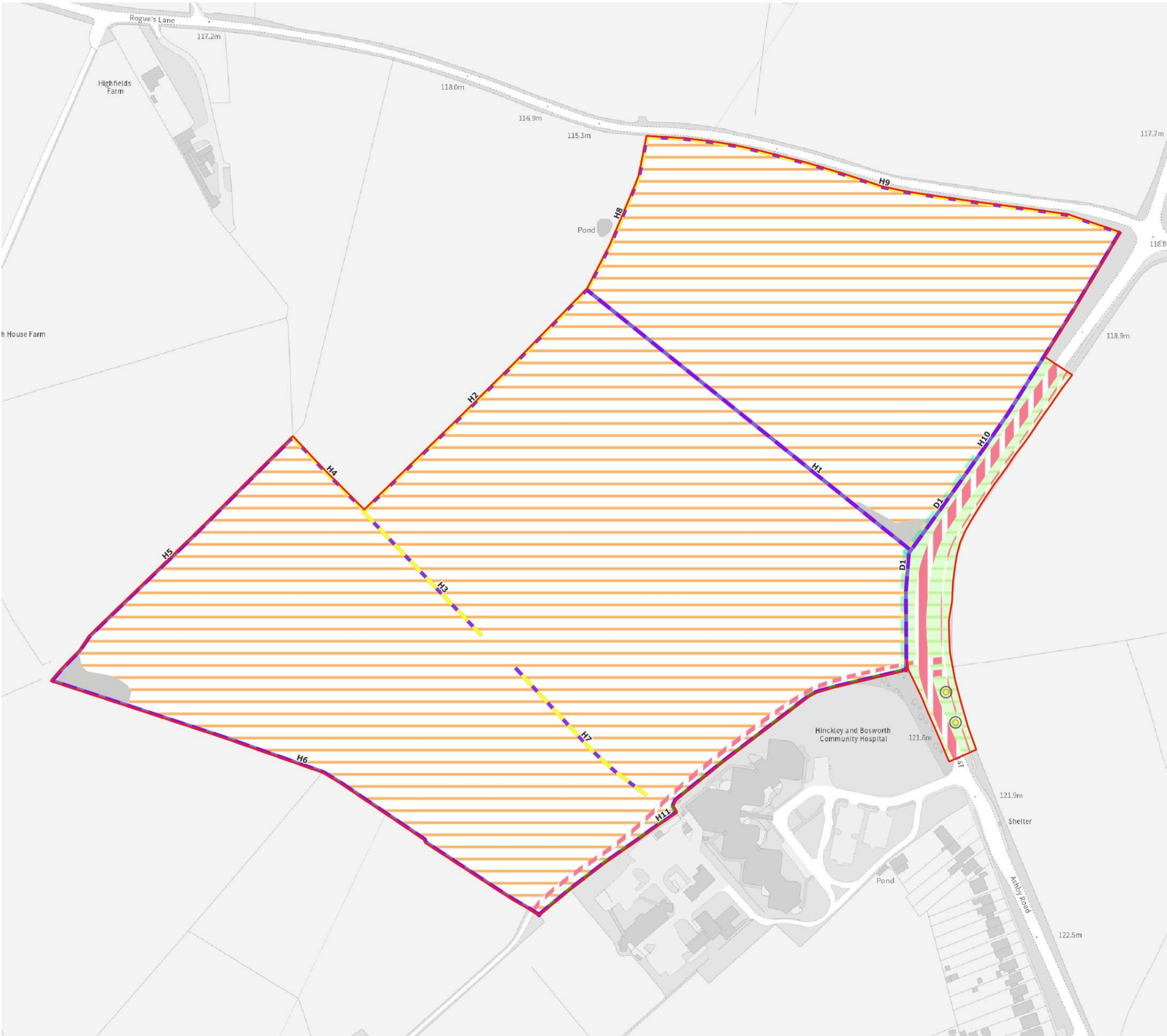
date 04/08/26 drwn/chkd LG / LC

client Miller Homes
project Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinkley

title BASELINE HABITAT PLAN scale 1:1,250 @ A3

number FIGURE 4 rev -

FPCR | environment & design



- Site Boundary
- Baseline Habitats
 - Cereal crops
 - Developed land; sealed surface
 - Other neutral grassland
 - Ponds (non-priority habitat)
 - Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Baseline Hedgerows
 - Native hedgerow
 - Species-rich native hedgerow
 - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Baseline Watercourse
 - Ditches
- Baseline Trees
 - Existing medium rural tree

date		drwn/chkd	
04/08/26		LG / LC	
client			
Miller Homes			
project			
Ashby Road and Normandy Way, Hinkley			
title		scale	
BASELINE HABITAT PLAN		1:2,500 @ A3	
number		rev	
FIGURE 3		-	

APPENDIX A: RELEVANT LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (CHSR) 2017 (as amended)

- 1.1 The CHSR ratifies into UK law the "Habitats Directive" (92/43/EEC) and the "Birds Directive" (79/409/EEC).

European Protected Sites

- 1.2 The CHSR places a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for species listed in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively to the European Commission. Once the Commission and EU Member States have agreed that the sites submitted are worthy of designation, they are identified as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). The EU Member States must then designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within six years.
- 1.3 The CHSR requires the compilation and maintenance of a register of European sites to include SACs as well as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated for birds. The SACs and SPAs under the CHSR are referred to as national site networks, Ramsar sites are of international importance and do not form part of the national site networks; but boundaries might overlap SAC and SPA designations.

European Protected Species

- 1.4 The CHSR includes a list of animals and plant species taken from the Annex IV of the Habitats Directive that have a natural range in Great Britain. These are collectively known as European Protected Species (EPS) and are listed in *Table 1*. The regulations make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, take or destroy eggs of, or damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of animals listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, and to pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy wild plants listed in Schedule 5 of the Regulations. They also protect these species alive or dead and parts thereof from various forms of possession and trade.
- 1.5 These actions may be made lawful in certain circumstances through the granting of licences by the appropriate authority (Natural England). Licences must only be granted after the appropriate authority is satisfied that no satisfactory alternatives are available. In most circumstances, licences are only applied for and granted following full planning permission.
- 1.6 In determining whether or not to grant a licence, Natural England must apply the requirements of the CHSR and, in particular, the three derogation tests:
- Test 1: A licence can be granted for the purposes of "preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment".
 - Test 2: The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that there is no satisfactory alternative".
 - Test 3: The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range."

Table 1: The Habitats Regulations Schedule 2 and Schedule 5 species

	Common Name	Scientific Name
Schedule 2 – European Protected Animal Species	Horseshoe bats – all species	<i>Rhinolophidae</i>
	Bats – all species	<i>Vespertilionidae</i>
	Large blue butterfly	<i>Maculinea arion</i>
	Wild cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>
	Dolphins, porpoises & whales - all species	<i>Cetacea</i>
	Hazel dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>
	Pool frog	<i>Rana lessonae</i>
	Sand lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>
	Fisher's estuarine moth	<i>Gortyna borelii lunata</i>
	Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Lesser Whirlpool Ram's-horn snail	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>
	Smooth snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>
	Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>
	Natterjack toad	<i>Bufo calamita</i>
	Marine turtles	<i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Schedule 5 – European Protected Plant Species	Shore dock	<i>Rumex rupestris</i>
	Killarney fern	<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>
	Early gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>
	Lady's-slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>
	Creeping marshwort	<i>Apium repens</i>
	Slender naiad	<i>Najas flexilis</i>
	Fen orchid	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>
	Floating-leaved water plantain	<i>Luronium natans</i>
	Yellow marsh saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>

Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)

- 1.7 The WCA 1981 (as amended) is the principal legislation providing protection for wildlife in the UK. It prescribes legislation for wild birds, other animals, wild plants and non-native species. In addition, it provides for the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in England.

Wild birds

- 1.8 The WCA as amended by Schedule 12 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 makes it an offence (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) to intentionally or recklessly:
- 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 (also [take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1] under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006); or
 - take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.
- 1.9 For birds listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, protection extends to offences relating to the intentional or reckless disturbance of these birds while at their nests or their dependent young.

Other animals

- 1.10 The WCA (as amended) makes it an offence to (subject to exceptions) intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take wild animals listed on Schedule 5 of the Act. For some species, the protection extends to interference with places used for shelter or protection, or disturbing animals occupying or obstructing access to such places. These species are regarded as “fully protected” and as well as the EPS species listed above include the mammal species water vole *Arvicola terrestris*, pine marten *Martes martes* and red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* as well as selected others from a range of species groups including, fish, butterflies, hemipteran bugs, beetles, crickets, dragonflies, moths, spiders, crustaceans, sea-mats, molluscs, Annelid worms and sea anemones (and allies).
- 1.11 There are seven species on Schedule 5 of the Act that not fully protected but are still protected against killing and injuring these include the common reptile species slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, viviparous lizard *Lacerta vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus*.
- 1.12 The Act prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals, and numerous species are protected against sale only as well as other variations for example Atlantic stream (white-clawed) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* are protected against taking and sale.

Vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi

- 1.13 With regards to native flora the Act makes it an offence to (subject to exceptions) intentionally or recklessly pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8. Similarly, the Act prevents the sale, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Non-native species

- 1.14 The Act contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 in England and Wales.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 1.15 The Act provides for the notification and confirmation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These sites can be identified for their flora, fauna, geological or physiological interest. In England, the power to confirm an SSSI lies with Natural England.
- 1.16 Laws protecting areas designated as SSSIs are described in Sections 28 to 33 of Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). SSSIs are the principle statutory designation of sites in the UK and offences are enforced through Natural England. Offences include the following:

SSSI owners and occupiers

- carrying out, causing or allowing operations likely to damage an SSSI without Natural England consent.
- failing to keep to a management notice.
- failing to let us know about a change in ownership or occupation of land in an SSSI.

Public bodies

- carrying out or authorising operations likely to damage an SSSI without meeting the requirements to notify Natural England.

- failing to minimise any damage to an SSSI and if there is any damage, failing to restore it to its former state so far as is reasonably practical and possible.

Any person

- intentionally or recklessly damaging, destroying or disturbing any of the habitats or features of an SSSI.
- intentionally or recklessly damaging, destroying, obscuring or taking down a site notice put up on land within an SSSI.
- preventing a Natural England officer lawfully accessing an SSSI.

Environment Act 2021

- 1.17 The act was passed on 10th November 2021 and covers a range of environmental protections and enhancements. It is enforced by an independent Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). In relation to nature and biodiversity, the act will deliver:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty
- A requirement for developments to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies
- Conservation Covenants
- Strengthened woodland protection enforcement measures

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

- 1.18 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This act is based on the need to protect badgers from persecution by baiting and deliberate harm or injury. The act makes it an offence to:

- intentionally capture, kill or injure a badger;
- damage, destroy or block access to their setts;
- disturb badgers in setts;
- treat a badger cruelly;
- deliberately send or intentionally allow a dog into a sett; and
- bait or dig for badgers.

- 1.19 A sett is defined as: *“Any structure or place that displays signs indicating current use by a badger”*.

Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

- 1.20 Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 imposes a duty on every public authority to conserve biodiversity in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

- 1.21 Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list (including 56 habitats and 943 species) has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England and draws upon the UK BAP List of Priority Species and Habitats. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2026

- 1.22 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policy for England. As such, the NPPF must be a material consideration for local authorities when considering planning decisions.
- 1.23 A new NPPF has recently been published (17th August 2026)¹. Chapters 2 and 3 set out general procedural policies for plan-making and decision-making, respectively. The subsequent chapters contain policies on thematic issues, separated in each case into policies for plan-making and those for decision-making. In relation to ecology/biodiversity, these include Chapter 4 (Achieving Sustainable Development), Chapter 5 (Meeting the challenge of climate change) and Chapter 19 (Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment). Each are summarised below.

3. Decision-making policies

- 1.24 Decision-making policies relating to ecology/biodiversity now include parts of DM1 and DM2, as summarised below:

DM1: Preparing development proposals

- 1.25 This decision-making policy states, when preparing planning proposals:

1. *"Proposals for major development should:*

- a. Be informed by early engagement with neighbours and the local community, as well as with the local planning authority, statutory consultees, infrastructure providers, registered providers of social housing and other relevant bodies where appropriate, to identify and seek to resolve key planning matters prior to the submission of a planning application. This pre-application engagement should be proportionate to the nature of the proposal and those likely to be affected by it..."*

DM2: Information requirements

- 1.26 This decision-making policy states, when preparing planning proposals:

1. *"To ensure a clear and consistent approach to the information required to determine development proposals, local validation lists setting out the information required in support of an application for development should include the information specified in the relevant national decision-making policies (summarised in Annex C)...."*

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

DM4: Emerging development plan proposals

1. *"When preparing and considering development proposals, relevant policies in emerging development plans may be given weight ..."*

4. Achieving Sustainable Development

- 1.27 National decision-making policies include:

S3: Presumption in favour of sustainable development

2. *"Decisions on development proposals should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means:*
 - b. Policy S4 in this Framework should be applied when considering development proposals within settlements;*
 - c. Outside settlements, policy S5 should be applied; and*
 - d. In all locations, development proposals that accord with both an up-to-date development plan and the decision-making policies in this Framework should be approved without delay.*
3. *Where a development proposal falls partly within and partly outside a settlement, policies S4 and S5 should be applied to the relevant parts which are inside or outside of the settlement boundary (as appropriate), before coming to an overall view on the proposal."*

S4: Principle of development within settlements

1. *"Development proposals within settlements should be approved unless the benefits of doing so would be substantially outweighed by any adverse effects, when assessed against the national decision-making policies in this Framework.*
2. *In applying policy S4, the circumstances in which the benefits of approving development are likely to be substantially outweighed by adverse effects include (but are not restricted to) situations where the development proposal would:*
 - a. Have a substantial adverse impact in relation to:*

...

 - ii. The application of the policies in this Framework for existing recreational land and facilities (HC7), Local Green Space (HC8), areas of particular importance for biodiversity and geodiversity (N6), Protected Landscapes (N4) and development within residential curtilages (L2(1)(d)).*

...
 - c. Fail to comply with one of the national decision-making policies which state that development proposals should be refused in specific circumstances."*

S5: Principle of development outside settlements

1. *"Only certain forms of development should be approved outside settlements, as set out in the following list. These should be approved, unless the benefits of doing so would be substantially outweighed by any adverse effects, when assessed against the national decision-making policies in this Framework:*

- a. *Development for: agriculture, horticulture and forestry; outdoor sport and recreation; allotments; cemeteries and burial grounds; mineral extraction and processing; engineering operations and infrastructure (including for transport, energy, water and telecommunications); roadside facilities in accordance with policy TR5; national defence and security; or which is solely for nature conservation, restoration and/or enhancement;*

...

- i. *The development of land allocated for that purpose in the development plan (where this lies outside settlements)...*

2. *In applying this policy, the circumstances in which the benefits of approving development proposals are likely to be substantially outweighed by adverse effects include, but are not restricted to, situations where the development proposal would fail to comply with one of the national decision-making policies which state that development proposals should be refused in specific circumstances.*

...

5. *This policy does not apply to development proposals in the Green Belt or on land designated as Local Green Space, which should instead be determined in accordance with policies HC8, GB6, GB7 and/or GB8 (as appropriate)..."*

5. Meeting the challenge of climate change

CC2: Mitigation of Climate Change

- 1.28 This decision-making policy states:

1. *"In order to contribute to climate change mitigation and the transition to net zero, development proposals should, where relevant to the proposal:*

...

- f. *Contribute to the creation or restoration of habitats which can act as carbon stores, such as through woodland planting and peatland restoration, while avoiding harm to habitats which can act as important carbon stores, including peatland and salt marsh..."*

CC3: Adaptation to Climate Change

- 1.29 This decision-making policy states:

1. *"Development proposals should take into account the current and potential impacts of climate change over the lifetime of the scheme, and in order to minimise vulnerability to these impacts should, where relevant to the proposal:*

- d. *... include green infrastructure and suitable tree planting in accordance with policies DP3(2)(c) and N3; and*

- e. *Incorporate proportionate measures to mitigate against wildfires, where opportunities to do so exist and wildfires pose a particular risk (for example as a result of the combined effect of topography, prevailing wind direction and being located within or adjacent to heavily vegetated areas). Such measures should be designed to limit fuel loads for fires, and to create defendable spaces, such as by avoiding timber panel*

fences and incorporating firebreaks into development layouts and planting schemes...."

19. Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

- 1.30 There are six policies relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. The aim of these policies are:

"to influence the design and location of new development to help drive nature's recovery and contribute to wider environmental outcomes, safeguarding our most important habitats, species and landscapes and recognising the centrality of natural capital to delivering sustainable growth"

- 1.31 The sole plan-making policy – N1 identifying environmental opportunities and safeguards – states:

- g. "Development plans should safeguard and enhance the natural environment, and reflect the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, by using Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Protected Landscape Management Plans, River Basin Management Plans, National Forest Strategies, Community Forest Plans and other relevant evidence at the most appropriate level to:*
 - a. Set out the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites and areas of importance for their landscape, geodiversity or biodiversity value in the plan area, and identify other features which require particular consideration in managing development due to their environmental value such as chalk streams;*
 - b. Identify opportunities for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of landscapes, sensitive waterbodies, habitats and priority or threatened species, including through habitat restoration, the use of nature-based solutions, and the creation and strengthening of ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (including opportunities which exist at a catchment or landscape scale across plan boundaries);*
 - c. Steer the location of development, including through site allocations, in ways which utilise land of least environmental value where that would be consistent with other policies in this Framework. This should include limiting the scale and extent of development within Protected Landscapes, avoiding the use of higher quality agricultural land where land of poorer quality is available and avoiding and minimising harm to designated sites of importance for nature. Areas which could become of particular importance for nature identified in Local Nature Recovery Strategies should be taken into account as opportunities to integrate development with environmental restoration, but should not necessarily preclude the allocation of land for development; and*
 - d. Set out standards for green infrastructure provision, in a way which complements and/or incorporates those for recreational land (as set out in policy HC1). These should draw upon Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards for England, tailored as necessary to local circumstances.*
- h. Development plans should only set local standards for biodiversity net gain which are in excess of the statutory net gain requirement where this is for specific site*

allocations, and is fully justified and deliverable. Local standards should not extend to categories of development which are exempt from statutory biodiversity net gain."

1.32 The remaining policies – N2 to N6 – relate to national decision-making rather than plan-making.

Policy N2: improving the natural environment, states:

1. *"To contribute positively to the natural environment, and support nature's recovery, development proposals should:*
 - a. *Consider the environmental qualities of land proposed for development, including habitats, landscape character and the natural beauty of the countryside, and identify opportunities for those qualities to be conserved or enhanced (including through requirements for biodiversity net gain where these apply);*
 - b. *Take into account the quality of agricultural land (including that classified as best and most versatile agricultural land, and its grade), and if significant development of agricultural land is necessary, use areas of poorer quality land where possible;*
 - c. *Take suitable opportunities to connect to and strengthen ecological networks that extend beyond the site, drawing on the measures proposed by Local Nature Recovery Strategies, National Forest Strategies and Community Forest Plans, where present, and other relevant assessments;*
 - d. *Conserve and enhance existing natural features of visual, historic or nature conservation value (such as established trees and hedgerows) where possible; and use appropriate landscaping to help create a well-designed place and integrate the development into its surroundings;*
 - e. *Use green infrastructure provided as part of the scheme and nature-based solutions to secure multiple benefits: such as for biodiversity; surface water and pollution management (including maintaining flow rates and water quality); climate change mitigation and adaptation, and recreation;*
 - f. *Minimise any adverse impacts on biodiversity and include features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs. Development proposals should incorporate integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) into their construction unless there are compelling technical reasons which prevent their use, or would make them ineffective; and*
 - g. *Ensure that green infrastructure and other features to support nature are located and designed to minimise risk of future failure, and that appropriate measures are in place for any necessary long-term management.*
2. *If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, then the development should be refused.*
3. *Development proposals may incorporate biodiversity enhancements which exceed the statutory objective for biodiversity net gain, but this should only be a requirement where it is set out in up-to-date development plan policies for specific site allocations. Decisionmakers should not give weight to other development plan policies which require biodiversity gains which go beyond the statutory framework, including where a policy requires gains for development proposals which are exempt."*

Policy N3: Trees in new development, states:

1. *"In recognition of the benefits which trees can provide for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the character and quality of the built environment, development proposals should:*
 - a. *Make new streets tree-lined (unless there are strong reasons why this would be inappropriate in specific streets), and incorporate trees in other suitable locations, such as in parks and through the provision of community orchards;*
 - b. *Ensure that the selection of species and their placement is compatible with highways and other infrastructure requirements and the needs of different users of public spaces; and will be effective in helping to adapt to the effects of climate change and delivering other environmental benefits. Suitable arboricultural advice should be sought, and proposals discussed with highways and trees officers where necessary, so that the right trees are planted in the right places; and*
 - c. *Make provision for the long-term maintenance of both existing and newly-planted trees which form part of the development."*

Policy N4: Protected Landscapes, states:

1. *Development proposals within Protected Landscapes should be limited in scale and extent and sensitively located and designed to avoid harm to the statutory purposes and special qualities of the Protected Landscape. Substantial weight should be placed on the importance of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of these areas, and to conserving and enhancing wildlife and cultural heritage in National Parks and the Broads.*
2. *Proposals for major development within Protected Landscapes should be refused other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. To inform a decision about whether exceptional circumstances exist, consideration of such proposals should include an assessment of:*
 - a) *The need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations such as maintaining a sufficient supply of minerals, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;*
 - b) *The cost of, and scope for, developing outside the Protected Landscape, or meeting the need for the development in some other way; and*
 - c) *Any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which it could be moderated.*
3. *Where, exceptionally, proposals for major development are approved within Protected Landscapes, steps should be taken to mitigate potential adverse impacts on their special qualities and statutory purposes⁶⁰, including on features such as tranquillity and dark skies.*
4. *Development proposals within the setting of Protected Landscapes should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the Protected Landscape."*

Policy N5: Maintaining the character of the coast, states:

1. *"Development proposals should maintain the character of undeveloped areas of coast, including land designated for its landscape, habitat or heritage value, while improving public access to it where appropriate. They should not hinder the completion and maintenance of a continuous signed and managed route around the coast (the King Charles III England Coast Path National Trail).*
2. *Development proposals in areas defined as Heritage Coast (and which do not already fall within a Protected Landscape) should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within areas defined as Heritage Coast should not be supported, unless the development is compatible with the special character of the area.*
3. *If located within a Coastal Change Management Area, development proposals should also be considered against policy F9."*

Policy N6: Areas of particular importance for biodiversity and geodiversity, states:

1. *"To support the conservation of important habitats, species and sites of geodiversity value, development proposals affecting:*
 - a) *A site of international importance, which for the purpose of this policy is a habitats site, should be refused unless:*
 - i. *An appropriate assessment has concluded that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site (either individually or in combination with other developments), or the proposal can satisfy the derogation tests; and/or*
 - ii. *The impact of development on the relevant protected features of the protected site is being addressed through an Environmental Delivery Plan which has been made and the developer has committed to paying the nature restoration levy.*
 - b) *A site of national importance, which for the purpose of this policy is one designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, should only be supported if:*
 - i. *There would be no adverse effect (either individually or in combination with other developments) on the site's features of special scientific interest; or*
 - ii. *The benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both the likely impact on the features of special scientific interest, and any broader impact on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; or*
 - iii. *The impact of development on the relevant protected feature of the protected site is being addressed through an Environmental Delivery Plan which has been made and the developer has committed to paying the nature restoration levy*
 - c) *A site of local importance, which for the purpose of this policy is one designated as a Local Nature Reserve or identified as a local wildlife site, local geological site or equivalent in the development plan, should only be supported if:*

- i. There would not be a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site; or*
 - ii. The benefits of development in the location proposed clearly outweigh the likely impact on the features which make the site valuable for nature conservation.*
- 2. Irrespective of a site's status in nature conservation terms, development proposals which would entail the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.*
- 3. This policy applies to development on land inside or outside a designated area, if it would have an impact on the identified biodiversity or geodiversity value of the area concerned."*

Appendix B – Botanical Species List

Species recorded are mainly dominant, conspicuous or characteristic species. Species lists are therefore not exhaustive of all flora present in each habitat type.

The DAFOR values used in the report correspond to the following ranges of percentage cover:

DAFOR Value	% Cover
Dominant (D)	76-100% cover
Abundant (A)	25-75% cover
Frequent (F)	10-24% cover
Occasional (O)	5-9% cover
Rare (R)	<5% cover or <5 individuals / clumps within the survey unit
Locally (L)	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ruderal	Ephemeral	Pond 1	Modified Grassland	Other Neutral Grassland
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple saplings					R
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow					R-F
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent		F		O-A	R-A
<i>Allium sp.</i>	Onion					
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Black Grass					O
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail				R	O-A
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome					R
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass				F	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley					R
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass	O	A		F	R-A
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oat	O				
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy				LO	
<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>	Common Bistort			O		
<i>Brassica sp</i>	Cabbage					R
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome	R			O	O
<i>Carex capillaris</i>	Hairy Sedge					R
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed				LR	R-LF
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear				R	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	R	A			R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle				O	R
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	O-F				R

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ruderal	Ephemeral	Pond 1	Modified Grassland	Other Neutral Grassland
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood			D		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel			R		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn			R	R	
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard					R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot				O	O-F
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot					R
<i>Elymus caninus</i>	Bearded Couch					R
<i>Elymus repens</i>	Common Couch	R-F				
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	F-F				
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb	R				
<i>Epilobium sp</i>	Willowherb					R
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	A	R		R-LF	R-D
<i>Ervilia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare					LF
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Red Fescue					R
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash			R		
<i>Glyceria sp</i>	Sweet grass			O		
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	R-D				R
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog				LF-F	R-F
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	O-F				
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear		R		R	R
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common Ragwort	O	F		O	R-O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	R		R		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce		R		LR	
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-Nettle				R	
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling					R
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian rye grass				LF	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye				D	O-F
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's Foot Trefoil				LR	LO
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed				LR	
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not	R-F				
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy Grass				O-F	R
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		D		R-LO	R-O
<i>Plantago major</i>	Broad Leaf Plantain				R	R
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow Grass				F	R-O
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass		R			

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ruderal	Ephemeral	Pond 1	Modified Grassland	Other Neutral Grassland
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil					O
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn saplings			D	R	R-F
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup				A	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose				R	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	R-O		O		R
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel				R-F	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock					R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad Leaf Dock	R_F			O	R
<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	Tall Fescue					R
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel		F			
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion				R	
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	R			R	R
<i>Taraxacum</i>	Dandelion		R		R	R-O
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard					R
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover				R	R
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover				F	R
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	O-F				
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bullrush			D		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	O			LO	R
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch					R

Scientific Name	Common Name	Arable 1	Arable 2	Arable 3	Spoil/Ephemeral
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	R			
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Black Grass	R	A	F	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	R		R	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	R			
<i>Arctium</i> sp	Burdock	R	R		
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	A	F		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Arable 1	Arable 2	Arable 3	Spoil/Ephemeral
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oat		R		F
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Yellow Rocket				R
<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>	Common Bistort	R			
<i>Brachyglottis sp</i>	Ragwort	O			
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	R			
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome	R		F	
<i>Buddleja alternifolia</i>	Buddleja				F
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	R	R	R	O-A
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O	R	O	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle			R	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed				
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	Courgette				D
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass			R	
<i>Digitalis sp.</i>					R
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	R			
<i>Elymus repens</i>	Common Couch	A	F	O	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb				R
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb	R			
<i>Epilobium sp</i>	Willowherb	R	O		
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	F		R	
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge			R	
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Red Fescue	A			R-F
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers		O		O
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	R			
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill		R	R	
<i>Hedera sp</i>	Ivy	R	R		
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Sunflower				R
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue				O
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	R	O	R	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Arable 1	Arable 2	Arable 3	Spoil/Ephemeral
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F			
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft Grass		F		
<i>Hordelymus sp</i>	Barley		D		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	R			
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-Nettle		R	R	O
<i>Leontodon sp</i>	Hawksbit	R			
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye grass	F	F		
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	Scented Mayweed	F		O	
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed		R		F
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Forget-me-not	R			
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy				R
<i>Plantago major</i>	Broad Leaf Plantain	O	R		O
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadowgrass	R			
<i>Polygonum aviculare agg.</i>	Knotgrass		R	R	O-A
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn saplings	R			
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup				O
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O	R	R	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad Leaf Dock			O	
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	R	R	R	
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	R	R		
<i>Sonchus sp</i>	Sow-thistle	R	R		
<i>Stellaria pallida</i>	Lesser Chickweed	R			
<i>Taraxacum</i>	Dandelion	R			
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed			O	A
<i>Triticum sp</i>	Wheat Crop	D		D	
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's Foot	R			F
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	O	O		O