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Report prepared for: Statera Energy

For the Site of: Grendon Lakes, Grendon, Northants, NN7 1JD.

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Cherryfield Ecology has prepared this report for the named clients use only.

Ecological reports are limited in shelf life, Natural England usually expect reports for licences to be no more than 12 months old and therefore should the project not proceed within 12 months of this report an updated survey should be undertaken in order to check for changes that may have occurred on site. Information is believed to be accurate at the time of survey; recommendations are made without bias based on good practice guidelines within the industry. However, species presence and ecological parameters can change over time.

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Ecological Appraisal (EA)

0.0 Non-Technical Summary

0.1 Background

This report follows national guidelines JNCC (2010) allowing for a day-time inspection and recommends for further surveys, if considered necessary. If a deviation from the guidelines has been made, this will be detailed in the Method Section.

The following report details the findings and recommendations for the site of **Grendon Lakes, Grendon, Northants, NN7 1JD**.

The client commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA as the proposals include for the construction of battery containers with associated landscaping. Plans have been provided (Appendix 1).

0.2 Results and Findings

- The site consists of wet semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered scrub and small ponds and bordered by semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- The scrub, grassland and ponds provide **high** potential for reptiles.
- The scrub and grassland provide **high** potential for breeding birds including ground-nesting birds.
- The scrub and ponds provide **moderate** potential for GCN.
- The site provides **high** potential for foraging and commuting bats although negligible potential for roosting bats.

0.3 Impact Assessment and Recommendations

Badger - No further surveys are necessary; however, if any badger setts are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Bats - No further surveys are necessary; if bats are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Breeding Birds - No further surveys are recommended; however, the development should take place outside the nesting season (March to August). If this is not possible, it is recommended that a qualified ecologist is on site to ensure the scrub and grassland is not occupied by breeding birds, prior to clearance. Should an occupied nest be found, a buffer zone would need to be created until the nest is no longer in use.

GCN - An eDNA test will be needed on the three large ponds just off-site to determine the likelihood of GCN presence throughout the site. An eDNA test on each pond will be carried out. If a positive result is confirmed, full GCN surveys will need to be carried out.

Reptiles - **Presence/Likely absence surveys** for reptiles would be required to establish if any species are using the site. These will be done between the months of March and October. Bitumen tiles will be placed across the site in week one and will then be checked once a week over a seven-week period, in suitable weather (9°C to 18°C, no rain, little winds and sunny).

The findings outlined in this report are valid for one year, after which updated surveys will be required.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Aim

The aim of this report is to inform of ecological constraints that may affect the development proposals and recommend to the client if further surveys are required for protected species. An impact assessment is undertaken at this stage; however, if further surveys are required, additional and unexpected impacts may result.

1.2 Background Information

The client, Statera Energy, has commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA for the site of **Grendon Lakes, Grendon, Northants, NN7 1JD**. Planning permission is being sought to construct battery containers with associated landscaping.

This survey has checked all habitats, buildings, trees (from ground level only) or structures due to be affected by the proposals on site; it includes checking for protected species, signs of protected species or habitat value e.g. crevices, badger setts, ponds etc. as well as mapping the habitats on site.

The inspection was conducted on the 27/05/2021.

The survey can only ever provide a ‘snapshot’ of the site at the time of the survey and circumstances may change following this report. Health and Safety restrictions or obstructions may limit the ability to find evidence.

Biological records have been requested to give the report context and allow a study of the surrounds. The information is often sensitive and therefore a synopsis is provided.

The survey can be conducted year-round with the optimal period between mid-March and mid-October (south)/1st April and 30th September (north). However, it can be limited due to bad weather and in the winter, when some species are not as active, thus evidence and species are often not found. During these periods, habitat value (likely presence) becomes more important to the assessment of the site.

Summary of legislation and National Planning Policy that protects wildlife in England:

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

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
- Countrywide and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”).
- Circular 06/05.

This legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture a protected species.
- Deliberately disturb a protected species, whether at rest or not.
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to a resting place.
- Possess or transport a protected species or any part of that species, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter or exchange a protected species, or any part of a species.

1.3 Species Specific Information

All UK protected species have the same protection and the detail under Bats also applies to GCN, Dormouse, Otters and the two UK protected reptiles.

1.3.1 Breeding Birds

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. Furthermore, a number of birds enjoy further protection under that Act and are listed on Schedule 1 of the Act. These further protected birds are also protected from disturbance and it may be necessary to operate a “no-go” buffer zone around such nests - typically out to 5m.

1.3.2 Bats

All 18 species of bat common in the UK (17 known to be breeding) are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981 through inclusion in Schedule V of the Act. All bat species in the UK are also included in Schedule II of The

Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which transpose Annex II of the Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (“Habitats Directive”) which defines United Kingdom protected species of animals.

Bats species are afforded further protection by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

This combined legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats.
- Deliberately disturb bats, whether at roost or not.
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts.
- Possess or transport bats, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter or exchange bats.

1.3.3 Reptiles

There are six species of reptiles in Great Britain (Edgar *et al.* 2010) and four of these are commonly found; the Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* and/or the Barred Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica*), Adder *Vipera berus*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis*.

All native British species of reptiles are legally protected through their inclusion in Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, all species are protected from deliberate killing or injury. Therefore, where development is permitted, and there will be a significant change in land use, a reasonable effort must be undertaken to avoid committing an offence. The same act makes the trading of native reptile species a criminal offence without appropriate licensing.

Two species of reptile; the Smooth Snake *Coronella austriaca* and Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* are further protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which defines UK protected species of animals (“rare reptiles”).

1.3.4 Badgers

Badger *Meles meles* and its habitat are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Appendix III of the Bern Convention 1979.

This legislation makes it an offence to:

- Kill, injure, take or possess a badger.
- Interfere with, damage or destroy a badger sett including e.g. obstruct access to a badger sett.
- Cruelly treat or harm a badger.
- Disturb a badger in a sett.

1.3.5 Great Crested Newts

Great Crested Newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* are listed in both The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and in Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

GCN are afforded further protection by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

2.0 Methods

The survey follows the national guidelines JNCC (2010) and the following equipment is available for the inspection:

- Torches (e.g. LED Lensar type).
- Ladders (Standard 4m telescopic surveying ladder).
- Endoscope where holes, cracks and crevices are accessible.
- Mirrors (extendable and movable mirror face).
- Binoculars (Pentax close focus).
- Thermometer/hygrometer.
- Camera.
- Sample bags for collecting dropping and feeding evidence.

Target notes are made when appropriate to highlight, for example, protected species or an 'other feature(s)' of ecological note.

If a deviation from the guidelines has been made the reason and justification will be explained below:

No deviation from the standard guidelines has been made for this survey.

2.1 Limitations

This survey provides a snapshot of the site at the time of the survey only. Species are highly mobile and can turn up from time to time unexpectedly. All care has been taken to ensure the results and recommendations are suitable to the context of the development and the information gathered on surveys.

Table 1: Habitat value (likelihood) of protected species presence assessed against Collins (2016), Edgar *et al* (2010) and Natural England (2007) etc.

Likelihood of species presence (Habitat Value)	Features that species can use, regardless of evidence being present.
Confirmed Presence	<p>Species are found to be present during the survey.</p> <p>Evidence of species is found to be present during the survey.</p>
Higher likelihood of presence	<p>Buildings, trees or other structures with features of particular significance for use by protected species e.g. nesting habitat, roosting opportunities, and ponds.</p> <p>Habitat of high quality for foraging e.g. broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.</p> <p>Site is connected with the wider landscape by strong linear features that would be used by commuting species e.g. river and or stream valleys and hedgerows.</p> <p>Site is close to known locations of records for protected species.</p>
Moderate and Lower likelihood of species presence	<p>Several potential habitat opportunities in buildings, trees or other habitats.</p> <p>Habitat could be used for foraging e.g. trees, shrub, grassland or water.</p> <p>Site is connected with the wider landscape by linear features that could be used by commuting species e.g. lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.</p> <p>A small number of less significant habitat opportunities.</p> <p>Isolated habitat for foraging e.g. a lone tree or patch of scrub.</p> <p>An isolated site not connected by prominent linear landscape features.</p>
Negligible likelihood of species presence	<p>No features suitable for roosting, minor foraging or commuting.</p>

3.0 Results

The following section details the results of the desk study, inspection and survey; it includes MAGIC information, biological records data and map/aerial photo information. The results detail the building, structure or tree (numbered for reference) description of any evidence found and habitat value if no evidence has been located.

3.1 Desk Study

The desk study is centred on Grid Reference - SP864614 and Postcode - NN7 1JD.

Table 2: Weather Records

Temperature	15°C
Cloud cover	30%
Precipitation	None
Wind	1/12

3.2 MAGIC

The following statutory sites and Natural England Protected Species (NEPS) have been located within the 2km search area (Figure 1).

- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits are located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, which are designated as a Ramsar site, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- There are no NEPS licences granted for bats and GCN within the search area.

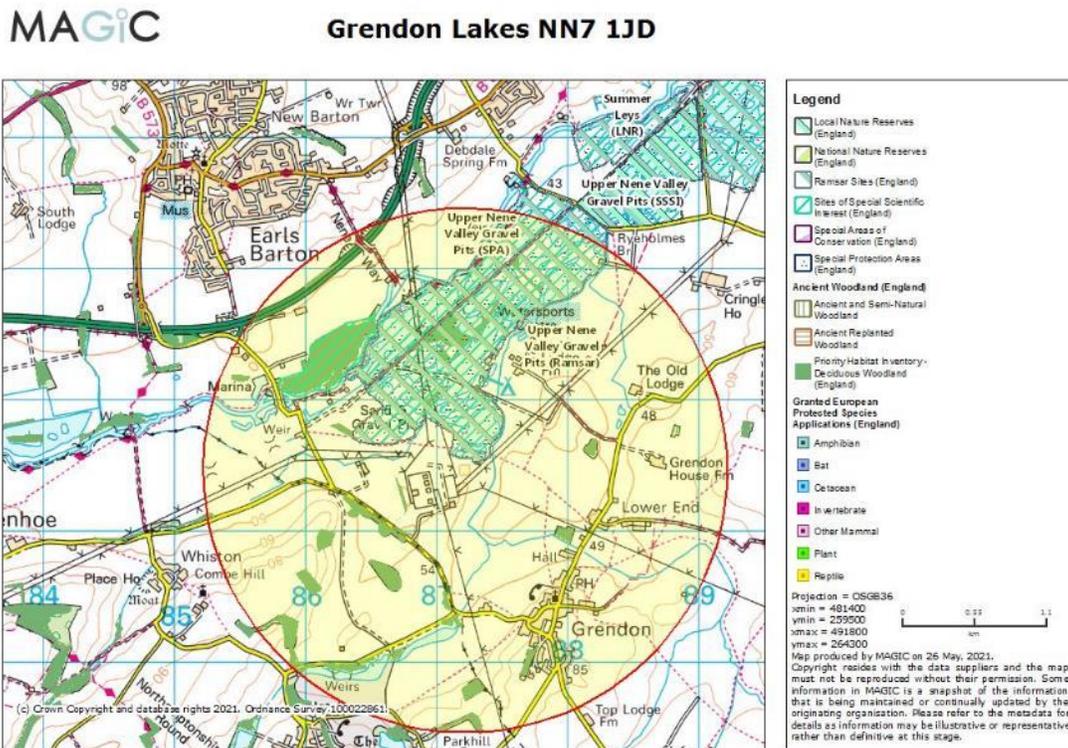


Figure 1: Magic Map Search

3.3 Biological Records Data

A standard 1km data search of existing records for protected species and nature reserves has been commissioned, below details the results and site context.

Biological records were obtained from Northamptonshire Biological Records Centre (NBRC, 2021) and Northants Bat Group (NBG, 2021), with a total of 5317 biological records provided by NBRC and a total of 24 records provided by NBG.

Table 3: Biological Records

Species	Number of Records	Closest Record (accuracy)	Most Recent Record (year)
Bats			
Brown Long-Eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2	970m (1km)	2014
Common Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	1	>1km (1km)	1997
Daubenton's <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	1	>1km (1km)	1984

Natterer's <i>Myotis nattererii</i>	1	>1km (1km)	1981
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	3	>1km (1km)	1996
Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	4	970m (1km)	2002
Unidentified Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>	11	970m (1km)	2014
Whiskered/Brandt's <i>M. mystacinus/brandtii</i>	1	>1km (1km)	1983
Mammals (exc. Bats)			
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	2	1km (1km)	2017
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	4	630m (100m)	2015
Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	4	>1km (100m)	1998
Reptiles			
Grass Snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i>	4	630m (100m)	2006

3.4 Site Location and Surrounds

The site is located in Grendon, Northamptonshire and is surrounded by arable fields and lakes in the immediate local. Table 4 details the commuting, feeding and habitat features in a 1km radius of the site.

Table 4: Habitat features suitable for use by protected species.

Feature	Description
Water course	A stream runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.
Water bodies	A network of lakes - part of the adjacent protected areas - are located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site.
Woodland	A small strip of woodland is found adjacent to the western boundary of the site with scattered woodland throughout the search area.
Linear e.g. hedgerows	The edges of the nearby lakes and fields are lined with trees and hedgerows providing connections to the wider landscape.
Pasture/arable/grassland	Arable fields are located along the eastern and southern boundaries.
Other	n/a

3.5 Habitat, Building, Tree or Other Structure

This section details the structures/habitat reference and descriptions (see Figure 8 for Site Plan).

3.5.1 Habitats

3.5.2 Semi-Improved Grassland

The site is dominated by wet semi-improved neutral grassland with species including Creeping Soft Grass *Holcus mollis*, False Oat-Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Perennial Rye-Grass *Lolium perenne*, Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*, Timothy *Phleum pratense* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, with occasional Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and Dock *Rumex sp.*



Figure 2: Example of Semi-Improved Neutral Grassland

3.5.3 Scrub

There are small areas of scrub along the western boundary with species including Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with margins of Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* and Nettle *Urtica dioica*.



Figure 3: Example of Scrub

3.5.4 Ponds

The site is scattered with ponds and small depressions which appear to fluctuate throughout the season. These ponds and small depressions include Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*.



Figure 4: Example of Ponds on site



Figure 5: Example of Ponds on site



Figure 6: Example of depression on site

3.5.5 Broadleaved Woodland

A broadleaved woodland runs along the western boundary of the site and includes mature trees of Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Willow *Salix sp.*



Figure 7: Example of Broadleaved Woodland adjacent to site

Table 5: Target Notes

Target Note	Description
n/a	n/a

3.6 Species List

Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Bent	<i>Agrostis</i> sp.
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Canadian Fleabane	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum</i> sp.
Common Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium</i> sp.
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Creeping Soft Grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Cut Leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>

Dock	<i>Rumex sp.</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
False Oat-Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
Field Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Ground-Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hairy Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Mouse-Ear Chickweed	<i>Cerastium vulgatum</i>
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus sp.</i>
Perennial Rye-Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rose	<i>Rosa sp.</i>
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Rough Meadow Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White Dead-Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>
Willowherb	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

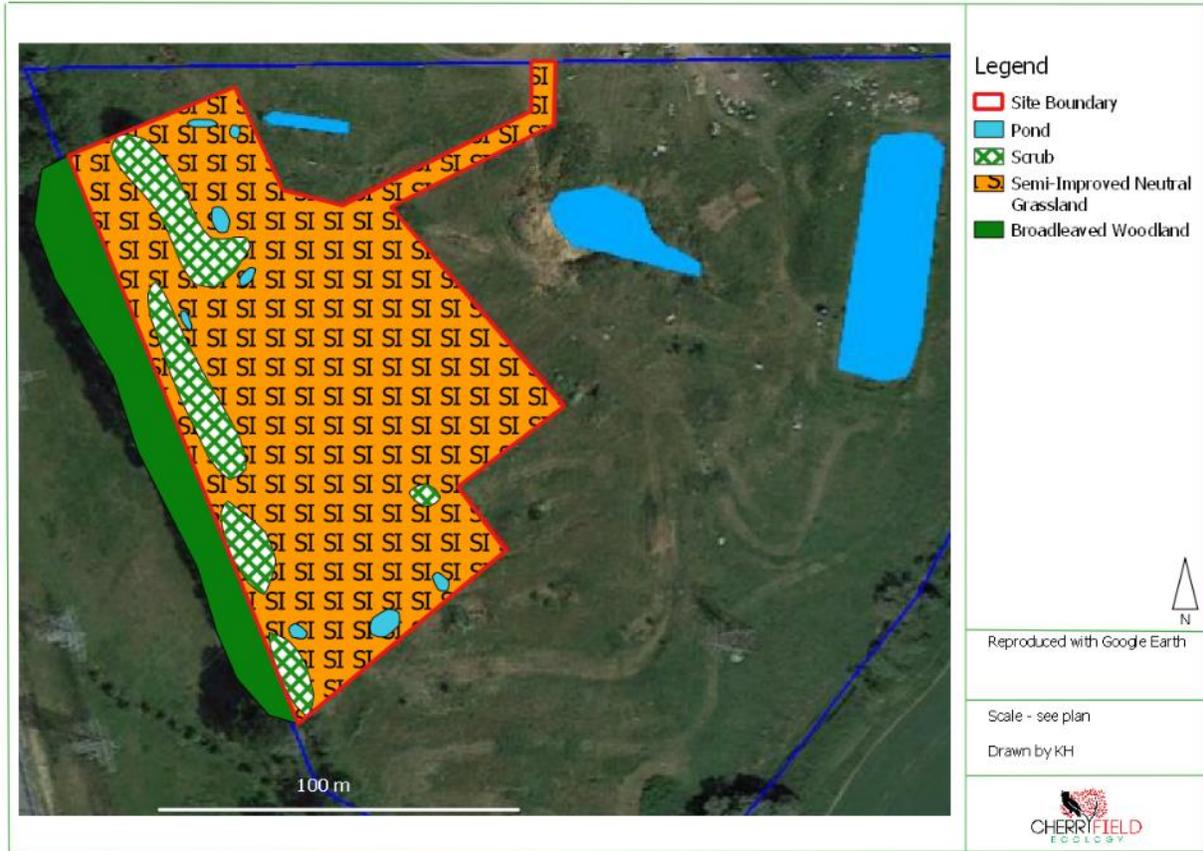


Figure 8: Site Plan

3.7 Evidence or Likelihood of Species Presence

This section details the evidence located and likelihood of species presence.

3.7.1 Bats

Table 6: Bats, evidence or the potential for the species.

Bats found	No bats were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of bat use	No evidence of bats was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for bat use	Level of likelihood of presence - Negligible The site provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to no potential roosting features. The site provides high potential for foraging and commuting bats.

3.7.2 Badgers

Table 7: Badgers, evidence or the potential for the species

Badgers found	No badgers were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of badger use	No evidence of badger use was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for badger use	Level of likelihood of presence - Negligible The site provides negligible potential for badger with no badger setts or evidence of badger found throughout the site. The site may be used for foraging and commuting badger from time to time.

3.7.3 Breeding Birds

Table 8: Breeding birds, evidence or potential for the species

Breeding birds found	No breeding birds were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of breeding bird use	No evidence of breeding birds was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for breeding bird use	Level of likelihood of presence - High The scrub on site provides high potential for breeding birds.

3.7.4 Amphibian

Table 9: Amphibians, evidence or potential for species use.

Amphibians found	No Great Crested Newt (GCN) were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of amphibian use	No evidence of GCN was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for amphibian use	Level of likelihood of presence - Moderate The grassland and scrub on site provide moderate potential for GCN along with suitable connectivity to other suitable habitat; however, there are no records within 1km of the site.

3.7.5 Reptile

Table 10: Reptiles, evidence or potential for species use.

Reptiles found	No reptiles were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of reptile use	No evidence of reptiles was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for reptile use	Level of likelihood of presence - High The grassland on site provides high potential for reptiles to be on site, especially with the scattered ponds, nearby lakes and suitable connectivity.

3.7.6 Other Species e.g. Hazel Dormouse

Table 11: Other protected species, evidence or potential for species use.

Species found	No other protected species were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of species use	No evidence of other protected species was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for species use	Level of likelihood of presence - Negligible The site provides negligible potential for other protected species.

3.7.7 Invasive Non-Native

No invasive non-native species were found at the time of the survey.

4.0 Conclusions, Discussion, Impacts and Recommendations

The following section details the conclusions, discussion, impacts and recommendations in the context of the proposed works.

4.1 Conclusion and Discussion

The proposals include for the construction of battery containers with associated landscaping.

The site consists of wet semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered scrub and small ponds and bordered by semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

The scrub, grassland and ponds provide high potential for reptiles.

The scrub and grassland provide high potential for breeding birds including ground-nesting birds.

The scrub and ponds provide moderate potential for GCN.

The site provides high potential for foraging and commuting bats although negligible potential for roosting bats.

4.2 Potential Impacts

Impact assessments must be proportionate to the scale of the development (CIEEM, 2018) and Table 12 details a proportionate impact assessment based on current information.

Table 12: Impact Assessment

Impact	Breeding Birds - Active nests may be lost in the development. GCN - Loss of habitat. Reptiles - Loss of habitat.
Characterisation of unmitigated impact on the feature	Breeding Birds - A low-level loss/impact at a local level. GCN - A low-level loss/impact at a local level. Reptiles - A low-level loss/impact at a local level.
Effect without mitigation	Without mitigation individual birds, GCN and reptiles could be killed, injured or trapped during the works.
Mitigation and/or potential enhancement	See Table 13 and Table 14

Significance of effects of residual impacts (after mitigation)	<p>Breeding Birds - If lost habitat is replaced by bird boxes and mitigation is followed, the effects would be negligible.</p> <p>GCN - If mitigation is followed, the effects would be negligible.</p> <p>Reptiles - If mitigation is followed, the effects would be negligible.</p>
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4.3 Recommendations

Badger - No further surveys are necessary; however, if any badger setts are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Bats - No further surveys are necessary; if bats are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Breeding Birds - No further surveys are recommended; however, the development should take place outside the nesting season (March to August). If this is not possible, it is recommended that a qualified ecologist is on site to ensure the scrub and grassland is not occupied by breeding birds, prior to clearance. Should an occupied nest be found, a buffer zone would need to be created until the nest is no longer in use.

GCN - An eDNA test will be needed on the three large ponds just off-site to determine the likelihood of GCN presence throughout the site. An eDNA test on each pond will be carried out. If a positive result is confirmed, full GCN surveys will need to be carried out.

Reptiles - **Presence/Likely absence surveys** for reptiles would be required to establish if any species are using the site. These will be done between the months of March and October. Bitumen tiles will be placed across the site in week one and will then be checked once a week over a seven-week period, in suitable weather (9°C to 18°C, no rain, little winds and sunny).

4.4 Recommended Enhancements and Mitigation

Table 13: Recommended Mitigation

Work	Specification
Lighting	<p>Any lighting near or shining onto any trees should be designed to minimize the impact it has on potential bat roosting and commuting.</p> <p>Lighting should be in line with the BCT lighting guidelines (Bats and Lighting in the UK (Bat Conservation Trust, 2018)</p> <p>https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/</p> <p>This lighting should be of low level, be on downward deflectors and ideally be on PIR sensors. Using LED directional lighting can also be a way of minimizing the light spill affecting the habitat. No up-lighting should be used.</p> <p>This will ensure that the roosting and commuting resources that the bats are likely to be using is maintained.</p>

Table 14: The local authority has a duty to enhance biodiversity in its day-to-day duties, the following are suggested enhancements that are easily installed into a development and can be cost effective whilst ensuring a gain for local wildlife.

Work	Specification
Bat, bird and insect box enhancement.	<p>Bat tubes can be installed into the new development.</p> <p>A minimum of two Schweglar 2FR boxes (Figure 9) could be installed on trees surrounding the site.</p> <div>  </div> <p>Figure 9: Schweglar 2FR bat tube</p>

Bird boxes for a variety of different species can also be installed.

A selection of open fronted boxes and songbird boxes can be installed (Figure 10 and Figure 11); it is recommended that a minimum of two of each of the boxes are installed.



Figure 10: Robin box



Figure 11: Songbird box

A variety of insect boxes can be installed in the area; a minimum of one box is recommended (Figure 12 and Figure 13).



Figure 12: Urban bee nesting box, used for solitary bees and wasps



Figure 13: Bug biome, ideal for ladybirds, lacewings and bees

Hedgehog highways and small mammal connectivity.

In order to allow hedgehogs and other small mammals a continuous corridor across the site, thus linking the garden and green spaces.

- A 13cm-by-13cm is sufficient for any hedgehog to pass through. This will be too small for nearly all pets (Figure 14).
- Remove a brick from the bottom of the wall, creating a 13cm-by-13cm hole.
- Cut a small hole in your fence if there are no gaps.
- Dig a channel underneath your wall, fence or gate.
- Ideally, rather than walls or fences, a hedge will provide foraging, shelter and a route along as well as through the site.

How to make a hedgehog highway

You will need

- A fence panel
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Coping saw
- Sandpaper

Talk to your neighbour! It's important to get their consent to cut a hole in the fence - explain that hedgehogs need to move between gardens to access enough food.

- If your neighbour is happy, remove your fence panel.
- Measure and mark a 13cm x 13cm hole at the bottom of the panel.
- Ask an adult to help you cut the hole using the coping saw.
- If there are any very rough edges, use the sand paper to smooth them down.
- Put your fence panel back. Your hedgehog highway is now open for business!

You could set up your own trail cam to watch and see if any animals are using your highway.

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Figure 14: Hedgehog Highway, Source - Wildlife Trust - <http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/Hedgehog%20Highway.jpg>

Hedgerows provide excellent corridors for wildlife and are extremely important to many species of wildlife. A hedgerow could be included in development plans to assist a range of species (Figure 15).

Hedgerow management cycle

Figure 15: Hedgerow management cycle (<https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/>)

Reptiles Habitat Enhancement	Log and brash piles can enhance the existing habitat by providing cover for reptiles, as well as enhancing prey availability. Also, including reptile hibernacula and basking banks into development plans will enhance the habitat for reptiles. (Edgar et al., 2010).
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