



**Brindle
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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Fleet Wood Lane Primary School, Spalding

Report Reference: BG24.298

February 2025



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Revision Details

Revision	Approved	Revision Details
REV1	KB	Updates to redline boundary to incorporate up to date proposals
REV2	BH	Updates to redline boundary to incorporate up to date proposals, including existing cabin classroom and section of school playing field

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1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Brindle & Green Ltd were commissioned by Lindum Group to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal incorporating a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment at Fleet Wood Lane Primary School, in Spalding, Lincolnshire. This report summarises the full planning application for the development of a classroom extension, altered access, and additional car parking area. Design plans are provided within Appendix 6 of this report. The survey was carried out on the 19th July 2024.
- 1.1.2 The red line boundary is approximately 250m² in extent and comprises a small patch of amenity grassland, bare ground, and hardstanding, bound by native hedgerows to the west, a fence to the north, and bound by the neighbouring existing school building to the east. There are no defining boundary features to the south. The site was evaluated to support up to 'District' value on a Local scale, due to the presence of native hedgerows which are a habitat of principal importance. All other habitats on site were considered to hold 'Site' value.
- 1.1.3 The habitats described within this report have the potential to support protected and/or notable species. As such, this report outlines important measures to protect species during site clearance, and recommendations to improve the biodiversity status of the site post development.
- 1.1.4 A full description of the recommendations can be found within Chapter 7. Table 1 is a summary of the ecological issues recommended for further consideration as a result of our initial investigations.
- 1.1.5 Results and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared by an experienced ecologist and are therefore the view of Brindle & Green Limited. The survey is based on information provided by our client, the development proposals, results of the desk study and our survey of the site. This report pertains to this information only.

Table 1: Ecological recommendations

Ecological Consideration	Recommendations (e.g. further survey, mitigation)	Timing
Habitats	Biodiversity Impact Assessment required to inform the units required to achieve a mandatory 10% net gain, detailed in chapter 7.	During Design Phase
Invasive Species	Cotoneaster recorded within the centre of the site. Responsible disposal of spoil and vegetation debris during site clearance	During Site Clearance
Breeding Birds	Works should be sympathetic to this group of species, with vegetation clearance undertaken following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) outlined in chapter 7	During Site Clearance (Optimal timing between October -March outside of breeding bird season)
Roosting Bats	Building 2 assessed to hold 'Moderate' suitability but is set to not be directly impacted under current proposals. If this is to change, two nocturnal surveys are recommended to determine presence/likely absence of roosting bats, detailed in chapter 7.	Two nocturnal surveys, at least 3 weeks apart, between May – September
Foraging and Commuting Bats	Works should be sympathetic to this group of species through sensitive lighting, detailed in chapter 7	During and post construction
Great Crested Newts	Reasonable Avoidance Measures to be secured within a method statement, outlined within a CEMP as a condition of planning	During development
Mammal Species	Reasonable Avoidance Measures are recommended during site clearance and construction, detailed in chapter 7	During development
Invasive Species	Removal of Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster <i>horizontalis</i>) on site and suitable disposal by a suitably qualified contractor, detailed in chapter 7	Year round

2 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The purpose of this assessment was to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site incorporating a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Protected Species Assessment to establish the likelihood of the site supporting protected species. The survey provides detail on the need for any additional, more detailed protected species surveys, likely mitigation, and any opportunities for enhancement.
- 2.1.2 The red line boundary is approximately 400m² in extent and comprises a school car parking area and associated grassland, bound by native hedgerows, a cabin classroom, and section of school playing field. The site is located on the northern outskirts of Fleet, a village and civil parish associated with the district of Lincolnshire. Arable and pastoral land dominate the immediate and wider habitats, interspersed by tree lines and drainage ditches.
- 2.1.3 The site is the subject of a full planning application for the development of a classroom extension, altered access, and additional car parking area. Design plans are provided within Appendix 6 of this report.
- 2.1.4 The legislation relevant to protected species within the United Kingdom is summarised within Appendix 4.
- 2.1.5 Results and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared by an experienced ecologist and are therefore the view of Brindle & Green Limited. The survey is based on information provided by our client, the development proposals, results of the desk study and our survey of the site. This report pertains to this information only.

3 Methodology

3.1 Desk Study

- 3.1.1 Table 2 lists organisations and/or resources used as part of the desk study process. Data regarding any known statutory or non-statutory sites, in addition to any records for protected species, were requested from the following sources:

Table 2: Ecological Data Resources

Consultant	Requested data	Search radius	Date requested
Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)	– National and International site Designations – Granted European protected species Development (EPS) Licenses – Priority Habitat Inventory	2km	02/09/2024

3.2 Surveyors

- 3.2.1 The survey was carried out by Sarah Jennison BSc (Hons), Assistant Ecologist.
- 3.2.2 The survey was overseen by Lucinda Sweet PhD, MCIEEM Natural England Bat Licence (Class Level 2, 2019-9122-CLS-CLS), Great Crested Newt Licence (Class Level 1, 2016-22852-CLS-CLS), Director.

3.3 Survey Conditions

- 3.3.1 The survey was undertaken at 12:00pm on the 19th July 2024. The outside temperature was recorded as 28°C, with dry conditions, and 0/8 cloud cover.

3.4 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 3.4.1 A Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken following survey guidance (JNCC 2007) to establish the presence and distribution of habitat types within the site and potential ecological constraints to development. A Phase 1 Habitat Map was produced (Appendix 1) and where additional details were required Target Notes have been provided (Appendix 2). A plant species list (Appendix 2) summarising all plants identified on site was produced during the survey and all scientific nomenclature was produced according to Stace (2010).
- 3.4.2 This survey was extended to note the potential for habitats on site to support protected and/or notable species and for evidence of any such species. The habitats on site were assessed for

their suitability to support protected species in relation to the habitat type found at the site. Any incidental sightings or field signs were noted at the time of survey. Where evidence of, or the confirmed presence of a protected species was identified, further species-specific surveys may be recommended to ensure that the presence or otherwise of a legally protected species is fully considered prior to the determination of any planning approval or to guide an EPS development licence.

3.4.3 Hedgerows on site were assessed following the Hedgerow Survey Handbook (DEFRA 2007) and defined as species-rich if the structural species making up a surveyed 30m section of hedgerow included at least five native woody species. Results were compiled and assessed against qualifying criteria within the Hedgerow Regulations (1997) and also the UK Biodiversity Action Plan / NERC Act 2006.

3.4.4 Legislation, guidance and methodology for species relevant to this site are presented in full within Appendices 4 and 5 of this report.

3.5 Site Evaluation

3.5.1 Following the ecological appraisal, the site was classified into one of six groups (Table 3), to indicate whether the site is considered to hold ecological value on a local, national or international scale. This evaluation is intended as a guide and only targeted survey work can establish the significance of protected species populations onsite.

Table 3: Definitions of each of the six evaluation brackets, indicating the importance of each habitat type and an example of their possible habitat status. (Table constructed following The CIEEM EcIA Guidelines, Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal (2016) pages 16 -17)

Ecological Value	Comparable Example
International	An internationally designated site or candidate site, including habitat or species included within Special Protection Areas (SPA) / Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Sites, listed under Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive
National	Sites designated at UK level, e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), supporting species considered nationally threatened or rare
Regional	A regularly occurring regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species
County	A feature identified as of critical importance within Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006)

Ecological Value	Comparable Example
District	Key Habitat type included within the National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) /NERC Habitat of Principle Importance (HPI). A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species
Local/Site	Designated sites, such as Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) or viable habitat / species populations of value at a county level (LBAP)

3.6 Limitations

- 3.6.1 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment. The protected and notable species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of these species occurring on site, based upon the suitability of the habitats, known distribution of the species in the local area and any direct evidence on site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group. Building 3 was not accessed at the time of the preliminary survey. A further potential roost assessment survey is planned to be carried out on this building to assess the building's suitability for roosting bats. Results from this survey will be detailed in a following revision of this document, and therefore not considered a constraint to the application.

3.7 Report Lifespan

- 3.7.1 Given the transient nature of the subject we would consider the survey results contained to be accurate for 2 years.

4 Site Context

4.1 Site Description

4.1.1 The application site can be found at TF 38767 23893, positioned on the northern outskirts of Fleet, a village and civil parish associated with the district of Lincolnshire. The site comprises a school car parking area and associated grassland, bound by native hedgerows. A school building (Building 1 and 2) is located adjacent to the east of the application site, pertaining to an old school building to the south and newer extension of the school to the north.

4.1.2 Arable and pastoral land dominate the immediate and wider habitats in all directions, interspersed by tree lines and drainage ditches approximately 27m south and 15m east of the application boundary. Hedgerows and treelines to the east, south, and west provide connectivity to the wider landscape for bats and birds, notably a pocket of woodland approximately 180m to the south.

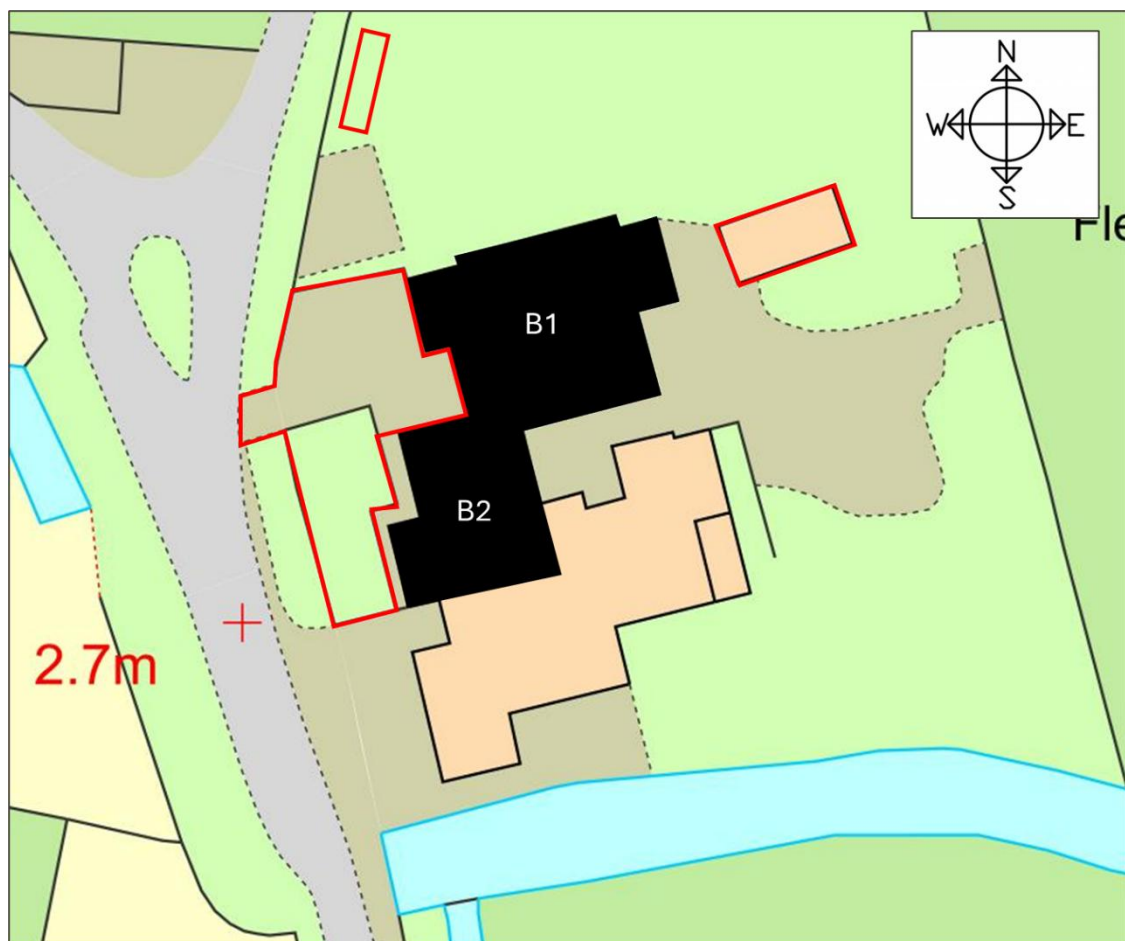


Figure 1: OS map of the project site and surrounding area. Red line boundary depicts application site.

4.2 Zone of Influence

- 4.2.1 The zone of influence describes the geographic extent of potential impacts of a proposed development. The Site scale of the proposed development reduces the likelihood of impact to the surrounding area, however suitable connective vegetation could influence the presence of protected species within the application boundary. The zone of influence was considered to be 500 metres from the application boundary for amphibians and reptiles, 30 metres for terrestrial mammals such as badgers, otter and water vole, and within the area of impact for breeding birds and bats.

5 Results

5.1 Desk Study

Designated Sites

- 5.1.1 The site was subjected to a search for designated sites within a 2km radius of the site using data supplied by the online desk-based resource MAGIC maps.
- 5.1.2 The data supplied by MAGIC maps was received on the 03/09/2024 and is summarised within The site falls within the impact risk zone (IRZ) for The Wash Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Area of Natural Beauty (AoNB), and Local Nature Reserve (LNR), approximately 10.5km NE from the application boundary. The site is designated for its important areas of estuarine mudflats, sandbanks, and saltmarshes, and for its importance to various birds, a shell fishery, and the largest breeding colony of seals.
- 5.1.3 . The search revealed no statutory and no non-statutory sites within a 2km radius of the site.
- 5.1.4 The site falls within the impact risk zone (IRZ) for The Wash Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Area of Natural Beauty (AoNB), and Local Nature Reserve (LNR), approximately 10.5km NE from the application boundary. The site is designated for its important areas of estuarine mudflats, sandbanks, and saltmarshes, and for its importance to various birds, a shell fishery, and the largest breeding colony of seals.

Protected Species Assessment

- 5.1.5 Magic Maps revealed no granted EPS licences within 2km of the site.

Priority Habitats

- 5.1.6 Data supplied by MAGIC includes a UKBAP priority habitat inventory. MAGIC returned no priority habitat on or adjacent to the application site.

5.2 Habitats

- 5.2.1 The habitat types recorded on site are summarised below, and the frequency and distribution of habitat types is displayed within a Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map (Appendix 1 and 2).
- 5.2.2 Table 4 provides a list of habitat types present on site along with their inclusion (or otherwise) as a National and / or Local Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) (Previously referred to as

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)) (It should be noted that additional information is included within the text where a classification under Phase 1 survey methodology does not mirror habitat types considered to be conservation priorities).

Table 4: JNCC Habitat Types found on site and inclusion within UK BAP/HPI habitats

Habitat Type	N HPI	L HPI	N/A
Amenity grassland			✓
Introduced Shrub			✓
Scattered trees			✓
Native Hedgerows	✓	✓	
Bare Ground			✓
Buildings and hardstanding			✓

Amenity Grassland

- 5.2.3 Grassland pertained to species amenity grassland and covered approximately 0.012ha of the site (Error! Reference source not found.), and was heavily managed to a sward height of <5cm. Species included dominant perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), with abundant cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Herb species included frequent oxeye daisy (*Bellis perennis*), frequent ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), occasional self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and rare ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).



Figure 2: Amenity grassland to within the southern application boundary



Figure 3: Amenity grassland within the northern redline boundary, within the school playing field

Introduced Shrub

- 5.2.4 Introduced ornamental shrubs were recorded in the centre of the site (Figure 2). Species pertained to dominant cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), rare field maple (*Acer campestre*) and ivy (*Hedera Helix*).



Figure 4: Area of introduced shrub, located at the centre of the site

Scattered Trees

5.2.5 A single young pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) is located to the west of the site (



5.2.6 Figure 5ure 5) within the amenity grassland, adjacent to H1.



Figure 5: Common oak (right), located to the west of the site. The holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) on the left was outside of the application boundary.

Native Hedgerows

- 5.2.7 Two native, species-poor hedgerows (fewer than five species in any given 30m section) were recorded across the site, providing a boundary between the application site and Hockle's Gate Road (H1 and H3). Both hedgerows were dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with rare field maple (*Acer campestre*), ivy (*Hedera Helix*), and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The understorey comprised the same species composition as located within adjacent grassland.
- 5.2.8 The locations of the hedgerows in Table 5 below can be viewed in the Phase 1 Habitat Plan in Appendix 1.

Table 5: Description of hedgerows on site

Hedge Number	Type	Dimensions (Approx.) H x W x L	Description	Likely to Qualify*
H1	Native intact	1m x 1m x 12m		No

Hedge Number	Type	Dimensions (Approx.) H x W x L	Description	Likely to Qualify*
	species poor		Regularly maintained hedgerow, forming a boundary between the site and Hockle's Gate Road.	
H2	Native intact species poor	2m x 4m x 8m	Uncut intact hedgerow, forming a boundary between the site and Hockle's Gate Road.	No
H3	Native intact species poor	1.5m x 1m x 5m	Regularly maintained hedgerow, forming a boundary between the amenity grassland and the hardstanding to the south of the application site.	No

*Likely to qualify as important under Hedgerow Regulations (1997)

Bare Ground

- 5.2.9 Approximately 0.007ha of bare ground was noted at the north of the application site, pertaining to unsealed gravel car parking. The bare ground was encroached by occasional poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) from the adjacent grassland to the north, outside of the application boundary.



Figure 6: Bare ground located to the north of the site

Buildings and Hard standing

- 5.2.10 Two two-storey red brick school buildings (B1 and B2) were present to the east of the application site, adjacent to the application boundary. The buildings were in a good condition and full building descriptions can be found within section 5.3 and appendix 8 (Table 13). A single-storey school cabin (B3) is also located within the eastern redline boundary of the application site, but was not assessed during the preliminary assessment, but will be assessed prior to demolition of the building.
- 5.2.11 An area of approximately 0.009ha tarmac hardstanding was also seen throughout the centre of the site, providing walkways to the school entrance from Hockle's Gate Road.



Figure 7: B1, adjacent to the west of the application site



Figure 8: B2, located to the southwest of the application site.



Figure 9: Hardstanding, located throughout the centre of the site.

Invasive Weeds Assessment

5.2.12 An assessment of the site was made to establish the presence of invasive weeds included on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

5.2.13 A hedgerow (H2) dominated by Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), which is a schedule 9 species, was found within the centre of the site at approximately TF 38767 23896.

5.3 Fauna

Breeding Birds

5.3.1 The Assessment was undertaken within the breeding bird season. Three species of bird were recorded on site during the survey pertaining to blackbird (*Turdus merula*), wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*).

- 5.3.2 Scattered trees and hedgerows on site provide suitable nesting habitat for birds, including birds of conservation concern such as house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*).
- 5.3.3 Buildings 1 and 2 adjacent to the site boundary provided limited suitable nesting habitat for breeding birds, and no suitable access points for bird species were recorded throughout the building.
- 5.3.4 Based on a review of the habitat types on site, it is considered to support limited nesting opportunities for nesting birds.

Bats

Roosting Bats

- 5.3.5 Scattered trees on site were assessed for their suitability to support roosting bats, and no potential roosting features were seen. Therefore, all trees on site were considered negligible to support roosting bats. Building 1 was also assessed to support 'Negligible' suitability to support roosting bats. Building 2 was assessed to support 'Moderate' suitability to support roosting bats. The extent of the suitability pertained to failing mortar, lifted ridge tiles, and lifted roof tiles, providing crevices for bats to use on an intermittent basis. The main structural features of the building, and their suitability for supporting roosting bats are summarised below (Table 6), and associated figures can be found with Table 13 in Appendix 8. A potential roosting features plan has also been included in Appendix 10.

Table 6: Summary of bat roost suitability and evidence found within each of the buildings / structures on site (Supporting Figures within Appendix 8)

High	Moderate	Low	Negligible	None
Building Number	Description	Bat Evidence / potential Roosting Features (PRFs)	Roost Suitability	
B1	External: Two storey red-brick school building, with five gable ends, supporting a pitched roof pertaining to clay roof and ridge tiles. No soffit boxes are present. UPVC windows were recorded on eastern and southern elevations, and UPVC doors to the eastern and southern elevations. The	External: – None present	Negligible	

Building Number	Description	Bat Evidence / potential Roosting Features (PRFs)	Roost Suitability
	building was in a good state of repair at the time of the survey, and no PRFs were present.		
	Internal: The roof space of Building 1 was accessed by a hatch using a ladder, and was largely uncluttered. The interior of the roof was lined with bitumen felt and was well sealed.	Internal: No evidence of previous bat activity was recorded during the assessment	
B2	External: Two storey red-brick school building, with three gable ends, supporting a pitched roof pertaining to clay roof and ridge tiles. No soffit boxes are present. Timber windows were recorded on the northern, eastern and western elevations, and UPVC windows also on the western elevation. A timber door was noted on the western elevation, and a UPVC door on the eastern elevation. The building was in a good state of repair at the time of the survey, with some PRFs present.	External: – Gaps in mortar on northern and western elevations (Table 12) – Lifted roof tiles on western elevation (Table 12) – Lifted roof tiles on western elevation (Table 12)	Moderate
	Internal: The roof space of Building 2 was accessed by a hatch using a ladder, and was largely uncluttered. The interior of the roof was largely similar to B1, and was lined with bitumen felt and was well sealed.	Internal: No evidence of previous bat activity was recorded during the assessment	

Foraging and Commuting Bats

5.3.6 Linear features on site such as the hedgerows along the eastern boundary provide 'Low' suitability for foraging and commuting bats due to the lack of significant height required for foraging and commuting bats. The immediate surroundings to the south supported habitats of 'Moderate' suitability such as hedgerows, treelines, and pockets of woodland to the east and south. However, habitats to the north, dominated by agricultural and pastoral land offer limited commuting corridors suitable for foraging and commuting bats, pertaining to scattered trees approximately 300m north of the application site.

Badgers

- 5.3.7 The amenity grassland onsite supported limited foraging opportunities for badgers. No evidence of badger setts, or activity such as mammal runs, snuffle holes and latrines were found during the ecological appraisal of the site. However, habitats such as pockets of woodland, approximately 180m south, within the wider landscape could be considered conducive to supporting badger populations, and therefore suggest that this transient species could forage or commute within the surrounding environment, but are not likely dependant on habitats within the redline boundary.

Great Crested Newts

- 5.3.8 Four drainage ditches were found within a 250m radius of the red line boundary. However, habitats on site were considered sub-optimal to support great crested newt (GCN), pertaining to buildings and hardstanding, amenity grassland, introduced shrub, and bare ground, lacking suitable foraging and commuting habitats for this species. However, a single bug hotel (TN1) noted within the centre of the site offers some refugia for great crested newts. As such it is considered that GCN may be present within the wider area, but are unlikely to utilise habitats on site due to more suitable habitats available within the wider landscape.

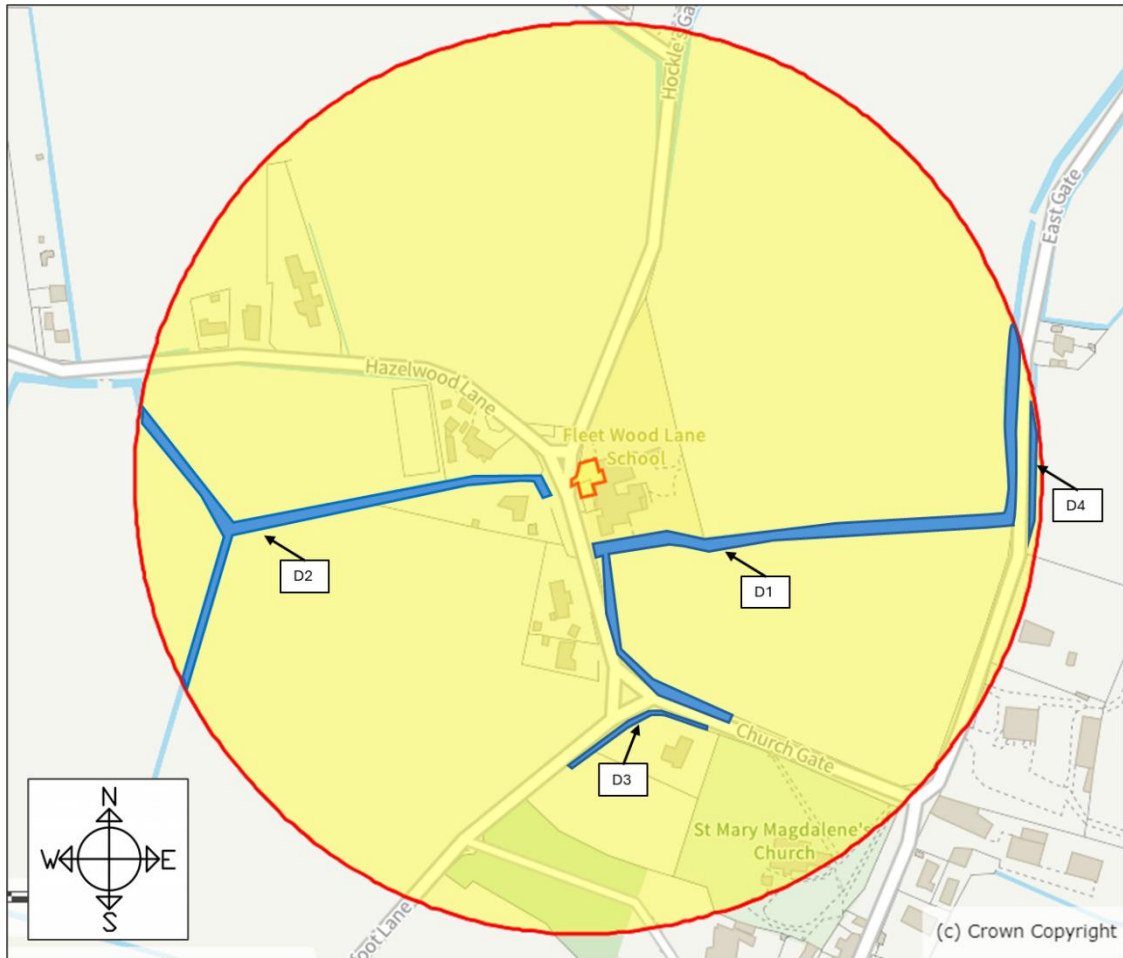


Figure 10: OS Map showing drainage ditch locations within a 250-metre radius of the site.

Table 7: Ditch Locations and Suitability for Great Crested Newts

Pond Number	Grid Ref.	HSI Score	Distance from site
D1	TF 3878 2385	Not accessed during preliminary appraisal	27m S
D2	TF 3873 2389	Not accessed during preliminary appraisal	15m W
D3	TF 3879 2376	Not accessed during preliminary appraisal	128m S
D4	TF 3901 2390	Not accessed during preliminary appraisal	258m E

Reptiles

- 5.3.9 Habitats within the wider landscape offer some suitable habitats for foraging and commuting reptiles. However, habitats on site were considered sub-optimal to support a resident population

of reptiles due to a lack of structural variation across the survey area. However, suitable refugia such as the bug hotel (TN1) noted within the centre of the site offers some refugia for reptiles. As such it is considered that reptiles may be present within the wider area, but are unlikely to utilise habitats on site due to more suitable habitats available within the wider landscape.

Mammal Species of Principal Importance

5.3.10 The NERC Act 2006, Section 41 highlights 17 species of principal importance within England.

Western European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

5.3.11 Grassland within the application boundary was considered suitable for supporting foraging and commuting Western European hedgehog, providing good connectivity to agricultural land within the surrounding landscape.

Other Species

Otter

5.3.12 A search of MAGIC maps revealed no granted EPS licences found within 2km of the application site for otter.

5.3.13 Four ditches were found within 250m of the application boundary. Ditches 1, 2, 3, and 4 could provide potentially suitable habitat for this species, and could provide suitable habitat for holts and couches. Habitats on site were considered unsuitable for this species pertaining to hard standing, amenity grassland, bare ground, and introduced shrub, but provide some connectivity between suitable habitats within the wider landscape. As such, it is possible that otter may be present within the surrounding area, but not reliant to habitats within the site boundary.

Water Vole

5.3.14 A search of MAGIC maps revealed no granted EPS licences found within 2km of the application site for water vole.

5.3.15 Four ditches were found within 250m of the application boundary. Ditches 1, 2, 3, and 4 could provide potentially suitable habitat for this species, providing opportunities for burrowing and nest building, with the closest ditch approximately 27m south of the application boundary. Habitats on site were considered unsuitable for this species, pertaining to hard standing, amenity grassland, bare ground, and introduced shrub, but provide some connectivity between

suitable habitats within the wider landscape. As such, it is possible that water vole may be present within the surrounding area, but considered absent from the application boundary.

6 Evaluation

6.1 Development Proposals

- 6.1.1 The site is the subject of a full planning application for the development of a classroom pertaining to a single-storey extension of B1 to the north of the application, and single-storey flat roof extension to the south of the application, connecting to the north of B2, but not impacting the roof space. The proposals also pertain altered access, and additional car parking area. Design plans are provided within Appendix 6 of this report.

6.2 Desk Study Impacts

- 6.2.1 Direct impacts on nearby designated sites as a result of the proposed development are considered unlikely. No statutory and no non-statutory sites are found within 2km of the application boundary. The initial proposals set out for the site (Appendix 6) show that the extent of the development proposals are contained within the site boundary, and impacts on locally designated sites are considered unlikely.
- 6.2.2 The site lies within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for The Wash Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Area of Natural Beauty (AoNB), and Local Nature Reserve (LNR), approximately 10.5km NE from the application boundary. However, the proposed development does not meet the criteria for the IRZ for the designated site, as such no further action is required.
- 6.2.3 Overall, it is considered that direct impacts on nearby designated sites as a result of the proposed development are unlikely.

6.3 Habitats

- 6.3.1 The site was evaluated to support up to 'District' value on a Local scale, due to the presence of native hedgerows which are a habitat of principal importance. All other habitats on site were considered to hold 'Site' value.
- 6.3.2 The site was dominated by 0.057ha of buildings and hard standing throughout, with 0.006ha of amenity grassland to the south, 0.001ha of introduced shrub in the centre of the site, and 0.006ha of bare ground to the north. Native, species-poor hedgerows on site cover approximately 20.41m in length. The proposed plans show that the current amenity grassland and bare ground are set to be lost following development.

- 6.3.3 In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is mandatory from February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act. Therefore, the site must undergo a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, further details of which are provided in Chapter 7.

6.4 Breeding Birds

- 6.4.1 All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird whilst nesting, or take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird while in use or being built. In addition, species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or their dependant young are afforded additional protection from disturbance whilst they are at their nests.
- 6.4.2 Buildings on site were considered unsuitable for nesting birds. However, the vegetation on site was considered to provide suitable nesting habitat for common bird species. In the absence of mitigation direct or indirect impacts on individual birds, their young, eggs and habitats could occur during site clearance. Chapter 7 provides recommendations relating to the need for reasonable avoidance measures to ensure bird species are not harmed during demolition.

6.5 Bats

- 6.5.1 All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

Roosting Bats

- 6.5.2 Scattered trees on site were not considered suitable to support roosting bats, with no PRFs seen on the preliminary survey. Building 1 adjacent to the site, is set to be extended onto the application site, and was identified as having negligible suitability to support roosting bats, as no PRFs were found within the buildings.
- 6.5.3 The proposed plans show that B2, which was identified to hold 'Moderate' suitability for roosting bats, is set to remain largely unaffected in its current condition, and the roof space is not expected to be impacted, due to a single storey flat roof extension at the north of this building.

- 6.5.4 As such, roosting bats are not considered to be a constraint to the application, however, if plans are to change and the roof space is to be impacted, the further presence/absence surveys should be carried out on B2 in order to determine presence/likely absence of this species group. The recommendations section of this report sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species and measures to support its conservation status through ecological enhancement.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

- 6.5.5 Linear features within the application boundary are considered to provide 'Low' suitability for foraging and commuting bats. Whilst habitats within the wider landscape to the north provide limited suitability due to the lack of linear features, habitats to the south and west provide 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats, leading to pockets of woodland within the wider landscape. Therefore, bats are considered to be present within the local area but not dependent on habitats within the application boundary.
- 6.5.6 The impact of development works on foraging and commuting bats is therefore considered to be low, as individual bats may utilise the site intermittently, due to the connectivity provided by residential gardens and urban trees within the immediate surroundings. Chapter 7 therefore sets out important guidance relating to a sensitive lighting scheme during construction.

6.6 Badgers

- 6.6.1 There was no evidence of badger activity within zone of influence and habitats onsite were deemed sub-optimal for the species, However, the extent of the agricultural land within the wider landscape could provide suitable sett making habitat for this species, as such badgers may commute through the redline boundary on an intermittent basis.
- 6.6.2 Chapter 7 sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species and measures to support its conservation status.

6.7 Great Crested Newts

- 6.7.1 Great crested newts and their eggs, breeding sites and resting places are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

6.7.2 It is considered unlikely that GCN would present a constraint to the planning application, particularly given the increasingly low densities at which GCN are found at increased distances from optimal habitat and breeding ponds. Given the lack of suitable refugia for this species, pertaining to a bug hotel within the centre of the site (TN1), and habitats on site also such as the hardstanding, heavily managed grassland, introduced shrub, and bare ground, GCN are not thought to be present within the redline boundary. Several drainage ditches were present with 250m of the site, but are largely fragmented by unsuitable habitats within the application boundary. Therefore, it is considered that GCN may be present within the wider area, but not reliant on habitats within the application boundary. As such, chapter 7 provides important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species and measures to support its conservation status.

6.8 Reptiles

6.8.1 Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) making it illegal to intentionally kill or injure reptiles.

6.8.2 A bug hotel (TN1) found within the centre of the site provided suitable refugia for foraging and commuting reptiles. However, habitats on site were considered suboptimal for this species group, pertaining to hardstanding, heavily managed amenity grassland, introduced shrub, and bare ground. No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the survey; given the poor connectivity associated with the site and the small scale of the project site, in combination with the unsuitable habitat types present across the majority of the plot, it is unlikely that the site would support a resident population of reptiles. As such, reptiles are not considered further within this report.

6.9 Mammal Species of Principal Importance

6.9.1 The NERC Act 2006, Section 41 highlights 17 species of principal importance within England. This includes several species of bat, however these have been addressed in section 6.5.

Western European Hedgehog

6.9.2 The habitats on site were considered conducive to supporting Western European hedgehog. Amenity grassland on site provides suitable foraging and commuting habitats for these species. Chapter 7 provides recommendations aimed at safeguarding this species during construction, and measures to facilitate their use of the site post-development.

6.10 Other Species

Invasive species

6.10.1 It is an offence to facilitate the spread of invasive species which are listed on schedule 9 of the wildlife and countryside act.

6.10.2 Hedgerow 2 was dominated by Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), which is listed as a species on Schedule 9 of the UK Wildlife & Countryside Act and was found within the centre of the site at approximately TF 38767 23896. Chapter 7 sets out the recommendations for the responsible disposal of vegetation that is removed from the site.

Otter

6.10.3 Otters are fully protected under Schedules 5 & 6 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.10.4 Habitats such as the ditches within the surrounding landscape provide potential suitable habitat for this species, and otters may commute through the landscape. However, current proposals show that the extent of the works will be contained within the red line boundary, as such, there will be no direct impacts to watercourses within the zone of influence. Limited suitable habitat was also present on site, pertaining to hardstanding, amenity grassland, introduced shrub, and bare ground. As such, chapter 7 sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species and measures to support its conservation status.

Water Vole

6.10.5 Water vole are fully protected under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.10.6 Habitats such as the ditches within the surrounding landscape provided potential suitable habitat for this species. However, no suitable habitat was present on site, pertaining to hardstanding, amenity grassland, introduced shrub, and bare ground. Current proposals show that the extent of the works will be contained within the red line boundary, as such, there will be no direct impacts to watercourses within the zone of influence. As such, impacts to this species is considered unlikely and are not considered further in this report.

7 Recommendations

As with all development sites, efforts should be made to support National and Local Biodiversity Action Plans, and seek opportunities to incorporate ecological enhancement schemes within the proposed development. Such site enhancements are viewed positively in light of the NPPF (2021) which seeks biodiversity enhancements and net gain through the planning process.

7.1 Habitats

Habitats	Timing
Recommendations	
The site should be subjected to a Biodiversity impact Assessment to ascertain habitat value and number of post development units to achieve a minimum 10% net gain.	During design stage
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Soft landscaping proposals should seek to include areas of open space to be enhanced with native planting for the benefit of biodiversity, guided by a biodiversity impact assessment to achieve a minimum 10% net gain.	During design stage

7.2 Invasive Species

Invasive Species	Timing
Recommendations	
Cotoneaster, which is a schedule 9 species, was found within the centre of the site. Any vegetation or spoil removed from this area should be disposed of responsibly to prevent the spread of this pernicious species offsite. Any construction vehicles utilised during the development process should be free of vegetative debris at the point of entry and removal, to avoid the spread of invasive or pernicious species to or from the site.	During site clearance and development.

7.3 Breeding Birds

Breeding Birds	Timing
Recommendations	
Trees on site provide suitable habitat for breeding birds. Given their protection, development must be sympathetic to the value of this habitat and potential impacts on breeding birds, their eggs, nests and young. The breeding bird season is generally accepted as being between March and September. Consideration and implementation must be given to the following options most appropriate to the scheme. a) Undertake vegetation clearance between the months of October and February where possible. b) Clearance between the months of March and September should be subjected to a search for active birds' nests 24 hours prior to commencement of works.	Works outside of the breeding season (Oct-Feb) If unachievable, follow steps in recommendation.
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Soft landscaping proposals should seek to include areas of open space to be enhanced with native planting for the benefit of biodiversity, guided by a biodiversity impact assessment.	During design stage

7.4 Roosting Bats

Roosting Bats	Timing
Recommendations	
Building 1 on the north of the site, set to be impacted provided negligible suitability for roosting bats. Building 2 provided moderate suitability for roosting bats, and no evidence of bat droppings or feeding remains were seen in any loft voids within either building. A sensitive lighting scheme should be implemented to avoid impacts to B2 post construction to safeguard this species. If proposals are set to change and the roof space within B2 is to be impacted, the building should be subject to a single bat dusk emergence survey to determine presence or absence of roosting bats.	During and post construction During development If survey needed: between May – August in suitable weather conditions. Prior to planning determination
If lighting is required, a scheme should be devised and positioned to have minimal disturbance following the guidance of an ecologist. Any lighting used during the development should be directed away from the north-western boundary with overspill less than 1lux (ideally 0) onto suitable habitats.	During and post development
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Single Habitat built in bat box 001 (or similar approved) to be integrated into the external fabric of the proposed extension, positioned on a south-western elevation at a height of at least 5 metres with an unobstructed flight path.	During construction

7.5 Badgers

Badgers	Timing
Recommendations	
Appropriate precautions should be employed before and during construction works to prevent harm to this protected species. a) A Pre-works check of the site should be undertaken within three months prior to the onset of construction related activities. b) Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g. a scaffolding plank). Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent badgers gaining access. c) Should badgers or any evidence of badgers be encountered during the construction phase, all works should cease, and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist should be sought	Pre and during development

7.6 Great Crested Newts

Great Crested Newts	Timing
Recommendations	
No ponds lie within a 250m zone of influence of the Proposed Development, but several drainage ditches are noted within the wider landscape. Limited terrestrial habitat is present on Site, pertaining to hardstanding and heavily managed grassland. Reasonable Avoidance Measures to be secured within a method statement, outlined within a CEMP as a condition of planning The following reasonable avoidance measures should be followed during the construction phase to minimise risk to individual amphibians: – All materials to be stored off the ground (for example on pallets) to minimise the likelihood of herptiles accessing them for refugia. – All spoil/waste materials to be removed from site at the end of each working day (or stored in a skip). If any evidence of GCN presence is uncovered during development works, then works should cease immediately and the advice of an ecologist sought as a European Protected Species License would be required to continue works.	Secured as condition of planning
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Use of native shrubs in soft landscaping proposals will provide benefits on site for native fauna post-development.	During design stage

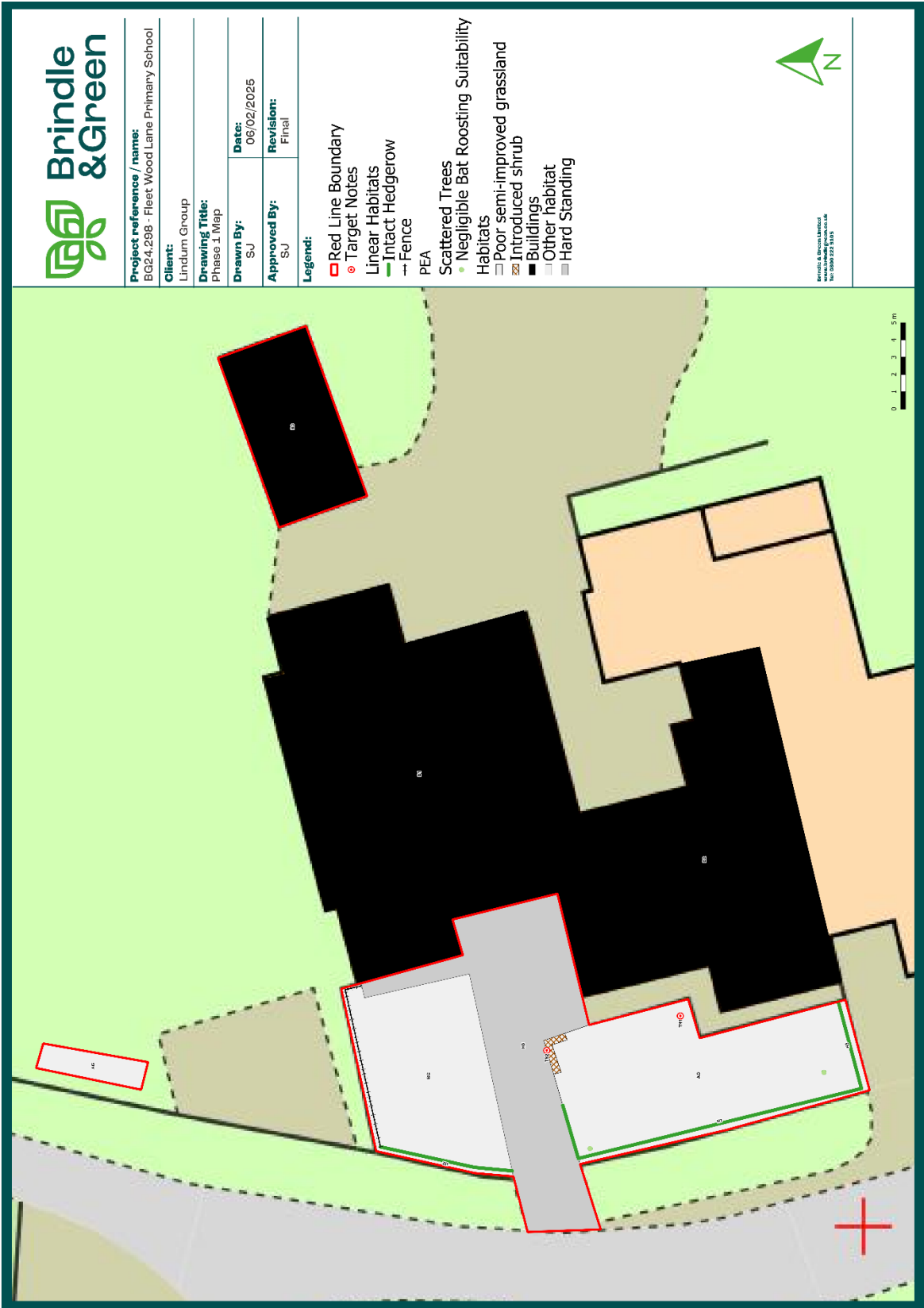
7.7 Mammal Species of Principal Importance

Mammal Species of Principal Importance	Timing
Recommendations	
Hedgehogs may use the site for foraging or commuting purposes. The recommended reasonable avoidance measures should be followed: a) Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent hedgehogs gaining access. b) Undertake works during daylight hours. c) The vegetation should be checked prior to removal. d) Search areas of deadwood, brash, and discarded items by hand before removing. e) If burning any cleared vegetation, carry out immediately after piling to prevent hedgehogs moving in prior to burning. f) Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day, or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g., a scaffolding plank).	During clearance and development

7.8 Otter

Other Species	Timing
Recommendations	
Appropriate precautions should be employed before and during construction works to prevent harm to this protected species. a) A Pre-works check of the site should be undertaken prior to the onset of construction related activities. b) Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g. a scaffolding plank). Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent otters gaining access. c) Should otters or any evidence of otters be encountered during the construction phase, all works should cease, and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist should be sought	Pre and during development

Appendix 1 - Phase 1 Habitat Plan



Appendix 2 - Phase 1 Target Notes

Table 8: Phase 1 target notes

Target note number	Description
1	Bug Hotel - TF 38769 23888 

Target note number	Description
2	Cotoneaster - TF 38767 23896 

Table 9: Plant Species List with DAFOR Scale

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and common names follow BSBI List of British & Irish Vascular Plants and Stoneworts.

Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat survey and does not constitute a full botanical survey.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale as follows:

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare, LF = locally frequent

Common Name	Scientific Name	Estimated Abundance (DAFOR)
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	O
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	A
Common Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	R
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	D
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	R
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	R
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	O
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	R
Ivy	<i>Hedera Helix</i>	R
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	F
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	D
Poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	O
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	R
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	F
Self-Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	O
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	O
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	A

Appendix 3 – General References

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Appendix 4 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance

Articles of British wildlife and countryside legislation, policy guidance and both Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are referred to. The articles of legislation are:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Department for Communities and Local Government. National Planning Policy Framework. (2023)
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Including National and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP / HPI))
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- The Environment Act 2021
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Appendix 5 – Legislation, Guidance and Methodology

Breeding Birds

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition, for species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly cause disturbance at, on or near an 'active' nest.

The bird breeding season is typically accepted to start in February/March and continue through until September/October, however breeding birds can be found all year round depending on the given species and climatic conditions.

A site's habitat composition, locality, association to designated sites as well as current usage and management are all considered in the decision as to whether further bird related surveys are required. In addition, surveys may be recommended based on incidental bird records collected during a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, species identified within an ecological data search or target species listed within a local biodiversity action plan.

Bird surveys are carried out in accordance with:

- Gilbert G, Gibbons DW, Evans J. (1998) Bird Monitoring Methods. RSPB.

Bats

Roosting Bats

All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

Areas of concern; can be encountered in many types of structure and care should therefore be taken when undertaking maintenance or demolition of suitable structures and trees.

Site assessments of buildings, commuting and foraging habitat and trees are undertaken in accordance with:

- Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, (4th edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN-978-1-7395126-0-6 (Table 10, Table 11 and Table 12).

Preliminary Ecological Surveys look for evidence of bat presence such as feeding remains, bat droppings, roosting individuals and staining around potential access points. The suitability of site features are also assessed because absence of bat evidence, is not confirmation of a negative result.

Within trees, features searched for include; natural holes, woodpecker holes, cracks/splits in major limbs, loose bark, hollows, and dense cover of ivy over the tree. If evidence is found, or a building supports features conducive to supporting roosting bats then further presence / absence bat surveys and/or roost characterisation surveys will be recommended.

Foraging and Commuting bats

Habitat features on site are assessed for their suitability to support foraging and commuting bat populations. This assessment is independent from the suitability of the site to support roosting bats, and provides information on the likeliness of bat foraging activity within the local environment, and the dependence of individuals on these features for commuting to alternative roosting sites, foraging and migration.

Table 10: Guideline for assessing the suitability of a structure to support roosting habitat amended from Collins, J (2023)

Category	Description of Roosting Habitat	Number of additional presence / absence surveys required
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats at any time of year (complete absence of potential roosting features).	None
Negligible Suitability	Suitable cavities may exist, but these are less than ideal. Uncertainty remains as bats can use these features on occasion.	None
Low Suitability	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. The feature and surrounding habitat do not provide enough shelter, conditions* space for larger roost types such as a maternity or hibernation roost.	One survey between May and August

Category	Description of Roosting Habitat	Number of additional presence / absence surveys required
Moderate Suitability	A structure considered to have one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions* and surrounding habitat but are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (With regard to roost type only – assessments are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Two surveys between May and September (with at least one survey undertaken between May and August). Surveys should be spaced at least 3 weeks apart.
High Suitability	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions* and surrounding habitat.	Three surveys between May and September (with at least two surveys undertaken between May and August). Surveys should be spaced at least 3 weeks apart.
Confirmed	This category is where positive evidence of bats has been recorded. For example, bats are found; bat droppings may be present at a suitable location for roosting bats; existing bat records may be associated with the structure.	

* In this context conditions refers to the level of disturbance, light, height above ground, temperature, and humidity etc

Table 1.1: Guideline for assessing the suitability of a tree to support roosting habitat amended from Collins, J (2023)

INITIAL STAGE (Site scoping/PEA/PRA)		
Category	Description	Survey effort to establish the presence/absence of bats
NONE	Either no PRFS in the tree or unlikely to be any	None
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree	Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) to further assess suitability
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present	Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) to further assess suitability
DETAILED STAGE (PEA/PRA/GLTA)		
PRF - I	PRF only suitable for individual bats or small numbers of bats due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats	None – precautionary method of works for removal and provision of roosting compensation

INITIAL STAGE (Site scoping/PEA/PRA)		
Category	Description	Survey effort to establish the presence/absence of bats
PRF - M	PRF suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony	Three Climbing inspection surveys for features to be undertaken May to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. If climbing and inspection not possible, 3 dusk emergence surveys with NVAs (Night Vision Aids) to be undertaken May to to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. Should a maternity colony be confirmed less invasive methods, such as dusk emergence survey with NVAs should employed.
Known roost	Known roost present through local records, evidence, sightings, etc	Three Climbing inspection surveys for features to be undertaken May to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. If climbing and inspection not possible, 3 dusk emergence surveys with NVAs (Night Vision Aids) to be undertaken May to to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. Should a maternity colony be confirmed less invasive methods, such as dusk emergence survey with NVAs should employed.

Table 12: Potential suitability of foraging and commuting habitat within an application boundary. Features should be assessed following this guide and professional judgement. Adapted from Collins, J (2023)

Category	Description of commuting and foraging habitat	Survey effort to establish the value of commuting and foraging habitat**
Negligible Suitability	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.	None

Category	Description of commuting and foraging habitat	Survey effort to establish the value of commuting and foraging habitat**
Low Suitability	Habitat which could be used by low numbers of commuting bats such as an isolated gappy hedgerow, or an unvegetated stream unconnected to suitable habitat in the wider environment. Suitable, yet isolated habitat that could be used by foraging bats such as individual trees, or a patch of scrub.	Nighttime bat walk (NBW) survey: One survey visit per active season (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October). AND Static automated surveys: Data to be collected over a five-night period, per season. (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October).
Moderate Suitability	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by commuting bats, notably tree lines, hedgerows or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape which could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, open water, scrub or grassland.	Nighttime bat walk (NBW) survey: One survey visit per active season (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October). AND Static automated surveys: Data to be collected over a five-night period, per month (April to October)
High Suitability	Continuous, High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape which is considered to be highly conducive to commuting bats including river valleys, stream, hedgerows, and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree lined watercourses, and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.	Nighttime bat walk (NBW) survey: One survey visit per active season (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October). AND Static automated surveys: Data to be collected over a five-night period, per month (April to October)

** This is only a guide for survey effort required, the complexity of the site and the proposed disturbance / loss of features will determine the extent of works required on a site by site basis

Badgers (*Meles meles*)

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is illegal to wilfully kill, injure, disturb or take any badger, or attempt to do so and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

Site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:

- Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). Surveying Badgers.

During the PEA, the site and the 30-metre zone of Influence considered for this species are searched for evidence of badger activity. The surveyor will identify evidence of activity, or habitat suitability for this

protected species. Even if no evidence of badger activity is found, if local conditions suggest that the habitat may be suitable for badger, further surveys will be recommended.

Amphibians

The great crested newt and natterjack toad are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The legislation protects these amphibians and their place of shelter or protection which may extend 500m from the breeding pond.

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

The great crested newt, is fully protected under the Conservation of Habitat Regulations 2017 (as amended), making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, disturb or take great crested newts, intentionally or recklessly damage destroy or obstruct access to any place used by the animal for shelter or protection.

The legislation protects these amphibians and their place of shelter or protection which may extend 500m from the breeding pond. Sites should be considered suitable to support great crested newts if distribution and historical records suggest newts may be present, there is a pond within 500m of the development or the development site includes suitable terrestrial habitat refuges.

Great crested newt site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:

- English Nature. (2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough. and
- Langton T, Beckett C and Foster J (2001) Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook. Froglife, Halesworth.

Prior to a site visit, a desk study pond search is undertaken. When searching for ponds, Brindle & Green apply a total of 4 sources to establish their location. The following online sources are used:

- OS MAPPING VIA EMAPSITE
- GOOGLE EARTH PRO,
- GOOGLE MAPS and
- MAGIC MAPS

Each identified pond (Access permitting) is subjected to a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment providing a score for each pond. This survey should be undertaken during the summer period to be fully accurate, however assumptions can be made out of season to guide survey recommendations.

Reptiles

Two species of reptile, the sand lizard and smooth snake, and their habitats are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. All other native British reptiles are protected against intentional killing and injury.

British reptiles are found in exposed, undisturbed areas, such as areas without cultivation with differing areas of grassland sward length. Suitable areas include abandoned sand quarries, fallow farmland land, heathland, post-industrial land, railway corridors etc. If these types of suitable features are found then further reptile surveys are recommended.

- Edgar P, Foster J and Baker J (2010) Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.
- Gent T and Gibson S (2003) Herpetofauna Workers Manual. JNCC, Peterborough.

Ecological Enhancement

In March 2023 the Department for Communities and Local Government published the National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity through the planning system. The document states - opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.

For new buildings guidance such as in the following will be used:

- Williams, C. (2010) Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, A Technical Guide for New Build. Riba Publishing.

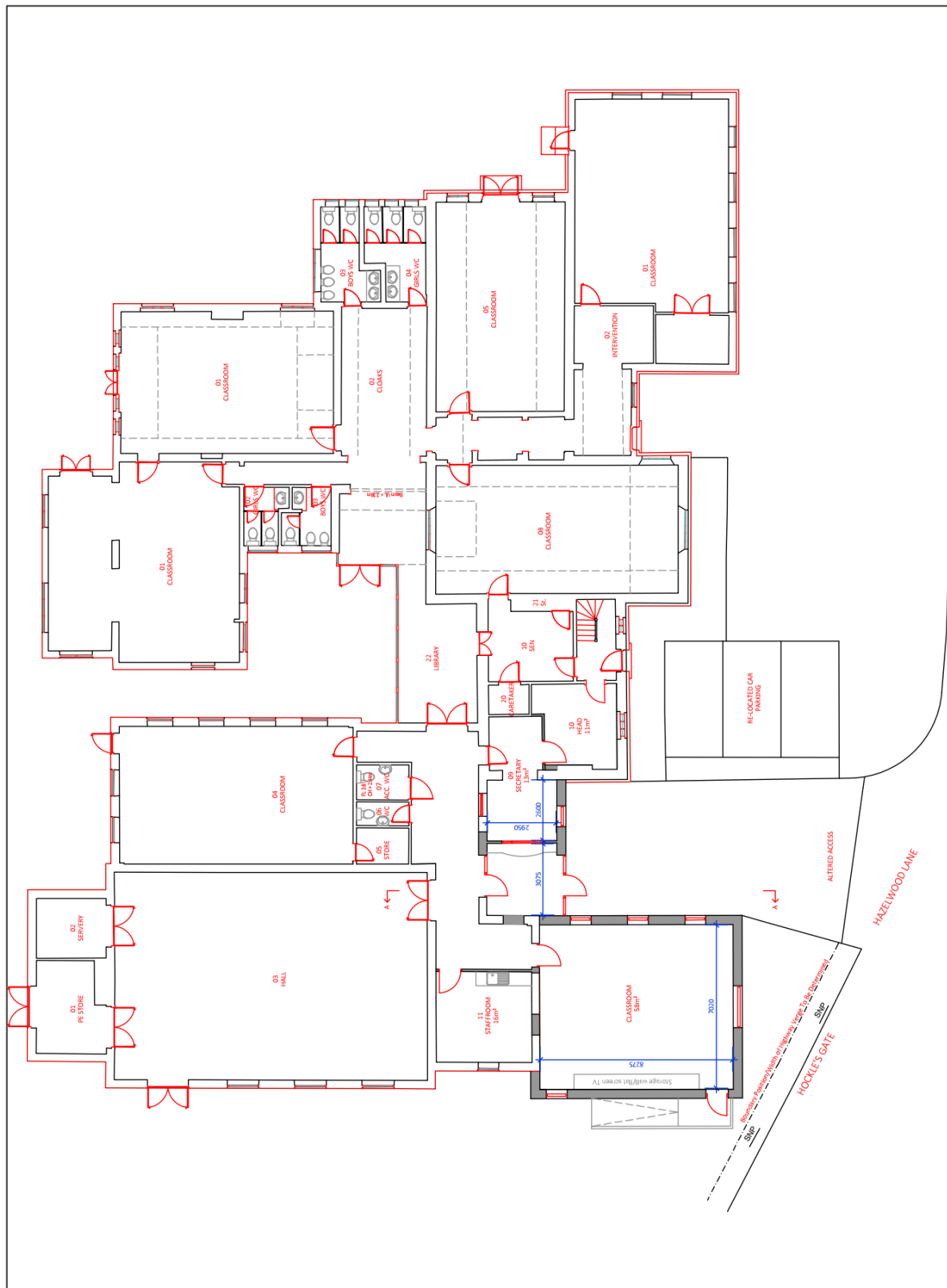
Designated Sites

Designated areas are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while others have been designated as having European protection status. Local authorities can also designate areas for nature conservation and in doing so may impose local authority byelaws to support local nature conservation objectives.

European designated status includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that preserve areas for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which provides protection for habitats and the species which these habitats support.

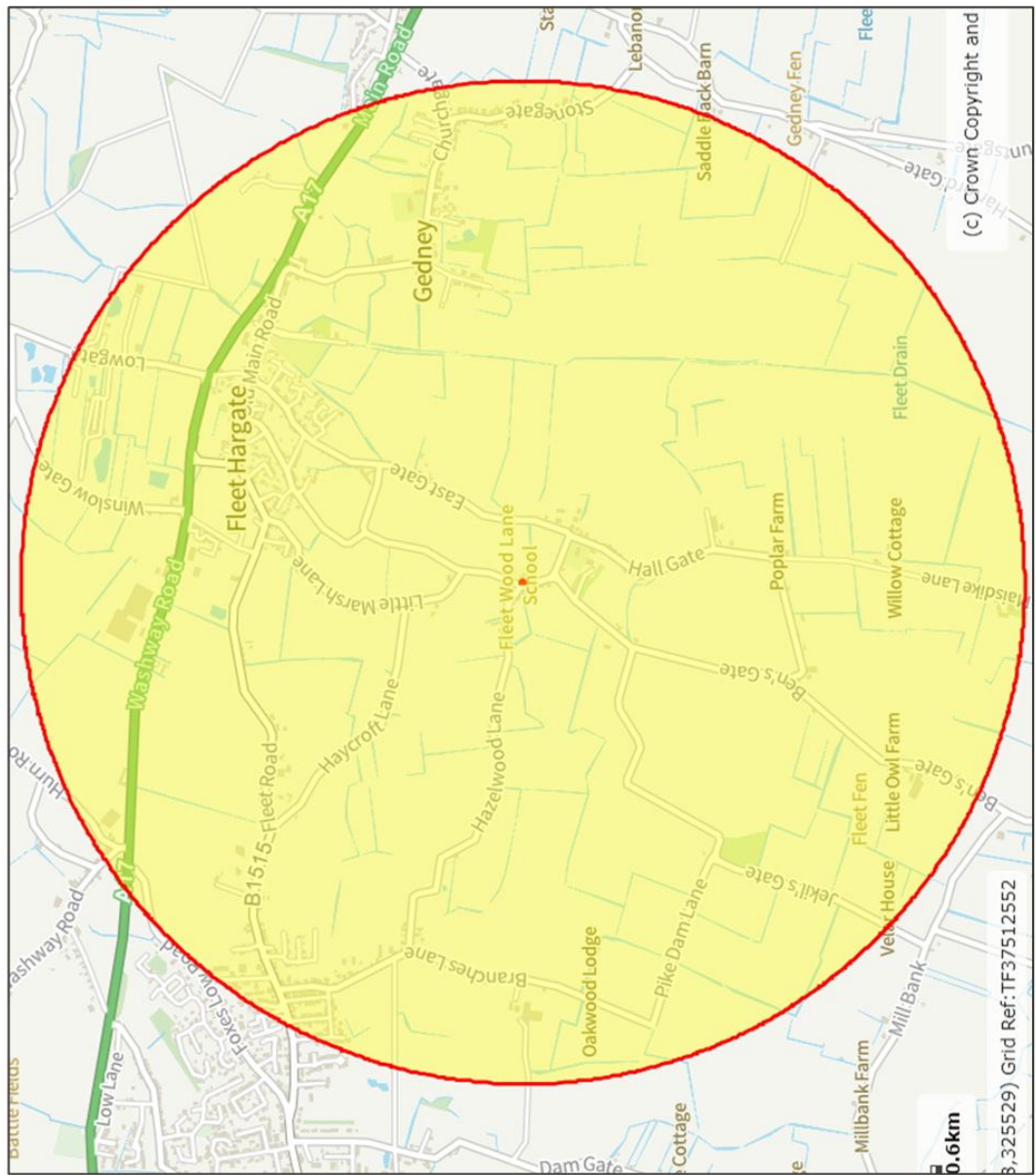
Information of Designated Protected Areas is received through Ecological Data Searches and Magic Map searches.

Appendix 6 – Proposed Plans



BG24.298 Fleet Wood Lane Primary School – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal





Legend

Granted European Protected Species Applications (England)

- Amphibian
- Bat
- Cetacean
- Invertebrate
- Other Mammal
- Plant
- Reptile

Projection = OSGB36
 xmin = 533300
 ymin = 321900
 xmax = 543300
 ymax = 326700



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8.325529) Grid Ref:TF37512552



Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest

For local planning authorities to determine if a proposed development is likely to affect a terrestrial Site of Special Scientific Interest and when to consult Natural England.

You do not need to consult Natural England on the proposed development at this location.

The Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI IRZs) indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on terrestrial Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites that they underpin.

Therefore, you do not need to consult Natural England on the likely impacts of development on terrestrial SSSIs and the SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that they underpin.

Appendix 8 – Building Photographs and Potential Roost Features Plan

Table 13: Building Photographs showing Potential Roost Features

Image	Description
Building 2	
	Potential roost features on western elevation pertaining to gaps in mortar on chimney, lifted ridge tiles, lifted roof tiles.

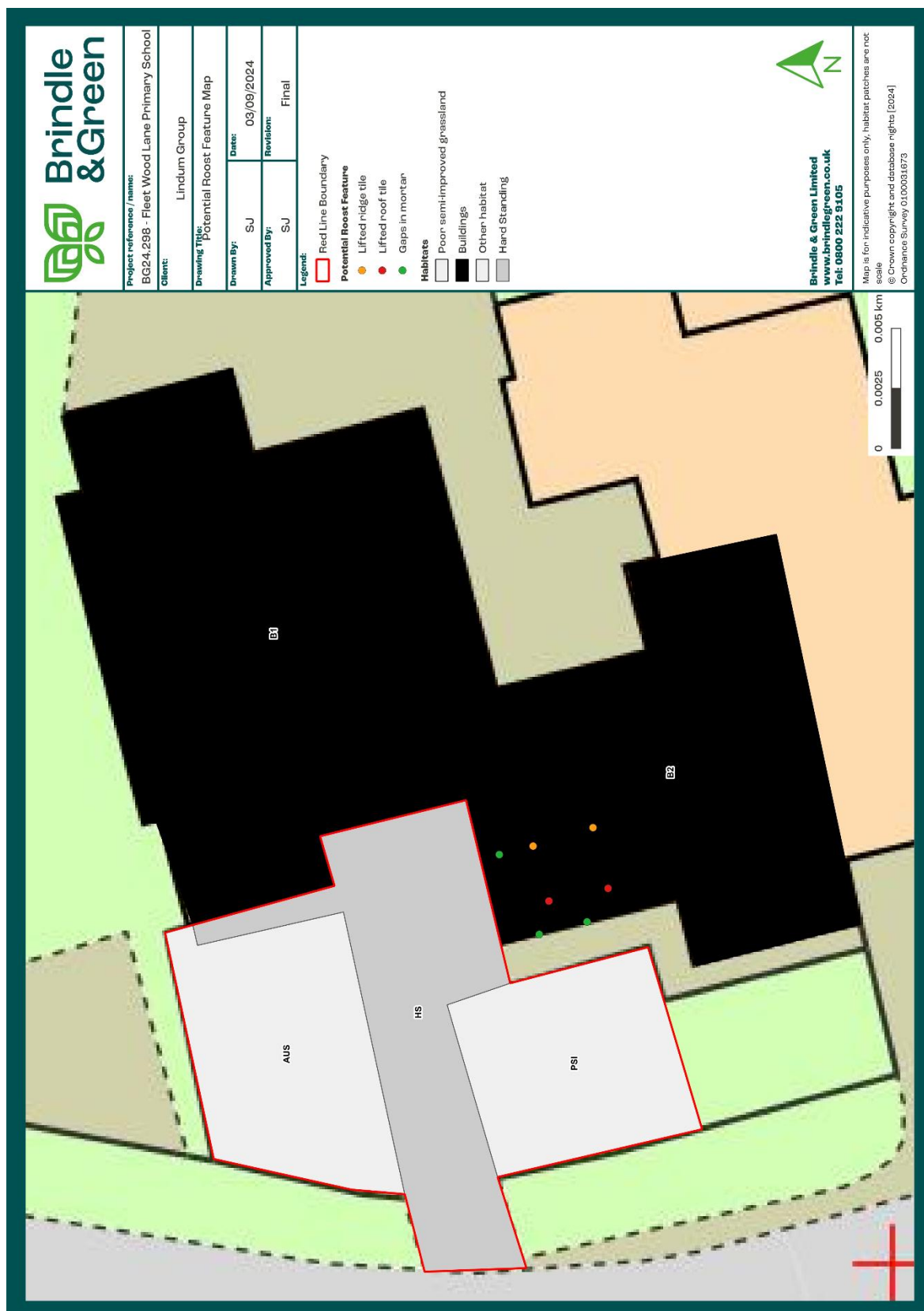


Figure 11: Plan showing Potential Roost Features