



Sands Paddock
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)
For Peter Williamson

15th July 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 Commission

Ellendale Environmental Limited was commissioned by LPC (Trull) Ltd., on behalf of their client Mr Peter Williamson, to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in support of a planning application for a proposed new build ('the proposed development') on an area of land at Sands Paddock, South Wraxall, near Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 2SB ('the site'). An existing barn on the site will be demolished, and the new build would be located on the same footprint.

1.2 Site Details

The site is on the north-western edge of South Wraxall, approximately 250m from the village centre, and approximately 4km to the north of Bradford-on-Avon, at OS grid reference ST 83027 64930.

1.3 Survey Objectives

On the basis of the brief provided by the client, Ellendale Environmental conducted an ecological survey of the site and a 50m buffer (where accessible and appropriate) to fulfil the following needs:

- Obtain baseline information on the current habitats and ecological features in and around the site;
- Identify any further specialist surveys that may be required;
- Identify the presence (or potential presence) of any protected species whose disturbance may require consent under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) or the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended); and
- Identify any species or habitats which may require special mitigation during the development of the site.



2. Methodology

2.1 Data Search

Publicly available databases, including using MAGIC and the NBN Atlas, were consulted for historical evidence of:

- Statutory land-based designations;
- Non-statutory land-based designations;
- Local Biodiversity Sites; and
- Protected and notable species.

The data search was conducted within a 2km (5km for bats) radius of the site boundaries.

2.2 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

A Phase 1 Habitat survey of the site area was undertaken, and the habitats present on the site were mapped following the Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC, 2010), listing the plant species associated with each habitat. This methodology was a Phase 1 habitat survey, whereby all habitats were surveyed and recorded onto a base plan, and any habitats that were considered to be of potential interest to nature conservation were recorded through the use of target notes to annotate a Phase 1 habitat map.

Habitats were then classified in accordance with the UKHab Primary Hierarchy at the level most appropriate to the features being recorded. In general, all ecosystems have been identified to a Level 3 (Broad Habitat Type) habitat, with the majority of habitats being classified to Level 4 (further splits of Level 3 habitats inc. UK BAP Priority Habitats) or Level 5 (further splits of Level 4 habitats inc. Annex 1 habitats), where appropriate. Secondary codes have been used to further describe habitats.

About UK Habitat Classification

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) is a hierarchical system for rapidly recording and classifying habitat via satellite imagery and field survey.



The system comprises five levels of Primary Habitats which include ecosystems, broad habitats, and Level 4 habitats including Annex I habitats, along with non-hierarchical secondary codes which provide information on the environment, management and origin of Primary Habitats. The secondary codes are also used to map habitat mosaics and identify notable species features and/or management techniques. The information is used to identify ecologically sensitive features/habitats, inform relevant species surveys, and aid in the recommendation of mitigation and enhancement measures in connection with a proposed development.

The UK Habitat Classification Survey is intended to provide an indication of the main habitats on site and their biodiversity value, which leads to recommendations for management. It is not intended to be a full inventory of species on site

2.3 Preliminary Protected Species Walkover

The site and surrounding areas were examined for signs of protected species. The presence/potential presence of protected or notable species of conservation concern was recorded using target notes, following the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management guidance (CIEEM, 2012).

2.4 Survey Area

The survey covered the entire site and areas within 50m (where accessible and appropriate).

2.5 Survey Limitations

The aim of this survey was not to record every species present on the site, as one survey acts as a snapshot, recording only those species which are present at the time or whose presence can be indicated through the occurrence of field signs, such as feeding remains, droppings or places used for shelter or foraging.

Evidence collected has been used to draw conclusions about the flora and fauna within the boundary of the site and to provide an assessment of their ecological and nature conservation value.



Whilst no biological survey can guarantee that all cues and signs of protected or notable species will be recorded, Ellendale Environmental is confident that all key flora and fauna present during the survey were noted.

Weather was not a limiting factor to the survey. The prevailing conditions at the time of the survey are summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Survey weather conditions

SURVEY DATE	TEMPERATURE (°C)	WIND SPEED (MPH)	CLOUD COVER / PRECIPITATION
24/06/26	32.8	Avg. 0.9 Max. 2.1	<5% cloud cover, sunny & hot

2.6 Surveyor

The survey was undertaken by Douglas Fraser, Consultant Ecologist at Ellendale Environmental. Douglas is a full member of CIEEM, with experience of undertaking ecological surveys and over six years' experience of environmental project management.



3. Results

3.1 Data Search

A 2km data search for existing designated sites, priority/notable habitats and biological records was undertaken using MAGIC¹ and the NBN Atlas².

Statutory or non-statutory designated sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site.

Local biodiversity sites

There are areas within 2km of the site that are part of the Priority Habitat Inventory, including areas of ancient woodland and other deciduous and coniferous woodland, traditional orchards, wood pasture and parkland and priority ponds.

Protected & notable species

The following terrestrial protected and notable species were identified within 2km of the site boundaries by the data search:

- Water vole *Arvicola amphibius*³ (one record from 2001, located 1.7km north-west);
- Badger *Meles meles*⁴ (one record from 2022, located 1.8km east); and
- Brown hare *Lepus europaeus*⁵ (55 records, most recently recorded in 2025, the closest of which is 1.5km north-west).

¹ Magic database. <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> Accessed on 23/06/26.

² NBN atlas database. [NBN Atlas - UK's largest collection of biodiversity information](#). Accessed on 23/06/26.

³ *Arvicola amphibius* on the NBN Atlas: [Arvicola amphibius](#) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

⁴ NBN Trust (2026). *Meles meles* on the NBN Atlas: [Meles meles](#) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

⁵ NBN Trust (2026). *Lepus europaeus* on the NBN Atlas: [Lepus europaeus](#) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].



The following species have also been recorded within 2km of the site boundaries; however, due to licencing restrictions, the location(s) of these species cannot be included in this report: great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*, common frog *Rana temporaria*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, West European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, beaver *Castor fiber* and otter *Lutra lutra*.

The following bat species were identified within 5km of the site boundaries by the data search:

- Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*⁶ (18 records, the most recent of which is located 1.25km north-west of the site, most recently recorded in 2023);
- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*⁷ (52 records, the most recent of which is located 1.25km north-west of the site, most recently recorded in 2025);
- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*⁸ (six records, the most recent of which is located 1.5km north of the site, most recently recorded in 2015);
- Brandt's bat *Myotis brandtii*⁹ (10 records, the most recent of which is located 1.5km north of the site, most recently recorded in 2010);
- Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*¹⁰ (24 records, the most recent of which is located 1.5km north of the site, most recently recorded in 2011);
- Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*¹¹ (295 records, closest located 1km north of the site, most recently recorded in 2022);
- Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*¹² (292 records, the most recent of which is located 1km west of the site, most recently recorded in 2023);

⁶ NBN Trust (2025). *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* on the NBN Atlas: [Pipistrellus pygmaeus](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

⁷ NBN Trust (2025). *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* on the NBN Atlas: [Pipistrellus pipistrellus](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

⁸ NBN Trust (2026). *Myotis bechsteinii* on the NBN Atlas: [Myotis bechsteinii](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

⁹ NBN Trust (2026). *Myotis brandtii* on the NBN Atlas: [Myotis brandtii](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹⁰ NBN Trust (2026). *Plecotus auritus* on the NBN Atlas: [Plecotus auritus](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹¹ NBN Trust (2025). *Myotis daubentonii* on the NBN Atlas: [Myotis daubentonii](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹² NBN Trust (2025). *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* on the NBN Atlas: [Rhinolophus ferrumequinum](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].



- Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*¹³ (242 records, the closest of which is located 0.75km south-west of the site, recorded in 2025);
- Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*¹⁴ (one record from 2010, located 1.75km south-east);
- Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*¹⁵ (127 records, the closest of which is located 1.25km north-west of the site, most recently recorded in 2017);
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*¹⁶ (six records, the closest of which is located 1.75km south-east of the site, most recently recorded in 2021);
- Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*¹⁷ (14 records, closest located 1.5km north of the site, recorded in 2022); and
- Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*¹⁸ (20 records, the closest of which is located 1.5km south of the site, most recently recorded in 2010).

Bird species

Approximately 133 bird species have been recorded within 2km of the site and are shown on the NBN Atlas; however, none of these species are located within the site boundary.

3.2 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The site is within the curtilage of an existing dwelling and a grassland area currently primarily used for sheep grazing and bordered by hedgerows with trees.

¹³ NBN Trust (2025). *Rhinolophus hipposideros* on the NBN Atlas: [Rhinolophus hipposideros](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹⁴ NBN Trust (2025). *Nyctalus leisleri* on the NBN Atlas: [Nyctalus leisleri](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹⁵ NBN Trust (2026). *Myotis nattereri* on the NBN Atlas: [Myotis nattereri](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹⁶ NBN Trust (2026). *Nyctalus noctula* on the NBN Atlas: [Nyctalus noctula](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹⁷ NBN Trust (2025). *Eptesicus serotinus* on the NBN Atlas: [Eptesicus serotinus](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].

¹⁸ NBN Trust (2026). *Myotis mystacinus* on the NBN Atlas: [Myotis mystacinus](https://ror.org/00mcxye41) on The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. <https://ror.org/00mcxye41> [Page visited 23/06/26].



There is a small barn with an adjacent patch of bare ground (including an existing drive) and sparsely vegetated areas with pioneering ephemeral/short perennial species.

The wider site is semi-improved grassland in poor ecological condition related to current agricultural land use, mowing and grazing.

The site is situated at the north-western margin of South Wraxall village, with the wider landscape including residential and agricultural areas, and habitat areas including hedgerows, grassland and woodland.

Eight Phase 1 Habitat types were recorded, including boundary features, as detailed in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Phase 1 habitat types & UKHab classification

PHASE 1 VEGETATION CATEGORY	UKHab VEGETATION CATEGORY
J.4 Bare ground	510 Bare ground
J.3.6 Building	u1b5 Buildings
J.1.3 Ephemeral/short perennial	81 Ruderal or ephemeral
C3.1 Tall ruderal	81 Ruderal or ephemeral
B.6 Poor semi-improved grassland	g4 Modified grassland
B.2.2 Semi-improved neutral grassland	g4 Modified grassland
J.2.4 Fence	u1e Built linear features
J.2.3.1 Species-rich native hedgerow and trees	h2a5 Species-rich native hedgerow and trees
J.2.6 Dry ditch	50 Ditch

J.4 Bare ground (UKHab: 510 Bare ground)

Entering the site from Upper South Wraxall Road, there is an area of ground including a gravel drive and bare soil close to the barn..

J.3.6 Buildings (UKHab: u1b5 Buildings)

The existing building is a small open-fronted barn. It has a timber frame, with the external walls comprised of breeze blocks and timber panelling, and a corrugated



metal roof. The interior of the barn is currently used for the storage of hay and general equipment.

Photograph 1: an exterior view of the barn (facing north-west)



J.1.3 Ephemeral / short perennial (UKHab: 81 Ruderal or ephemeral)

There is a small area of ephemeral/short perennial species at the margins of the bare ground, the barn and grassland. Species included creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, pineappleweed *Matricaria discoidea*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*.

C3.1 Tall ruderal (UKHab: 81 Ruderal or ephemeral)

To the western side of the barn there is a patch of tall ruderal, and another patch to the south-east of barn the on the grassland, associated with refugia comprising a pile of earth, wood and rubble.



This area is dominated by common nettle *Urtica dioica*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, and broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, as well as pineappleweed, dandelion and perennial rye-grass.

Photograph 2: tall ruderal area to north-western side of the barn (facing east)



B.6 Poor semi-improved grassland UKHab: g4 Modified grassland)

The wider site is comprised of grassland in varying ecological conditions, with most of the area in relatively poor condition and with a low sward height associated with sheep grazing, mowing and management. Species visible in this area of grassland include perennial rye-grass, red deadnettle *Lamium purpureum*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.



B.2.2 Semi-improved neutral grassland (UKHab: g4 Modified grassland)

There are areas of the grassland in relatively good ecological condition, with greater sward height and more species of grasses and wildflowers visible. This includes an area adjacent to the west side of the barn and tall ruderal area. The sward height reaches approximately 100cm, with additional species identified in these grassland areas including Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, annual meadow-grass *Poa annua*, perennial rye-grass, creeping thistle, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, creeping buttercup, and herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*. Invertebrates were observed in the grassland habitat including meadow brown butterfly *Maniola jurtina*, species of cricket and ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*.

J.2.4 Fence (UKHab: u1e Built linear features)

The site is bordered by a fence to the north of the barn, comprising timber posts and chain-link metal.

J.2.3.1 Species-rich native hedgerow and trees (UKHab code: h2a5) and J.2.6 Dry ditch (UKHab: 50 Ditch)

There are species-rich hedgerows with some taller trees around the margins of the site including to the north, adjacent to the barn and Upper South Wraxall Road, and to the south bordering the south of the field (approximately 20m from the barn). Adjacent to the hedge there is an associated dry ditch.

Shrub species in the hedge included hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* L. agg., blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and dog-rose *Rosa canina*. Taller trees included field maple *Acer campestre*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and a willow *Salix* spp. with a branch growing into contact with the roof of the barn. It is anticipated that this branch of the willow will need to be cut back during the demolition of the barn and construction of the new build, but it is understood the tree will be retained. Ground flora amongst the hedgerow and trees included herb-Robert, ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, ivy *Hedera helix*, common nettle and cleavers *Galium aparine*.



Photograph 3: hedgerow, grassland, tall ruderal & refugia (facing north-west)



3.3 Preliminary Protected Species Walkover

The site and surrounding habitats were examined for signs of protected and notable species, and the following assessment has been made for the potential for these species to be present.

3.3.1 Protected Species

Badger

The site was assessed for evidence of badger, such as setts, runs, snuffle holes or latrines. Some signs of larger mammal(s) were found but these were deemed to be caused by grazing sheep and were not considered to be attributed to badger. No evidence of badger was found, and this species is not considered to be present within the site.



Birds

The barn has some potential to provide locations for birds to nest; however, no old or active nests were found within the barn, or around the structure. Bird droppings were found inside the barn, and it is understood that magpie *Pica pica* have been seen perching in the interior of the barn.

There are some potential foraging and nesting opportunities for birds in the grassland areas with a greater sward height, and in the scattered trees and hedgerow. Birds observed foraging and heard during the survey included robin *Erithacus rubecula*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and swallow *Hirundo rustica*. These observations show the value of areas around the site for nesting and foraging birds.

Bats

The barn was assessed for bats, signs of their presence, and potential roost features. No signs were found, and the barn does not provide ideal habitat for bats to roost. Since the structure is open, the internal space is exposed to wind, rain, and temperature fluctuations, which is not suitable for bats. There are also limited physical spaces on which bats could roost, with no loft space or crevices in which bats could shelter.

One location where bats could roost is an area of timber ceiling panelling at the eastern side of the barn below the metal roof, but the gap is quite large and would not provide an ideal level of shelter. There are also dense cobwebs in the barn roof space, suggesting that bats (and birds) are not regularly flying through these areas. No signs such as staining, feeding remains, or bat droppings were found in or around the barn. It is therefore considered that the barn has Negligible Roost Suitability.

The scattered trees, hedgerow and grassland habitats around the site margins would provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bat species; however, no potential roost features or suitable locations were found in vegetation around the site, such as cracks, crevices or broken limbs.



Photograph 4: showing a view of the internal roof of the barn (facing north-west)



It is not considered that the demolition of the barn and development of a new building would impact the status of bats within the Bath Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of conservation, the closest unit of which is over 3.5km from the site. Filed margins will be retained with dark corridors through which bats can continue to forage and commute.

Brown hare

The margins of the site such as the grassland areas could in theory provide foraging habitat for brown hare, but the sward height is relatively low across the majority of the grassland, and there is limited suitability for this species to shelter. Furthermore, most of the site is bare ground that is not ideal habitat for this species. Access to the site is also limited to the north by Upper South Wraxall Road, hedgerow and boundary fencing. No evidence of brown hare was found within the site.



Dormouse

The hedgerow habitat has some potential to support dormouse *Muscardinus avellanaris* but is not considered optimal habitat.

While there are some connections to other hedgerows, the hedgerow is largely fragmented from the surrounding habitat and has limited species of shrubs and wider flora to support dormice. Evidence of dormice was searched for within the hedgerow, but none was found. The majority of the application area is the barn, bare ground and sparsely vegetated areas, which are not suitable for dormice. This species is not considered to be present here.

Great crested newt (GCN)

Around the site there are some potential refugia objects such as corrugated metal sheets and a pile of earth, logs, brash rubble, which could provide terrestrial shelter opportunities for GCN. There is some terrestrial habitat for GCN at the site margins such as the hedgerow habitat and grassland which could provide shelter, and connectivity to habitats in surrounding area. However, this is not considered to be optimal habitat as the relatively low average sward height and exposed areas do not offer significant cover for commuting and foraging GCN.

While there is some potential for GCN in the wider area, the site does not offer significant terrestrial habitat for GCN, as it is almost entirely bare ground with an existing barn. There are no ponds or waterbodies within the site that could provide GCN with breeding locations and aquatic habitat. The closest known pond is approximately 650m to the north, with intervening terrestrial habitat largely fragmented by neighbouring farms, roads and residential dwellings. In addition, no hibernacula were found within the site that could support this species. This species is therefore not considered to be present.



Otter

There are no waterbodies that could support otter within the site. The nearest known river and tributary habitats that could potentially be suitable for otter are located approximately 500m or more from the site.

Water vole

There is no habitat in the site or within 500m that is suitable to support water vole and this species is not considered to be present.

Beaver

While there is a recent record of beaver in the area, this is just under 2km away in suitable habitat. The site does not have any waterbodies suitable to support beaver, and habitat is fragmented from the recorded location of beavers and the site, including by South Wraxall village. This species is therefore not considered to be present.

3.3.2 Notable Species

Common reptiles & amphibians

The hedgerow and grassland areas with a greater sward height could offer habitat for common reptiles and amphibians to shelter and forage. This grassland is not considered to be optimal habitat for common reptiles or amphibians, as the majority of the sward height is relatively low and therefore does not provide significant cover.

There are also some refugia objects around the site, including discarded corrugated metal sheets, and a small pile of earth, rubble, brash and logs, which reptiles could shelter under and bask in the adjacent open areas of bare ground. No potential hibernacula for herpetofauna were found in the site.

There are no waterbodies or ponds suitable for breeding amphibians within the site, and none are known ponds nearby within 500m of the site.



West European hedgehog

There is habitat suitable for hedgehogs to shelter, forage and commute, including the area of grassland and hedgerow. However, the majority of the proposal area is developed land and bare ground and does not offer ideal habitat for hedgehog. No evidence of hedgehog was found, such as droppings.



4. Conclusions

4.1 Conclusion

The site is a predominately agricultural grassland area and access drive with a small barn. The majority of the site is used for sheep grazing, while there are taller grassland margins and hedgerows with trees bordering the site.

Eight Phase 1 Habitat types were recorded, including boundary features. This included most notably a species-rich native hedgerow with trees and areas of semi-improved neutral grassland with a greater sward height. The remainder of the habitats have relatively low ecological value, including the barn and surrounding areas of bare ground, ephemeral/short perennial and tall ruderal habitat. Habitats in the wider area include woodland, hedgerow and grassland, and further afield (>500m) there are ponds, streams and rivers.

No birds' nests were found in the immediate area of the site including the barn and adjacent area of hedgerow and trees. It is understood that no areas of the hedgerow will be removed, and that minor cutting of the hedgerow is planned for outside of the bird nesting season. Several bird species were observed foraging and were heard during the survey and the hedgerow, trees and grassland margins of the site provide some suitable nesting and foraging habitat for these species.

The barn was assessed for signs of bats and roost features, but none were found. The barn structure is open creating an exposed internal environment, and there are limited spaces for bats to physically roost, with no suitably sized crevices or a loft space. An area assessed included a section of timber ceiling panelling to the east side of the barn below the corrugated metal roof; however, the relatively large gap would not provide an ideal level of shelter.

It is not considered that the demolition of the barn and development of a new building would impact the status of bats within the Bath Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of conservation, the closest unit of which is over 3.5km from the site. Filed margins



will be retained with dark corridors through which bats can continue to forage and commute.

No signs such as feeding remains, staining, or bat droppings were found in or around the barn. The barn is assessed as having Negligible Roost Suitability. Considering the hedgerow with trees and grassland habitats around the site margin, these offer suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bat species; however, no potential roost features or suitable locations were found in vegetation around the site, such as broken limbs, cracks or crevices.

The site has limited suitability for badgers, with some habitat for this species around the margins including the hedgerow and grassland. No evidence of badger was found within the site such as setts, latrines runs or digging and this species is not considered to be present within the site.

There is some suitable habitat for brown hare and dormouse within the site boundaries and nearby habitat areas. However, the majority of the proposal area is developed land and bare ground, and no evidence of either species was found.

The hedgerow and grassland marginal habitats and refugia objects provide potential habitat for small mammals, such as hedgehog, reptiles, GCN and common amphibians. Reptiles could also bask at the margins of the bare ground. However, no evidence of these species was found during the survey.

It is not considered likely that GCN are present within the site as there are no suitable waterbodies or ponds to support breeding GCN or common amphibians. Waterbodies are present within the wider landscape which could offer breeding opportunities and aquatic habitat for amphibians; however, known ponds are over 500m away and terrestrial habitat between the ponds and the site is fragmented, thus restricting access for these species. No suitable herpetofauna hibernacula were found within the site. Most of the grassland area on the site is not considered to be optimal habitat for reptiles or amphibians, including GCN, as the sward height is relatively low and does not provide cover for foraging and commuting animals.



Overall, except for nesting birds in the nearby hedgerow, no evidence of protected species was found, and the site is considered to have low suitability to support protected species.

Recommendations have been made for modest mitigation measures and post-construction ecological enhancements at the site that are proportionate with the low level of environmental impact from the proposed development.



4.2 Mitigation

General

Site personnel should be made aware of protected species and if any are recorded on site, all works should stop, and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted.

Birds

While no birds' nests were found in the barn, it is recommended that the demolition of the barn and new build construction takes place outside of the breeding bird season (March – August, inclusive), as there is potential for birds to nest in this period, and all nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Since there is evidence of nesting birds in the hedgerow, and there is significant potential for nesting in this habitat and taller trees, any cutting of vegetation should also be undertaken out of the breeding bird season.

If vegetation removal works or are undertaken within this period, a nesting bird survey would be required no more than 24 hours prior to the works. If nesting birds were found, these areas of the site would need to be protected from disturbance until the young have fledged naturally.

4.3 Suggested Biodiversity Enhancements

The following recommendations are made for biodiversity enhancements at the site, as part of the overall design, which are proportionate with the level of environmental impact from the proposed development:

- Bird nesting boxes (both small-hole and open-fronted) should be placed within the site boundaries and on the refurbished buildings to create alternative nesting opportunities for small bird species;
- Bat boxes could be placed on the new building or around the site boundaries, if possible, to create roosting opportunities for bat species; and
- It is encouraged that low-lux lighting is used during the works and future use of the new build, which will help minimise disturbance for nocturnal wildlife (foraging and/or sheltering).



5. Target Notes

5.1 Botanical Target Notes (TN)

TN1 – Bare ground track, with ephemeral/short perennial pioneering species around the margins near the track and barn.

TN2 – Hedgerow with scattered trees and ditch around the site boundary.

TN3 – Managed and grazed grassland.

TN4 – Semi-improved neutral grassland margins with greater sward height.

TN5 – Tall ruderal area to the north-west of the barn.

TN6 – Tall ruderal area to the south-east of the barn, around earth and rubble pile.

5.2 Animal Target Notes (AN)

AN1 – Open barn, with bird droppings inside but no nests found. No significant potential roost features for bats or evidence of their presence.

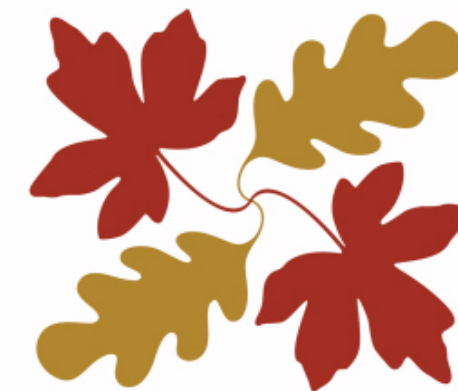
AN2 – Corrugated metal refugia.

AN3 – Earth, rubble and wood pile; potential refugia.

AN4 – Signs of sheep grazing; n evidence of badger, e.g. snuffle holes or latrines.



6. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Map



ELLENDALE
ENVIRONMENTAL

Drawing Title;
Sands Paddock, South Wraxall
Phase 1 baseline habitat map

Client;
LPC (Trull) Ltd

Date;
02/07/26

Drawn By;
DF

Project Number;
EEL1153

Version Number;
v1.0

Key

Target notes

● TN

Animal notes

● AN

Miscellaneous

- Bare ground
- Buildings
- Ephemeral / short perennial
- Fence
- Hedgerow with trees (species-rich)
- Dry ditch

Grassland and marsh

- SI Semi-improved neutral grassland
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland

Tall herb and fern

- Tall ruderal

