



21A Hawkeridge, Westbury, Trowbridge, BA13 4LA

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal



September 2025

All Ecology Ltd

Tel: 01453 374109

Email: info@allecology.co.uk

Web: www.allecology.co.uk

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England and Wales Office

All Ecology Ltd,
Haw Street,
Coaley,
Dursley,
Gloucestershire,
GL11 5AY.

Scotland Office

All Ecology Ltd,
Achadh Nan Geadh,
Upper Kilchattan,
Colonsay,
PA61 7YR.

Tel: 01453 374109
Email: info@allecology.co.uk
Web: www.allecology.co.uk

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The results of the survey and assessment work undertaken by All Ecology are representative at the time of surveying.

Every endeavour has been made to identify the presence of protected species on site, where this falls within the agreed scope of works.

The flora and fauna detailed within this report are those noted during the field survey and from anecdotal evidence. It should not be viewed as a complete list of flora and fauna species that may frequent or exist on site at other times of the year.

Up to date standard methodologies have been used, which are accepted by Natural England and other statutory conservation bodies. No responsibility will be accepted where these methodologies fail to identify all species on-site.

All Ecology cannot take responsibility where Government, national bodies or industry subsequently modify standards.

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Reference to sections or particular paragraphs of this document taken out of context may lead to misrepresentation.

Summary

In June 2025, All Ecology was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of a site known as 21A Hawkeridge, Westbury, Trowbridge, BA13 4LA. The site comprises a residential dwelling, with an associated garden that extends towards the north, two sheds and a green house. There is an associated driveway to the east of the house. The site is enclosed by hedges and fencing.

The site is the subject of a planning application to permit the demolition of the house to erect six new residential dwellings with associated access, gardens and driveways.

The site is composed of common habitats that have moderate to no ecological value with the proposed works affecting only areas of hard standing and buildings.

Any impacts as a result of loss/changes to the remaining habitats are considered to be negligible.

The habitats on site have potential to support protected or notable species. The following species/groups are either present, potentially present, or could be encouraged onto the site and the recommended actions are as follows:

- Bats – The main building is of low suitability for roosting bats. Foraging activity is expected to be limited. A single dusk survey is required for the main building to determine presence/absence and details for consideration in terms of future use by bats are given e.g. lighting
- Birds – Nesting and foraging opportunities are present. The hedges will be retained but the removal of any trees, should be carried out outside of the nesting season unless a nesting bird survey confirms absence.

Details of suggested enhancements are given.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 In June 2025, All Ecology was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of a site known as 21A Hawkeridge, Westbury, Trowbridge, BA13 4LA. The site comprises a residential dwelling, with an associated garden that extends towards the north, two sheds and a green house. There is an associated driveway to the east of the house. The site is enclosed by hedges and fencing.
- 1.2 The site is the subject of a planning application to permit the demolition of the house to erect six new residential dwellings with associated access, gardens and driveways.

Objectives and Aim

- 1.3 The main objectives and aim of the survey were to identify features of ecological interest, undertake a basic search of habitats present for evidence of use, or potential use, by protected species, and to identify any other possible ecological constraints to the proposed redevelopment.

Site Location



Figure 1: Site location plan.

Aerial Photograph



Figure 2: Aerial view.

2.0 Methodology

Personnel

- 2.1 The survey was carried out by Jacob Richardson BSc Hons and the work was overseen by James Godbeer BSc Hons MCIEEM, an ecologist with over 18 years' experience working as a consultant. James has extensive experience of managing environmental contracts, and particular experience in surveying, assessment and mitigation for rare and protected species. He has considerable knowledge of the development and planning process including Ecological Impact Assessments, sustainable ecological design and he has completed ecology chapters of Environmental Statements. James holds a number of protected species licences including bats (all species, all counties, Class Licence Registration No. 2015-12313-CLS-CLS), and Great Crested Newts (Class Licence Registration No. 2019-44282-CLS-CLS). He has successfully obtained European Protected Species mitigation licences for a number of bat species including Lesser Horseshoe, Greater Horseshoe, Serotine, Brown Long-eared, Common Pipistrelle and Natterer's bats, for a number of roost types including maternity and hibernation sites.

Desk Survey

- 2.2 In order to compile background information on the site and immediate surroundings Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) was contacted.
- 2.3 Information requested was as follows:
- Statutory site designations on or within 1 km of the site.
 - Non-statutory site designations on or within 1 km of the site.
 - Records of protected species within the 1 km of the site.
 - Records of rare or notable species within the 1 km of the site.
- 2.4 Online OS maps and aerial photographs were inspected for the presence of ponds in the surrounding area. Additionally, MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside, 2025) was used to establish the distance and direction of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and species records within the search area.

Field Survey

Habitats

- 2.5 The site was visited on the 17th June 2025 and surveyed in accordance with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Phase I Habitat Survey methodology (JNCC, 2010). This technique provides an inventory of the basic habitat types present and allows identification of areas of greater potential that might warrant further study.
- 2.6 In addition to Phase I, UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methodology was also used to categorise and map the primary habitat types present within the survey area using a standard set of habitat categories, with associated secondary codes/features identified where applicable (UKHab Ltd, 2023). Details of current management and habitat condition have also been recorded where appropriate.

Fauna

- 2.7 The building was inspected externally and internally following the methodology set out in the Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 4th Ed (Collins, 2023).
- 2.8 The trees were assessed for their potential to support bat roosts by visually inspecting them from the ground using binoculars and high-powered torches where appropriate. Potential features such as holes, cavities or splits are then recorded and then inspected where possible for signs of bats, which include grease/urine stains, scratch marks, droppings or the bats themselves.
- 2.9 The site and surroundings, for a minimum distance of 30 m where access was available, were searched for signs of Badgers. These include setts, latrines, dung pits, snuffle marks or hairs caught in hedges or on fencing.
- 2.10 Incidental observations of invertebrates and birds were recorded and a search made for any signs of nesting.
- 2.11 Any refuges on site such as logs or other debris were lifted and inspected for reptiles and amphibians. There are no ponds on or within 500 m of the site.

Equipment

- 2.12 Equipment used to aid the survey included a high-powered torch, ladder, binoculars and a camera.

Valuation of Ecological Features

- 2.13 The valuation process used in this report follows the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2018).
- 2.14 The value of areas of habitat and plant communities has been measured against published criteria where available. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been searched to identify whether action has been taken to protect all areas of a particular habitat and to identify current factors causing loss and decline of particular habitats. The presence of injurious and legally controlled weeds has also been taken into account.
- 2.15 When assigning a level of value to a species, its distribution and status (including a consideration of trends based on available historic records) has been taken into account. Other factors influencing the value of a species are: legal protection, rarity and Species Action Plans (SAPs). Guidance, where it is available, for the identification of populations of sufficient size for them to be considered of national or international importance has also been taken into account.

Nomenclature

- 2.16 The English name only of flora and fauna species is given in the main text of this report; however, scientific names are used for invertebrates where no English name is available. Vascular plants and charophytes follow the nomenclature of The Botanical Society for the British Isles (BSBI) 2007 database (BSBI, 2007) with all other flora and fauna following the Nameserver facility of the

National Biodiversity Network Species Dictionary (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nbn/>), which is managed by the Natural History Museum.

Limitations

- 2.17 The site was fully accessible with no limitations to undertaking the survey in accordance with the stated methodology.

3.0 Results

Desk Survey

- 3.1 There are no statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site but it falls within the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon (BoA) Bat Special Area of Conservation (SAC) consultation zone.
- 3.2 There is one non-statutory sites within 1 km of the site:
- Round Wood, Heywood, a Local Wildlife Site (LWS), 790 m to the east of the site.
- 3.3 Round Wood, Heywood is an ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland on flat clayland. Most of the site is a Woodland Trust reserve, with a small area in the south used by a neighbouring equestrian centre. This site is well removed from the application site and there is no reasonable likelihood of any direct impacts arising as a result of the proposed minor development. I
- 3.4 WSBRC provided the following notable and protected species within 1 km of the site:
- **Amphibians** – Common Toad, Common Frog and Great Crested Newt.
 - **Mammals** – Otter, Badger, Barbastelle, Bat species, Serotine, Myotis species, Bechstein's Bat, Brandt's Bat, Daubenton's Bat, Whiskered Bat, Natterer's Bat, Nyctalus Bat species, Leisler's Bat, Noctule, Pipistrelle Bat species, Nathusius's Pipistrelle, Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Long-eared Bat species, Brown Long-eared Bat species, Horseshoe Bat species, Greater Horseshoe Bat species, Lesser Horseshoe Bat species, Hedgehog, Rabbit, and Water Vole.
 - **Birds** – Sparrowhawk, Red Kite, Mallard, Greylag Goose, Pochard, Shoveler, Garganey, Swift, Common Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull, Snipe, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Lapwing, Great White Egret, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Kingfisher, Cuckoo, Merlin, Peregrine, Kestrel, Great Northern Diver, Coot, Moorhen, Crane, Sedge Warbler, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Greenfinch, Rook, Whitethroat, House Martin, Yellowhammer, Nightingale, Grey Wagtail, Spotted Flycatcher, House Sparrow, Yellow-browed Warbler, Willow Warbler, Marsh Tit, Dunnock, Bullfinch, Starling, Wren, Redwing, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, and Barn Owl.
 - **Reptiles** – Slow-worm, Grass Snake, Adder and Common Lizard.
 - **Flora** – Scots Pine, Knotted Hedge-parsley, Bluebell, Nodding Bur-marigold, Great Lettuce, Cotton Thistle, Perennial Wall-rocket, Smith's Pepperwort, Fiddle Dock, Annual Knawel, *Silene gallica* var. *gallica*, Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil, Spotted Medick, Sainfoin, Cut-leaved Dead-nettle, Weasel's-snout, Buck's-horn Plantain, Broad-leaved Spurge, Tutsan, Smooth Brome, Pale Sedge, Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass, Spreading Meadow-grass, Rat's-tail Fescue, Yellow-juiced Poppy, Corn Buttercup, Small-flowered Buttercup, and Slate Bolete.
 - **Insect** – *Tachys bistriatus*, *Phytoecia cylindrica*, Wood White, Golden-haired Robberfly, Sharp-collared Furrow Bee and Brown Tree Ant.

Field Survey

3.5 The following table presents a description of the habitats present.

Table 1: Details of habitats present on and bordering the site.

Habitats	Description
Buildings	u1b5: Buildings. There is an existing residential dwelling, two sheds and a greenhouse. Further details regarding the residential dwellings suitability for bats are mentioned below.
Hard standing	u1b: Developed land; sealed surface. The existing house is surrounded by patio and there is a driveway to the east.
Improved grassland	g4: Modified grassland. There majority of the site is formed of grassland. The grassland that makes up the majority of this garden is short lawn dominated by Yorkshire Fog, with abundant White Clover, frequent occurrences of Creeping Cinquefoil, Common Nettle, Common Selfheal and Perennial Rye-grass, with occasional occurrences of Creeping Buttercup and Annual Meadowgrass, and rare occurrences of Daisy, Ragwort and Cock's-foot. There is an area of grassland along the north boundary of the site with a longer sward length dominated by Yorkshire Fog, abundant Creeping Buttercup, Frequent Fescue sp. and Bramble ag., occasional occurrences of Annual Meadow-grass, Perennial Rye-grass, Creeping Cinquefoil and Selfheal, and rare occurrences of Bristly Oxtongue, Common Ragwort, and Cow Parsley. There is an area of grassland to the north west of the site dominated by White clover, with abundant Yorkshire Fog, Frequent Daisy, Creeping Buttercup and Selfheal, and rare Perennial Rye-grass. There is an area of garden towards the north boundary that contains overgrown grassland and Common Nettle.
Introduced shrubs	BNG1160: Introduced shrub There are very narrow strips of introduced shrubs surrounding the house that make up part of the garden.
Species-rich hedge with trees	h2a5-11: Species-rich hedgerow with trees. The north boundary is formed by Leyland Cypress for the west portion, with Bramble, Ash, Wil Privet, Willow, Pedunculate Oak, Elder and Box forming the remainder. The east boundary is formed by Pedunculate Oak, Elder, Blackthorn, Bramble, Walnut, Cherry Plum, Wild Privet, Snowberry and Hawthorn.
Species-poor hedge	h2a: Native hedgerow.

	The south boundary hedge is formed by Wild Privet, Ivy, Hawthorn, Honeysuckle and Bramble. The west boundary hedge in the north is formed by Leyland Cypress and Wild Privet.
Species-poor hedge with trees	h2a-11: Native hedgerow and trees The south west boundary hedge is formed by Leyland Cypress, Spotted-laurel, Ivy, Wild Privet, Sycamore, Bramble, Yew with a Pedunculate Oak tree.
Individual trees	The garden has a variety of native trees, including Pedunculate Oak, Silver Birch, Walnut, Wild Cherry, Apple, Pear and Ash.



1: North elevation of the house.



2: South elevation of the house and garage.



3: North and east elevation of the house and garage.



4: South and west elevation of the house.



5: South elevation of the house.



6: Front garden.



7: Front garden.



8: South facing view of the garden.



9: North facing view of the garden.



10: Area of garden to the northwest of the site.



11: West boundary hedge with trees.



12: North boundary hedge with trees (conifer portion).



13: West boundary hedge with trees.



14: East boundary hedge with trees.



15: South boundary hedge.



16: View of the north boundary hedge with trees.



17: Hedge along the west of the north west area.



18: View of the hedges in the north west area.



19: Grassland to the north of the site.



19: Introduced shrubs to the west of the house.



20: Introduced shrubs to the front (south) of the house.



21: Area of garden with overgrown grass and Common Nettle.

Table 2: Details of habitats in relation to foraging and commuting bats.

Habitats	Description
Immediate surroundings	The site is surrounded by further housing with associated gardens to the west, south and east, and a field to the north.
Connectivity	The hedges along the boundaries connect to adjacent gardens and the field to the north.

Wider Landscape	The wider landscape contains grass fields, arable land and areas of woodland to the north.
Potential for presence on site and site value	The site contains the main building, two sheds and a greenhouse, vegetated garden and individual trees. There are hedges along all of the site boundaries. The boundary hedges and mature trees all provide habitats for invertebrates and it is expected that common species of bats will forage over the site. Overall, common bats are likely to forage and commute over the site but it is relatively small and unlikely to be a significant resource, with any significant value of the site for bats associated with any potential for roosting.

3.6 The following table presents a description of the buildings in terms of their general characteristics, and their potential for roosting bats.

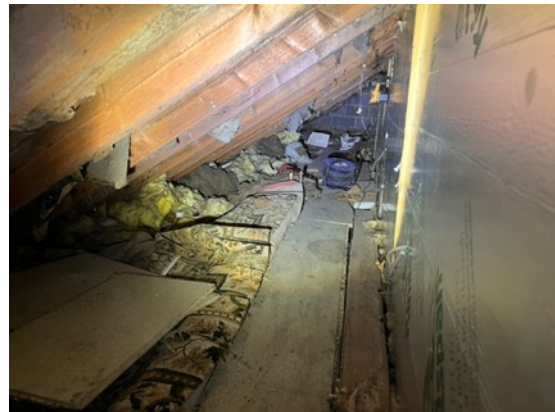
Table 3: Building description and details in relation to its potential for roosting bats.

Building 1	Description
External	General: Two-storey house (first floor set within the roof void) with an attached garage. Roof: The roof is a double Roman tile cross gable end roof with an additional lowered gable end over the garage. The west elevation features a hip-end roof. On the south elevation, there are three dormer windows: one at ground floor level and two on the second storey. There is one red brick chimney stack emerging from the main roof, and another chimney stack is attached to the north extension of the building. Walls: Red brick walls with cavity construction. Cladding: Tile cladding on the ground floor dormer window. Verges: Mortar verges with plastic bargeboards. Eaves: Plastic fascia boards and soffits.
Internal	General: Maintained but currently unoccupied. Enclosed/Separate Roof Voids: There are two interconnected roof voids: one wraps around the eaves of the house, and the other is located beneath the north-facing gable end roof. The north-facing roof void is approximately 6 m long, 0.6 m high, and 2 m wide. The roof void surrounding the eaves is approximately 0.6 m high, 1.5 m wide, and up to 15 m long at its longest point. There is an additional roof void above the garage that is approximately 6 m long, 5 m and 2 m high. Roof Structure: Traditional cut roof, with timber rafters, purlins and joists and a central ridge board in the north facing roof void. There are timber struts at the south end of the north facing roof void. The roof void above the garage is a timber framed roof with rafters, purlins, struts and a ridge board. Roof Lining: Bitumen felt. Insulation: Partially insulated with mineral wool on the floor.

	Other e.g. Water Tanks, Boilers, AC Units: None.
Potential access points	There are many gaps in the roof lining that leave the roof voids exposed. There are many gaps in the roof, including under the tiles, in the mortar along the verges, and between the soffits and walls. There are also some small gaps between the cladding and the walls on the ground floor dormer window.
Potential roosting features	The potential access points above could potentially lead to voids within the fabric of the building e.g. voids under tiles, Gaps in the mortar. The main roof void is low and not suited to species that typically roost in open roof voids; there are no access points for horseshoe bats. No evidence of bats was found. The garage roof void is higher than the house roof void but is well sealed.
Evaluation	No evidence of bats using any of the roof spaces; therefore, bats are likely absent from the interior. No evidence of bats using external gaps under roof tiles and in the eaves were noted but such evidence may not persist and is often not evident even for larger roosts. Taking into account the number and nature of potential roosting features, but an absence of any evidence of use, any potential for bat roosts is likely to be low.



22: West facing view of the roof space on the north side of the eaves.



23: East facing internal view of the roof space on the north side of the eaves.



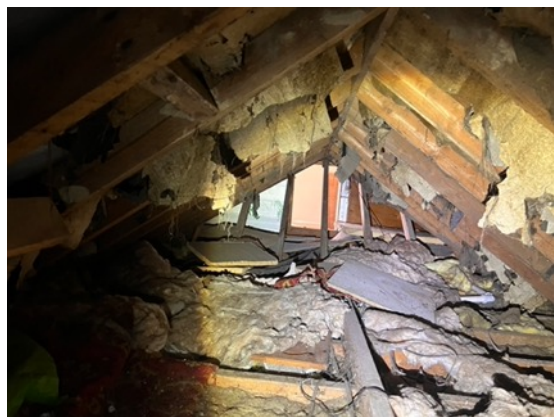
24: South facing view of the roof space on the west side of the eaves.



25: East facing view of the roof space on the south side of the eaves.



26: Roof void to the north of the house.



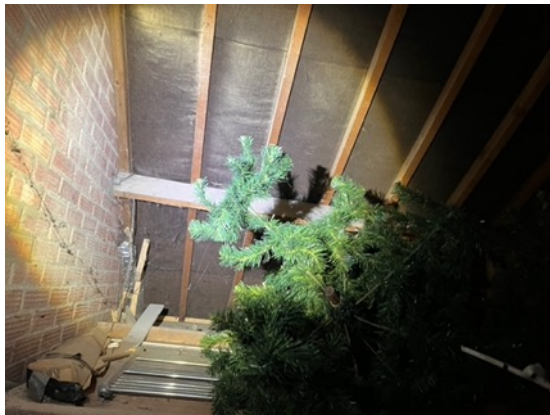
27: Roof void to the north of the house.



28: Evidence of previous bird nests.



29: Roof void above garage.



30: Roof void above garage.



31: View of the garage.



32: Damaged barge board.



33: Gap in the fascia board.



34: Gaps under tiles on the north elevation.



35: Gaps under tiles on south elevation.



36: Gaps between the wall and soffit box on the west elevation.



37: Gaps under tiles on the verges on the east facing gable end.

- 3.7 The remaining buildings onsite are shed structures that are either well-sealed with no accessible entry points, or are dilapidated and generally unsuitable for bats. Due to their construction, these buildings lack roof spaces and suitable roosting features, making them unsuitable for bats.



38: Corrugated roof shed building in the north west area of the site.



39: Corrugated roof shed building in the north west area of the site.



40: Dilapidated shed towards the north of the site.



41: Shed adjacent to the main house.

Fauna

3.8 The following table assesses the potential for protected species to be present.

Table 4: Protected Species Assessment

Fauna	Description
Bats	Records: WSBRC provided multiple records of bats within 1 km of the site, including: Barbastelle, unidentified Bat, Serotine, Myotis Bat species, Bechstein's Bat, Brandt's Bat, Daubenton's Bat, Whiskered Bat, Natterer's Bat, Nyctalus Bat Species, Leisler's Bat, Noctule, Pipistrelle Bat species, Nathusius's Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Long-eared Bat species, Brown Long-eared Bat, Greater Horseshoe Bat and Lesser Horseshoe Bat. Habitats (roosting): The building is has low potential for roosting. None of the trees on site have any potential roosting features for bats. Habitats (foraging/commuting): The garden itself provides sub-optimal foraging habitat and the majority of bat activity on site is expected to be confined to boundary hedgerows and mature trees. Boundary hedgerows and trees may also be utilised by commuting bats, particularly by any bats roosting in the nearby area.
Badgers	Records: WSBRC provided seven records of badger between 2004 - 2016 within 1 km of the site. Habitats: Garden provides minimal foraging habitat. No evidence or presence of setts recorded. Presence/absence: Badgers will be generally absent from the site. Badgers will be generally absent with potential currently limited to passing individual Badgers.
Dormice	Records: WSBRC did not provide any records of Dormice within 1 km of the site. Habitats: Hedgerows on the north and east boundaries of the site provide suitable habitat for Dormice including various native hedge species that provide a range of foraging opportunities at various times of the year. However, the hedgerows on site are not well connected to any further hedgerows in the wider area. Presence/absence: Absent from the site on account of the site's residential nature and general isolation from other suitable habitats.

Otters and Water Voles	Records: WSBRC provided one record of Otter in 2004 and two records of Water Vole between 1986 - 1998 within 1 km of the site. Habitats: None present on site. Presence/absence: Absent.
Other Mammals	Records: WSBRC provided 20 records of Rabbit (1979 – 2007) and 12 records of Hedgehog (1978 – 2019) within 1 km of the site. Habitats: The site provides habitats for small mammals in grassland and boundary hedgerows. Presence/absence: No evidence of presence. Small mammals will be present but notable species e.g. Hedgehogs will be generally absent although they could pass through or be present at times.
Birds	Records: WSBRC provided multiple species records including red/amber listed species within 1 km of the site. Foraging Habitats: Mostly poor-quality foraging habitats, with the boundary hedges and trees being the most suitable habitats for foraging. Nesting Habitats: The interiors of the buildings provide limited potential for nesting. The hedges and trees provide suitable nesting opportunities. Presence/absence: There was evidence of previous nesting in the roof space of the house. Birds may nest in the trees, hedges and buildings in future depending on use and state of repair at the time.
Reptiles	Records: WSBRC provided 25 records of Slow-worm (2002 – 2016), seven records of Grass Snake (1984 – 2007), two records of Adder (1984 – 2007), and twelve records of Common Lizard (1984 – 2015) all within 1 km of the site. Habitats: The open areas of hard standing and grass while being suitable for open basking, are not associated with any areas of cover except the hedges with little ground flora. The site is therefore generally unsuitable for reptiles. Presence/absence: Absent.
Amphibian	Records: WSBRC provided seven records of Common Toad (2013), eleven records of Common Frog (2002 – 2018) and one record of Great Crested Newt in 1979, all within 1 km of the site. Terrestrial Habitats: The majority of the site is vegetated garden. The bordering hedges provide some cover, but overall, the habitats on site are poor for amphibians. Aquatic Habitats: None Presence/absence: The habitats on site are poor with only the hedges providing any cover. Given the lack of ponds in the surrounding and the limited habitats on site, Great Crested Newts are likely to be absent.
Invertebrates	Records: WSBRC provided several records of notable and protected invertebrates within 1 km of the site.

	Habitats: Buildings and hard standing are poor habitats and hedges bordering the site are common habitats. Presence/absence: Common assemblages of invertebrates are expected to be present but the potential for notable species to be present is negligible.
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4.0 Development Constraints and Recommendations

Development Proposals

- 4.1 The site is the subject of a planning application to permit the demolition of the house to erect six new residential dwellings with associated access, gardens and driveways.

Habitats

- 4.2 The NERC Priority Habitats include all hedgerows with at least 80% cover of at least one woody UK native species (JNCC, 2019). The native hedges had at least 80% cover of native species and as such qualify as NERC Priority Habitats. These will all be retained.
- 4.3 The grassland on site was identified as improved grassland (modified grassland). In order to qualify as a NERC Priority Habitat, grassland typically has to be unimproved (good semi-improved grassland can also qualify) and would have to be examples of grasslands such as lowland calcareous grassland or lowland dry acid grassland, habitats not present on site.
- 4.4 The remaining habitats on site are common, of low to moderate ecological value and easy to replace. Any impacts as a result of loss/changes to these habitats in terms of their vegetation alone are considered to be negligible.
- 4.5 Where new areas of habitat are to be created, consideration should be given to the seeding of these areas using appropriate seed mixes. Where possible these seeds should be locally sourced to support the genetic integrity of local wild plant populations. Where new trees or shrubs are to be planted, native tree and shrub species should be used as these are most beneficial to invertebrates, and many also produce seeds, nuts and berries that are food for native mammals and birds. Planting of non-native plant species should be limited to those that are not invasive and should prioritise those that provide a good source of nectar for invertebrates.

Fauna

Bats

- 4.6 The site falls within the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon (BoA) Bat Special Area of Conservation (SAC) consultation zone. However, the site itself does not contain any woodland or priority habitats typically associated with bat foraging or roosting. The existing habitats are all common garden habitats, and the boundary hedgerows have limited connectivity to the wider landscape.

Table 5: Impact Assessment.

Building	Impact Assessment
Building 1	Roost damage/destruction: Demolition of the building resulting in the permanent loss of roosting features. The building provides potential for roosts in features that could not be fully inspected. Presence/absence not determined. Impact unknown. Roost modification: N/A. Building will be demolished.

	Roost disturbance: Potential for disturbing bats, if present when the works take place, through noise and vibration, causing them to fly during the day making them vulnerable to predation. Effect on foraging/commuting: Temporary/permanent disruption of areas of low bat foraging and commuting habitat through removal of the grassland and hedgerows. Impact unknown but likely to be low and mitigation possible.
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Further Surveys

- 4.7 Where a building contains evidence of bats or cannot fully be inspected or the presence of bats entirely ruled out, and the proposed works could impact on known roosts or potential roosting features, the building should be subject to presence/absence/roost characterisation surveys, which take the form of dusk emergence surveys with the use of night vision aids as described in the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition. If all areas (including voids, cracks and crevices) of a structure have been inspected and no evidence found (and is unlikely to have been removed by weather or cleaning or be hidden, then further surveys are not appropriate (Collins, 2023).
- 4.8 The recommended minimum number of survey visits to give confidence in a negative result and their timings are presented in the table below.

Table 6: General presence/absence survey specification for structures.

Roost Suitability	Survey Specification
Negligible	No further surveys required.
Low	Number of Survey Visits: One survey visit. One dusk emergence survey. Timing: May to August.
Moderate	Number of Survey Visits: Two survey visits. Two dusk emergence surveys. Timing: May to September with a least one of the surveys between May and August. Surveys should be at least two weeks apart.
High	Number of Survey Visits: Three survey visits. Three dusk emergence surveys. Timing: May to September with a least two of the surveys between May and August. Surveys should be at least two weeks apart.
	Dusk Survey Times: Start at 30 minutes* before sunset and end at 1.5 – 2 hours after sunset. Dawn Survey Times: Start at 1.5 – 2 hours before sunrise and end at 15 minutes after sunrise *Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines state that dusk surveys should begin 15 minutes before sunset but repeated/the start times of subsequent surveys adjusted if bats are already in flight. 30 minutes is therefore specified to

	reduce the risk of having to repeat a survey as species such as pipistrelles will often emerge well before sunset.
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Table 7: Required presence/absence surveys for the structures on site.

Building	Further Surveys
House	Number of Surveys (dusk emergence): This building was assessed as having low suitability for bat roosts and as such should be subject to a single dusk survey to give confidence in a negative result. Required Number of Surveyors: 4.

- 4.9 In general the development should include a suitable lighting design. Measures should include the use of lighting only where absolutely necessary utilising highly directional warm white LED lighting, an example being down spots at 2.5 m high using warm white (2700 K) 8W LED lamps, 550 lumens, 35 degree beam angle. These could be individually activated by PIR sensors on a 1 minute cut off to further reduce their impacts. These will assist in lighting only the areas where lighting is required and minimising light spill either directly or through reflected light.
- 4.10 Details of mitigation/enhancement features for bats to be detailed following the necessary further survey visits.

Badgers and other mammals

- 4.11 Badgers will be generally absent with potential currently limited to passing individual Badgers. Hedgehogs and small mammals could also be present at times. As a precaution it is recommended that during the construction phase of the project any trenches and other excavations are back-filled before nightfall or a ramp left to allow animals to easily exit, and any open pipes larger than 150 mm should be capped off overnight.

Birds

- 4.12 The site provides foraging habitat in general with hedges and trees, and also provides nesting habitats. There was evidence of previous nesting in the roof space and birds could also nest in the future. Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments). The demolition of the buildings and removal of shrubs, trees, and the section of the hedge, and on-going hedge, tree, and scrub maintenance should take place outside the nesting season of March to August. Where this is not possible these habitats would need to be surveyed for nesting birds prior to works taking place.
- 4.13 The proposed creation of the residential dwelling should include enhancements for nesting and foraging birds to generally enhance the site. It is recommended that any new planting on site should concentrate on species that are native to the area and ideally produce a range of seeds and berries at varying times of the year. Nectar rich plants could also be used encourage invertebrates on to the site, which in turn provide food for birds as well as other species such as bats.
- 4.14 The following options could be explored for inclusion on the north to east sides of the new residential dwellings:

- Nest boxes for Swifts could be incorporated into the eaves. These not only provide nesting sites for Swifts but can also be used by other species such as House Sparrows and Starlings.
- House Martin nests could be provided under the eaves or on the north to east sides of the building.
- Individual boxes, such as the Schwegler Bird Home 1MR, could also be installed at a height of at least 2 m.
- Groups of multiple small bird boxes could also be installed at a height of least 2 m to provide nesting sites for birds such as House Sparrows.

Invertebrates

- 4.15 The habitats on site are poor but will support a limited variety of common invertebrate species; however, potential for more notable species is negligible. Enhancement for invertebrates is advised by creating invertebrate homes for pollinators and dead wood piles in boundary borders.

5.0 References

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