

ENVIRONMENT

Bellway Homes Ltd (Yorkshire Division)

Lee Lane, Royston

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

LDP2222

ENVIRONMENTAL

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Lee Lane, Royston

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been produced to inform a proposed development at land off Lee Lane, Royston. The findings are summarised in the table below.

Ecological Receptor	Results & Discussion	Recommendations
Designated Sites	Notton Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) was the only designated wildlife site within 2km of the Site.	Not Applicable
Habitats	Habitats on-site largely comprises arable land of low ecological value. However, boundary hedgerows contained over 80% native species and would therefore qualify as a Priority Habitat.	The boundary hedgerows should be retained and adequately protected during the works.
Amphibians	The Site provided suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians including great crested newts (GCN) <i>Triturus cristatus</i> providing suitable vegetative cover and foraging areas, particularly within the boundaries. A single pond was present within 500m of the Site which may have the potential to support GCN. However, it is understood that this is a relatively new pond and unlikely to have been colonised by GCN.	Not Applicable
Badgers and Hedgehogs	No evidence of badgers or hedgehogs was found on-site but it cannot be ruled out that they may cross the Site periodically.	As a matter of good practice, any trenches dug as part of construction work should be covered over at night, or left with a ramp or sloping end, to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped. Similarly, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night. These good practices should be included within the CEMP.
Bats	Several of the mature trees on-site contained features potentially suitable to support roosting bats including cracks and rot holes and were subsequently categorised as low-moderate potential to support roosting bats. The boundary hedgerows offered the best opportunities for foraging and commuting bats. It is understood these habitats will be retained within the development. Any new lighting associated with the development has the potential to disturb foraging and commuting bats in these areas.	Trees identified as having low potential to support bats should be soft felled as a precautionary measure i.e. the trees should be section-felled, and the arisings lowered to the ground and left in situ for 24 hours. Trees identified as having moderate potential to support roosting bats should be subjected to an aerial inspection by a licenced ecologist to assess the features identified from ground level with high powered torches. The hedgerow should be retained and adequately protected during the works. Additionally, a dark corridor should be maintained along the boundary hedgerows both during construction and operational phases.

Ecological Receptor	Results & Discussion	Recommendations
Birds	The Site offered foraging and nesting opportunities for birds, although the Site was unlikely to support an important assemblage of birds. The best opportunities for foraging and nesting were within the hedgerows and mature trees.	As all species receive legal protection during nesting, it is advised to complete any vegetation clearance and building works outside of the breeding bird season of March to August (inclusive). Vegetation clearance outside of this period should still be preceded by a nesting bird carried out by contractors, as some species can nest all year round. Any active nests would need to remain unaffected until all chicks had fledged.
Reptiles	No reptiles or evidence of reptiles was recorded on-site. The habitats on-site were sub-optimal comprising homogenous, heavily managed vegetation lacking in refugia or hibernacula. Furthermore, there were no desk study records of reptiles within 2km of the Site. Reptiles were considered highly unlikely to be present on-site	Not applicable.

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1. INTRODUCTION

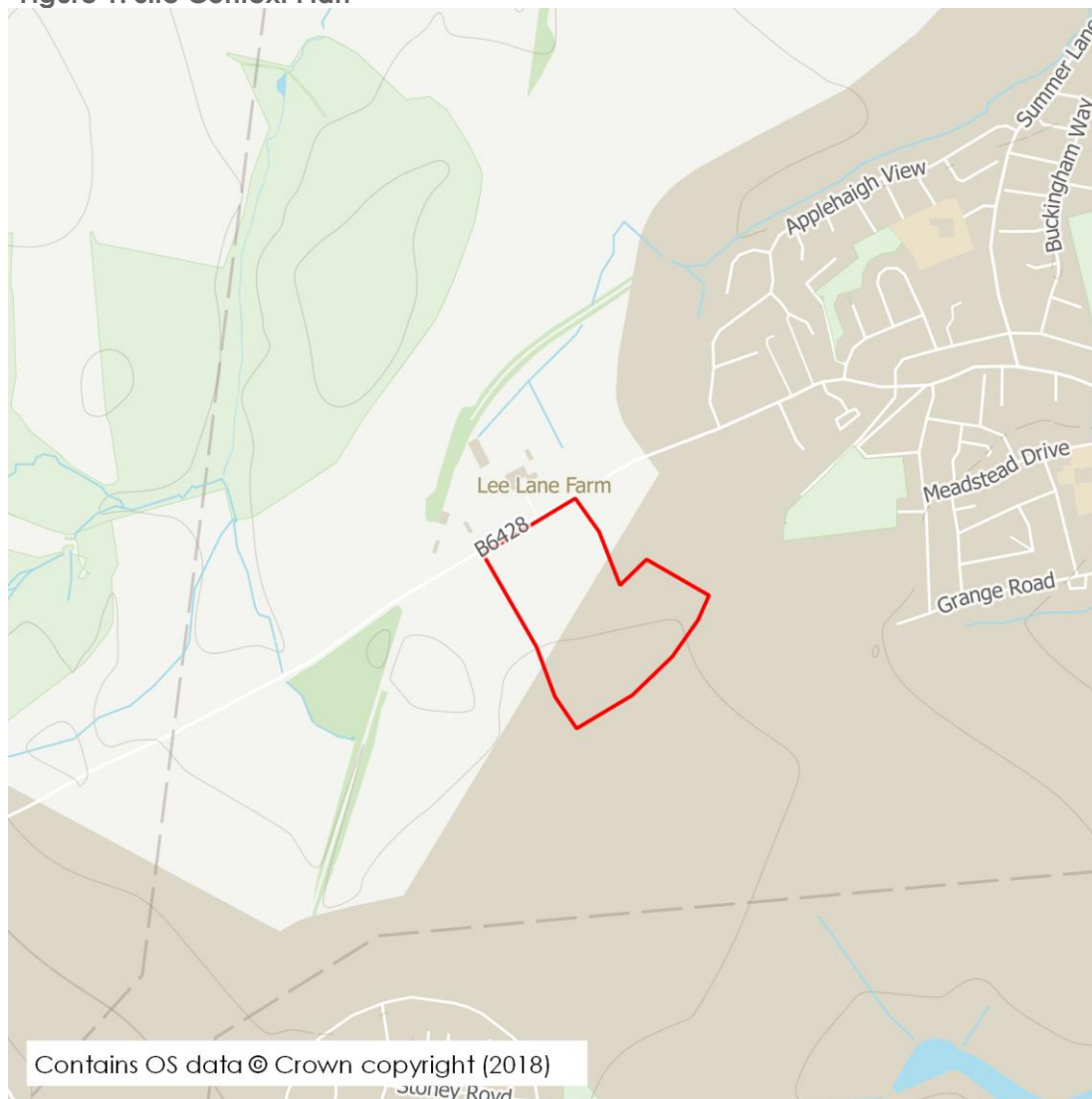
Appointment & Background

- 1.1 BWB Consulting Ltd was appointed by Bellway Homes Ltd (Yorkshire Division) to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for a proposed development at land off Lee Lane, Royston.

Site Setting

- 1.2 The Site is located off Lee Lane, Royston (SE34861104) and comprised an arable field which was itself surrounded by agricultural land.
- 1.3 **Figure 1** shows the Site location.

Figure 1: Site Context Plan



Aims

- 1.4 The primary purpose of this appraisal is to provide a baseline of all ecological considerations relating to any future development proposals. This will include the identification of any potential ecological constraints.

Scope of Works

- 1.5 The ecological appraisal was informed by a desk-based study and a site survey. The approach to this ecological appraisal follows best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017) and the British Standards Institution (BSI, 2013). Further details are provided later in this report.

Legislation and Planning Policy

- 1.6 The following legislation relates to species and habitats that could potentially occur in association with the Site:
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
 - Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
 - Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; and
 - The Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- 1.7 Further information on the legislation relevant to this Site is provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.8 Consideration has also been given in this report to relevant National and Local Planning Policy as summarised below.
- 1.9 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guides Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) when developing their planning policies and considering planning applications affecting protected habitats, sites and species.
- 1.10 In respect of the natural environment, the NPPF states that:

“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;*
- 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."*

1.11 Additionally, Policy 36 of the Barnsley Core Strategy states the following:

"Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by: protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified in Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the river corridors of the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured."

2. METHODS

Desktop Study

- 2.1 Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) was contacted to request records of any locally designated sites and/or protected species from the Site and land within a 2km radius. Records more than ten years old have been largely disregarded.
- 2.2 The Site was surveyed, as part of a larger proposal which included additional land to the north and east, by RSK in 2012 (RSK, 2012). This report was also available for review.
- 2.1 In addition, the data sources listed below were also searched to gather additional ecological data of relevance to the project, including the identification of non-designated ecologically sensitive habitats such as vegetation corridors, woodlands, watercourses and standing water.
 - Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC);
 - Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping; and
 - Aerial imagery.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.2 A site survey was undertaken on 12th July 2018 by Chris Grocock MSc BSc (Hons) GradCIEEM. Chris has extensive experience in survey and site assessment for protected species and is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies for species surveys (CIEEM, 2017).
- 2.3 The visit was completed using Phase 1 habitat survey techniques as defined in the standard methodology (JNCC, 2010).
- 2.4 The aim of the visit was to gather sufficient baseline information on the habitats within the Site in order to allow an interpretation of the ecological value of the land.
- 2.5 In addition, the methodology was extended to include a search for incidental evidence of protected / notable fauna and an assessment of the Site's potential to support protected/notable fauna. Specific consideration was given to the following species:
 - Birds;
 - Bats;
 - Amphibians, including great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*;
 - Reptiles;
 - Badgers *Meles meles*; and
 - Priority Species, such as hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.

- 2.6 Standard methodologies were used where applicable.
- 2.7 Habitats adjacent to the Site were viewed, where possible, from the Site boundaries in order to assess their potential to support protected species that could be utilising the survey Site.

Survey Comments

- 2.8 The survey methodology highlights habitats and features with potential for protected/notable species but is not designed to provide a comprehensive presence/absence survey. Any species-specific surveys recommended as a result of this appraisal must be read in conjunction with this report to gain a full understanding of potential ecological constraints to the development.

3. RESULTS

Designated Sites

- 3.1 Notton Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) was the only designated wildlife site within 2km of the Site. The LNR is an area of mixed woodland attracting a varied amount of wildlife located approximately 0.3km northwest of the Site.
- 3.2 The Site is also within a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) Risk Zone but the development type is not included within a risk category.

Habitats and Botanical Species

- 3.3 The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results Map is provided in **Appendix 2** with accompanying habitat descriptions below. Relevant photographs are shown in **Appendix 3**. Botanical species nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Arable

- 3.4 The majority of the habitats on-site comprised an arable field which had become encroached upon by grass and tall ruderal species. As well as cereal crop, species present were false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, poppy *Papaver* sp., daisy *Bellis perennis*, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, plantain *Plantago* sp., broadleaved dock *Rumex angustifolium*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and cock's foot grass *Dactylis glomerata*.

Tall Ruderal

- 3.5 An area of tall ruderal was present towards the northeast corner of the site including rosebay willowherb *Epilobium angustifolium*, mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, common nettle and bracken *Pteridium* sp. Scattered scrub species were present within the tall ruderal including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, oak *Quercus* sp. and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

Mature Trees

- 3.6 Numerous mature trees were present within the hedgerows including ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus* sp. and willow *Salix* sp. Additionally, three stand-alone mature oak and a single ash tree were present within the arable field.

Boundaries

- 3.7 Boundary features are described below, numbering referrers to the map in Appendix 2.

B1 – Gappy hedgerow comprising ash, silver birch *Betula pendula*, snowberry *Symphoricarpos* sp., hawthorn, elder *Sambucus nigra*, ash, oak, hazel *Corylus avellana*, dog rose *Rosa canina* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*. Associated grown flora included rosebay willowherb, mugwort, common nettle and bracken. This hedgerow

continued on the opposite side of a track towards the northeast corner of the site (see map in Appendix 2). The track itself comprised bare earth with ephemeral/short perennial vegetation including white clover *Trifolium repens*, plantain, vetch *Vicia* sp. and meadow grass *Poa* sp. Up to 4m tall and 3m wide.

B2 – Hedgerow comprising of oak, dog rose, ash, hazel, elder, field maple *Acer campestre* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. Up to 4m tall and 3m wide.

B3 – Hedgerow comprising of oak, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn holly and bramble. Up to 4m tall and 3m wide.

B4 – Hedgerow comprising of blackthorn, willow, bramble, hawthorn and elder. A dry ditch was present within the hedgerow. Up to 4m tall and 3m wide.

B5 – Hedgerow comprising of willow, oak, dog rose, hedge bindweed, silver birch and hawthorn. A dry ditch was present within the hedgerow. Up to 4m tall and 3m wide.

Protected / Notable Species

Amphibians

- 3.8 The Site provided suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians including great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* providing suitable vegetative cover and foraging areas, particularly within the boundaries. A search of aerial photography and OS maps highlighted the presence of five ponds within 500m of the Site as indicated on **Figure 2**.
- 3.9 Ponds 1 and 2 were within/on the boundaries of the land covered by the previous survey conducted by RSK. Pond 1 was not recorded by RSK and therefore is assumed to not be present. Pond 2 was recorded by RSK and found to be ephemeral and unsuitable to support GCN. Ponds 3 and 4 were visited as part of the current application and were found not to be present.
- 3.10 It is understood that Pond 5 is present. However, based on historical aerial imagery, it does not appear to be present at the time of the RSK survey being conducted in 2012. No additional ponds were recorded from aerial imagery within 500m of Pond 5 and there were no desk study records of GCN within 2km of the Site. Therefore, it was considered highly unlikely that this pond would have been colonised by GCN since it's construction in 2012. GCN were considered unlikely to be present on-site and are not considered further within this report.

Figure 2: Pond Locations



Badgers

- 3.11 No evidence of badgers was found on-site such as hairs, latrines, footprints or setts. The habitats did provide suitable foraging habitat for badgers and it cannot be ruled out that they may cross the Site periodically. There were no desk study records of this species.

Bats

- 3.12 Several of the mature trees on-site contained features potentially suitable to support roosting bats including cracks and rot holes and were subsequently categorised as low-moderate potential to support roosting bats as indicated on the plan in Appendix 2.
- 3.13 The Site offered potential for foraging and commuting bats along the hedgerows but was generally considered to be of low habitat quality for bats, the arable land unlikely to attract a large abundance of insect prey.
- 3.14 There was a total of one record of bats from within 2km of the Site within the past ten years comprising common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus* sp.

Birds

- 3.15 Blackbird *Turdus merula* was the only bird species recorded on-site which is listed as green on the latest Birds of Conservation Concern List.
- 3.16 The Site offered foraging and nesting opportunities for birds, although the Site was unlikely to support an important assemblage of birds. The best opportunities for foraging and nesting were within the hedgerows and mature trees.
- 3.17 Table 1 lists Desk Study records of birds within 2km of the Site.

Table 1: Desk Study Bird Records

Species	Common Name
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch
<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Redpoll
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-Backed Gull
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-Headed Gull
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper Warbler
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied Wagtail
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail

Species	Common Name
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Nuthatch
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing

Reptiles

- 3.18 No reptiles or evidence of reptiles was recorded on-site. The habitats on-site were sub-optimal comprising homogenous, heavily managed vegetation lacking in refugia or hibernacula. Furthermore, there were no desk study records of reptiles within 2km of the Site. Reptiles were considered highly unlikely to be present on-site and are not considered further within this report.

Other Species

- 3.19 The site provided opportunities for hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*. The site was considered unlikely to support any other protected species.

4. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Designated Sites

- 4.1 Due to the distance of the Site from Notton Woods and the nature of the works, no impacts to the LNR are envisaged.

Habitats

- 4.2 The habitats on-site were generally of low ecological value.
- 4.3 The boundary hedgerow offered opportunities for biodiversity and would qualify as a Priority Habitat as it comprised over 80% native species. Hedgerows should there be retained or replaced with an equal or greater length of species rich native hedgerows. It is understood the hedgerow will be retained within the development.

Badgers

- 4.4 It cannot be ruled out that badgers may cross the Site periodically which have the potential to become trapped in open trenches or pipework if left uncovered overnight. Therefore, further consideration will be required as detailed in Section 5.

Bats

- 4.5 Works to mature trees on-site which were identified as having the potential to support roosting bats have the potential to disturb, injure or kill bats as we all damage or destroy roosting sites.
- 4.6 The boundary hedgerows offered the best opportunities for foraging and commuting bats. It is understood these habitats will be retained within the development. No significant impacts to foraging bats are envisaged as a result of the loss of the arable habitats on-site. Any new lighting associated with the development has the potential to disturb foraging and commuting bats.

Birds

- 4.7 No significant impacts to birds are envisaged as a result of the loss of the habitats present on-site as the best opportunities for nesting (boundary hedgerows) are to be retained. However, all bird species receive legal protection during nesting; there is the potential for any vegetation clearance to damage or destroy active nests, if undertaken during the nesting season. Sensitive timing of vegetation works will be needed. Further information is provided in Section 5.

Hedgehogs

- 4.8 It cannot be ruled out that hedgehogs may forage within or cross the Site which have the potential to become trapped in open trenches or pipework if left uncovered overnight. Therefore, further consideration will be required as detailed in Section 5.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Habitats

- 5.1 The boundary hedgerows and mature trees which are to be retained should be adequately protected during the works i.e. root protection zones should be established and materials should not be stored under the canopy of trees.
- 5.2 The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity. Any new planting associated with the development should comprise predominantly native species, or those with a known biodiversity benefit (such as a high nectar yield).

Badgers

- 5.3 As a matter of good practice, any trenches dug as part of construction work should be covered over at night, or left with a ramp or sloping end, to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped. Similarly, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night.

Bats

- 5.4 Trees identified as having low potential to support bats should be soft felled as a precautionary measure i.e. the trees should be section-felled, and the arisings lowered to the ground and left in situ for 24 hours. Trees identified as having moderate potential to support roosting bats should be subjected to an aerial inspection by a licenced ecologist to assess the features identified from ground level with high powered torches. In the event that a likely absence of roosting bats cannot be concluded, additional nocturnal surveys would be required which can only be undertaken on warm, dry evenings between May and August.
- 5.5 The hedgerow should be retained and adequately protected during the works. Additionally, a dark corridor should be maintained along the boundary hedgerows both during construction and operational phases.
- 5.6 Opportunities for bats should be incorporated into the final masterplan. This could include integrated bat boxes on buildings or attached to any trees included in the final masterplan.

Birds

- 5.7 As all species receive legal protection during nesting, it is advised to complete any vegetation clearance and building works outside of the breeding bird season of March to August (inclusive). Vegetation clearance outside of this period should still be preceded by a nesting bird carried out by contractors, as some species can nest all year round. Any active nests would need to remain unaffected until all chicks had fledged.

- 5.8 Opportunities for nesting birds should be incorporated into the final masterplan. This could include integrated nest boxes on buildings or attached to any trees included in the final masterplan.

Other

- 5.9 As a matter of good practice, any trenches dug as part of construction work should be covered over at night, or left with a ramp or sloping end, to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped. Similarly, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night.

6. SUMMARY

Ecological Receptor	Results & Discussion	Recommendations
Designated Sites	Notton Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) was the only designated wildlife site within 2km of the Site.	Not Applicable
Habitats	Habitats on-site largely comprises arable land of low ecological value. However, boundary hedgerows contained over 80% native species and would therefore qualify as a Priority Habitat.	The boundary hedgerows should be retained and adequately protected during the works.
Amphibians	The Site provided suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians including great crested newts (GCN) <i>Triturus cristatus</i> providing suitable vegetative cover and foraging areas, particularly within the boundaries. A single pond was present within 500m of the Site which may have the potential to support GCN. However, it is understood that this is a relatively new pond and unlikely to have been colonised by GCN.	Not Applicable
Badgers and Hedgehogs	No evidence of badgers or hedgehogs was found on-site but it cannot be ruled out that they may cross the Site periodically.	As a matter of good practice, any trenches dug as part of construction work should be covered over at night, or left with a ramp or sloping end, to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped. Similarly, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night. These good practices should be included within the CEMP.
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Ecological Receptor	Results & Discussion	Recommendations
Birds	The Site offered foraging and nesting opportunities for birds, although the Site was unlikely to support an important assemblage of birds. The best opportunities for foraging and nesting were within the hedgerows and mature trees.	As all species receive legal protection during nesting, it is advised to complete any vegetation clearance and building works outside of the breeding bird season of March to August (inclusive). Vegetation clearance outside of this period should still be preceded by a nesting bird carried out by contractors, as some species can nest all year round. Any active nests would need to remain unaffected until all chicks had fledged.
Reptiles	No reptiles or evidence of reptiles was recorded on-site. The habitats on-site were sub-optimal comprising homogenous, heavily managed vegetation lacking in refugia or hibernacula. Furthermore, there were no desk study records of reptiles within 2km of the Site. Reptiles were considered highly unlikely to be present on-site	Not applicable.

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Relevant Legislation

European Protected Species

All British bat species, great crested newt, hazel dormice and otters are fully protected through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as a European Protected Species (EPS). They also receive some protection through inclusion in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Under the legislation, it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill these species. It is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of these species while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or obstruct access to any structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

It is also an offence to deliberately disturb these species. Disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely (a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or (b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

The 'appropriate authority' (Natural England in England) has powers to issue licences for various purposes including - (a) scientific or educational purposes... and (b) preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment. The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence under this regulation unless they are satisfied - (a) that there is no satisfactory alternative, and (b) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. It is an offence for any person authorised by virtue of a licence to which this paragraph applies to contravene or fail to comply with any condition which the licence requires him to comply with.

Nesting birds

All wild birds in the UK are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs. Bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the 1981 Act, receive further protection which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these species while building a nest or in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird.

Badgers

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 was introduced in recognition of the additional threats that badgers face from illegal badger digging and baiting. Under the Act, it is an offence inter alia to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger, or to attempt to do so;
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger; or
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a badger sett by:

- damaging a sett or any part of one;
- destroying a sett;
- obstructing access to or any entrance of a sett;
- causing a dog to enter a sett; or
- disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett.

Reptiles

Four species of reptile, the adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and common lizard *Lacerta vivipara* are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as being listed on the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (formerly UK BAP).

In net effect, it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill common lizard, adder, grass snake or slow worms.

Two reptiles, the sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and the smooth snake *Coronella austrica*, are European Protected Species under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). They are also listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and are protected by Parts 4(b), 4(c) and 5 of Section 9 of that Act.

APPENDIX 2: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Map

APPENDIX 3: Site Photographs

Arable



**Track with adjacent tall
ruderal**



**Example hedgerow with
mature trees**



**Example tree with bat
roosting potential**





BETTER SOLUTIONS, INTELLIGENTLY ENGINEERED

