Land Adjacent No. 7 Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

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1. Summary

Table 1: Summary

Report Purpose	With reference to the development proposals and the applicable planning policy & legislation, the scope of the present report is to: • Identify key ecological constraints associated with the project. • Identify avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures likely to be required in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. • Identify any additional surveys that may be required to inform the above. • Identify likely opportunities to deliver ecological enhancement.
Methodology	A desk study was carried out including a study of the UK Government MAGIC[1] website for designated sites of nature conservation, Natural England licensing, and the site in the context of habitat connectivity to the surrounding landscape. The field survey included a UKHab Habitat survey of the site, extended to consider protected species.
Key Notes	The site offered suitable habitat for commuting and foraging badger *Meles meles,* European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, reptiles, amphibians (including great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN)), bats, and nesting birds. The off-site watercourse WC1 offered suitability for aquatic invertebrates, water vole and fish.
Conclusions	**Recommendation 1 – Precautionary Methods During Works:** Precautionary methods should be implemented during works to protect foraging and commuting badger, other small mammals, bats, birds, amphibians, and reptiles. **Recommendation 2 – Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP):** To mitigate potential significant effects to Important Ecological Features (IEFs) including the ditches D1 and D2 on site, the off-site watercourse WC1 and woodland immediately adjacent to the north site boundary during the construction phase of the proposed development and with reference to Clause 10.2 of the British Standard 'BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development', the works should be carried out under a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). **Recommendation 3 – Artificial Lighting Mitigation**: Bats are present in the wider area. Where lighting is required, this should be sympathetic to wildlife through the design of lighting observing the principles set out in guidelines from the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) & Institution of Lighting Professionals (BCT & ILP, 2023).

[1] Multi-agency Geographic Information for the Countryside: www.magic.gov.uk.

2. Introduction

Background

2.1. Elton Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Naser Najib to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site known as Land Adjacent No. 7 Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire.

2.2. The resulting Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) has been prepared by Ecologist CBM BSc (Hons). CBM is a Qualifying member of CIEEM and is experienced in assisting and undertaking ecology surveys, GIS mapping, and report writing.

Site Description

2.3. The site comprises grassland, hardstanding, ditch and hedgerow habitats. The site is located at 9, Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire, East Midlands, England, DE22 2NP (Figure 1: Site Location Plan) (central OS grid reference: SK 32871 39157).

Development Proposals

2.4. The development proposals include the construction of a residential dwelling with areas of associated hard and soft landscaping.

2.5. Relevant documents used to inform the assessment include:

- Architectural Drawing Site & Location Plan (Drawing no. 25096/02/01 P02) (Optimise Structure Design, 19/03/2026)

Report Purpose and Scope

2.6. With reference to the Development Proposals, the purpose and scope of the present report is to:

- Identify key ecological constraints associated with the project.
- Identify avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures likely to be required in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.
- Identify any additional surveys that may be required to inform the above.
- Identify likely opportunities to deliver ecological enhancement.

Planning Policy and Legislation

2.7. A summary of biodiversity planning policies and wildlife legislation relevant to the site is provided in Appendix 1: Planning Policy and Legislation Summary. The relevant planning policy and legislation includes:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024.
- Government Circular ODPM 06/05 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Habitats and species of principal importance.

- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997;
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
- The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 (as amended).

2.8. The site is covered by the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which includes:

- Adder *Vipera berus*
- Common Toad *Bufo bufo*
- Hedgehog
- Leisler's Bat *Nyctalus leisleri*
- Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*
- White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- Urban birds

3. Methodology

Assessment

3.1. The present assessment has been carried out with reference to best practice guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal provided by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017).

Personnel

3.2. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out by Ecologist CBM BSc (Hons). CBM is a Qualifying member of CIEEM and is experienced in assisting and undertaking ecology surveys, GIS mapping, and report writing.

3.3. The final review of the present report was carried out by TAE BSc (Hons), MCIEEM. TAE has professional experience in ecological consultancy since 2013, including Protected Species Surveys and report writing. TAE is trained in a wide variety of protected species survey, including holding Natural England class licences for bats (Level 2 Licence CL18) (reference number: 2018-33647-CLS-CLS) and barn owl Tyto alba (reference number: CL29/00002).

Desk Study

3.4. The sources of information and study areas of the desk study data are provided in Table 3.

Table 2: Desk study sources and areas

Feature		Study Area	Data Source	Date of Search
Designated sites of nature conservation	International (e.g. Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, and Ramsar)	10 km radius of the site boundary	UK Government MAGIC[2] website	08/04/2026
	National (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), SSSI Impact Risk Zones (SSSI IRZ)), Local Nature Reserves, National Nature Reserves	5 km radius of the site boundary		
Non-Statutory Designated Sites, Protected/ Notable Species & Invasive Non-Native Species		1km radius of the centre of the site	LERC	
Granted Natural England Mitigation Licences		2 km radius of the site boundary	UK Government MAGIC website	
Natural England Ancient Woodland Inventory		Site & 1 km radius of the site boundary		
Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory		Site & 1 km radius of the site boundary		

[2] Multi-agency Geographic Information for the Countryside: www.magic.gov.uk.

Feature	Study Area	Data Source	Date of Search
The site in the context of habitat connectivity to the surrounding landscape	2 km radius of the site boundary	Satellite and OS map data	
Relevant ecological information used to inform other planning applications	Site & surrounding area	LPA planning portal - Amber Valley Borough Council	

Field Survey

UKHab Habitat Survey

3.5. The UKHab Habitat survey was carried out on the 27th March 2026 and was extended to include an assessment for Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) and of the sites potential to be used by protected or notable species as described below. The study area included the site boundary and a 30m radius for evidence of mobile protected species such as badger, access permitting. Weather conditions were appropriate for field survey with temperatures of 7°C, no rain, and good visibility.

3.6. The site was walked over, and botanical species lists of representative and notable plant species for each habitat type were recorded. Habitats were classified and mapped with reference to best practice guidelines from UKHab Ltd (2023). The nomenclature used for botanical species lists broadly follows that of Stace (2019). Protected or notable plant species were recorded where observed.

3.7. Species density was calculated by selecting a proportionate number of randomly distributed 1m^2 quadrats per habitat parcel and counting the number of vascular plant species present within. The sum of the total number of species present in each quadrat was then divided by the number of quadrats selected to obtain an average species density.

Hedgerow Survey

3.8. During the UKHab Habitat Survey, the hedgerow(s) at the site were assessed for their importance under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and determined as either species poor (fewer than five woody species per 30m length) or species rich (greater than five woody species per 30m length). Notes were also made on other features of the hedgerow such as height and width, ground flora, standard trees, percentage gaps, structure, and connectivity.

3.9. A hedgerow is defined as a boundary line of shrubs, provided that at one time the shrubs were stock proof and more or less continuous. Any bank, wall, ditch, or tree within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow is considered to be part of this habitat, as is the herbaceous vegetation within 2m of the centre.

3.10. A hedgerow with trees is defined with reference to UKHab Ltd (2023) as a hedgerow with 2 or more prominent trees that are less than 20m apart over most of the hedgerow length.

Amphibians (Including Great Crested Newt)

3.11. The habitats at the site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibians, including a search of the site for ponds and suitable terrestrial habitat. The desk study included a search of ponds within a 250m radius of the site.

3.12. The HSI was carried out with reference to Oldham *et al*. (2000), and as refined by ARG UK, (2010). The HSI provides a numerical index between 0 and 1, whereby 0 indicates unsuitable habitat and 1 indicates optimal habitat. Ten habitat variables 'Suitability Indices (SI)' are assessed, which are known to affect the suitability of a pond for the species, as follows:

- Geographic Location (SI_1)
- Pond area (SI_2)
- Permanence (SI_3)
- Water Quality (SI_4)
- Shade (SI_5)
- Waterfowl (SI_6)
- Fish (SI_7)
- Pond Count (SI_8)
- Terrestrial habitat (SI_9)
- Macrophytes (SI_{10})

3.13. The habitat variables are each assigned a numerical score. The HSI score is then a geometric mean of the ten suitability indices: HSI = (SI1 x SI2 x SI3 x SI4 x SI5 x SI6 x SI7 x SI8 x SI9 x SI10)$^{1/10}$

3.14. The HSI score result (i.e. the numerical index between 0 and 1) is categorised according to the pond suitability scale presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Pond Suitability Scale for Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)

HSI Score	Pond Suitability
<0.5	Poor
0.5-0.59	Below Average
0.6-0.69	Average
0.7-0.79	Good
>0.8	Excellent

3.15. There is a general positive correlation between HSI scores and GCN presence. HSI scores are useful as a guide, however this relationship is not sufficiently strong to determine GCN presence/ likely absence.

Badger

3.16. The badger walkover survey included a search for evidence of badger at the site, such as sett entrances (normally 25 to 35cm wide and shaped like a 'D' on its flat edge), large spoil heaps outside sett entrances, bedding, footprints, mammal paths, latrines, hairs, scratching posts, and signs of digging for food or 'snuffle holes'. The survey included a search of the site and 30m radius (access permitting) for badger setts.

Bats – Ground Level Tree Assessment

3.17. The preliminary Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) was carried out with reference to best practice industry guidelines (Collins, 2023). The study area included all trees within the survey area.

3.18. The survey included a surveyor assessing the tree(s) from ground level aided by binoculars, noting potential bat entry/exit points, potential roosting features (PRFs), and any evidence of bats. The trees were graded for their suitability to support roosting bats, which will inform the need for further survey effort, if required, such as a potential roost feature (PRF) inspection via rope and harness access and/or nocturnal survey.

3.19. The suitability of the trees for roosting bats was then categorised with reference to best practice industry guidelines (Collins, 2023) (Table 4) as either none, further assessment required (FAR), potential roosting features present for individual bats (PRF-I), or potential roosting features present for multiple bats (PRF-M), which informs the need for further survey effort to establish the presence/ likely absence of roosting bats.

Table 4: Guidelines for Assessing the Potential Bat Roosting Suitability of Trees (Adapted from Collins, (2023))

Suitability	Description of Trees
None	No features likely to be used by roosting bats or highly unlikely features are present. An absence of accessible voids, cracks and crevices.
FAR	Further assessment is required to determine if features likely to be used by roosting bats are present.
PRF-I	The PRF is suitable for individual or small numbers of bats due to lack of size or suitable surrounding landscape.
PRF-M	The PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may be used by a maternity colony.

Bats – Commuting and Foraging

3.20. With reference to Table 5, an assessment of the habitats at the site to support commuting and foraging bats was made, within the context of habitat connectivity to features in the wider landscape. The site was assessed as either negligible, low, moderate, or high suitability for commuting and foraging bats.

Table 5: Guidelines for Assessing the Potential Bat Suitability of Structures and Habitats (Adapted from Collins, (2023))

Suitability	Description of Roosting Habitats	Commuting and Foraging Habitats
Negligible	Negligible features likely to be used by roosting bats. An absence of accessible voids, cracks and crevices.	Negligible features likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats. A lack of landscape habitat features.
Low	A structure or tree with a potential roost site which could be used by individual bats, which does not provide enough space, shelter, protection, or appropriate conditions (i.e. temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels, disturbance) or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis by larger numbers of bats.	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a hedgerow with gaps or unvegetated stream, but isolated (i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by habitat). Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure or tree with a potential roost site that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but is unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (such as a maternity colony).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by commuting bats such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat.	Continuous high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees, and woodland edge. Continuous high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging

Suitability	Description of Roosting Habitats	Commuting and Foraging Habitats
		bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Sites which are close to and connected to known roosts.

Nesting Birds

3.21. An assessment of the habitats on site to support nesting birds was made, and the site was searched where accessible for active or historical bird nests. Any sightings of bird nesting behaviour associated with the site was also noted.

Hazel Dormouse

3.22. An assessment of the suitability of the habitats at the site to support hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* was made with reference to Bullion *et al.* (2025), and any incidental sightings of dormouse evidence recorded where encountered.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

3.23. An assessment was made of the suitability of the habitats at the site to support notable assemblages of invertebrates, such as vegetation structure, vegetation species diversity, deadwood, and host plants/ animals.

Reptiles

3.24. An assessment was made of the suitability of the habitats at the site for reptiles. Optimal habitat for reptiles includes rough grassland, moorland, heathland, woodland and scrub, sub-urban areas such as railway embankments, golf courses and allotments, and sympathetically managed farmland. Favourable features for reptiles include sunny south facing banks for basking, ecotones such as the transition between grassland and scrub, and hibernacula such as stone, log, and brash piles.

Otter

3.25. An assessment of the habitats at the site to support otter *Lutra lutra* was made, and a search for evidence of otter carried out with reference to Chanin (2003a), Chanin (2003b) and Chanin (2005). The survey included a search for:

- Holts, including any large cavities (or tunnels) in the banks of the stream, cavities beneath the root-plates of large trees, cavities in boulders, and man-made structures such as disused drainage pipes.
- Couches, typically an above-ground nest-like structure used as a resting place which can sometimes consist of no more than an area of flattened grass or earth.
- Footprints in sand or soft mud comprising five toes with a pad. In soft ground claw marks and webs between toes may also be evident.
- Mammal paths whereby otters habitually use the same routes within their territory to access aquatic habitat, so the paths are usually worn leading down the banks to the river and may have a ‘slide’ at the end of well-worn mud.
- Spraints, found in prominent locations adjacent or along a river such as on tree stumps, large rocks, and ledges under bridges. Spraints are typically made up of remnants of otter prey items such as fish bones and scales, small mammal fur, feathers, and insect fragments. Fresh spraint is usually black, tarry and sticky. It has a distinctive sweet-musky odour.
- Anal jelly, a secretion that smells strongly and can vary in colour from pale brown, greenish to amber.
- Other signs – for example, remains of prey items such as fish, crabs or skinned amphibians.

Water Vole

3.26. With reference to Dean *et al.* (2016), Strachan *et al.* (2011), and Natural England (2008) an initial assessment of the habitats at site was carried out for the suitability to support water vole *Arvicola amphibius* during the Extended UKHab Habitat Survey, including making observations on:

- Bank profile.
- Shore/bank substrate (suitability for burrowing).
- Water depth and likely frequency and height of water level changed.
- Habitat type including shading from trees/ shrubs.
- Bankside vegetation type and density.
- In – channel vegetation type and density.
- Land use, management, and disturbance level.

3.27. Evidence of water vole was sought during the initial habitat assessment including actual water vole sightings, burrows, runs in vegetation, latrines, runs, feeding stations, nests, and footprints.

Fish

3.28. An initial assessment of the habitats at site was carried out for the suitability to support notable fish species during the Extended UKHab Habitat Survey, such as presence of suitable watercourses and waterbodies.

3.29. An assessment of the suitability of the river habitat for fish was made, including:

- Flow type
- Water depth and permanence
- Substrate diversity and the presence of substrate for spawning
- Cover and refuge (in-stream and marginal vegetation)
- Evidence of pollution or other degradation
- Barriers to migration

Aquatic Invertebrates (including White-clawed Crayfish)

3.30. With reference to Peay (2002), Peay (2003), and Holdich (2003) an initial assessment of the suitability of habitats present at the site to support white clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* was undertaken during the Extended UKHab Habitat Survey and Desk Study, including making observations on favourable and unfavourable habitat conditions for white clawed crayfish (see Table 6).

Table 6: Favourable and Unfavourable Habitat Features for White-Clawed Crayfish (adapted from Peay (2002))

Favourable	**Unfavourable**

Water quality • High pH (preferably 6.8-8.6). • Base-rich/alkaline (usually >5ppm Ca). • Well aerated, dissolved oxygen >60% saturated (90 percentile), usually higher. • Unpolluted or largely so; may be slight nutrient enrichment from organic pollution (Grade A to C only).	**Water quality** • low pH <pH6.0, base-poor, low alkalinity. • subject to acid pulses from moorland runoff. • Dissolved oxygen <60% saturated (90 percentile). • Ochreous drainage from peatland drainage or mine water. • Brackish or saline conditions. • Pollution from sheep dips or other polluting discharges.
Flow • Slow-flowing glides (including canals). • Sheltered parts of riffles, • Slack margins, pools, on-stream ponds. • Still waterbodies (lakes, old mineral workings).	**Flow** • Falls and cascades. • Fast riffles. • Flumes (e.g. in culverts). • Other strong currents.
Habitat – substrate • suitable habitat for refuges, i.e; Submerged Stones, tree roots, wood debris, undercut banks big enough for the size of crayfish (strongly prefer boulders >25cm, usually over 15 cm in size, rarely <64mm); stable (i.e. less likely to be moved in floods); free of siltation, aerated and in suitable condition • Boulders and large cobble, especially if relatively flat, with cavities beneath. • Cobble and boulder riffles in chalk or gravel streams. • Brick and other rubble in streams and still waterbodies. • Submerged, un-mortared stone which protects banks from erosion; facing walls or rip-rap stone reinforcement. • Small stone weirs/flow deflectors. • Crevices in old or damaged, submerged brickwork, stonework, cracked concrete, or old wooden structures. • Undercut earth banks or steep to vertical submerged banks.	**Habitat – substrate** • Bare sand, gravel, pebble or un-fissured bedrock (unfavourable for refuges) • Uniform clay channels. • Pebble or cobble shingle regularly exposed by changing river levels. • Gabion baskets filled with pebble-sized stone (<6cm), for bank reinforcement. • Areas of armoured bed where the substrate is compacted by the flow. • Soft silt, especially loosely settled organic fines. • Steel sheet-piling or concrete walls for bank reinforcement. • Sloping banks without any vertical or undercut areas below water level. • a lot of small stone (small cobble and pebble). • Isolated refuges
Habitat – plant material • Submerged tree roots. • Overhanging trees or branches. • Debris dams. • Leaf packs. • Stands of submerged aquatic plants (if not too dense), e.g. aquatic mosses, water crowfoot. • Bank reinforcement by faggots (bundles of small woody material), or woven willow (like basket-weave, but may be growing).	**Habitat – plant material** • Dense, filamentous algae. • Regularly exposed marginal vegetation. • Dense, silted up stands of emergent vegetation leading to loss of open water.

Food supply • leaf litter from trees and other plants, after it has soaked for several days; • aquatic macrophytes, including filamentous algae; • any aquatic invertebrates slow enough to be caught; • other crayfish; • dead fish or other animal remains, and • small live fish (occasionally).	**Barriers to dispersal such as:** • a major weir, dam or waterfall; • a length of highly modified channel lacking in suitable habitat; • a fast-flowing flume or culvert; • a dried-up section of channel, or • poor water quality in a reach.
	Alien Crayfish • competition from alien crayfish. • disease carried by alien crayfish.

Other Mammals

3.31. An assessment of the site to support other mammals including brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, harvest mouse *Micromys minutus*, and hedgehog was also made.

Invasive Species

3.32. Invasive plant species such as those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As Amended) were recorded where encountered during the UKHab Habitat survey.

Limitations

3.33. It must be noted that survey effort has been made to provide detailed descriptions of the site within the context of potential usage by protected species, however a fully comprehensive assessment and prediction of natural factors cannot be made. The protected species assessment provides a professional view of the likelihood of such species being present and cannot be taken as a definitive presence or absence of the same. Systematic presence/ likely absence surveys for such species, which typically require multiple survey visits, have not been undertaken and are outside of the scope of Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Such surveys are recommended in the present report if considered proportionate to the potential ecological impacts of the development proposals.

3.34. A full search of crevices and cavities on buildings typically cannot be made without specialist access equipment and in most cases intrusive works, and therefore accessible areas only have been searched for evidence of protected species and a negative result of evidence does not conclusively equate to absence of such species which may occupy inaccessible crevices on the building. However, provided any recommended nocturnal emergence/ re-entry bat survey(s) are undertaken, this is not considered a significant limitation to assessing the presence/ likely absence of roosting bats at the site.

3.35. A proportionate effort was applied to the desk study when identifying ponds within a 250m radius of the site. However, ponds which do not appear on ordnance survey maps, or those under tree cover, may not have been recorded via the desk study search. This includes small ornamental garden ponds. It is considered that this limitation would not significantly impact the assessment of habitat suitability for GCN within the wider landscape, and that the majority of significant and permanent water bodies are likely to have been recorded.

3.36. Third party desk study data is not exhaustive, and an absence or a negative result of a species does not indicate the absence of protected species from the site/ search area.

3.37. The UKHab Habitat survey was undertaken outside of the optimal survey period of April to October. However, species identification of plants present outside of the optimal period is typically still possible based on the vegetative characteristics. Where additional surveys during the optimal period are required to assess the habitat type present, these are recommended.

3.38. All dimensions, locations and distances provided are approximate.

4. Results

Desk Study

Surrounding Landscape

4.1. The surrounding landscape is primarily sub-urban and rural (Figure 2: Surrounding Landscape Plan).

4.2. Habitat features favourable to ecology in the wider landscape include nearby tree lined watercourses, woodland blocks, arable and pasture grazed fields linked to further favourable habitat in the surrounding landscape via hedgerows and treelines. Markeaton Brook is located approximately 28m west of the site.

4.3. Landscape features which may limit habitat quality and connectivity include areas of hardstanding and artificial lighting associated with the residential setting of Allestree. A housing development site is immediately adjacent to the northeast site boundary.

Statutory Designated Sites

4.4. The site does not form part of an international or national designated site for nature conservation.

4.5. A summary of designated sites identified via the desk study are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 7: Summary of Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Description/ Main Reasons for Designation	Distance & Direction from Site
Kedleston Park	SSSI	Woodland, wet woodland and open water habitats with diverse deadwood invertebrate fauna.	0.7km NW
Allestree Park	LNR	Parkland, veteran trees, woodland, semi-natural grassland, swamp, standing open water and hedgerow habitats supporting a range of flora and fauna.	1.7km NE
Darley and Nutwood	LNR	Woodland, grassland and scrub habitats supporting a range of flora and fauna.	2.4km E
Mickleover Meadows	LNR	Woodland, veteran trees, grassland, open water, scrub and hedgerow habitats	3.4km SW

Site Name	Designation	Description/ Main Reasons for Designation	Distance & Direction from Site
		supporting a range of flora and fauna.	
Duffield Millenium Meadow	LNR	Flood plain grazing marsh, grassland, woodland, standing open water, watercourse, and hedgerow habitats supporting a range of flora and fauna.	4.4km NE

4.6. The site lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone (SSSI IRZ), requiring the Local Planning Authority to consult with Natural England on any risks which may affect the SSSI sites as a result of certain development types. However, the current development type is not listed in the SSSI IRZ citation as requiring consultation.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

4.7. The site does not form part of a non-statutory designated site for nature conservation.

4.8. A summary of non-statutory designated sites identified via the desk study are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 8: Summary of Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Description/ Main Reasons for Designation	Distance & Direction from Site
Osierbed and Gravelpit Woods	LWS	Broad-leaved wet woodland and standing open water habitats.	0.1km S
Markeaton Brook System	LWS	Tree-lined brook with invertebrate assemblages and records of a water vole population.	0.3km SE
Woodlands School Hedges	LWS	Interconnecting species-rich hedgerows	0.7km NE
Markeaton Lane Meadow	LWS	Unimproved neutral grassland that supports a range of wetland plant species including DRDB species.	0.8kmm SE

Site Name	Designation	Description/ Main Reasons for Designation	Distance & Direction from Site
Kedleston Road Hedge	LWS	Species-rich hedgerow.	0.9km SE
Kedleston Road Marsh	LWS	An area of marsh, semi-improved grassland, ruderal vegetation and a constructed reedbed.	0.9km SE
Markeaton Park	LWS	Wood-pasture and parks, woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, veteran trees, hedgerow, watercourses and lake habitats present.	1km S

Priority Habitats and Ancient Woodland

4.9. No areas of ancient woodland were identified within the search radius via the desk study.

4.10. A summary of priority habitats identified via the desk study are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 9: Summary of Priority Habitats

Habitat type	Distance & Direction of Closest Priority Habitat Type from Site
Deciduous woodland	0.1km SW
Pond	0.2km SE
Woodpasture and Parkland	0.7km NW
Good quality semi-improved grassland	0.8km SE
Lowland fens	0.8km SE

Relevant Ecological Information Used to Inform Other Planning Applications

4.11. No relevant ecological information used to inform other planning applications was identified via the desk study.

Field Survey

UKHab Habitat Survey

4.12. The habitats recorded at the survey site during the UKHab Habitat survey are presented in Table 10 and mapped on Figure 3: UKHab Habitat Plan.

Table 10: UKHab Habitat Assessment Results

UKHab Primary Code	Habitat Type	UKHab Secondary Code	Description	(NERC) Act 2006 HPI*	Habitat of Local Importance	Photograph Ref No. (Appendix 2: Photographs)
g4	Modified grassland	10 -Scattered scrub 81 – Ruderal or ephemeral 200 – Tree	Areas of modified grassland were present throughout the site. The area of modified grassland at the west site boundary had a varied sward height with an average of 4 species per m^2. Species present included abundant common nettle *Urtica dioica*, hedge bindweed, with frequent moss, cleavers, broadleaved dock, and occasional perennial rye-grass, hairy bittercress, and bramble. The area of grassland in the north of the site had a tall sward height with an average of 3 species per m^2. Species present included dominant perennial rye-grass, with abundant red fescue, occasional Yorkshire fog, annual meadow grass, creeping thistle, broadleaved dock, common nettle, cleavers, hogweed, dandelion, creeping buttercup, hedge bindweed, and rarely present vetch *sp.*, creeping cinquefoil, bramble and hairy bittercress. The area of grassland in the south of the site had a varied sward height with an average of 5 species per m^2. Species present included abundant perennial rye-grass, with locally abundant horsetail sp., frequent Yorkshire fog, red fescue, occasional geranium sp., dandelion, ribwort plantain, common mouse-ear, clover sp., hairy bittercress, yarrow, groundsel, and rarely present rose *Rosa sp.*, bristly oxtongue, teasel, vetch sp. Tree species present in the grassland at the southeast site boundary included two silver birch *Betula pendula* trees T1 and T4, and two lime *Tilia sp.* trees T2 and T3.	No	No	1, 11-14
h3d	Bramble scrub		An area of bramble scrub was present in the centre of the site. Species present included dominant bramble with abundant moss, hedge bindweed, with occasional pampas grass, common nettle, broadleaved dock, cleavers, hairy bittercress, and rarely present teasel.	No	No	2
u1c	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface		A gravel driveway was present in the southwest of the site.	No	No	3
h2b	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow		Two non-native and ornamental hedgerows were present at the northeast and southeast site boundaries. For full details, see Table XX: Hedgerow Survey Results.	No	No	4, 5
r1	Standing open water and canals	50 - Ditch	Two ditches D1 and D2 were present on site at the northeast and northwest site boundaries. The ditch D1 present at the northeast site boundary associated within hedgerow H1 and was approximately 1m in depth and observed to hold still water. Emergent and marginal vegetation was present including occasional blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, bramble and common nettle. The ditch D2 present at the northwest site boundary was approximately 1m in depth was observed to be fully dry at the time of survey. A culvert was present at the west of the ditch. The ditch was dominated by bare ground with occasional perennial rye-grass, common nettle and hogweed.	No	No	6- 9
u1e	Built linear features	612 - Fence	Close-board timber fencing was present at the southeast and southwest site boundaries.	No	No	-

*Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI). As defined with reference to habitat descriptions provided in Maddock, A. (ed) (2011).

Hedgerow Survey

4.13. The results of the hedgerow survey are provided in Table 11.

Table 11: Hedgerow Survey Results

Hedgerow number**	Description	UKHab Code	NERC Act HPI*	Photograph Ref No. (Appendix 2: Photographs)
H1	Hedgrow H1 related to the non-native and ornamental hedgerow at the northeast site boundary associated with the ditch D1. The hedgerow was approximately 2.5m in height and width and 35m in length. The hedgerow was dominated by Leyland cypress *Cupressus* x *leylandii.* The ground flora was associated with the modified grassland in the north of the site and the ditch D1.	h2b	No	5
H2	Hedgrow H2 related to the non-native and ornamental hedgerow in the southeast of the site. The hedgerow was approximately 2.5m in height, 1m in width and 7m in length. The hedgerow was dominated by Leyland cypress *Cupressus* x *leylandii* with rarely present silver birch. The ground flora was associated with the gravel driveway.	h2b	No	4

**See Figure 3: UKHab Habitat Plan for hedgerow reference numbers.

Protected/ Notable Species

4.14. The results of the protected/ notable species assessment undertaken during the Extended UKHab Habitat Survey are provided in Table 12 overleaf.

4.15. A summary of desk study results is also provided in Table 12. Additional species records were returned by the LERC within the search radius, which are considered unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development and are therefore not included. These include species for which there is no suitable habitat present on site or the surrounding area.

Table 12: Protected/ Notable Species Assessment

Species/ Species Group	Desk Study	Evidence Observed During Extended UKHab Habitat Survey	Suitability of Habitats Present
Amphibians (including great crested newt)	No previous Granted Mitigation Licence records were identified within 2km of the survey site via the desk study. No GCN Class Survey Licence Returns were identified within 2km of the survey site. No Great Crested Newt Pond Surveys 2017 – 2019 were identified within 2km of the survey site. 1 record of GCN was returned via the LERC data. The record related to a record of great crested newt at a location approximately 0.6km southeast of the survey site, dated 1999. No records of other amphibian species were returned via the LERC data.	No evidence observed.	No ponds were identified as present within the boundary of the survey site during the site walkover. Two ponds P1 and P2 were identified as present within a 250m radius of the survey site during the desk study. With reference to Figure 4: Pond Plan, Pond P1 related to the balancing pond present approximately 35m southeast of the site. Pond P2 related to the drainage pond present approximately 200m southeast of the site. See Table 13 for a summary of Habitat Suitability Index Results. Two ditches D1 and D2 were observed on site during the site walkover. Ditch D1 related to the drainage ditch present at the northeast site boundary and was associated with pond P2. Ditch D2 related to the ditch at the northwest site boundary. The ditch D2 was dry at the time of survey, and a culvert was observed at the west of the ditch. One watercourse WC1 relating to Markeaton Brook identified during the desk study and is located approximately 28m west of the site. The modified grassland, bramble scrub, ditches and hedgerow and tree bases on site offered suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians.
Badger	1 record of badger was returned via the LERC data. The record related to a badger sett located approximately 0.5km southwest of the survey site, dated 2017.	No evidence observed.	The modified grassland, bramble scrub, ditches and hedgerow and tree bases on site offered suitable habitat for commuting and foraging badger.
Bats – GLTA	3 previous Granted Mitigation Licence records were identified within 2km of the survey site via the desk study. The first licence allowed for the destruction of a non-breeding resting place for common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* between 2015 and 2020 at a location approximately 1.4km northeast of the site. The second licence allowed for the destruction of a non-breeding resting place for common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* between 2020 and 2021 at a location approximately 1.7km east of the site. The third licence allowed for the damage and destruction of a breeding and non-breeding resting place for soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* between 2014 and 2019 at a location approximately 1.9km southeast of the site. 12 records of bats were returned via the LERC data. The closest record related to a pipistrelle *Pipistrellus sp.* located approximately 0.1km south of the site in 1988.	No evidence observed.	No trees with bat roosting suitability observed.
Bats – commuting and foraging		No evidence observed.	The site was assessed as having moderate suitability for commuting and foraging bats with grassland, scrub, ditches and hedgerows on site with connectivity to further suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape via immediately adjacent woodland and nearby tree-lined watercourses.

	Other bat species included common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Chiroptera sp.*Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentoniid* and noctule *Nyctalus noctule.*		
Birds	389 records of birds were returned via the LERC data. The closest record related to a little egret *Egretta garzetta* located approximately 0.01km west of the site in 2015. Other bird species included swift *Apus apus*, Wheatear *Oenanthe Oenanthe*, Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, red kite *Milvus milvus,* song thrush *Turdus philomelos,* sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus,* dipper *Cinclus cinclus,* willow tit *Poecile montanus, and* treecreeper *Certhia familiari,* skylark *Alauda arvensis,* and lapwing *Vanellus* v*anellus.*	No evidence observed.	The hedgerows and individual trees on site offered suitable habitat for a range of nesting birds. The off-site woodland immediately adjacent to the north site boundary offered suitable habitat for a range of nesting birds.
Hazel dormouse	The site is outside of the known distribution area for hazel dormouse. This species is not considered further.		
Terrestrial invertebrates	9 records of terrestrial invertebrates were returned via the LERC data. The closets record related to a Wall butterfly *Lasiommata megera* located approximately 0.2km southeast of the site in 2000. Other species included white-letter hairstreak *Satyrium w-album* and harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*.	No evidence observed.	The site offers areas of common and widespread habitats of limited botanical diversity or interest. It is therefore considered unlikely that the site would support notable invertebrate populations.
Otter	No records of otter were returned via the LERC data.	No evidence observed.	The site offered limited suitability for otter. The ditches D1 and D2 on site are likely to offer negligible suitability for otter and had limited connectivity to further suitable watercourses. This species is not considered further.
Reptiles	1 record of reptiles were returned via the LERC data. The record related to a slow worm *Anguis fragilis* at a location approximately 0.9km southeast of the survey site, dated 1983.	No evidence observed.	The modified grassland, bramble scrub, ditches and hedgerow and tree bases on site offered suitable terrestrial habitat for reptiles.
Water vole	8 records of water vole was returned via the LERC data located approximately 0.2km southeast of the site in 2003.	No evidence observed.	The off-site watercourse WC1 located 28m west of the site boundary is likely to offer suitability for water vole. The ditches D1 and D2 on site are unlikely to offer suitability for water vole.
Aquatic Invertebrates (including white-clawed crayfish)	8 records of aquatic invertebrate were returned via the LERC data. The closest record related to white-clawed crayfish located approximately 11m west of the site in 1983.	No evidence observed.	The off-site watercourse WC1 located 28m west of the site boundary is likely to offer suitability for white-clawed crayfish. The ditches D1 and D2 on site are unlikely to offer suitability for white-clawed crayfish.
Fish	6 records of fish were returned via the LERC data. The closest record of fish related to a brown/sea trout *Salmo trutta* located approximately 0.07km west of the site in 2018.	No evidence observed.	The off-site watercourse WC1 located 28m west of the site boundary is likely to offer suitability for fish. The ditches D1 and D2 on site are unlikely to offer suitability for fish.
Other Mammals (including brown hare, harvest mouse, and hedgehog)	33 records of other mammals were returned via the LERC data. The closest record related to hedgehog located approximately 0.2km southeast of the site dated 2016.	A mammal path was observed in the grassland in the centre of the site located at target note TN1 (Figure 3: UKHab Habitat Plan, Appendix 2: Photographs, Photo 10).	The modified grassland, bramble scrub, ditches and hedgerow and tree bases on site offered suitable habitat for hedgehog and brown hare.

	Other species included hare *Lepus europaeus*, grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*, and American mink *Neovison vison.*		
Invasive species	12 records of invasive species were returned via the desk study. The closest record related to Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* located approximately 0.7km from the site dated 2022, Other species included ring-necked parakeet *Psittacula krameria,* mandarin duck *Aix galericulata,and* American mink.	No evidence observed.	N/A

4.16. The results of the HSI assessment of ponds on site and within a 250m radius of the site are presented Table 13 below. See Appendix 3 for the full breakdown of the HSI assessment.

Table 13: Summary of Habitat Suitability Index Results

Pond Number**	Distance From Site	HSI Score	HSI Result	Description	Photo Ref
P1	35m SE	0.71	Good	Balancing pond	15
P2	200m SE	0.56	Below average	Pond associated with ditch D1	16

**See Figure 4: Pond Plan for pond reference numbers.

5. Ecological Constraints & Opportunities

5.1. The ecological constraints and opportunities, and recommendations for avoidance, mitigation, or further survey (where required) are provided in Table 14 overleaf.

5.2. The mitigation hierarchy sets out that the avoidance of impacts should firstly be prioritised prior to mitigation measures. The avoidance of ecological impacts has been carefully considered from the early stages of the scheme, which has informed the design and layout of the development proposals, thereby avoiding some of the significant potential effects upon Important Ecological Features prior to the consideration of mitigation measures, including retention of hedgerows.

5.3. The mitigation set out in the following sections is proposed to be secured via mechanisms including a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP): Biodiversity

4. To mitigate potential significant effects to IEFs during the construction phase of the proposed development and with reference to Clause 10.2 of the British Standard *'BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development*', the works should be carried out under a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). In addition to the construction phase avoidance and mitigation measures presented in the following sections, the CEMP would contain the following elements where applicable (Adapted from BS 42020:2013):

- Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction-type activities
- Identification of "biodiversity protection zones" and areas where invasive species have been identified.
- Inclusion of or reference to details for implementation of method statements required to achieve specific biodiversity outcomes, and particularly mitigation measures.
- Identification of practical measures to avoid biodiversity impacts during development through the control or regulation of construction-type activities.
- The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.
- The times during construction or development implementation when particular specialists need to be present on site to oversee works (i.e. Ecological Clerk of Works)
- Responsible persons and lines of communication.
- Defining and communicating the role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW), or appointed ecologist(s) responsible for managing biodiversity issues on site, and times and activities during construction or development implementation when they need to be present.
- Use of exclusion fences, protective barriers and warning signs.
- Pollution prevention measures to be adopted during works
- Compliance with any Natural England mitigation licenses required for the site.

Table 14: Ecological Constraints & Opportunities

Ecological Feature	Potential Ecological Impact & Level of Constraint	Potential Avoidance, Mitigation and/or Compensation Measures	Further Survey Required to Inform an Ecological Impact Assessment
Designated Sites	It is considered that the development will not adversely impact on the designated sites for nature conservation identified in the desk study, due the distance between the designated sites and the development site, and the small scale of the works proposed.	N/A	No further surveys required
Priority habitats	The National Planning Policy Framework 2024 sets out that: *'192. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:* [...] *b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species* […]*'.* The NPPF 2024 defines Priority Habitats and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. No Priority Habitats were identified on site.	Retained hedgerows and trees should be protected with reference to the British Standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations.	No further surveys required
Habitats (general)	The remaining habitats on site are considered to be common and widespread habitats of low conservation importance. However, cumulatively these habitats have local conservation value taken as the biodiversity value of the site. The development will result in the partial loss or degradation of existing habitats including grassland and bramble scrub.	It is recommended that impacts on the grassland and bramble scrub through vegetation clearance are avoided where possible to limit impacts to these habitat types and the species that utilise them. Vegetation clearance should be kept to the minimum area required. Any removed trees should be replaced with native species of value to wildlife on a 1:2 basis to those lost.	No further surveys required.
Badgers	Badgers are afforded legal protection under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992. No evidence of badger was recorded during the survey, however their presence in the landscape cannot be fully discounted. There remains a residual risk of badger injury and mortality during construction should this species be mobile in the area. Under the current development proposals, there will be some removal of suitable badger habitat on site, including the removal of areas of grassland and bramble scrub.	Precautionary methods should be implemented during works to protect foraging and commuting badger. Foundation ditches and other ditches, excavations, or trenches, which can be hazardous to badgers, should be closed overnight or fitted with roughened sloping boards or steps to allow animals to escape should they become trapped. Concrete should not be left unset overnight, or suitable barriers erected to prevent animals accessing the concrete. Pipework with a diameter greater than 120mm should have the ends closed off overnight to prevent entrapment. In the event that badgers or badger setts are encountered during works, works should cease immediately and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist sought.	No further surveys required.
Birds	Nesting birds are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under the current development proposals, there will be some removal of suitable nesting bird habitat on site, including the removal of individual trees.	Where works affecting nesting bird habitat on site cannot avoid the nesting bird season of March to August (inclusive) and September in mild years, the habitat to be subject to works should be surveyed for nesting birds immediately prior to removal by a suitably qualified ecologist. If nesting birds are recorded, a suitable buffer zone should be defined by the ecologist and implemented until the ecologist confirms the chicks have fledged. If species identification is possible, this can be used to inform the typical egg incubation and fledging period, giving an indication of an appropriate time for re-survey to confirm fledging. In the event that nesting birds are encountered during works, works should cease immediately and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist sought.	No further surveys required.
Bats	Bats are a fully protected European Protected Species (EPS) under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	<u>Commuting & Foraging Bats</u> Due to the presence of bats in the wider area as highlighted by the desk study, and the suitability of the habitat for commuting and foraging bats, the impacts	No further surveys required.

	Commuting & Foraging Bats Under the development proposals, grassland and bramble scrub will be lost, however the hedgerows will be retained providing continued commuting and foraging resources. The construction of a residential dwelling will likely result in the increase in artificial lighting and disturbance on site.	from external artificial lighting on the site and on adjacent habitats should be avoided. Where lighting is required, both during construction works and post-development, this should be sympathetic to wildlife through the design of lighting observing the principles set out in guidelines from the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) & Institution of Lighting Professionals (BCT & ILP, 2023). In the unlikely event that a bat is encountered during works, works should cease immediately, and the advice of a suitably experienced ecologist sought.	
Amphibians (including great crested newt) and Reptiles	Great crested newts (GCN) are fully protected as a European Protected Species (EPS) under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Reptiles are partially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), protecting them from killing or injury. There will be some removal of suitable GCN, amphibian, and reptile habitat on site to facilitate the proposed works, including the removal of grassland and bramble scrub. Using the Risk Assessment Tool provided within the Natural England Method Statement Template (Table 15 overleaf), on a precautionary basis scenario that the pond P1, approximately 35m southeast of the site is a GCN breeding site and the basis that approximately 0.17ha of land will be affected by the development, the calculator generated a risk of ‘‘Amber: Offence Likely’.	To prevent the killing and injury of amphibians and reptiles during the works, it is recommended that vegetation clearance on site is carried out under precautionary working methods for amphibians and reptiles, to include a fingertip search of vegetation and suitable hibernacula prior to works, as well as staged and directional vegetation removal encouraging the safe displacement of amphibians and reptiles into adjacent habitats. In the event that amphibians (including GCN) or reptiles are encountered during works, works should cease immediately, and the advice of an ecologist sought.	No further surveys required.
Water vole	Water vole are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). No evidence of water vole was noted during the survey; however desk study records of this species was returned in close proximity to the site. The ditches D1 and D2 at the northeast and northwest site boundaries offered negligible habitat for this species. The watercourse WC1 located 28m west of the site offered suitable habitat for these species and is to be retained and unimpacted under the current development proposals, however, there remains a risk of indirect impact to these species, such as via pollution.	The artificial lighting mitigation outlined for foraging bats would also protect nocturnal riparian species. Subject to the implementation of a CEMP: Biodiversity to protect the ditches D1-2 and watercourse WC1 riparian zone, it is considered that potential significant impacts to these species can be avoided. In the unlikely event that water vole are encountered during works, works should cease immediately, and the advice of a suitably experienced ecologist sought.	No further surveys required.
White Clawed-Crayfish (WCC)	White-clawed crayfish (WCC) receive partial protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), prohibiting the taking of any native crayfish for any purpose except under licence. WCC is listed under Annex II and V of the EC Habitats Directive, implemented in the UK by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. Annex II requires that Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are established to conserve this and other listed species. The ditches D1 and D2 at the northeast and northwest site boundaries offered negligible habitat for this species. The watercourse WC1 located 28m west of the site offered suitable habitat for these species and is to be retained and unimpacted under the current development proposals, however, there remains a risk of indirect impact to these species, such as via pollution.	Subject to the implementation of a CEMP: Biodiversity to protect the ditches D1-2 and watercourse WC1 riparian zone, it is considered that potential significant impacts to these species can be avoided. In the unlikely event that WCC are encountered during works, works should cease immediately, and the advice of a suitably experienced ecologist sought.	No further surveys required.
Fish	Some fish species are listed as Species of Principal Importance in England under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. These species are termed ‘Priority’ species and receive special considerations in the planning process.	Subject to the implementation of a CEMP: Biodiversity to protect the ditches D1-2 and watercourse WC1 riparian zone, it is considered that potential significant impacts to these species can be avoided.	No further surveys required.

	The ditches D1 and D2 at the northeast and northwest site boundaries offered negligible habitat for this species. The watercourse WC1 located 28m west of the site offered suitable habitat for these species and is to be retained and unimpacted under the current development proposals, however, there remains a risk of indirect impact to these species, such as via pollution.		
Other Mammals	Some mammals, such as hedgehog and brown hare, are listed as Species of Principal Importance in England under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. These species are termed 'Priority' species and receive special considerations in the planning process. The site may support hedgehog, a species sensitive to impacts from habitat fragmentation. The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 makes it an offence to inflict unnecessary suffering. Under the current development proposals, there will be some removal of suitable hedgehog and brown hare habitat on site to facilitate the proposed works, including the removal of grassland and bramble scrub.	The precautionary working methods implemented for badger will also protect other mammals such as hedgehog and brown hare. Any new fencing which may fragment the landscape for hedgehog should include a 13cm square hole at the base to allow for hedgehog migration through the site. Any construction work that may cause damage to other mammals present on site should be done so in a sensitive manner to not cause any unnecessary harm.	No further surveys required.

Table 15: GCN Rapid Risk Assessment Table: Pond P1

Component	**Likely effect** **(select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)**	**Notional offence probability score**
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	0.1 - 0.5 ha lost or damaged	0.5
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	Minor disturbance of newts	0.5
	Maximum:	0.5
Rapid risk assessment result:	**AMBER: OFFENCE LIKELY**	

6. Conclusions

Further Surveys

6.1. No further surveys required.

Biodiversity Enhancement

6.2. Suitable methods of biodiversity enhancement for the site would include:

- An appropriate method of site enhancement for roosting bats would include the installation of one integrated bat box on the new building, for example the '*Ibstock Free Access Bat Box (A)*', or the '*Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'B' or 'C*". Bat boxes should be sited at a height of between 3m and 7m, on a southwest or southeast aspect, away from artificial light sources, and in proximity to suitable bat commuting habitat such as linked back gardens or trees. Potential perches (such as aerials) for predators should not be fitted in close proximity to the roosting brick entrance hole.

- The installation of two generic bird boxes. A suitable model is *the '1B Schwegler Nest Box*', one with a 32mm hole, and one with a 26mm hole. The use of woodcrete nest boxes will ensure a longer box lifespan of 20-25 years. Boxes will be hung at a height of 1.5m or higher, and angled so they face away from prevailing wind, the chances of occupation are higher if there is a good tree or hedge cover nearby.

- Any trees removed could be left within the remaining woodland to form deadwood habitats for notable invertebrates, or cut and placed to formfrom log piles, creating habitats for reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals.

- A landscaping scheme could incorporate native shrubs and trees of value to wildlife. Once matured, these habitats would offer a nesting and foraging resource for birds.

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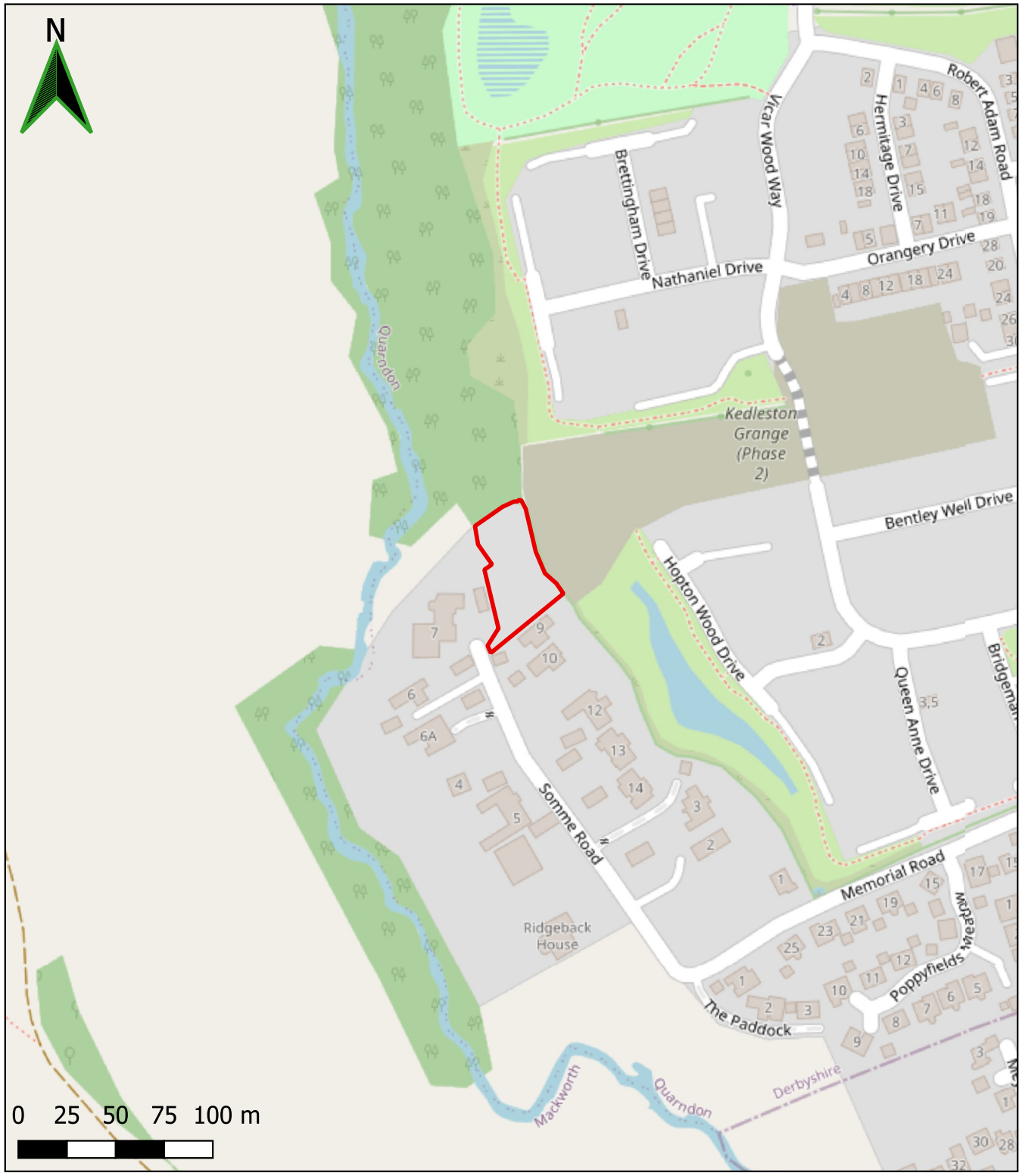
8. Figures

Figure 1: Site Location Plan (Overleaf)

Figure 2: Surrounding Landscape Plan (Overleaf)

Figure 3: UKHab Habitat Plan (Overleaf)

Figure 4: Pond Plan (Overleaf)



Legend

Site Boundary

Project:
Land Adjacent No. 7 Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire

Drawing:

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Date: 10-04-2026 Version: FINAL

Author: CBM Job No: P3028

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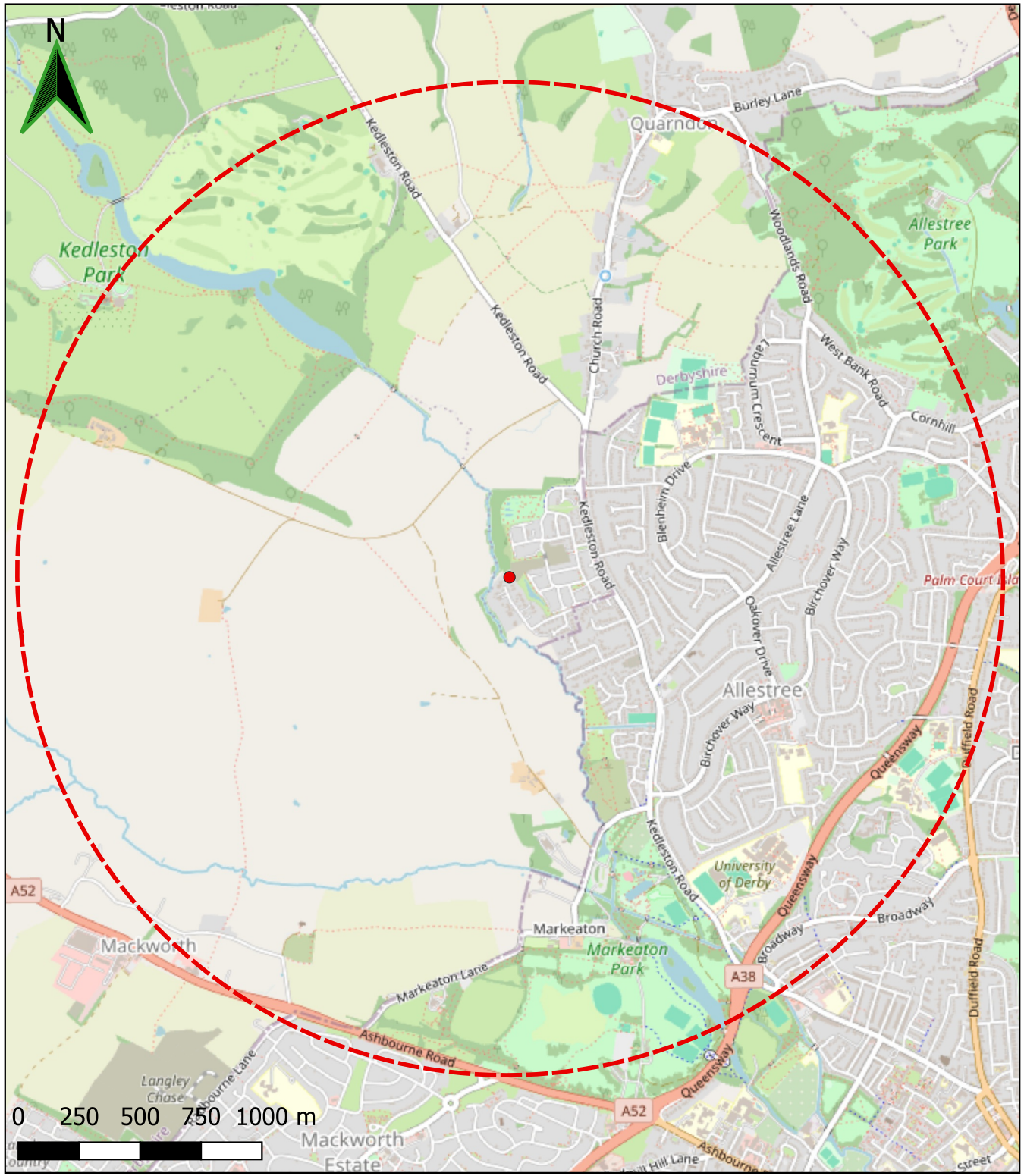

Legend

- Site Location
- 2km

Project:
Land Adjacent No. 7 Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire

Drawing:

Figure 2: Surrounding Landscape Plan

Date: 10-04-2026 Version: FINAL

Author: CBM Job No: P3028

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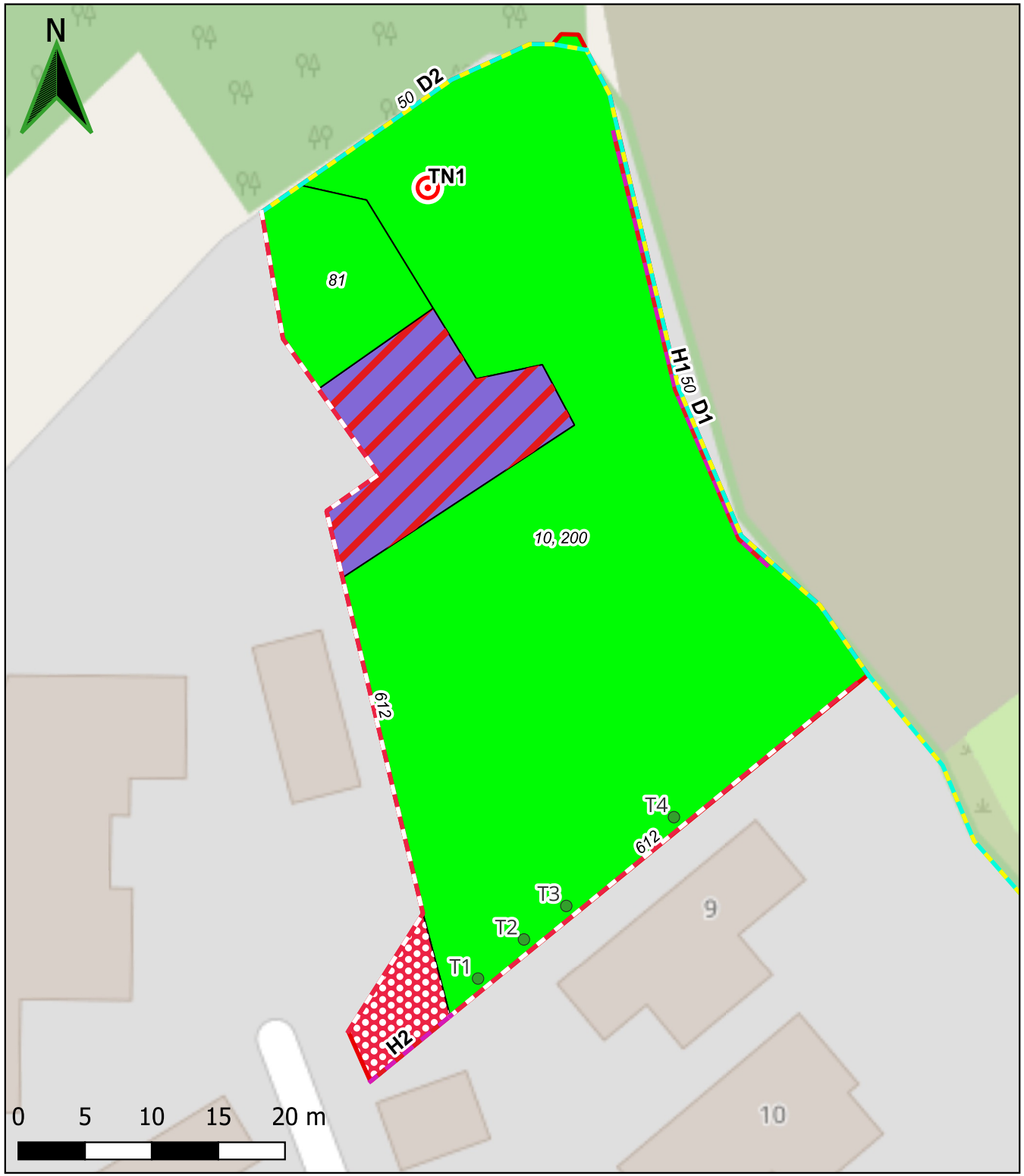

Legend

- Site Boundary
- g4 - Modified Grassland
- h3d - Bramble Scrub
- u1c - Artificial Unvegetated, Unsealed Surface
- h2b - Non-native and Ornamental Hedgerow
- u1e - Built Linear Features
- r1 - Standing Open Water and Canals
- Individual Tree
- Target Note with Reference Number

Secondary Codes:
10 - Scattered Scrub
50 - Ditch
81 - Ruderal or Ephemeral
200 - Tree
612 - Fence

Project:
Land Adjacent No. 7 Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire
Drawing:
Figure 3: UKHab Habitat Plan

Date: 10-04-2026 Version: FINAL
Author: CBM Job No: P3028

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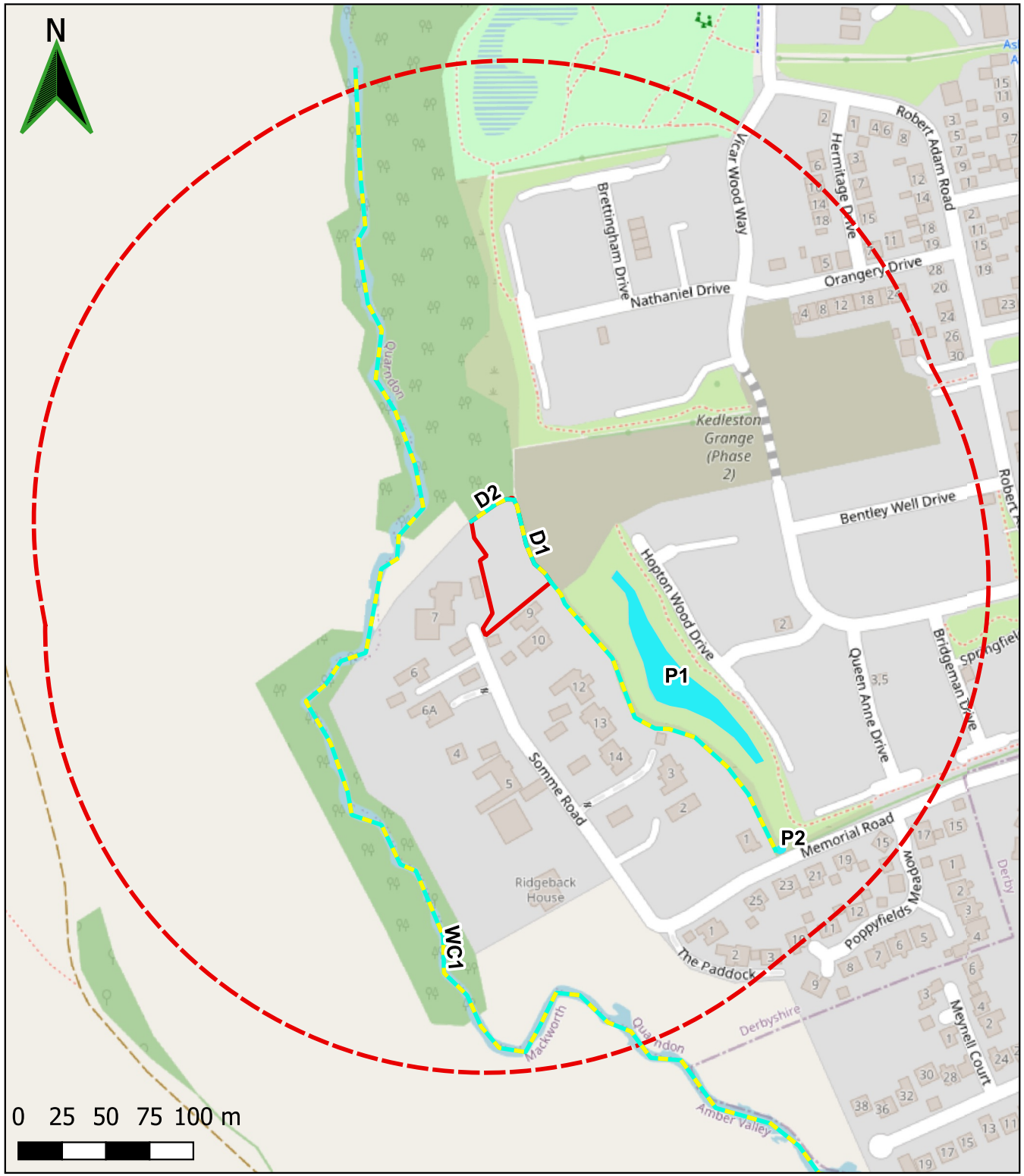

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Pond with Reference Number
- Watercourse with Reference Number
- 250m Pond Buffer

Project:
Land Adjacent No. 7 Somme Road, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire

Drawing:
Figure 4: Pond Plan

Date: 10-04-2026 Version: FINAL

Author: CBM Job No: P3028

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Appendix 1: Planning Policy & Legislation Summary

This appendix serves as a summary of relevant policy and legislation. It is not intended to supersede the policy or legislation documents to which it refers, and the relevant full documents should always be consulted prior to decision making.

National Planning Policy Framework 2024

Biodiversity is a material consideration under the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). Relevant text to biodiversity from the NPPF is described below.

In Section 2 of the NPPF 'Achieving sustainable development', paragraph 8(c), the NPPF sets an environmental objective:

- "to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy."

In Section 15 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment', the NPPF states that:

"187. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

- recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; […]

- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. […]"

The NPPF, in paragraph 192 sets out that to protect and enhance biodiversity, plans should:

- "Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity65; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and

- promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."

In determining planning applications, the NPPF paragraph 193 sets guidance that local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- "if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other

developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest […];

- development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate."

Paragraph 194 states that the following sites should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- "potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

- listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

- sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites."

Paragraph 195 states that "The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or projects will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site."

Paragraph 198 states that planning policies and decisions should ensure new development is appropriate to its location and take into account likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

- "Mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development […]; […] and

- limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation."

Government Circular ODPM 06/05 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

The government circular provides administrative guidance on the application of statutory obligation and legislation relating to planning and nature conservation in England. It complements the National Planning Policy Framework. The document includes guidance on designated sites (international and national), habitats, and protected species.

Relating to protected species and the requirement for their consideration in planning applications, the government circular, in paragraph 98 details that:

"The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Local authorities should consult English Nature [now Natural England] before granting planning permission. They should consider attaching appropriate planning conditions or entering into planning obligations under which the developer would

take steps to secure the long-term protection of the species. They should also advise developers that they must comply with any statutory species' protection provisions affecting the site concerned."

Paragraph 99, relating to the requirement and timing of protected species survey and mitigation, the government circular states that:

"It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision. The need to ensure ecological surveys are carried out should therefore only be left to coverage under planning conditions in exceptional circumstances, with the result that the surveys are carried out after planning permission has been granted. However, bearing in mind the delay and cost that may be involved, developers should not be required to undertake surveys for protected species unless there is a reasonable likelihood of the species being present and affected by the development. Where this is the case, the survey should be completed and any necessary measures to protect the species should be in place, through conditions and/or planning obligations, before the permission is granted. In appropriate circumstances the permission may also impose a condition preventing the development from proceeding without the prior acquisition of a [Natural England] licence."

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

The term 'European Protected Species' (EPS) is used to describe species listed on Schedule 2 of the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Regarding these species, Regulation 43 of the Regulations make guilty of an offence a person who:

- "Deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species;
- Deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species;
- Deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal, or;
- Damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal […]"

Regulation 43 defines that the disturbance of animals includes any disturbance which is likely to:

- Impair their ability:
    - to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or
    - in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
    - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

A person guilty of an offence under Regulation 43 is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine, or to both.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As Amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) lists species on Schedule 5 for which the Act make it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take;

- Recklessly or intentionally damage or destroy, or obstruct access to any structure or place which any wild animal included uses for shelter or protection;

- Recklessly or intentionally disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.

Some species receive partial protection under the Act, which limits their protection under the Act to intentional killing or injury.

All wild nesting birds are protected under the Act, making it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; and

- Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.

Some bird species are afforded special protection via their inclusion in Schedule 1 of the Act, which makes an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any schedule 1 bird building a nest or which is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird, or whilst such a bird 'leks' (i.e. congregates for community courtship behaviour).

Schedule 9 of the Act makes it an offence to cause any plant listed to grown in the wild, unless all reasonable steps were taken to prevent an offence and due diligence was exercised.

The Act sets out provisions to protect Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the Act places a legal duty on public authorities (including planning authorities) to have regard to biodiversity conservation in their normal functions (including planning applications).

Under Section 41 of the Act, lists of Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) and Species of Principal Importance (SPI), of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, are produced which serve to guide public authorities in carrying out their functions with consideration for biodiversity conservation.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 (as amended)

The Act protects wild mammals against certain cruel acts, including intentional crushing, downing or asphyxiation.

Appendix 2: Photographs



Photo 1: grassland present in the centre of the site.



Photo 2: Bramble scrub present in the west of the site.



Photo 3: Gravel driveway in the south of the site.



Photo 4: Hedgrow H2 present at the south site boundary.



Photo 5: Hedgerow H1 present at the northeast site boundary.



Photo 6: Ditch D2 present at the northwest site boundary. Observed to be dry at the time of survey.



Photo 7: Off-site culvert associated with ditch D2 present immediately adjacent to the west of the site.



Photo 8: Drainage feature present in ditch D1.



Photo 9: Ditch D1 present at the northeast site boundary.



Photo 10: Mammal path present in the grassland at the north of the site.



Photo 11: Tree T1



Photo 12: Tree T2



Photo 13: Tree T3



Photo 14: Tree T4



Photo 15: Off-site Pond P1



Photo 16: Off-site Pond P2

Appendix 3: Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index

Pond	HSI Factor										HSI Score	HSI Result
	Geographic Location	**Pond Area**	**Perma-nence**	**Water Quality**	**Shade**	**Waterfowl**	**Fish**	**Pond Count**	**Terrestrial Habitat**	**Macrophytes**		
P1	Zone A	1650	Rarely dries	Moderate	0	Minor	Absent	2	Poor	20%	0.71	Good
P2	Zone A	<50	Rarely dries	Moderate	30%	Minor	Absent	2	Moderate	10%	0.56	Below average