



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

West Starkey Street, Heywood

Reference: 81-361-R2-1

Date: July 2023



PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL REPORT

West Starkey Street,
Heywood

Prepared for:
Tilbourn Douglas Construction

Report Ref: 81-361-R2-1
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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Address	West Starkey Street, Heywood, OL10 4TW
Coordinates	E 385133, N 411125
Site Area	Approximately 1.0 ha
Current Site Use and Adjacent Site Use	The site comprised a disused area of grassland to the west of Heywood Sports Village. A sports pitch lies to the north, with West Starkey Street defining the site's southern boundary and residential housing lying to the west of the site. The site is surrounded by predominantly residential and commercial development associated with the town of Heywood.
Designated Sites	The site lies within the Impact Risk Zone of the Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Due to the large distances between the SSSIs and the site, as well as intense anthropogenic development acting as a barrier to disturbance, there will be no impact on the designated sites from the proposed works. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) will not be required to determine if the proposed works will have any impact on Rochdale Canal SAC.
Survey Results	The site was found to comprise a large area of poor semi-improved grassland with smaller areas of dense scrub and tall ruderal present within the site boundary. A hedgerow and treeline lie along the site's southern and western boundaries respectively. The site was found to have the following potential ecological constraints: ✳ Potential presence of bats within the hedgerow with trees, treeline, dense scrub and scattered trees. ✳ Potential presence of common amphibians within the dense scrub, tall ruderal and semi-improved grassland. ✳ Potential presence of nesting birds within the treeline, hedgerow, and dense scrub. ✳ Potential presence of badgers within the local area. ✳ Potential presence of hedgehogs within the tall ruderal, semi-improved grassland and dense scrub. ✳ Field horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i>) present on-site.



Conclusions

The following mitigation is recommended:

- ✿ Common amphibians are to be removed by hand from the working area during the clearance phase.
- ✿ A lighting strategy is recommended to protect any retained on-site habitats (hedgerow with trees, treeline and scattered trees).
- ✿ Updated badger walkover prior to start of works.
- ✿ Precautionary Working Methods for badger.
- ✿ Vegetation should be retained where possible. If any scrub requires clearance, this should be strimmed to 50 cm and checked for hedgehog prior to clearance to ground level. If trees or hedgerow are removed, their bases should be checked, prior to removal, for sheltering hedgehogs. It is recommended that any vegetation clearance takes place outside of December-March to avoid impacting hibernating hedgehogs.
- ✿ Vegetation should be retained where possible. Any vegetation clearance should occur outside of the breeding bird season (March to September inclusive). If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist should undertake a nesting bird check up to 24 hrs before works commence. If a nest, or nest in construction, is located, then a stand-off distance should be maintained until the young have fledged.
- ✿ Eradication of field horsetail prior to works commencing on-site.

A gain in biodiversity will likely be required on-site. If this cannot be achieved on-site, a conservation offset payment, or off-site compensation may be required.



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

E3P were commissioned by Tilboury Douglas Construction to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at West Starkey Street, Heywood, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Zach Squire-Watt BSc (Hons), MSc, QCIEEM, Graduate Ecologist at E3P, who has experience undertaking Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and condition assessments for various projects across the UK.

1.2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Development proposals include the construction of a school building, with associated hardstanding car parks and sports pitches. A wildflower meadow and orchard are also proposed along the site’s western boundary.

1.3. SITE LOCATION

The site is located within the predominantly residential and commercial town of Heywood. West Starkey Street and Cedar Avenue define the site’s southern and western boundaries respectively. The site’s northern boundary is defined by a playing field associated with Heywood Sports Village. Bury Street, a section of the A58, lies approximately 250 m south of site, and the River Roch lies approximately 370 m north-west at its closest point. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the approximate site location.

FIGURE 1.1 APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION



1.4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal are as follows:

-  Identify the major habitats present.
-  Ascertain the presence or potential presence of any legally protected species and habitats.
-  Recommend any further surveys or mitigation that may be required.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprises a desk study and site walkover. This survey has been completed as a baseline assessment of the site, and as such please see the end of the report for further surveys and mitigation proposed.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. DESKTOP STUDY

The following sources of information and ecological records were consulted:

- ✳ MAGIC – A web-based interactive mapping system, on which geographic information regarding key environmental schemes and designations are collated, including details of statutory conservation sites, accessed July 2023.
- ✳ Aerial mapping and ordnance survey maps.
- ✳ Local data records, including GMEU – The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, received 10th July 2023.

A 1 km search area was utilised for the data search, with this being deemed an appropriate distance for the Zone of Influence of the site. The 1 km search was selected due to the size of the site and the site's surroundings, which are predominantly residential and commercial associated with the town of Heywood.

The data search included the request for details of protected and notable species of flora and fauna within 1 km of the central grid reference of the site. In addition, a request was made for any non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site boundary.

Please note that a lack of up-to-date records does not confirm absence of a species from the area. Lack of records may simply be a result of a lack of protected species surveys being undertaken within the local area.

2.2. VEGETATION AND HABITATS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the proposed development site was undertaken by Ciara Bass with assistance from Zach Squire-Watt on 10th July 2023. The weather was humid, still and overcast.

The walkover survey was undertaken to the standard methodology as detailed by the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey, 2010. The assessment follows the methodology as per "Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal" (CIEEM, 2017).

A vegetation and habitat plan has been produced for the proposed development site and the immediate surrounding area (please refer to Appendix I). The mapping is based on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Phase I Habitat Survey Methodology (JNCC 2010).

Searches were made for uncommon, rare and statutorily protected plant species, those species listed as protected in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and species which are indicators of important and uncommon plant communities. All plant nomenclature follows Stace (2019).

Searches were carried out for the presence of invasive species, including those listed on the revised (April 2010) Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) including Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).



2.3. FAUNA

A thorough search of the site for signs of protected species of fauna was undertaken during the site walkover. These searches considered the following:

- ✳ Suitability of any ponds to support notable amphibians, and the suitability of the site's terrestrial habitats to support amphibians.
- ✳ Suitability of the site to support reptiles by way of habitat structure and refuge piles, as well as links to the wider landscape.
- ✳ Signs of badgers (*Meles meles*), by way of setts, mammal paths, foraging signs or latrines to indicate usage of the site by the species.
- ✳ Search of any watercourses for signs or suitability for water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*) by way of burrows, resting places, holts and foraging signs.
- ✳ Suitability of the site to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats.
- ✳ Suitability of the site to support notable bird species.
- ✳ Suitability of the site to support notable invertebrates.
- ✳ Search of the site for any invasive species.

2.4. PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT

The Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken by Ciara Bass and Zach Squire-Watt on 10th July 2023.

The survey involved undertaking a systematic search of the trees, searching for signs of bats, or spaces where bats would be able to access. The methodology followed that described in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, 3rd Edition (Collins, 2016)*.

The trees were categorised for their bat roosting potential as described in Table 2.1 in accordance with Collins (2016).

TABLE 2.1 BAT ROOSTING POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION OF TREES

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
NEGLIGIBLE	A tree of an age or species that would not support roosting bats.
LOW	A tree with one or more potential roost sites. However, the potential roost sites do not provide suitability for large numbers of bats (i.e. for maternity or hibernation).
MODERATE	A tree with one or more potential roosting feature which could support bats but is of a suitability meaning that it would be unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
HIGH	A tree with several potential roosting features which would be able to support large number of bats on a regular basis and for longer periods of time.



2.5. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal does not constitute a full botanical survey. Instead, key species are identified to give a representative description of each habitat type.

This survey was undertaken in July and as a result of differing flowering times, it is possible that some species of flora may have been missed or misidentified. It is possible that some invasive/non-native species could have been missed during the survey.

These constraints have been taken into consideration during the assessment.



3. SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. SITE CONTEXT

The site is located on West Starkey Street within the town of Heywood. The site is currently disused and lies to the west of Heywood Sports Village. The site comprised an area of poor semi-improved grassland bordered by dense scrub, treelines and hedgerow anticipated to provide some ecological value to local species.

Several areas of ancient woodland surround the River Roch, with the closest being Tack Lee wood approximately 540 m north-west. These are expected to provide unique habitat for communities of flora, fungi, invertebrates and specialist bird/mammal species. Many of these parcels also show a high level of connectivity through broadleaved woodland, which is anticipated to form valuable foraging, commuting and resting habitat for a variety of wildlife, as well as roosting and nesting habitat for bat and bird species within the area.

Several areas of open mosaic habitat are in proximity to the site, with the closest being approximately 330 m east of site. This type of habitat is characterised by sparse scrub colonisation and areas of open habitat and may provide habitat for ground nesting bird species such as skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), as well as brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and Eurasian hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*).

Approximately 830 m north-west of site lies an area of Lowland Fen associated with the River Roch. This is anticipated to provide habitat for a range of species, including *Sphagnum* spp, as well as specialist invertebrates and fauna.

Within these areas of woodland lies the River Roch, which is approximately 370 m north-west at its closest location. The river is anticipated to act as a valuable foraging and commuting feature for waterfowl, as well as aquatic species such as otter and water vole. The river also provides connectivity to a number of woodland parcels and other habitat types, flowing through Lowland Fen to the north-west of site, as well as an area of Woodpasture and Parkland approximately 700 m north-east.

No waterbodies are present within the site boundary or within 250 m of the site.

3.2. DESIGNATED SITES

The site is located within the Impact Risk Zone of the Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Rochdale Canal, located approximately 3.2 km east, is designated an SSSI for its diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, including floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*), as well as several species of *Potamogeton* pondweeds. Other notable species include water violet (*Hottonia palustris*), reed-sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and the locally uncommon royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*).

Rochdale Canal has also been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the presence of floating water-plantain, an Annex II species. Due to the large distances between the SSSIs and the site, as well as intense anthropogenic development acting as a barrier to disturbance, there will be no impact on the designated sites from the proposed works. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) will not be required to determine if the proposed works will have any impact on Rochdale Canal SAC.



3.3. HABITATS

The main habitats encountered during the survey are described in the following subsections. Please refer to Appendix I for the Phase 1 Habitat Plan.

3.3.1. POOR SEMI-IMPROVED GRASSLAND

The majority of the site comprised poor semi-improved grassland. Species present included perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis* agg.), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings, eared willow (*Salix aurita*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), common couch (*Elymus repens*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), broadleaved plantain (*Plantago major*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*).

PLATE 1 SHOWING AREA OF POOR SEMI-IMPROVED GRASSLAND



3.3.2. DENSE SCRUB

Along the southern and western boundaries of the site several areas of dense scrub were present, dominated by willow (*Salix* sp), rosebay willowherb, cleavers, broadleaved dock and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*).



PLATE 2 SHOWING DENSE SCRUB



3.3.3. TALL RUDERAL

Interspersed with the dense scrub in the south and west of site were several areas of tall ruderal. These were dominated by nettle, great willowherb, willow *sp.* and spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).

PLATE 3 SHOWING AN AREA OF TALL RUDERAL



3.3.4. HEDGEROW WITH TREES

A hedgerow with trees defines the site's southern boundary. Species present included ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hazel (*Coryllus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplanatus*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), willow (*Salix sp.*) and lime (*Tilia sp.*).

PLATE 4 SHOWING HEDGEROW WITH TREES



3.3.5. TREELINE

A treeline defined the site's western boundary and included wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), hazel, hawthorn, field maple, goat willow (*Salix caprea*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertanum*), bramble, hazel saplings and nettle.



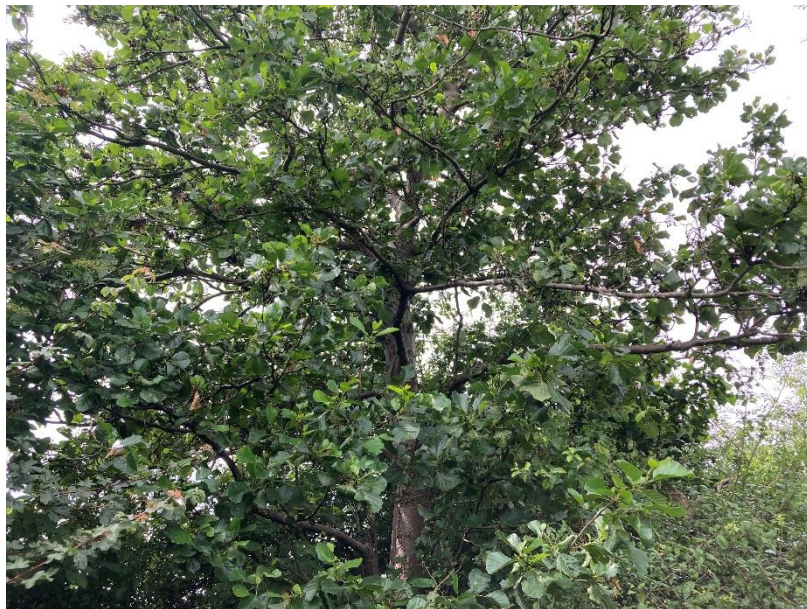
PLATE 5 SHOWING TREELINE



3.3.6. SCATTERED TREES

Several scattered trees lie on the southern boundary of the site. Species present included rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), ash, whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

PLATE 6 SHOWING SCATTERED TREES



3.4. PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

3.4.1. AMPHIBIANS

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any records of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) within the 1 km search area.

Consultation with MAGIC did not identify any great crested newt European Protected Species Licences within the 1 km search area, the closest licence was located approximately 2.7 km south-east of the site, active in 2017 for the destruction of a great crested newt breeding and resting place. Further consultation with MAGIC did not identify any licence returns within 1 km of the site; the closest was approximately 2.8 km and associated with a pond located within Glade Wood known to have great crested newts present in 2014.

No waterbodies were identified on site or within 250 m. Great crested newts' upper dispersal limit is generally considered to be up to 250 m from a waterbody (though occurrence of greater distances does exist where habitat connectivity is of high quality) (English Nature, 2001). Due to the lack of waterbodies within 250 m of the site, great crested newts can be discounted from further discussion. However, common amphibians may be present within the poor semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal.

Records of common toad (*Bufo bufo*) were identified within the search area, with the closest record being in a field south of Gristlehurst Wood, approximately 500 m north-west of site.

3.4.2. BATS

Consultation with GMEU identified numerous records of bat species within the search area, including common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), pipistrelle sp., Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Myotis sp., Noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and whiskered/Brandt's bat (*Myotis mystacinus/myotis brandti*).

Consultation with MAGIC did not identify the presence of any Natural England Bat Mitigation Licences located within the site boundary, the closest was approximately 2.8 km south-west which was active in 2011-2012 for the destruction of a common pipistrelle non breeding roost.

The site is anticipated to have limited roosting value for bats, due to a lack of suitable mature trees that may be used for roosting opportunities. However, the poor semi-improved grassland, dense scrub and tall ruderal within the site may attract invertebrate species for bats, while the hedgerow and treeline located around the boundaries of the site may act as commuting features for bats across the wider landscape.

3.4.3. BADGER

Consultation with GMEU identified records of badger within the 1 km search area. No badger setts or field signs of badger were located on-site or within 30 m of the site boundary where access was possible.

The site is assessed as having suitability for badger as sett building opportunities are present within the dense scrub and semi-improved grassland throughout the site.



3.4.4. OTHER TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS

Records of European hedgehog were located within 1 km of the site boundary, with the closest being associated with a residential property approximately 540 m south-west

The site was assessed as having suitability for hedgehogs with the poor semi-improved grassland, dense scrub and tall ruderal providing suitable habitat for this species. While the site is located in a predominantly urban area, brown hare may utilise the site for foraging and resting.

3.4.5. OTTER AND WATER VOLE

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any records of otter or water vole within the 1 km search area. No watercourses or waterbodies lie within the site or within 250 m of the site boundary. The closest watercourse is the River Roch; since this lies approximately 250 m north-west of site, otter and water vole can be discounted from further discussion.

3.4.6. BREEDING BIRDS

Consultation with GMEU identified numerous records of notable birds within the search area, including barn owl (*Tyto alba*), peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), curlew (*Numenius arquata*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and wood warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*).

The majority of the records were sightings from within residential gardens in the Heywood area.

During the survey, woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and magpie (*Pica pica*) were identified within the site boundary. The site is anticipated to have potential for nesting birds, particularly within the treeline and hedgerow. The site is also assessed as having negligible value for ground nesting birds due to the limited area and the high level of disturbance from the nearby sports centre.

3.4.7. REPTILES

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any records of reptile within the 1 km search area.

The site was found to provide some value for reptiles, particularly within the dense scrub and tall ruderal. However, their presence on site is unlikely given the lack of records within the 1 km area. Furthermore, high levels of disturbance from human presence within the site, as well as fragmentation from surrounding habitat further reduce the site's suitability for reptile species.

3.4.8. INVERTEBRATES

The data search identified three notable invertebrate species within the search area, including cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*), small hatched (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and white-letter hairstreak (*Satyrus w-album*).

Overall, the presence of notable invertebrates within the site is reasonably discounted due to a lack of good quality habitat that would support notable invertebrates.



3.5. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any records of invasive species within the search area.

Field horsetail was identified during the site walkover, associated with the semi-improved grassland.



4. ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND MITIGATION

4.1. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Development proposals include the construction of a school building, with associated hardstanding car parks and sports pitches. A wildflower meadow and orchard are also proposed along the site's western boundary.

4.2. HABITATS

The site comprises habitats that were found to be widespread within the local area; however, they did contain value for wildlife such as bats, birds and terrestrial mammals. The hedgerow, treeline and dense scrub comprised the areas of highest value and offered the most habitat to species within the area. Effort should therefore be made to retain these habitats. However, based on current proposals a small section of hedgerow is to be removed- these should be replaced where possible, with native species including:

-  Hazel.
-  Hawthorn.
-  Rowan.
-  Elder.
-  Ash.

4.3. PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

4.3.1. AMPHIBIANS

The site may support small numbers of common amphibians within the semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal and dense scrub habitats on-site. It is recommended that during the clearance phase of works, any common amphibians encountered be moved by hand, away from construction activities.

4.3.2. BATS

The site was anticipated to provide foraging and commuting habitat for bats, particularly within the treeline, hedgerow and poor semi-improved grassland. Therefore, it is recommended that the proposed lighting plan considers the habitats of highest importance and maintains the retained treeline and hedgerow as dark areas. It is recommended that any security lighting during construction is appropriately placed to avoid being directed at retained habitats.

It is recommended that lighting is to be pre-fixed on the proposed buildings, located near retained habitats or proposed habitats, to minimise the impact of lighting. Lighting should follow the protocols outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document "Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting" (2005) and BCT's "Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK" (2018) to minimise disturbance and sky-glow off site.



It is recommended that any planting within the site be of native fruiting/flowering species in order to enhance the site for foraging bats post-completion. Bat boxes could be installed throughout the site post-construction to enhance the site for the species group.

4.3.3. BADGERS

No badger setts were located during the survey, though the habitats were identified as being suitable for the species. Badgers are highly mobile and can create new setts in a short period of time. It is recommended that an updated site walkover prior to the development is carried out to identify any new badger setts.

If a badger sett is located, a stand-off distance may be required as well as precautionary working methods. If the sett requires closure, a Natural England Badger Licence would be required. Please note that badger licences can only be obtained between July and November each year to avoid potential impact on pregnant females.

The following precautionary working methods will be adhered to during construction phase to ensure that no badgers within the local area are impacted by the proposed development:

- ✳ All site operatives will be inducted to the presence of the species and their working limits and legal responsibilities.
- ✳ All site operatives will be inducted as to identifying potential badger setts, and should be vigilant if they suspect they locate a new sett during works and inform the project ecologist immediately.
- ✳ All excavations will be battened at a 45 degree angle to allow escape should animals become trapped.
- ✳ All site machinery and materials will be appropriately stored to avoid harm to the species, notably between July and November each year when extra care is needed to avoid potential impacts on pregnant females.

It is not anticipated that the development will have a significant negative impact on badgers within the local area.

4.3.4. HEDGEHOGS

The site was assessed as providing suitable refuge and foraging habitat for hedgehog within the dense scrub, tall ruderal, scattered trees, treeline, and hedgerow, as well as suitable hibernation opportunities within the dense scrub, treeline and hedgerows.

Effort should be made to retain pre-existing habitat. Any scrub that requires clearance should be trimmed to 50 cm and checked for hedgehog prior to clearance to ground level. If any of the trees, hedgerow or treeline are removed, their bases should be checked, prior to removal, for sheltering hedgehogs. It is recommended that any vegetation clearance takes place outside of December-March to avoid impacting hibernating hedgehogs.



4.3.5. BREEDING BIRDS

The site was assessed as having value for common and notable birds within the treeline, hedgerow, scattered trees and dense scrub. The treeline, hedgerow and scattered trees are of highest value for the species group and it is recommended that these areas are retained and enhanced where possible.

It is recommended that should any vegetation require removal within the breeding bird season (March–September inclusive), that a suitably qualified ecologist inspect the area no more than 24 hours prior to the removal. Should any nests, or nests in construction be located, a suitable stand-off distance should be maintained until the young have fledged. The ecologist will advise on suitable stand off and provide a toolbox talk to all site contractors regarding their working limits and legal implications.

Post-development, bird boxes could be installed throughout the development to enhance the site's value for the species group.

4.4. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Field horsetail was identified during the survey and it is recommended that this eradicated due to the damage it can cause to areas of hardstanding. Field horsetail is not listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and therefore does not require removal legally .



5. FURTHER SURVEYS

No further surveys are required to inform a planning application.



6. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The scheme should strive to achieve a 10% in biodiversity net gain. In line with The Environment Act 2021, this will be a mandatory requirement from November 2023. Full details of this and a calculation of net gain could be finalised after detailed landscape plans have been prepared. It is recommended that an ecologist is consulted during the design stage to ensure, where possible, biodiversity net gain can be achieved. The following habitat measures will increase the on-site biodiversity:

-  Native Hedgerow Planting.
-  Native Scrub Planting.
-  Broadleaved Trees.
-  Wildflower Meadows.

Habitat measures should be provided within areas of open space or designated wildlife zones. A 30-year management plan should be produced to ensure biodiversity is secured on-site.



7. REFERENCES

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END OF REPORT



APPENDIX I

PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

Key:

— Site boundary

Dense scrub

Poor semi-improved grassland

Tall ruderal

Treeline

Hedgerow

Scattered trees

Field horsetail

Notes

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