



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Long Barn, Crays Lane, Goose Green, West Sussex, RH20 2LR

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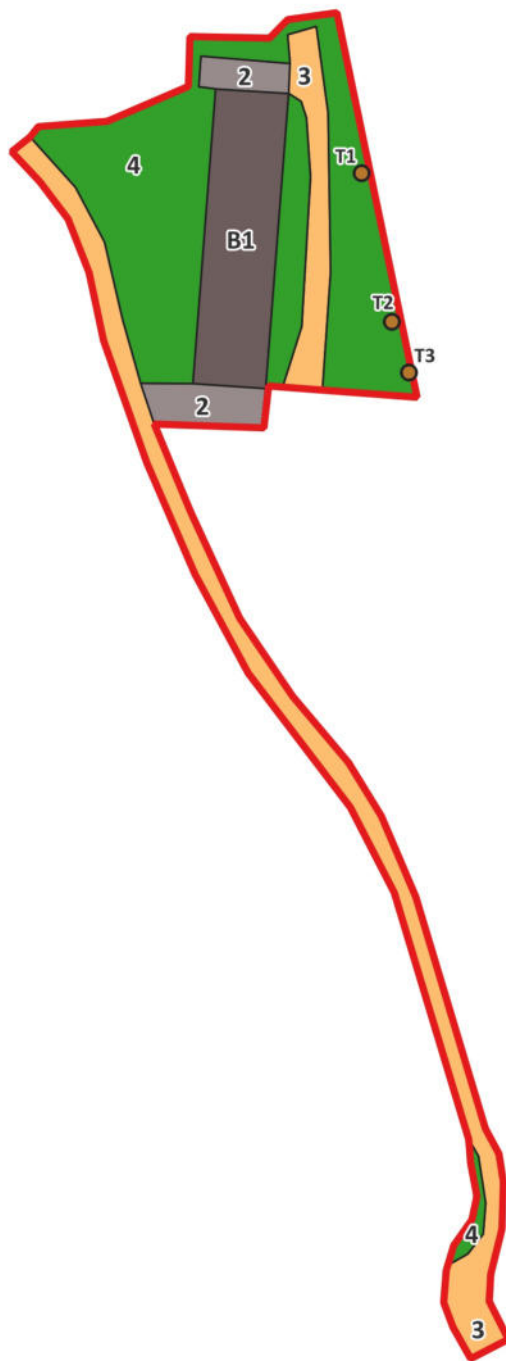
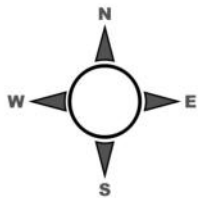
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Legend

- Development boundary
- UKHab Baseline
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1b5 - Developed land; sealed surface (Buildings)
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- g - 200 - Tree

Figure Title:
UK Habitat Classification Survey Results

Client/ Project Reference:
Tri Star Holdings
C-NFA-001

Figure number: 2	Revision: 1	Scale at A4: 1:1150
Cartographer: AM	Date drawn: 26/08/26	Approver: HB

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Photo 1: Displaying the southern aspect of barn building B1, within the development boundary.



Photo 2: Displaying the interior of building B1.



Photo 3: Displaying the developed land; sealed surface habitat north of building B1, within the development boundary.



Photo 4: Displaying the artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface access track, west of building B1.



Photo 5: Displaying the modified grassland habitat, west of building B1, within the development boundary.



Photo 6: Displaying the hawthorn tree T1, along the eastern development boundary.



Figure Title: UK Habitat Classification Survey – Photographs			Client: Tri Star Holdings
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1. Summary and Recommendations

Proposals	• Arun Ecology Ltd was appointed by Tri Star Holdings ('the Client') to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for a proposed development at Long Barn, Crays Lane, Goose Green, West Sussex, RH20 2LR (see Figure 1). • The development proposals include the demolition of the existing barn building and the construction of three residential dwelling units each with their associated garden plot and parking area, one small garage and associated landscaping within the development boundary.
Surveys	• A desk study was conducted that included the purchase of records from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. • A site visit was conducted on the 1st of July 2026, that included a UK Habitat Classification Survey and an appraisal of the habitats within the development boundary to act as ecological receptors.
Impact Assessment	• Mitigation will be required within the design of the development to ensure there are no adverse impacts that arise from light pollution on bat flightlines, that fall within the 12 km wider conservation zone of The Mens SAC. • No ancient woodland or any other irreplaceable habitats were recorded within the development boundary or will be adversely impacted as part of the development proposals. • Mitigation will be required during the construction phase of the development to safeguard the lowland mixed deciduous woodland immediately adjacent to the south-western development boundary, that qualifies as a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI). • Based upon the desk study results, the habitats recorded within the development boundary and the development proposals, badgers and other mammal burrows, bats, nesting birds, great crested newts, hedgehogs and reptiles are identified as material ecological considerations. • Building B1 was classified as having negligible suitability for roosting bats. • No trees with features suitable for roosting bats will be adversely impacted by the development. • It is not anticipated that the development will generate significant levels of pollution due to its small scale, however, mitigation will be required during the construction phase of the development to ensure there is no on-site or off-site pollution to habitats or water sources. • In accordance with the measurable net gain requirements as set out in the Environment Act, 2021, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been completed by Arun Ecology. The assessment demonstrates how the minimum mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain will be achieved and will be submitted as part of the planning application.



Recommendations	The recommendations below represent a summary only. The full recommendations of this report are outlined in section 6. Mitigation • The mitigation measures outlined in this report for deciduous woodland HPI, badgers and other mammal burrows, bats, hedgehogs, GCN, nesting birds, reptiles and pollution prevention should be followed during the design and construction phase of the development. Ecological Enhancements • The ecological enhancements outlined within this report should be incorporated into the design of the development.
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2. Introduction

2.1.1 Arun Ecology Ltd was appointed by Tri Star Holdings ('the Client') to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) at Long Barn, Crays Lane, Goose Green, West Sussex, RH20 2LR (grid reference: TQ 11336 18099). The above address is hereafter referred to as 'the site' (see Figure 1).

2.2 Development Proposals

2.2.1 Planning consent is sought for a development (as shown on New Form Architecture, Drawing No. PL-GA-07, Revision 1, dated 08/01/26), which comprises:

- the demolition of the existing barn building B1;
- the construction of three residential dwelling units each with their associated garden plot and parking area, and one small garage and
- Associated landscaping within the development boundary.

2.2.2 The proposals above are hereafter referred to collectively as 'the development' in this report. The defined red line planning boundary (as shown in Figure 2) is hereafter referred to as the 'development boundary'.

2.2.3 The local planning authority for the site's location is Horsham District Council (HDC).

2.3 Ecology Background

2.3.1 A BNG assessment was carried out by Arun Ecology (Arun Ecology Ltd, 2026), for this development, which included a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), and was submitted on HDC's planning portal in relation to the following planning application reference: DC/26/0261.

2.4 Brief and Objectives

2.4.1 The key objectives of a PEA, as per CIEEM guidance (CIEEM, 2017) are as follows:

- Identify the likely ecological constraints associated with the development;
- Identify any mitigation measures likely to be required, following the 'mitigation hierarchy', as per BS42020:2013 Clause 5:2 (BSI, 2013);
- Identify any additional surveys that may be required to inform an Ecological Impact Assessment (ECiA); and
- Identify the opportunities offered by the development to deliver ecological enhancements and net gains for biodiversity.



2.4.2 The brief agreed with the client included:

- The undertaking of a desk study search obtaining records of designated sites, Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) and ancient woodland as well as purchasing records of protected species and species of conservation concern;
- Undertake a UK Habitat Classification Survey (hereafter UKHab Survey) to record the habitats within the development boundary, assess their conservation value and suitability to act as ecological receptors for protected species and species of conservation concern, including a detailed assessment of the suitability of structures and trees to support roosting bats; and
- Provide a PEA report supported by digitised mapping that presents the methods and results of the desk study and the UKHab Survey within the development boundary. The report will also include an initial impact assessment of the development and any recommendations, including opportunities for ecological enhancement.



3. Method

3.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

General Approach

- 3.1.1 The PEA was carried out in accordance with the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2018).

3.2 Desk Study

- 3.2.1 The study area for the desk study at this stage of the development is based upon a provisional ‘*zone of influence*’. The ‘*zone of influence*’ is defined as per CIEEM guidance as ‘*the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities*’ (CIEEM, 2018).

- 3.2.2 The provisional zone of influence for the development where data was sought is set as the following:

- RAMSAR, Special Conservation Areas (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), (including potentially designated sites), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and locally designated sites – 2 km;
- All other non-statutory designated sites – 1 km;
- Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI), Ancient woodland and Main Rivers – 2 km;
- Ponds – 0.5 km; and
- Protected Species, Species of Principal Importance (SPI) and other species of conservation concern – 1 km (from the last 20 years).

- 3.2.3 Sources of information within the study area for the desk study were as follows;

- The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC);
- Government open-source GIS datasets;
- Horsham District Council Adopted Local Plan (2015);
- Satellite images (powered by Google via QGIS 3.44); and
- Purchased records from Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC).



3.3 Field Habitat Survey

UK Habitat Classification Survey

- 3.3.1 The field survey was undertaken using the UKHab Survey methodology (UKHab, 2023a) to record the habitat types within the development boundary. The study area for the UKHab Survey was defined as all of the land within the development boundary (see Figure 2).
- 3.3.2 The UKHab Survey has 5 hierarchical levels of habitat classification that aligns with those outlined under national legislation and planning policy. Habitats were mapped in the field using the primary habitat codes described in the UKHab Survey Professional Edition to levels 3, 4 or 5 (UKHab, 2023b).
- 3.3.3 Secondary habitat codes and target notes were used where necessary to describe features deviating from the primary habitat classification.
- 3.3.4 To identify each habitat, the dominant plant and other readily identified species were recorded and their abundance within the development boundary was measured using the DAFOR scale (Stace, 2019).

3.4 Site Habitat Suitability Assessment

General Approach

- 3.4.1 The habitat within the development boundary was appraised for its suitability to support protected species and species of conservation concern at the time of the field habitat survey with regard to the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI, 2013). The species-specific guidance and references used in the appraisal are outlined in Table 1 below.



Table 1 – References used to assess the suitability of habitat within the development boundary to support protected species and species of conservation concern.

Group/ taxa	Habitat Appraisal References
Amphibians/ GCN	- GCN Habitat Suitability Index (Oldham et al. 2010 and ARG UK 2010);and - Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook (Langton et al, 2001).
Bats	Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023).
Birds	- A Field Guide to Monitoring Nests (Ferguson-Lees et al, 2011); and - Barn Owl Tyto alba Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessment (Shawyer, 2011).
Mammals	- Surveying Badgers (Harris et al, 1989) and Badger Trust Best Practice Guidelines (Badger Trust, 2023); - The Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bullion, S., Wolton, R. & White, I. 2025); - UK BAP Mammals Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation (Cresswell, et al, 2012); - Otter (Woodroffe, 2007), Hedgehog (Morris, 2011); Water shrew (Carter, 2006) - Mammal Society Species Series; and - Water Vole Field Signs and Habitat assessment (Dean, 2022) and Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (Dean et al, 2016).
Reptiles	- Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003); and - Reptile Habitat Management Handbook (Edgar, 2010).
Invertebrates	- Good Planning Practice for Invertebrates (Buglife, 2015); and - Organising Surveys to Determine Site Quality for Invertebrates (English Nature, 2005).

Bats – Preliminary Roost Assessment

- 3.4.2 A bat preliminary roost assessment (PRA) of structures and trees as well as an assessment of the habitat within the development boundary for bats was carried out in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines for Ecologists (Collins, 2023).
- 3.4.3 A ground level inspection of the exterior of any structures within the development boundary, and any trees that will be adversely impacted by the development, was undertaken with the aid of torchlight and binoculars to search for bat PRFs that might provide suitable crevices or access/egress points to voids or cavities for roosting bats.
- 3.4.4 Where accessible and safe to do so, a search for signs of bats such as bat specimens, droppings, urine staining and audible sound (such as social calls) was also undertaken at each structure or tree. This included an internal inspection of roof voids at structures and the use of an endoscope to inspect any accessible bat PRFs.
- 3.4.5 A classification based upon the roosting suitability for bats was assigned for each structure and tree that was inspected within the development boundary as well as



the overall suitability of habitat. The classification descriptions are detailed below in Table 2 for structures and Table 3 for trees.

Table 2 – Suitability assessment for a proposed development site for bats, as adapted from BCT Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Potential Suitability	Definition	
	Roosting Habitat	Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitat
None	No habitat features on-site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/ suitable shelter at all ground/ underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/ protection for flight lines or that generates shelter for insect populations that is available to foraging bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats, however, small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roosting 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 and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site but could be used by individual hibernating bats).	Habitat that can be used by a small number of bats as flightpaths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream but isolated i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitats. Suitable, but isolated habitat that can be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status, with respect to roost type only, such as maternity or hibernation roosts.	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight paths such as lines of trees, scrub and linked back gardens and for foraging such as trees, scrub grassland and water.
High	A structure with one or more potential roosting sites that are obviously suitable for use by a larger number of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation sites.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight paths 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 water courses and grazed parkland. The site is close to and connected to known bat roosts.



Table 3 – Guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees for bats, adapted from BCT Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Suitability	Definition
None	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any present.
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present.

3.5 Survey Dates and Conditions

3.5.1 Details on the date, timing and weather conditions recorded during the survey are provided below in Table 4.

Table 4 – Field Survey Information.

Date	Survey Type	Survey Timings		Temperature (°C)		Rain	Wind (Beaufort scale)
		Start	Finish	Start	Finish		
01/07/2026	UK Hab Survey and bat PRA.	09:00	11:00	21	22	None	1

3.6 Surveyors

3.6.1 The field survey was undertaken by:

- Hannah Baker BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM. Hannah Baker has over 11 years of professional consultancy experience and is adequately trained to carry out UK Hab Surveys. Hannah Baker is also registered to use the Level 2 Class Licence to survey bats and Level 1 Class Licence to Survey GCN; and
- Alice Motola BSc, MSc (Hons). Alice Motola has over 2 years of professional consultancy experience and is adequately trained to carry out UKHab Surveys. Alice Motola is also registered to use the Level 1 Class Licence to survey Great Crested Newts and a MoRPh River accredited surveyor.

3.7 Limitations

3.7.1 No survey limitations were recorded during the UKHab Survey that are considered likely to have materially affected the survey findings.



4. Results

4.1 Desk Study

Designated Sites

4.1.1 The results of the desk study search for statutory designated sites are detailed below in Table 5 (see Figure 1).

4.1.2 No non-statutory designated sites were returned from the desk study search.

Table 5 - Statutory designated sites returned from the desk study search.

Designation Level	Site Name	Distance & Direction	Summary
Statutory Designated Sites			
SAC/SSSI	The Mens	The Mens designation is located 9.8 km southeast of the development boundary. The site falls within the SACs 12 km 'wider conservation area'.	Designated due to its lowland broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland, and its assemblages of invertebrates and breeding birds. Barbastelle bat (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>) is also another qualifying feature of this designation.
SSSI	Hurston Warren	The designation is located 3.50 km southwest of the development boundary. The site falls within the SSSI impact risk zone.	Designated primarily for its rare and diverse lowland heathland, wetland, and bog habitats.
SSSI	Sullington Warren	The designation is located 3.47 km southwest of the development boundary. The site falls within the SSSI impact risk zone.	Designated primarily for its rare wet and dry lowland heathland habitats and the specialized flora and fauna they support.



Ancient Woodland

- 4.1.3 There were fourteen ancient woodland parcels returned within 2 km of the development boundary (see Figure 1). The nearest ancient woodland parcel was located 0.39 km east of the development boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance

- 4.1.4 Details on the number of HPI, the habitat type and the distance from the development boundary to the closest HPI parcel are detailed in Table 6 and displayed in Figure 1.

Table 6 - Habitats of Principal Importance returned from the desk study search within 2 km of the development boundary.

Habitat of Principal Importance		
Habitat Type	Number of HPI parcels within 2 km	Distance and direction of nearest HPI parcel and other notable parcels
Deciduous woodland	53	The nearest deciduous woodland parcel is located immediately adjacent to the southwestern development boundary.
Traditional orchard	9	The nearest traditional orchard is 0.9 km east of the development boundary.
No main habitat but additional habitats present	7	- These parcels include deciduous woodland and traditional orchard; and - The nearest parcel of this category is located 1.08 km north of the development boundary and corresponds to deciduous woodland.

- 4.1.5 Twelve ponds were recorded within 0.5 km of the development boundary, of which two ponds were located within 250 m (see Figure 1). The nearest pond is located 160 m south of the main footprint of the development. There were no surveyed priority ponds within 2 km of the development boundary.
- 4.1.6 Five main river parcels were returned within 2 km of the development boundary (see Figure 1). None of the parcels were listed as priority river habitats under the national inventory. The nearest main river parcel is located 0.58 km north of the development boundary.



4.2 UK Habitat Classification Survey Results

4.2.1 The habitats recorded during the UKHab Survey within the development boundary are described below in Table 7 (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Table 7 – Habitats recorded within the development boundary during the UK Habitat Classification Survey.

Habitat Reference (Figure 2)	UK Hab Survey Classification Code	Approx. Area sqm /length m	Summary and Species List
Urban			
B1	Primary: Developed land, sealed surface Secondary: Buildings Code: u1b5	500 (total)	One agricultural barn building (B1) was recorded within the development boundary. Building B1 was used for storage purposes at the time of the UKHab survey. A detailed description of the building is provided in Table 10, Appendix I.
2	Primary: Developed land, sealed surface Code: u1b	170 (total)	There are two small areas of developed land, sealed surface comprised of concrete large aprons both north and south of the barn building B1. No vegetation is associated with this habitat parcel.
3	Primary: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface Code: u1c	920 (total)	There are two main areas of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface located southwest and east of the barn building B1, which are used as access tracks. This parcel has less than 10% vegetation associated with it.
Grassland			
4	Primary: Modified grassland	1410 (total)	Three main parcels of modified grassland were recorded west and east of the barn building B1, within the northern section of the development boundary. The grassland was characterised by a non-uniformly short sward height (~5-15cm), that appeared to have been managed regularly as amenity grassland until recently. At the time of the UKHab survey the same grassland was grazed by three domestic sheep. The modified grassland was dominated by grasses



	Secondary: Sheep grazed, active management, tree Code: g4 –102, 516, 200	with a low forbs coverage and characterised by small, scattered areas of disturbed bare ground. The grassland was classified as modified grassland due to it being dominated by perennial ryegrass, its species composition indicative of nutrient improvement (including white clover) and the low number of species recorded per meter square (4 on average). No invasive non-native species were recorded within the grassland. Along the eastern development boundary, three small hawthorn trees were recorded within the grassland sward. <u>Species recorded:</u> Grasses: perennial ryegrass (D), Yorkshire fog (F), cock’s foot (R), annual meadowgrass (O), rough meadowgrass (R), red fescue (R). Forbs and other plants: white clover (F), dandelion (O), common daisy (O), creeping buttercup (O), sticky mouse-ear (R), creeping cinquefoil (R), sorrel (R), self-heal (R), oak sapling (R), common ragwort (R), ribwort plantain (R), bristly ox-tongue (R), curly dock (R), cut-leaf geranium (R), creeping thistle (R) common vetch (R), bird’s foot trefoil (R). Tree: hawthorn.
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4.3 Site Habitat Suitability Assessment

- 4.3.1 An assessment of habitat within the development boundary to act as an ecological receptor for protected species and species of conservation concern, based upon the desk study results and the habitats recorded during the UKHab Survey is provided below in Table 8. The bat PRA results are also summarised below and given in full in Table 10 Appendix I.

Table 8 – Site habitat assessment for protected species and species of conservation concern.

Species/Group	Site Assessment and Rationale
GCN and Other Amphibians	• Twelve ponds were recorded within 0.5 km of the development boundary, with the closest located 160 m south of the main footprint of the development. No GCN records were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary, however records of smooth newt and common frog were returned. • No suitable breeding habitat for GCN was recorded within the development boundary. None of the habitats within the development boundary are suitable to be used as resting places for GCN. The modified grassland within the development boundary at the time of the UKHab Survey provided unsuitable structure to be used as a resting place for GCN with a sward height of 5-15 cm. Furthermore, the majority of the habitat within the main footprint of the development was comprised of developed land sealed surface that provides unsuitable habitat for GCN and only a small section of the modified grassland described above. • Given the distance of the development boundary to the nearest pond (160 m) and the unsuitable habitat within the main footprint of the development the probability of GCN being encountered within the main footprint of the development is low.
Bats	• Records of bats (including SPI) were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. • Building B1 was classified as having negligible suitability for roosting bats during the PRA (see Table 10, Appendix I). • No other structures with suitability for roosting bats were recorded within the development boundary. • No trees with suitability for roosting bats were recorded within the footprint of the development. • The habitat within the development boundary was assessed as having low suitability for foraging and commuting bats, given the sub-optimal habitats for bats present including the small area of short, modified grassland and three small hawthorn trees. However, high



	value foraging and commuting habitats for bats are located immediately adjacent to the development boundary. As such, commuting and foraging bats could be encountered within or within close proximity to the development boundary.
Birds	- Records of common bird species, as well as species of conservation concern, were returned from the desk study within 1 km of the development boundary. - The habitat within the development boundary includes three small hawthorn trees which provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging birds. Additionally, the barn building B1, with its open structure, could also provide suitable habitat for nesting birds. The modified grassland habitat within the development boundary had a short sward height at the time of the UKHab survey and is reasonably unlikely to provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds. - The overall quantity and quality of available habitat for nesting birds within the footprint of the development is insufficient to support important bird assemblages and populations of conservation concern.
Terrestrial mammals (non-bats)	Badgers: No evidence of badgers, including badger setts or field signs were recorded within the development boundary at the time of the survey. The modified grassland within the development boundary provides potential foraging habitat for badgers. The development boundary is situated in close proximity to parcels of deciduous woodland and is set within a rural area, as such, it is possible that badgers could use the site. Hazel dormice: No records of hazel dormice were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. The habitat within the development boundary includes three isolated small hawthorn trees, which are unsuitable for dormice. As such, hazel dormice are highly unlikely to be encountered within the development boundary and main footprint of the development. Hedgehogs: No records of hedgehogs were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. The modified grassland could provide suitable foraging habitat for hedgehogs. As such, it is reasonably likely that hedgehog could be encountered within the development boundary and the immediate footprint of the development. Otters and water voles: No records of otter or water vole were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. The nearest water body was located 0.58 km north of the development boundary. Based on the habitats recorded within the development boundary and the connectivity and distance of these habitats to the nearest waterbody, it is reasonably unlikely otter or water vole will be encountered within the development boundary or that the habitat will be associated with any population of these species.



	• Other mammals: No mammal burrows such as those of rabbit or fox were recorded within the development boundary at the time of the UKHab Survey. Habitats recorded within the development boundary such as modified grassland could conceal such burrows. As such, it is possible the above species could be found in or near to the main footprint of the development prior to its commencement.
Reptiles	• Records of grass snake were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. No records of rare reptiles were recorded from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. • The modified grassland that falls within the main footprint of the development, is primarily characterised by a short structure (10 cm in height on average) that is subject to regular mowing and sheep grazing, and that provides insufficient cover to support a permanent reptile population, with only small marginal areas with suitable structure for reptiles being present along the interface between the modified grassland and building B1. • Based upon the above points the likelihood of encountering individual reptiles within the main footprint of the development is low.
Invertebrates	• Several records of invertebrates including species of conservation concern were returned from the desk study search within 1 km of the development boundary. • The habitats within the development boundary include modified grassland and three small hawthorn trees which lacked botanical diversity and environmental heterogeneity, and as such, only offers limited value for invertebrates at a site level. No water bodies were recorded within the development boundary and as such, aquatic favouring species of conservation concern are reasonably unlikely to be encountered within the development boundary. • Based on the above points it is reasonably unlikely that any important assemblages or populations of conservation concern will be encountered within the immediate footprint of the development.
Plants, Lichens and Fungi	• All habitats recorded within the development boundary including the modified grassland were typically species poor. The habitat within the main footprint of the development consisted of development land sealed surface and modified grassland of limited botanical value. No European or nationally protected plants or SPI were recorded within the development boundary at the time of the UKHab Survey. Based upon the habitats present, it is reasonably unlikely any such species or any fungi or lichens species of conservation concern will be present within the development boundary.



Non-native and Invasive Species	No invasive non-native species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 or the Invasive Alien Species Order, 2019 were recorded within the development boundary at the time of the UKHab Survey.
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5. Legislation, Planning Policy and Impact Assessment

5.1.1 Table 9 summarises the legislation and planning policy relevant to the proposed development and provides an assessment of the potential ecological impacts of the proposals. Further details of the UK legislation and planning policy relevant to the qualifying features considered in this section are provided in Appendix II.

Table 9 – Legislation and planning policy evaluation of the development.

Ecological Feature	Relevant Legislation & Planning Policy	Assessment Outcome	Impact Assessment and Justification
Designated sites			
The Mens SAC/SSSI	• Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); • National Planning Policy Framework, 2026; and • HDC Adopted Local Plan, 2015 – Policy 31: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.	Mitigation required	• The development boundary falls within the 12 km wider conservation zone for The Mens SAC. The development, however: ○ Will not result in the loss of any area of habitat within the SAC as it is located outside of the SAC boundary; and ○ Will not directly remove any habitat within the development boundary that could provide a suitable flightline for a qualifying feature of the SAC (barbastelle bat). • Although the habitat loss alone is reasonably unlikely to adversely impact the qualifying features of the designation, inappropriate artificial lighting of adjacent potential bat commuting routes within the Wider Conservation Zone could contribute to cumulative adverse effects on the availability and functionality of commuting habitat for barbastelle bats. • The recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.



Hurston & Sullington Warren SSSIs	- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); - National Planning Policy Framework, 2026; and - HDC Adopted Local Plan, 2015 – Policy 31: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.	No further assessment or mitigation required	- The development will not result in any adverse impacts to the qualifying features of the SSSI designations due to: - The development being retained within the development boundary and not resulting in any direct loss of area within the designations; and - The development being small in scale, extent and magnitude as well as there being sufficient distance between each SSSIs and the development boundary, to avoid any adverse impacts that may arise from degradation as a result of increased recreational pressure or pollution.
Habitats			
Irreplaceable habitat	- National Planning Policy Framework, 2026; and - HDC Adopted Local Plan, 2015 – Policy 31: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.	No further assessment or mitigation required	- No ancient woodland parcels or any other type of irreplaceable habitat are located within the development boundary or will be directly lost as part of the development. - Due to the small scale, extent and magnitude of the development and its distance to any ancient woodland parcels, it is reasonably unlikely that there will be any adverse impacts resulting from degradation through increased recreational pressure or pollution to ancient woodland outside of the development boundary.
Habitats of Principal Importance	- Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 41; and - National Planning Policy Framework, 2026.	Mitigation required	- There is a parcel of lowland mixed deciduous woodland (HPI) located immediately adjacent to the south-western development boundary. - Due to the proximity of this woodland parcel to the main footprint of the development, mitigation will be required during the construction phase of the development to ensure the long-term safeguarding of the deciduous woodland and promote its conservation. - The recommendations outlined in section 6 of this report should be followed to ensure the development is compliant with local planning policy.



Pollution Prevention	- Environmental Protection Act, 1990; - National Planning Policy Framework, 2026; and - HDC Adopted Local Plan, 2015 – Policy 24: Environmental Protection.	Mitigation required	- Pollution prevention measures should be incorporated into the construction phase of the development to avoid onsite and offsite pollution to habitats and the nearby waterbodies. - Mitigation measures will be required within the design of the development to ensure that there are no significant increases in the levels of light pollution as a result of the installation of artificial lighting as part of the development. - The recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.
Biodiversity Net Gain and Ecological Enhancements			
Biodiversity Net Gain	- The Environment Act, 2021; and - National Planning Policy Framework, 2026.	Compliant	A BNG assessment has been submitted with the planning application that demonstrates a 10% uplift in the baseline biodiversity value of the site.
Ecological Enhancement	National Planning Policy Framework, 2026.	Further action required.	- The development will be required to implement ecological enhancements into the design of the development to ensure it is compliant with national and local planning policy. - The recommendations outlined in section 6 of this report should be followed to ensure the development is compliant with national and local planning policy.
Protected Species and Species of Conservation Concern			
Badgers	Badger Protection Act, 1992.	Mitigation required	- No badger setts or evidence of badgers were recorded within the development boundary, however, due to the habitats within the development boundary, its rural location and proximity to typical badger habitats (such as lowland mixed deciduous woodland), it is possible that badger setts could be created within close proximity to the main footprint of the development and potentially be encountered prior to the commencement of the development. - The recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.



Bats	• Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); • Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – schedule 5; • Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41; and • HDC Local Plan – Policy 25 and 31.	Further assessment and mitigation required	• Building B1 was classified as having negligible suitability for roosting bats, therefore no further bat emergence surveys are required. • No other buildings with suitability for roosting bats within the development boundary will be adversely impacted by the development based on the current development layout. • No trees with potential to support roosting bats will be adversely impacted by the development, based on the current development layout. • No potential bat flightlines are present within the development boundary. • For the reasons outlined above for The Mens SAC, and pollution prevention section, the development will be required to mitigate the level of new light pollution from the installation of artificial lighting to ensure it does not adversely impact potential bat flightlines adjacent to the development boundary. • The recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.
Birds	• Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – Section 1 and Schedule 1; and • Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	Mitigation required	• The development proposals include the demolition of the existing barn building B1, which has suitability for nesting birds. It is, therefore, possible that nesting birds could be adversely impacted during the construction phase of the development without appropriate mitigation. • Based on the available habitat within the development boundary, it is reasonably unlikely that important assemblages or populations of birds of conservation concern will be adversely impacted by the development. • The recommendations outlined in section 6 of this report should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.



Great crested newts	• Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); • Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – schedule 5; and • Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	Mitigation required	• The habitat removal required to enable the development is limited to a small area of short sheep-grazed, modified grassland, which does not provide suitable habitat for use as a resting place for GCN. • Based on the above, and in our professional opinion, the development is reasonably unlikely to result in adverse impacts to GCN at a population level as: ○ No GCN breeding habitat will be removed or modified; ○ The removal of habitat within 160 m of the nearest pond is very small scale; ○ The extent of works will be completed over a short timeframe, reducing the risk of a GCN being obstructed from reaching their breeding or resting places; and • In addition to the above using Natural England's Great Crested Newt Rapid Risk Assessment Tool, and assuming the presence of GCN within all ponds within 500 meters of the development boundary, the assessment indicates that the scale of habitat loss and disturbance would make the likelihood of an offence 'highly unlikely' (see Table 11, Appendix II). • On this basis, and subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the risk of an offence under relevant legislation is considered to be acceptably low. • To ensure the development proceeds lawfully the recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed.
Hazel dormice	• Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); • Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – schedule 5; and	No further assessment or mitigation required	• The development is reasonably unlikely to result in harm to individual hazel dormice or adversely impact any habitat associated with any hazel dormouse populations.



	Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.		
Hedgehogs	- Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 - Section 40/41; and - Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.	Mitigation required	- It is reasonably likely that individual hedgehogs could be encountered within the development boundary, and as such, it is possible that they could be inadvertently killed with methods prohibited under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996 without appropriate mitigation. - The recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.
Reptiles	- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); (Sand Lizard & Smooth Snake only); - Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – schedule 5; and - Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	Mitigation required	- The risk of harm to individual reptiles as a result of the development is low, due to mainly unsuitable habitat being present within the main footprint of the proposed development. As such, it is reasonably unlikely that a significant population of reptiles will be adversely impacted by the development. - Suitable reptile habitat will be retained within close proximity to the development boundary, within the wider ownership and adjacent land. As such, appropriate mitigation measures will be required during the construction phase to ensure the risk of encountering or harming reptiles remains acceptably low. - In our professional opinion, the likely impacts on reptiles can be reasonably predicted and can be appropriately managed through mitigation. Therefore, further survey effort is considered disproportionate to the level of risk posed by the development. - The recommendations outlined in section 6 should be followed to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.



Other Mammal Burrows	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.	Mitigation required	- It is possible that mammals could be inadvertently harmed with methods prohibited under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996 whilst inhabiting their burrows without appropriate mitigation. - To ensure the development proceeds lawfully the mitigation outlined in section 6 should be followed.
Otters	- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); - Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – schedule 5; and - Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	No further assessment or mitigation required	The development is reasonably unlikely to result in harm to individual otters or adversely impact their habitat (including resting and breeding places), and therefore, will not adversely impact the favourable conservation status of this species.
Water Voles	- Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – schedule 5; and - Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	No further assessment or mitigation required	The development is reasonably unlikely to result in harm to individual water vole or adversely impact their burrows or habitat, and therefore, will not adversely impact the conservation status of this species.
Invertebrates	- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) – Schedule 2; - Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – Schedule 5; and - Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	No further assessment or mitigation required	The development is reasonably unlikely to result in any adverse impacts to any European protected invertebrates, nationally protected species, important populations of SPI or nationally or locally important assemblages of conservation value.



Invasive non-native species	- Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 – Schedule 9; and - Invasive Alien Species Order, 2019.	No further assessment or mitigation required	The development is reasonably unlikely to result in an act that would constitute an offence for a species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 or Invasive Alien Species Order, 2019 (i.e. intentional release or spreading).
Protected Plants, Fungi and Lichens	- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) – Schedule 5; - Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 - Schedule 8; and - Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006 – Section 40/41.	No further assessment or mitigation required	The development is reasonably unlikely to result in intentional picking, uprooting, destruction, or intentional clearance of any wild plant, fungi or lichen, including, European protected species, nationally protected species, SPI or those of national or local conservation concern.



6. Requirements and Recommendations

6.1 Background

6.1.1 The recommendations included in this section are based upon the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, mitigation, and compensation; BSI, 2013) and takes consideration of government circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Circular 06/2005.

6.1.2 Mitigation is not discussed where further surveys are required to inform such mitigation or compensation, unless in our professional judgement it would not be proportionate to request further surveys as the risk of a legal offence being committed as a result of the development is acceptably low.

6.2 Designated sites

The Mens SAC

6.2.1 To ensure the development avoids adverse impacts on bat foraging and commuting habitats that are located immediately adjacent to the development boundary and that fall within The Mens SAC 12 km zone of influence, any lighting as part of the proposed development should be installed in line with current guidance issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals: Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial lighting in the UK (BCT & ILP 2023).

6.2.2 The lighting strategy for the site as a minimum should aim to:

- Avoid illumination of the deciduous woodland parcels immediately adjacent to the western development boundary; and
- Minimise the overall levels of light pollution within the site as a result of the development by:
 - Selecting appropriate lighting sources such as LED lighting that lack UV components, have peak wavelengths higher than 550 nm and that have a warm white light (2,700 kelvin or lower);
 - Appropriate fitting of lighting to include horizontal mounting with no light output above 90° and/or no upward tilt, or as a last resort the use of baffles, hoods or louvres to reduce light spill and direct lighting to only where it is needed;
 - Using light only when necessary, within the site, by using timers and motion sensors; and



- Providing natural screens in landscaping plans to break up artificial light where light spill cannot be avoided.

6.3 Ecological Enhancements

6.3.1 The following ecological enhancements relevant to the development are recommended:

- Installation of artificial habitat provisions to include:
 - One integrated bat tube to be installed as part of each new proposed residential dwellings, on their southern aspect (three total);
 - One integrated swift box to be installed as part each of the new proposed residential dwelling (three total);
 - One integrated bee brick to be installed as part of the new proposed dwellings (three total);
 - The incorporation of two 13 cm x 13 cm gaps into any close board fencing to allow the movement of small animals including hedgehogs;
- The planting of native trees and shrubs within the development boundary.

6.4 Habitat Mitigation

Habitat of Principle Importance

6.4.1 To safeguard the lowland mixed deciduous woodland immediately adjacent to the development boundary from damage or degradation during the construction phase of the development, specialist arboricultural advice should be sought. This, broadly, is likely to include, as a minimum, the installation of temporary tree protection barriers and matting where appropriate.

6.4.2 In addition to the above, the below pollution prevention measures should be followed in full.

Pollution Prevention Measures

6.4.3 The following pollution prevention measures should be followed during the construction phase of the development to ensure that there is no onsite or offsite pollution to nearby habitats (including deciduous woodland parcels) and watercourses:



- Safe storage of fuels, oils and chemicals within the development boundary (such as on hardstanding) with appropriate spill kits (for the scale of activities) available on-site at all times;
- Appropriate locating and storage of construction materials outside of the root protection zone of any trees within (or within close proximity to) the development boundary;
- Safe disposal of any contaminated water or soil and general waste within the development boundary or with appropriate offsite management;
- Appropriate locating of mixing stations and inclusion of dust prevention measures where required within the development boundary;
- Monitoring and prevention of water and silt run-off from construction areas including the installation of silt traps where appropriate; and
- Where possible the use of fertiliser and herbicides should be minimised as part of on-going site management.

6.5 Protected Species Mitigation

Badger and Other Mammal Burrows

- 6.5.1 In the unlikely event that a mammal burrow entrance is discovered within the development boundary that could be of a suitable size for badgers, the following actions should be taken:
- Works paused and an ecologist consulted regarding any likely burrow or badger sett;
 - A suitable buffer (as advised by an ecologist) established and clearly marked around the suspected badger sett; and
 - Any badger sett or mammal burrow that could be in use by badgers that is reasonably likely to be impacted by the development should be monitored for an appropriate period by an ecologist and the appropriate licencing requirements obtained.
- 6.5.2 To ensure the development proceeds lawfully, any confirmed rabbit or fox burrows found within the immediate area of the development should not be tracked over by machinery and safeguarded with a clearly marked buffer zone. Burrows that will be impacted as part of the development should be dug out with hand tools to prevent unlawful methods of killing (such as those outlined under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996). Where the species using a burrow cannot be confidently



determined, works in the immediate area should cease and advice should be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist before the burrow is disturbed.

Bats

- 6.5.3 To ensure the development avoids adverse impacts on flightlines for bats, the recommendations outlined for The Mens SAC in section 6.2 should be followed.

Birds

- 6.5.4 To ensure that the development is compliant with the legislation and planning policy relating to nesting birds, the demolition of the barn building B1 and the removal of any suitable vegetation within the development boundary should ideally be completed outside of the breeding bird season (typically March – September). If it is not possible to avoid the breeding bird season to complete these works, a pre-works inspection by an appropriately qualified ecologist should be undertaken.
- 6.5.5 If an active bird nest or nesting activity is recorded within the development boundary during the pre-works inspection or at any other time during the development (such as the storage of building materials) the nest should be protected from damage and destruction (including disturbance that may cause the nest to be abandoned). A protective buffer should be implemented around any active nests (the size to be determined based on the professional judgement of an ecologist or environmental manager) and works in and around these areas should be controlled or delayed until the chicks have fledged.

Great Crested Newts

- 6.5.6 A precautionary method of works for GCN should be followed during the construction phase of the development. The following mitigation measures should be followed:
- GCN should be discouraged from colonising the habitat within the main footprint of the development boundary by:
 - Retaining the existing short length of the modified grassland with regular cutting of the grassland, preventing a long tussocky structure that could create suitable resting places for GCN establishing; and
 - Keeping a tidy construction site and where reasonably practical keeping building materials off ground to prevent the creation of hibernacula/ refugia for GCN; and



- Any holes, pits or trenches should be kept covered overnight and checked each morning in case a newt has become trapped. Where practical it is advised to include small escape ramps/sticks into any holes, pits and trenches (where it might be difficult to seal them effectively with a cover).

6.5.7 The precautionary method of works outlined above, does not act as legal protection for an action that would otherwise be an offence with respect to GCN. Therefore, in the unlikely event a GCN is encountered within the development boundary, works must stop, and a professional ecologist should be consulted. The ecologist's professional judgement should be relied upon to determine the need for a GCN mitigation licence. Works can recommence once a GCN mitigation licence has been obtained (if required).

Hedgehogs

6.5.8 Where reasonably practical, measures should be taken to avoid the unnecessary killing or injury of hedgehog during construction activities. Stakeholders and contractors should remain vigilant for the presence of hedgehogs around any vegetation, debris piles or stored materials. If a hedgehog is encountered, it should be carefully moved to a safe location within suitable retained habitat either on-site or immediately adjacent to the site. During the construction phase of the development, any excavations on site should be covered nightly or fitted with a suitable escape ramp to prevent nocturnal mammals (including hedgehog) from becoming trapped.

Reptiles

6.5.9 To ensure there are no adverse impacts on reptiles during the construction phase of the development the mitigation measures outlined below should be followed:

- Habitats both within and immediately adjacent to the footprint of the development should be kept short to prevent reptiles colonising these areas;
- A tidy construction area should be targeted, with appropriate storage of building materials (off ground where reasonably practical) to prevent the unintended creation of refugia and hibernacula for reptiles; and
- Where reasonably practical, any holes or excavation within the development boundary should be kept covered when not in use to prevent reptiles becoming trapped, checked regularly when not covered, and have an escape ramp installed to allow reptiles to escape; and



- In the unlikely event an individual reptile is encountered within the development boundary, the reptile should be encouraged to move to safety, or alternatively, advice from an ecologist should be sought, prior to moving the reptile.



7. Conclusion

- 7.1.1 Mitigation will be required during both the design and the construction phases of the development to ensure it proceeds lawfully. Furthermore, the development will be required to incorporate ecological enhancements into the development.
- 7.1.2 The recommendations within this report outline how these requirements can be achieved, ensuring the development proceeds lawfully.



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Appendix I - Bat Preliminary Roost Assessment Results

Table 10 – Bat Preliminary Roost Assessment Results.

Building no.	Description	External inspection	Internal inspection	Evidence of bats	Bat roost potential	Rational and potential roosting features recorded
B1	- Building B1 is a large agricultural barn currently used for storage purposes. - The building has a pitched roof and steel and timber frame. The roof was covered with asbestos roofing sheets and clad on the exterior with vertical wooden boards with regular gaps in between, which allowed natural light to enter the building.	Yes	Yes	None recorded	Negligible	No bat PRFs were recorded on the exterior or interior of building B1 and the internal area is reasonably unlikely to provide adequate cover or conditions that are typically used by roosting bats.



Appendix II - Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment Tool

Table 11 – Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment Tool Results.

Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.01 - 0.1 ha lost or damaged	0.01
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
Maximum:		0.01
Rapid risk assessment result:	GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY	



Appendix III – Legislation & Planning Policy

8.2 Background

- 8.2.1 This section provides a summary of the legislation and planning policy that could be relevant to the development. Where possible we have limited this section to the areas relevant to this report. This means the legislation and planning policy outlined below is not included in its entirety.
- 8.2.2 This section does not constitute legal advice, and only, represents the interpretation and professional judgement of the ecologists named in this report, on the legislation and planning policy deemed relevant to the development.

8.3 RAMSAR Convention

- 8.3.1 RAMSAR sites are wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands for containing representative, rare or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological biodiversity (JNCC, 2019).
- 8.3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2026) outlines the level of consideration that should be given to RAMSAR sites in Planning. Paragraph 187 states that RAMSAR and potential RAMSAR sites should be given the same protection as 'habitat sites' defined as those afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, such as Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation.

8.4 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

- 8.4.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 transposes the EC Habitats Directive and some elements of the EC Bird Directive into national law in England and Wales. The objective of the Habitats Directive is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. The directive lays down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of such habitats and species.

Protected Species

- 8.4.2 The Regulations make provision for the protection of European Protected Species (EPS), including species of animals listed in Schedule 2 and species of plants listed in Schedule 5 of the Regulations. It is a criminal offence for a person to undertake certain actions in relation to an EPS, including:



- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European Protected Species (EPS);
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species in such a way as to be likely to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they are likely to belong;
- Deliberately take or destroy eggs of any such wild animal;
- Deliberately pick, collect, uproot or destroy a wild plant of an EPS; and
- Keep transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, any live or dead wild animal or plant of an EPS, or any part of or anything derived from such an animal or plant.

8.4.3 The disturbance of such animals includes in particular; any disturbance that is likely to impact their ability;

- To survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young;
- In case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Protected Sites

8.4.4 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 puts an obligation on the appointed appropriate authority for England & Wales to establish priorities for a network of nationally important sites.

8.4.5 The aforementioned sites, often referred to as European protected sites are formed of two types of sites, Special Protection Areas (sites specifically designated for birds) and Special Areas of Conservation (specifically designated for fauna and flora). The objective is for all species and habitats covered by these sites to contribute towards the maintenance and restoration of their favourable conservation status.

8.4.6 Designation can include but is not limited to the following reasons:

- A natural habitat type specified in Annex I of the Habitats Directive;
- A species specified in Annex II of the Habitats Directive;
- For the coherence of the national network of protected sites; and



- For threats of degradation or destruction to which the sites are exposed.

Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended)

- 8.4.7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) primarily transposes the UK Government's obligations under the Bird Directive and Bern Convention into law. The act outlines provisions for the protection of nationally important sites for nature conservation and provides protection at different levels for certain animals and plants, including certain prohibitions.

Protection of Birds

- 8.4.8 Part 1 – Section 1 includes certain prohibitions for the protection of birds which make it a criminal offence for a person to:
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
 - Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
 - Have in any one's possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act, 1954;
 - Use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds;
 - Have in one's possession or control any bird of a species occurring on schedule 4 of the Act unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the secretary of state's regulations; and
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the independent young of such a bird.

Protection of Animals

- 8.4.9 Part 1 – Section 9 of the act includes certain prohibitions for the protection of certain animals named in schedule 5. In summary offences include:
- If any person intentionally or recklessly kills, injures or takes any wild animal included in schedule 5;
 - If any person has in his possession or control any live or dead wild animal included in schedule 5, or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal;



- If any person intentionally or recklessly damages or destroys, or obstructs access to, any structure or place which any wild animal included in schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection; or
- Disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose; and
- Sells, offers or exposes for sale, or has in their possession or transports for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal included in schedule 5, or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal, or publishes or causes to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that they buy or sell, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things.

Protection of Plants

8.4.10 Part 1 – Section 13 includes certain prohibitions for the protection of certain wild plants named in schedule 8. In summary offences include if any person:

- Intentionally picks, uproots or destroys any wild plant included in schedule 8, or not being an authorised person, intentionally uproots any wild plants not included in that schedule;
- Sells, offers or exposes for sale, or has in their possession or transports for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild plant included in schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant; or
- Publishes or causes to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that they buy or sell, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things.

Invasive Species

8.4.11 Part 1 – Section 14 includes certain prohibitions for the introduction of certain invasive species named in schedule 9 of the act. In summary offences include if any person:

- Subject to the provisions of this part, (a) if any person releases or allows to escape into the wild any animal which is of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain in a wild state; or (b) is included in Part of Schedule 9; and/ or
- Subject to the provisions of this part, any person who plants, or otherwise causes to grow, any plant in the wild at a place out with its native range is guilty of an offence.



Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 8.4.12 Part 2 – Sections 28-33 of the act set out the law regarding Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by the conservation bodies in England (Natural England) and Wales (Natural Resource Wales) and outlines the offences with respect to SSSI.
- 8.4.13 The offences outlined in the act apply to any person(s), public body, landowner or occupier as well as statutory undertakers or permitted developments. Examples of offences include (but are not limited to):
- Any person intentionally or recklessly damaging or destroying any of the features of special interest of an SSSI, or disturbing wildlife for which the site was notified;
 - Public bodies are not allowed to carry out damaging operations on an SSSI, except where they notified the relevant conservation agency. It is also an offence for a public body to fail to minimise damage on an SSSI or – if damage occurs – to fail to restore a SSSI to its former state; and
 - Statutory bodies have a general duty to take reasonable steps to further to conservation and enhancement of the special feature of SSSI's;
 - Where statutory bodies propose to undertake or permit activities that could affect a SSSI they must consult the relevant statutory nature conservation agency. If the activity cannot be avoided it must be undertaken in a way least damaging to the SSSI; and
 - If you are the owner or occupier of a SSSI, it is an offence to carry out any activity that may likely damage the SSSI without consent from the relevant conservation agency. The law requires that you inform the conservation agency of any changes in the ownership or occupancy.

Other Protected Areas

- 8.4.14 Part 2 – Section 34 to 52 of the act deals with other protected areas within the UK such as limestone pavements, national nature reserves and marine nature reserves. The act allows designation of these sites by the appropriate authority for the purpose of conserving flora and fauna or geological or physiological features of specific interest in an area to protect the site. Furthermore, the act prohibits certain actions in National Parks for certain habitats without consent from local authorities.

8.5 Countryside Rights of Way Act, 2000

- 8.5.1 The Countryside Rights of Way Act, 2000 (CRoW Act, 2000) makes provisions for public access, amends the law for public rights of way and amends existing law on



nature conservation and the protection of wildlife as well as makes further provisions for National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, AONBs).

Wildlife Legislation

- 8.5.2 Part III of the CRow Act, 2000 includes provisions for wildlife protection and nature conservation and includes amendments to the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981.
- 8.5.3 Schedule 9 of the CRow Act, 2000 increases powers for the protection and management of SSSI. There are increased powers for appropriate authorities to secure management agreements for SSSI. A duty is placed on public bodies to have regard for the continued conservation and enhancement of SSSI. Furthermore, there are increased penalties for the prosecution of wildlife crime, including for third parties that damage SSSI.
- 8.5.4 Schedule 12 of the CRow Act, 2000 makes certain offences under the provision of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 arrestable. Greater powers are given to police and appointed wildlife inspectors under the CRow Act, 2000 and enables heavier penalties for the prosecution of wildlife crime.

8.6 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949

- 8.6.1 This act makes provisions for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves. Part III of the act specifically outlines provisions for the designation of nature reserves.

8.7 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act, 2006

- 8.7.1 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC), 2006 is primarily intended to implement key aspects of the governments rural strategy published in July 2004. It also addresses a wider range of issues relating broadly to the natural environment.

Section 40

- 8.7.2 Section 40 of the NERC Act, 2006, places a duty on any public authority and statutory undertaker to have due regard for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity when delivering their functions, extending the provisions outlined under section 74 of the CRow Act, 2000.
- 8.7.3 The policy goes on to state that conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population of that habitat.



Section 41

8.7.4 Section 41 of the NERC Act, 2006 requires the secretary of state in consultation with Natural England to outline Species of Principal Importance (SPI) and Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) that in their opinion are important for the conservation of biodiversity.

8.7.5 The secretary of state is required to:

- Take such steps as appear to the secretary of state to be reasonably practicable to further the conservation of the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section; or
- Promote the taking by others of such steps.

8.7.6 The NERC Act, 2006 also provides some amendments to the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) and includes provisions for enforcement powers and the protection of SSSI.

8.8 Protection of Badgers Act, 1992

8.8.1 The Protection of Badgers Act, 1992 makes it a criminal offence to wilfully kill, injure or take any badger, or attempt to do so. It also makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

8.9 Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.

8.9.1 The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996 makes provision for the protection of wild mammals from certain cruel acts, and for connected purposes. It would be an offence for any person that mutilates, kicks, beats, nails or otherwise impales, stabs, burns, stones, crushes, drowns, drags or asphyxiates any wild animal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

8.10 The Environment Act, 2021

8.10.1 The Environment Act, 2021 gained royal ascent on the 9th November, 2021. The act is wide ranging and broadly has the following aim:

‘a bill to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment, for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the office of environmental protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards, about water, about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals, and for connected purposes’.



Nature and Biodiversity

- 8.10.2 Part 6 – Sections 98 - 101 of the act outlines provisions for biodiversity gain in planning.
- 8.10.3 Schedule 14 makes provision for biodiversity gain to be a condition of planning permission in England.
- 8.10.4 Schedule 14 states that, the biodiversity gain objective is met in relation to development for which planning permission is granted if the biodiversity value attributable to the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat by at least the relevant percentage.
- 8.10.5 It goes on to state that the biodiversity value attributable to the development is the total of:
- The post development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat;
 - The biodiversity value, in relation to the development, of any registered offsite biodiversity gain allocated to the development; and
 - The biodiversity value of any biodiversity credits purchased for the development.
- 8.10.6 The relevant percentage is set at 10% for biodiversity gain.
- 8.10.7 Part 6 – Section 100 of the act outlines provisions by regulation for the secretary of a register of biodiversity gain sites (known as the biodiversity gain site register).
- 8.10.8 A biodiversity gain site is land where:
- A person is required under the conservation covenant or planning obligation to carry out works for the purpose of habitat enhancement;
 - That or another person is required to maintain the enhancement for at least 30 years after the completion of the works; and
 - For the purpose of schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 the enhancement is made available to be allocated (conditionally or unconditionally, and whether for consideration or otherwise) in accordance with the terms of the covenant or obligation to one or more developments for which planning permission is granted.
- 8.10.9 Part 6 – Section 101 states that the secretary of state may make arrangements under which a person who is entitled to carry out the development of any land may purchase a credit from the secretary of state for the purpose of meeting the



biodiversity gain objective referred to in schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 and Schedule 2A of the Planning Act, 2008.

8.10.10 A credit is to be regarded for the purpose of that schedule as having such biodiversity value as is determined under the arrangements.

8.10.11 The arrangements may in particular include arrangements relating to:

- Applications to purchase credits;
- The amount payable in respect of a credit of a given value;
- Proof of purchase; and
- Reimbursement for credits purchased for development which is not carried out.

8.11 National Planning Policy Framework (2026)

8.11.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, 2026) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The NPPF contains policies for plan-making and national decision-making policies which are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

8.11.2 The NPPF supplements Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation 06/2005 (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005).

Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

8.11.3 Chapter 19 of the NPPF concerns conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Its objective is to influence the design and location of development to support nature's recovery and wider environmental outcomes, safeguard important habitats, species and landscapes, and recognise the role of natural capital in delivering sustainable growth.

Identifying Environmental Opportunities and Safeguards

8.11.4 **Policy N1:** Identifying environmental opportunities and safeguards is a plan-making policy which states that development plans should safeguard and enhance the natural environment and reflect the wider benefits provided by natural capital and ecosystem services. In doing so, plans should make use of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Protected Landscape Management Plans, River Basin Management Plans, National Forest Strategies, Community Forest Plans and other relevant evidence.



- 8.11.5 Policy N1 requires development plans to identify the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites and areas of landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity importance, together with other environmentally important features such as chalk streams. Plans should also identify opportunities for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of landscapes, sensitive waterbodies, habitats and priority or threatened species, including through habitat restoration, nature-based solutions and the creation and strengthening of ecological networks.
- 8.11.6 Development should be directed towards land of least environmental value where this is consistent with other policies in the NPPF. This includes avoiding and minimising harm to designated sites of importance for nature and taking account of areas identified within Local Nature Recovery Strategies as potential opportunities for environmental restoration.
- 8.11.7 Policy N1 also states that development plans should establish standards for green infrastructure provision, drawing upon Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards for England where appropriate.
- 8.11.8 Development plans should only set local biodiversity net gain requirements exceeding the statutory biodiversity net gain requirement where these relate to specific site allocations and are fully justified and deliverable. Such local requirements should not extend to categories of development which are exempt from statutory biodiversity net gain.

Improving the Natural Environment

- 8.11.9 **Policy N2:** Improving the natural environment is a national decision-making policy. It states that, in order to contribute positively to the natural environment and support nature's recovery, development proposals should consider the environmental qualities of the land, including its habitats, landscape character and the natural beauty of the countryside, and identify opportunities to conserve or enhance these qualities, including through biodiversity net gain where applicable.
- 8.11.10 Development proposals should take suitable opportunities to connect to and strengthen ecological networks extending beyond the development site, drawing upon measures identified within Local Nature Recovery Strategies, National Forest Strategies, Community Forest Plans and other relevant assessments where present.
- 8.11.11 Existing natural features of visual, historic or nature conservation value, including established trees and hedgerows, should be conserved and enhanced where possible, with appropriate landscaping used to integrate development into its surroundings.



- 8.11.12 Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions should be used to secure multiple benefits, including for biodiversity, surface-water and pollution management, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and recreation.
- 8.11.13 Development proposals should minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity and include features which support priority or threatened species, such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs. Development proposals should incorporate integrated nest boxes, commonly known as swift bricks, unless there are compelling technical reasons which prevent their use or would make them ineffective.
- 8.11.14 Green infrastructure and other features supporting nature should be appropriately located and designed to minimise the risk of future failure, with suitable measures in place for any necessary long-term management.
- 8.11.15 Policy N2 retains the mitigation hierarchy. Where significant harm to biodiversity resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, the development should be refused.
- 8.11.16 Development proposals may provide biodiversity enhancements exceeding the statutory biodiversity net gain objective. However, such additional gains should only be required where this is established through an up-to-date development plan policy relating to a specific site allocation. Decision-makers should not give weight to other development plan policies requiring biodiversity gains beyond the statutory framework, including policies seeking such gains from development which is exempt from statutory biodiversity net gain.

Trees in New Development

- 8.11.17 **Policy N3:** Trees in new development recognises the benefits that trees provide for biodiversity, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and the character and quality of the built environment.
- 8.11.18 Development proposals should provide tree-lined streets unless there are strong reasons why this would be inappropriate and should incorporate trees in other suitable locations.
- 8.11.19 The selection and location of trees should take account of highways and infrastructure requirements, the needs of users of public spaces, climate-change adaptation and other environmental benefits. Appropriate arboricultural advice should be sought where necessary to ensure that suitable trees are planted in suitable locations.
- 8.11.20 Provision should also be made for the long-term maintenance of both existing and newly planted trees forming part of the development.



Protected Landscapes

- 8.11.21 **Policy N4:** Protected Landscapes states that development within Protected Landscapes should be limited in scale and extent and sensitively located and designed to avoid harm to their statutory purposes and special qualities. Substantial weight should be given to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of these areas and to conserving and enhancing wildlife and cultural heritage within National Parks and the Broads.
- 8.11.22 Major development within Protected Landscapes should be refused other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest. Consideration should include the need for the development; the scope for locating the development outside the Protected Landscape or meeting the need in another way; and any detrimental effects upon the environment, landscape and recreational opportunities and the extent to which these could be moderated.
- 8.11.23 Where major development is exceptionally approved within a Protected Landscape, measures should be taken to mitigate potential adverse impacts on its special qualities and statutory purposes, including features such as tranquillity and dark skies. Development within the setting of a Protected Landscape should also be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts.

Maintaining the Character of the Coast

- 8.11.24 **Policy N5:** Maintaining the character of the coast states that development proposals should maintain the character of undeveloped areas of coast, including land designated for its landscape, habitat or heritage value, while improving public access where appropriate. Development should not hinder completion or maintenance of the King Charles III England Coast Path National Trail.
- 8.11.25 Development within areas defined as Heritage Coast which do not already fall within a Protected Landscape should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within Heritage Coast areas should not be supported unless it is compatible with the area's special character.
- 8.11.26 Where development is located within a Coastal Change Management Area, Policy F9 should also be taken into consideration.

Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 8.11.27 **Policy N6:** Areas of particular importance for biodiversity and geodiversity provides specific decision-making principles for sites of international, national and local nature conservation importance and for irreplaceable habitats.



- 8.11.28 Development proposals affecting a site of international importance, which for the purpose of Policy N6 is a habitats site, should be refused unless an appropriate assessment concludes that the proposal would not adversely affect the integrity of the site, the relevant Habitats Regulations derogation tests can be satisfied and/or the impacts on the relevant protected features are being addressed through an applicable Environmental Delivery Plan and the developer has committed to paying the nature restoration levy.
- 8.11.29 Development proposals affecting a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) should only be supported where there would be no adverse effect, either individually or in combination with other developments, upon the features of special scientific interest; where the benefits of development in the proposed location clearly outweigh both the likely impacts upon the SSSI and any broader effects upon the national network of SSSIs; or where the relevant impacts are being addressed through an applicable Environmental Delivery Plan and nature restoration levy.
- 8.11.30 Development proposals affecting a site of local importance, including a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site, Local Geological Site or equivalent designation identified in the development plan, should only be supported where there would not be a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, or where the benefits of the development in the proposed location clearly outweigh the likely impacts upon the features which make the site valuable for nature conservation.
- 8.11.31 Irrespective of a site's nature conservation designation or status, development proposals resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees, should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy is provided.
- 8.11.32 Policy N6 applies to development both within and outside a designated area where the development could affect the identified biodiversity or geodiversity value of that area.

Priority or Threatened Species

- 8.11.33 The NPPF defines 'priority or threatened species' as species which are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of development. This includes, but is not limited to, species of principal importance in England identified under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, species listed in Schedules 2 and 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



Ground Conditions and Pollution

- 8.11.34 **Policy P3:** Living conditions and pollution states that development proposals should be appropriate for their location, taking account of the likely effects, including cumulative effects, of pollution upon health, living conditions and the natural environment, whether these effects occur on or off-site. Consideration should be given to the sensitivity of the site and the surrounding environment.
- 8.11.35 Development proposals should avoid giving rise to, or contributing to, unacceptable levels of air, noise, artificial light, water, soil or other forms of pollution on or beyond the site. Adverse effects should be avoided where possible or otherwise mitigated to an acceptable degree, and opportunities should be taken to reduce existing pollution where possible.
- 8.11.36 Development proposals should limit adverse impacts from artificial light upon local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature.
- 8.11.37 Development proposals should also assess and mitigate impacts where development could have an unacceptable adverse effect upon water quality, particularly in relation to sensitive waterbodies such as chalk streams.

8.12 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Circular 06/2005

- 8.12.1 Biodiversity and geological conservation circular 06/2005 provides administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. It complements the national planning policy within the NPPF, 2026 and the Planning Practice Guidance. Broadly the guidance covers designated sites, the conservation of habitats and species, including outside of designated sites, protected species by law and the duties and powers used by planning authorities.
- 8.12.2 Paragraph 82 of the guidance states that 'in determining the application for development that is covered by up-to-date standing advice, a planning authority must take into account this standing advice'.

Protected Species and Planning

- 8.12.3 Paragraph 98 of the guidance states 'the presence of a protected species is a material planning consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat'.
- 8.12.4 Paragraph 98 also states that 'they (the planning authority) should consider attaching appropriate planning conditions or entering into planning obligations



under which the developer would take steps to secure the long-term protection of the species’.

- 8.12.5 Paragraph 99 of the guidance goes on to state: ‘it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision’. Paragraph 99 also states that ‘this is justified only, where there is a reasonable likelihood of the species being present and affected by the development.’

8.13 Horsham District Council Adopted Local Plan (2015)

Policy 25

- 8.13.1 Policy 25 states ‘The Natural Environment and landscape character of the district, including the landscape, landform and development pattern, together with protected landscapes and habitats will be protected against inappropriate development. The Council will support development proposals which’:

1. Protects, conserves, and enhances the landscape and townscape character, taking into account areas identified as being of landscape importance, the individual settlement characteristics, and maintains settlement separation;
2. Maintain and enhances the Green Infrastructure Network and addresses any identified deficiencies in the district;
3. Maintains and enhances the existing network of geological sites and biodiversity, including safeguarding existing designated sites and species, and ensures no net loss of wider biodiversity and provides net gains in biodiversity where possible; and
4. Conserve and where possible enhance the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Policy 31

- 8.13.2 1) Development will be supported where it can demonstrate that it maintains or enhances the existing network of green infrastructure. Proposals that would result in the loss of existing green infrastructure will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that new opportunities will be provided that mitigates or compensates for this loss and ensures that the ecosystem services of the area are retained.



- 8.13.3 2) Development proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of existing biodiversity and should create and manage new habitats where appropriate. The Council will support new development which retains and /or enhances significant features of nature conservation on development sites. The Council will also support development which makes a positive contribution to biodiversity through the creation of green spaces, and linkages between habitats to create local and regional ecological networks.
- 8.13.4 3) Where felling of protected trees is necessary, replacement planting with a suitable species will be required.
- 8.13.5 4) a. Particular consideration will be given to the hierarchy of sites and habitats in the district as follows:
- i. Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 - ii. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs); and
 - iii. Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and any areas of Ancient woodland, local geodiversity or other irreplaceable habitats not already identified in I & II above.
- 8.13.6 4) b. Where development is anticipated to have a direct or indirect adverse impact on sites or features for biodiversity, development will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that:
- i. The reason for the development clearly outweighs the need to protect the value of the site; and,
 - ii. That appropriate mitigation and compensation measures are provided.
- 8.13.7 5. Any development with the potential to impact Arun Valley SPA or the Mens SAC will be subject to a HRA to determine the need for an Appropriate Assessment. In addition, development will be required to be in accordance with the necessary mitigation measures for development set out in the HRA of this plan.

8.14 Birds of Conservation Concern

- 8.14.1 Birds of Conservation Concern is a report compiled by a coalition of the UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations and reviews the conservation status of all regularly occurring birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The report was first released in 1996 and is currently in its 5th edition, released in 2021.
- 8.14.2 The bird species that breed and overwinter in the UK are assessed against a set of objective criteria and placed on the Green, Amber or Red lists that indicate the levels of conservation concern. The quantitative criteria collected is assessed against the historical decline, recent trends in population and range, population size,



localisation, and the level of international importance of each species, as well as its global and European threat status.

8.15 IUCN Red List

- 8.15.1 The international Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (also known as the IUCN Red List or Red Data Book) is an inventory of the global conservation status of biological species. The inventory is based upon internationally accepted criteria that evaluates the extinction risk of species in all regions of the world. There are two types of red list, the global and national lists. In the UK the IUCN Red List is overseen by an interagency working group that is coordinated by the Joint Nature Conservation Commission.

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