

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL AND
ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SANDLANDS, BRICKWORTH QUARRY,
WILTSHIRE

By

stark ecology^{ltd}

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INTRODUCTION

Stark Ecology Ltd was asked by Raymond Brown Quarry Products Ltd to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at Brickworth Quarry, Wiltshire. This is to inform quarrying operations in a field (known as Sandlands) to the north of current operations at Brickworth Quarry. Sandlands is c.8.3ha and is located at OS Grid Reference SU226234, surrounded by predominantly arable farmland to the north, east and west and the quarry to the south, with the A36 road running around 70m northeast of the field boundary.

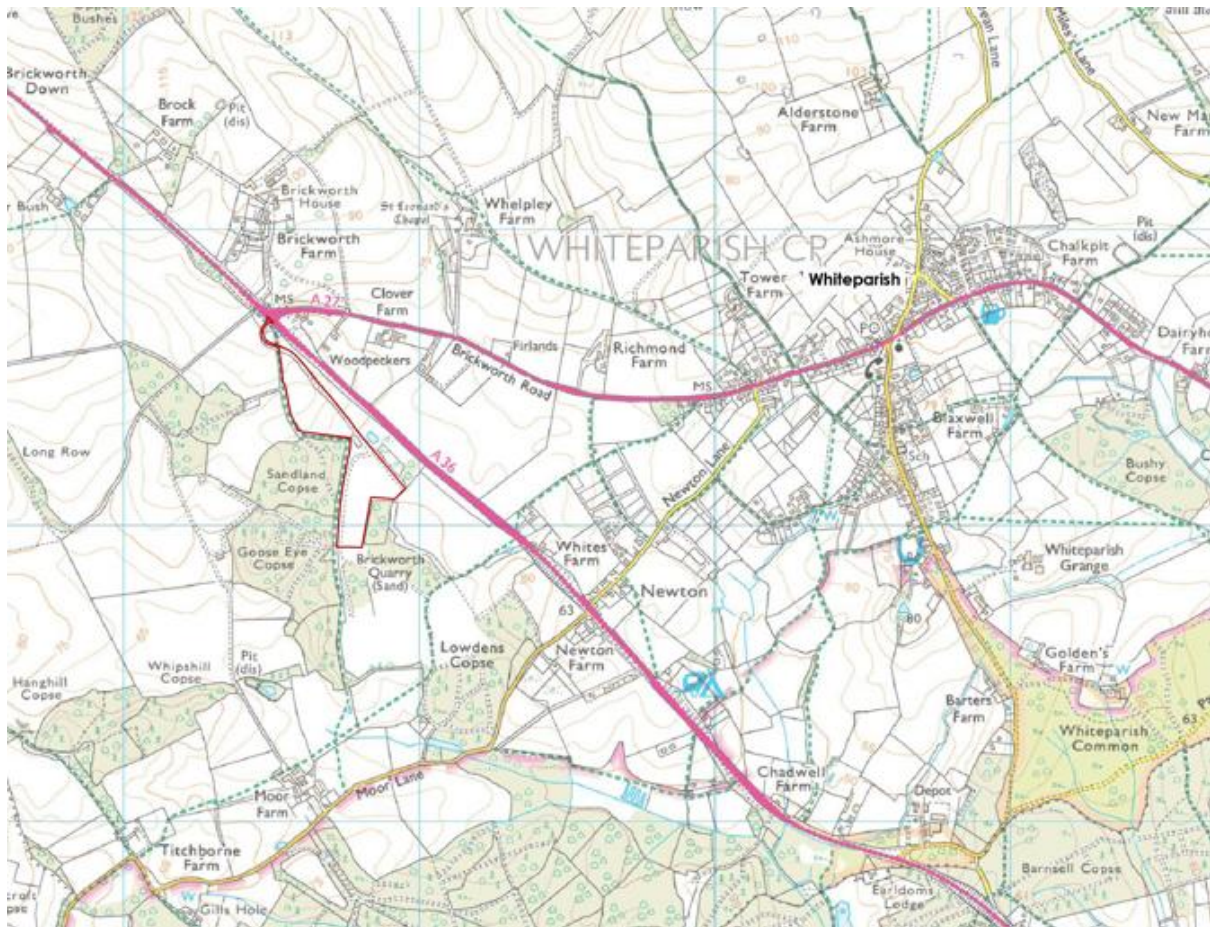


Figure 1: Location of Sandlands, Brickworth Quarry

The preliminary ecological appraisal was carried out by Georgie Starkie BSc (Hons) MSc MRSB and Sarah Hobbs BSc (Hons) PhD MCIEEM on 6th June 2025 when the weather was dry with 20%-50% cloud and a light wind. The temperature was approximately 19°C.

METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database was consulted for details of protected habitats and UK designated sites within 2km and 10km for European protected sites. Details of European Protected Species licences granted by Natural England for work within 2km were also sought using the MAGIC website.

A data search for records of protected habitats and species within 2km of the site was requested from the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC). Species records from within the last 30 years were used in this desk study.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The site was surveyed according to the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal set out by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), in which the habitats present on site are classified (according to The UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0). Any signs of protected or notable species were also recorded:

Bats: The habitats on site were assessed for their potential to provide commuting and foraging habitat for bats. The site does not include any structures or other features in which bats could roost.

Badgers: Evidence of badgers was sought, in particular badger setts which can be recognised by their characteristic size and shape, with large spoil heaps outside entrances. Other signs such as latrines (small pits in which badgers deposit their faeces), pathways through vegetation, hairs adhering to vegetation or sett entrances and snuffle holes indicating foraging were also noted.

Hazel dormouse: The habitats on and surrounding the site were assessed for their suitability to support hazel dormouse.

Great crested newts: The habitats on and surrounding the site were assessed for their suitability to support great crested newts.

Reptiles: The habitats on site were assessed for their suitability to support reptile species.

Nesting birds: The habitats on site were assessed for their suitability to support nesting birds.

Ecological Impact Assessment

The methodology for the assessment of the likely ecological effects of the proposed development is based on CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Assessment in the UK, 2nd edition. Although this assessment does not constitute a formal Ecological/Environmental Impact Assessment, the CIEEM guidelines provide a useful framework for assessing ecological impacts at any level.

A development may have ecological effects beyond its site boundaries, therefore the CIEEM guidelines require that the 'zone of influence' be identified. Due to the relatively small size of this development, for the majority of ecological features, the zone of influence is considered unlikely to extend beyond the footprint of the works and immediately adjacent habitat. Without mitigation, the proposed development may result in the following biophysical changes during construction and/or operation:

- Loss of and damage to habitats within or adjacent to the footprint of the development and construction zone.
- Any loss or damage of habitats could result in death and/or injury to protected species should they be present.
- Disturbance of immediately adjacent habitats and any wildlife using them.

Limitations

Surveys provide a brief snapshot of the site at the time the work was carried out and while every step was taken to ensure that the results of the survey are accurate, features of ecological value can change and therefore this report is only valid for 12 months.

RESULTS

Desk Study

Habitats

The New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is a European designated site covering multiple parcels of land, two of which lie approximately 2km from the southern boundary of Sandlands. The New Forest SAC is designated for the mosaic of heathland, wetland, meadow and woodland habitats it supports as well as important populations of southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*, stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* and great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. The area of the New Forest designated as a RAMSAR site lies approximately 5km south of Sandlands.

The site also lies within 5km of the River Avon SAC which runs north-south to the west of the Quarry. The River Avon SAC is designated for its large, lowland river system including sections running through chalk and clay. It supports Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* and four species of fish, for which it is designated.

There are 3 sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 2km of Sandlands; two additional parcels of the New Forest SSSI in the south, and Brickworth Down and Dean Hill SSSI in the north. Brickworth Down and Dean Hill SSSI comprises an area of high-quality chalk grassland, with juniper scrub, and a large area of yew woodland. Sandlands lies within the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the New Forest SSSI.

The site lies c.800m to the west of the Bat Consultation Zone for Mottisfont SAC.

There are 12 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) that fall within a 2km radius of the site, the closest of which abuts the southern site boundary. This is called Sandland/Goose Eye Copse LWS and comprises conifer woodland '*plantation on an ancient woodland*'. Lowden's copse LWS lies approximately 350 m south of the Northern Field, also comprises an ancient woodland site, which has been '*largely replanted with conifer – Scots pine and hazel*'.

The other Local Wildlife Sites lying within 2km of the site which are semi-natural and plantation woodland sites are: Cheyney's Wood LWS, Hanghill Copse LWS, Landford Copse LWS, Painter's Copse LWS, East Copse LWS, Wall Copse LWS, Upper Bushes LWS.

There are three remaining LWS within the 2km search boundary, which are classified as grassland sites. These are Pepperbox Hill LWS, calcareous grassland site to the north, Whiteparish Meadow LWS, a small damp meadow of neutral grassland

to the southeast and Thorn's Copse, a small plantation block with neutral grassland clearing to the south.

In addition, the Brickworth Quarry site itself is designated as a Local Geological Site, with its current boundary abutting the southern boundary of Sandlands.

Species

Bats: The data search results include records of at least 11 bat species within 2km of the site, including the following identified to species level: *Barbastelle barbastellus*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, Daubenton's *M. daubentonii*, whiskered *M. mystacinus*, natterer's *M. nattereri*, Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, common *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus* and brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auratus*.

Other mammals: The data search returned records of 6 terrestrial mammal species from within 2km of the site: hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, badger *Meles meles*, polecat *Mustela putorius*, rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*.

Herpetofauna: The data search returned records of 3 amphibian species and 3 reptile species from within the search radius. These were: common toad *Bufo bufo*; common frog *rana temporaria*; great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*; slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and; grass snake *Natrix helvetica*.

Birds: The data search returned records of 52 bird species within the search radius, the following are considered to be most relevant to the site: Skylark *Alauda arvensis*; yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*; corn bunting *Emberiza calandra*; redwing *Turdus iliacus*; lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus*, barn owl *Tyto alba*; kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*; lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus* and; fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

Invertebrates: The data search returned records of 65 notable invertebrate species, including stag beetle, black-oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*, small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*, small blue *Cupido minimus* butterflies and cinnabar moth *Tyria jacobaeae*.

Flowering plants: The data search returned records of one protected plant species within the search radius; bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and 6 species listed as Species of Principal Importance: juniper *Juniperus communis*; white helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*; field fleawort *Tephrosieris integrifolia* subsp. *Integrifolia*; bastard balm *Melittis melissophyllum*; water germander *Teucrium scordium* and; pheasant's-eye *Adonis annua*.

There are 10 records on the MAGIC website of licences granted by Natural England for work affecting European Protected Species at locations within 2km. These are for

hazel dormouse (5), great crested newt (5) and include licences granted for work across the wider Brickworth Quarry extraction area.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The site comprises the following habitats, shown on the Habitat Map in Appendix 1:

Habitat type	UK Hab name and secondary codes
Bracken	g1c Bracken
Cropland	c1 Cropland, 604 (whole field fallow)
Haul road verge – grassland and dense scrub	g3c Other neutral grassland, 521 (unmanaged) h3 Dense scrub, 203 (mature tree (oak))
Other neutral grassland – within and to the south of the field	g3c Other neutral grassland, 521 (unmanaged)
Planted mixed woodland	w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, 201 (young trees planted)
Quarry area	u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, 85 (active sand pit or quarry)
Quarry compound	u1b Developed land; sealed surface
Road	u1b Developed land; sealed surface, 800 (road)

Bracken

The northern and western boundary of the field were bounded by a margin of tall bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* with foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* and grass species which formed an ecotone between the cropped field and the mature woodland/tree lines bounding the site. This margin can be seen in Figure 3.

Cropland

At the time of survey, the northern part of the site was dominated by a large area of fallow former cropland. Evidence that this area had been cropped in recent years was noted by areas of bare and formerly ploughed earth. This was being colonised by a number of short perennial vegetation species including: Common stork's-bill *Erodium cicutarium*, mayweed *Matricaria* spp. / *Tripleurospermum* spp., Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, forget-me-not *Myosotis* spp., sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, mouse-ear

Cerastium spp., crane's-bill *Geranium* spp., creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and other grasses. A large mature oak *Quercus robur* tree is situated adjacent to the eastern boundary within the cropland area (Target Note 1, Map 1), lying outside of the red line.



Figure 2: View across the site facing north-west, showing former cropland and north-western field boundary (alongside Brickworth Quarry access road).



Figure 3: View facing south along the western edge of the cropland area, showing bracken field margin and line of mature trees (outside of western boundary).

Haul road verge – grassland and scrub

The verge running north-south to the east of the haul road was comprised of a mixture of other neutral grassland in the south, with species reflective of the other grassland areas. The northern part was dominated by areas of dense scrub and trees. Species included bramble, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, oak, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, nettle, and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, with old man's beard *Clematis vitalba* present along the fence and growing over the other scrub species (Figure 4 and 5).



Figure 4: Southern end of haul road and verge, showing strip of other neutral grassland



Figure 5: View looking north along the quarry haul road showing the western verge (on the left side of the photo) and the grassland and scrub/trees along this verge.

Other neutral grassland – within field

The southern corner of the field contained an area of grassland historically cropped along with the other sections. However, it was clear at the time of survey that this part of the field had been left unmanaged for some time, and this was corroborated with reference to Google imagery historic maps which shows the corner as uncropped from around 2008. This grassland area was noted to contain species typical of neutral grassland, including: Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., field maple sapling *Acer campestre*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, common thistle *Cirsium* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine*, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, bindweed *Convolvulus* spp., soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, smooth hawk's-beard *Crepis capillaris*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, willowherb species *Epilobium* spp., wood avens *Geum urbanum*, and hedge bedstraw *Galium mollugo*. A pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* was noted at Target Note 2 and shown on Map 1. This species is typical of undisturbed, low-nutrient habitat and, alongside other flowering species in this area, are likely to provide resources to pollinators.



Figure 6: Other neutral grassland area in the south of the field



Figure 7: Pyramidal orchid noted within the grassland area.

Other neutral grassland – south of field

A further patch of other neutral grassland was recorded lying to the south of the field, running along the northern and northwestern edges of the quarry compound. At the time of survey, this had been scorched by recent hot weather. This contained species including yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, oxeye daisy, smooth hawk's-beard, common ragwort, cock's-foot, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, bramble, common mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, common nettle, broad-leaved dock and false oat-grass (Figure 8).

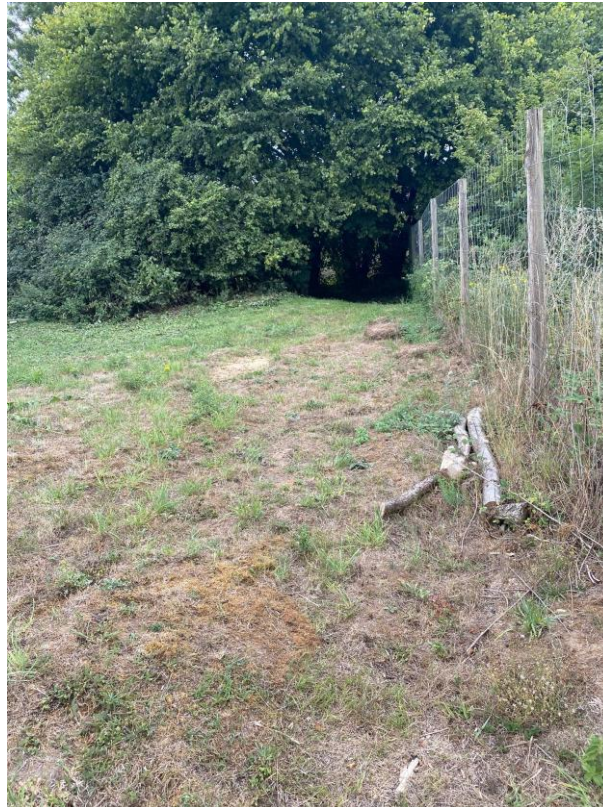


Figure 8: Other neutral grassland area to the north of the quarry compound.

Planted mixed woodland

An area of young woodland was recorded lying in between the grassland patch above and Sandlands. This comprised a mix of native, primarily broadleaf, tree and scrub species and was planted as part of mitigation measures for previous development at the site and is shown in Figure 9. Species recorded included: hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, field maple, oak, hazel *Corylus avellana*, ash, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, sycamore, common mugwort, and ragwort.



Figure 9: Planted mixed broadleaved woodland area, with grasses and nettles in the foreground

Quarry area, compound and road

To the south of the site is part of the working area of the sand and gravel quarry. This space is used primarily for aggregate stockpiling and vehicle movements, including the temporary storage of processed sand and gravel in large heaps (Figure 10). The ground surface is compacted and bare due to regular movements of plant machinery. No active excavations were occurring within this area.

The office compound and carpark lie immediately north of the quarry area, comprising hardstanding with temporary office facilities and car parking (Figure 11).

The site is accessed by a haul road which runs from the north where it joins the A36 road and links with the quarry compound car park as well as running around the edge of the quarry area, and can be seen in Figures 4, 5, 10 and 11.



Figure 10: Quarry area showing stockpiled aggregate, equipment storage and compacted ground.



Figure 11: Quarry compound showing offices, car park and welfare facilities

Bats

Roosting

There are no buildings, other structures or trees within the red line of the field, and therefore the site is not considered to provide potential roosting habitat for bats.

Commuting and Foraging

The habitat within the site boundaries is of limited suitability for foraging bats, with some potential for foraging over the central grassland area. The field margins, which lie adjacent to off-site woodland edge habitat, provide connectivity between the site and the wider landscape, and as such are likely to provide important commuting corridors for bats.

Badgers

No badger setts were identified within the site boundaries and no snuffle holes or latrines were noted. The grassland and fallow cropland areas may provide foraging habitat within the site. A well-used mammal path was noted leading on/off the site

in the south-eastern area (Target Note 3 on Map 1) which may be used by badgers. The site supports suitable connected habitat for badgers as they commute and forage through the wider landscape, and badgers are known to be present in adjacent wooded areas within the wider quarry site.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormice are known to be present in woodland habitat within the wider Brickworth Quarry site. However, potentially suitable habitat for this species (hedgerow, woodland, scrub etc) is sparse within the site boundary and as such the site is not considered likely to support dormice.

The woodland, scrub and woodland planting at the margins of the Sandlands site are likely to be used by hazel dormouse but these areas of habitat will be retained.

Great Crested Newts

There is a pond lying approximately 60m south-east of the southeastern corner of the field but no other ponds have been identified within 500m. Regular population monitoring is carried out across the ponds and other waterbodies in the wider Brickworth Quarry site and in 2024 a small population of great crested newts was confirmed in the pond which is 60m to the southeast of the extraction area.

The grassland and field margins within Sandlands provide some terrestrial habitat for great crested newt when commuting through the wider landscape but there is little shelter provided within the extraction area. Nevertheless, the Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment tool confirms that an offence under Regulation 55(2)(e) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) is highly likely:

Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	>1 ha lost or damaged	0.9
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
Maximum:		0.9
Rapid risk assessment result:	RED: OFFENCE HIGHLY LIKELY	

Reptiles

The site supports limited suitable habitat for common reptile species for basking and foraging within the grassland and field margins.

Nesting Birds

There are no hedgerows, trees or scrub within the site boundary. The grassland and fallow crop areas provide nesting habitat for ground nesting birds and a number of skylarks *Alauda arvensis* were observed during the survey carried out in June 2025.

The trees and hedgerow adjacent to the site boundaries provide good habitat for nesting birds, and a number of common species were noted during the field survey. These included woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, and blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Other Species

Deer

A number of deer droppings and footprints were noted throughout the site, and muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi* and fallow *Dama dama* deer are frequently seen in the wider quarry area.

Hedgehog

The site supports suitable habitat for hedgehogs to use when commuting and foraging through the wider landscape at night.

Brown hare

The field and surrounding landscape are suitable for brown hare *Lepus europaeus* to use when commuting and foraging.

Invertebrates

The grassland and margins are suitable to support a range of terrestrial invertebrate species, including assemblages of butterflies and moths. During the site visit, adult meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* butterflies were noted in flight, alongside cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae* moth larvae which were feeding on ragwort (Figure 12).



Figure 12: Cinnabar moth caterpillars feeding on ragwort in the neutral grassland area within the field

LEGISLATION

Relevant Legislation

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity in the UK is protected. The most relevant areas of the Act to development related activities are:

- The identification and subsequent protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which prohibits damaging activities
- The protection of certain species listed in Schedule 5, which prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and sale (it should be noted that all parts of this protection do not apply to all Scheduled species)
- The protection of wild birds and their nests, which prohibits damage or destruction of nests whilst in use.
- Measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the 'Habitats Regulations'), pass two EC Directives into UK law. The Regulations protect sites and species deemed to be of conservation importance across Europe. The most relevant parts of the Regulations to development related activities are:

- The protection of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- The protection of species listed within Schedule 2 of the Regulations, which prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and sale, this confers some level of habitat protection. In order for activities that would be likely to result in a breach of species protection under the regulations to legally take place, a European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence must first be obtained from Natural England.

Species-specific Legislation

Protected and Notable Plants

Certain plant species are protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and further provisions may apply under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Pick, uproot or destroy a wild plant listed on Schedule 8;
- Possess, control, sell or offer for sale any part of a protected plant (including seeds or spores);
- Import or export protected plant species (without an appropriate licence); or
- Cause damage to the habitat of protected plant species in a way that affects their survival.

In addition, all wild plants are afforded general protection against unauthorised uprooting under Section 13 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, meaning landowner permission is required before any uprooting takes place.

Bats

Bats are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or handle a bat;
- Possess a bat (whether alive or dead);
- Disturb a roosting bat; or
- Sell (or offer for sale) a bat (without an appropriate licence).

In addition, it is an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost, whether it is currently in use or not.

Badger

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 deals solely with the protection of badgers *Meles meles* in the UK. It prohibits killing, injuring or taking badgers, damaging, destroying or otherwise interfering with a badger sett, disturbing an occupied badger sett and sale of badgers.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormice are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Capture, kill, disturb or injure a dormouse;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a dormouse;
- Obstruct access to breeding or resting places; or
- Possess, sell, control or transport a dormouse, whether alive or dead.

Where dormice are present within a feature or structure on a development site in England, a licence may be granted by Natural England for works to alter or remove this habitat. Licence applications can only be made once full planning permission has been granted and a suitable mitigation strategy (set out in a detailed Method Statement) forms an essential part of this application process. Works are likely to be seasonally restricted and must be carried out in accordance with the Method Statement agreed with Natural England.

Great Crested Newt

Great crested newts are protected under Regulation 43 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or capture a great crested newt
- Possess or control a great crested newt (alive or dead);
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place;
- Deliberately disturb a great crested newt in a way that is likely to impair its ability to survive, breed, rear or nurture young, or to hibernate; or
- Sell (or offer for sale) a great crested newt (without an appropriate licence).

In addition, it is an offence to damage or obstruct access to any place used by great crested newts for shelter or protection.

Common Amphibians

Common toads are listed as Species of Principal Importance in England under section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

Reptiles

All native reptile species are protected against intentional or reckless killing or injury by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

The habitat of the four common species of reptile (common lizard, slow worm, adder *Vipera berus* and grass snake) does not receive additional protection.

Birds

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 protects bird species in the UK and makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Other offences under this legislation relate to taking and possessing specimens or the eggs of wild birds.

Furthermore, there are additional penalties for intentionally or recklessly disturbing a species listed on Schedule 1 of the same Act, including while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young or intentionally or recklessly disturbing the dependent young of such a species. No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g., public health, public safety, air safety.

Hedgehog

Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and should, as such, be conserved through the planning process. Hedgehogs also fall under the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996, which prevents certain cruel acts against wild mammals.

Brown Hare

Brown hare are a SoPI under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and should, as such, be conserved through the planning process. Brown hare also fall under the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996, which prevents certain cruel acts against wild mammals.

Rabbit

Rabbits are protected from cruelty by the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.

Planning Policy

Government policy with respect to the protection of biodiversity is laid out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It states in Chapter 15 (174) that: 'Planning policies and development should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: (d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The impact of the potential direct and indirect effects arising from the construction and operation of the proposed extraction area on protected sites, habitats and species has been assessed. The following species have been discounted from Impact Assessment as the site is considered unsuitable to support them:

- Roosting bats

Table 1 on the following pages sets out the anticipated impacts arising from the proposed works, includes mitigation measures to address these impacts and then summarises the residual effect of each element. Although this site is Phase 9 of extraction at Brickworth Quarry, the infrastructure required (eg. haul road, site offices etc) has already been constructed and extraction is limited to a predominantly arable field, which is a very different habitat type to the woodland which has been affected by phases 1-8. As a result, there is considered to be little potential for cumulative impacts resulting from the extension of extraction into Sandlands.

In accordance with the EcIA Guidelines, the mitigation measures adopted aim to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate the impacts of the proposed new extraction area. The purpose and objectives of these measures are to:

- Protect key habitat features associated with nearby SACs and SSSIs (due to the distance between the site and the nearby SACs and SSSIs this is considered to be limited to hydrological/hydrogeological impacts only);
- Protect the adjacent LWS;
- Avoid damage to retained habitats within the wider site; and
- Avoid the risk of killing or injuring protected species.

Description of proposed works

The extension to Brickworth Quarry is for the winning and working of sand followed by restoration to original ground level through the use of site-derived by-products and the importation and placement of inert materials. On completion of extraction and restoration the land is proposed to revert to arable use with some grassland and scrub areas provided in order to meet Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements.

Table 1: Ecological Impacts

Ecological Feature and Impact	Effect without Mitigation	Practical Mitigation Measures	Residual Impacts after Mitigation
<u>Habitats</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
New Forest SAC	Due to the distance between the site and the SAC, no direct impacts on this designated site are anticipated as a result of the construction phase of the proposals. Indirect impacts could arise from contamination of groundwater from leakage of potential contaminants from fuel, oil etc associated with on-site plant.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report sets out a Fluids Handling Protocol which will protect against accidental contamination of groundwater.	Neutral effect on the SAC.
River Avon SAC	Due to the distance between the construction site and the SAC, no impacts on this designated site are anticipated as a result of the construction phase of the proposals.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report sets out a Fluids Handling Protocol which will protect against accidental contamination of groundwater.	Neutral effect on the SAC.

	Indirect impacts could arise from contamination of groundwater from leakage of potential contaminants from fuel, oil etc associated with on-site plant.		
Brickworth Down and Dean Hill SSSI	Due to the distance between the construction site and the SSSI, no impacts on this designated site are anticipated as a result of the construction phase of the proposals.	None required during construction.	Neutral effect on the SSSI.
New Forest SSSI	Due to the distance between the construction site and the SSSI, no direct impacts on this designated site are anticipated as a result of the construction phase of the proposals. Indirect impacts could arise from contamination of groundwater from leakage of potential contaminants from fuel, oil etc associated with on-site plant.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report sets out a Fluids Handling Protocol which will protect against accidental contamination of groundwater.	Neutral effect on the SSSI.

Sandlands/Goose Eye Copse LWS	This LWS is in close proximity to the construction area and construction activities could result in negative impacts on this designated site at a County level.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report sets out a Fluids Handling Protocol which will protect against accidental contamination of groundwater which could negatively impact this LWS. A CEMP will also be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect the LWS from disturbance during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Suitable protective fencing and signage; and • Training of all site personnel on the importance of the LWS.	Neutral effect on the LWS.
Lowden's Copse LWS	This LWS is in close proximity to the construction area and construction activities could result in negative impacts on this designated site at a County level.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report sets out a Fluids Handling Protocol which will protect against accidental contamination of groundwater which could negatively impact this LWS. A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect the LWS from disturbance during construction, to	Neutral effect on the LWS.

		include (but not be limited to): • Suitable protective fencing and signage; and • Training of all site personnel on the importance of the LWS.	
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
New Forest SAC	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment by BCL Hydro identifies potential for the operational phase of the development to result in direct and indirect harm to groundwater flow and quality which could result in impacts on this designated site.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report includes full details of the management of the site to protect groundwater from accidental contamination (including from inert landfill) as well as the design of swale basins which will help to manage downstream flood risk.	Neutral effect on the SAC.
River Avon SAC	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment by BCL Hydro identifies potential for the operational phase of the development to result in direct	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report includes full details of the management of the site to protect groundwater from accidental contamination (including from inert landfill) as well as the design of swale basins which will help to manage	Neutral effect on the SAC.

	and indirect harm to groundwater flow and quality which could result in impacts on this designated site.	downstream flood risk.	
Brickworth Down and Dean Hill SSSI	No impact anticipated during the operational phase of this development.	None required.	Neutral effect on the SSSI.
New Forest SSSI	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment by BCL Hydro identifies potential for the operational phase of the development to result in direct and indirect harm to groundwater flow and quality which could result in impacts on this designated site.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report includes full details of the management of the site to protect groundwater from accidental contamination (including from inert landfill) as well as the design of swale basins which will help to manage downstream flood risk.	Neutral effect on the SSSI.
Sandlands/Goose Eye Copse LWS	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment by BCL Hydro identifies potential for the operational phase of the development to result in direct and indirect harm to	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report includes full details of the management of the site to protect groundwater from accidental contamination (including from inert landfill) as well as the design of swale basins which will help to manage	Neutral effect on the LWS.

	groundwater flow and quality which could result in impacts on this designated site.	downstream flood risk.	
Lowden's Copse LWS	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment by BCL Hydro identifies potential for the operational phase of the development to result in direct and indirect harm to groundwater flow and quality which could result in impacts on this designated site.	The Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment report includes full details of the management of the site to protect groundwater from accidental contamination (including from inert landfill) as well as the design of swale basins which will help to manage downstream flood risk.	Neutral effect on the LWS.
<u>Commuting and Foraging Bats</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Bat species commuting and foraging through the wider landscape over the mixed scrub and grassland in the extension area.	Without mitigation, development has the potential to result in disturbance to bats commuting and foraging over the site and surroundings.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect commuting and foraging bats from disturbance during construction, to include (but not be limited to): Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	Neutral effect on bats commuting and foraging.

<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Bats species commuting and foraging through the wider landscape over the mixed scrub and grassland in the extension area.	Without mitigation, extraction in close proximity to habitat which is of value to bats commuting and foraging could be significant at a Local level.	The Landscape Proposals for this site include the retention of woodland planting and mixed scrub. Improvements to the grassland which will be reinstated are also proposed. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will be produced to ensure enhancement to grassland, woodland and scrub planting is carried out to ensure successful establishment. No lighting is to be installed in the Sandlands extension area.	Minor positive effect on bats commuting and foraging.
<u>Badgers</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Harm to badgers that commute and forage through the site.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect badgers from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): Any excavations to be covered or left with an escape route for animals which fall into excavations	Neutral.

		overnight; • Suitable and safe storage of equipment and machinery to avoid accidental harm; and • Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Harm to badgers that commute and forage through the site.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect badgers from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Any excavations to be covered or left with an escape route for animals which fall into excavations overnight; • Suitable and safe storage of equipment and machinery to avoid accidental harm; and Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	Neutral.

<u>Hazel Dormouse</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
No direct impacts anticipated as all habitat that is suitable for hazel dormouse will be retained. Indirect impacts could arise from the proximity of work to areas of scrub, woodland edge and hedgerow.	Minor negative effect at Site level.	None proposed.	Neutral.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
No impacts predicted.	Neutral.	Enhancement of woodland and scrub planting, the establishment and ongoing management of which will be covered by a LEMP.	Minor positive effect at Site level.
<u>Great Crested Newts</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Harm to great crested newts that are present within the working area during site clearance and construction work.	Major negative effect at Local level.	This scheme will be registered under District Level Licensing for GCN and a CEMP and Reasonable Avoidance Methods Method Statement (RAMS) will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect great crested newts from harm during construction, to include	Neutral.

		(but not be limited to): • Sensitive working methods and timings when carrying out initial site clearance; and • Safe storage of machinery and materials to protect great crested newts from accidental harm.	
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Harm to great crested newts that are present within the working area during extraction.	Major negative effect at Local level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect great crested newts from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Sensitive working methods and timings when carrying out initial site clearance; and Safe storage of machinery and materials to protect great crested newts from accidental harm.	Neutral.
<u>Reptiles</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			

Harm to reptiles that are present within the working area during site clearance and construction work.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect reptiles from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Sensitive working methods and timings when carrying out initial site clearance; and • Safe storage of machinery and materials to prevent reptiles from accidental harm.	Neutral.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Harm to reptiles that are present within the working area during extraction.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect reptiles from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Sensitive working methods and timings when carrying out initial site clearance; and • Safe storage of machinery and materials to prevent reptiles from accidental harm.	Neutral.
<u>Breeding Birds</u>			

<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Vegetation removal could cause damage or destruction of active bird nests (including ground nesting species) if undertaken between March and August (inclusive).	Major negative effect at Site level.	Sensitive timing of any vegetation removal to avoid the bird breeding season (March – August, inclusive). Where this is not possible, vegetation to be removed under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced ecologist. Where nests are present, vegetation removal will need to be delayed until the young have fledged and an ecologist has confirmed that the nest is no longer in use.	Neutral effect.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
No impacts predicted.	Neutral.	The proposals for this site include reinstatement of grassland and cropland as well as enhancement of scrub and woodland planting, which will protect and improve nesting opportunities for a range of bird species when established.	Minor positive effect at Site level.
<u>Hedgehog</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Hedgehogs commuting through the site could become trapped in excavations or be harmed by stored	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect hedgehogs from harm during construction, to include (but not be	Neutral effect.

materials and machinery.		limited to): - Any excavations to be covered or left with an escape route for animals which fall into excavations overnight; - Suitable and safe storage of equipment and machinery to avoid accidental harm; and - Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Hedgehogs commuting through the site could become trapped in excavations or be harmed by stored materials and machinery.	Major negative effect at Site level.	The enhanced woodland and scrub planting will be available to hedgehogs for commuting, foraging, nesting, breeding and hibernation.	Minor positive effect at Site level.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Description of proposed works

The proposed works entail the excavation of the central section of Sandlands (indicated by the red line boundary in Map 1). This will result in the temporary loss of an area of cropland and neutral grassland, with potential impacts on bracken dominated field margins. Boundary features including woodland edges, scrub and the mature oak tree, will not be directly impacted. Following quarrying activities, the site will be reinstated.

Designated sites

The site lies within 2km of the New Forest SAC and 5km of the River Avon SAC as well as three SSSI sites, and within the SSSI IRZ for the New Forest SSSI. The New Forest SAC and River Avon SAC are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended (known as the Habitat Regulations). Under European legislation, any potential development within the vicinity of a SAC must receive an additional impact assessment by a competent authority to ascertain potential impacts upon it. As such, further consultation with the Local Planning Authority/Natural England may be required for impacts on the New Forest SAC and SSSI sites but details are set out in the Ecological Impact Assessment section of this report addressing potential adverse effects on these designated sites and how those can be managed and avoided throughout the construction and operational phases of this project.

The site lies c.800m to the west of the Bat Consultation Zone for Mottisfont SAC. Due to the scale of the works and distance from the Bat Consultation Zone, negative impacts upon bats associated with the SAC are not anticipated.

Two Local Wildlife Sites are situated within 500m of Sandlands, one of which immediately abuts the southern boundary. This comprises a plantation on ancient woodland. Due to its proximity to the woodland, quarrying activities may negatively impact this site in the absence of protective measures (e.g. runoff/accidental damage to boundary trees). Measures set out in the Hydrological/Hydrogeological Impact and Flood Risk Assessment by BCL Hydro will protect this LWS from the impacts of runoff and a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced setting out detailed steps to protect the LWS from accidental harm.

The other LWS lying within 2km of the site, also comprise woodland including plantation/commercial forestry woodland on ancient woodland sites, and these are separated from the site by tracts of arable farmland to the north and the active

quarry to the south. As a result of this separation, adverse impacts upon the other LWS sites are not anticipated.

Habitats

The footprint of the proposed works will impact upon (currently) fallow cropland, a common and not intrinsically ecologically valuable habitat. As such, ecological impacts resulting from the loss of cropland are deemed to be negligible.

The small area of neutral grassland in the south is also a common and widespread habitat. The presence of a number of flowering plants including orchids indicate that this area has some ecological value, particularly to pollinators. Its temporary loss to quarrying works is unlikely to create significant adverse impacts within the landscape, however this habitat will be recreated and enhanced when quarrying works cease and the site is reinstated.

The scrub, mature tree and woodland plantation are valuable ecological habitats which are currently not planned to be impacted by the works and as such no adverse impacts upon them are anticipated.

Bats

Roosting

No potentially suitable bat roosts were found within the site and as such, no adverse impacts upon the potential bat roosts are anticipated as a result of the works.

Commuting and Foraging

The on-site habitats within the works footprint have limited suitability for bats as they forage and commute through the wider landscape. As such, the proposed works are considered to have a negligible impact upon the local bat population and the commuting and foraging resources upon which they rely.

The retained woodland adjacent to, but outside of, the site boundaries, provides high quality foraging and commuting habitat for bats within the context of the wider landscape. The current proposals will not impact these woodlands and therefore no adverse impacts upon foraging and commuting bats are anticipated. In order to ensure these edges are protected from impacts during the works, the Construction Ecological Management Plan should include protection zones around all retained boundary habitats.

The reinstatement of the site following quarry works includes the planting of native species which are of value to wildlife and will enhance commuting and foraging opportunities for bat species.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormice are known to exist within the locality, and the woodlands bounding the site support dormice as part of their wider habitat network. As no scrub or trees will be affected by the proposed works, it is not anticipated likely that dormice will be negatively impacted by the works. As with bats above, negative impacts upon the retained tree and woodlands should be protected against by protective zones around retained habitats.

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement (Wessex Woodland Management Ltd, September 2025) sets out details of how boundary trees, woodland edge, hedgerow and scrub will be protected using tree protection fencing to BS 5837:2012 standard. This fencing will protect retained boundary vegetation from accidental damage or disturbance and will ensure hazel dormice are not negatively affected by work during the construction and operational phases of quarrying in the Sandland area of Brickworth Quarry.

The site will be enhanced for dormice when steps are taken to improve the mixed scrub and woodland planting habitats when the quarry is reinstated.

Additional enhancement will be provided along the woodland edge to the northwest of Sandland with ten dormouse boxes installed to extend the existing dormouse boxes which are present across the wider Brickworth Quarry site.

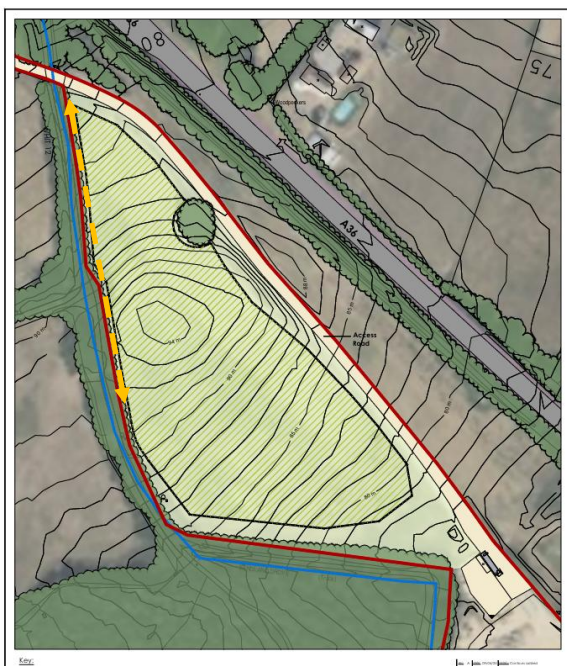


Figure 13: Ten additional dormouse boxes will be added along the woodland edge in this area to provide additional enhancement for nesting dormice.

Other mammals: Badger, Brown Hare, Hedgehog and Rabbit

No badger setts have been identified at the site and no latrines, pathways or snuffle holes were found. However, the site could be used by badgers and other wildlife when commuting and foraging through the surroundings and so the following steps should be taken to avoid accidental harm to animals moving across the site during development works:

- Any trenches that have to be left open overnight must be adapted so that any animal that falls into it is able to escape, either by leaving a gradient at one end, or placing a structure (such as a plank of wood) in the trench to allow animals to climb out;
- Anything that may present a fire or other hazard (eg. stored chemicals) should be kept securely locked and made inaccessible to wild animals moving around the site at night.

Herpetofauna: Reptiles and Great Crested Newt

The proposed works footprint impacts limited suitable reptile habitat and as such, significant adverse impacts upon the conservation status of these species are not anticipated. There is a risk that reptiles may use some of the grassland and field margin habitat and the measures detailed below to avoid impacts to great crested newt will ensure that reptiles are not harmed as a result of the works.

The site provides limited habitat for great crested newt, but their known presence within the wider site, and the field location situated between ponds and potentially more suitable terrestrial habitat means that newts may access the site as they commute between the two. The Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment Tool confirms that an offence is Highly Likely and so an enquiry has been submitted to Natural England to register the site under the District Level Licensing (DLL) Scheme.

In order to avoid harm to great crested newts and reptiles, removal of topsoil should be conducted at a time of year that avoids peak movement periods for newts (between March and October inclusive), or under the supervision of a suitably qualified and licensed Ecologist and following the production of an appropriate Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS).

Nesting Birds

The cropland and grassland which will be lost to quarry works at the field is used by ground nesting birds, which may nest between March and August (inclusive). A

total of c.3ha of habitat will be temporarily affected by the proposals and this represents only a very small area of the available habitat for ground nesting species in the context of the surrounding landscape. The temporary loss of this small area of habitat would be anticipated to have a negligible impact on the conservation status of ground nesting species such as skylark and therefore mitigation for the loss of such a small area of habitat would not be proportionate in this case.

Given the protection afforded to all breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young, it is strongly recommended that any removal of, or disturbance to, habitat that offers potential nesting habitat for breeding birds, should be undertaken between October and February, inclusive, outside of the main bird breeding season. If the work can be carried out during this period then no further surveys for nesting birds would be required as no impacts on nesting birds could reasonably be anticipated.

Should this seasonal constraint prove not to be practicable, then suitable surveys for active nests should be undertaken of any vegetation which is to be cleared during the nesting bird season (March to August, inclusive). These surveys should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to the start of any works. If any active nest or nest under construction is found, then a buffer zone of at least 5m (with distance dependent upon species and location) should be created around the nest and maintained until all chicks have fledged. Once the fledglings are no longer dependent upon the nest, works can then re-commence.

It should be noted that significant delays can result to works being undertaken during the breeding bird season and, as such, it is strongly recommended that initial clearance works on the arable field, where possible, are completed during the winter months.

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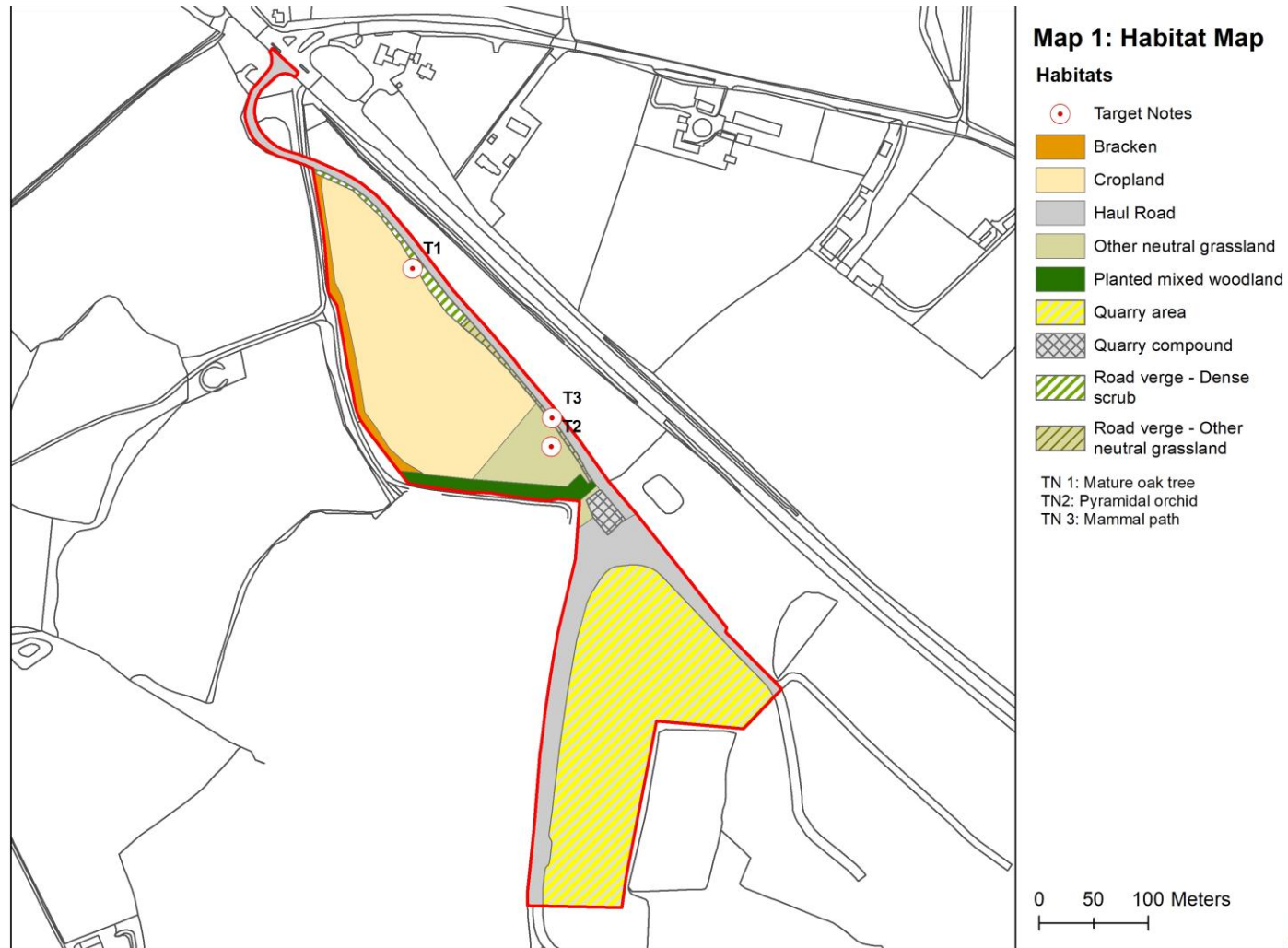
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APPENDIX 1: HABITAT MAP



APPENDIX 2: CONDITION ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type					
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types					
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood Woodland and forest - Wet woodland					
Habitat Description					
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification					
This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)					
IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.					
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Sandlands, Brickworth Quarry	Survey date and Surveyor name	6th June 2025 Sarah Hobbs PhD MCIEEM and Georgie Starkie BSc (Hons) MSc MRSB		
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)			
Grid reference	SU226234	Habitat parcel reference			
Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	1	Relatively recent planting as part of restoration of the phases already extracted.
B Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	3	
C Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ ≥10% cover.	2	
D Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	3	

E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	3	
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted ⁷ .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category ⁷ .	3	
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	2	
H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	3	
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	1	
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland ¹¹ .	Two storeys across all survey plots ¹¹ .	One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	1	
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1	
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	1	
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident ¹⁴ .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1	
Total Score (out of a possible 39)						
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)		Poor (25)
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score						

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland Grassland - Lowland meadows Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland Grassland - Other neutral grassland Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] Grassland - Upland acid grassland Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland Grassland - Upland hay meadows Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Sandlands, Phase 9 Brickworth Quarry	Survey date and Surveyor name	6th June 2025 Sarah Hobbs PhD MCIEEM and Georgie Starkie BSc (Hons) MSc MRSB
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	SU226234	Habitat parcel reference	
Habitat Description			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	Yes	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	

E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Yes	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes			
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover. Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site. Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement. Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub			
Habitat Description			
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:	Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)		
For other scrub types see:	ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Sandlands, Phase 9 Brickworth Quarry	Survey date and Surveyor name	6th June 2025 Sarah Hobbs PhD MCIEEM and Georgie Starkie BSc (Hons)
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	SU226234	Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	
B	A Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	

Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			