

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



CARR GREEN LANE, MAPPLEWELL.

OS REF: SE 33178 09469.

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL.

Ref No: 250717.

Date: 4th July 2025.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	3
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	4
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	8
4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN.	14
5. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	16
6. RECOMMENDATIONS.	18
7. REFERENCES.	20
Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.	22
Appendix II. REPTILE INFORMATION.	23
Appendix III. HEDGEHOG INFORMATION.	25
Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA – BASELINE.	27
Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA – POST.	28
Appendix VI. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN.	29

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning permission is being sought for the development of five residential dwellings on a parcel of land to the west of Carr Green Lane in Mapplewell.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has therefore been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site to establish whether there are any other issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. This survey was carried out on 13th June 2025 and this report outlines its findings and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. This report also includes a full Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of the proposed development.

1.5. Appendices I to III of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.3. A condition assessment of each habitat has been carried out of each habitat parcel on the site. The results of these assessments can be found within the Statutory Metric and Condition Assessment Sheets which are available alongside this document.

2.4. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

- * Badger setts.
- * Badger latrines or dung pits.
- * Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
- * Badger paths.
- * Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series)*. Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -

- * Water vole burrows.
- * Water vole faeces and latrines.
- * Water vole feeding stations.
- * Water vole runs.

- * Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Water vole lawns.
- * Predator field signs.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter and Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines*: -

- * Otter prints in soft mud.
- * Otter spraints.
- * Otter Holts.

2.7. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.8. The survey area was searched for trees and structures and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat Droppings.

2.9. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.10. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.11. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.12. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

2.13. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.14. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.15. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on “Natural Environment” also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.16. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

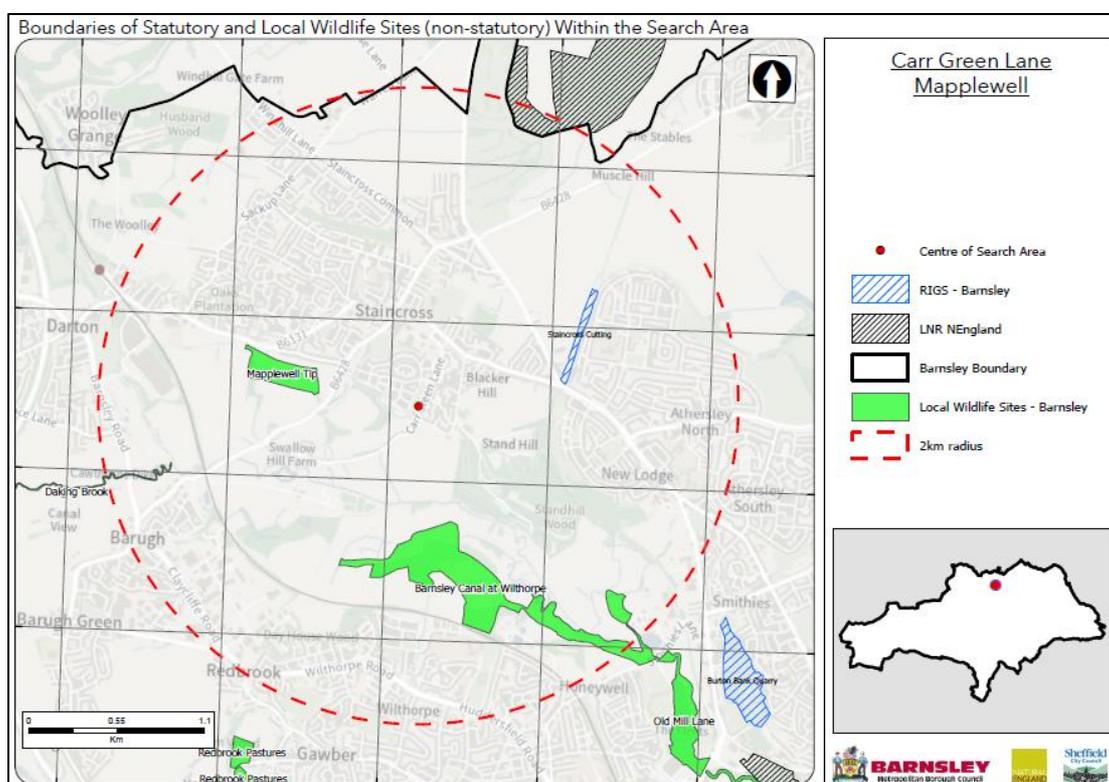
2.17. The PEA was undertaken by Mitchel Greenhalgh, Managing Director of Whitcher Wildlife, and an Ecological Consultant with an array of experience in conducting surveys on a variety of flora and fauna in a professional capacity. Mitchel holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of both bats and great crested newts, a NatureScot licence in respect of bats and Natural England class licences for various invertebrates and he is a FISC level 4 botanist. He has attended courses run by CIEEM and the FSC and also holds a BSc in environmental science attained from the University of Leeds. He is an Associate member of CIEEM and he is therefore committed to continuous professional development.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search request was submitted to the Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) for records of protected species and the location of designated sites within a 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. BBRC provided few records of statutory sites within a 2km radius, with only Mapplewell Tip Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Barnsley Canal LWS and Staincross Cutting Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) lying within this distance. None of these bear any relevance to the survey area itself.



3.1.3. The MAGIC Map website was checked for the locations of any statutory sites within a 2km radius of the survey area. Only one was identified, which was Notton Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) located approximately 1.8km north of the survey area at its closest point.

3.1.4. The site lies within approximately Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) 7 of the Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), specifically the unit of Carlton

Marsh, but based on the proposed development, no consultation with Natural England is necessary.

3.1.5. Records of great crested newt were returned, all relating to the land at Wilthorpe Marsh and all but one being south of the Dearne. There is only one record slightly north of the Dearne, and that is the closest record at 1.1km south of the survey area.

3.1.6. Records of various bat species were returned including of common and soprano pipistrelle, noctule, Leisler's bat, brown long-eared, Daubenton's bat and other unspecific species. None of these records bear any relevance to the survey area with the closer over 500m to the southwest.

3.1.7. Two records of badger were returned, both well over 1km from the survey area.

3.1.8. A small number of historic (1980-2004) water vole records were returned although none of these are relevant to the survey area. These are also superseded by records of mink in the Barnsley Canal.

3.1.9. Two records of otter were returned, neither of which are relevant to the survey area.

3.2. The Survey Area.

3.2.1. The survey area comprises a parcel of previously worked land immediately west of Carr Green Lane within the village of Mapplewell. The aerial map below shows the approximate location of the survey area, marked by the red shape.



3.2.2. The further surroundings comprise a mosaic of residential housing to the north with more open green space to the further south. The below photograph shows the site in relation to its wider surroundings.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix VII of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats within the site. The habitats on the site are: -

- h3h – Mixed Scrub
- u1f – Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land
- h2b – Non-native, Ornamental Hedgerow

3.3.2. h3h – Mixed Scrub.

3.3.2.1. The peripheries of the site comprise dense scrub which a number of grass, sedge and forb species within the understory. The scrub must be subject to some form of management as no species have succeeded into trees despite the site being untended for a long time.

3.3.2.2. Scrub species comprise predominantly goat willow (*Salix caprea*) with bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) both frequent and

buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) also present but less common.



3.3.2.3. The understory comprises hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and spiked sedge (*Carex spicata*) along with a number of the species also listed below.



3.3.3. u1f – Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land.

The open central part of the survey area is relatively bare but does host an interesting array of plant species. These include species such as Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra* agg.), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), barren brome (*Bromus sterilis*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), glaucous sedge (*Carex flacca*), kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), ribwort plantain

(*Plantago lanceolata*), broadleaved plantain (*Plantago major*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), hoary ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), lesser knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), hawkweed (*Hieracium* sp.), common cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), smooth hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), smooth sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), spiny sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*), small toadflax (*Chaenorhinum minus*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.) including broadleaved (*E. Montanum*), American (*E. Ciliatum*), great (*E. Hirsutum*) and hoary (*E. Parviflorum*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), hairy tare (*Ervilia hirsuta*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), common toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), eastern rocket (*Sisymbrium orientale*), weld (*Reseda luteola*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), colt's-foot (*Tussilago farfara*), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), bladder campion (*Silene vulgaris*), common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), common fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), fox and cubs (*Pilosella aurantiaca*) and wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*).



3.3.4. h2b – Non-native, Ornamental Hedgerow.

3.3.4.1. A large leyland cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii*), hedgerow forms the boundary between the site and Carr Green Lane.



3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts or other field signs were identified within the survey area and the site itself provides poor foraging and sett-creation habitat for the species.

3.4.2. There is no watercourse within, or close to, the survey to provide suitable habitat for otter, water vole or white-clawed crayfish.

3.4.3. There is only one non-fragmented pond within a 500m radius, which is the balancing pond of the new-build estate to the west of the site. This pond is situated approximately 85m southwest of the survey area at its closest point. The pond is isolated from any other ponds, is heavily choked by vegetation and frequently dries and therefore, is highly unlikely to host great crested newts. A second small pond is situated within Mapplewell Meadows Farm, but this is fragmented from the survey area by residential housing.

3.4.4. Bats.

3.4.4.1. There are no structures or trees within the survey area which provide suitable opportunities for roosting bats.

3.4.4.2. The site does provide some suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats due to its scrubby fringes and conifer hedge, but the central section of the site likely provides relatively little.

3.4.5. The survey area provides good opportunities for nesting birds within the scrub edges and within the hedgerow but due to the urban nature of the site, is unlikely to provide habitat for anything other than more common garden species.

3.4.6. The survey area provides some limited habitat for reptiles due to open nature of the site and scrub fringes providing refugia, although the urban nature of the site means that it is unlikely that this would be limited at best to a very small number of common species.

3.4.7. The survey area provides suitable habitat for hedgehog and other small mammals within the scrub fringes of the site.

3.4.8. No invasive, non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were identified within the survey area.

4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN.

4.1. Baseline biodiversity calculations have been carried out using the Statutory Metric tool, the current metric at the time of writing this report. The calculations have been completed for habitat units and linear units. There are no watercourses on the site or within 10m.

4.2. Baseline Habitat Units.

All habitats as described above were inputted into the metric to provide a baseline score for the site which is shown in the table below. The metric and condition assessments will accompany this report.

Habitat Type	Extent (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Mixed scrub	0.0635	Medium	Poor	0.26
Ruderal / ephemeral	0.1281	Low	Moderate	0.51
Total	0.19			0.77

4.3. Baseline Linear Units.

Habitat Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.042	Low	Poor	0.04
Total	0.042			0.04

4.4. Post-works Habitat Units.

4.4.1. Post-works calculations have been carried out utilising the proposed site layout provided in appendix VI of this report. All habitats will remain within private gardens and therefore, post-works, the site is split only into developed land and gardens.

Habitat Type	Extent (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0984	V.Low	N/A	0

Vegetated garden	0.0931	Low	N/A	0.18
Total	0.19			0.18

4.4.2. The site achieves 0.18 habitat units post works, which is equivalent to a -76.55% loss and therefore, does not achieve a net gain nor satisfy the trading rules.

4.4.3. The shortfall cannot be achieved on site and as such, land owned by the client elsewhere will be used to make up this shortfall. Further details on this will be provided as soon as the details have been confirmed, but the land has been surveyed, and there is ample opportunity for this uplift to be provided.

4.5. Post-works Linear Units.

4.5.1. Post-works calculations have been carried out utilising the proposed site layout provided in appendix VI of this report. The conifer hedge at the front of the site will be removed to facilitate access into the property, but a native hedgerow will be planted behind the rear gardens fences outside of private ownership.

Habitat Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Native Hedgerow	0.044	Low	N/A	0.08
Total	0.044			0.08

4.5.2. The site achieves 0.08 linear units post works, which is equivalent to a 102.19% gain.

5. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

5.1. The site lies a sufficient distance from any designated sites as to ensure the development has no direct impact upon them.

5.2. There are no badger setts or other field signs within the survey area and therefore, the development is unlikely to have any negative impact on badger.

5.3. There is no watercourse within, or close to, the survey area to provide suitable habitat for otter, water vole or white-clawed crayfish and therefore, the development will have no impact on these species.

5.4. There are no ponds within a 500m radius of the site which are not deemed either unsuitable or severely fragmented from the site. Therefore, the works are unlikely to impact upon great crested newts.

5.5. Bats.

5.5.1. There are no structures within the survey area and therefore, the works will have no negative impact on bats roosting within structures.

5.5.2. The survey area does provide some habitat for foraging and commuting bats, but provided suitable precautions are in place, no significant impacts would be anticipated.

5.6. The survey area provides suitable habitat for nesting birds within the scrub and hedgerows, but this is considered to be used only by more common, urban-tolerant species. Regardless, any vegetation clearance undertaken within the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year, is likely to have a negative impact on nesting birds.

5.7. The survey area is considered unlikely to support anything more than very low numbers of common reptile species. Further recommendations regarding reptiles will be made in the next section but provided these are adhered to, any impact is considered unlikely.

5.8. Small mammals, including hedgehogs, are likely to be present within and around the survey area. However, provided due care is taken during the works and precautions are in place, any impacts on small mammals can be avoided.

5.9. No invasive, non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were identified within the survey area and therefore, the works pose no risk of spreading any such plant to the further environment.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS.

6.1.1 Biodiversity Net Gain

To achieve a net gain for the development, off-site units will need to be sought as it is not possible to achieve the gain on site without significantly altering the scheme and making the development unfeasible. It is therefore recommended that contact be made with a habitat bank to begin obtaining quotes for these units.

6.1.2. Protected Species.

6.1.2.1. Due to there being no protected species concerns regarding the development, a full ecological impact assessment is not deemed necessary as there are relatively little impacts to assess. However, further biodiversity enhancements and precautions are still recommended and should be implemented. These include the following:

6.1.2.2. It is recommended that an integrated bat brick and bird (swift) brick should be installed into each new building on site to provide a net gain of roosting and nesting opportunities on site. These can be customised to match the external faces of the building.

6.1.2.3. It is recommended that a sensitive lighting plan be considered for the development to ensure that wildlife can continue to use the existing corridors of the site. Any lighting should be downwards facing and not aimed towards the boundaries of the site, particularly the land to the further west of the site.

6.1.2.4. It is recommended that any vegetation clearance be carried out outside of the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August inclusive each year. Should any clearance be required within the nesting season, it should be preceded immediately by a nesting bird survey undertaken by a suitably qualified person, although this would be slow going given how dense the scrub is. Any nests identified should remain undisturbed until after the young have fledged.

6.1.2.5. It is recommended that a Precautionary Working Method Statement be drawn up with details what precautions will be in place to ensure the works have no negative impact on reptiles or small mammals such as hedgehog.

6.1.2.6. It is recommended that all fences are fitted with at least one hedgehog access hole, which should be a minimum of 130mm x 130mm.

Prepared by:	
Mitchel Greenhalgh. BSc, ACIEEM.	Date: 18 th July 2025

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 18 th July 2025

7. REFERENCES.

- Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom (2010) *ARG UK Advice Note 5: Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index*. ARGUK.
- Baker, J., Beebee T., Buckley, J., Gent, A. and Orchard, D. (2011). *Amphibian Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.
- Barn Owl Trust (2012) *Barn Owl Conservation Handbook*, Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.
- Bat Tree Habitat Key (2018) *Bat Roosts in Trees: a guide for identification and assessment for tree-care and ecology professionals*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter
- Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023). *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1*. Available at <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> (Accessed 15/04/2024)
- Bright, P., Morris, P. & Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006) *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*. English Nature, Peterborough.
- Chanin, P. (2003) *Ecology of the European Otter*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.
- Chanin, P. (2003) *Monitoring the Otter Lutra lutra*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.
- CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Cresswell, P., Cresswell, W.J., and Woods, M. (1993) *The Country Life Guide to Artificial Badger Setts*. Country Life, London.
- Collins J. (ed.) 2023. *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. and Andrews, R. (2016) *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook* (Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series). Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. Mammal Society, London.
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) *Biodiversity Net Gain*. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides> (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) *Statutory Net Biodiversity Metric User Guide*. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain> (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010) *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Froglife (1999) *Froglife Advice Sheet 10: reptile survey*. Froglife, London.

Gurnell, J., & Lurz, P. (2012) *Red Squirrel*. In: Cresswell, W.J., Birks, J.D.S., Dean, M., Pacheco, M., Trehella, W.J., Wells, D. and Wray, S. (2012). *UK BAP Mammals: Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation*. The Mammal Society, Southampton.

Harris, S., Cresswell, P. and Jefferies D. (1989) *Surveying Badgers*. Occasional Publication No 9, The Mammal Society, London.

Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P. (2001), *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*, Froglife, Halesworth.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Natural England (2022) *Hazel Dormice: Advice for making planning decisions*. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-dormice-advice-for-making-planning-decisions> (Accessed: 15/04/2024)

Natural England (2014) *Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities*. (updated 2021) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications> (Accessed: 05/03/2021).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/579/contents/made> (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Peay, S. (2003) *Monitoring the White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes**. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 1. English Nature, Peterborough.

Stanbury, A. et al (2021) *The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain*. *British Birds* 114: 723-747. Available at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations> (Accessed 15/04/2024)

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2004). *Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds*. 2004 ed. JNCC, Peterborough.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/579/contents/made> (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents> (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> (Accessed: 15/04/2024). UKHab Ltd (2023) *UK Habitat classification Version 2.0* Available at <https://www.ukhab.org>.

Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man-made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix II. REPTILE INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are five main species of reptile that reside in the UK; Common or Viviparous Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*); Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*); Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*); Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Adder (*Vipera berus*). The Adder is the only native species that is venomous although this is rarely harmful to humans.

Reptiles occupy a wide range of habitats including woodland, marshes, heathland, moors, sand dunes, hedgerows and bogs. Sand Lizards are confined to moorland and coastal sand dunes where they lay their eggs in the warm sand. The range of the Sand Lizard in the UK is therefore very limited. Slow Worms can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Britain and is the most likely reptile to be found in urban and suburban environments.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies, then later they may move back into the shade because they do not sweat and have to be careful not to overheat. During hot summers, Adders will try to move to damper, cooler sites.

Over winter reptiles will hibernate in burrows or under logs where they are protected from the cold and predators, emerging from February onwards as the weather warms up.

Reptiles generally begin to mate April to May with young born in late July to September. The Common Lizard gives birth to live young, hence the term viviparous, meaning live bearing.

Surveys

Reptile surveys involve the searching of refuge such as logs and stones for any animal sheltering below. Artificial refuge may be laid out on site for the purpose of reptile surveys.

Legislation

Reptiles are protected under Appendix II (sand lizards) and Appendix III (common lizard, slow worms, smooth snake, grass snake and adders) of the BERN Convention (1982), partially protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and are all listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Communities Act (2006) making them a species of principal importance.

This makes it an offence to disturb any reptile while it is occupying a structure or place it uses for shelter or protection or to obstruct access to such a place.

Appendix III. HEDGEHOG INFORMATION.

Ecology

The hedgehog was a common species once widespread throughout the country but it has suffered a major decline due to loss of habitat. They are now found distributed across the UK, but the population increases to the south and east. Hedgehogs are rare in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The hedgehog is a small, spiny mammal around 20cm long with a long snout. The back and sides of the hedgehog are covered in 25mm (1”) long spines. These are absent from the face, legs and underside, which are covered with coarse, grey-brown fur.

Hedgehogs are highly active and range widely. They need to be able to move freely through a well-connected range of habitats to find food, mates and areas to nest. Studies show that hedgehogs can travel around 2km in a night in urban areas and 3km a night in rural landscapes. A viable population of urban hedgehogs is thought to need 0.9km² of well-connected habitat.

Hedgehogs nest year-round and produce different types of nest for daytime resting, breeding and hibernation. Daytime nests are a retreat during the active season, and are often temporary, flimsy and found in areas of rough grassland, loose leaf piles or garden vegetation. Breeding nests are made by females and are used to raise young. They tend to be more robust, like hibernation nests. Winter nests can be used for several months to hibernate through periods of cold weather and low food availability. The sturdiest nests rely on medium-sized deciduous leaves and a structure to hold the leaves in place. Bramble patches, log piles and open compost heaps are common locations for breeding and hibernation.

Hedgehogs are omnivores, but the bulk of their diet consists of macro-invertebrates such as beetles, worms, slugs, earwigs, caterpillars and millipedes. In urban areas,

supplementary food in the form of cat, dog or formulated hedgehog food can make up a significant part of their diet. Access to water is also very important.

Surveys

Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals, so despite their spiny appearance they are often difficult to find.

All surveys should be conducted between May and November when hedgehogs are active.

Droppings can be found in grassland, farmland and in gardens. The droppings are crinkly, often studded with shiny fragments due to their diet of insects. They are variable in size, 15-50mm long and 8-10mm thick, blue/black in colour and sweet smelling with a hint of linseed oil.

Footprint tunnels and camera traps can also be used to survey for hedgehogs.

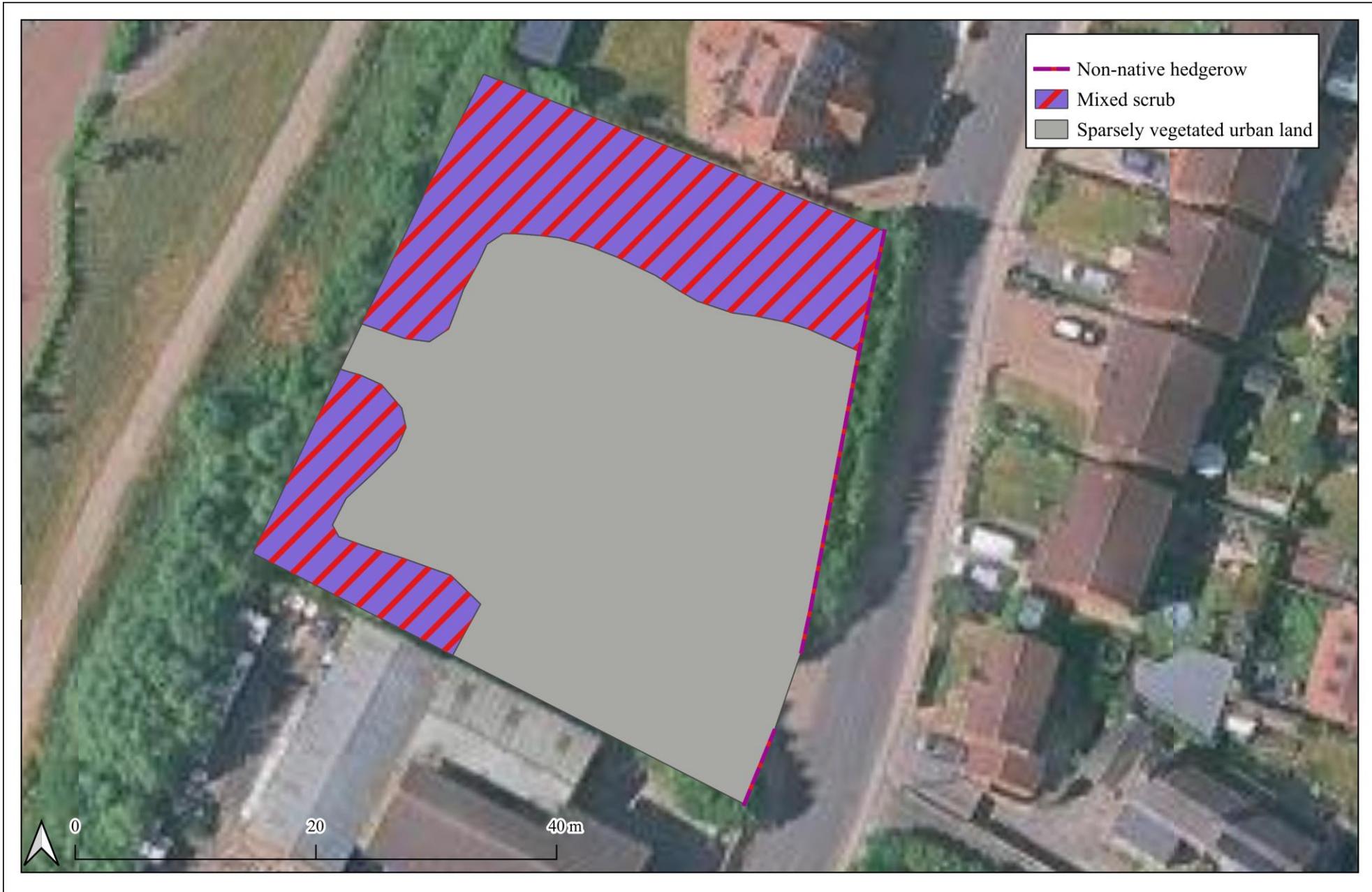
Further survey techniques can also be used to survey for hedgehogs, but these require a survey licence to carry out surveys involving trapping and torch or spotlight searches.

Legislation

The hedgehog is considered an endangered species, but it benefits only from general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They are listed under Schedule 6 of the Act, which makes it illegal to kill, trap or capture wild hedgehogs, with certain methods listed. They are also listed under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), which prohibits cruel treatment of hedgehogs and they are a species of 'principal importance' under the NERC Act, which confers a 'duty of responsibility to public bodies'.

However, none of these deal with the issues that are a threat to the hedgehog. The main threat is the increasing loss of habitat, the increasing traffic on our roads and the increasing use of herbicides, in particular those used to kill garden slugs.

APPENDIX IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA - BASELINE.



Site: Carr Green Lane, Mapplewell

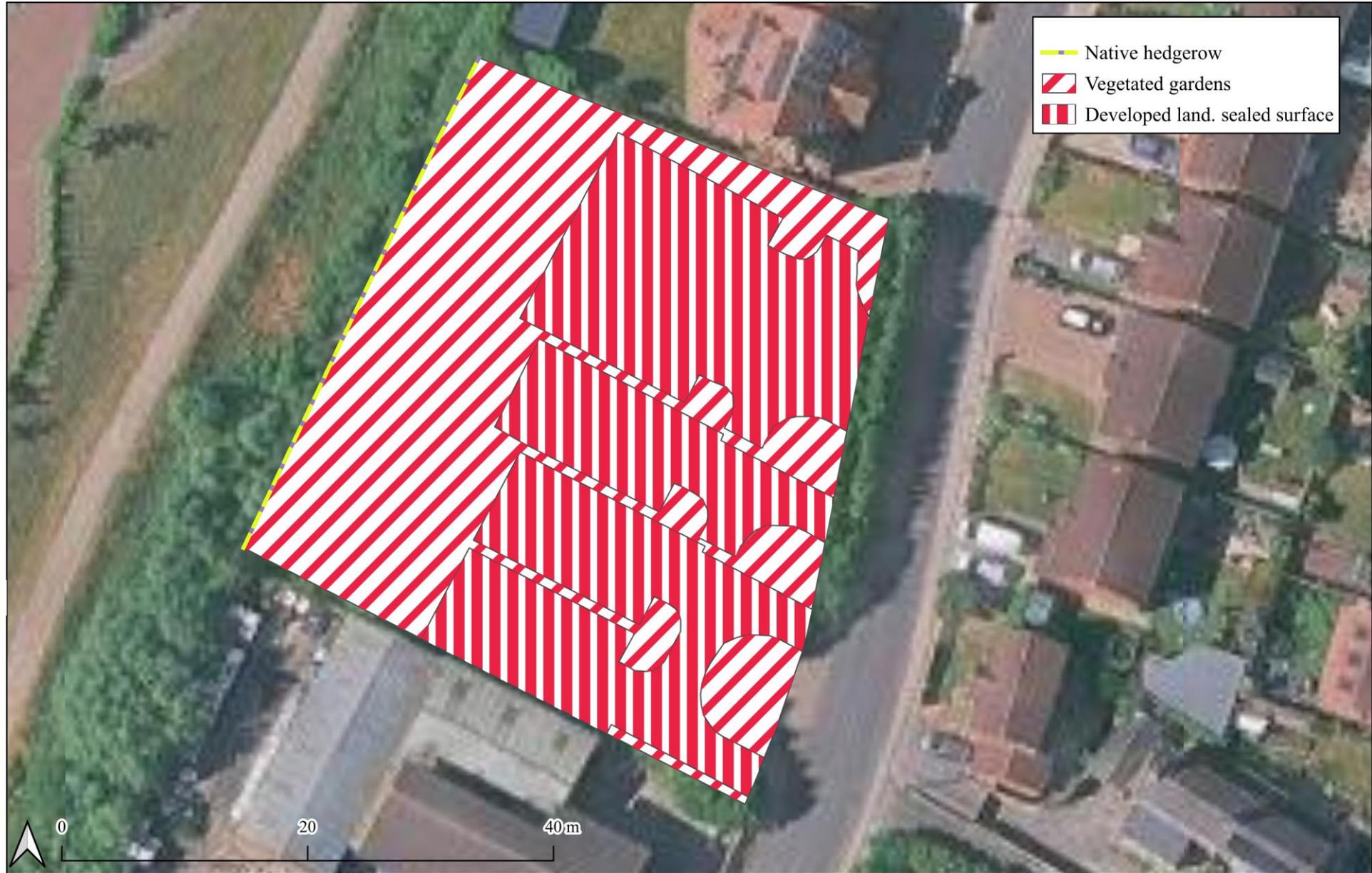
Reference: 250717/pre

Date: 18.07.2025

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh



APPENDIX V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA - POST.



Site: Carr Green Lane, Mapplewell

Date: 18.07.2025

Reference: 250717/post

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh



APPENDIX VI. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

