

Billingshurst

784-B031362

Appendix 9.1: Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) – Receptors Scoped Out of ES Only

Highwood Ventures 5 Limited and Vivid Housing Limited

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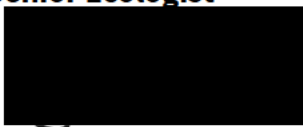
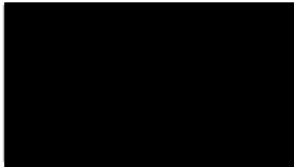
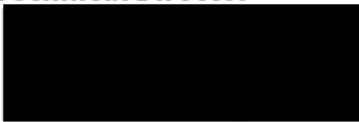
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	The site is located West of Billingshurst and is centred at OS Grid Reference TQ 08081 26226 (see Figure 1). The site is an area of predominately arable land with parcels of grassland and scattered trees throughout. The south and southwest of the site is bisected by the A272 heading west from Billingshurst. The northeastern arable parcel is separated from the site by a mix of amenity grassland sports pitches, arable land, treelines, and woodland. The wider landscape surrounding the site is of a similar composition, largely arable with parcels of woodland. To the east of the site sits Billingshurst, which is densely built up with residential homes and associated roads and amenity.
Proposals	The development proposals (Appendix 9.1C) will involve a hybrid application for the development of up to 1100 houses and associated infrastructure. Infrastructure will include all accesses, sports provision, care provision, 2FE primary school, community centre, and other associated infrastructure.
Scope of this Report	This report establishes baseline ecological conditions and assesses the potential impacts of the proposed development on important ecological receptors which are scoped out from further assessment through the EIA process. Ecological receptors scoped in for the ES have not been included as part of this report. It outlines mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures, and provides information to support compliance with relevant conservation policies and planning decisions.
Key Impacts and Evaluation	Habitats The site comprises mainly arable land, modified and other neutral grassland, species-rich and poorer hedgerows, mixed/willow scrub, two small parcels of lowland mixed deciduous woodland, a fishing pond, and small areas of urban land. Principal construction risks are vegetation removal and root damage from plant machinery. With the specified mitigation (root-protection fencing, retention of the woodland parcel, minimised hedgerow loss, buffered waterbodies and on-site habitat enhancement) no significant residual effects are predicted; remaining losses are minor and connectivity will be maintained. Protected and notable species • Roosting bats: Surveys indicate roosting bats are likely absent from site (no emergences recorded); • Great crested newts <i>Triturus cristatus</i> were assessed as likely absent despite two positive eDNA results (no individuals found on population surveys); • Hazel dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellnarius</i> evidence attributed to the species were found (four nests in boundary hedgerows) however majority of suitable habitat will be retained; ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] • Reptiles Low numbers of reptiles (grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i> and common lizard <i>Viviparous lizard</i>) were recorded onsite.

Contents	Summary
	• Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Water vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> were assessed as unlikely to be present based on low value habitats found on site; • Invertebrates were assessed as unlikely to be present in large assemblages onsite due to the site comprising predominantly sub-optimal habitats. Subject to the proposed avoidance measures, buffers, working-method statements and species-specific mitigation/licensing where required (notably for dormouse ■■■■■) no significant residual effects are expected for the retained or enhanced receptors.
Mitigation and Significant Likely Effects	Impacts are to be mitigated through preparation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan assuring correct timings of works, storage of construction materials, and protective measures for existing habitats. Landscaping enhancements mitigate for the minor loss of site level or negligible importance habitats, details of which will be outlined within a Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP), Environmental Management Plan (EMP). These would include biodiverse habitats such as comprise biodiverse rich grassland, water meadow habitat, swale wetland, riparian wet willow buffer, woodland planting, and planting of a community orchard.
Conclusion	If all recommended avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented, most predicted ecological effects on scoped out receptors can be avoided or reduced to negligible levels. Remaining residual impacts are limited to the Site scale; while permanent habitat loss is unavoidable, mitigation can be achieved through on-site habitat creation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Highwood Ventures 5 Limited and Vivid Housing Limited (hereafter referred to as “the client”) in January 2026 to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment of ecological receptors scoped out for the site at Billingshurst, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Senior Ecologist, James Gretton, BSc (Hons). The conditions pertinent to this report can be found in **Appendix 9.1A**.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located West of Billingshurst and is centred at OS Grid Reference TQ 08081 26226 (see **Figure 1**). The site is dominated by arable land with smaller parcels of grassland and scattered trees, hedgerows throughout. The south and southwest of the site is bisected by the A272 heading west from Billingshurst. The northeastern arable parcel is separated from the site by a mix of modified grassland sports pitches, arable land, treelines, and woodland.

The wider landscape surrounding the site is of a similar composition, largely arable with parcels of woodland. To the east of the site sits Billingshurst, which is densely built up with residential homes and associated roads and amenity.

Key legislation pertinent to the site can be found in **Appendix 9.1B**.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development proposals (**Appendix 9.1C**) will involve a hybrid application for the development of up to 1100 houses and associated infrastructure. Associated infrastructure will include, but is not limited to: all accesses, sports provision, care provision, 2FE primary school, community centre, and country park.

1.4 ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Ecology surveys have been ongoing since 2023, surveys undertaken by Tetra Tech are as follows:

- Habitat surveys were undertaken in 2023 in the Phase 1 habitat classification methodology (JNCC, 2010) and an update to these was undertaken in 2025 (UKHab Working Group, 2023)(Appendix 9.1D);
- Bat surveys were undertaken between 2023 and 2025 (Appendix .1E):
 - Emergence surveys were carried out in 2023 (Collins, 2016);
 - Updated emergence surveys were carried out on buildings in 2025 (Collins, 2023);
- Presence/ absence dormouse surveys were undertaken in 2023 (Bright, Morris, & Mitchell-Jones, 2006; Chanin & Woods, 2003)(Appendix 9.1F);
- Great Crested Newt (GCN) eDNA and population estimate surveys (Oldham et al. 2000; Biggs et al. 2014) were undertaken in 2023 (Appendix 9.1G);
- Reptiles were surveyed in 2023 and 2025 (Gent & Gibson, 2003; Froglife, 1999) (Appendix 9.1H).

Results and methodologies of these baseline surveys are detailed within their relevant appendices, and discussed further in Section 3.0.

1.5 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Establish baseline ecological conditions at the site;
- Identify and assess the ecological importance of the ecological features / receptors on site which could be affected by the proposed development;
- Identify any impacts or likely significant effects of the proposed development on important ecological features, in the absence of mitigation, including cumulative impacts where relevant;
- Set out any measures necessary to effectively avoid or mitigate likely significant effects, and identify residual impacts;
- Identify any compensation measures required to offset residual impacts;
- Set out potential ecological enhancement measures;
- Set out the requirements for post-construction monitoring; and
- Provide sufficient information to determine whether the project accords with relevant nature conservation policies and legislation, and where appropriate, to allow conditions or obligations to be proposed by the relevant authority.

It is intended that the evaluation of findings presented here-in will aid the Horsham District Council in their review of the planning application.

Full details of the relevant legislation and planning policy pertaining to the site and the proposed development can be seen in Appendix 9.1B.

1.6 QUALITY

James Gretton has over five years of experience in ecological consultancy and holds class 1 survey licences for GCN (2025-83282-SCI-CL08) and bats (2025-85428-CL17-BAT). The report has been reviewed by George Siskos BSc (Hons) ACIEEM who has over 15 years of experience and holds class 2 survey licence for bats (2025-86180-CL18-BAT). Felicity Andruszko BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM with 15 years of experience and a Technical Director at Tetra Tech has verified this report.

Our ecologists follow CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct (2022).

1.7 VALIDITY

For information on data validity refer to **Appendix 9.1I: Ecology Survey Data Validity**

The recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals upon which this report was based.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

This EcIA follows the best practice evaluation process, recommended by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) ‘Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland’ (CIEEM 2018, hereafter referred to as the ‘CIEEM Guidelines’).

The purpose of this report is to assess the impacts on receptors scoped out of broader Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The following receptors are scoped into the EIA and therefore are not included as part of this assessment.

- Designated site;
- Breeding and wintering birds; and
- Foraging / commuting bats.

2.1 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

2.1.1 Desk Study

The desktop study comprised two elements:

- A data search received from from Sussex Biological Records Centre (SBRC);
- Online element including a search using the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (Magic, Defra’s interactive, web-based database for statutory designations website, <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>) website and Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (<https://www.bing.com/maps>).

The geographical extent of the search area was related to the significance of sites and. For this site the following search areas were considered appropriate:

- 2km for biological records; and
- 1km for ancient woodland and mapped Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) (**Appendix 9.1D, Figure 1**).

The data search did not cover Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); or Conservation Areas designated for their special architectural and historic interest.

2.1.2 Field Surveys

Ecological surveys have been undertaken since 2023. Details of the survey methodology followed are summarise in **Table 1**. For full details of the survey methods, please refer to Appendices 9.1D-9.1H.

Table 1: Summary of ecology field surveys undertaken

Survey type	Date/s	Methodology
Phase 1 Habitat survey	September 2023	Full methodology for all habitat surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1D. Habitats present on site were mapped according to the JNCC handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey (2010).

Survey type	Date/s	Methodology
Hedgerow Importance Survey	8 th November 2023	Hedgerows on site were assessed against the hedgerow regulations (Hedgerows Regulations, 1997) to determine their importance. Full details of the hedgerow importance assessment can be found within Appendix 9.1D.
UK Habitat Classification survey (UKHab)	19 th -21 st May 2025	Full methodology for all habitat surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1D. The habitats present on site were mapped (Appendix 9.1d) in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification Professional Edition – Version 2.0 (UKHab Working Group, 2023). The habitats have been classified to a minimum of level 4, to identify the presence of any HPis listed under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Dominant plant species were recorded for each habitat present.
Preliminary Roost Assessment for bats	2023/ June 2025	Full methodology for bat surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1E . A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken in 2023 by Senior Ecologist Jon D'Arcy (Natural England level 2 bat licence number: 2018-37285-CLS-CLS), to determine the suitability of the one building on site to support roosting bats. On 27th June 2025, this PRA was updated by Senior ecologist Georgina Davey (Natural England level 1 bat licence number 2021-10128-CL17-BAT) and Project ecologist Katie Hepburn (Natural England level 1 bat licence number 2025-85170-CL17-BAT). Any suitable buildings onsite were assessed from the ground for their suitability to support breeding, resting and hibernating bats using survey methods based on the bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023) – hereafter referred to as the 'BCT Guidelines'. Trees were also subject to a Ground Level Roost Assessment (GLTA) for bats. The survey was undertaken in line with BS42020 (BSI, 2013). The roost assessment was completed to assess the likelihood of bats using the buildings within the site for summer roosting and winter hibernation.
Bat emergence surveys	31 st August 2023 June- September 2025	Full methodology for bat surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1E . Due to the above classification of 'low' in 2022, one emergence survey was carried out in accordance with 2016 BCT guidelines (Collins, 2016) in August 2023. The update Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) in 2025 found the building to be of 'moderate' roosting potential and therefore two further emergence surveys were carried out according to updated BCT guidelines (Collins, 2023) on the 25 th of June, and 9 th of September 2025. Due to the DBW results further three emergence surveys were carried out on a tree (T1) on the 7 th and 27 th of August, and 18 th of September. Endoscope inspections of potential PRF's were also conducted on tree T2 by Principal Ecologist Joe Salkeld (Natural England level 2 bat licence number 2019-43538-CLS-CLS).

Survey type	Date/s	Methodology
Hazel Dormouse presence/absence	July-October 2022, then April - November 2023	Full methodology for hazel dormouse surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1F. Presence/likely absence surveys were carried out between July 2022 and November 2023 in accordance with those described in the Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bright, Morris, & Mitchell-Jones, 2006) and Surveying Dormice Using Nest Tubes (Chanin & Woods, 2003). A total of 227 tubes were deployed in July 2022, and subsequently these were checked for dormouse or signs of presence in September and October 2022. A further 50 tubes were deployed in April 2023 which were checked in May, June, September, October, and November 2023. Surveys were led by Tetra Tech's Senior Ecologist Jon D'Arcy (Hazel Dormouse Class 1 Survey and Research Class Licence number: 2020-46946-CLS-CLS) who was assisted by members of the team.
GCN Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment and environmental DNA (eDNA)	HSI: May 2022, updated May 2025 eDNA: June 2022	Full methodology for GCN surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1G. The Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham et al. 2000) method was used to establish the suitability of the pond present on the site to support GCN in May 2022. Due to changes in site boundary, additional HSIs were carried out in May 2025. Water samples were taken from accessible parts of each suitable waterbody to test for presence of GCN in line with Natural England's accepted protocol (Biggs et al. 2014); this was done in June 2022.
GCN Presence/likely absence surveys	April-May 2023	Full methodology for GCN surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1G. Presence/likely absence surveys were carried out on the two waterbodies which returned a positive eDNA result undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in the Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2001). GCN presence / likely absence surveys were carried out by Tetra Tech Consultant Ecologist Katie Hepburn (Natural England level 1 GCN licence: 2022-10469-CL08-GCN) and Tetra Tech Senior Ecologist Jon D'Arcy.
Reptile Population surveys	September – October 2023	Full methodology for reptile surveys can be found in Appendix 9.1H. Artificial refugia were set out in April 2023 and seven surveys were carried out between the 20th of September and the 2nd of October 2023 in line with guidelines (Gent & Gibson, 2003; Froglife, 1999 and 2016).

2.1.3 Survey Limitations

Any absence of desk study records cannot be relied upon to infer absence of a species/habitat as the absence of records may be a result of under-recording within the given search area. Magic interactive mapping has also been used which provides up-to-date information on relevant information like designated sites, priority habitat and European Protected Species License (EPSLs).

Limitations for surveys carried out on individual protected species can be found within **Appendices 9.1D-9.1H**. No limitations within these sections were found to significantly impact the reliability of survey results and therefore the assessment of value of the site for each receptor assessed.

2.2 EVALUATION OF ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

The CIEEM guidelines recommend that the value of ecological receptors or features is determined based on a geographic frame of reference. In accordance with the CIEEM guidelines, the value of habitats is measured against published selection criteria where available. Also, in accordance with the CIEEM guidelines, when assigning a level of value to a species, it is necessary to consider its distribution and conservation status with consideration of trends based on available historical records. Rarity is an important consideration because of its relationship with threat and vulnerability although since some species are inherently rare, it is necessary to look at rarity in the context of status. A species that is rare and declining should be assigned a higher level of importance than one that is rare but known to be stable. Assigning importance to ecological features is based on professional judgement informed by available guidance, information and expert advice.

Table 2: Geographical context for assessment of ecological importance

Importance	Examples (Sites / habitats / species)
International	Internationally designated sites such as SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites; Habitat types listed on Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; and/or A regularly occurring, nationally significant population or number of any internationally important species.
National	Nationally designated sites such as SSSIs, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and sites which meets the published selection criteria for national designation; Habitats of high quality and rarity on a national scale; and/or A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population or number of any nationally important species.
Regional	Large-scale Wildlife Sites or other sites that exceed the county-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection criteria; Areas of regionally rare or valuable habitat; and/or A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
County	Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), County Wildlife Sites and features such as diverse and/or ecologically valuable hedgerow networks, high quality woodlands and high-quality ponds; and/or A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a county important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
Local	Semi-natural habitat that due to its size, quality or the wide distribution of such habitats within the local area are not considered for the above classifications, such as wildflower meadows, medium to low quality ponds, and low-quality woodlands; and/or A regularly occurring, locally significant number of an important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.

Importance	Examples (Sites / habitats / species)
Site	Common habitats of low or very low importance and/or quality on a local scale such as modified grassland and agricultural land. Any regularly occurring population of a locally common species.
Negligible	Areas of no ecological value e.g. hardstanding, no potential to support for protected or notable species.

2.3 CHARACTERISING IMPACTS AND LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

2.3.1 Impacts

The CIEEM Guidelines defines an impact as an action resulting in changes to ecological feature. The assessment has considered the following when assessing potential impacts of the proposed development through both the construction and operational phase of the development:

- Positive or negative influences;
- Magnitude - the size of an impact in quantitative terms where possible;
- Extent - the area over which an impact occurs;
- Duration the time for which an impact is expected to last;
- Reversibility - a permanent impact is one that is irreversible within a reasonable timescale or for which there is no reasonable chance of action being taken to reverse it; a temporary impact is one from which recovery is possible;
- Timing and frequency - whether impacts occur during critical life stages / seasons and how often impacts occur; and
- Direct and Indirect – i.e. direct ecological impacts are changes that are directly attributable to a defined action, e.g. the physical loss of habitat occupied by a species during the construction process. Indirect ecological impacts are attributable to an action, but which affect ecological resources through impacts on an intermediary ecosystem, process or receptor.

2.3.2 Significant Effects

The CIEEM Guidelines define a significant effect in the context of an EcIA as “an effect that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for important ecological features or for biodiversity in general”. A significant effect is therefore an effect that is “sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the decision maker is adequately informed of the environmental consequences of a project”.

Significant effects are determined by assessing any deviation in the baseline conditions of a feature of ecological importance that may occur as a result of individual and cumulative impacts during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

The initial assessment of predicted effects takes into account embedded mitigation, i.e. mitigation that forms an inherent part of the proposal. These measures are integral to the development design and have been included to avoid or minimise adverse ecological effects in the first instance. Further mitigation is then described, and an assessment of ‘residual impacts’ is presented.

The residual impacts are any significant impacts remaining after mitigation and are expressed in terms of the geographical scale detailed in **Table 2**. However, the geographical scale at which an effect is significant can vary from the geographical importance of the ecological feature being assessed. This assessment uses the above methodology to describe all significant effects on features of ecological importance within the Zone of Influence.

The residual impacts together with an assessment of the likelihood of success of the mitigation, are the factors to be considered against legislation, policy and development management in determining the application.

3.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE AND EVALUATION OF ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

3.1 DESK STUDY

Ancient Woodland and Priority Habitats

The priority habitats search on the Natural England mapping website returned two areas of priority habitats within the site boundary – one area of deciduous woodland and one area of floodplain grazing marsh. The floodplain area is part of the area of site proposed for habitat enhancement as part of the biodiversity net gain plans, whilst the deciduous woodland parcel is proposed to be retained in the plans. An additional 36 entries (totalling 38 entries) of priority habitats within 1km or less of the site were returned. This included 26 areas of deciduous woodland, 5 areas classed under ‘coastal and floodplain grazing marsh’ (in this case all floodplain), 4 areas of traditional orchard and then 3 further areas categorised under “no main habitat but additional habitats present”. All priority habitats are shown in **Figure 1**.

3.2 FIELD SURVEYS

3.2.1 Habitats

The following habitats have been identified through our assessment; a habitat map can be found in **Appendix 9.1D, Figure 3**. For full results of the habitat survey including full descriptions, species lists, and importance assessments, please see **Appendix 9.1D**.

Table 3. Habitats present on site

Habitat (UKHab code)	Description	Importance assessment
Modified Grassland (g4)	Several areas of modified grassland areas were found throughout the site. Areas in the east were frequently mown and dominated by Annual meadow-grass <i>Poa annua</i> and Perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i>, with frequent White clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and Greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>. There were other pockets of unmanaged modified grasslands including a strip predominated by Yorkshire-fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> with Tall fescue <i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>. A couple of the pockets of taller sward modified grassland were had turned rank and were dominant nettles <i>Urtica dioica</i>, with grasses such as Rough meadowgrass <i>Poa trivialis</i> less common. The area assessed as modified grassland in the west of the site is also classified under the secondary code 19 – coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Site level importance for modified grassland parcels due to their extent and varied condition within the site, which provide local habitat diversity. The floodplain grazing marsh component (secondary code 19) is of County level importance as it represents a more restricted and ecologically significant habitat type within the wider landscape.

Habitat (UKHab code)	Description	Importance assessment
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	Several areas of other neutral grassland were recorded throughout the site. These included areas of grassland where Yorkshire-fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> was the dominant grass species. Other areas had greater mix of grasses alongside Yorkshire-fog, including Annual meadow-grass <i>Poa annua</i> , Soft Brome <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> , and Cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> . One area of other neutral grassland was co-dominated by herbs including Cut-leaved crane's-bill <i>Geranium dissectum</i> , Agrimony <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i> and Creeping cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i> , alongside grasses Yorkshire-Fog and Common couch <i>Elymus repens</i> .	Site level importance reflecting the habitat's contribution to local botanical diversity and its role as a semi-natural grassland resource within the site, although common and widespread regionally.
Other cereal crops (c1c7)	The site is dominated by several arable fields of cereal crops. These make up the largest proportion of the site by area.	Site level importance as they form the dominant land use and contribute to the landscape, although of limited ecological value compared to semi-natural habitats.
Aquatic marginal vegetation (f2d)	Several small areas of aquatic marginal vegetation were present on site typically near waterbodies in the west and northeast of the site. One pocket is dominated by Reed canary-grass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> and Hemlock water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe crocata</i> , with other herbs including Water mint <i>Mentha aquatica</i> . The other was dominated by reeds <i>Phragmites australis</i> , Soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> and Willowherb <i>Epilobium</i> sp.	Site level importance due to their role supporting aquatic biodiversity and providing transitional habitats between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems within the site.
Reedbeds (f2e)	One area of reedbeds was identified in the northeast of the site dominated by common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> throughout with the occasional yellow flag iris <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> .	Local importance , as reedbeds are a priority habitat offering breeding and foraging habitat for a range of species, though limited in extent on site.
Other Standing Water (r1g)	The site had with varying degrees of water level and vegetation density. There were two dry ditches, with one heavily shaded by nearby woodland, the other choked by vegetation. There was a waterbody linked to a culvert (WB8), with a relatively low water level. The final two ditches also had low water level and marginal	The fishing pond is of local importance due to its size, aquatic vegetation, and potential to support aquatic

Habitat (UKHab code)	Description	Importance assessment
	vegetation, with the marginal vegetation heavily shading the ditch in one case. There was also a fishing pond in the north-east of the site with associated aquatic marginal vegetation and reeds.	fauna. Other waterbodies are considered site level importance as they provide aquatic habitat within the site but are common in the wider landscape.
Blackthorn scrub (h3a)	One very small area of low-quality habitat: a strip of planted blackthorn scrub located 1m away from a hedgerow. Low lying at c. 30cm tall and somewhat patchy.	Site level importance reflecting its small area, and limited structure.
Bramble scrub (h3d)	An area of tall ruderals and bramble scrub dominated by bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. primarily, but also with pendulous sedge <i>Carex pendula</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , and roses <i>Rosa</i> sp.	Site level importance , providing structural habitat and shelter for invertebrates and small mammals / herpetofauna, but widespread and common.
Mixed scrub (h3h)	One parcel of mixed scrub predominantly consisting of hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , oak <i>Quercus robur</i> , field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , and bramble.	Site level importance for biodiversity, offering varied age and species structure beneficial for nesting birds and mammals.
Willow scrub (h3j)	One parcel of mature willow scrub with white willow <i>Salix alba</i> , alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , and crack willow <i>Salix fragilis</i> .	Site level importance due to its value as a riparian habitat supporting invertebrates, birds, and aquatic species
Species-rich native hedgerow (h2a5)	11 hedgerows occurring in and bordering the site were classed as species rich and native. Many of these were hedgerows 'with trees' and were often associated with ditches or banks. Species commonly recorded in these species rich hedgerows included blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>, field maple, hawthorn, dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i> agg., oak, hazel, bramble, hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i>, elm <i>Ulmus</i> sp. and willow <i>Salix</i> sp..	Of County level importance because these hedgerows exhibit high species diversity and structural complexity, representing valuable ecological corridors and habitat connectivity.

Habitat (UKHab code)	Description	Importance assessment
Other Native hedgerow (h2ab)	The site also contained a further nine native hedgerows that were lacking in species richness compared to the above, typically as they were dominated by a single species, often more heavily managed. These included hawthorn or beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> dominant hedges.	Site level importance , supporting local biodiversity but less ecologically valuable than species-rich hedgerows.
Non-native and Ornamental hedgerow (h2b)	The site also contained two sections of non-native ornamental hedgerows with species including garden privet <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> .	Site level importance due to limited native species value and more ornamental nature.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (w1f)	Areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland were recorded northwest and centre of the site. The woody species assemblage of both areas of woodland was largely consistent comprising of abundant oak, frequent hazel, grey willow <i>Salix cinerea</i>, blackthorn, elm, ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and occasional elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>. Both areas recorded ancient woodland indicator species such as abundant dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>, frequent wood melick <i>Melica uniflora</i> and native bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>. Further ground flora species comprised of species such as frequent curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, germander speedwell <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> and wood avens <i>Geum urbanum</i>. One schedule 9 listed invasive non-native species (Variegated yellow archangel <i>Lamium galeobdolon subsp. argentatum</i>) was abundant in the woodland centre of the site.	Local importance , reflecting the presence of ancient woodland indicators and semi-natural woodland structure providing diverse habitat, although impacted by invasive species and relatively small in extent.
Developed land, sealed surface (u1b)	Small areas of this urban habitat on site.	Negligible importance as sealed surfaces offer minimal ecological value.
Buildings (u1b5)	Some buildings on site of negligible habitat value.	Negligible importance due to lack of vegetation and habitat features.
Other developed land (u1b6)	Small areas of this urban habitat on site.	Negligible importance . due to lack of vegetation and habitat features.
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (u1c)	Small areas of this urban habitat on site.	Negligible importance due to lack of vegetation and habitat features..

3.2.2 Protected and Notable Species

Relevant data purchased from the SxBRC is summarised in **Table 4** below.

Protected and notable species identified as a receptor for the site are detailed in **Table 4**. Further details of relevant legislation and planning policy relating to species can be found in **Appendix 9.1B**.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Bats	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5 & 6; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Full details of data search and survey results can be found in Appendix 9.1E. SxBRC found 358 records of bats across at least 13 species within 5 km of the site in the last 10 years. A preliminary roost assessment in 2022 found one low potential building (the clubhouse) present within the site, this was then subject to an emergence survey which observed no emergences and concluded roosting bats were likely absent. An update DBW of the site in 2025 upgraded the assessment of the building to moderate suitability for roosting bats and found two trees to have Preliminary Roosting Features which could be suitable for Maternity roosting (PRF-M) as such a further two emergence surveys were conducted on the building, as well as three on the tree (T1) and three endoscope inspections on (T2). The 2025 emergence surveys and endoscope inspection found no emergences, so roosting bats were still determined to be likely absent from buildings and trees on site. As such roosting bats are of negligible importance and will be scoped out of this assessment.	Negligible importance for roosting bats as further surveys found bats to be likely absent from buildings and trees on site.
Hazel Dormouse	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside	Full details of data search and survey results can be found in Appendix 9.1F. SxBRC found 14 records of hazel dormouse within 2 km of the site. The most recent record was from 2024, 130 m west of the northern parcel of the site.	Local importance due to presence of nests

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5 & 6; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Presence/likely absence surveys in 2022/2023 identified three nests which were attributed hazel dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>. These were located on the western hedgerow in the north of the site close to Pratt's Copse, one on the eastern boundary of the field south of Newbridge Road and one along the northern boundary of the site. Though the site has limited habitat suitable for hazel dormouse, the boundary habitats provide some suitability and as such have been found to support a population. Connectivity across the site through linear features, such as high-quality hedgerows interconnected with areas of woodland on and off site means that foraging, commuting, and nesting hazel dormouse are likely to utilise the site, and therefore will be carried forward for further assessment within this EcIA.	attributed to hazel dormouse on site.
Otter and Water Vole	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5 & 6; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	SxBRC returned no records of otter within the last 10 years. One record of water vole was returned from 2025, located on-site within Jubilee Fields Lake, Billingshurst. Four additional records were found, but all are over 20 years old, with the nearest dating back to 1996, approximately 120 meters southwest of the site near the Wey and Arun Canal, River Arun, and adjacent meadow. It should be noted that, although a single water vole record was returned by SxBRC from Jubilee Fields Lake, surveyors recorded numerous incidental sightings of brown rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> on-site in 2025. While waterbodies, including ditches, are present on-site (refer to the waterbody plan in Appendix 9.1G), these ditches are seasonally wet and will be appropriately buffered within the development plans. Therefore, otter and water vole are considered to be of negligible importance and will be scoped out of this assessment.	Due to lack of any suitable habitat the site is of negligible importance to otter and water vole.
GCN and Common Amphibians	GCN: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Full details of data search and survey results can be found in Appendix 9.1G. The desk study from SxBRC found 54 records of amphibians within 2 km of the site, including 17 records of GCN (202 individuals). The closest record of GCN was 1.3 km southeast of the site. Positive GCN eDNA results were found at two waterbodies: WB15 and WB8 with negative eDNA at: WB9, WB10, WB11 and WB14. Subsequent population surveys	Due to the possibility of a small population, the site is of local importance to GCN.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	<i>Common toad</i> : Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	were carried out on WB15 and WB8, but GCN were not recorded in the first four visits, and the ditches became too dry to continue the surveys. The site comprises predominately sub-optimal terrestrial habitat for GCN as it is mostly arable fields, though the wet grasslands and ditches present do provide some habitat though this is set to be appropriately buffered from development and waterbodies on site dry annually. Negative population surveys lead to the assumption that GCN are not present within waterbodies on site at the time of survey, though previous positive eDNA results suggest the possibility of a small transient population utilising the site. Due to the possibility of a small population of GCN, this receptor will be assessed further within this EcIA.	
Reptiles	<i>Adder, grass snake, slow worm and common lizard</i> : Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Full details of data search and survey results can be found in Appendix 9.1H. The data search from SxBRC found eight records of reptiles within 2 km of the site, comprising common lizard, grass snake, and slow-worm. Reptile surveys conducted in 2023 found no reptiles under refugia, but there were two incidental sightings, one of a grass snake <i>Natrix Helvetica</i> and one common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>. The results found were typical of the low biodiversity value habitats found on site (comprising mostly arable fields and grazed pasture). The incidental sightings were found withing hedgerows and treelines at the boundary of the site, as this habitat is more suitable of commuting and foraging reptiles. With boundary habitats being suitably buffered from development, only to be encroached on for access (Appendix 9.1C) reptiles are to be scoped out of further assessment.	Due to the sub-optimal habitat on-site, and lack of positive survey results, the site is of negligible importance to reptiles.
Invertebrates	Some invertebrates are protected under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	SxBRC records included records of the follow species of conservation concern within 2km of the site which could utilise habitat on site: Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> , Brown Hairstreak <i>Thecla betulae</i> , Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> , White Admiral <i>Limenitis Camilla</i> , Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> , Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> , Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tage</i> .	Due to the sub-optimal habitat, the site is assessed to be of negligible

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	Many invertebrates are also listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).	The field surveys found the site would like support common assemblages of invertebrates. The predominant habitats on site were arable land, cereal crops, and modified grass, which is managed too frequently to allow plants to flower. These habitats are not suitable to support large assemblages of invertebrates. Though woodland parcels are present within the site, these are to be appropriately buffered from development plans. Invertebrates are therefore to be scoped out from further assessment.	importance to invertebrates.

3.3 SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL RECEPTORS SCOPED OUT

Table 5 summarises the ecological features that have been scoped out of further assessment in the report because their level of importance was assessed as either negligible from further assessment and the reasoning why.

Table 5: Ecological receptors scoped out from further assessment

Ecological Receptor	Reason
Developed land, sealed surface (u1b)	Receptor provides no biodiversity value.
Buildings (u1b5)	Receptor provides no biodiversity value.
Other developed land (u1b6)	Receptor provides no biodiversity value.
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (u1c)	Receptor provides no biodiversity value.
Roosting Bats	Results of further surveys including both emergence surveys of potential roosting features on existing buildings and trees found no emergences or evidence of roosting bats. As such, roosting bats are reasonably likely to be absent from the site.
Otters and Water Voles	There are ditches which are seasonally wet across the site, however, due to their seasonality they are sub-optimal to support water vole or otter; these habitats are also set to be buffered from the development, so will not be impacted. As such, otters and water voles will not be impacted as part of the development plans.
Reptiles	Due to the results of the reptile surveys finding only incidental records of reptiles in the marginal habitat of the site, and these margins being appropriately buffered as part of imbedded development design, reptiles will not be significantly impacted by development plans.
Invertebrates	Habitat found on site is predominantly unsuitable to support large assemblages of invertebrates and those which could be sub-optimal through their management. Land on site is managed for agriculture and is mostly made up of arable fields, cereal crops, and grazing pasture. Though there are woodland parcels on site, these will be appropriately buffered, so any assemblage of invertebrates that they do support, will not be impacted.

4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION

4.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section describes predicted ecological impacts and resultant effects during the phase of the proposed development on designated sites, habitats, and species.

During the construction phase of the scheme, the main impacts from activities on the site will include dust, noise and potential light pollution from the construction of the new buildings, and impacts on root systems from construction activities such as the use of plant.

During the operational phase of the scheme, the main impacts comprise increased recreation pressure from new residential housing, increased pollution from surface-water runoff, and management pressures on retained habitats.

Tables 6 and 7 on following pages summarise the important ecological features, potential impact pathways in the absence of mitigation, proposed mitigation to address the effect, and any residual impacts for both construction and operational phases.

4.1.1 Habitats

Table 6. Habitat impact assessment

Ecological Receptor	Geographic importance	Impact pathway/s and effect on ecological receptor without mitigation	Proposed avoidance / mitigation	Likely significant residual impacts
Construction Phase				
Modified Grassland (g4)	Site/County	Loss of areas set to be retained through traffic from plant required for construction. Damage through chemical/fuel spill. Enhancing the eastern parcel of grassland will positively impact biodiversity through increased species and habitat richness.	Limit use of grassland and buffer to prevent use by plant. Any chemicals must be stored in a designated area, ideally on hardstanding. Eastern extent to be enhanced to a country park, retaining the priority habitat code 19, but enhancing modified grassland to other-neutral or better.	No significant residual effects are expected once mitigation is applied.
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	Site	Loss through traffic from plant required for construction. Damage through chemical/fuel spill.	Limit use of grassland and buffer to prevent use by plant. Any chemicals must be stored in a designated area, ideally on hardstanding.	The site is large enough that through appropriate buffering of habitats, no significant residual impacts are expected on mitigation is applied.
Other cereal crops (c1c7)	Site	Permanent loss to facilitate development.	No avoidance possible. Loss mitigated through appropriate buffering of field margins which hold most of this receptor's biodiversity value.	Due to low biodiversity value, no significant residual effects once mitigation applied.
Aquatic marginal vegetation (f2d)	Local	Possible impact pathway of pollution through chemical/fuel spills leaking into the pond.	Any chemicals must be stored in a designated area, ideally on hardstanding at least 10 m away from the waterbody. All waterbodies to be buffered to outside of the riparian zone, 10m from the top of the bank.	No significant residual effects once mitigation applied.
Reedbeds (f2e)	Local			

Ecological Receptor	Geographic importance	Impact pathway/s and effect on ecological receptor without mitigation	Proposed avoidance / mitigation	Likely significant residual impacts
Other Standing Water (r1g)	Local			
Blackthorn scrub (h3a)	Site	Degradation through construction pollution could make reduce the value this retained habitat provides.	Mitigation through the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will outline protective measures to prevent pollution through the construction phase.	No significant residual effects once mitigation applied.
Bramble scrub (h3d)	Site			
Mixed scrub (h3h)	Site			
Willow scrub (h3j)	Site			
Species-rich native hedgerow (h2a5)	County	The use of heavy plant near mature trees could kill root systems, destabilise and ultimately kill trees. Permanent loss to facilitate access routes.	Root protection areas must be outlined and fenced off prior to works commencing. Loss of hedgerows for access kept to a minimum.	Minor residual impacts due to loss of small areas of hedgerow to facilitate access routes. Loss will be minor, and connectivity will not be impacted so impact is not significant and only at a site scale.
Other Native hedgerow (h2ab)	Site			
Non-native and Ornamental hedgerow (h2b)	Site			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (w1f)	Local			

Ecological Receptor	Geographic importance	Impact pathway/s and effect on ecological receptor without mitigation	Proposed avoidance / mitigation	Likely significant residual impacts
Operational Phase				
Modified Grassland (g4)	Site/County	Increased recreational pressure from additional residential units built as part of the development.	Creation of designated walkways through purpose-built country park, and creation of sports pitches to relieve pressure on naturalised habitats.	No significant residual impacts expected once mitigation applied.
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	Site			
Other cereal crops (c1c7)	Site	N/A, habitat set to be permanently lost.	N/A	N/A
Aquatic marginal vegetation (f2d)	Local	Pollution of waterbodies from recreation such as dog walking, and pollution from increased surface water run-off.	Creation of designated walkways through purpose-built country park, and creation of sports pitches to relieve recreational pressure, and therefore the amount of pollution from recreation, on naturalised habitats. Appropriate buffering of waterbodies, as set out in the CEMP, to be continued through the production of a Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP).	No likely significant residual impacts once mitigation implemented.
Reedbeds (f2e)	Local			
Other Standing Water (r1g)	Local	Pollution of waterbodies from recreation such as dog walking, and pollution from increased surface water run-off.	Creation of designated walkways through purpose-built country park, and creation of sports pitches to relieve recreational pressure, and therefore the amount of pollution from recreation, on naturalised habitats. Appropriate buffering of waterbodies, as set out in the CEMP, to be continued through the production of a PEMP. All waterbodies are to be buffered by a minimum of 10m from the top of banks.	No likely significant residual impacts once mitigation implemented.
Blackthorn scrub (h3a)	Site			

Ecological Receptor	Geographic importance	Impact pathway/s and effect on ecological receptor without mitigation	Proposed avoidance / mitigation	Likely significant residual impacts
Bramble scrub (h3d)	Site	Increased pollution from newly developed areas and associated roads. Increased management pressure due to proximity to residential development.	Management prescriptions to be set out in a PEMP to prevent impacts during the operational phase.	No likely significant residual impacts once mitigation implemented.
Mixed scrub (h3h)	Site			
Willow scrub (h3j)	Site			
Species-rich native hedgerow (h2a5)	County	Increased pollution from newly developed areas and associated roads. Increased management pressure due to proximity to residential development.	Management prescriptions will be detailed in the PEMP to avoid operational-phase impacts, including appropriate buffering to protect root protection areas and measures to keep margins undisturbed to enhance biodiversity value.	No likely significant residual impacts once mitigation implemented.
Other Native hedgerow (h2ab)	Site			
Non-native and Ornamental hedgerow (h2b)	Site			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (w1f)	Local	Increased recreational pressure from additional residential units built as part of the development. Increase footfall impacting root systems.	Creation of designated walkways through purpose-built country park, and creation of sports pitches to relieve pressure on naturalised habitats. Buffering of woodland through supplementary planting including additional woodland planting, scrub belt as an ecotone to limit the likelihood of people accessing the woodland especially ancient woodland areas.	No significant residual impacts expected once mitigation applied.

4.1.2 Protected, Priority and Notable Species

Table 7. Protected, priority and notable species impact assessment

Ecological Receptor	Geographic importance	Impact pathway/s and effect on ecological receptor without mitigation	Proposed avoidance / mitigation	Likely significant residual impacts
Construction Phase				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Hazel Dormouse	Local	Removal of habitats could cause the injury or death of hazel dormice as they are crushed by machinery or injured by cutting tools. Excavations could trap hazel dormouse.	Mitigation may include the requirement for a protected species licence. This will outline mitigation through the implementation of: a Precautionary Working Methods Statement (PWMS) to establish safe working practises for any potential, and a CEMP which will outline protective measures to make the construction site safe for hazel dormouse .	No significant residual effects once mitigation applied.
GCN	Local	As waterbodies are set to be retained, possible impact pathway of pollution of through chemical/fuel spills leaking into the pond. Possible loss of marginal habitat utilised in the terrestrial phase.	Terrestrial habitat will be appropriately buffered and enhanced. Mitigation will be secured through an appropriate licencing route following further survey of waterbodies onsite. Should further eDNA surveys return negative results, likely absence may be reassessed, and mitigation may not be required.	No significant residual effects once mitigation applied.

Operational Phase	Key Activities	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Dependencies
1. Project Initiation	Define project goals, scope, and objectives. Obtain stakeholder buy-in.	Project Manager, Sponsor	Weeks 1-2	Clear project charter and scope.
2. Planning	Detailed task breakdown, resource allocation, and risk assessment.	Project Manager, Team Lead	Weeks 3-4	Clear project charter and scope.
3. Execution	Implement project plan, manage resources, and communicate progress.	Project Manager, Team Lead	Weeks 5-10	Clear project plan and resource allocation.
4. Monitoring & Control	Track project progress, manage risks, and adjust the plan as needed.	Project Manager, Team Lead	Weeks 5-10	Clear project plan and resource allocation.
5. Closure	Finalize project deliverables, conduct post-mortem, and close the project.	Project Manager, Team Lead	Weeks 11-12	Clear project plan and resource allocation.

4.2 MECHANISMS FOR SECURING MITIGATION

The mechanisms for securing mitigation measures to address the predicted effects associated with both the construction and operational stages of the proposed development are summarised below.

4.2.1 Construction Ecological Management Plan

A CEMP will be provided in accordance with British Standard BS42020:2013. The CEMP can be secured by suitably worded planning condition. This will likely include the following elements:

- Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction-type activities;
- Identification of “biodiversity protection zones” (BPZs);
- The suitable storage of materials such as chemicals and fuel to avoid the above BPZs;
- Inclusion of or reference to details for implementation of method statements required to achieve specific biodiversity outcomes, and particularly mitigation measures;
- Identification of practical measures, both physical measures and sensitive working practices to avoid impacts during the development, for protecting biodiversity through the control or regulation of construction-type activities;
- The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features;
- Suitable measures to avoid lighting causing an impact on BPZs;
- The times when particular specialists need to be present on site to oversee works;
- Responsible persons and lines of communication;
- Defining and communicating the role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk works (ECOW), or appointed ecologist(s) responsible for managing biodiversity issues on site, and times and activities during construction when they need to be present to oversee works; and
- Use of exclusion fences, protective barriers and warning signs, if applicable.

4.2.2 Project Environmental Management Plan

The PEMP will be written in accordance with British Standard BS42020:2013 and will provide management proposals designed to ensure that the ecological value of key habitat and species features is maintained post-development. It will likely include:

- A description and evaluation of features to be managed;
- Ecological trends and constraints on site that could influence management;
- Aims and objectives of the management;
- Appropriate management options for achieving the aims and objectives;
- Prescriptions for management actions;
- Preparation of work schedule;
- Details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan; and
- Proposed monitoring and remedial measures.

The PEMP can be secured by suitably worded planning condition.

4.2.3 Protected species licences

Protected species licences may be required for hazel dormouse and GCN pending final development proposals and full impact assessment. These European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) will outline appropriate working methods to be utilised onsite for the duration of the development.

As presence of hazel dormouse has been confirmed onsite, the requirement of a protected species licence will be dependent on the proposed development plans, and to what extent hedgerow removal can be kept to a minimum, retaining connectivity across the site.

The presence of GCN onsite is only confirmed on site through two eDNA results, with population surveys finding no such population. Updated surveys may be required to determine if GCN are still present on site, which would then require an appropriate licencing route (EPSL or District Level Licencing (DLL)).

5.0 MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENTS AND MONITORING

5.1.1 Mitigation

The loss of habitats on site cannot be avoided, and therefore a series of habitat creation proposals have been incorporated into the design of the proposed development to mitigate the loss. These proposals comprise:

- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS);
- Species rich hay meadows;
- Neutral grassland habitat;
- Species rich hedgerow planting;
- Water meadow habitat;
- Swale wetland;
- Riparian Wet willow buffer;
- Woodland planting;
- Community orchard;
- Enhancement of onsite watercourses from straight channels to more meandering features.

The above enhancement will be encompassed within a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, separate to this report (**Appendix 9.2**). This assessment will assess the baseline biodiversity value of the site and its existing habitats, and ensure that the above habitat enhancements will provide a net gain in biodiversity.

5.1.2 Enhancements

To provide further opportunities for protected, priority and notable species on site, the following enhancements will be adopted. Due to the size of the development, a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan should be prepared to outline specific numbers and locations of enhancements

- Installations of integrated bat boxes such as Habibat Bat Box 001 on walls of buildings and bat boxes on suitable existing mature trees on site (as advised by suitably experienced ecologist) such as the 3FN Schwegler Bat Box (see **Appendix 9.1J** for bat and bird box types). General recommendations are set out below:

- Boxes will be located close to suitable bat foraging and commuting habitat, e.g. near to tree lines that can all be used as commuting and foraging routes;
 - The flight-path leading from each box will be kept clear (i.e. cut away branches);
 - Boxes will be installed out of the way or direct artificial lighting;
 - Boxes will be sited to provide shelter from wind, rain and strong sunlight, with an orientation from south-west through south to south-east;
 - Boxes will be placed over 3m from the ground to limit disturbance (some species such as noctule prefer boxes around 5m in height); and
 - As bats are a European Protected Species (EPS), any interference with bat boxes post-installation, including checking, relocating and cleaning, will only be carried out by a bat licenced ecologist.
- Installations of integrated bird boxes such as Swift ‘S’ Brick from Action for Swifts on external walls of buildings and bird boxes on suitable mature existing trees on site (as advised by suitably experienced ecologist) such as the Woodstone House Sparrow Nest Box. General recommendations are set out below:
 - The boxes will be checked on an annual basis to ensure they remain securely attached to the building/tree and that they are not damaged;
 - Boxes on trees require cleaning between the months of November to February (outside of the breeding bird season) to ensure box is clear and ready for use the following breeding season.
 - Creation of log piles/brush piles for invertebrates, reptile, amphibians, reptile and small mammals within areas such as the country park, or marginal retained habitats with connectivity to woodland / scrub areas.
 - Installation of insect hotels throughout the site, especially in the margins of woodland and the proposed species rich grassland.
 - Installation of bee bricks within buildings throughout site.
 - To enhance the habitats on site and encourage an increased diversity of invertebrate prey for bats, birds and other species, nectar rich and seed/fruit production plant species will be incorporated into the landscaping plan.

5.1.3 Monitoring

A compliance check will be carried out by an ecologist following the completion of the construction phase, to ensure enhancements have been suitably implemented. This compliance check should ensure that habitats have been established as detailed within the finalised landscape plans, and all habitat enhancements such as bird and bat boxes have been established.

6.0 CONCLUSION

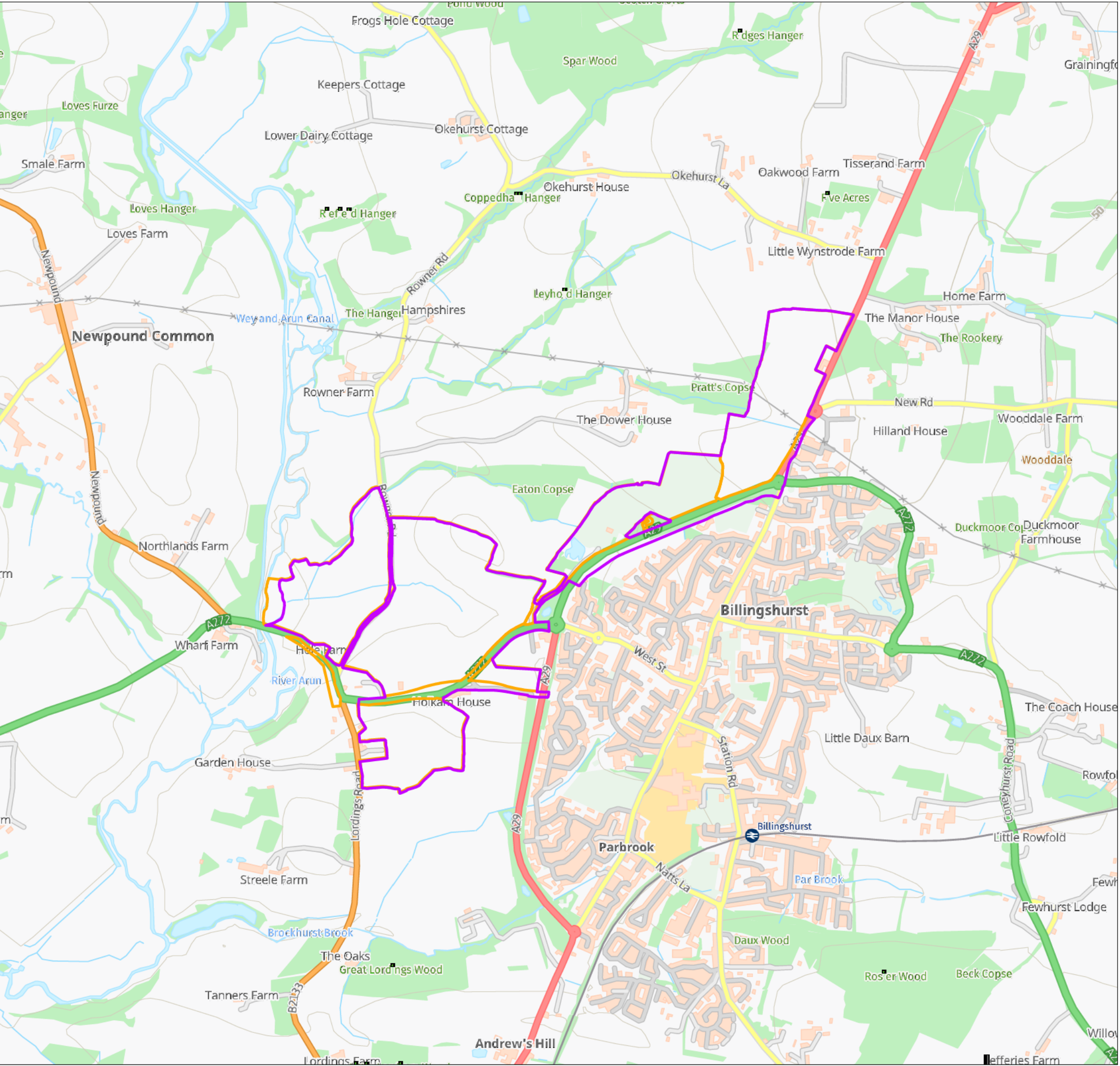
Provided that all recommended avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented, most of the predicted or potential ecological effects can either be avoided entirely or reduced to negligible significance. The few remaining residual adverse effects arising as a result of the proposed development are significant at no greater than the Site scale and, whilst the permanent loss of habitats cannot be avoided, enhancement can be provided in the medium to long-term, through the creation of replacement habitat on site.

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FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location Plan



Site Location Plan

Billingshurst

Highwood Homes Ltd

Legend

- EclA boundary
- Survey area

Notes:

Drawn by: CHRIS.DAWE

Checked by: George Siskos

Figure No. 1

Revision No. A

23 January 2026

0 200 400 600 800 Meters British National Grid

Scale 1:15,000 @A3

NGR: 508055E 126330N

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APPENDICES

Appendix 9.1A – Report Conditions

Appendix 9.1B – Key Legislation

Appendix 9.1C – Site Plans

Appendix 9.1D – Habitat Enhancement

Appendix 9.1E – Roosting Bats

Appendix 9.1F – Hazel Dormouse

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Appendix 9.1H – Reptiles

Appendix 9.1I – Ecology Survey Data Validity

Appendix 9.1J – Habitat Enhancements

Appendix 9.2 – Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy Note

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of Highwood Ventures 5 Limited and Vivid Housing Limited (“the Client”) for the proposed uses stated in the report by Tetra Tech Limited (“Tetra Tech”). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder’s permission.

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The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections'. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The “shelf life” of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client’s instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

Tetra Tech reserves the right to share this Report and any related materials, surveys, drawings and/or documents at any time with the relevant Local Ecological Records Centre (LERC), any relevant statutory body or any equivalent organisation as Tetra Tech may reasonably require from time-to-time.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

APPENDIX B: KEY LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

Habitats Directive

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or the 'Habitats Directive', is a European Union directive adopted in 1992 in response to the Bern Convention. Its aims are to protect approximately 220 habitats and 1,000 species listed in its several Annexes.

In the UK, the Habitats Directive is transposed into national law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, and via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.

Birds Directive

The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) or 'Birds Directive' was introduced to achieve favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distribution range. In this context, the most important provision is the identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I or II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the European Commission. These sites, if ratified by Ministers, are then designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within six years. Public bodies must also help preserve, maintain and re-establish habitats for wild birds.

The 2018 amendments mainly related to the impact of the *People Over Wind* decision and some implications arising for neighbourhood plan development and a range of other planning tools including Local Development Orders and Permission in Principle – see here for full details:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1307/note/made>

The 2019 amendments related to the EU exit. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant. The obligations of a competent authority in the 2017 Regulations for the protection of sites or species do not change – see here for full details:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573>

The Regulations make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 5.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in the UK. This legislation is the chief means by which the 'Bern Convention' and the Birds Directive are implemented in the UK. Since it was first introduced, the Act has been amended several times.

The Act makes it an offence to (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) intentionally:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Or to intentionally do the following to a wild bird listed in Schedule 1:

- disturbs any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- disturbs dependent young of such a bird.

In addition, the Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal listed on Schedule 5;
- interfere with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places; and
- The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals.

Finally, the Act also makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to: intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, or any seed or spore attached to any such wild plant; unless an authorised person, intentionally uproot any wild plant not included in Schedule 8; or sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Following all amendments to the Act, Schedule 5 'Animals which are Protected' contains a total of 154 species of animal, including several mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Schedule 8 'Plants which are Protected' of the Act, contains 185 species, including higher plants, bryophytes and fungi and lichens. A comprehensive and up-to-date list of these species can be obtained from the JNCC website.

Part 14 of the Act makes unlawful to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant which is listed in Part II of Schedule 9.

It is recommended that plant material of these species is disposed of as bio-hazardous waste, and these plants will not be used in planting schemes.

Environment Protection Act 1990

The Act imposes a classification of soil and other waste containing viable propagules of invasive non-native plant species as controlled waste. This has been applied to Japanese Knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, with the result that waste containing this species must be disposed of in accordance with the duty of care set out in section 34 of the Act.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 41 (S41) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list (in consultation with Natural England) of Habitats and Species which are of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal (e.g. planning) functions. The S41 list includes 65 Habitats of Principal Importance and 1,150 Species of Principal Importance.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations were made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into force in 1997. They introduced new arrangements for local planning authorities in England and Wales to protect important hedgerows in the countryside, by controlling their removal through a system of notification. Important hedgerows are defined by complex assessment criteria, which draw on biodiversity features, historical context and the landscape value of the hedgerow.

Birds of Conservation Concern

This is a review of the status of all birds occurring regularly in the United Kingdom. It is regularly updated and is prepared by leading bird conservation organisations, including the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The latest report was produced in 2015 (Eaton *et al*, 2015) and identified 67 red list species, 96 amber species, and 81 green species. The criteria are complex, but generally:

Red list species are those that have shown a decline of the breeding population, non-breeding population or breeding range of more than 50% in the last 25 years.

Amber list species are those that have shown a decline of the breeding population, non-breeding population or breeding range of between 25% and 50% in the last 25 years. Species that have a UK breeding population of less than 300 or a non-breeding population of less than 900 individuals are also included, together with those whose 50% of the population is localised in 10 sites or fewer and those whose 20% of the European population is found in the UK.

Green list species are all regularly occurring species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria.

Global IUCN Red List

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Threatened Species was devised to provide a list of those species that are most at risk of becoming extinct globally. It provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information about threatened taxa around the globe.

The system catalogues threatened species into groups of varying levels of threat, which are: Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), Critically Endangered (CE), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC), Data Deficient (DD), Not Evaluated (NE). Criteria for designation into each of the categories is complex, and consider several principles.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level), and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Some LBAP's may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision making process.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

This Act offers a form of protection to all wild species of mammals, irrespective of other legislation, and focussed on animal welfare, rather than conservation.

Unless covered by one of the exceptions, a person is guilty of an offence if he mutilates, kicks, beats, nails or otherwise impales, stabs, burns, stones, crushes, drowns, drags or asphyxiates any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

Its application is typically restricted to preventing deliberate harm to wildlife (in general) during construction works etc.

The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (as amended)

This Order is concerned with the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act sets statutory targets including a target to reverse the decline in species abundance by 2030. As well as confirming that public authorities have a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and making provision for biodiversity gain to be a condition of planning permission in England.

Environment Act 2021 - Schedule 7A – Part 1

“(1) 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 onsite habitat by at least the relevant percentage.

(2) The biodiversity value attributable to the development is the total of—

(a) the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat,

(b) the biodiversity value, in relation to the development, of any registered offsite biodiversity gain allocated to the development, and

(c) the biodiversity value of any biodiversity credits purchased for the development.

(3) The relevant percentage is 10%.”

National Planning Policy Framework - Published the 27 March 2012, updated December 2024

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the top tier of planning policy. The Framework provides guidance to local authorities and other agencies on planning policy and the operation of the planning system. Section 15 relates to ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’. Paragraph 187- 201

Relevant policies in relation to planning application include Paragraphs:

“187. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

188. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework^[1]; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries

192. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- (a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity [2]; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation [3]; and

^[1] Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality

^[2] Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system

^[3] Where areas that are part of the Nature Recovery Network are identified in plans, it may be appropriate to specify the types of development that may be suitable within them

(b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

193. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- (a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- (b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- (c) development 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 [4] and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- (d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

194. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- (a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- (b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- (c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

195. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site

^[4] Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality

² Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system

³ Where areas that are part of the Nature Recovery Network are identified in plans, it may be appropriate to specify the types of development that may be suitable within them

⁴ For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat

⁵ Potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area, candidate Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site

see here for full details: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

Horsham District Planning Framework (November, 2016)

Policy 31 — Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- Requirement: Development must demonstrate that it maintains or enhances the existing green infrastructure network; proposals that would result in loss of green infrastructure will be resisted. (Policy objective to maintain/enhance GI). (horsham.gov.uk)
- Biodiversity emphasis: The policy describes biodiversity as an integral part of GI, highlights irreplaceable habitats (e.g., ancient woodland) and the importance of maintaining ecological networks. It directs applicants to the Council's Green Infrastructure strategy and national/local biodiversity evidence (e.g., Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre).
- Outcomes sought: maintenance/enhancement of GI, protection of designated sites and species, no net loss of wider biodiversity and provision of net gains where possible (Policy text and supporting paragraphs set expectation of enhancement opportunities and link to GI strategy).

Policy 24 — Environmental Protection

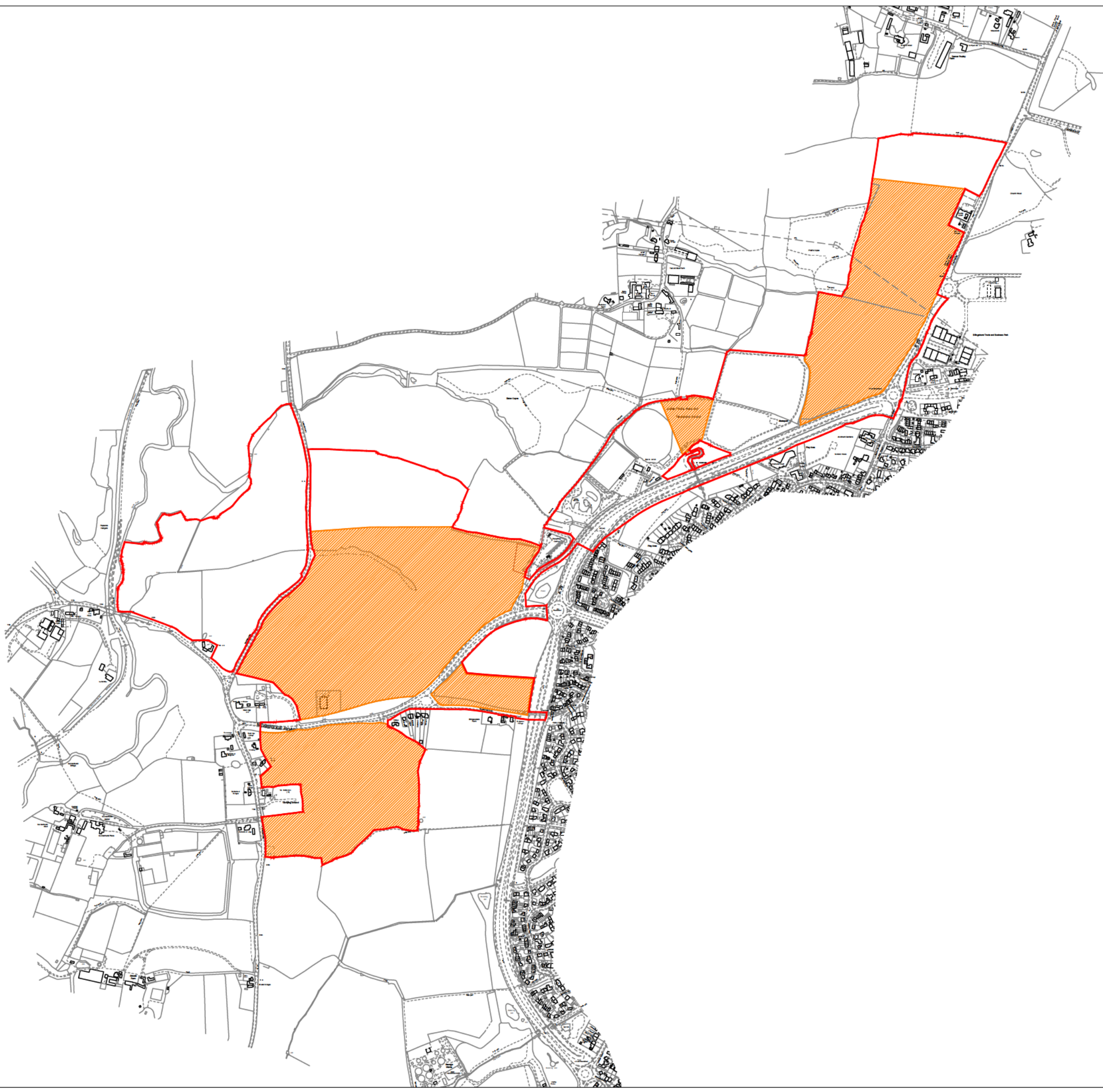
- Requirement: Assess and mitigate development-generated pollution and environmental impacts; this includes references (within the environmental protection chapter) to considering impacts on water quality, habitats and species when assessing proposals (cross-referenced with GI/Biodiversity policy).

SuDS and multifunctional GI (from supporting text and policies)

[4] For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat

- Requirement: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other GI features should be designed to deliver multiple benefits including biodiversity, water quality, flood attenuation and amenity; SuDS selection must consider biodiversity and water quality impacts. This is stressed in the plan's climate change and infrastructure sections.
-

APPENDIX C: SITE BOUNDARY AND MAXIMUM EXTENT OF DEVELOPMENT



-  Site boundary
-  Maximum extent of built development



Project
Newbridge Park, West of Billingshurst

Drawing Title
Site Boundary and Maximum Extent
of Built Development

Date 31/10/2025	Scale 1:10,000 at A3	Drawn by MR	Check by LA
Project No 1345	Drawing No 010	Revision B	

APPENDIX D: HABITAT ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX E: ROOSTING BATS REPORT

APPENDIX F: HAZEL DORMOUSE

APPENDIX G: GREAT CRESTED NEWT REPORT

APPENDIX H: REPTILE REPORT

APPENDIX I: ECOLOGY SURVEY DATA VALIDITY

APPENDIX J: HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS

Introduction

The information in this appendix relates to bat and bird boxes that can be easily incorporated into building and landscape plans. The information provided is not exhaustive and provides examples of some of the types of boxes available.

Including bat boxes throughout the development site has a number of benefits:

Any roosting or resting places lost as a result of the work will be replaced;

The ecological value of the site will be enhanced;

Priority species within the UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) will be encouraged.

Bats

For Buildings

The inclusion of a variety of bat bricks, tubes and boxes for buildings is recommended to encourage a diversity of bat species. Bat bricks and tubes require no maintenance.

Built-in bat box

(can be faced to suit building design)



Bat tube

(can be bricked in or rendered over into the façade)



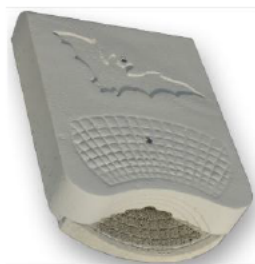
Bat access block to allow access into a cavity wall



Heated maternity box (operated on a conventional socket, 50watt heater near the base to provide a thermostatically controlled artificially warm roost)



Hibernation box e.g. Schwegler 1WQ



For Buildings and Trees

The following box types are recommended.

Bat Box

The Schwegler 1FF bat box is made of woodcrete and is expected to last approximately 25 years. It has a narrow crevice-like internal space to attract Pipistrelle and Noctule bats. Woodcrete (75% wood sawdust, concrete and clay mixture). It can be mounted on buildings or trees.

Width: 27cm; Height: 43cm; Weight: 8.3kg.



The Harlech woodstone bat box is made from woodstone, the Harlech is a small cavity bat box that offers excellent insulation and minimum condensation for roosting bats. It can be mounted on buildings or trees.

Width: 15cm; Height: 27.5cm; Weight: 4kg.



The Beaumaris woodstone bat box comes in small and large versions and is suitable for mounting on buildings or trees.

Small –29 x 40 x 7cm

Large 38 x 50 x 7cm

Weight: 8kg.



The Vincent Pro bat box is a tried and tested design by the Vincent Wildlife Trust.

Width: 23.5cm; Height: 72cm; Weight: 6.9kg.



Birds

Vivara Pro WoodStone Starling Nest Box

Suitable for starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Height: 385mm; Width: 220mm; Depth: 215mm

Entrance hole diameter: 45mm

Weight: 7.4

Material: WoodStone



1B Schwegler 26mm Nest Box

Suitable for blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, marsh tit *Poecile palustris*, coal tit *Periparus ater* and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to the smaller entrance hole.

Dimensions: Height: 23cm; Diameter: 16cm; Weight: 3.6kg

Material: Woodcrete

Supplied with galvanised steel hanger and aluminium nail

Entrance hole size: 26mm



1B Schwegler 32mm Nest Box

Suitable for: great tit, blue tit, marsh tit, coal tit, nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus* and house sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Dimensions: height: 23cm, diameter: 16cm

Weight: 3.6kg

Material: Woodcrete

Supplied with galvanised steel hanger and aluminium nail

Entrance hole size: 32mm



Reptiles

Example reptile hibernacula composition:

