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# Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Survey site**:

The Daisy Croft, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9RN

**Client**:

Bruckland Developments Ltd

**Survey date**:

1st October 2025

**Project:**

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

The construction of an estimated 10 residential dwellings.

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.

[redacted]

| The site survey was undertaken by Anya White BSc (Hons), Consultant Ecologist. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date of survey | Temperature (°C) | Humidity (%) | Cloud Cover (%) | Wind (mph) | Rain |
| 01/10/2025 | 13 | 84 | 100 | 5 | None |

**Survey Limitations**

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood, and the known distribution of species as recovered during the searches of historical biological records.

A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report. The survey was completed outside of the optimal survey period (April to September) for ground flora, and as such the accuracy of botanical assessment and condition assessment data may be limited in terms of species visible and ground conditions at the time of survey.

| **Ecological Survey Factor**<br><br>**Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations** | **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.** |
|---|---|
| **Habitats and plants (see Habitat map in Appendix 1, Location plan in appendix 2, Proposal plan in Appendix 3, and Photos in Appendix 4).**<br>**Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).** | |

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| *Summary of Survey Findings*<br><br>*(UKHab codes used)*<br>**g3c** – Other neutral grassland<br>**h2b** – Non - native Hedgerow<br>**32** – Scattered trees | **Site context**<br>The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 21838 15817 and has an area of approximately 0.55ha.<br>The site consists primarily of neutral grassland, with a non-native hedgerow along part of the northern boundary, and four scattered trees (two mature oaks, one immature willow, one immature beech). Surrounding land comprises scattered woodland and grasslands. The site is relatively flat, surrounded by residential dwellings to the south and west, with two trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders which abuts Henfield Conservation Area. Deciduous woodlands occur in the wider landscape approximately 25–264 m from the site, with traditional orchards ~275 m to the northeast.<br><br>Notable habitats are also present within the local area, including priority habitat deciduous woodland approximately 25m southeast, as well as additional deciduous woodlands within 141m–264 m of the site. These nearby deciduous woodlands are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). No protected or notable plant species were recorded within the site during the survey.<br><br>**On site habitat descriptions**<br>**g3c – Other neutral grassland**<br>The site is dominated by neutral grassland with an even and closely mown sward, suggesting recent cutting. The uniform sward height and limited structural diversity indicate intermittent management, though the presence of some nutrient-tolerant species suggests the land may have previously been subject to enrichment. Occasional tussocks and broader-leaved herbs provide some minor variation, offering foraging and shelter opportunities for invertebrates. The grassland also has some mole hills present, [redacted] Overall, the grassland is common and widespread locally, of low ecological value, and does not support notable or rare habitats.<br>The following species were recorded: |

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| | **A** – Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*)<br>**F** – Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)<br>**O** – Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)<br>**R** – Fungi, barley grass (*Hordeum* sp.), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), cut-leaved cranesbill (*Geranium dissectum*), common lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), bamboo (*Bambusa* sp.), holly sapling (*Ilex aquifolium*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), oak sapling (*Quercus* sp.), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*).<br>The grassland was assessed using the 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition assessment sheet with the following criteria:<br>- The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type **PASS**<br>- Sward height is varied. At least 20% less than 7cm and at least 20% more than 7cm) **FAIL**<br>- Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas **FAIL**<br>- Cover of bracken Pteridium aquilinum is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble Rubus fruticosus agg.) is less than 5% **PASS**<br>- Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area **PASS**<br>- There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type **FAIL** |

**Moderate condition assessment has been given.**

**h2b – non-native hedgerow**

The site contains a non-native hedgerow running along part of the north boundary. The hedgerow is predominantly composed of ivy, laurel, garden privet and cotoneaster. The hedgerow appears unmanaged but is intact, forming a dense, low-growing structure that provides some visual screening. It offers limited structural diversity and minimal native species representation.

The following species were recorded:

**D** – Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

**F** – *Cotoneaster franchetii*

**O** – Garden privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*)

As the hedgerow is composed primarily of ornamental, non-native species, it does not qualify as a UKHab "native hedgerow" type and therefore has **not been assessed using a hedgerow condition assessment sheet**. The feature is considered to be of **low ecological value**.

**32 – Scattered Trees**

There are four scattered trees within the site boundary. There is a mix of two oak trees, one willow and one beech tree. The scattered trees are detailed in the table below:

| Tree number | Species | Diameter at breast height (DBH) (cm) | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Willow | 10 | Southwest boundary. |
| T2 | Oak | >100 | Southeast boundary |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| T3 | Oak | >100 | Northeast boundary |
| T4 | Beech | 30 | Near T3, northeast boundary |

The scattered trees were assessed using the 'Individual trees' habitat type condition assessment sheet with the following criteria:

1. The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).
2. The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide
3. The tree is mature
4. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.
5. Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark
6. More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.

The results of the condition assessment are detailed in the table below:

| Tree number | Criteria 1 | Criteria 2 | Criteria 3 | Criteria 4 | Criteria 5 | Criteria 6 | Number of criteria passed | Overall condition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | PASS | PASS | FAIL | PASS | FAIL | PASS | 4 | Moderate |
| T2 | PASS | PASS | PASS | PASS | PASS | PASS | 5 | Good |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T3 | PASS | PASS | PASS | PASS | PASS | PASS | 5 | Good |
| T4 | PASS | PASS | FAIL | PASS | FAIL | PASS | 4 | Moderate |

Local notable habitats

The site has pockets of deciduous woodland and traditional orchards located within 500m, as detailed in table 1.

Table 1: Areas within 500m from survey site

| Habitat type | Distance from site |
|---|---|
| Deciduous woodland | 25m southeast<br>141m northeast<br>264m northeast |
| Traditional orchards | 275m northeast |

*Foreseen Impacts*

**On site habitats**

The habitats on site are widespread and not notable. The proposed development will result in the loss of the neutral grassland. This loss is considered unlikely to impact biodiversity, given the small area affected and further deciduous woodland extending to the southeast. No impacts on adjacent or nearby habitats off site are foreseen.

**Notable habitats**

No direct impacts to any notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development. The nearest areas of deciduous woodland lie between 25–264 m, with traditional orchard located 275 m northeast from the site. While indirect effects such as dust, litter, or surface runoff are possible during construction, the scale of the development make significant impacts unlikely.

*Recommendations*

**On site habitats**

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| | Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012).<br><br>A biodiversity net gain (BNG) report will be required for the proposal, as more than 25m$^2$ of habitat is affected by the proposal.<br><br>**Notable habitats**<br>No direct impacts to any notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development. The nearest areas of deciduous woodland are 25m southeast of the site boundary, with further parcels located within 141–264 m of the site. Whilst the development is small scale, the close proximity to notable habitats means there is potential for indirect effects (e.g. pollution, dust, litter, surface runoff) during construction. |
| **Locality and Designated Sites** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | **On site designations**<br>The site is not subject to any designations.<br><br>**Statutory designated sites (within 2km)**<br>There are no known statutory sites nearby. However, the site lies within the impact zone for Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI, as detailed in the table below: |

| Statutory designated site | Distance from site boundary | Reason for designation |
|---|---|---|
| Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill (SSSI) | 4.57km south | Notable chalk grassland habitats supporting diverse flora, including nationally rare and scarce plant species, and important invertebrate communities. |

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| | This development site is within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone. Within this zone, proposals that would lead to an increase in water demand may have a likely significant effect on the qualifying features of the Arun Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site through reduced water levels.<br><br>**Non-statutory designated sites**<br>The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | Natural England advises that such development proposals require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to consider the impacts, alone and in combination with other plans/projects, proceeding to appropriate assessment stage where likely significant effects cannot be ruled out. The HRA should take into consideration the Natural England Access to Evidence - Conservation Objectives for European Sites and it will need to set out in detail any mitigation measures that will be secured in this case, along with the necessary justification of their likely efficacy to ensure there is no adverse effect on the integrity of the site in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). |
| *Recommendations* | Natural England must be consulted on any proposals which reach the appropriate assessment stage of HRA. |
| **Invasive / Non-native species** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | Cherry laurel and *Cotoneaster franchetti* were identified on site, which whilst they are not listed as a Schedule 9 invasive species, they are non-native and can be problematic, particularly nearby to woodland. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | Construction could result in the spread of non-native species. |
| *Recommendations* | Cherry laurel and *Cotoneaster franchetti* should be dug up, including roots, and disposed of in line with appropriate controlled waste measures. |
| **Invertebrates** | |

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| *Summary of Survey Findings* | The habitats present on-site, including neutral grassland and non-native hedgerow, likely provide some common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. The grassland is evenly managed with a short sward, offering minimal variation or flowering resources. The hedgerow, composed mainly of laurel, ivy, cotoneaster, and garden privet, provides some shelter and nectar sources, though the hedgerow is not well developed and therefore presents limited flowering resources.<br>The small log piles along the south of the site boundary and the wood chipping patch north of site offers some cover and foraging opportunities, which could support a low number of saproxylic invertebrates. The site contains no further notable habitats which may provide niches for specialised or protected invertebrates. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | The grassland 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. |
| *Recommendations* | No further surveys.<br><br>**Suggested biodiversity enhancements**<br>The incorporation of bee bricks (e.g. Ibstock BeeHabitat or similar alternative brand) into the fabric of the new buildings would provide sheltering opportunities for pollinators. These should be installed 0.5m above ground level on a south-facing elevation with no obscuring vegetation. The site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates. |
| **Bats** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | **EPSL data**<br>A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites <2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There is one EPSLs within a 2km radius of site as detailed below: |

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| | <table><tr><th>EPSL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Distance from site</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>2017-29484-EPS-MIT</td><td>Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle</td><td>0.53km east</td><td>Destruction of a resting place</td></tr><tr><td>2019-38766-EPS-MIT</td><td>Brown long eared, Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle.</td><td>1.78km southeast</td><td>Destruction of a resting and breeding place</td></tr></table><br>**Foraging and commuting habitat**<br>The local area is of good bat habitat with deciduous woodland 25m southeast to the site, with linear commuting routes to the site and other foraging areas. There are linear features in the surrounding area, which connect directly onto site, and the grassland and hedgerow would provide foraging opportunities, as they likely support a low number of invertebrates. Based on the surrounding habitats, foraging and commuting bats are likely to utilise the site.<br><br>**Roosting trees**<br>The site supports two mature oak trees, which contain features such as cavities, limb splits, and areas of lifted bark that provide potential roosting opportunities for bats. These trees are proposed to be retained, as only the willow and beech trees are to be removed. Those younger trees within the site and along the boundaries lack suitable features and are considered to have negligible roost potential. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | **Roosting habitat (trees)**<br>The proposed development will not result in the removal of any trees which have roosting features available for bats.<br><br>**Foraging and commuting habitat** |

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| | The proposed development will result in the removal of neutral grassland, which could be used by foraging or commuting bats. However, the removal of the grassland is likely to be inconsequential to local populations due to extensive similar habitat in the local area.<br><br>**Artificial lighting**<br>The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats. This may disturb commuting bats. |
| *Recommendations* | **Roosting habitat (Trees)**<br>In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.<br><br>**Artificial lighting**<br>A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2<br><br>**Suggested biodiversity enhancements**<br>The installation of two bat boxes at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats.<br>The bat boxes will be incorporated into the fabric of the new dwellings. 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. |

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| | Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light. |
| **Birds** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | No evidence of nesting birds was found on site during the surveys; however, birds could use the trees and hedgerow for nesting. No habitat for schedule 1 birds was observed. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | The proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests. |
| *Recommendations* | Any vegetation 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.<br><br>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.<br><br>**Suggested biodiversity enhancements**<br>The installation of a minimum of two bird boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries or on retained buildings will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g.<br>- Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes (trees)<br>- Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes (trees)<br>- Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees)<br>- Or a similar alternative brand. |

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| | Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole. |
| **Reptiles** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | **EPSL data**<br>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site.<br><br>**Habitat suitability**<br>Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, basking and refuge opportunities for reptiles. The grassland and hedgerow provide value for reptiles as these habitats provide a suitable structure for refuge, whilst also providing foraging and commuting opportunities, particularly around the shed and associated debris. The site has good connectivity to further suitable reptile habitat in the wider landscape via grasslands and woodland. In addition, bare ground provides suitable basking opportunities. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | The grassland habitat is being removed as part of the development, there is a risk that a low number of reptiles could be present in the vicinity of the works. These could be injured or killed without mitigation. |
| *Recommendations* | A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures:<br>• Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles.<br>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.<br>• Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats.<br>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. |

- If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.
- In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advise must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

**Suggested biodiversity enhancements**

The site could be enhanced for reptiles post-development with the inclusion of log piles (created from felled materials) and planting of areas of native shrubs, to provide sheltering opportunities.

**Amphibians**

*Summary of Survey Findings*

**EPSL data**

A review of the MAGIC database returned four granted EPSL records for great crested newts within 2km of the site. Great crested newts exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton *et al.* 2001).

| EPSL reference | Species affected | Distance from site | Impacts allowed by licence |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2015-17216-EPS-MIT | Great crested newt | 1.42km west | Destruction of resting place |
| 2015-17216-EPS-MIT-1 | Great crested newt | 1.42km west | Destruction of resting place |
| 2015-17216-EPS-MIT-2 | Great crested newt | 1.42km west | Destruction of resting place |
| EPSM2009-1258 | Great crested newt | 1.49km south | Destruction of resting and breeding place |

**Habitat suitability**

Amphibians require suitable aquatic habitat in which to breed. When consulting OS maps, there are 4 ponds within 500m of the site, the closest being 76m southeast. This pond is connected to the site by the surrounding grassland and scattered hedgerows, which are likely to support amphibian dispersal. There are 3 further ponds >155m north from site that are also suitably connected to the site, through grassland and hedgerows. The interior of the survey site provides suboptimal habitat for amphibians, however the taller and denser areas of vegetation could be used for shelter, particularly given the proximity to the pond 76m southeast.

| Pond number | Distance of pond from nearest site boundary | Suitably connected? |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 76m southeast | Yes, there are no significant barriers to dispersal. |
| 2 | 157m north | |
| 3 | 185m north | |
| 4 | 220m northeast | |

*Foreseen Impacts*

When georeferencing the proposed development plans over scaled mapping of the site, it is noted that the development area is likely to result in the loss or significant disturbance of 0.55ha of grassland. If great crested newts are present within the pond 76m to the southeast of the site, when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces a red risk score, which states: Offence Highly likely (see Figure 1 below).

| Component | Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom) | Notional offence probability score |
|---|---|---|
| Great crested newt breeding pond(s) | No effect | 0 |
| Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s) | 0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged | 0.7 |
| Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s) | No effect | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Land >250m from any breeding pond(s) | No effect | 0 |
| Individual great crested newts | No effect | 0 |
| | Maximum: | 0.7 |
| Rapid risk assessment result: | RED: OFFENCE HIGHLY LIKELY | |

If great crested newts are present within the pond 155m – 220m northeast of the site, when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces a amber risk score, which states: Offence likely (see Figure 2 below).

| **Component** | **Likely effect** (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom) | **Notional offence probability score** |
|---|---|---|
| Great crested newt breeding pond(s) | No effect | 0 |
| Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s) | No effect | 0 |
| Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s) | 0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged | 0.3 |
| Land >250m from any breeding pond(s) | No effect | 0 |
| Individual great crested newts | No effect | 0 |
| | Maximum: | 0.3 |
| Rapid risk assessment result: | AMBER: OFFENCE LIKELY | |

*Recommendations*

Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys will be required of any ponds within 250m to determine the presence or absence of great crested newts. This will comprise collecting water samples and sending them off for laboratory analysis and such surveys must be undertaken between mid-April and June, in accordance with current survey guidelines (Biggs et al, 2014).

The surveys are likely to be required before planning permission can be granted.

**Suggested biodiversity enhancements**

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| | The site could be enhanced for amphibians post-development through creation of amphibian hibernacula using rubble and logs from site clearance. Information on how to construct a hibernaculum can be found here: https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum |
| [redacted] | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] |
| **Riparian animals** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on or connected to the site. There are also no riparian habitats present on site or within an influencing distance. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development. |

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| | In the unlikely event that water voles or evidence of water voles is identified, works must cease and advise must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. |
| *Recommendations* | None required. |
| **Hazel dormouse** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | **EPSL data**<br>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site.<br><br>**Habitat suitability**<br>Dormice typically utilise a three-dimensional habitat structure to commute between feeding and breeding sites whilst avoiding predation. Although there are pockets of woodland locally, there is no suitable dormouse habitat on the site itself. Small holes were observed along the southern site boundary within some hay, indicating the presence of small mammals; however, these features are not indicative of suitable habitat for hazel dormice. Henfield Common, located approximately 25 m southeast of the site, comprises suitable deciduous woodland that could support dormice, but the site itself does not provide suitable habitat. Therefore, the likelihood of hazel dormice being present on site is considered acceptably low. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development. |
| *Recommendations* | None. |
| **Other e.g. hedgehog** | |
| *Summary of Survey Findings* | The grassland and hedgerow provide optimal habitat for hedgehogs to commute, forage and hibernate within. Additionally, the site has access to the woodland in the wider landscape meaning hedgehogs can move freely on and off site. |
| *Foreseen Impacts* | The grassland will be removed during construction, therefore construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs and other small mammals, if present. |
| *Recommendations* | A basic precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: |

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| | • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.<br>• 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.<br>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.<br><br>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.<br><br>**Suggested biodiversity enhancements**<br>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs:<br>• Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities.<br>• Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas.<br>• Installation of gaps under boundary fencing to enable hedgehogs to move freely through the site. |

## Appendix 1: Habitat map

## Appendix 2: Location map

## Appendix 3: Proposed plan

## Appendix 4: Photos

*Figure 1: northwest patch of neutral grassland*

*Figure 2:* neutral grassland facing south

*Figure 3:* neutral grassland facing east

*Figure 4:* non – native hedgerow north of site.

*Figure 5: T1*

*Figure 6: T2*

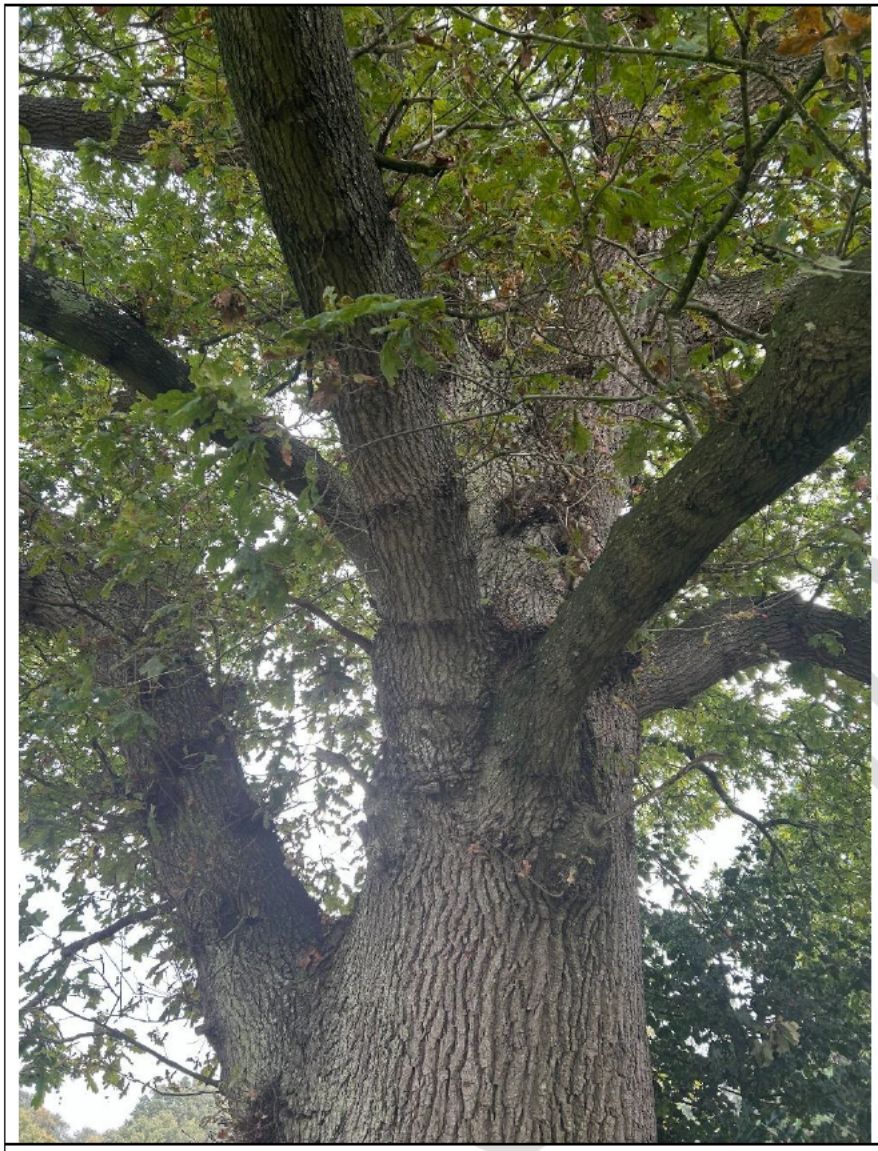

*Figure 7: T2*

*Figure 8: T3*

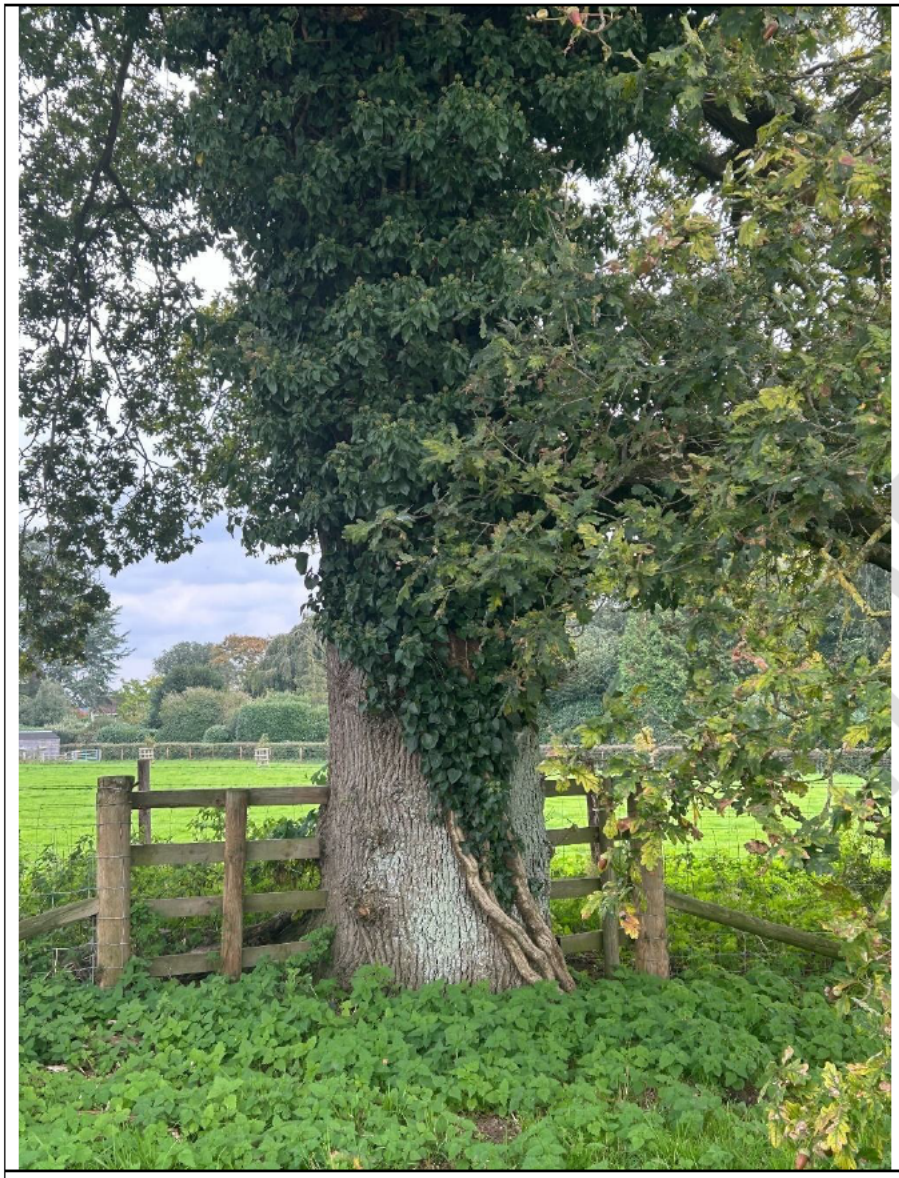

*Figure 9: T3*

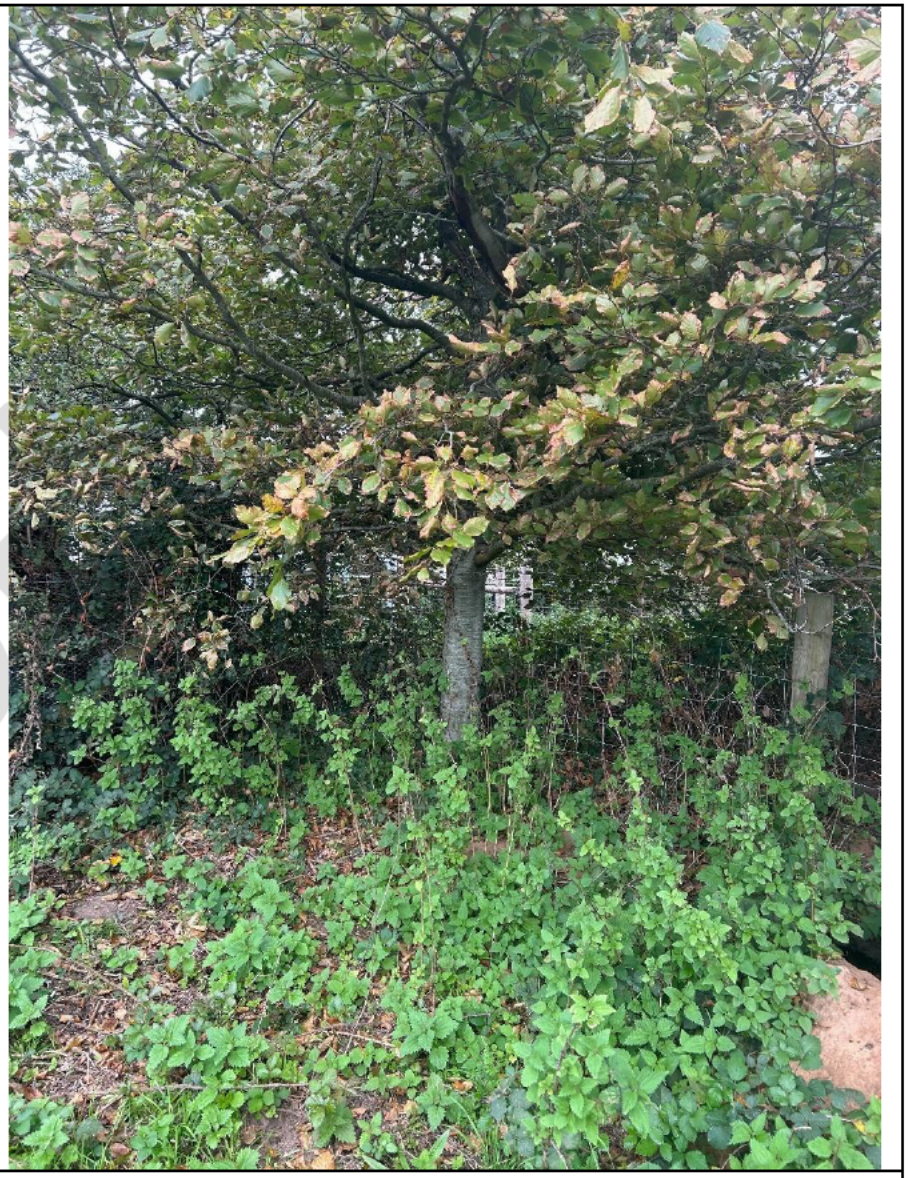

*Figure 10: T4*

*Figure 11: Small holes within hay south of site*

*Figure 12: Wooden pile behind shed east of site.*

## Limitations and Copyright

### Limitations

A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report.

### Legal

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