

## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Survey site:**

Land on Pound Lane, Upper Beeding, BN44 3JD

**Client:**

Simon Stringer – Stringer & Kitson

**Survey date:**

*5<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

**Project:**

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Horsham District Council. The proposal is described as:

The construction of a dwelling for the farm manager

[Unsubmitted]

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

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

<b>Site Location and Context</b>					
<p>The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 19775 11204 and has an area of approximately 0.6ha.</p> <p>The site is situated in the rural location of Upper Beeding in a lowland habitat on the edge of the South Downs National Park and is positioned within a grazing marsh consisting of a network of fields utilised for sheep and horse pasture, separated by linear agricultural drainage ditches lined with thick scrubby vegetation. Newbrook business park is located adjacent to the north of the site, comprising hard standing and buildings with no ecological value. The site is located in the River Flood Zone 3</p> <p>The wider landscape is dominated by open arable land designated as coastal and floodplain grazing marshes (CFGM), with an abundance of aquatic attributes such as rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, and lakes contributing to an expansive hydrologic network. Several small residential settlements and parishes are located within the landscape, and the River Adur is situated ~650m west. The immediate surrounding area and the wider landscape can be considered as high value combining to provide a variety of habitat for a diverse set of bat species.</p>					
<b>Survey Details</b>					
The site survey was undertaken by Romany Poole BSc (Hons) Accredited license – details available on request.					
<b>Date of survey</b>	<b>Temperature (°C)</b>	<b>Humidity (%)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>	<b>Wind (km/h)</b>	<b>Rain</b>
05/02/3035	10	83	5	3	None
<b>Survey limitations</b>					
<p>It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood, and the known distribution of species as recovered during the searches of historical biological records.</p> <p>A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given 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.</p> <p>There were no specific limitations to the survey.</p>					

<p><b>Ecological Survey Factor</b></p> <p><b>Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations</b></p>	<p>Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.</p>
<p>Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plan in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4).  <b>Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).</b></p>	
<p>Summary of Survey Findings</p> <p>(UKHab codes used)</p>	<p><b>On-site habitat descriptions</b></p> <p><u>Modified grassland [g4]- coastal and floodplain grazing marsh [19]</u></p> <p>The grassland parcel exhibits evidence of nutrient enrichment, with a high proportion of productive early successional communities, tall herb species and tall vigorous grasses. This can be attributed to the use of the field as a grazing paddock of horses and sheep. The average sward length was short at the time of the survey ranging from 5-10cm with some unmanaged borders of 30cm. Species density was identified at 5 species per m2, including the following: <b>dominant</b> common ragwort, white clover, downy buttercup, <b>abundant</b> common daisy, perennial rye, creeping buttercup <b>frequent</b> broadleaved dock, and <b>occasional</b> hawksbeard, narrow leaf plantain.</p> <p>Condition criteria passed: C, E, F          Condition achieved: Moderate</p> <p><u>Mixed scrub [h3h]</u></p> <p>Areas of dense mixed scrub with bramble, ivy and blackthorn are located along the south of the site, beyond a wire fence.</p> <p>Condition criteria passes: B, C          Condition achieved: Poor</p>

	<p><u>Native hedgerow [flailed hedgerow 116]</u>  A native hedgerow comprising of blackthorn encloses the western boundary. The hedgerow is heavily managed and has an average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots is approximately 1m with a width of approximately 80cm.</p> <p>Condition criteria passed: C1, D1, D2  Condition achieved: Poor</p> <p><b>Off-site habitat descriptions</b></p> <p><u>Off site adjacent freshwater water course and Tree line associated with bank or ditch</u>  A drainage ditch runs alongside the south boundary of the site, approximately 1m from the perimeter. Dense brash, brambles and ivy fill the banks, with an extremely shallow water level visible at the time of the survey. Treelines comprised of dominant hawthorn; blackthorn are located in associated distance.</p> <p><b>Local notable habitats</b></p> <p>The large majority of the surrounding 2km landscape, including the site itself is classified as priority habitat coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, along with some scattered parcels of traditional orchards and deciduous woodland. River Arun located ~650m north west includes coastal saltmarsh and mudflats along its intertidal foreshores.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p><b>On-site habitats</b>  The grassland habitat on site holds priority habitat status as coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (The Distribution of Lowland Wet Grassland in England 1976), however the habitat was dry at the time of the survey and does not deal with any seasonal flooding suggesting some form of habitat degradation that has occurred as a result of management.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>On-site habitats</b>  Best practice pollution prevention measures detailed within the below pollution prevent guidance notes must be adhered to during construction. Definitive detail could be included within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Agency Pollution Prevent Guidance Note 5: Works in, near, or over watercourse.</li> <li>• Environmental Agency Pollution Prevent Guidance Note 6: Working on Construction and Demolition Sites.</li> </ul> <p>To compensate for the proposed habitat losses at the site, the following habitat creation measures should be incorporated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of the retained grassland.</li> <li>• Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.</li> <li>• Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.</li> <li>• Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.</li> <li>• Designing lighting to encourage wildlife.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notable habitats</b> Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution affecting the retained tree lines and nearby priority habitats must be implemented during construction. A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) may be required for this.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity net gain</b> The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment will be required to demonstrate a 10% net gain through use of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Therefore, the planning application must be accompanied by a landscaping/habitat creation and enhancement strategy, biodiversity net gain calculations and a habitat management and monitoring plan to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.</p>
<p><b>Locality and Designated Sites</b></p>	
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p><b>On-site designations</b> The site is not subject to any designation.</p> <p><b>Statutory designated sites (within 2km)</b> There is one statutory site within 2km of the site, as detailed below:</p> <p><u>Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located 1.5km south-east</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill situated on the scarp slope of the South Downs is a site of both geological and biological importance. Three nationally uncommon habitats are represented: south-east chalk grassland, juniper scrub and calcareous pedunculate oak-ashbeech woodland. The site supports a rich community of invertebrates, especially harvestmen and has some uncommon butterflies and moths. A nationally uncommon plant also occurs. Devil’s Dyke is the best known example of a dry chalk valley. A dewpond on the plateau supports colonies of all three species of newt.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-statutory designated sites</b> The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SXBRC).</p>
<p><i>Foreseen Impacts</i></p>	<p><b>On-site designations</b> No impacts foreseen.</p> <p><b>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</b></p>

	The Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI IRZs) indicate that at the location selected, there is potential for the proposed development to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Arun Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>On-site designations</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</b> The Local Planning Authority (LPA) may be required to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) to determine whether there could be any effect on nearby European sites as a result of the proposed development. Natural England should be consulted for advice on the nature of the potential impacts and how these might be avoided or mitigated.</p>
<b>Invasive / Non-native species</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	N/A
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.
<b>Invertebrates</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site, including grassland and hedgerow, 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.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Grassland and hedgerow will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>No further surveys.</p> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b> The incorporation of bee bricks (e.g. Ibstock BeeHabitat or similar alternative brand) into the fabric of the new buildings would provide sheltering opportunities for pollinators. These should be installed 0.5m above ground level on a south-facing elevation with no obscuring vegetation. The site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates.</p>
<b>Bats</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p><b>EPSL data</b> 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 &lt;2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures</p>

	<p>implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. No EPSLs are present within a 2km radius of the site.</p> <p>There are no Special Areas of Conservation designated for bats within 10km of the site.</p> <p><b>Foraging and commuting habitat</b> Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of species-poor grassland, scattered scrub, and hedgerows. These habitats are likely to provide micro-climatic conditions that support invertebrates that will in turn provide foraging opportunities for local bat populations. Most notably, the hedgerows on site are mature and extend beyond the site adding to the continuity of vegetated linear features present in the wider landscape. Bats are well known to utilise linear features to aid navigation whilst travelling between foraging resources and roost sites.</p> <p><b>Roosting habitat</b> No evidence of roosting bats was identified on the site.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p><b>Roosting habitat [Trees]</b> No trees will be removed to facilitate the development.</p> <p><b>Foraging and commuting habitat</b> The proposed development will result in the loss of small areas of 0.065ha of modified grassland and a small section of hedgerow but given their 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.</p> <p><b>Artificial lighting</b> The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>Roosting habitat [Trees]</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Foraging and commuting habitat</b> No further surveys are required.</p> <p><b>Artificial lighting</b> 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: <a href="https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2">https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2</a></p>

	<p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b></p> <p>The installation of two bat boxes at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. The bat boxes will be incorporated into the fabric of the new dwelling. They will be suitable for pipistrelles (which have been identified locally through EPSL data). Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar alternative brand.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Birds</b></p>	
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p><b>Trees and vegetation</b></p> <p>No bird nests were identified within the hedgerow on-site, however they offer nesting opportunities and nest-building resources for birds.</p> <p><b>Barn owls</b></p> <p>The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls.</p> <p><b>Overwintering birds</b></p> <p>Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.</p>
<p><i>Foreseen Impacts</i></p>	<p><b>Buildings/trees</b></p> <p>The proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests.</p> <p><b>Barn owls</b></p> <p>None foreseen.</p> <p><b>Overwintering birds</b></p> <p>None foreseen.</p>
<p><i>Recommendations</i></p>	<p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>Any suitable hedgerow removal should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation should be undertaken immediately, by a qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged.</p> <p>Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged.</p>

	<p><b>Barn owls</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Overwintering birds</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b> The installation of a minimum of two bird boxes will be incorporated onto the fabric of the new dwelling which will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler No 17 Swift Nest Box (buildings) Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace (buildings) Or a similar alternative brand. Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole. 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.</p>
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p><b>EPSL data</b> A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site.</p> <p><b>Habitat suitability</b> Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, basking and refuge opportunities for reptiles. The hedgerow and scrub provide elevated value for reptiles as these habitats provide a suitable structure for refuge, whilst also providing foraging and commuting opportunities. However, it is important to note that the site is dominated by frequently managed grassland of limited value to reptiles. These habitats are suboptimal due to an absence of notable habitat structure and diversity, which significantly limits refuge, foraging, and commuting opportunities, albeit they do provide some basking opportunities when located adjacent to potential refugia. The immediate local landscape is dominated by arable field, with no extensive core habitats for the species present nearby.</p>
<p><i>Foreseen Impacts</i></p>	<p>Grassland and a small section of hedgerow 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.</p>
<p><i>Recommendations</i></p>	<p>A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any hedgerow root systems should be dug out outside of the reptile hibernation period (November-February).</li> <li>• Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles.</li> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>• Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Amphibians</b></p>	
<p>Summary of Survey Findings</p>	<p><b>EPSL and survey data</b>  A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for great crested newts within 2km of the site. However, the MAGIC database did return evidence indicating the presence of great crested newts resulting Great Crested Newt Class Survey Licence Return. These records are located 1.5km northeast (2014) and 1.5km west (2017). Great crested newts exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton <i>et al.</i> 2001). As such, the great crested newt metapopulation known to be present 1.5km northeast and 1.5km west are not suitably connected to the site.</p> <p><b>Aquatic habitat suitability (including ponds within 500m)</b>  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 <i>et al.</i> 2001).</p> <p>There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of four connecting ponds within 500m; the ponds are located ~0.16km and 0.25km south east and 0.44km and 0.45km east of the site. Although there is an absence of barriers between the ponds and the site they are assessed to have limited connectivity due to separation by extensive areas of suboptimal habitat including intensely managed agricultural land increasing the risk of predation. However the presence of commuting GCN on site can not be discounted.</p> <p><b>Terrestrial habitat suitability</b>  Areas of scrub may provide foraging and sheltering opportunities for amphibians, however the site comprises modified grassland which offers sub-optimal habitat for terrestrial amphibians. No hibernation opportunities were identified on-site.</p>

<p><i>Foreseen Impacts</i></p>	<p>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 0.065ha of grassland. If great crested newts are present within the pond 230m to the south of the site, when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces a <b>Green risk score</b>, which states: <b>Offence Highly Unlikely</b> (see <b>Figure 1</b> below).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="539 336 1756 726"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="539 336 1077 453">Component</th> <th data-bbox="1077 336 1615 453">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)</th> <th data-bbox="1615 336 1756 453">Notional offence probability score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="539 453 1077 491">Great crested newt breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1077 453 1615 491">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1615 453 1756 491">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="539 491 1077 529">Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1077 491 1615 529">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1615 491 1756 529">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="539 529 1077 568">Land 100-250m from any breeding</td> <td data-bbox="1077 529 1615 568">0.01 - 0.1 ha lost or damaged</td> <td data-bbox="1615 529 1756 568">0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="539 568 1077 606">Land &gt;250m from any breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1077 568 1615 606">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1615 568 1756 606">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="539 606 1077 644">Individual great crested newts</td> <td data-bbox="1077 606 1615 644">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1615 606 1756 644">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="539 644 1615 683" style="text-align: right;">Maximum:</td> <td data-bbox="1615 644 1756 683">0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="539 683 1077 726">Rapid risk assessment result:</td> <td data-bbox="1077 683 1756 726" style="background-color: #00FF00; text-align: center;"><b>GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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	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:		<b>GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY</b>
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<p><i>Recommendations</i></p>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm and left overnight to allow any amphibians to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter amphibians from the working area.</li> <li>• Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby aquatic habitats that amphibians could use.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> <li>• If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.</li> <li>• In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b></p> <p>The site could be enhanced for amphibians post-development through creation of amphibian hibernacula using rubble and logs from site clearance. Information on how to construct a hibernaculum can be found here: <a href="https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum">https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum</a></p>																								

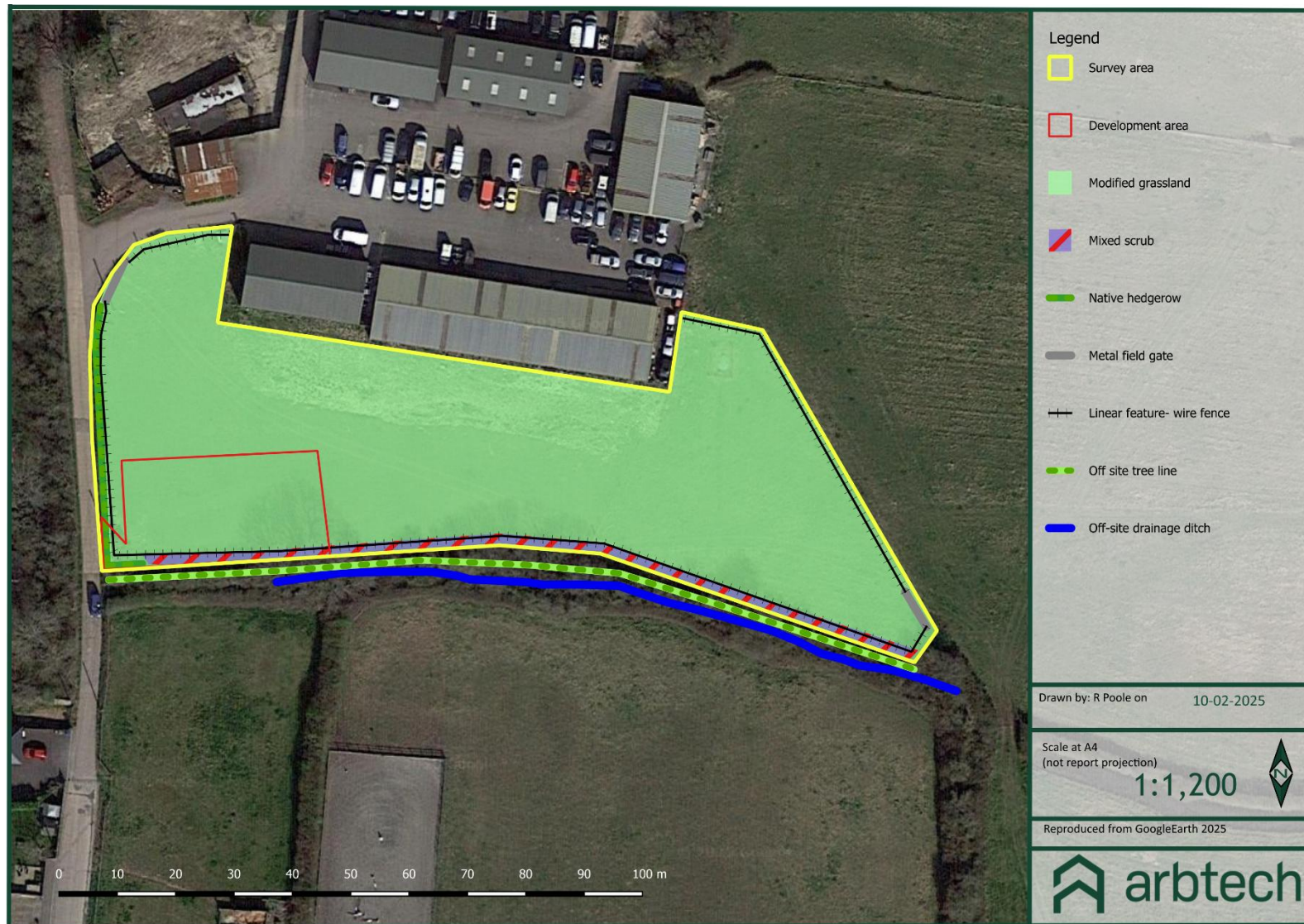
Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site. Further, no evidence of foraging badgers was noted within the development area. However, the site was considered suitable for badger sett excavation and foraging habitat.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No works will be undertaken within 30m of a badger sett. Modified grassland and a small section of native hedgerow will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to badger setts, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> </ul> <p>In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b> Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities for badgers.</p>

Riparian animals	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on site, however there is a small ditch located to the south of the site, however the ditch was dry at the time of the survey. There are also no riparian habitats present on site, however the River Adur is located approximately 680 m away from the development with numerous connecting ditches to the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p><b>Otters</b></p> <p>The proposed development will not result in the loss of any riparian habitats and no works will be undertaken within 8m of the watercourse (as per Environment Agency regulations). However, due to the presence of the watercourse within close proximity of the site, indirect effects such as pollution could occur during construction. Furthermore, construction activities could result in the death or injury of otters, if present.</p> <p><b>Water voles</b></p> <p>No works will be undertaken within 5m of the top of the banks of the watercourse. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated on water vole as a result of the proposed development.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>Otters</b></p> <p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to otter, further otter surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heras fencing will be erected around the working area to prevent encroachment within 8m of the watercourse.</li> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>• The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to the watercourse and any retained habitats which otters could use.</li> <li>• Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to the watercourse and any retained habitats that otters could use.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> </ul> <p>In the unlikely event that an otter holt or den is identified, works must cease and advise must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p> <p><b>Water voles</b></p> <p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to water voles, further water vole surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heras fencing will be erected around the working area to prevent encroachment within 5m of the watercourse.</li> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to the watercourse and any retained habitats which water voles could use.</li> <li>Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to the watercourse and any retained habitats that water vole could use.</li> <li>Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> </ul> <p>In the unlikely event that water voles or evidence of water voles is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p>
<b>Hazel dormouse</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p><b>EPSL data</b></p> <p>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site.</p> <p><b>Habitat suitability</b></p> <p>Although the dense scrub, hedgerows and tree lines within the site interior are suitable habitats for foraging, commuting and sheltering dormice, this habitat parcel is isolated from adequately sized core habitats for the species. For isolated habitats in the UK, research indicates that dormice require 20ha of woodland habitat to support a viable population (Bright et al. 1994), as the local landscape is dominated by arable fields with limited hedgerow boundaries and a lack of woodland, the presence of dormice within the site is concluded to be unlikely year round.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None foreseen.
<b>Other e.g. hedgehog</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The grassland and scrub onsite provides foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Modified grassland and a small section of hedgerow will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Similar to the badgers, a precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li></ul> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b></p> <p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities.</li><li>• Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas.</li><li>• Installation of gaps under boundary fencing to enable hedgehogs to move freely through the site.</li></ul>
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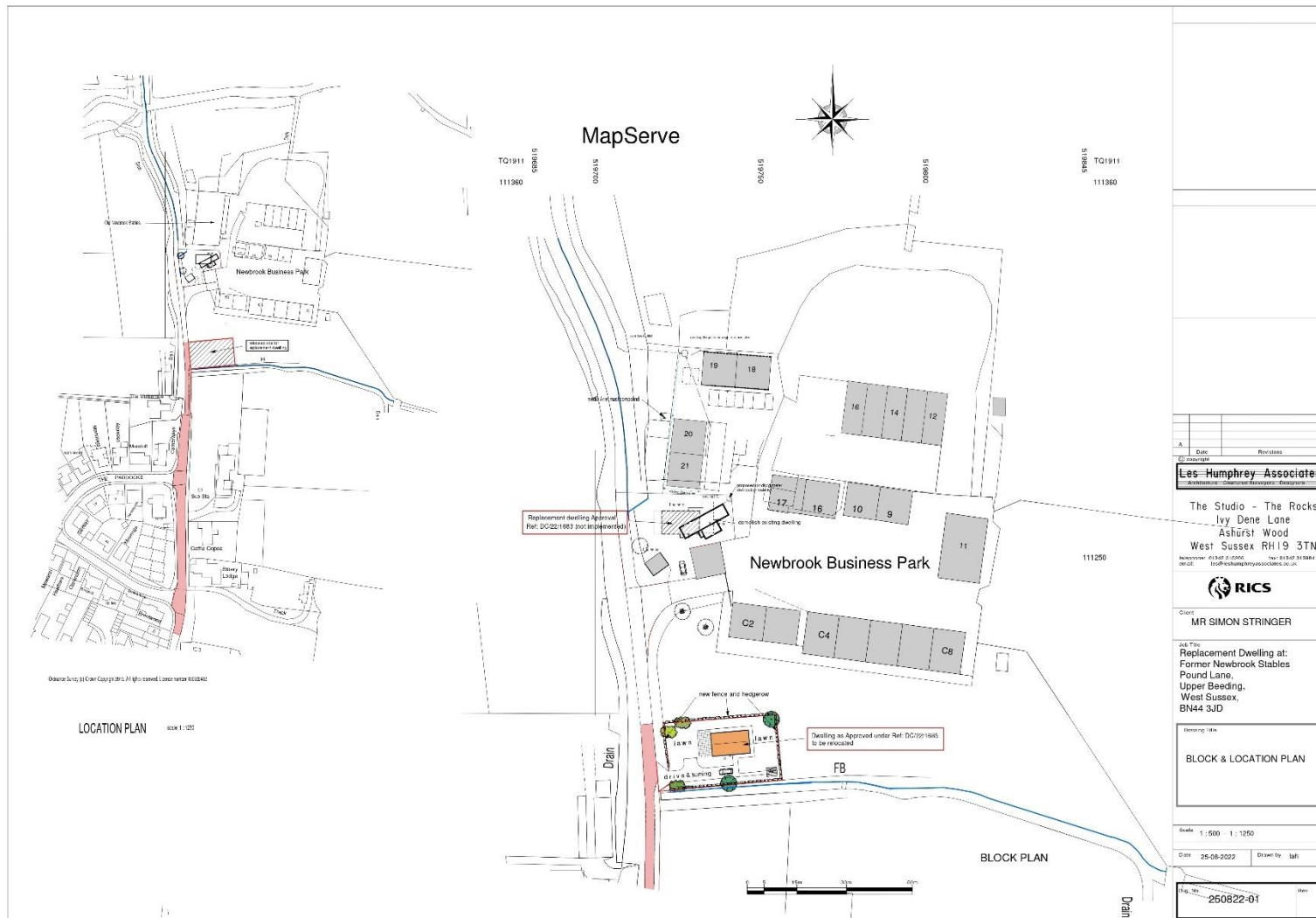
Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Proposed plan



Rev	Date	Revisions
A		

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**RICS**

Client: **MR SIMON STRINGER**

Job Title: **Replacement Dwelling at: Former Newbrook Stables Pound Lane, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3JD**



Drawing Title: **BLOCK & LOCATION PLAN**



Scale: 1:500 - 1:1250



Date: 25-08-2022 Drawn by: lah

Fig. No: **250822-01**

**Appendix 4: Habitat Photos**

Modified grassland	
Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 1: Modified grassland on site</p>
	

Mixed scrub	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 2: Mixed shrub on site (along southern side of site)
Native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 3: Native hedgerow present on site (along western site boundary)

Public footpath	
Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 5: Off site public footpath adjacent to the south of the site</p>
Offsite ditch	
Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 6: Off site ditch with minimal water</p>

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