Preliminary Ecological Assessment

Oakhurst Centre

West Chiltington Lane

Coneyhurst

Billingshurst

West Sussex

RH14 9QG

NGR: TQ 10595 24591

15th February 2024

Sylvatica Ecology Ltd

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In order to minimise the likelihood of adverse effects on protected animal species over time, it is accepted good practice, in accordance with Natural England (NE) (formerly English Nature) guidance for ecological surveys to be repeated should works be deferred for over 12 - 18 months from the date of initial survey.

It is the duty of the landowner, developer and operations managers to act responsibly and to comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to, or during works.

The recommendations and information contained within this report are based on the information provided on the development works prior to the surveys being carried out. Should the development proposals change then the findings and recommendations contained within would potentially require revision.

The findings within this report do not constitute as legal advice. Should this be required, then a suitably qualified professional practitioner should be contacted.

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1 SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents the findings for the preliminary ecological assessment of the Oakhurst Centre, West Chiltington Lane, Coneyhurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9QG, NGR: TQ 10595 24591.

1.2 The development proposal comprised of the demolition of the buildings currently present on site. Following this, a 12-pitch static caravan/ traveller site will be installed on the horse pasture fields to the west. Horse grazing paddock will be incorporated into the northern section of the site boundary. Included would be landscape planting, access routes a day room for each pitch and hard standing for vehicles.

1.3 The site survey area was a total of 3.8016ha in size and was effectively divided into three distinct sections. The eastern section comprised of buildings mostly used for storage and works units, in addition to a working equestrian centre and associated stables. Heavily grazed fields were also present around this area. To the south-west was a large area of modified grassland, which was used for horse grazing. This area was heavily grazed and subject to heavy erosion. An unmanaged hedgerow was also present around the western and southern edges of this area, which was beginning to grow out. The northern section comprised an area of deciduous woodland, neutral grassland, mixed scrub and the River Adur corridor.

1.5 Recommendation has been made regarding further assessment for the potential presence of protected species. These are:

- ***Emergence/ Re-Entry Bat Surveys and Licencing for Building A,***
- ***Emergence/ Re-Entry Bat Surveys on Building B,***
- ***Bat Emergence/ Re-Entry of Trees with PRF-M if Impacted by Works,***
- ***Further Assessment for Potential Presence of Reptile and Great Crested Newt,***
- ***Assessment of Swift Presence Within Stables,***
- ***Further Assessment for The Presence Of Dormice If Habitat Identified As Having Potential For This Species is to be Impacted.***
- ***Further Assessment for The Presence of Stag Beetle and Brown Hair Streak Butterfly If Habitat Identified as Having Potential for this Species Is to be Impacted.***

1.6 Recommendation has been incorporated into the report regarding the installation of ecological enhancements. These would be in the form of creating stag beetle habitat, installing bat and swift next boxes and planting tree, shrub and herbaceous species that would improve local biodiversity.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report presents the findings for the preliminary ecological assessment of the Oakhurst Centre, West Chiltington Lane, Coneyhurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9QG, NGR: TQ 10595 24591.

2.2 ***Figure 1: Site Survey Location (Red Line Boundary)***

Site Location

2.3 The site was located within rural West Sussex, approximately 4km to the east of Billingshurst and just north of the A272 main road. The overall land-use within the surrounding landscape was primarily agricultural, with a mixture of arable and pasture farming. Equestrianism was also a common activity with associated stables and grazing fields within the immediate landscape. The tree cover was relatively diminished, and the River Adur was directly adjunct to the site, to the north east. Hedgerow provided the most common woody vegetation type, surrounding, a majority, of the fields within the local landscape.

Aim of this Study

2.4 The aim of this habitat survey was to assess the habitats present on and adjacent to the property and to evaluate the potential for protected species to be present. Recommendations on any further survey requirements, actions to preserve the habitats present and enhancements have been made as a result of the findings of this habitat survey. These findings should be used within the design phase of the proposals, to minimise the impacts for biodiversity, through careful design to avoid negative effects where possible. The survey findings then enable a prediction of the potential impacts of any ecological receptors present to be made in each specific case.

2.5 ***Figure 2: Proposed Development (Manorwood Ltd)***

Development Proposal

2.6 The development proposal (***Figure 2)*** comprised of the demolition of the buildings currently present on site. Following this, a 12-pitch static caravan/ traveller site will be installed on the

horse pasture fields to the west. Horse grazing paddock will be incorporated into the northern section of the site boundary. Included would be landscape planting, access routes a day room for each pitch and hard standing for vehicles.

3 METHODOLOGY

Ecological Survey

3.1 A preliminary ecological survey walkover was carried out at the Site on the 30th January 2024 The habitats were assessed in accordance with BS 42020 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development and broadly followed the 'Extended Phase 1' methodology as set out in the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment and the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey. This method of survey provides information on the habitats in the survey area and assesses the potential for legally protected species to occur on or adjacent to the Site. The habitats were classified according to the UK Habitat Classification system (Butcher *et al.* 2020).

3.2 Any faunal species identified during the survey were noted. Any evidence for the presence of, or potential for, protected species was also noted. In particular: amphibians, bats, reptiles, mammals, and birds were included.

3.3 A search was carried out for evidence of the presence of invasive plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which are subject to strict legal control. The list of invasive plant species included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is extensive and these plants are found in a range of different habitats.

3.4 An assessment of the potential of the property to support roosting and foraging bats was made and categorised according to ***Table 1*** (BCT 2023).

3.5 ***Table 1: Bat Roost and Foraging Potential of Buildings and Trees (BCT 2023)***

Category	Roosting Habitat	Commuting and Foraging Habitat
Known Roost	Evidence of bat present (*e.g.*) droppings, live or dead bats and/ or desk study results	N/A
High/ PRF-M	Building or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape

	suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitats.	that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.
Moderate/ PRF-M	Building or tree with one or more potential roosting features that could be used by several bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitats, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation concern.	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
Low/ PRF-I	Building or tree with one of more potential roost features that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, there potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/ or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats. (*i.e.* unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation)	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats for example, a fragmented hedgerow or un-vegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Negligible	Building or tree with no potential to support any bats	

		Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats

Designated Sites and Biological Records

3.6 A 2km radius biological records search was requested from the Sussex Biological Records Centre. This checked for protected and notable species records within 2km of the application site. This also presented records of locally designated wildlife sites within this 2km search radius.

3.7 Records of internationally designated statutory sites within the 5km of the Site and nationally designated sites within 2km of the Site were searched for using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website (MAGIC) http://www.magic.gov.uk.

3.8 MAGIC was also searched for previously granted Natural England licence applications, which may give an indication of the presence of protected species in the local area.

Habitat Mapping and Condition Assessment Methods

3.9 Each specific habitat was assessed according to the condition assessment characteristics on the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 1. This provides specific criteria for each habitat classification utilising the United Kingdom Habitat Classification System. The mapping was carried out using QGIS V 3.22.14-Bailowieza for MasOS 14.1. Habitat areas and pond distances from site were calculated using this QGIS software.

Qualification of Author

3.10 The survey work and reporting has been led by Richard Law BSc MRes CEnv MCIEEM FLS. Richard has been undertaking ecological survey work within the last 18 years on many different locations throughout the United Kingdom, for a variety of protected species, including bats (Class 2 2015-12576), reptiles, amphibians including great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) (Class 1 2016-20290) and terrestrial mammals including dormice (Class 1 2015-13188) and birds including barn owl licence (CL29/00236). Richard is also qualified in track and sign and trailing *via* an international system of assessment (www.trackercertification.com).

4 RESULTS

4.1 This section describes the habitats identified during the habitat survey. All the plant species names follow the nomenclature of Stace 1997; a map detailing the locations of the habitats described can be found in Appendix A, habitat condition assessments in Appendix B, locations of water bodies close to the property in Appendix C and photographs of the property taken at the time of the survey can be found in Appendix D. A summary of the protected species and habitats legislation for England and Wales can be found in Appendix E.

Designated Sites

4.2 ***Table 2: Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites***

Site Name	***Location***	***Nature Conservation Interest***
Coneyhurst Cutting Site of Species Scientific Interest (SSSI)	TQ 101 244 376m south-west	At this site the western embankment of the A272 road cutting exposes the Paludina Limestone (BGS Bed 4) of the Lower Weald Clay Formation (Wealden). The limestone (0.43m thick) shows interesting diagenetic features and contains large Paludina (***Viviparus***) shells preserved in 3-D. This facies is rarely exposed now. The limestone was once in great demand for interior work (especially in ecclesiastical buildings) and is of great interest to archaeologists, historians, and architects.
Widens Meadow Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	TQ 097 255 1.1km north-west	Wilden's Meadow LWS is located near to Billingshurst and contains a mosaic of grassland and woodland habitats, together with, a number, of ponds. This provides good habitat for amphibians including the great crested newt (***Triturus cristatus***), a notable species that has been recorded on the site.
Rosier Wood LWS	TQ 094 245 1.2km west	Rosier Wood LWS is a moderate sized woodland on the edge of Billingshurst. It is an ancient and semi-natural woodland of hazel (***Corylus avellana***) coppice with oak (***Quercus robur***) standards. Coppicing is still carried out on the woodland today. It contains a rich diversity of plants, including notable species such as narrow-leaved bitter-cress (***Cardamine impatiens).*** It is also important for notable woodland fauna including breeding nightingale (***Luscinia megarhynchos***), hazel dormouse (***Muscardinus avellanarius***) and white admiral (***Limenitis camilla***).

4.3 There were two local wildlife sites within the 2kms search area, which were Widens Meadow and Rosier Wood. The Coneyhurst Cutting SSSI was also within the 2kms search area, to the southwest on the other side of the A272.

4.4 The Mens Special Area of Conservation (SAC) was 7.9km to the west of the proposed development site. A qualifying feature of this SAC was due to the presence of the Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) Annex II species.

Biological Records Search

4.5 ***Table 3: Birds Directive and Schedule 1 WCA 1981 Bird Species Records***

Latin Name	***Common Name***	***Number of Records***
Accipiter gentilis	Goshawk	3
Alecedo atthis	Kingfisher	10
Calidris pugnax	Ruff	1
Ciconia Ciconia	White Stork	5
Circus aeruginosus	Marsh Harrier	1
Circus cyaneus	Hen Harrier	4
Cygnus columbianus-berwickii	Bewick's Swan	1
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	2
Falco subbuteo	Hobby	13
Fingilla montifringilla	Brambling	1
Lulla arborea	Woodlark	1
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	21
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	1
Phoenicurus ochruros	Black Redstart	5
Plectrophenax nivalis	Snow Bunting	1
Pluvialis apricaria	Golden Plover	1
Podiceps auritus	Slavonian Grebe	1
Regulus ignicapilla	Firecrest	1
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	42
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	5

4.6 There were 20 records of Birds Directive and Schedule 1 WCA 1981 bird species, within the 2km search radius. Redwing was the most commonly encountered bird, with red kite and hobby also relatively commonly encountered within the search area. Kingfisher was also fairly commonly encountered, which would likely be e result of the River Adur to the north. All the other bird species recorded were fewer in number and sporadically distributed.

4.7 ***Table 4: Bat Species Records***

Latin Name	Common Name	Number of Records
Myotis daubentonii	Daubenton's Bat	1
Myotis nattereri	Natterer's Bat	1
Nyctalus noctula	Noctule	1
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Common Pipistrelle	17
Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Soprano Pipistrelle	1
Plecotus auritus	Brown Long Eared Bat	11

4.8 There were six species of bat within the 2km search radius. Common pipistrelle was the most abundant, with 17 records, followed by brown long eared bat, with 11. The other four species recorded each had a single record.

4.9 ***Table 5: Amphibian and Reptile Records***

Latin Name	Common Name	Number of Records
Bufo bufo	Common Toad	7
Anguis fragilis	Slow Worm	24
Natrix helveticus	Grass Snake	11
Lissotriton vulgaris	Smooth Newt	2
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	2
Triturus cristatus	Great Crested Newt	4
Vipera berus	Adder	2
Zootoca vivipara	Common Lizard	11

4.10 There were four species of amphibian present, including four records of the great crested newt and four species of reptile. Slow worm was the most abundant reptile species, with grass snake

having 11 records. Common lizard was also present, with two records of adder within the search radius.

4.11 ***Table 6: Terrestrial and Riparian Mammal Records***

Latin Name	Common Name	Number of Records
Erinaceus europaeus	Hedgehog	6
Muscardinus avellanarius	Dormouse	22

4.12 There were 22 records of dormice within the 2km search radius and six records of hedgehog.

4.13 ***Table 7: Bony Fish Records***

Latin Name	Common Name	Number of Records
Cattus gobia	Bullhead	6
Anguilla aguilla	European eel	5
Salma trutta	Brown/ Sea Trout	2

4.14 The presence of bony fish has been incorporated into this search due to the River Adur directly adjacent to the site the north. Bullhead, European eel and brown/ sea trout were all present within the 2km search radius.

4.15 ***Table 8: WCA Sch5s9 5A Invertebrate Species***

Latin Name	Common Name	Number of Records
Lucanis cervus	Stag Beetle	2
Apatura iris	Purple Emperor	10
Cupido minimus	Small Blue	2
Thecla betulae	Brown Hairstreak	35

4.16 There were two records of stag beetle, ten records of purple emperor, two records of small blue butterfly and 35 records of brown hairstreak within the 2km search radius.

Granted Mitigation Licences

4.17 ***Table 9: Natural England Mitigation Licences***

Licence Number	Distance and Direction	Species	Type	Date	NGR
2014-3595-EPS-MIT	1.9km west	Great Crested Newt	Damage and Destruction of a Resting Place	19/12/2014 to 30/10/2020	TQ 0941 2250

4.18 There was a single granted Natural England mitigation licence. This was for the damage and destruction of a resting place for the great crested newt.

Summary of Habitats Present on Site

4.19 The site survey area was a total of 3.8016ha in size and was effectively divided into three distinct sections. The eastern section comprised of buildings mostly used for storage and works units, in addition to a working equestrian centre and associated stables. Heavily grazed fields were also present around this area. To the south-west was a large area of modified grassland, which was used for horse grazing. This area was heavily grazed and subject to heavy erosion. An unmanaged hedgerow was also present around the western and southern edges of this area, which was beginning to grow out. The northern section comprised an area of deciduous woodland, neutral grassland, mixed scrub and the River Adur corridor. This northern section contained a majority of the ecological interest present within the site survey area.

Habitat Types

4.20 ***Modified Grassland (2.0398ha)*** **–** There were three distinct areas of this habitat type. The largest consisted of heavily grazed and degraded horse pasture, which had undergone heaving erosion through the presence of horses on wet ground. The sward was extremely limited and short (<5mm). The species diversity was extremely low, with the species limited to heavily grazed Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with some dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*).

4.21 Outside of the horse grazed pasture and encroaching into the bare ground close to the works units, a growth of this habitat had begun to form. However, due to the presence of vehicles and regular vehicle movement, this habitat was also heavily degraded.

4.22 A small area of lawn was present at the north-eastern end of the site survey area, which was adjacent to the River Adur and was used as a recreational space, next to some of the works buildings/ stables. This area was well managed through regular mowing (<5mm sward) with the species present limited to perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*).

4.23 ***Mixed Scrub (0.1845ha)*** - The dominant species within this habitat type was bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*). Some dog rose (*Rosa canina*), goat willow (*Salix caprea), hawthorn (Cretaegus monogyna)* and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) was also present within this habitat. The non-native buddleja (*Buddleja davidii*) was present within this scrub habitat throughout the site, notably within the scrub located at the northern end of the survey area. Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) was able to colonise the periphery of this habitat type, with creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) also colonising. A small stand of hypericum (*Hypericum x hidcoteense)* which was likely a garden escape transferred through waste soil was also present within the northern section of scrub habitat.

4.24 ***River (0.0634ha)*** – This habitat marked the northern boundary of the property but was incorporated into the site survey map. The width of this water body was no greater than 5m at most, with the flow from the north.

4.25 ***Neutral Grassland (0.103ha) –*** There was an area of this habitat within the northern plot, outside of the main horse grazing. As a result, a sward of grass species had developed, which appeared to be kept relatively short in palces through rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), grazing. The grass species comprised of Yorkshire fog and false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) had colonised parts of this habitat and stands of buddleja had begun to encroach into this habitat. There were also piles of debris (rubble, tires etc) present within this habitat. There were also small areas of soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) indicating some patches of consistently wetter ground.

4.26 ***Lowland Deciduous Woodland (0.3957ha) Priority Habitat*** – The northern end of the site survey area comprised of a block of this habitat type, notably marking the course of the River Adur. The tree species comprised of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and oak (*Quercus robur*). A shrub layer of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) was also present within this habitat type.

4.27 ***Non-Native Species Poor Hedge (0.0387)*** – A single block of hedging was present at the immediate east of the site survey area, which was used as screening from adjacent properties. The species present here was Leyland cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii*).

4.28 ***Native Species Poor Hedge (0.4709) –*** The western and southern boundary of the site survey area was screened by a line of trees comprising ash and oak. This remained, structurally, a hedge-line, but was subject to degradation due to the presence of horses chewing the bark and a lack of management to limit the vertical growth of the woody species present. The

herbaceous layer was also likely to be severely limited by horse grazing. This habitat feature will likely degrade over time through lack of management, becoming more of a treeline.

4.29 ***Buildings (0.1573)*** - The buildings within the site survey area comprised a mixture of stable units, which were located mainly to the east of the site survey area, and larger works units and storage garages These works units and garages were mainly located around the western end of the buildings compound.

4.30 The stables were constructed out a single layer of wooden cladding and with pitched single layered roofs covered with a bitumen felt for waterproofing. The stable buildings were all in use as a working equestrian area, with the presence of horses within.

4.31 There were larger utility/works buildings present, all of which were in use as commercial works units. These buildings were generally constructed out of a ground layer of bricks and breeze blocks, some covered in a render. Some were constructed using a single layered wooden cladding. These buildings were roofed with a mixture of corrugated/ wooden sheeting over a mix of metal and prefabricated cut timber frames.

4.32 A single story garage/ storage unit was present on the south-western periphery of the works area. This building had horizontal wooden cladding and a secondary internal layer which presented a cavity between the wooden cladding and the internal space of the building. This wooden cladding had warped, notably around the western and southern faces, with numerous gaps and crevices.

4.33 There was a series of garage storage units located at the northern end of the works area. These buildings were constructed out of a mixture of metal and wooden sheets, with a breeze block base. Most of these buildings were relatively open and clear within, with exposed metal and timber rafters. The most northerly of these buildings had plyboard cladding over the metal/ timber rafters which presented an extensive series of gaps between the plyboard faces of approximately 10cm deep between the plyboard sheets.

4.34 ***Hard-Standing, Bare Ground and Sand School (0.2710) –*** An access track enable vehicular access to the works area, with associated parking for vehicles. The track was also present around the edge of the horse grazed fields leading to the northern habitat area. A sand school was present, which was in regular usage.

5 POTENTIAL FOR PROTECTED SPECIES

Birds

5.1 The time of year the survey was carried out was outside of the main bird breeding season. There were records of a number of protected bird species within the 2kms search radius and there were also low numbers of birds were observed, of which there were the common species - these being woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), startling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), (crow *(Corvus corone*), magpie (*Pica pica),* blue tit (*Cyanistes and* great tit (*Parus major*).

5.2 Throughout the survey area, there was the potential for birds to nest within the buildings, trees and scrub. Swift (*Apus apus*) nests were observed within the stable building to the east. No birds were present at the time of the survey, but these species are likely to return to this location during the nesting season.

Bats

5.3 Evidence of roost bats was observed within the northern garage unit building (Building A), with bat droppings distributed throughout the internal garage area. There were wooden panels attached to the roof rafters, which presented a gap between the two panels. These areas could be the location of the roosting bats, as there were not any other locations within this building that bats could have potentially roosted.

5.4 The building at the south-western edge of the works area (Building B) exhibited horizontal wooden cladding with gaps that could potentially enable bats to access the gap between the cladding and the internal wall. No evidence of bats was observed, but there were sufficient locations within the tree to support the conclusion that this building has a moderate potential to support roosting bats.

5.5 There were a group of ash trees located along the western edge of the site survey area. Approximately eight trees were present that exhibited cracks, cavities and gaps within the branches and main trunks of the trees that could potentially offer roosting potential for bats. These cavities were of sufficient extent for these trees to be classified as PRF-M.

5.6 The woodland habitat, woodland/ hedgerow edge and riparian habitat offer high value foraging habitat for bats as these locations have the potential to support a high concentration of invertebrate species and provide shelter from the prevailing elements.

Reptiles and Amphibians

5.7 There were records of reptile species within the search area and the terrestrial habitats within the northern section of the site survey area had rubble piles, some tussocky swards of grass and scrub edge habitat around the neutral grassland and mixed scrub. These locations could potentially support reptile species.

5.8 There were records of great crested newt within the records search area and there were also five ponds present within a 500m radius of the proposed development site.

5.9 A majority of the site survey area did not offer potential habitat for reptile and amphibian species. The area just to the north of the horse grazing pasture at the edge of the River Adur was the area that had potential to support amphibian and reptiles species, including the terrestrial phase of great crested newt.

Terrestrial and Riparian Mammals

5.10 [redacted]

5.11 Records of hedgehog were present within the 2km search area and there was hedgehog habitat present within the woodland and scrub.

5.12 There were records of dormice within biological data and dormice potential habitat (scrub and hedgerow) was present around the periphery of a majority of the site survey area. The habitats to the north of the horse grazed field, notably the scrub and deciduous woodland also had the potential to support dormice.

5.13 There were not any records of riparian mammals showed in the records search, but habitat for these mammals was present within the River Adur to the north of the site survey area.

Invasive Species

5.14 There were not any invasive plant species observed during the survey. Some invasive species could still not yet be apparent at the time of the survey. There was the presence of buddleja and hypericum within the site survey area, which are likely to be garden escapes.

Invertebrate Species

5.15 Most of the site survey area was relatively poor quality habitat in terms of invertebrate assemblages. The buildings, hard standing and heavily grazed grassland areas are not likely to

support invertebrate populations of any note. Horse manure can support beetle populations that can provide then provide forage for bat populations. The boundary vegetation would form an extended canopy with standing deadwood, which could provide habitat for stag beetle. The tree tops of the deciduous woodland could provide foraging habitat for the purple emperor, but these are generally restricted to large woodlands.

5.16 Small blue butterfly occupy kidney vetch, which is their sole food source plant. This plant was not identified during the site survey but it is possible that this plant was not apparent at the time of the survey.

5.17 Brown hairstreak occupy ash woodland and lay eggs on blackthorn shoots. Both of these tree species are present within the site survey area.

6 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Designated Sites and Habitats

6.1 There were not any designated sites within the site boundary or directly adjacent to the site survey area. The designated sites identified as being within the 2km search radius are of sufficient distance away from the site to be unlikely to be impacted by anu proposed works at this location.

6.2 The proximity of the site to the River Adur precipitates the necessity for measures to ensure that this habitat is not impacted by the works. Measures to protect this water course would also ensure that the aquatic species, likely to be present, are also protected from any works/ development related impacts.

6.3 It is recommended that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) be drafted in relation to the overall scheme. Within this document would be measures to ensure that there are not any accidental spills of incursions into this habitat, with measures to include the installation of a 25m buffer zone from the edge of the river to the development footprint.

Birds

6.4 Breeding birds are protected, making it an offence to intentionally (or recklessly) kill, injure or take any wild bird, and to take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, or take or destroy an egg of any wild bird. As a result, any vegetation clearance should avoid the breeding season (March to August inclusive). Nests are protected throughout the year, not just within the specified nesting season.

6.5 If this were not possible, a suitably experienced ecologist would be required to check areas of vegetation, immediately prior to works being carried out (within 24hrs). If birds were found to be breeding at this time in these locations, clearance works would not be permitted to proceed until the young had fledged the nest and at least a 10m works exclusion zone be placed around the nest. If any vegetation is cleared outside of the bird nesting season, then all resultant brash should be removed from site to ensure that it does not provide suitable nesting habitat.

6.6 There was the evidence of swift within the stables along the eastern edge of the site survey area. It is recommended that an assessment of this building is recommended, to ascertain the presence/ likely absence of these species within these buildings.

6.7 Should swift be present and nesting then, depending on the numbers present, suitable provisions and mitigation would be put in place to compensate for any loss of this nesting location.

Bats

Building A – Roost

6.8 Evidence of roosting bats was observed within this building. As a result of this, further surveys are recommended to further inform the planning application and to support an Natural England mitigation licence application to demolish this building. These surveys would take the form of evening emergence/ dawn re-entry surveys of this building. Sufficient survey coverage would be required to ensure that all aspects of this building are covered. Three surveys which would have to be at least three weeks apart and take place during the bat activity season (May to August/ September), with at least two of these surveys taking place during the maternity season (May to July).

Building B - Moderate Potential Building

6.9 For moderate potential buildings the recommendations are for two emergence and/ or dawn re-entry surveys carried out between May to September (inclusive). One would be carried out between May to July (inclusive) to encompass the maternity season. If bats are present that are considered nationally, regionally and locally rare/ important, then an additional survey would be required to inform any licence application. If bats are found to be present within this building, the licence would be required from Natural England to carry out works at this location.

PRF-M – Potential Trees

6.10 If the group of trees along the western edge of the site survey area that have been identified as having potential for roosting bats are to be impacted by the proposed works, then further survey of these is recommended. These surveys would take the form of evening emergence/ dawn re-entry surveys of these trees. Sufficient survey coverage would be required to ensure that all the trees are covered. Three surveys which would have to be at least three weeks apart and take place during the bat activity season (May to August/ September), with at least two of these surveys taking place during the maternity season (May to July).

Natural England Bat Mitigation Licencing

6.11 As a bat roost is found within Building A and it is predicted that the bat roost is to be unavoidably and adversely affected by the development works, then a mitigation licence must be obtained from Natural England. Suitable replacement roosts would be installed, with temporary roosts installed as close as possible to any previous roost during the works and more permanent replacement roosts installed as part of the development works, if the roost is to be lost. The type of licence that would be appropriate would be determined by the outcome of the further surveys that would be required is bat are found to be present.

Lighting

6.12 Bat species have been recorded within 2km of this location, with the Mens SAC within approximately 8km to the west. Some bats are particularly sensitive to light spill and require dark commuting/ foraging corridors to maintain flightlines to roosts, breeding sites and foraging locations. The development proposals will need to incorporate a bat sensitive lighting scheme to ensure that there are no negative impacts to the surrounding habitat and the potential bat foraging flight lines around the periphery of the site and along the River Adur and tree lines are not illuminated unnecessarily.

6.13 Any lighting installed as a result of this development will conform to the specifications which are outlined within BCT Guidance Note (2023). This will reduce any light pollution that could impact nocturnal activity of fauna, namely bat species, some of which are extremely sensitive to light pollution. Light spill into adjacent habitats will be reduced and avoided by the following:

- *All luminaries will lack UV elements; metal halide and fluorescent sources will be avoided,*
- *A warm white light spectrum on external lighting will be adopted (<2700kelvin) to reduce the blue light component,*

- *LED luminaries will be used where a sharp cut off is required to avoid light spill into adjacent habitat,*
- *External luminaries will feature wavelengths higher that 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats,*
- *Column heights of external lighting will be limited,*
- *Luminaries will be mounted on the horizontal plane, with no upwards tilt,*
- *Security lighting will be set on motion sensors and on short timers (<1min).*

Great Crested Newt

6.14 The great crested newt receives full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This prohibits the intentional or reckless killing, injuring or taking (capture, *etc*); possession; intentional or accidental disturbance whilst occupying a 'place used for shelter or protection' and intentional or reckless destruction of these places; sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or buy.

6.15 Most of the site survey area did not exhibit any potential to support this species, with the exception of the grassland/ scrub and deciduous woodland in the northern section. Should any habitat that has been identified as having the potential to support GCN, be impacted by the proposed works (the hedgerow around the periphery and grassland, scrub and deciduous woodland in the northern section), then further consideration for this species is recommended.

6.16 This would likely take the form, initially, of a Habitat Suitability Index survey (HSI) and then potentially an Environmental DNA (eDNA) survey of the ponds within the surrounding area. This will give an indication of the likely presence of great crested newt within this pond. EDNA surveys have to be carried out between ***Mid - April to June.*** Should this species be present, then further surveys to ascertain population estimates may be required. These would comprise of six population estimate surveys.

Terrestrial Mammals

6.17 Hedgehog have seen their number decline significantly over the last 13 years by around 66%. There were records for hedgehog within 2km. The rubble may provide suitable refuge for hedgehogs and the habitat had some potential to support foraging hedgehogs if they are present in the local area.

6.18 During the construction phase any deep trenches or excavations should be covered overnight to ensure any animals including hedgehogs, do not become trapped. This measure would also be pertinent for all mammals, [redacted]

6.19 To enhance the site for hedgehog post-development the planting of native trees and hedgerows and the provision of gaps of at least 15cm by 15cm under any fences will ensure this species continues to have access to the site and can use the site for foraging, commuting and shelter.

6.20 The provision of the installation of Heras fencing to protect the ancient woodland habitat would also provide protection of any resident dormouse that could potentially be present within this habitat.

Dormice

6.21 The potential presence of dormice within the proposed development site must be considered as dormice are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). The WCA states that '*a person is guilty of an offence if intentionally or recklessly they disturb [a dormouse] while it is occupying a place which it uses for shelter or protection; or he obstructs access to any place which [a dormouse] uses for shelter or protection'.*

6.22 Dormice are also protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019. Dormice are listed as European protected species under which it is an offence if;

- *a person deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species,*
- *deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species,*
- *damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.*

6.23 Disturbances of animals include in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to;

- *survive, breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young.*

6.24 To avoid any impacts on the deciduous woodland, and therefore avoiding any potential impact on dormice, it is recommended to install suitable fencings (Heras fencing, for example), leaving a 15m buffer zone between the areas of hedgerow, scrub and deciduous woodland and the development/ works area. This would prevent any incursion into these areas and would

prevent any impact on this habitat. The avoidance of any vegetation removal within this habitat is recommended.

6.25 If avoidance is not possible and should the habitats identified as having potential for dormice (hedgerow, deciduous woodland and scrub) are to be impacted by the proposed works, then further survey for dormice of these areas is recommended. These surveys would take the form of the installation of 50 dormice next tubes within suitable vegetation and a monitoring programme taking place between May to November to check these tubes for the presence or evidence of dormice.

6.26 Should dormice habitat be impacted by the proposed works, then licence from Natural England would be required to carry out such works.

Reptiles

6.27 All reptile species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which make it an offence to deliberately or recklessly kill, injure or trade these animals. The common reptile species covered by this Act are slow worm, grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and adder. Other, rarer, native reptile species are offered greater levels of protection, but these are generally found in habitats that were not present within the Site or local surroundings. The grassland and scrub at the northern aspect of the site survey area has been identified as having potential for reptile species. If this area is to be impacted by the proposed works, then further survey is recommended.

6.28 For reptiles, the presence/ likely absence surveys consist of seven surveys on the area to be impacted which involve placing, on the ground in suitable locations, roof felt and corrugated metal sheets. The size of these would be either 50cm by 50cm or 100cm by 50cm. Specific coverage would be required to give a statistical confidence to any result that would give a likely absence and to one that gives an indication of species present and likely population level. Surveys would have to be carried out within suitable weather conditions at a suitable time of year, normally April to June, avoiding July and August. September and October normally have suitable weather conditions for reptile surveys but November to early March is normally outside of optimum conditions.

6.29 If reptile are present, then further population estimate surveys may be required (eight further visits) and a method of works would be implemented in addition to, potentially, a trapping and translocation exercise carried out with alternative habitat provided as the translocation site. The specifics of any method of works and/ or the length of this trapping and translocation would depend on the species, specific location and numbers present, if found.

Invasive Species

6.30 No invasive species were apparent at the time of the survey. However, these may be obscured by thick vegetation in places and vegetative stands of these species may not have been apparent at the time of the survey. If any vegetation clearance takes place, a precautionary check prior to this is recommended to ensure that no invasive plant species are present and likely to be spread, off site, due to vegetation removal. It is recommended to take measures to avoid the further spread of these species through not taking spoil or cut material of these species off site.

Invertebrate Species

6.31 It is an offence to carry out the following on invertebrates that are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended):

. *For those listed in schedule 5, it is an offence to intentionally:*

- *kill, injure or take them,*
- *possess or control them (alive or dead).*

It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- *damage or destroy a structure or place used for shelter or protection,*
- *disturb them in a place used for shelter or protection,*
- *obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection.*

6.32 If vegetation clearance within the northern section and around the periphery of the site is required, then these areas would need to be surveyed for the presence of the Schedule 5 invertebrate species identified, notably stag beetle and brown hairstreak.

6.33 If evidence of Schedule 5 invertebrate species is present, then the vegetation would be left *in situ* until an application for a Wildlife Licence from Natural England be made before any disturbance of the habitat identified as having the presence of these species is made.

7 ECOLOGICAL COMPENSATION AND ENHANCEMENT

7.1 Development plans should maximise opportunities for enhancement, in order, to achieve a net increase in biodiversity. The measures outlined below provide the means to achieve this enhancement. Additional measures may be required as a result, of the further survey findings, which could potentially form part of species mitigation. These recommendations represent enhancements.

7.2 As part of the scheme, it is recommended to install swift and bat boxes for each of the new static caravan plots. These would provide an ecological enhancement by providing suitable roosting and nesting locations for these protected species. These are all designed to be self-cleaning, discrete and able to blend into the integral structure of the buildings. More specific bat and nest boxes could take the form of swift (*Apus apus*) nest boxes and built in bat boxes placed within the external structure of each day room, placing them to avoid over exposure to sunlight during the summer months The following enhancements or their equivalent are recommended.

- *Built in Swift Box x 1,*
- *Built in Bat Boxes x 1.*

7.3 To account for the presence of stag beetle within the surrounding landscape, it is recommended that a loggery is installed in an area that will be less likely to be subject to regular disturbance. This feature would consist of 1.5/ 2.0 m cut lengths of logs buried into the ground, leaving 2/3 of the length of the log upright and above ground. Normally, about four logs can be placed together. This features then gives standing deadwood habitat, which is an enhancement for numerous invertebrate species – in addition to stag beetles.

7.4 Tree and shrub planting of native species would provide an ecological enhancement by replacing some of the less ecologically viable habitat currently present within the site. Herbaceous species could also be planted into newly landscape areas, providing a valuable nectar source for invertebrate species.

7.5 ***Table 10: List of Recommended Plant Species for Native Tree and Shrub Planting***

Species Name	Common Name
Carpinus betula	Hornbeam
Corylus avellana	Hazel

Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Prunus avium	Bird cherry
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Quercus robur	Oak
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan

7.6 ***Table 11: List of Recommended Plant Species for Native Herbaceous Species Planting***

Species Name	Common Name
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Field forget-me-not	Myosotis arvensis
Lavandula angustifolia	English lavender
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye daisy
Origanum vulgare	Wild marjoram
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil
Primula veris	Cowslip
Silene dioica	Red campion
Silene latifolia	White campion
Siline noctiflora	Night-flowering catchfly
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit scabious

8 REFERENCES

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BCT (2018) Guidance Note 08/18. Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK – Bats and the Built Environment Series.

Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2020) The UK Habitat Classification User Manual version 1.1 at https://ukhab.org/

JNCC (2016) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (Eds) (2004). Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Ed.). JNNC, Peterborough.

Stace C. (1997) New Flora of the British Isles (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press.

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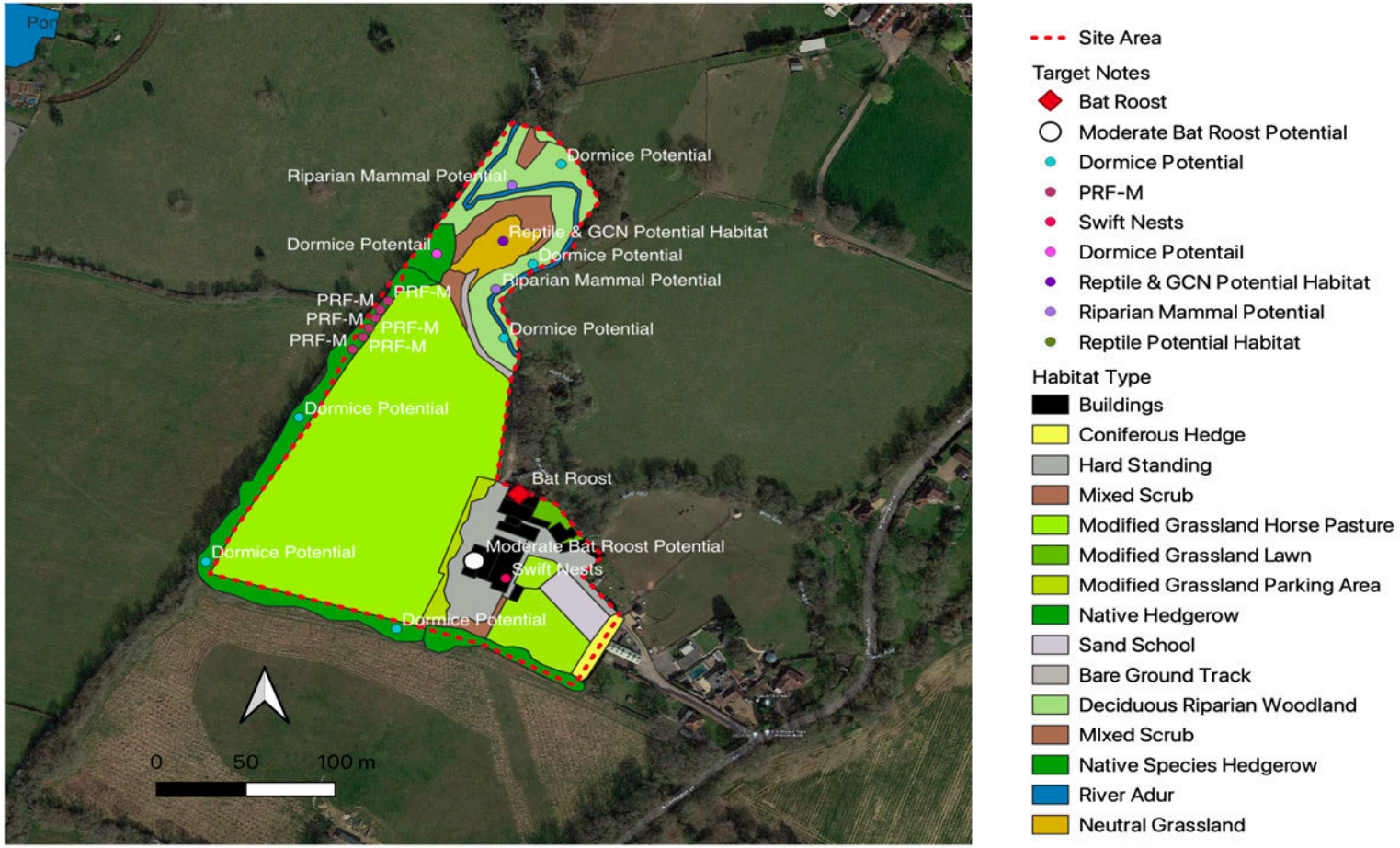
APPENDIX A: PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY HABITAT MAP



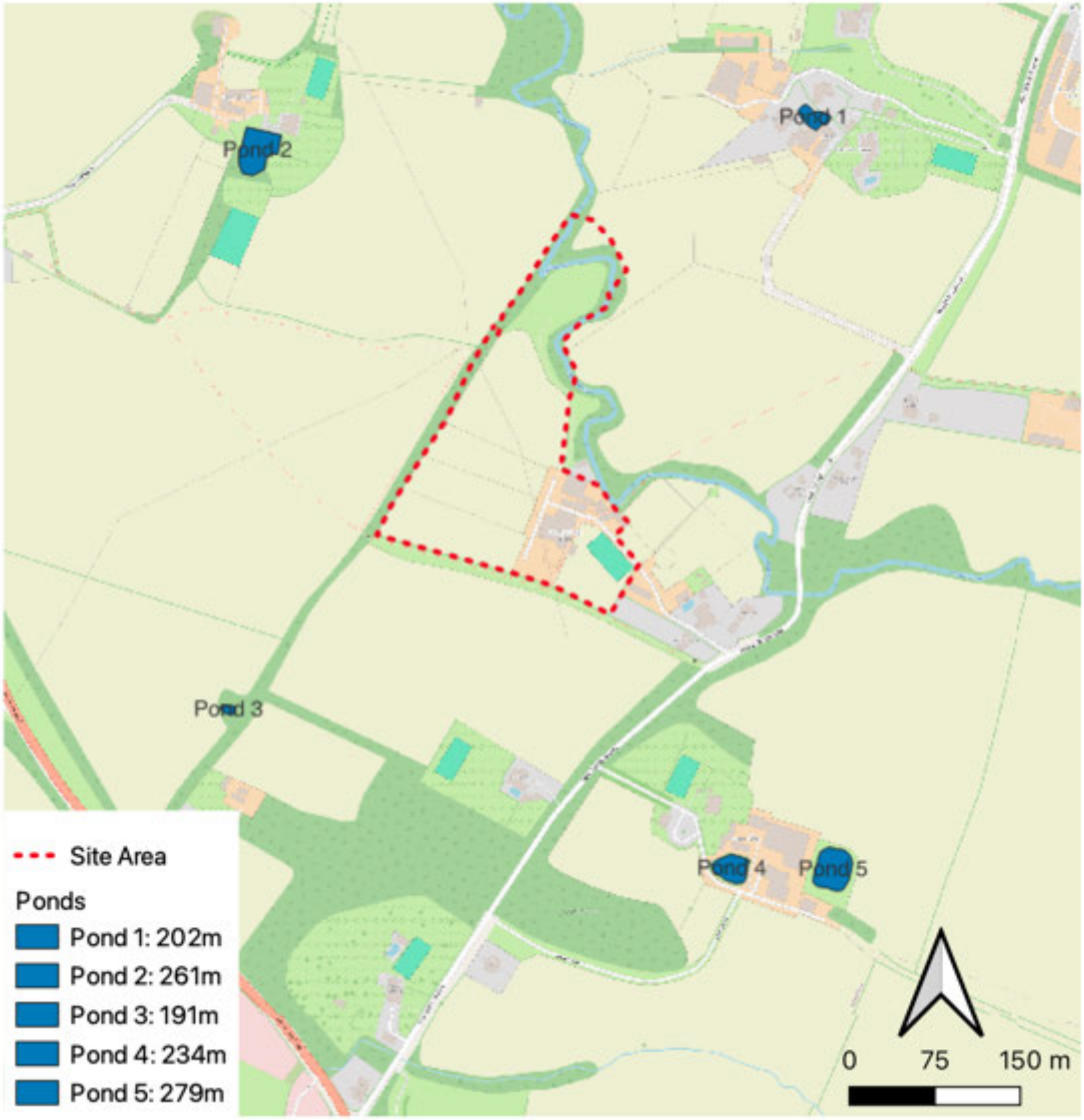
APPENDIX B: HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Habitat Type	UK Habs Code	Total Habitat Area (ha) or length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Scoring	Habitat Condition	Score
Modified Grassland	G4	2.0398ha	Low	1	Poor	1
	Species Present	Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), buddleja (*Buddleja davidii*).				
Mixed Scrub	H3H	0.1845ha	Medium	4	Moderate	2
	Species Present	Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), goat willow (*Salix caprea), hawthorn (Cretaegus monogyna),* elder (*Sambucus nigra*), buddleja (*Buddleja davidii*), teasal (*Dipsacus fullonum*).				
Lowland Deciduous Woodland	W1F	0.3957ha	Medium	4	Moderate	2
	Species Present	Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus robur*), holly (*Ilex aquilfolium*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)				

Non-Native Species Poor Hedge	H2b	0.0387ha	Low	N/A	N/A	0
	Species Present	Leyland cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii*).				
Neutral Grassland	G3	0.1013ha	Low	2	Poor	1
	Species Present	False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), buddleja (*Buddleja davidii*).				
Native Hedgerow	H2	0.4709ha	Low	2	Poor	1
	Species Present	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), oak (*Quercus robur*), *hawthorn (Cretaegus monogyna)*, elder (*Sambucus nigra*),				
Buildings	U1B5	0.1573ha	Very Low	N/A	N/A	0

Urban Development Land, Sealed Surface	U1B	0.2710ha	Very Low	0	N/A	0

APPENDIX C: LOCATION OF WATERBODIES WITHIN 500M



APPENDIX D: PHOTOS OF THE SITE

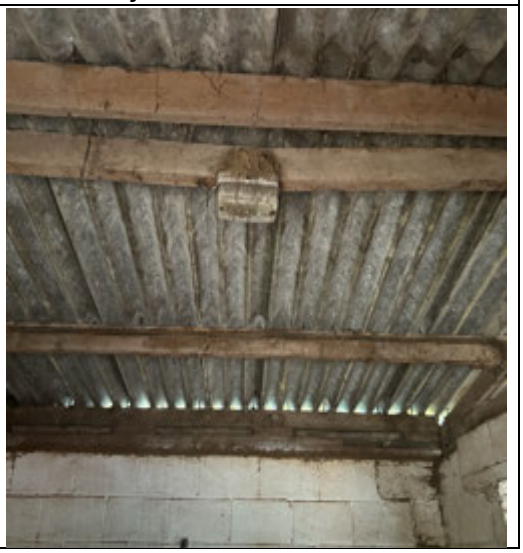
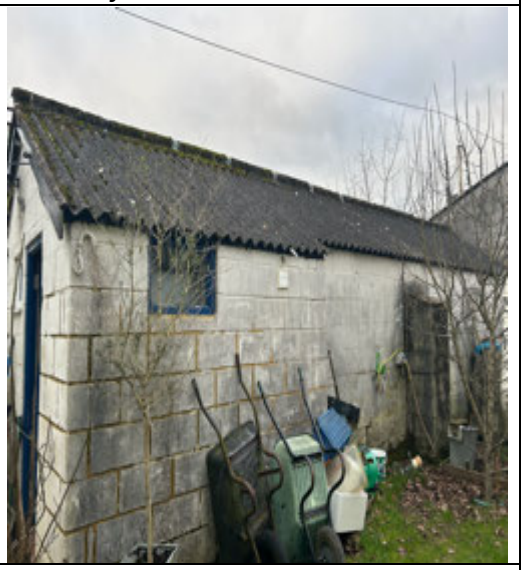
Plate 1: Building A – Bat Roost Location	*Plate 2: Internal View of Buildiong A*
	
Plate 3: Bat Droppings within Building A	*Plate 4: Warped Cladding in Building B. Moderate Bat Roost Potential*
	
Plate 5: Western Face of Cladding – Building B	*Plate 6: Swift Nest in Saable Block*
	

Plate 7: Group of PRF-M Ash Trees	***Plate 8: Horse Grazed Field***
	
Plate 9: Neutral Grassland with Pendulous Sedge. Scrub and Deciduous Woodland in Background	***Plate 10: Detritus within Neutral Grassland. Deciduous Woodland and River Adur in the Background***
	
Plate 11: Stand of Hypericum	***Plate 12: Works Unit with Negligible Potential for Bats***
	

Plate 13: Works Unit with Negligible Potential for Bats	*Plate 14: Works Unit with Negligible Potential for Bats*
	
Plate 15: Stable with Negligible Potential for Bats. Potential for Swift Nest Presence	*Plate 16: Works Unit with Negligible Potential for Bats*
	

APPENDIX E: PROTECTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED SITE LEGISLATION SUMMARY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

Species	Legislation (England & Wales)	Offences	Licensing procedures (England & Wales)
Bats European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Deliberately[1] capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberate disturbance[2] of bats; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. [The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.]	A Natural England (NE) licence in respect of development is required in England. European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence (NE 2010) Bat Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature 2004) Bat Workers Manual (JNCC 2004) BCT Survey Guidelines (2016)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
Great Crested Newt European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Deliberately[1] capture, injure or kill a great crested newt; deliberate disturbance[2] of a great crested newt; deliberately take or destroy its eggs; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a great crested newt.	Licences issued for development by Natural England. European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence (NE 2010) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature 2001)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a great crested newt in such a place.	Licences issued for science (survey), education and conservation by Natural England.
Dormice European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Deliberately[1] capture, injure or kill a dormouse; deliberate disturbance[2] of dormouse; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a dormouse.	A Natural England (NE) licence in respect of development is required in England. European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence (NE 2010)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.

Species	Legislation (England & Wales)	Offences	Licensing procedures (England & Wales)
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.1	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird. [Special penalties are liable for these offences involving birds on Schedule 1 (e.g. most birds of prey, kingfisher, barn owl, black redstart, and little ringed plover).] Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species.	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g. public health, public safety, air safety.
Adder **Common lizard** **Grass snake** **Slow worm**	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.9(1) (part); S.9(5)	Intentionally kill or injure any common reptile species.	No licence is required in England. However, an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken prior to any development works which have potential to affect these animals.
Rabbits, foxes and other wild mammals	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering to any wild mammal.	Natural England provides guidance in relation to rabbits (TIN003, Rabbits- management options for preventing damage, July 2007) and foxes (which are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 from live baits and decoys, see TAN43 April 2005 and TAN08 April 2005) as well as other wild mammals; see Natural England's website for the list of 'Regulatory Guidance, Best Practice and Information'.

Site Designation	Legislation (England & Wales)	Protection	Guidance
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	It is an offence to carry out or permit to be carried out any potentially damaging operation. SSSIs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Owners, occupiers, public bodies and statutory undertakers must give notice and obtain the appropriate consent under S.28 before undertaking operations likely to damage a SSSI. S.28G places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs. Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005) for England or Technical Advice Note 5 in Wales.
Locally Designated Sites	There is no statutory designation for these	Sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Development proposals that would potentially affect these would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged.

Site Designation	Legislation (England & Wales)	Protection	Guidance
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) **Special Protection Area (SPA)** **Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site)**	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 EC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/42/EEC). EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC). Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the Ramsar Convention).	Planning controls are effected through Part 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010 (Reg 21) and Part 6 (Regs 61-67). The legislation for the Site of Special Scientific Interest which will underpin each designation also applies. These sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Formal Appropriate Assessment is required before undertaking, or giving consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on such a site. Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005) and the accompanying joint Circular (ODPM Circular 6/2005 & Defra Circular 01/2005) for England or Technical Advice Note 5 in Wales.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	It is an offence to carry out or permit to be carried out any potentially damaging operation. SSSIs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Owners, occupiers, public bodies and statutory undertakers must give notice and obtain the appropriate consent under S.28 before undertaking operations likely to damage a SSSI. S.28G places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs. Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005) for England or Technical Advice Note 5 in Wales.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 S.21	LNRs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	LNRs are generally owned and managed by local authorities. Development proposals that would potentially affect a LNR would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged. Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005) for England or Technical Advice Note 5 in Wales.
Locally Designated Sites	There is no statutory designation for these	Sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Development proposals that would potentially affect these would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged.