

**LAND AT ROMSEY ROAD,  
WHITEPARISH, WILTSHIRE**

**UPDATING WALKOVER SUMMARY REPORT**

**Final Document**

December 2025

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Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Protected Species Surveys and Licensing • NVC • EclA • HRA • Management Plans  
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Hazel Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species

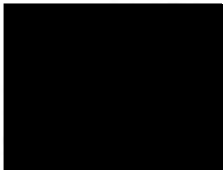
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## ECOSA Quality Assurance Record

This report has been produced in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing 2017 (CIEEM, 2017).

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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WILSHIRE**

**UPDATING WALKOVER SUMMARY REPORT**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been appointed by Bargate Homes Ltd. to prepare a report to summarise the ecological status of land at Romsey Road, Whiteparish Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 2SD (**Map 1**) (hereafter referred to as the site).

In 2019 All Ecology carried out an ecological appraisal at the site which found that the site comprised largely common and widespread habitats with the most notable habitat within the context of the site being Habitat of Principal Importance; native hedgerow with trees along the northeast site boundary. The ecological appraisal found that the site had suitability to support foraging/commuting bats and roosting bats within a mature pedunculate oak tree within the northeast site boundary hedgerow. The site was also assessed as offering suitability to support resident badger, European hedgehog, nesting birds including ground nesting species, reptiles and terrestrial great crested newt (All Ecology Ltd, 2022). Recommendations and mitigation measures were detailed within the appraisal which included sensitive timings and working methods in addition to ecological supervision of vegetation removal and supervised topsoil stripping.

Subsequently, bat activity surveys were undertaken at the site in 2020. At least six common and widespread species were recorded throughout the survey work, with activity largely being dominated by common pipistrelle. It was concluded that the north-east boundary hedgerow experienced the highest levels of bat activity relative to the context of the site, however these activity levels were assessed as being low overall. Relevant recommendations were made including for the retention of boundary habitats, woodland creation, sensitive lighting and provision of bat roosting features within the proposals (All Ecology Ltd., 2020).

Outline planning permission for the proposals was granted by Wiltshire Council on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (planning application reference PL/2022/09532) with Conditions 11, 12 and 13 raised in relation to ecology at the site. Separate documents will be produced in order to discharge these conditions as part of any forthcoming Reserved Matters Application.

### **1.2 The Site**

The site is located in Whiteparish, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 25248 23643 (**Map 1**) and comprises an agricultural field with associated boundary features.

The site is bounded by the A27/Romsey Road to the northeast, agricultural fields to the east, south and west and neighbouring residential development to the northwest.

The wider landscape comprises largely agricultural land, with woodland blocks including Bushy Copse to the south and Whiteparish village centre to the west of the site. A tributary of the River Blackwater flows laterally approximately 0.7 kilometres to the south of the site at its closest point.

### **1.3 Aims and Scope of Report**

This report has been prepared to in order to provide an updated baseline assessment in respect of the habitats on site and suitability to support protected species. It makes any recommendations for changes to the approach previously set out in the outline planning application in respect of ecology.

### **1.4 Site Proposals**

The proposals for the site entail the construction of up to 25 residential dwellings with associated access and greenspace.

The report makes reference to the Landscaping Proposals prepared by LVIA Ltd (Drawing No. BAR1528-11) (**Appendix 1**).

## **2.0 UPDATING WALKOVER SURVEY**

### **2.1 Survey Methods**

An updating appraisal of the site's suitability to support legally protected and notable species was carried out in order to identify any material changes in the site baseline. Specific methods for species/species groups considered during the appraisal are provided in **Appendix 2**.

### **2.2 Survey Details**

The updating walkover survey was carried out by Megan Woolley, Ecologist of ECOSA on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The weather conditions during the survey were dry with an ambient temperature of 15° Celsius with no wind.

### **2.3 Survey Limitations**

An attempt was made to assess the previously identified disused badger sett, however it was not possible to locate the sett due to the presence of dense scrub. No other badger activity was identified at the site as an incidental record during the updating walkover survey. There were no other limitations experienced during the updating walkover survey.

### 3.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 3.1 Updating Walkover Survey Results

In 2019 and 2022, All Ecology assessed the habitats on site as comprising poor semi-improved grassland, dense scrub, scattered scrub, standard trees, native species-rich hedgerow and trees and fence (All Ecology Ltd, 2022). The previous ecological appraisal found that the site had suitability to support foraging/commuting bats and roosting bats within a mature pedunculate oak tree within the northeast site boundary hedgerow. The site was also assessed as offering suitability to support resident badger, European hedgehog, nesting birds including ground nesting species, reptiles and terrestrial great crested newt (All Ecology Ltd, 2022). Subsequently, bat activity surveys were undertaken at the site in 2020. At least six common and widespread species were recorded throughout the survey work, with activity largely being dominated by common pipistrelle. It was concluded that the north-east boundary hedgerow experienced the highest levels of bat activity relative to the context of the site, however these activity levels were assessed as being low overall. Relevant recommendations were made including for the retention of boundary habitats, woodland creation, sensitive lighting and provision of bat roosting features within the proposals (All Ecology Ltd., 2020).



**Figure 1:** Semi-improved grassland with dense scrub in the centre of the field.



**Figure 2:** Semi-improved grassland with dense scrub and fence.



**Figure 3:** Semi-improved grassland field and hedgerow.



**Figure 4:** Species-rich hedgerow with trees along the north-east boundary.

During the updating walkover survey, the site was found to support the same habitat types as previously described (**Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4**) and offer the same suitability for protected species as previously recorded. As such, the contents of the previous ecology reports remains relevant.

### 3.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

The site remains unchanged since the previous ecological survey work was carried out at the site and therefore previous recommendations remain relevant (All Ecology Ltd., 2020) (All Ecology Ltd, 2022).

The recommendations made by All Ecology (All Ecology Ltd, 2022) include:

- The oak tree which supports potential bat roost features on the north-east site boundary will be retained and protected throughout the development. Sensitive lighting will be implemented at the site which will avoid illuminating vegetated site boundaries.
- Vegetation removal will be carried out outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive). Where this is not possible, an ecologist will carry out a nesting bird check prior to clearance works. Where nests are encountered, a 5-10 metre buffer will be retained around the nest(s) until the chicks have fledged and the nest has become naturally inactive.
- The grassland within the site should continue to be regularly managed. Clearance of grassland will be carried out in two stages during the reptile active season (April to September inclusive, weather dependent). The first stage entails the site being strimmed to ground level using hand tools with all arisings removed. Following the first stage, the topsoil will be stripped and any excavations left overnight will be covered or alternatively graded edges will be created in order to prevent wildlife from becoming trapped overnight.
- Precautionary measures are recommended in respect of terrestrial great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. Vegetation removal and topsoil stripping will be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist. Should great crested newt be encountered, works will cease and ecological input will be sought. Clearance works should be carried out during daylight hours and between April to June when newts are most likely to be in breeding ponds. All Ecology's recommended window has been adjusted to make it in line with the reptile active season. Any arisings would be removed from site immediately to avoid creating refugia.

Additional recommendations made by ECOSA are:

- It is recommended that an updating badger walkover survey is carried out no more than six months prior to works commencing at the site.

## **4.0 REFERENCES**

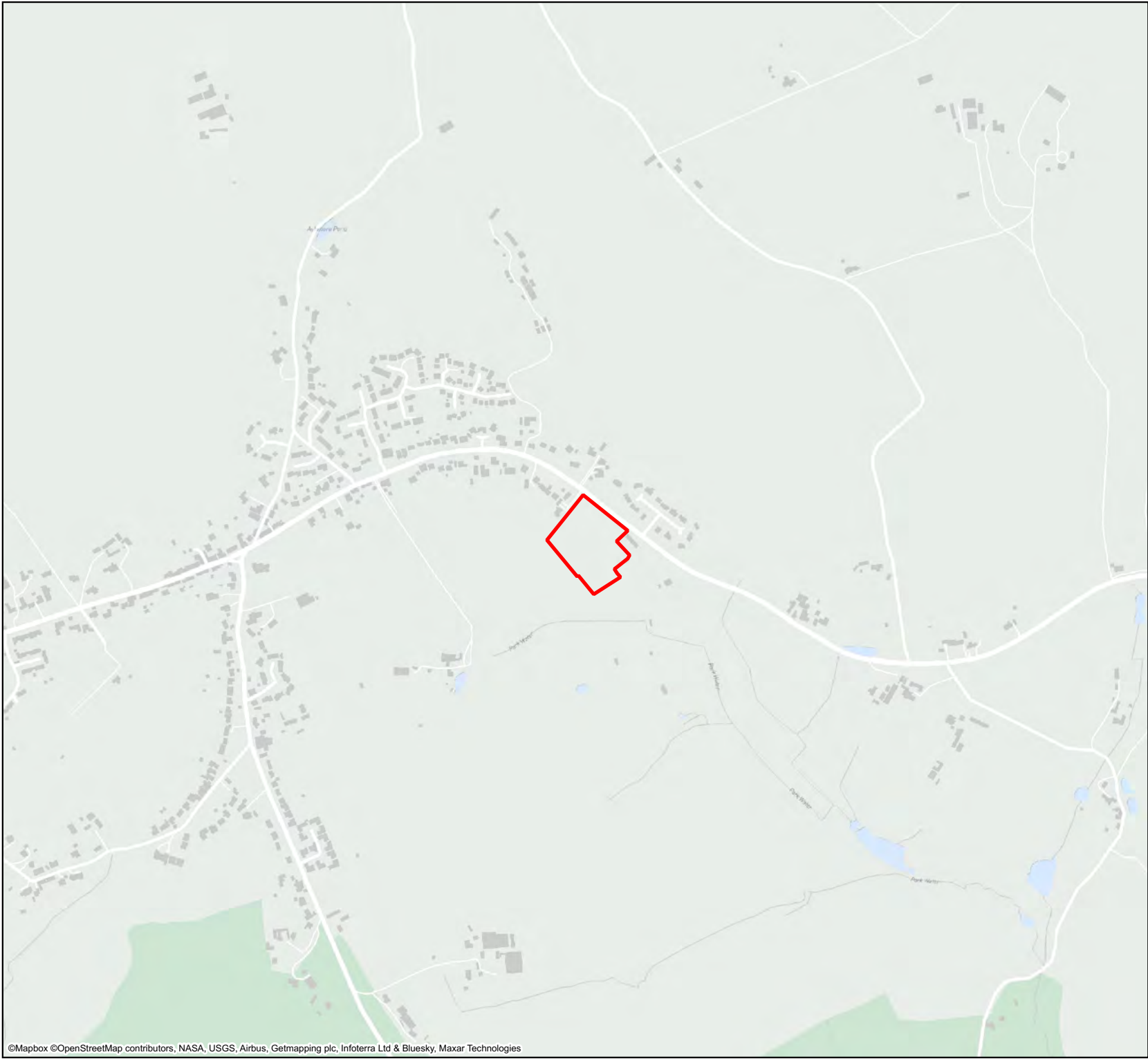
All Ecology Ltd., 2020. *Land at Romsey Road, Whiteparish, Wiltshire - Bat Activity Survey*, Dursley: All Ecology Ltd..

All Ecology Ltd, 2022. *Land at Romsey Road, Whiteparish, Wiltshire Ecological Appraisal*, Dursley: All Ecology Ltd.

CIEEM, 2017. *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*. 2nd ed. Winchester: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Collins, J., 2023. *Bat surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*. 4th ed. London: Bat Conservation Trust.

**Map 1**      Site Location Plan



**LAND AT ROMSEY ROAD,  
WHITEPARISH, SALISBURY**

UPDATING WALKOVER SUMMARY REPORT

Map 1 - Site Location Plan

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| Client: | Bargate Homes Ltd |
| Date:   | December 2025     |
| Status: | Final             |

**KEY**

 Site Boundary



Scale at A4 1:10,000  
0 100 200 300 400 m



|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Prepared by: KM     | Date: 240125 |
| Last amended by: RC | Date: 121225 |



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## **Appendix 1**    Landscaping Proposals



### Legend

Existing trees and vegetation to be retained and protected during construction

Proposed tree planting locations within soft landscape. Fruiting and ornamental tree species to be located within curtilage and native species in open spaces such as mountain ash, crab apple and bird cherry

Proposed mixed shrub planting area receive 75mm bark mulch after planting operations. Species to be planted in groups of 5-7.

Proposed shrub planting to receive 75mm bark mulch after planting operations

Proposed ornamental species hedge planting

Proposed mixed native species planting. Species to be planted in groups of 5-7 to strengthen existing hedgerows and treelines.

Proposed grassland areas, to be seeded with A4 Low Maintenance Areas grass seed mix as supplied by Germinal and sown at 35g/m2, or similar

Proposed area to be seeded with RE1 Traditional Hay Meadow mix as supplied by Germinal and sown at 5g/m2, or similar

Proposed natural area to be seeded RE3 - River Floodplain/Water Meadow as supplied by Germinal and sown at 5 grams per msq or similar

Proposed area to be seeded with WFG18 Butterfly and Honeybee mix as supplied by Germinal and sown at 5g/m2, or similar

Proposed bulb planting to be planted as specified in line with good horticultural practices

Proposed marginal areas to be planted in line with best horticultural practice with species planted in groups of 5-7

Climbing Shrub planting to receive 75mm bark mulch after planting operations. To be trained on a trellis or similar

Rear garden areas

Pea gravel laid in line with engineers specification

NOTES:  
Do not scale from drawing  
Not for construction, for planning purposes only

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|     |          |                |       |
|-----|----------|----------------|-------|
| F   | 08.10.25 | Layout changes | JPF   |
| Rev | Date     | Details        | Drawn |

**Scheme:** Romsey Road, Whiteparish

**Client:** Bargate Homes

**Drawing:** Landscape Concept Proposals

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Drawing no:</b> BAR1528-11 | <b>Date:</b> September 2025 |
|                               | <b>Scale:</b> 1:250@A1      |
| <b>Drawn:</b> SC              | <b>Checked:</b> JPF         |

Indicative Planting Schedule

| Trees | Species Name                   | Girth   | Height    | Density | Specification                          |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------------------------------------|
|       | Acer campestre                 | 12-14cm | 300-350cm | Counted | Standard RB                            |
|       | Acer campestre 'Elsrijk'       | 12-14cm | 300-350cm | Counted | Heavy Standard Clear Stem 150-175cm RB |
|       | Amelanchier lamarckii          | 12-14cm | 250-300cm | Counted | Standard Clear Stem 125-150cm RB       |
|       | Betula pubescens               | 12-14cm | 250-300cm | Counted | Standard RB                            |
|       | Liquidambar styraciflua 'Paai' | 12-14cm | 250-300cm | Counted | Heavy Standard Clear Stem 150-175cm RB |
|       | Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer' | 12-14cm | 200-250cm | Counted | Standard Clear Stem min 150cm RB       |
|       | Quercus robur                  | 12-14cm | 250-300cm | Counted | Standard RB                            |
|       | Sorbus aria                    | 8-10cm  | 150-200cm | Counted | Feather RB                             |
|       | Sorbus terminalis              | 12-14cm | 200-250cm | Counted | Standard Clear Stem min 150cm RB       |

## **Appendix 2** Protected and Notable Species Appraisal Methods

### **Bats**

The survey conformed to current Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Collins, 2023). An assessment was made of the suitability of buildings on the site and immediately on the site boundary to support roosting bats based on the presence of features such as loose or missing roof tiles or lifted lead flashing for buildings. A detailed external and internal inspection of accessible structures was undertaken to compile information on potential and actual bat entry/exit points; potential and actual bat roosting locations; any evidence of bats found.

An assessment was made of the suitability of the site and the surrounding landscape to support foraging and/or commuting bat species. The assessment of the potential for the site to support roosting, foraging and commuting bat is based on a four-point scale as detailed in **Appendix 3**.

### **Otter**

The otter appraisal was based on an assessment of the suitability of the habitat present within the site to support otter by reference to habitat type (such as rivers, streams, ditches, wetlands, reed beds, lakes, ponds and reservoirs), proximity of the site to freshwater and potential important feeding resources (such as fisheries), presence of habitat features which could provide opportunities for resting places and/or holts (such as tunnels, hollows at the base of trees and presence of dense, undisturbed habitat). During the survey attention was paid to the presence of evidence such as spraints, feeding remains, footprints and slides.

### **Badger**

The survey involved a detailed investigation of the site to identify evidence of badger residence, foraging or territorial activity. Particular emphasis was placed on locating badger setts, paths, and signs of territorial activity such as latrine sites both on-site and within immediately adjacent areas where access was possible.

### **Hazel Dormouse**

The appraisal for the potential of the site to support dormouse was based on an assessment of habitat features that may indicate that the species is present. This includes the presence of key food sources such as hazel and bramble, or plants used as nesting material such as honeysuckle and clematis. Additionally, the species requires a continuum of food supply so that habitat structure, diversity and connectivity to adjacent areas of woodland/scrub are important features in determining the potential presence of hazel dormouse.

### **Water Vole**

The water vole appraisal was based on an assessment of the suitability of the habitat present within the site to support water vole by reference to habitat type (such as rivers, streams, ditches, wetlands, reed beds, lakes, ponds and reservoirs), bank structure and the bank side vegetation. Water voles generally require sloping banks in which to burrow and well-developed

bank side vegetation to provide shelter and food. During the survey attention was paid to the presence of burrows, latrines, feeding remains, trails and footprints.

### **Birds**

The appraisal of breeding birds on the site was based on the suitability of habitat present to support nesting bird communities, the presence of bird species that may potentially nest within the available habitat and evidence of nesting such as old or currently active nests.

The assessment of wintering birds was based on an assessment of the suitability of the habitat on site to support important wintering bird species and populations. Particular attention was paid to the potential for the site to support wintering farmland bird species, waders and wildfowl.

### **Reptiles**

The reptile appraisal was based on an assessment of the suitability of the habitat present within the site to support a population of reptiles. Reptiles particularly favour scrub and rough grassland interfaces and the presence of these is a good indication that reptiles may be present on-site. In addition, reptiles may utilise features such as bare ground for basking, tussocky grassland for shelter and compost heaps and rubble piles for breeding and/or hibernating.

### **Great Crested Newt**

The appraisal of the site to support great crested newt included establishing the presence of suitable aquatic habitats such as ponds, lakes or other waterbodies within or adjacent to the site and the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat. Waterbodies that are densely shaded, highly eutrophic or that contain fish are likely to be less suitable for this species. The suitability of on-site ponds and terrestrial habitat is considered in relation to the presence of ponds within the wider area, as identified within the desktop study and their suitability to be used as a network.

### **Invertebrates**

An assessment was made of the site for its potential value to support diverse communities of invertebrates. The assessment was based on the presence of habitat features which may support important invertebrate communities. These features include, for example, an abundance of dead wood, the presence of diverse plant communities, varied woodland structure, sunny woodland edges with a diverse flora, waterbodies and water courses and areas of free draining soil exposures. During the field survey there was no attempt made to identify species present as this is a more specialist area of ecological assessment reserved for targeted surveys.

### **Other Relevant Species**

An assessment was made of site suitability for other notable species such as more rarely encountered protected species, Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of diversity in England notified under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and as listed in the England

Biodiversity List, and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species<sup>1</sup>, specific to the study region.

### **Invasive Species**

During the field survey any incidental records of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded. However, it should be considered that the survey was not specifically aimed at assessing the presence of these species and further specialist advice may need to be sought.

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<sup>1</sup> LBAPs identify local priorities for biodiversity conservation by translating national targets for species into effective action at the local level and identifying targets for species important to the local area.

### Appendix 3 Appraisal Criteria for Bats

The criteria used to assess the suitability of roosting and foraging/commuting habitat for bats is based on industry guidelines and outlined in **Table 1**<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1:** Criteria used to Assess Suitability of Roosting and Foraging/Commuting Habitat for Bats

| Suitability       | Description of roosting habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Commuting and foraging habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>High</b>       | A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.<br><br>High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.<br><br>Site is close to and connected to known roosts. |
| <b>Moderate</b>   | A structure of tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.<br><br>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Low</b>        | A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically/structure that does not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation).<br><br>A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roost features but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential. | Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerows or un-vegetated stream, but isolated (i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat).<br><br>Suitable, but isolated, habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree or a patch or scrub.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Negligible</b> | Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

<sup>2</sup> Table adapted from (Collins, 2023)