

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Pinchbeck C of E School

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment
1	20/03/2015	Brandon Murray – First Draft
2		
3		

1 Executive Summary

ADAS were commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal to provide ecological baseline information to submit with a planning application for land within Pinchbeck C of E School in Lincolnshire which is proposed to be affected by a development.

The application site covers an area of approximately 1.2ha and consisted of range of habitats that included woodland, amenity grassland, buildings and hardstanding. The woodland area was identified as having Parish / Neighbourhood ecological value, all other habitats had negligible ecological value.

The application site proposed works involve the creation of a new parking area, expansion of an existing parking area and extension works on existing school buildings, to include an office and two classrooms with associated facilities.

No designated sites, either statutory or non-statutory, were identified that would be affected by the proposed development.

Ecological issues that were identified during the survey are as follows:

- Nesting Birds
- Reptiles
- Mammals
- Trees

1.1 Recommendations

The following key recommendations are made (for full recommendations refer to section 7 of this report):

- Nesting birds were observed within the proposed works area, particularly within the trees, shrubs and hedgerows on site, and have the potential to be impacted by the works. Any tree removal over the period March to August inclusive should be immediately preceded by a check for nesting birds by a competent person. Any active bird nests would need to be safeguarded by leaving a 5m buffer of vegetation around the nest until the young have fledged (left the nest).
- Reptiles have a low potential to be present within the works area. Avoidance measures should be implemented to avoid harm to these animals. These should include the removal of all log piles and wood chippings by hand prior to works commencing. Habitat manipulation works for reptiles prior to works commencing are recommended to deter reptiles from utilising the works area.
- A number of safeguards should be adopted during construction to ensure that any wildlife present in the vicinity of the development site (such as Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*)) are not killed or injured. In particular, excavations should be covered overnight, or fitted with ramps to prevent animals from being trapped or injured. Any pipework should be capped to prevent animals gaining access and subsequently becoming trapped.
- Standard pollution prevention guidance should be followed to minimise potential impacts to surrounding habitat (Environment Agency, 2007).
- Mature trees are present in the works area. Any trees to be retained should be safeguarded according to British Standard 5837:2012Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction, as outlined in the associated tree report (Hudson, 2013).

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- Trees were the only features with an ecological value that would be lost due to the proposed development. It is recommended that suitable features are created/installed as a component of the works and elsewhere on site to mitigate for the loss of this ecological feature, these could include the following:
    - Seeding of an area of wildflower meadow;
    - Planting of new native tree specimens within the school site;
    - Incorporation of bat and bird boxes within the new development and upon retained trees and structures; and
    - All amenity planting of shrubs and flowerbeds to incorporate species that provide a nectar/food source for local wildlife.

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2 Introduction

2.1 Background

ADAS UK Ltd. was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at Pinchbeck Church of England School in relation to proposed development works. The site covers an area of approximately 1.2ha. The site is scheduled for development, with plans to modify and create additional parking areas around the site, and install extensions to the existing school buildings.

2.2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the survey and supporting desk study was to satisfy the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and relevant legislation. The survey involved identifying ecological features within or near the site that could potentially pose a constraint to the proposed works and highlight any opportunities for incorporating biodiversity enhancements into the proposals.

The objectives of this report are:

- To identify designated nature conservation sites within the vicinity of the site;
- To identify any records and/or populations of protected, notable or scarce species in the vicinity of the site;
- To record habitats or features of ecological interest within or in immediate proximity to the site;
- To record the presence of, or potential for, protected or notable species;
- To make an ecological assessment and highlight potential ecological constraints;
- To outline any further survey work and potential protected species requirements if relevant; and
- To make suggestions for mitigation and compensation where appropriate.

2.3 Proposed Works

Proposed works, as shown on Mouchel drawing AL (0) 0100 (Project DC/451/0009) Option 4, Review A consist of:

- Creation of 17 new parking spaces to the north west of site and associated hard landscaping;
- Reconfiguration of existing car parking area to south west of the site;
- Addition of a two classroom extensions to the north east of site with associated facilities (attached to Block 03);
- Addition of a new office extension to the south of an existing teaching block (Block 01);
- Addition of a 'Staff Accommodation Unit' between two existing teaching blocks (Block 01 and 03).

2.4 Limitations/Constraints

The Preliminary Ecological Assessment was conducted during March 2015, following standard methodologies and survey protocols (JNCC, 2010). March is at the beginning of the ecological surveying season, which is considered a sub-optimum time for conducting the survey. However, due to a mild year it was considered that sufficient information was obtained to identify the habitat features and relevant recommendations to be made.

Any appreciable delay in making reference to this report may necessitate a re-survey.

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3 Methodology

This assessment follows the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (CIEEM, 2012).

3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was carried out to identify internationally designated sites of nature conservation value within 10km of the site, statutory nature conservation designated sites within 5km of the site and non-statutory nature conservation designated sites within 1km of the site. Records of any protected or otherwise notable species within 1km of the site were also searched for.

The following sources were consulted:

- Lincolnshire Biological Records Centre (LBRC) (Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust);
- National Biodiversity Network (www.nbn.org.uk); and
- MAGIC (www.magic.defra.gov.uk).

3.2 Habitat Survey

An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the site was conducted on 30 March 2015 by ADAS ecology consultant Brandon Murray. The survey work was conducted using standard techniques and methodologies (JNCC, 2010) and the nomenclature of Stace (2010).

Habitats on site were recorded onto a field map (Appendix 1).

3.3 Assessment Methodology

The report and assessment followed standard CIEEM guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (Bennett, 2012). The habitat and species value were described and assessed. Definition of habitat values are set out in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 and are in accordance with the published guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (IEEM, 2006).

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4 Results

4.1 Desk Study Results

4.1.1 Designated Sites:

There were two sites of national importance within 5km of the site: Surfleet Lows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Vernatts Local Nature Reserve (LNR), details of these are listed in table 1 below.

Table 1: National statutory nature conservation designated sites within 5km of the site:

Site Name	Description	Designations	Distance and direction from site
Surfleet Lows	One of the few remaining wet alluvial meadows in Lincolnshire.	SSSI	c. 2.9km NE
Vernatts	The site contains a wildflower meadow and wetland habitats including reedbeds, marsh and a large pond. Water Vole recorded on site.	LNR	c. 1.9km SE

SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest

LNR = Local Nature Reserve

4.1.2 Non-designated sites:

Four non-statutory designated sites were recorded within 2km of the survey site. The sites, all Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), are listed in table 2 below.

Table 2: Non-statutory nature conservation designated sites within 2km of the site:

Site Name	Description	Designations	Distance and direction from site
Vernatt's Drain	A large man-made watercourse. Substantial stretches have a rich grassland flora.	LWS	c. 1.6km S
Vernatt's Nature Reserve	A mosaic of habitats including woodland, neutral grassland, running water, standing water, marsh/fen and reedbed.	LWS	c. 1.9km SE

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Site Name	Description	Designations	Distance and direction from site
Blue Gowt Drain, West Marsh Road	A 1.1km section of Blue Gowt Drain, including both banks. Supports a variety of aquatic flora.	LWS	c. 1.9km E
River Glen Corridor	A botanically rich stretch of the River Glen.	LWS	c. 225m N

LWS = Local Wildlife Site

4.1.3 Protected Species

LBRC records indicated a number of protected and notable species within 1km of the proposed works site. These are listed in table 3 below.

Table 3: Protected species records from the last 10 years within 1km of the site:

Species	Designation(s)	Distance from the site	Direction from the site
European Water Vole	WCA5, S41	Nearest record c. 300m	Records in all directions
Common Pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5	c. 630m	NW
Soprano Pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5, S41	c. 630m	NW
Pipistrelle species	EPS, WCA5	Nearest record c. 250m	Multiple records in all directions
Brown Long-eared	EPS, WCA5, S41	Within 1km	NE and S

EPS = European Protected Species (EU Habitats Directive)

WCA5 = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Species

WCA1 = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1 Species

S41 = Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (i.e. Species of Principal Importance in England) and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Species

In addition, the desk study data identified 17 Schedule 1 bird species recorded within 1km of the survey site within the last 10 years, a number of which are winter or passage visitors to the area (*). These included Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Bewick's Swan* (*Cygnus columbianus*), Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Brambling* (*Fringilla montifringilla*), Fieldfare* (*Turdus pilaris*), Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Green Sandpiper* (*Tringa ochropus*), Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Hoopoe* (*Upupa epops*), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Peregrine* (*Falco peregrinus*), Redwing* (*Turdus iliacus*), Scaup*

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(*Aythya marila*), Whimbrel* (*Numenius phaeopus*), White-tailed Eagle* (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and Whooper Swan* (*Cygnus cygnus*).

4.2 Habitat Survey Results

The following habitats were recorded on/around the site and are described below. TN relates to target note. Photographs can be found in Appendix 3.

- Amenity Grassland;
- Woodland;
- Hedgerow;
- Scattered trees;
- Bare Ground; and
- Buildings and Hard standing.

4.2.1 Amenity Grassland

To the north of the site was a large area of mown amenity grassland with common seeded grassland species including Perennial Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*) and widespread species including Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). This was bordered to the south by a Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) hedgerow and hard standing play area. To the north of the amenity grassland lay the boundary of the school site, beyond which lay Knight Street (Photograph5, Appendix 3).

4.2.2 Woodland

In the vicinity of the area proposed for the two classroom extension there was a small area of woodland. Species present were primarily deciduous, and included mature / semi mature English Oak (*Quercus robur*), Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) (Photographs 2 and 3, Appendix 3).

The understorey was primarily ephemeral short perennial species dominated by Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.) and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). Other species present included Cock's Foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*). A number of ornamental flower species were also apparent, including Daffodil (*Narcissus* sp.) and Snow Drop (*Galanthus* sp.).

Within the woodland there were a range of habitat enhancements for wildlife, including log piles, hedgehog houses, piles of wood chippings and an 'insect hotel'(Photograph 1, Appendix 3).

4.2.3 Hedgerows

To the east and north of the small woodland area was a hedgerow, formed primarily of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with Scattered Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Leylandii (*Cupressus × leylandii*) were also present within this boundary feature. To the west of the woodland was a short stretch of hedgerow, consisting of primarily of Hawthorn, which were heavily covered in Ivy (*Hedra helix*).

4.2.4 Scattered Trees

Around the periphery of the amenity grassland sports field were a number of scattered immature and semi-mature trees, predominantly Birch, Cherry and Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra*) (Photograph 4, Appendix 3).

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4.2.5 Bare Ground

Within the Amenity grassland area was a compacted aggregate road, which appeared to have been recently constructed (within the last two years) (Photograph 4, Appendix 3).

4.2.6 Buildings and Hard Standing

The school site was formed of multiple buildings of varying ages. These were predominantly brick structures with flat roofs or gently sloping metal roofs. A new block was present to the south of the site, formed of rendered blockwork. There was also a small flat roofed block with wooden cladding adjacent to this structure. All structures on site were observed to be in a good state of repair (Photographs 6, 7 and 8, Appendix 3). Between these buildings were multiple areas of hard standing and made ground, including car parks and play areas.

4.3 Protected Species Assessment Results

4.3.1 White-clawed Crayfish

There were no records and no suitable habitat for White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

4.3.2 Great Crested Newts

No suitable breeding habitat for Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*) was present within the proposed development site. No ponds suitable for Great Crested Newt breeding with connectivity to the site were present within 500m of the school site.

4.3.3 Reptiles

Low quality reptile habitat was restricted to the woodland understorey to the centre / east of the site behind Block 3. The log piles, piles of chippings and other detritus within the woodland could provide habitat for reptile shelter and hibernation. However, due to the shady nature of the area and location of the school within an urban area, the presence of reptiles is considered unlikely.

4.3.4 Birds

The proposed development site had multiple features suitable for nesting birds, including trees, hedgerows and shrubs. A Silver Birch tree to the north of this area also had a bird box installed upon its stem. Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) were observed within the school site during the survey. Nesting behaviour was observed from the wood pigeon (consisting of birds collecting material). Some nests (likely corvid) thought to be from previous nesting seasons were observed in the trees on site.

4.3.5 Bats

Assessments for bats were conducted according to Hundt (2012) on all features to be impacted by the proposed works.

Trees (Roosting)

All trees on site were visibly inspected for features with potential to support roosting bats. Features looked for included: holes; woodpecker damage; cracks and splits; loose bark; hollows and cavities; dense covering growth (i.e. Ivy) and bat boxes. All trees were well maintained and showed evidence of recent tree surgery works. None of the trees within the school site had the potential to be impacted by the works or supported eatures suitable for roosting bats, and were therefore categorised as Category 3 (no potential to support roosting bats), as defined within the BCT Guidance (Hundt 2012)

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Buildings (Roosting)

All buildings to be impacted by the potential works were assessed for potential to support roosting bats. Areas of blocks 1 2 and 3 were inspected. All buildings inspected were assessed has having negligible potential to support roosting bats. Descriptions of the blocks inspected are below

Block 3: The northern and eastern exposure of Block three was inspected where the 2 classroom extension is to be added to the building. The structure was found to be well constructed with a flat metal roof and plastic soffits. No crevices suitable for roosting bats were observed, despite a detailed inspection.

Block 1 / Block 2: The areas of Block 1 and Block 2 where the proposed staff accommodation is to be located were inspected. These were flat roofed buildings, with bituminous roofs. Again, the structure of these was tightly fitting, with no visible crevices or opportunities for roosting bats. One piece of soffit was found to be loose, and the cavity behind this was inspected. It was found to be unsuitable for bats (providing very little shelter), with no evidence of roosting bats being present.

Block 1: The southern exposure of Block 1 was inspected where the proposed office and lobby is to be located.This area was between two structures, one formed of brick, the other finished with wooden cladding. Again, all of these buildings were found to be well maintained, providing no opportunity for roosting bats.

Foraging and Commuting

Overall, the site offered some habitat for bat foraging, particularly within the woodland area of the site. Some commuting opportunities were offered by the hedgerows on site, but it is understood that these are unlikely to be impacted by the works.

4.3.6 Hazel Dormouse

There were no records of, or suitable habitat for, Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) on site.

4.3.7 Water Vole

There were no records of, or suitable habitat for, Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) on site.

4.3.8 Badger

There were no records and no evidence of Badger (*Meles meles*) was found on site.

4.3.9 Otter

There were no records and no evidence of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) was found on site.

4.3.10 Other Species

Although no evidence was observed, it is considered likely that common species such as Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus) and Fox (Vulpes vulpes) may utilise areas of the site.

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5 Discussion

5.1 Designated Sites

Given the nature of the proposals and the nature and setting of the site, development of the site would not affect any designated sites of nature conservation interest.

5.2 Habitats

The site is dominated by amenity grassland and hard standing / buildings. These habitats are species-poor, with only common species present and are therefore considered to be of negligible ecological value. One wooded area was present to the east of site, some of the proposed works fell within this area. This would result in the loss of some of the woodland habitat. It is assessed that the woodland habitat is of parish/ Neighbourhood value, as defined in Appendix 4.

5.3 Species

Low quality reptile habitat was restricted to the woodland understorey to the centre / east of the site behind Block 3. There is potential for common species to shelter within the log piles within the wooded area of the site.

There is good habitat for nesting birds on the site, specifically trees and hedgerows. It is considered that the species most likely to utilise the site are common and widespread species such as Wood Pigeon and Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*).

No roosting opportunities for bats were observed in the features of the site to be impacted by the works. If the proposals for the site are subject to change, further survey works in relation to bats may be necessitated. Enhancements related to the works should ensure that the foraging value of the site for bats is not affected by the works.

Suitable foraging habitat for Badgers was present across site, however no signs of Badger were noted during the survey.

5.4 Ecological Corridors & Green Infrastructure

Ecological corridors are vital in linking high quality sites which have become fragmented over time but which *'…. collectively contain the range and area of habitats that species require and ensure that ecological connections exist to allow species, or at least their genes, to move between them'* (Lawton et al., 2010).

The site is bounded by urban development with a main 'B' road running to the north of the site, Knight Street. One green space, a grassed amenity recreation ground to the south east.

Improving connectivity would be commensurate with the government's commitment to developing 'Green Infrastructure' defined as *'a strategic network of multi-functional green spaces, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life in sustainable communities'* and in regards to physical and functional connectivity between sites at strategic and local levels under principle 8 of the "Planning for a Healthy Environment – Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity" (Town & Country Planning Association and The Wildlife Trusts, 2012).

There are no opportunities to increase the connectivity of the site as a component of the development due to the limited scale of the works and location of the site.

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5.5 Potential for future ecological change

If the landscaping of the site is conducted as proposed below, the overall ecological value of the site would be expected to remain stable in the short to medium term.

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6 Evaluation

Habitats on site contain only widespread, commonly occurring species. Using the criteria in Appendix 4, the habitats present on site are considered to be of negligible or Parish / Neighbourhood value (the woodland area).

The value of the site in respect of species (as per Appendix 5) is considered to be negligible.

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7 Recommendations (including enhancement)

7.1 Habitats

The proposed development would result in the loss of habitats considered to be of negligible or Parish/ Neighbourhood ecological value. During construction, standard pollution prevention guidance should be followed to minimise potential impacts to surrounding habitat (Environment Agency, 2007). Guidance provides best practice advice on waste storage and management, including advice on preventing dust, light pollution, noise limitation and advice relating to refuelling vehicles and equipment.

7.2 Species

Consideration should be given to the potential presence of wildlife such as Foxes and hedgehogs in the vicinity of the site during construction. A number of safeguards should be adopted to ensure that foxes and other animals are not killed or injured. In particular, excavations should be covered overnight, or fitted with ramps to prevent animals from becoming trapped. Any pipework should be capped to prevent animals gaining access and subsequently becoming trapped.

A Tool Box talk should be conducted with site staff to make them aware of the potential presence of protected and notable species in the works area.

To avoid impacts to reptiles, reasonable avoidance measures should be implemented. Cut vegetation to c.10cm high and carefully clear from area of works c.5 days prior to commencement of works to make work area unsuitable for reptiles. All features suitable for reptile shelter (log piles and stockpiled chippings) should be moved from the works area buy hand.

In the unlikely event that reptiles are encountered they should be allowed to move away from the area unharmed.

All log piles and other features installed for wildlife (including hedgehog boxes and brash piles) should be retained and relocated within the site.

Any hedgerow clearance and / or tree and scrub removal over the period March to August inclusive should be immediately preceded by a check for nesting birds by a competent person. Any active bird nests would need to be safeguarded by leaving a 5m buffer of vegetation around the nest until the young have fledged (left the nest).

7.3 Enhancement

It is recommended that enhancement for ecology is included within the design of the development. The following recommendations are made on the types of enhancement which would be suitable:

- Seeding of an area of a native wildflower meadow (suggested area is a strip to the north of the hedgerow dividing the wooded area from the playing field);
- Planting of new native tree specimens within the school site (English Oak or other native species);
- Incorporation of bat and bird boxes within the new development and upon retained trees and structures suitable for UK BAP species such as House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*); and

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- All amenity planting of shrubs and flowerbeds to incorporate species that provide a nectar/food source for local wildlife.

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8 Relevant Legislation and Policy

8.1 European Protected Sites

Habitats of European-wide importance (other than for birds) are listed under Annex I of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC (1992) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) (Ref. 8.5). Habitats designated under this Directive are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).

Habitats of European-wide importance for birds are listed under the EC Wild Birds Directive (1982) (Ref. 8.6). Habitats designated under this Directive are Special Protection Areas (SPA's).

8.2 National Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework 2012 (UK BF) has recently succeeded the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) published in 1994, and updated in 2007. It is the government's mechanism for implementing strategies for conserving species and habitats in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK BF presents an action plan for a variety of priority species and habitats which is now more focussed at a country level. The UK BF still makes reference to the UK BAP list of priority habitats and species however and will still be referred to in this report as such. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) were set-up to locally implement the national BAP and to identify targets for local action plans.

8.3 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act, 2006 places a duty upon all local authorities in England to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. Section 41 lists habitats and species of principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity. Fifty-six habitats and 943 species of principal importance for conservation are included on the Section 41 list.

These are all the habitats and species in England that have been identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). These species and habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.

8.4 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of March 2012 replaced the previous planning policy for biodiversity conservation; Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9). Paragraph 117 of the NPPF states that to minimise impacts on biodiversity, planning policies should:

- Plan for biodiversity at the landscape scale, across local authority boundaries;
- Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan.

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles (paragraph 118):

- Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted;
- Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.

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8.5 Local Development Plan

The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan is a proposed set of planning documents that will contain a range of policies to guide future development decisions. This has yet to be published. The current plan applicable to the area is the South Holland Local Plan that states:

The protection and enhancement of the most important and irreplaceable natural and cultural assets is an essential part of a sustainable planning framework for the District.

... 6.9: In addition we are aware of our role in the protection of particular species through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and related Conservation (Natural Habitats and c.) Regulations 1994, and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Also, some hedgerows are protected from removal by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Statutorily protected species are often located within sites which are designated for protection, although they may well be found elsewhere. If it is either known or suspected that such species exist where they could be at threat from a proposed development, the applicant may be required to undertake a species / habitat survey. The need to ensure the protection of flora and fauna will be a material consideration in any planning decisions. The Council will have regard to the relevant policy in the Structure Plan.

...6.12: In considering all proposals for development in the District, we will have regard to the nature conservation interests of the site and its locality. In the case of areas which are not afforded protection under the following policies, we may nevertheless seek the inclusion of measures within the proposals to protect or enhance nature conservation interests, and where necessary to minimise or compensate for any damage. This may include, but only as a last resort, the rescue and transference of the valued flora and fauna to other suitable areas.

8.6 Protected Species

8.6.1 Common Reptiles

Slow-worm, Adder (*Vipera berus*), Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill or injure them.

It is not illegal to capture, disturb or to damage their habitats. However, the reptiles themselves are protected so any works to damage their habitat could risk causing harm to reptiles and hence could be illegal.

8.6.2 Birds

Wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to take or harm them, their nests (whilst in use or being built) or their eggs.

Additionally for some species it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the adults while they are in and around their nest or intentionally or recklessly disturb their dependent young.

8.6.3 Bats

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). It is illegal to kill or injure bats, cause disturbance at their resting places or to block access to, damage or destroy their roost sites.

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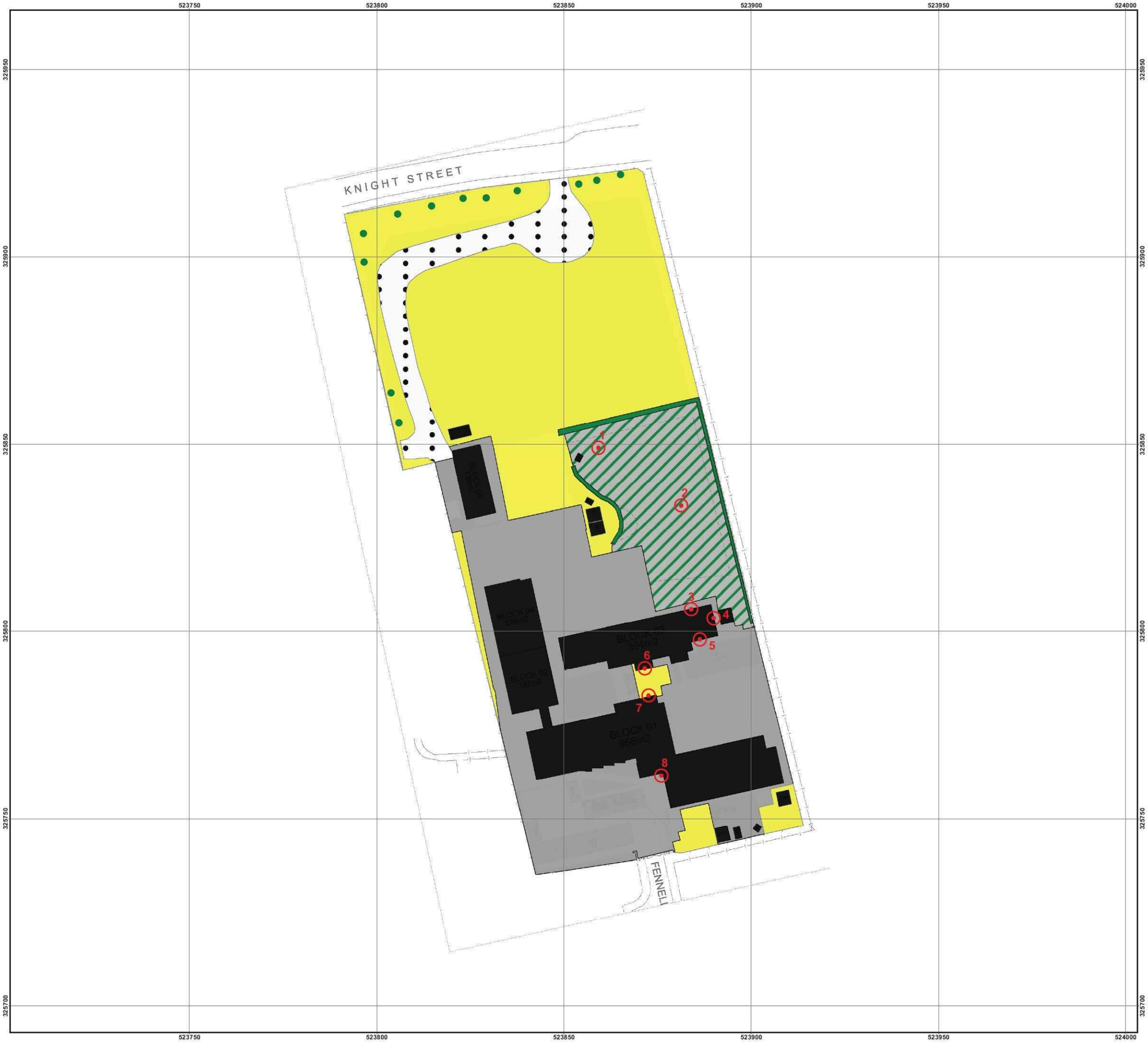
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Appendix 1 – Habitat Map of Site

(See following page)

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Development Site
Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland
- Amenity grassland
- Building
- Bare ground
- Hard standing
- Species-poor intact hedge
- Scattered trees
- Target note 1

All areas are approximate and indicative

Drawn by Andy Frost 17/04/2015, Verified by Brandon Murray 17/04/2015

N
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0 10 20 30 40
Metres

Scale 1:1,000 at A3 size

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Appendix 2 – Target Notes

1. Location of wood chippings
2. Location of hedgehog box / log piles within woodland
3. Area inspected for bat potential (for new classrooms), Block 03;
4. Area inspected for bat potential (for new classrooms), Block 03;
5. Area inspected for bat potential (for new classrooms), Block 03;
6. Area inspected for bat potential (for staff accommodation), Block 03;
7. Area inspected for bat potential (for staff accommodation), Block 01;
8. Area inspected for bat potential (for staff accommodation), Block 01.

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Appendix 3 – Photographs of the Site



Photograph 1: Log pile within wooded area



Photograph 2: Northern view of wooded area



Photograph 3: Example of tree with negligible bat potential within wooded area.



Photograph 4: New roadway and area proposed for additional car parking

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Photograph 5: New roadway and scattered trees at the north of the site.	Photograph 6: Area of Block 3 proposed for extension to add two new classrooms. Negligible bat roosting potential (no access for bats)
	
Photograph 7: Area of Block 1 / Block 03 proposed for addition of Staff accommodation. Negligible bat roosting potential (no access for bats)	Photograph 8: Area of Clock 1 proposed for additional office and lobby. Negligible bat roosting potential (no access for bats)

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Appendix 4 – Definitions of the Level of Habitat Value

Geographic Level of Value	Examples
International value	Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, Biosphere Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation. Sites supporting populations of internationally important species.
National value	SSSIs or non-designated Sites meeting SSSI selection criteria, NNRs, Marine Nature Reserves, NCR Grade 1 Sites. Sites containing viable areas of key habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
Regional value	Sites containing viable areas of threatened habitats listed in a Regional BAP (or some Natural Areas), comfortably exceeding SINC criteria, but not exceeding SSSI criteria.
County / Metropolitan	Sites meeting the criteria for county or metropolitan designation (SINC, CWS, etc.). Ancient semi-natural woodland, LNRs or viable areas of key habitat types listed in county BAPs/Natural Areas.
District / Borough	Undesignated Sites or features considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource in the District or Borough.
Parish / Neighbourhood	Undesignated Sites or features which appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the Parish or Neighbourhood.
Negligible value	Low grade and widespread habitats.

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Appendix 5 – Definitions of the Level of Species Value

Geographic Level of Value	Examples
International	Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. i.e. it is a UK Red Data Book species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) or of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National	Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see local BAP). A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species.
Regional	Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
County / Metropolitan	Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County/Metropolitan "red data book" or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a County/Metropolitan important species.
District / Borough	A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District / Borough important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
Parish / Neighbourhood	Species that are not threatened but are valued at a local level on intrinsic appeal.
Negligible	Common or widespread species.

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