

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

VILLAGE FARM, DRURY STREET, BLANKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

JANUARY 2023



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LINCOLNSHIRE**

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 8

2 METHODS 9

2.1 Data search9

2.2 Great crested newt9

2.3 Badger10

2.4 Bats10

2.4.1 Preliminary roost assessment.....10

2.4.2 Assessment of commuting and foraging habitats11

2.5 Birds11

2.5.1 Common bird species11

2.5.2 Schedule 1 species.....11

2.6 Habitats and plant species12

2.7 Survey constraints and limitations12

3 SITE ASSESSMENT 12

3.1 Location and grid reference12

3.2 Building A13

3.3 Building B15

3.4 Building C15

3.5 Building D16

3.6 Building E17

3.7 Building F.....18

3.8 Building G20

3.9 Building H22

3.10	The garages	22
3.11	Building surroundings	23
4	RESULTS	24
4.1	Data search	24
4.2	Great crested newt	25
4.3	Badger	27
4.4	Bats	28
4.4.1	Preliminary roost assessment.....	28
4.4.2	Assessment of commuting and foraging habitats	34
4.5	Birds	35
4.5.1	Common bird species	35
4.5.2	Schedule 1 species.....	36
4.6	Habitats and plant species.....	37
5	DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	37
5.1	Great crested newt	37
5.1.1	Legal Protection.....	37
5.1.2	Recommendations.....	38
5.2	Badger	39
5.2.1	Legal protection	39
5.2.2	Recommendations.....	39
5.3	Bats	40
5.3.1	Legal protection	40
5.3.2	Recommendations.....	40
5.4	Birds	42
5.4.1	Legal protection	42
5.4.2	Recommendations for common birds	43
5.4.3	Recommendations for Schedule 1 species.....	43
5.5	Recommendations for ecological enhancement	44
6	SUMMARY	46

7 REFERENCES	47
APPENDIX 1	49
Plant list	49
APPENDIX 2	51
Data search	51

Photographs

Photograph 1: Dutch barn - eastern elevation	14
Photograph 2: Internal view - Dutch barn	14
Photograph 3: Northern & eastern elevations of Building A.....	14
Photograph 4: Internal view of Building A.....	14
Photograph 5: Upper floor within building A	15
Photograph 6: Small extension on building A.....	15
Photograph 7: Northern & eastern elevations – Building B.....	15
Photograph 8: Internal view – Building B.....	15
Photograph 9: Southern & western elevations – Building C	16
Photograph 10: Eastern elevation – Building C	16
Photograph 11: View of Building D.....	16
Photograph 12: The courtyard adjacent to Building D	16
Photograph 13: Lifted ridge tile on Building D	17
Photograph 14: Eastern elevation of Building E	17
Photograph 15: Internal view of Building E.....	17
Photograph 16: Barn owl box within Building E	18
Photograph 17: Little owl box within Building E	18
Photograph 18: Southern section of Building F	19
Photograph 19: Internal view of southern section of Building F	19
Photograph 20: Northern section of Building F	19
Photograph 21: Fine netting on the eastern elevation	19
Photograph 22: Stone barn on the eastern elevation of Building F	19
Photograph 23: Southern elevation of the stone barn	19
Photograph 24: Internal view of northern end of stone barn.....	20
Photograph 25: Access to hay loft at the southern end of stone barn	20
Photograph 26: Eastern part of building G	20
Photograph 27: Northern part of building G.....	20
Photograph 28: Internal view of a stable within the eastern part of building G	21

Photograph 29: Internal view of workshop within eastern part of building G	21
Photograph 30: Northern elevation of Building G	21
Photograph 31: Eastern elevation of Building G	21
Photograph 32: Internal view of stable in northern part of Building G	21
Photograph 33: Internal view of workshop within northern part of Building G	21
Photograph 34: Eastern elevation of Building H	22
Photograph 35: Northern elevation of Building H	22
Photograph 36: Internal view of building H	22
Photograph 37: Access point into small upper floor area housing water tanks.....	22
Photograph 38: Double concrete sectional garages located to the north of Building C	23
Photograph 39: Hardstanding around the site	23
Photograph 40: Courtyard area to the east of the site	23
Photograph 41: Rough grass, ruderal vegetation and animal pens to the east of the site.....	24
Photograph 42: Gravel area around Buildings G & H	24
Photograph 43: View of Pond 1	26
Photograph 44: Pond 3 within Blankney Golf Course.....	27
Photograph 45: Gaps within stone wall on the northern elevation of the Dutch barn (Building A)	32
Photograph 46: Further view of gaps in northern elevation of Dutch barn (Building A)	32
Photograph 47: Bat dropping within Dutch barn (Building A).....	32
Photograph 48: Dropping within the stone and blockwork barn of Building A.....	32
Photograph 49: Gaps in stonework and brickwork of barn and extension of Building A.....	33
Photograph 50: Missing pantile on Building D	33
Photograph 51: Bat dropping noted on stored items within Building D.....	33
Photograph 52: Niches within the dividing stone wall of Building F	33
Photograph 53: Holes within western elevation of the stone barn of Building F	33
Photograph 54: Rips in the felt lining of the stone barn (Building F).....	33
Photograph 55: Holes & niches in brickwork of Building G.....	34
Photograph 56: Breathable membrane underlining parts of Building G.....	34
Photograph 57: Bat droppings on the internal wall of Building G.....	34
Photograph 58: Moth wing on internal wall of Building G	34
Photograph 59: Bat droppings noted at southern end of Building H.....	34
Photograph 60: Nesting material within the stone wall of Building F	36
Photograph 61: Swallow nest within Building H.....	36
Photograph 62: Degraded barn owl pellet in Building A	36
Photograph 63: Barn owl pellets and faecal splashing noted on the upper floor of Building A	36
Photograph 64: Barn owl pellets within Building E	37
Photograph 65: Little owl pellets within Building E	37
Photograph 66: Barn owl pellets within Building D	37

Tables

Table 1: HSI calculation for Pond 1	26
Table 2: HSI calculation for Pond 3	27
Table 3: Assessment of survey site to support roosting bats.....	29
Table 4: Assessment of surrounding habitats to support commuting and foraging bats	35
Table 5: Common bird species seen or heard during the survey	35
Table 6: Risk assessment tool showing breach of legislation is likely if great crested newts are breeding in Pond 1	38
Table 7: Minimum requirements for further survey work.....	41

Figures

Figure 1: Aerial view of the approximate survey site outlined in red (Google Maps, 2023)	13
Figure 2: Aerial plan of the buildings on site (Google Maps, 2023)	13
Figure 3: Locations of the three ponds within 500m of the site (Google Maps, 2023)	25

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

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1 INTRODUCTION

CGC Ecology Ltd has been commissioned by Graham Prior of Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Blankney Estates to undertake a preliminary ecological appraisal of buildings at Village Farm, Drury Street, Blankney in Lincolnshire. The survey is required in connection with proposals for a residential development on the site.

The purpose of a preliminary ecological appraisal is to identify the likely ecological constraints associated with any development that might take place on the site, to make recommendations for mitigation and/or further survey work, and to identify any opportunities to deliver ecological enhancement.

The site was surveyed on the 3rd January 2023, in cold and wet conditions by Helen Scarborough (registered to use Natural England Class Licences WML-CL08 to survey great crested newts; registration number 2016-20412-CLS-CLS, WML-CL19 and WML-CL20 to survey bats; registration numbers 2015-12691-CLS-CLS and 2015-12692-CLS-CLS respectively) and Sarah Vinters.

During the initial appraisal of the site the protected species considered likely to occur were identified. These were:

- Great crested newts
- Badger
- Bats
- Common bird species
- Schedule 1 bird species

Certain protected species were scoped out of the survey; in particular it was considered that white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, otter *Lutra lutra*, water vole *Arvicola amphibius* and common dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* were highly unlikely to occur on the survey site due to lack of suitable habitat. There are no habitats on site considered suitable to support a population of common reptiles.

Any species of principal importance (as set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006) seen on site were recorded.

This report details the methods used, describes the species found on the site, discusses the results and makes recommendations for further work. A plant list for the site is included as Appendix 1.

2 METHODS

2.1 Data search

Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) was consulted on 20th December 2022 and commissioned to search for sites with statutory and non-statutory designation and records of protected species within 2km of the survey site. Records of protected species more than 20 years old are not usually referred to in the report but are included within the relevant appendix.

2.2 Great crested newt

Prior to the site visit, a desk study was carried out to identify all water-bodies within 500m of the site boundaries, as the home range of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* is generally considered to be up to 500m from their breeding pond. During the survey, the site was assessed for its potential to support great crested newt by identifying all habitats and refugia with the potential to support this species during its terrestrial life stage, and any water-bodies that could provide suitable breeding habitat. Where access allowed, habitats and any water-bodies on adjacent land were also assessed.

There are no ponds on the survey site itself, but according to the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website, there are three within 500m of the site boundaries. Two of these ponds (Pond 1 and Pond 3) were accessed and assessed for their suitability to support breeding great crested newts during the survey, but the third pond (Pond 2) is situated on private land and could not be assessed.

The HSI (Habitat Suitability Index) is a quantitative measure of the habitat quality and evaluates the suitability of the water body and the surrounding land to support great crested newts (Oldham *et al*, 2000). The HSI is a number between 0 and 1 which is derived from an assessment of ten habitat variables known to influence the presence of newts. These variables include quality of the terrestrial habitat, water quality in the pond, presence of fish, and aquatic macrophyte cover. An HSI of 1 is optimal habitat (high probability of supporting great crested newts) and 0 is very poor quality with a minimal chance of occurrence.

The Habitat Suitability Index for both Pond 1 and Pond 3 was calculated following the survey.

2.3 Badger

The site and adjacent areas (where access allowed) were searched for signs of use by badger *Meles meles* including setts, latrines, dung pits, pathways, hairs, footprints and snuffle holes.

2.4 Bats

2.4.1 Preliminary roost assessment

In accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition (Collins J, 2016), a preliminary roost assessment was carried out on each of the buildings to determine whether any features were present that bats could use for entry/exit points and roosting, and to search for signs of bat presence. High-powered torches, ladders and binoculars were used to search for internal and external features including but not limited to;

- Gaps around windowsills, door frames and lintels
- Lifted rendering, paintwork, shiplap boarding
- Soffit boxes, weatherboarding and fascias
- Lead flashing, hanging tiles and lifted or missing tiles/slate
- Gaps >15mm in brickwork and stonework
- Bat specimens (live or dead)
- Bat droppings and urine staining
- Feeding remains (e.g. moth wings)
- Cobweb-free sections of ridge beam

The buildings were then assigned a measure of potential suitability to determine the extent of future survey work needed. The categories of potential suitability and further survey effort required are as follows;

- Negligible – Negligible features on site likely to be used by roosting bats – no further survey work
- Low – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically – one survey visit (dusk or dawn)
- Moderate – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats on a regular basis – two separate survey visits (one dusk and one dawn)
- High – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a regular basis and for longer periods of time – three separate survey visits (one dusk, one dawn and one dusk or dawn).

The following should be noted: 'The guidelines do not aim to either override or replace

knowledge and experience. It is accepted that departures from the guidelines (e.g. either decreasing or increasing the number of surveys carried out or using alternative methods) are often appropriate. However, in this scenario an ecologist should provide documentary evidence of (a) their expertise in making this judgement and (b) the ecological rationale behind the judgement.' (Collins, 2016).

2.4.2 Assessment of commuting and foraging habitats

In accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition (Collins J, 2016), the survey site and adjacent areas were assessed for their potential suitability for commuting and foraging bats and categorised as follows;

- Negligible – Negligible habitat features on site or in surrounding area likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats
- Low – Habitat features that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or small numbers of foraging bats such as a patch of scrub, but that are isolated from other habitat features
- Moderate – Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape such as lines of trees that could be used by commuting bats or trees, grassland or water features that could be used by foraging bats
- High – Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape for use by commuting and foraging bats such as river valleys, woodland, grassland and parkland.

There are no trees on the survey site.

2.5 Birds

2.5.1 Common bird species

All bird species noted on site were recorded. The survey site was searched for signs of use by nesting birds, typically old nests and concentrations of faecal deposits associated with a breeding site.

2.5.2 Schedule 1 species

The buildings were inspected for the presence of barn owl *Tyto alba* and the signs indicative of their past or present use including regurgitated pellets, concentrated accumulations of flattened pellets indicative of a nest site, faecal encrustation, eggs or eggshell remains, surplus prey items, bodily remains of chicks or infant down feathers. The site was not considered to provide suitable breeding opportunities for other Schedule 1 species.

2.6 Habitats and plant species

An extended ecological assessment survey was undertaken to identify the habitats present, including any classed as priority habitats (NERC Act, 2006), and to record more detailed information on plant species on site. Any plant species listed on Schedule 8 or Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, reviewed in 2010) were recorded, and the habitats on site were assessed against the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) criteria for Lincolnshire.

2.7 Survey constraints and limitations

It should be noted that January is a sub-optimal season for undertaking botanical surveys and the floral diversity recorded may not be fully representative.

The information contained in this report was accurate at the time of the survey; however, it should be noted that the status of mobile species such as badger, birds and bats can alter in a short period of time and any survey only represents a 'snapshot' of the site at one point in the season. Advice released by CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) in April 2019 states that an ecological report remains valid for between 12-18 months, depending on the presence of mobile species, after which an update survey should be carried out.

3 SITE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Location and grid reference

The survey site comprises eight buildings, two double garages and their immediate surroundings, located at Village Farm, Drury Street, Blankney, Lincolnshire - central grid reference TF 0704 6032.

The buildings on site are described below and representative photographs are included in the text. An aerial view of the site location is provided as Figure 1 and a labelled plan of the buildings as Figure 2. The building labels follow those used on the 'Existing Site Plan' (drawing number 1290-6_PA_SP01, dated 26/1/2022), as issued by Robert Doughty Consultancy.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the approximate survey site outlined in red (Google Maps, 2023)



Figure 2: Aerial plan of the buildings on site (Google Maps, 2023)

3.2 Building A

Building A is part Dutch barn which is constructed of a timber frame with corrugated cement-fibre sheets forming a pitched roof. The barn is open-sided on the southern elevation, with the western and eastern elevations partly infilled with timber cladding and the lower parts open.

The rest of barn A consists of a stone and blockwork building attached to the northern elevation of the Dutch barn. This part of barn A has a pitched timber felted roof covered with slates. There is an upper floor at the eastern end of this barn. Access to this part of the barn is via a sliding timber door within the Dutch barn. There is a glazed window on the northern elevation and a small stone and brick extension on the western elevation of the building with a mono-pitched corrugated cement fibre roof, no windows and a timber door on its northern elevation.



Photograph 1: Dutch barn - eastern elevation



Photograph 2: Internal view - Dutch barn



Photograph 3: Northern & eastern elevations of Building A



Photograph 4: Internal view of Building A



Photograph 5: Upper floor within building A



Photograph 6: Small extension on building A

3.3 Building B

Building B is a small blockwork building with a mono-pitched corrugated metal roof. There are glazed timber windows on the eastern and western elevations and a glazed timber window and door on the northern elevation. The southern elevation of the building forms part of the boundary of the site.



Photograph 7: Northern & eastern elevations – Building B



Photograph 8: Internal view – Building B

3.4 Building C

Building C is an L-shaped stone building, with one section having a pitched pantile roof and the other a mansard-style roof covered with pantiles.

There are double timber doors on the southern elevation and a single timber door on the eastern elevation. The building was not accessible during the survey.



Photograph 9: Southern & western elevations – Building C



Photograph 10: Eastern elevation – Building C

3.5 Building D

Building D is a long, open-fronted building constructed of brick walls supporting a pitched timber roof covered with pantiles and underlined with lath. It was noted during the survey that some pantiles are missing and some of the ridge tiles are lifted. Timber panels divide the building internally into five areas for storage. The building forms the eastern boundary of a courtyard area used to store building materials, with a mixture of brick and stone walls bounding the rest of the courtyard.



Photograph 11: View of Building D



Photograph 12: The courtyard adjacent to Building D



Photograph 13: Lifted ridge tile on Building D

3.6 Building E

Building E is an open-fronted building, constructed of a steel frame supporting a pitched roof of corrugated fibre-cement sheets with timber boarding forming two elevations. It is used to store machinery and timber. There is a little owl *Athene noctua* nest box and a barn owl nest box within the building.



Photograph 14: Eastern elevation of Building E



Photograph 15: Internal view of Building E



Photograph 16: Barn owl box within Building E



Photograph 17: Little owl box within Building E

3.7 Building F

A wall of blockwork and stone divides the main part of Building F into two sections. The southern section is open-fronted to the south with a roof covering of corrugated metal sheeting over a steel frame supported by blockwork pillars to form a pitched roof. The northern section comprises a steel frame supporting a pitched roof covered in corrugated fibre-cement panels that is open on the northern elevation. Fine green netting covers the eastern and western elevations.

There is a small stone barn forming the eastern section of Building F. It has a pitched roof of pantiles underlined with bitumen felt and the southern end of this barn has a hay loft. The central hay loft area is very complex and not all areas were fully accessible due to an oil tank obstructing access.

The stone barn is divided internally into four rooms; one in the south-western corner of the barn is a small storage shed, one in the south-eastern corner of the barn was inaccessible, the central room is in use as a canteen and the northern end is a garage and tank storage area. There are three timber doors, a glazed timber window and timber cladding on the eastern elevation and a single timber door (access to storage room on south-western corner) on the southern elevation.



Photograph 18: Southern section of Building F



Photograph 19: Internal view of southern section of Building F



Photograph 20: Northern section of Building F



Photograph 21: Fine netting on the eastern elevation



Photograph 22: Stone barn on the eastern elevation of Building F



Photograph 23: Southern elevation of the stone barn



Photograph 24: Internal view of northern end of stone barn



Photograph 25: Access to hay loft at the southern end of stone barn

3.8 Building G

Building G is an L-shaped building constructed of brick and stone walls supporting a mixture of roof structures, all covered in pantiles, with some unlined and some lined with lath, felt and breathable membrane. The southern section of the building is open-fronted on its western elevation at the southern end. The remainder of the southern section comprises stables with timber dividing walls and a workshop. All doors to this part of the building are on the western elevation.

The northern section of the building is divided into a stable and workshop. The timber stable door is located on the southern elevation of the building and there are double timber doors into the workshop on the western elevation.



Photograph 26: Eastern part of building G



Photograph 27: Northern part of building G



Photograph 28: Internal view of a stable within the eastern part of building G



Photograph 29: Internal view of workshop within eastern part of building G



Photograph 30: Northern elevation of Building G



Photograph 31: Eastern elevation of Building G



Photograph 32: Internal view of stable in northern part of Building G



Photograph 33: Internal view of workshop within northern part of Building G

3.9 Building H

Building H is a two-storey barn constructed of stone walls supporting a pitched roof covered in pantiles with lath and small areas of felt underneath. The building is divided into two rooms with a small upper floor housing water tanks at the southern end. There are two single timber doors on the eastern elevation, with all other windows and doors bricked up or boarded over.

There are holes within the stonework on the northern elevation where the floor joists would have once been.

Buildings G and H together with the neighbouring property surround a gravelled courtyard area.



Photograph 34: Eastern elevation of Building H



Photograph 35: Northern elevation of Building H



Photograph 36: Internal view of building H



Photograph 37: Access point into small upper floor area housing water tanks

3.10 The garages

To the north of Building C are two double concrete sectional garages. Both have mono-pitched metal roofs and metal up and over doors.



Photograph 38: Double concrete sectional garages located to the north of Building C

3.11 Building surroundings

The buildings are mainly surrounded by hardstanding and gravel. There is a small area to the north-east of the site with patches of semi-improved grassland and ruderal vegetation associated with old animal pens. Species noted within this area included perennial rye-grass, cock's-foot, creeping buttercup, ribwort plantation, common nettle, Yorkshire-fog, broad-leaved dock, common couch, creeping thistle, dandelion species, barren brome and bryophytes. There is also a small amount of scrub.

The courtyard area at the east of the site comprises bare ground with some ruderals, with piles of stored construction materials. The plant species recorded included bristly oxtongue, ragwort, groundsel, willowherb species, teasel, mugwort, dock species, spear thistle, prickly sow-thistle, scentless mayweed, greater plantain, cleavers, common nettle, common couch and annual meadow-grass with small amounts of bramble, dog-rose and elder scrub.



Photograph 39: Hardstanding around the site



Photograph 40: Courtyard area to the east of the site



Photograph 41: Rough grass, ruderal vegetation and animal pens to the east of the site



Photograph 42: Gravel area around Buildings G & H

The site surroundings include Blankney cricket ground, residential dwellings with mature gardens, grassland with ponds, small patches of woodland and Blankney Golf Course.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Data search

The data search from Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) shows that there is one statutory site within 2km of the survey site; Metheringham Heath Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the following non-statutory sites;

- Blankney Brick Pit Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
- Blankney Dyke LWS
- Long Wood, Blankney LWS
- Longwood Quarry, Blankney Local Geological Site (LGS)
- Metheringham Heath Quarry LGS

The priority habitats of lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland occur within 2km of the survey site, as well as areas of ancient woodland.

The site is not within or adjacent to the statutory site or any of the non-statutory sites or the areas of priority habitat or ancient woodland, and the proposals are not expected to have any adverse effect on the nature conservation interest of these areas. The site is not located within a SSSI impact risk zone.

Where applicable, the records of protected species are included within the relevant section of

this report.

4.2 Great crested newt

There are no records of great crested newt within 2km of the survey site.

The majority of the survey site is hard-standing and is therefore sub-optimal for great crested newts. The exception to this is the small area of semi-improved grassland, ruderal vegetation and scrub in the north-eastern corner around the old animal pens, and the ruderal vegetation within the eastern courtyard. The stored construction materials within the eastern courtyard are moved on a regular basis and are not therefore considered to comprise suitable hibernation refugia.

The three ponds within 500m of the site are located approximately 125m to the north within an area of grassland (Pond 1), approximately 265m to the south within an area of woodland (Pond 2), and approximately 426m to the south-west within Blankney Golf Course (Pond 3). There are no major barriers to great crested newt dispersal between any of these ponds and the survey site.



Figure 3: Locations of the three ponds within 500m of the site (Google Maps, 2023)

Pond 1 is a small field pond located within a grass field to the north of the survey site. It supports

floating sweet-grass, hard rush, sedge species and creeping bent.

The Habitat Suitability Index calculation for Pond 1 is provided below.

Table 1: HSI calculation for Pond 1

Suitability Index	Factor	Notes	Score
SI 1	Location	Zone A	1
SI 2	Pond area (m ²)	290m ²	0.6
SI 3	Pond drying	Sometimes dries	0.5
SI 4	Water quality	Moderate	0.67
SI 5	Shoreline shade	0%	1
SI 6	Fowl	Absent	0.67
SI 7	Fish	Absent	1
SI 8	No ponds/km ² **	1.28	0.7
SI 9	Terrestrial habitat	Good	1
SI 10	Macrophytes	40%	0.7
HSI Score -			0.76 (Good suitability)

The HSI assessment indicates that Pond 1 has good suitability to support great crested newts and they are likely to use it for breeding if they are present in the immediate area.



Photograph 43: View of Pond 1

Pond 2 was not accessible but was reported to be dry at the time of the survey.

Pond 3 is located on the golf course. It supports very little emergent or fringing vegetation. It is lined and the water quality is poor.

The Habitat Suitability Index calculation for Pond 3 is provided below.

Table 2: HSI calculation for Pond 3

Suitability Index	Factor	Notes	Score
SI 1	Location	Zone A	1
SI 2	Pond area (m ²)	2000m ²	0.8
SI 3	Pond drying	Never	0.9
SI 4	Water quality	Poor	0.33
SI 5	Shoreline shade	0%	1
SI 6	Fowl	Minor	0.67
SI 7	Fish	Possible	0.67
SI 8	No ponds/km ² **	0.63	0.55
SI 9	Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67
SI 10	Macrophytes	10%	0.4
HSI Score -			0.66 – Average suitability

The HSI assessment indicates that Pond 3 has average suitability to support great crested newts and they may use it for breeding if they are present in the immediate area.



Photograph 44: Pond 3 within Blankney Golf Course

4.3 Badger

There are six records of badger within 2km from between 2015 and 2022. Some of these records originate from Long Wood LWS to the south-west of the site and two are dead badgers recorded at the roadside north of the site.

Although no evidence of this species was noted on or around the survey site, they are a mobile species and are highly likely to use the surrounding areas for foraging and commuting.

4.4 Bats

4.4.1 Preliminary roost assessment

There are numerous records of bats, including brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* from as recently as 2021, common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* from 2020, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and western barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* from 2014 and noctule *Nyctalus noctula* from 2019, all within 2km of the site. There are also known roosts of brown long-eared bats, soprano and common pipistrelles at Blankney Stables, located approximately 260m to the south of the site (previous survey work by CGC Ecology in 2019).

Building A

Within the Dutch barn section of the building were c.10 scattered droppings recalling those voided by pipistrelle species on stored items and on machinery. There are small niches within the roof timbers and gaps in the stone wall where the Dutch barn adjoins the stone and blockwork barn.

Within the stone and blockwork barn, c.20 mixed droppings recalling those voided by pipistrelle species and brown long-eared bat were noted scattered throughout the barn on stored items and on the floor. Urine splashing was noted on plastic bags within the barn. The extension has numerous gaps within the stonework.

Building B

There were no field signs of bats recorded and no potential roost niches were noted.

Building C

The interior of this building was inaccessible. No field signs were noted on the exterior of the building but it has gaps within the exterior stonework and at the eaves.

Building D

C.4 scattered pipistrelle-type droppings were recorded on stored items within the building, although these could have been voided in flight. There are gaps and niches within the roof timbers and under the ridge tiles.

Building E

No field signs were noted and there are no potential roost niches.

Building F – northern and southern sections

Some gaps and niches noted within the central stone and blockwork wall.

Building F – stone barn to east

C.2 brown long-eared bat droppings were recorded within the accessible area of the

hayloft/upper floor area of the stone barn. There was also one *Myotis*-type dropping located on the oil tank within the northern ground floor room. There are many gaps and niches within the stonework of the eastern stone barn (internally and externally) and there is an upper floor area which is difficult to access and assess fully. Some areas of the roof are underlined.

Building G

C.10 brown long-eared bat droppings with associated wings of the large yellow underwing moth *Noctua pronuba* (a favoured prey item of brown long-eared bats) were noted at the eastern gable end of this building – mainly adhered to the wall. This indicates a small feeding perch within the building.

There are gaps in the stonework and brickwork and also gaps between the stonework and wooden lintels/window frames, which could be used by roosting bats.

Building H

C.5 scattered brown long-eared bat droppings were recorded adhered to the wall and also on stored items towards the southern end of the building.

There are gaps in the stonework and brickwork and also gaps between the pantiles and the felt/lath which could be used by roosting bats.

Garages

No field signs were noted on the exterior of these buildings and there were no potential roost niches.

The results of the survey and assessment for the buildings appear in tabular form below;

Table 3: Assessment of survey site to support roosting bats

Building/ Feature		Description	Overall value for bats
Building A	Dutch barn	High ambient light levels and draughty within. Lots of gaps in the stonework where it adjoins the barn. Northern elevation stonework has gaps. C.10 pipistrelle-type droppings and urine splashing noted.	High potential for roosting bats and potential for hibernation within adjoining stone wall

	Stone and blockwork barn	Underlined pitched roof. Stone walls with lots of gaps noted. C.20 scattered pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat droppings and urine splashing noted	High potential for roosting bats and potential for hibernation within stonework
	Extension	Stone and brick walls with gaps that recess. No access.	High potential for roosting bats and potential for hibernation in stonework
Building B		High ambient light levels. No gaps or niches within the fabric of the building. No evidence of bat noted.	Negligible potential
Building C		Stone barn with exterior gaps noted. Pitched pantile roof. No access.	High potential for roosting bats and potential for hibernation within external stone walls
Building D		High ambient light levels and draughty within. Pitched pantile roof with lath underlining and lifted tiles. C.4 fresh, scattered pipistrelle bat droppings noted.	Moderate potential for roosting bats. No hibernation potential.
Building E		High ambient light levels and draughty within. No gaps or niches noted within the fabric of the building.	Negligible potential for roosting bats.

		No evidence of bats found.	
Building F	Southern section	High ambient light levels and draughty within. Some gaps within central stone and blockwork wall. No evidence of bats found.	Low potential for roosting bats. No hibernation potential.
	Northern section	High ambient light levels and draughty within. Some gaps within central stone and blockwork wall. No evidence of bats found.	Low potential for roosting bats. No hibernation potential.
	Stone barn to east	Numerous gaps in stonework. Some inaccessible areas within upper floor area. Some areas of roof are lined. Two brown long-eared bat droppings noted in the accessible area of the upper floor and a single <i>Myotis</i> -type dropping noted on an oil tank.	High potential for roosting bats and potential for hibernation within stone walls
Building G		Gaps noted within the stone and brick walls. Some areas of roof are underlined. C.10 brown long-eared bat droppings and wings of large yellow underwing moth noted on internal wall.	High potential for roosting. Possible brown long-eared feeding perch. Potential for hibernation within gaps in brickwork and stonework
		Gaps noted within the stone and brick walls.	High potential for roosting bats and potential for

Building H		Some areas of roof are underlined. C.5 brown long-eared bat droppings noted at the southern end of the barn.	hibernation within brickwork and stonework
Garages		No gaps or niches noted within the fabric of the buildings. No evidence of bats found.	Negligible potential for roosting bats.



Photograph 45: Gaps within stone wall on the northern elevation of the Dutch barn (Building A)



Photograph 46: Further view of gaps in northern elevation of Dutch barn (Building A)



Photograph 47: Bat dropping within Dutch barn (Building A)



Photograph 48: Dropping within the stone and blockwork barn of Building A



Photograph 49: Gaps in stonework and brickwork of barn and extension of Building A



Photograph 50: Missing pantile on Building D



Photograph 51: Bat dropping noted on stored items within Building D



Photograph 52: Niches within the dividing stone wall of Building F



Photograph 53: Holes within western elevation of the stone barn of Building F



Photograph 54: Rips in the felt lining of the stone barn (Building F)



Photograph 55: Holes & niches in brickwork of Building G



Photograph 56: Breathable membrane underlining parts of Building G



Photograph 57: Bat droppings on the internal wall of Building G



Photograph 58: Moth wing on internal wall of Building G



Photograph 59: Bat droppings noted at southern end of Building H

4.4.2 Assessment of commuting and foraging habitats

There is good connectivity between the site and the wider area, and the survey site and surrounding areas will provide foraging and commuting opportunities for local bats.

The results of the assessment of the surrounding habitats appear in tabular form below:

Table 4: Assessment of surrounding habitats to support commuting and foraging bats

Feature	Description	Site value for bats
Site and immediate area (<500m)	Arable fields, cricket field, golf course, grassland, woodland, mature gardens and ponds. Good connectivity via hedgerows.	Moderate potential for foraging and moderate potential for commuting bats
Wider surroundings (500m-3km)	Arable fields, grassland, residential areas and woodland. Becks Wood to the north-east. Blankney Park and Golf Course to the west Woodland and pond associated with Hall farm to the south Brickyard plantation to the south Hedgerows contribute to connectivity.	High potential for foraging and commuting bats

4.5 Birds

4.5.1 Common bird species

A number of common birds were seen or heard during the survey. These are listed below along with their current status as species of principle importance (NERC, 2006) or Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (Stanbury A. *et al*, 2021):

Table 5: Common bird species seen or heard during the survey

English name	Scientific name	SPI	BoCC5
feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		Green
woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		Amber
carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		Green
jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		Green

All of the buildings on site are considered to have good nesting potential for common birds.

Nests were noted within all of the buildings. Disused nest of swallow *Hirundo rustica*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, feral pigeon, sparrow species *Passer sp.* and blackbird *Turdus merula* were noted.



Photograph 60: Nesting material within the stone wall of Building F



Photograph 61: Swallow nest within Building H

There is a little owl nest box located within Building E, and pellets voided by this species were noted in buildings A, D and E.

4.5.2 Schedule 1 species

There are numerous records of barn owl within 2km of the site, most recently from 2021. There is one barn owl box located within Building E. Abundant barn owl pellets of all ages, together with faecal splashing were noted within Buildings A, D and E. Exact counts would be impossible but estimates would run into the hundreds. It is possible that the box in Building E is being used for nesting.



Photograph 62: Degraded barn owl pellet in Building A



Photograph 63: Barn owl pellets and faecal splashing noted on the upper floor of Building A



Photograph 64: Barn owl pellets within Building E



Photograph 65: Little owl pellets within Building E



Photograph 66: Barn owl pellets within Building D

4.6 Habitats and plant species

The habitats and plant species recorded on the site are common and widespread in the local area and in the country. The plant species recorded are not listed on Schedule 8 or 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the site would not qualify as a Local Wildlife Site.

5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Great crested newt

5.1.1 Legal Protection

In England, Scotland and Wales, great crested newts are fully protected under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended); in England and Wales this legislation has been amended and strengthened by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Great crested newts are also protected by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Taken together, this legislation makes it illegal, inter alia to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture a great crested newt
- Damage or destroy habitat which a great crested newt uses for shelter or protection
- Deliberately disturb a great crested newt when it is occupying a place it uses for shelter and protection

These provisions apply to all life-stages of protected animals, and in the case of amphibians, to both their terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

5.1.2 Recommendations

The habitats on site with potential to support great crested newts during their terrestrial life stage is mostly limited to the semi-improved grassland, ruderal vegetation and scrub in the north-eastern corner. Pond 1 is considered to have good suitability to support breeding great crested newts, with Pond 3 having average suitability.

It will therefore be necessary to determine the status of Pond 1 in relation to great crested newts prior to any development on the site. This is required because loss or damage of land (not just suitable habitat) within 250m of a great crested newt breeding pond (in this case approximately 0.7ha within 250m of Pond 1) is likely to result in an offence being committed, according to the great crested newt Risk Assessment Tool provided by Natural England (see Table 6 below). In addition to this, there is a risk of individual animals being trapped, injured or killed during the works (additional impacts of this are not shown in Table 6).

Table 6: Risk assessment tool showing breach of legislation is likely if great crested newts are breeding in Pond 1

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)	No effect	0
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.5 – 1 ha lost or damaged	0.3
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:	0.3
Rapid risk assessment result:	AMBER: OFFENCE LIKELY	

As Ponds 2 and 3 are both located over 250m from the survey site, no further work is required as there is no risk of a breach of the legislation in relation to habitat destruction according to the risk assessment tool.

It is recommended that an environmental DNA (eDNA) test is carried out on Pond 1, to determine the presence/absence of great crested newts. These tests can be carried out between mid-April and the end of June.

If the eDNA test result is positive, then further survey work and mitigation will be required to avoid a breach of the legislation.

5.2 Badger

5.2.1 Legal protection

Badgers and their setts are fully protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which amended and incorporated previous legislation. This Act makes it an offence, inter alia, to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take, or attempt to kill, injure or capture a badger
- Interfere with a badger sett by doing any of the following things, intending to do any of these things or be reckless as to whether one's actions would have any of these consequences:
 1. Damaging a badger sett or any part of it
 2. Destroying a badger sett
 3. Obstructing access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett
 4. Disturbing a badger when it is occupying a badger sett

A badger sett is defined in the Act as 'any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger'. A sett is therefore protected as long as such signs remain present. In practice, this could potentially be for a period of several weeks after the last actual occupation of the sett by a badger or badgers. A sett is likely to fall outside the definition of a sett in the Act if the evidence available indicates that it is not in use by badgers.

5.2.2 Recommendations

Vigilance should be maintained for the presence of badgers during the works and advice must be sought if any setts are found. To safeguard ground mammals, including badgers and hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus* during the development phase, it is essential that no trenches or pipes are left uncovered overnight unless a suitable escape ramp is provided. No pipes should be left uncapped overnight.

5.3 Bats

5.3.1 Legal protection

In England, Scotland and Wales, all bats are strictly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended); in England and Wales this legislation has been amended and strengthened by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Bats are also protected by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Taken together, all this legislation makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a group of bats where the disturbance is likely to significantly affect the ability of the animals to survive, breed, or nurture their young or likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species whether in a roost or not.
- Damage or destroy the breeding or resting place of a bat
- Possess a bat (alive or dead) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
- Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (alive or dead) or parts of bats

A roost is defined as being ‘any structure or place that is used for shelter or protection’, and since bats regularly move roost site throughout the year, a roost retains such designation whether or not bats are present at the time.

5.3.2 Recommendations

Preliminary roost assessment

The results of the preliminary roost assessment indicates that no further work in respect of bats is required in connection with Buildings B, E or the garages, as they are all considered to offer negligible potential for roosting bats. No further survey work is required on Building C, as this building will not be impacted as part of the proposals.

The remainder of the buildings all have features with potential for use by roosting bats and/or have field signs which indicate that they may be in use by roosting bats. In accordance with the latest guidelines (Collins, 2016), further survey work is required in order to ascertain the status of these buildings for bats.

A minimum of one evening emergence survey is required on the northern and southern sides of Building F, and a minimum of two evening emergence surveys on Building D, to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats. A minimum of three evening emergence surveys are required on Buildings A, F (the stone barn only), G and H, as these buildings are considered to offer high roost potential. All of these surveys must be carried out between May and

September.

As per the recent interim guidance note from the Bat Conservation Trust (May 2022), infra-red cameras and lighting should be used during all of the evening emergence surveys, which will preclude the need for dawn re-entry surveys.

The buildings were assessed for their potential to support hibernating bats during the preliminary roost assessment, with the weather conditions being suitable. All niches considered to have suitability for hibernating bats were checked and no hibernating bats were found. A further hibernation survey is required on Buildings A, F, G and H in February in order to comply with the guidelines.

Once the further surveys have been completed, advice on mitigation and enhancements in respect of bats can be provided.

A summary of the further survey work for each building is provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Minimum requirements for further survey work

Building	Bat roost potential	Further surveys required (minimum requirement)
Building A	High, with hibernation potential	Three evening emergence surveys and a further hibernation survey
Building B	Negligible	No further survey work required
Building C	High, with hibernation potential	No further survey work required as building not impacted.
Building D	Moderate, no hibernation potential	Two evening emergence surveys
Building E	Negligible	No further survey work required
Building F (northern and southern sections)	Low, with hibernation potential	One emergence survey and a further hibernation survey
Building F (stone barn)	High, with hibernation potential	Three evening emergence surveys and a further hibernation survey
Building G	High, with hibernation potential	Three evening emergence surveys and a further hibernation survey
Building H	High, with hibernation potential	Three evening emergence surveys and a further hibernation survey
Garages	Negligible	No further survey work required

Assessment of commuting and foraging habitats

Local bats are likely to be using the survey area and adjacent habitats for foraging and commuting, and the redevelopment of the site may have an impact on the availability of foraging areas for bats within the local landscape. There will be no requirement for bat activity surveys providing precautionary measures are implemented to ensure that bats can continue to use the site for foraging and commuting once the development has been completed.

Precautionary measures for commuting and foraging bats – Village Farm, Blankney

- Any external lighting must be kept to a minimum. If it is necessary to include some external lighting, this should be carefully designed to minimise disturbance to bats by using down-lights on low bollards rather than up-lights and using shields to limit light spill. External lighting on the buildings must be sensor-activated and on a timer, and shields must be used to ensure no light spill onto the site boundaries or on any new areas of planting, to maintain dark areas for bats to commute and forage. An example of a bat-friendly lighting solution is the Pharola DS bollard (<https://www.dwwindsor.com/products/pharola/pharola-ds/>).
- Any external lighting used should emit minimal ultra-violet light, be narrow-spectrum (avoiding white and blue wavelengths) and should peak higher than 550nm. Ideally, 'warm-white' LED lights with no UV component would be used. It should be remembered that artificial lighting disrupts and disturbs many animals, including birds and invertebrates, as well as bats. More information is available at <https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>.

5.4 Birds

5.4.1 Legal protection

All common wild birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird

Certain rare breeding birds are listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). Under this legislation they are afforded the same protection as common wild birds and are also protected against disturbance whilst building a nest or on or near a nest containing eggs/unfledged young.

5.4.2 Recommendations for common birds

Any removal/management of any of the scrub or demolition or conversion work to the buildings on site should commence outside the active nesting season which typically runs from early March through to early September. If work commences during the bird breeding season, a search for nests should be carried out beforehand by a suitably experienced ecologist, and active nests protected until the young fledge.

Replacement nest sites for swallows should be included as part of the development, with the simplest option to build a lean-to or enclosed storage area onto one of the adjacent agricultural sheds, or allow access into one of the adjacent agricultural sheds. Timber nesting ledges should be provided within any new lean-to, or nest cups can be installed, such as the No. 10 Schwegler swallow nest. These should be located as high as possible to avoid the risk of predation. Nest cups for swallows can be obtained from www.nhbs.com or www.wildcare.com. The lean-to structure or enclosed storage area could be designed for use by both nesting swallows and as a feeding perch for brown long-eared bats.

5.4.3 Recommendations for Schedule 1 species

Buildings A, D and E are being used by barn owls as long-term roost sites, with the box in Building E potentially being used for nesting. The roost sites used by this species are very important to the breeding success and long-term conservation of local barn owls.

It is important to implement mitigation measures as the planned works would otherwise cause significant long-term disturbance to this specially protected species. It is expected that provision for barn owls will form the basis of a planning condition. Two alternative barn owl nest boxes should be put in place as soon as possible, before any works commence, to provide separate features for nesting and day roosting. This is important as barn owl are very faithful to their roosting sites, and will allow for the continued breeding success of this species in the area. The works should be carried out in strict accordance with the below Method Statement:

Barn Owl Method Statement – Village Farm, Blankney

- Erect two pole or tree-mounted nest boxes along a hedgerow or treeline within 300m of the site (ideally to the north overlooking open countryside) **as soon as possible**.
- The floors of the nesting chambers in the new boxes should be covered in a layer of compost or wood shavings to simulate the broken-down pellets that are used as nest material, and fresh pellets from within the buildings should be gathered and placed within the new barn owl boxes to encourage uptake.

- During the winter (ideally February when barn owls are least likely to be nesting), a suitably licensed ecologist will inspect the nest box in Building E to ensure that no breeding attempt is underway. If the ecologist is happy that there is no breeding attempt, then the barn owl box should be removed and relocated into a suitable building elsewhere on the Blankney Estate.

The architect/project manager will consult with an ecologist over any requirement to deviate from this Barn Owl Method Statement in advance of any such deviation, in order that legal compliance can be maintained.

Further information about barn owl nest box designs and advice on installation can be sourced from The Barn Owl Trust website www.barnowltrust.org.uk or by emailing info@barnowltrust.org.uk.

5.5 Recommendations for ecological enhancement

In addition to the legislation which is in place to safeguard protected species, there is also legislation and policy which imposes duties to undertake action to prevent loss of biodiversity and species/habitats of principle importance in the UK. In England and Wales, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, imposes a duty on all public bodies (including Local Authorities and statutory bodies) to conserve biodiversity – including restoring and enhancing a population or habitat. In addition, government planning policy guidance throughout the UK, provided in the latest National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021), states 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’.

In addition to this, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted in 2017) states that as part of Policy LP21: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, ‘all development should;

- protect, manage and enhance the network of habitats, species and sites of international, national and local importance (statutory and non-statutory), including sites that meet the criteria for selection as a Local Site;
- minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity; and
- seek to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and geodiversity.’

In order to try and achieve no net loss of biodiversity on site and fulfil the Local Planning Authority’s obligations under the NERC Act, the following outline measures are recommended.

It should be noted that it is not known if these measures will secure a biodiversity net gain without a full biodiversity assessment being completed using the Defra Biodiversity Metric.

A Biodiversity Management Plan or similar is likely to be required by the Local Planning Authority in order to ensure that these measures are implemented on site;

- Any new boundary hedgerows to be planted must comprise native species that provide pollen, nectar and fruit in order to provide a food source for birds and invertebrates. Species should include some of the following; hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, field maple *Acer campestre*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, bird cherry *Prunus padus* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, and should be planted in double rows to ensure a dense hedgerow. Some standard trees should be added within the hedgerows where possible, using the native species listed below. Hedgerows should ideally be used in place of fencing or walls.
- All boundary hedgerows should be appropriately managed by trimming every 2 to 3 years and in sections so that not all parts of the hedgerow are cut at the same time.
- Any new trees to be planted on site must include field maple *Acer campestre*, bird cherry *Prunus padus*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, lime *Tilia sp.*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris* and wild cherry *Prunus avium*, which provide foraging opportunities for various invertebrate and bird species.
- Planted flower borders within any landscaped areas of the site should include night scented flowers in order to attract moths and other night flying insects (which will provide foraging opportunities for bats). Species should include evening primrose *Oenothera biennis*, sweet rocket *Hesperis matronalis*, honeysuckle species *Lonicera sp.*, lavender *Lavendula sp.*, white jasmine *Jasminum officinale*, night-scented catchfly *Silene noctiflora*, night-scented stock *Matthiola longipetala* and soapwort *Saponaria officinalis*.
- Some areas of longer grass could be created and seeded with a general-purpose wildflower meadow seed mix such as Emorsgate EM1 mix or Boston Seeds BS1M mix, available at www.wildseed.co.uk or www.bostonseeds.com.
- Any new wildflower areas must be cut regularly throughout spring and autumn in the first year to a height of 40-60mm and the arisings removed, to avoid dominant weed species out-competing the wildflowers. Thereafter, these areas should be cut once in

spring, and several times over late summer/early autumn and the arisings removed. The application of herbicides must be avoided, with weeds removed by pulling or topping. Further information on the establishment and ongoing management of wildflower meadows is available at www.wildseed.co.uk.

- Hedgehog are highly likely to occur on the site. Hedgehog populations have declined by a third in the last 10 years; they are a species of principle importance (NERC, 2006) and were recently classified as ‘vulnerable’ on the IUCN red list due to their decline in the UK. Simple solutions within the proposals will ensure connectivity for this species between the site and adjacent areas. To maintain commuting routes for hedgehogs, any solid fences that are installed must have a small hole at the base measuring 13x13cm, or be raised off the ground. Ideally, hedges should be used instead of, or as well as, fencing.
- As swifts *Apus apus* are declining in the UK, a minimum of 1 x integral swift box (Manthorpe Swift Brick, Woodstone, Vivara Pro or Schwegler type) must be installed per dwelling on the northern or eastern elevations. **These boxes must be installed during the construction phase, as they must be incorporated into the wall.** These boxes must be situated as high as possible, at a height of between 4-6 metres above ground level, with a clear flight-way for the birds to exit. As swifts are a colonial breeding species, the boxes must be situated in groups, approximately 1 metre apart. Recent evidence shows that integral swift boxes will also be used by other red-listed cavity nesting species such as starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and house sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Barlow, C., 2020). These nest boxes are available from www.nhbs.co.uk or www.wildcareshop.co.uk.



Manthorpe swift brick (source: www.nhbs.com)

6 SUMMARY

Buildings at Village Farm, Drury Street, Blankney in Lincolnshire were surveyed in connection

with proposals for a residential development on the site.

An eDNA test of Pond 1 is required, in order to determine its status for breeding great crested newt.

Further bat survey work is required in order to ascertain the status of the site for bats with respect to Buildings A, D, F, G and H. Precautionary measures in relation to lighting on site are also required.

A Method Statement must be adhered to with respect to barn owls.

Vigilance for badgers and ground mammals and appropriate timings with regards to common nesting birds are also required, and replacement nest sites for swallows are recommended.

Ecological enhancements are recommended in order to try and ensure no net loss to biodiversity. These are as follows:

- Use of native species in the planting/landscaping scheme
- Appropriate management of hedgerows
- Creation of wildflower areas
- Inclusion of swift boxes
- Consideration of hedgehogs within the development

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**PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL
VILLAGE FARM, DRURY STREET, BLANKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

APPENDIX 1

Plant list

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
barren brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>
bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
bristly oxtongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>
broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
common couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>
common mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgare</i>
creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>
dock species	<i>Rumex spp</i>
dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
prickly sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
willowherb species	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

**PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL
VILLAGE FARM, DRURY STREET, BLANKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

APPENDIX 2

Data search


LERC Search Summary Report

Grid Reference: TF 06963 60316
Buffer: 2km

Date of publication: 20/12/2022
Expires: 20/12/2023

Achieving more for nature

Report Details

Produced for	Celia Commowick, CGC Ecology
Search area	

Terms and conditions

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This report summarises a search of statutory sites, non-statutory sites, other sites, habitats and species within the specified area; where no information is returned for a section, it is excluded from this summary report.

About the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre

The Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) collates wildlife and geological information for Greater Lincolnshire from various sources and makes it available for various uses. This data is crucial to aid conservation management of sites, to help organisations prioritise action, and to understand the distribution of species and trends over time. For more information on LERC or to request a data search, visit the website at <https://glnp.org.uk/partnership/lerc/>



Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre is an ALERC accredited LRC, meeting the standard level criteria. For more information on accreditation, see the ALERC website at <http://www.alerc.org.uk/alerc-accreditation.html>

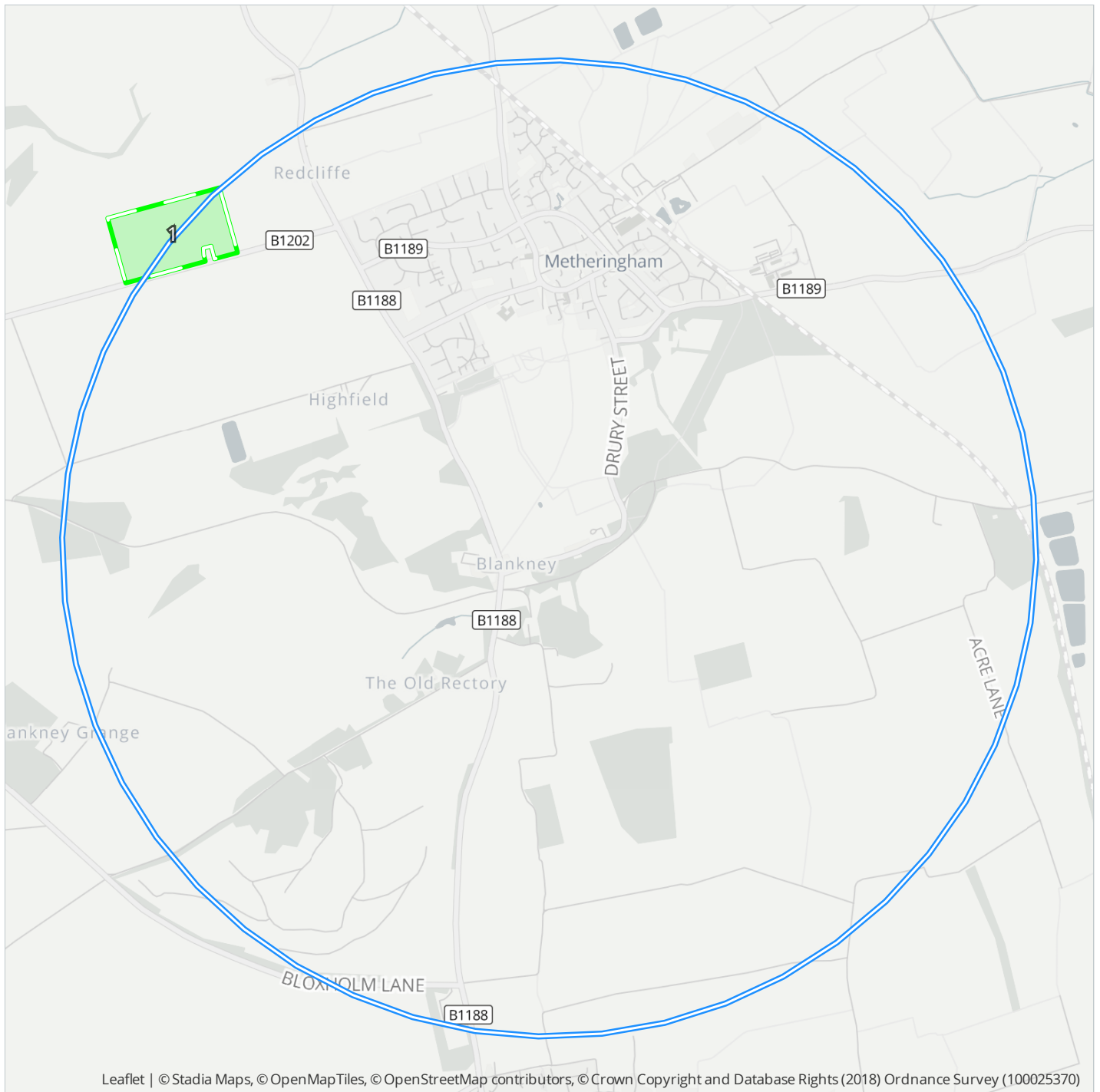
Statutory Sites

Statutory sites are those afforded legal protection aimed at preventing activities that may damage features of interest. Further information on these sites is available from [Natural England](#) (SSSIs, NNRs, LNRs, SPAs, SACs, Ramsars) and [The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#) (AONBs).

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Code	Designation	Status	Name
1	SSSI	Notified	Metheringham Heath Quarry

Statutory Sites within the search area



Space restrictions on the map may result in some sites not being labelled.

 Site of Special Scientific Interest

 Search area

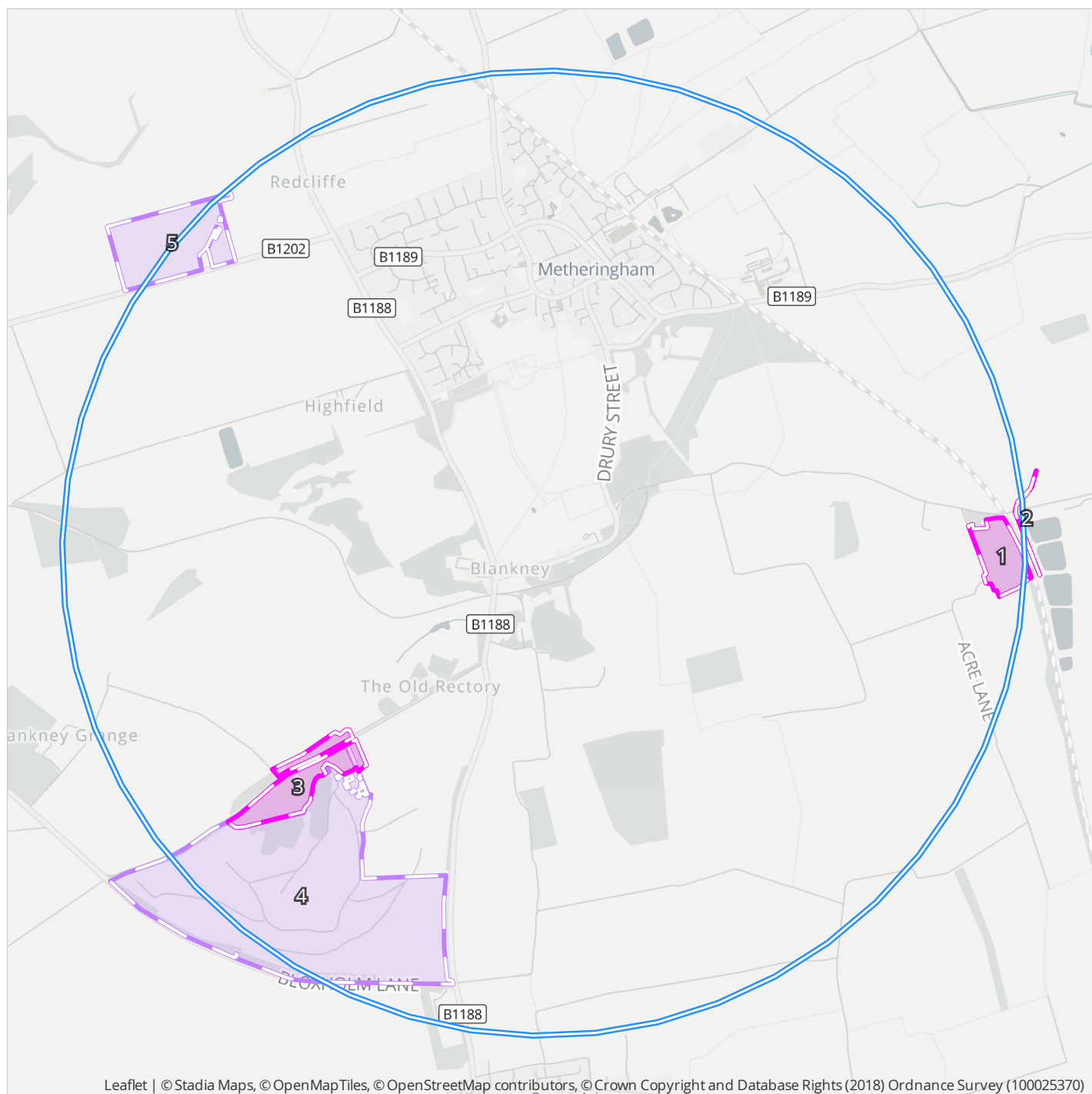
Non-statutory sites

The GLNP works directly with local authorities to coordinate the Local Sites system in Greater Lincolnshire. Sites are selected by the Nature Partnership, based on recommendations made by its expert working groups known as the LWS Panel and LGS Panel. The Register of Local Sites is then submitted for inclusion within local authority planning policy.

These sites are recognition of wildlife or geological value and are a testament to the land management that is already being undertaken on them. Identifying these sites helps local authorities meet their obligations under legislation and government guidance, including reporting on the number of sites in positive management for Single Data List Indicator 160-00.

Code	Designation	Status	Name
1	LWS	Selected	Blankney Brick Pit
2	LWS	Selected	Blankney Dyke
3	LWS	Selected	Long Wood, Blankney
4	LGS	Selected	Longwood Quarry, Blankney
5	LGS	Selected	Metheringham Heath Quarry

Non-statutory sites within the search area



Space restrictions on the map may result in some sites not being labelled. Please refer to the site citations for details.



Local Wildlife Site



Search area



Local Geological Site

Other Sites

There are a number of other sites which can be important for the biodiversity they support and as part of the natural environments wider ecological network. For more information on these, please contact the relevant organisation.

Code	Designation	Status	Name
1	Ancient Woodland	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	LONG WOOD
2	Ancient Woodland	Ancient Replanted Woodland	LONG WOOD

Other Sites within the search area



Space restrictions on the map may result in some sites not being labelled.

 Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland

 Search area

 Ancient Replanted Woodland

Habitats

Priority habitats are those identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action in the UK. The most-recent list of UK priority species and habitats was published in August 2007 following a 2-year review of the process and priorities, representing the most comprehensive analysis of such information ever undertaken in the UK.

The data presented is the most up-to-date of the data collated by the GLNP and mostly comes from surveys of Local Sites; further historic data and non-Priority habitat data may also be available. Absence of information doesn't mean that the Priority habitat isn't present merely that no information is held.


A number of different datasets have been consulted to produce this report - a summary of attribution statements is available at <https://glnp.org.uk/images/uploads/services/lincolnshire-environmental-records-centre/habitat%20attribution.pdf>.

Type	Habitat	Survey Date	Area (ha)
Priority Habitat	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2008 - 2020	11.94
Priority Habitat	Wet woodland	2008	0.99

Habitats within the search area



Space restrictions on the map may result in some sites not being labelled.

 Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

 Search area

 Wet woodland

Species

Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre holds records on the following species within or overlapping the search area. Data shown is as held by LERC; past records of presence of a species does not guarantee continued occurrence and absence of records does not imply absence of a species, merely that no records are held. Confidential data, zero abundance records, data at poorly defined geographic resolutions and data pending validation and/or verification are also excluded from this report. A number of different datasets have been consulted to produce this report - a summary of attribution statements is available at <https://glnp.org.uk/images/uploads/services/lincolnshire-environmental-records-centre/species%20attribution.pdf>

Amphibian (3 taxa)

Common Frog, <i>Rana temporaria</i>	7	1977 - 2009	Protected
Common Toad, <i>Bufo bufo</i>	2	1976 - 1996	Protected, Priority
Smooth Newt, <i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	1	1976 - 1976	Protected, Local Priority

Bird (78 taxa)

African Sacred Ibis, <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	1	2002 - 2002	Non-native
Anser anser anser, <i>Anser anser anser</i>	1	2020 - 2020	Protected
Barn Owl, <i>Tyto alba</i>	210	1998 - 2021	Protected, Local Priority
Barnacle Goose, <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	1	2021 - 2021	Non-native
Black Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	2021 - 2021	Protected
Black Swan, <i>Cygnus atratus</i>	2	2008 - 2009	Non-native
Brambling, <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	21	1976 - 2020	Protected
Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i>	1	2021 - 2021	Non-native
Bullfinch, <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	64	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Canada Goose, <i>Branta canadensis</i>	17	2007 - 2021	Non-native
Collared Dove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	207	2002 - 2021	Non-native
Columba livia 'feral', <i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	78	2002 - 2021	Non-native
Common Scoter, <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	19	2020 - 2021	Protected, Priority
Corn Bunting, <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	41	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Corncrake, <i>Crex crex</i>	1	1963 - 1963	Protected, Priority
Crossbill, <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	1	2008 - 2008	Protected
Cuckoo, <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	43	1998 - 2022	Priority
Curlew, <i>Numenius arquata</i>	61	1997 - 2022	Priority, Local Priority
Egyptian Goose, <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	10	2017 - 2021	Non-native
European White-fronted Goose, <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>	1	2021 - 2021	Priority, Non-native
Fieldfare, <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	166	1998 - 2021	Protected
Firecrest, <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	3	2001 - 2016	Protected
Gadwall, <i>Mareca strepera</i>	183	1997 - 2021	Non-native
Glossy Ibis, <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2	2021 - 2021	Non-native

Bird (78 taxa)

Green Sandpiper, <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	20	1998 - 2021	Protected
Greenshank, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	5	1998 - 2021	Protected
Grey Partridge, <i>Perdix perdix</i>	78	2002 - 2021	Priority, Local Priority, Non-native
Greylag Goose, <i>Anser anser</i>	239	1995 - 2021	Protected
Hawfinch, <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	1998 - 1998	Priority
Hen Harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	24	1998 - 2021	Protected
Hobby, <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	10	1998 - 2018	Protected
Hoopoe, <i>Upupa epops</i>	1	2004 - 2004	Protected
House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i>	256	1999 - 2021	Priority, Local Priority
Indian Peafowl, <i>Pavo cristatus</i>	1	2019 - 2019	Non-native
Kingfisher, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	54	1998 - 2021	Protected
Lanner Falcon, <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	1	2010 - 2010	Non-native
Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	297	1995 - 2021	Priority, Local Priority
Lesser Redpoll, <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	6	1998 - 2021	Priority
Linnet, <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	162	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Little Egret, <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	35	2009 - 2021	Protected
Little Owl, <i>Athene noctua</i>	59	1998 - 2021	Non-native
Little Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	4	1998 - 2021	Protected
Mandarin Duck, <i>Aix galericulata</i>	5	1998 - 2000	Non-native
Marsh Harrier, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	68	1998 - 2021	Protected
Merlin, <i>Falco columbarius</i>	19	1998 - 2019	Protected
Montagu's Harrier, <i>Circus pygargus</i>	2	2000 - 2013	Protected
Mute Swan, <i>Cygnus olor</i>	356	1995 - 2021	Non-native
Peregrine, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	17	2004 - 2021	Protected
Pheasant, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	228	1984 - 2021	Non-native
Pink-footed Goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	67	1998 - 2021	Non-native
Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>	4	2015 - 2021	Protected, Non-native
Pochard, <i>Aythya ferina</i>	6	1998 - 2016	Non-native
Red Kite, <i>Milvus milvus</i>	33	2004 - 2021	Protected
Red-legged Partridge, <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	128	1984 - 2021	Non-native
Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>	35	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Redwing, <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	145	1998 - 2021	Protected
Reed Bunting, <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	95	1998 - 2021	Priority, Local Priority
Reeves's Pheasant, <i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Ring Ouzel, <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	3	2016 - 2021	Priority
Rock Dove, <i>Columba livia</i>	4	2009 - 2009	Non-native
Ruddy Duck, <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	1	2007 - 2007	Non-native
Skylark, <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	214	2000 - 2022	Local Priority

Bird (78 taxa)

Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	128	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Song Thrush, <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	215	2002 - 2021	Local Priority
Spotted Flycatcher, <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	23	1998 - 2021	Priority
Starling, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	284	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Swift, <i>Apus apus</i>	88	1998 - 2021	Local Priority
Tree Pipit, <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	6	2020 - 2021	Priority
Tree Sparrow, <i>Passer montanus</i>	61	1998 - 2019	Priority, Local Priority
Tundra Swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	23	2001 - 2010	Protected
Turtle Dove, <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	45	1998 - 2021	Priority, Local Priority
Whimbrel, <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	5	2007 - 2021	Protected
White-fronted Goose, <i>Anser albifrons</i>	1	2020 - 2020	Non-native
Whooper Swan, <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	47	2002 - 2021	Protected, Non-native
Wigeon, <i>Mareca penelope</i>	107	1995 - 2021	Non-native
Wood Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	1	2005 - 2005	Priority
Yellow Wagtail, <i>Motacilla flava</i>	69	1999 - 2021	Local Priority
Yellowhammer, <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	135	1998 - 2021	Priority, Local Priority

Bony Fish (Actinopterygii) (1 taxa)

Burbot, <i>Lota lota</i>	1	1915 - 1915	Protected, Priority
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Conifer (10 taxa)

Atlas Cedar, <i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Austrian Pine, <i>Pinus nigra</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Coastal Redwood, <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Douglas Fir, <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
European Larch, <i>Larix decidua</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Japanese Red-cedar, <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Lawson's Cypress, <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Noble Fir, <i>Abies procera</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Western Hemlock-spruce, <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Western Red-cedar, <i>Thuja plicata</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native

Crustacean (1 taxa)

Crangonyx pseudogracilis/floridanus, <i>Crangonyx pseudogracilis/floridanus sens. lat.</i>	2	1987 - 1989	Non-native
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Flowering Plant (155 taxa)

Alsike Clover, <i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
American Willowherb, <i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Apple, <i>Malus pumila</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Atlas Poppy, <i>Papaver atlanticum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Balkan Anemone, <i>Anemone blanda</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Balm, <i>Melissa officinalis</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Barren Brome, <i>Bromus sterilis</i>	5	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Black Bent, <i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Black Horehound, <i>Ballota nigra</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Black-grass, <i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	3	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Bluebell, <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> x <i>hispanica</i> = <i>H. x massartiana</i>	4	2016 - 2017	Non-native
Bluebell, <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	2	2016 - 2017	Protected
Bramble, <i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Bread Wheat, <i>Triticum aestivum</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Bristly Oxtongue, <i>Picris echioides</i>	6	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Broad-leaved Bamboo, <i>Sasa palmata</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea, <i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Broad-leaved Osier, <i>Salix viminalis</i> x <i>caprea</i> = <i>S. x smithiana</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Butterfly-bush, <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Californian Poppy, <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Canadian Fleabane, <i>Conyza canadensis</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Caper Spurge, <i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Caucasian-stonecrop, <i>Sedum spurium</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Charlock, <i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Cherry Laurel, <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Cherry Plum, <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	5	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Common Field-speedwell, <i>Veronica persica</i>	7	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Common Mallow, <i>Malva sylvestris</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Common Poppy, <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Common Vetch, <i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>segetalis</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Coralberry, <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill, <i>Geranium dissectum</i>	8	2015 - 2018	Non-native
Cut-leaved Dead-nettle, <i>Lamium hybridum</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Druce's Crane's-bill, <i>Geranium endressii</i> x <i>versicolor</i> = <i>G. x oxonianum</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Dwarf Mallow, <i>Malva neglecta</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Early Crocus, <i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Eastern Sowbread, <i>Cyclamen coum</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native

Flowering Plant (155 taxa)

Equal-leaved Knotgrass, <i>Polygonum arenastrum</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
False-acacia, <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Feverfew, <i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	5	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Field Forget-me-not, <i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	6	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Field Pansy, <i>Viola arvensis</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Field Penny-cress, <i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Flowering Currant, <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Fox-and-cubs, <i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Garden Grape-hyacinth, <i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	5	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Garden Peony, <i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Garden Solomon's-seal, <i>Polygonatum multiflorum x odoratum</i> = <i>P. x hybridum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Garden Tulip, <i>Tulipa gesneriana</i>	3	2016 - 2017	Non-native
Giant Scabious, <i>Cephalaria gigantea</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Golden Rain, <i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Gooseberry, <i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Greater Celandine, <i>Chelidonium majus</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Greater Periwinkle, <i>Vinca major</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Greater Snowdrop, <i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Green Alkanet, <i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	6	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Green Field-speedwell, <i>Veronica agrestis</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Ground-elder, <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Guernsey Fleabane, <i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Hedge Mustard, <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	4	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Hedgerow Crane's-bill, <i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Hemlock, <i>Conium maculatum</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Henbit Dead-nettle, <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Hollyhock, <i>Alcea rosea</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Holme Willow, <i>Salix viminalis x caprea x cinerea</i> = <i>S. x calodendron</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Honesty, <i>Lunaria annua</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Horse-chestnut, <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Horse-radish, <i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
House-leek, <i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Italian Alder, <i>Alnus cordata</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Ivy-leaved Speedwell, <i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	4	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Ivy-leaved Toadflax, <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Japanese Honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native

Flowering Plant (155 taxa)

Lamiaeum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum, <i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Large Bindweed, <i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Large-flowered Evening-primrose, <i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Least Yellow-sorrel, <i>Oxalis exilis</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Lesser Swine-cress, <i>Lepidium didymum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Lilac, <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
London Plane, <i>Platanus occidentalis x orientalis = P. x hispanica</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Long Smooth-headed Poppy, <i>Papaver dubium</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Love-lies-bleeding, <i>Amaranthus caudatus</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Mind-your-own-business, <i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Montbretia, <i>Crocsmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Mugwort, <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Narrow-leaved Ash, <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Norway Maple, <i>Acer platanoides</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Oil-seed Rape, <i>Brassica napus subsp. oleifera</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Opium Poppy, <i>Papaver somniferum</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Oregon-grape, <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Osier, <i>Salix viminalis</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Pale Pink-sorrel, <i>Oxalis incarnata</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Peach-leaved Bellflower, <i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Perennial Cornflower, <i>Centaurea montana</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Petty Spurge, <i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	5	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Pineappleweed, <i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	6	2015 - 2018	Non-native
Pink-sorrel, <i>Oxalis articulata</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Portugal Laurel, <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Prickly Lettuce, <i>Lactuca serriola</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Procumbent Yellow-sorrel, <i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Purple Toadflax, <i>Linaria purpurea</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Rape, <i>Brassica napus</i>	3	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Rauli, <i>Nothofagus alpina</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Red Dead-nettle, <i>Lamium purpureum</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Red Horse-chestnut, <i>Aesculus carnea</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Red Oak, <i>Quercus rubra</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Red Valerian, <i>Centranthus ruber</i>	6	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Rhododendron ponticum, <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Rhubarb, <i>Rheum palmatum x rhaponticum = R. x hybridum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Ribbed Melilot, <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native

Flowering Plant (155 taxa)

Roble, <i>Nothofagus obliqua</i>	1	2016 - 2016	Non-native
Rock Crane's-bill, <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Rose-of-Sharon, <i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Round-leaved Fluellen, <i>Kickxia spuria</i>	1	1978 - 1978	Non-native
Russian Comfrey, <i>Symphytum officinale x asperum</i> = <i>S. x uplandicum</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Russian-vine, <i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Rye, <i>Secale cereale</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Scented Mayweed, <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Scentless Mayweed, <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	5	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Shepherd's-purse, <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	8	2015 - 2018	Non-native
Silver Maple, <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Slender Speedwell, <i>Veronica filiformis</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Small Nettle, <i>Urtica urens</i>	3	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Small Toadflax, <i>Chaenorhinum minus</i>	1	1978 - 1978	Non-native
Snapdragon, <i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Snow-in-summer, <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Snowberry, <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	2	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Snowdrop, <i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	6	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Spotted Dead-nettle, <i>Lamium maculatum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Stern's Cotoneaster, <i>Cotoneaster sternianus</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Sticky Groundsel, <i>Senecio viscosus</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Sun Spurge, <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Swedish Whitebeam, <i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Swine-cress, <i>Lepidium coronopus</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Sycamore, <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	11	2015 - 2018	Non-native
Trailing Bellflower, <i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Turkey Oak, <i>Quercus cerris</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Two-flowered Everlasting-pea, <i>Lathyrus grandiflorus</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Veronica hederifolia subsp. lucorum, <i>Veronica hederifolia subsp. lucorum</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Wall Barley, <i>Hordeum murinum</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Wall Cotoneaster, <i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Walnut, <i>Juglans regia</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Water Bent, <i>Polypogon viridis</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Weld, <i>Reseda luteola</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native
White Champion, <i>Silene latifolia</i>	4	2015 - 2018	Non-native
White Dead-nettle, <i>Lamium album</i>	12	2015 - 2018	Non-native
White Mustard, <i>Sinapis alba</i>	1	2017 - 2017	Non-native

Flowering Plant (155 taxa)

White Stonecrop, <i>Sedum album</i>	4	2015 - 2017	Non-native
White Willow, <i>Salix alba</i>	2	2015 - 2017	Non-native
Wild Plum, <i>Prunus domestica</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Wilson's Honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera nitida</i>	2	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Winter Aconite, <i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	3	2017 - 2017	Non-native
Winter Heliotrope, <i>Petasites fragrans</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Winter Jasmine, <i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Yellow Corydalis, <i>Pseudofumaria lutea</i>	3	2015 - 2017	Non-native

Insect - Beetle (Coleoptera) (6 taxa)

Asparagus Beetle, <i>Crioceris asparagi</i>	1	2019 - 2019	Non-native
Bean Seed Beetle, <i>Bruchus rufimanus</i>	2	2012 - 2018	Non-native
Harlequin Ladybird, <i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	3	2015 - 2015	Non-native
Hide Beetle, <i>Dermestes maculatus</i>	1	2013 - 2013	Non-native
Leistus (Pogonophorus) rufomarginatus, <i>Leistus (Pogonophorus) rufomarginatus</i>	1	1987 - 1987	Non-native
Leistus rufomarginatus, <i>Leistus rufomarginatus</i>	3	1987 - 1990	Non-native

Insect - Butterfly (4 taxa)

Brown Hairstreak, <i>Thecla betulae</i>	1	2011 - 2011	Protected, Priority
Small Heath, <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	4	1997 - 2014	Priority
Wall, <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	4	1949 - 2000	Priority
White-letter Hairstreak, <i>Satyrium w-album</i>	2	1996 - 1996	Protected, Priority

Insect - Moth (1 taxa)

Latticed Heath, <i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	1	2006 - 2006	Priority
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Mollusc (2 taxa)

Green Cellar Slug, <i>Limacus maculatus</i>	2	2019 - 2019	Non-native
Jenkins' Spire Snail, <i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	28	1987 - 2000	Non-native

Reptile (2 taxa)

Common Lizard, <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	1	2013 - 2013	Protected, Priority
Grass Snake, <i>Natrix helvetica</i>	9	1976 - 2009	Protected, Priority

Spider (Araneae) (1 taxa)

Cobweb Spider, <i>Pholcus phalangioides</i>	4	2005 - 2005	Non-native
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Terrestrial Mammal (15 taxa)

American Mink, <i>Neovison vison</i>	1	2014 - 2014	Non-native
Brown Hare, <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	258	1976 - 2021	Priority
Brown Rat, <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	9	1977 - 2021	Non-native
Chinese Muntjac, <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	52	2008 - 2021	Non-native
Eastern Grey Squirrel, <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	86	1976 - 2022	Non-native
Eurasian Badger, <i>Meles meles</i>	6	2015 - 2022	Protected
Eurasian Otter, <i>Lutra lutra</i>	1	2022 - 2022	Protected, Priority
Eurasian Red Squirrel, <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	5	1940 - 1944	Protected, Priority
European Rabbit, <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	124	1976 - 2021	Non-native
European Water Vole, <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	3	1976 - 1999	Protected, Priority, Local Priority
Feral Ferret, <i>Mustela putorius subsp. furo</i>	1	2015 - 2015	Protected, Priority, Non-native
Harvest Mouse, <i>Micromys minutus</i>	2	1976 - 1976	Priority
House Mouse, <i>Mus musculus</i>	9	1977 - 2016	Non-native
Mountain Hare, <i>Lepus timidus</i>	1	2007 - 2007	Protected, Priority
West European Hedgehog, <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	93	1976 - 2021	Priority

Terrestrial Mammal (bat) (7 taxa)

Bat, <i>Chiroptera</i>	53	1993 - 2021	Protected, Priority, Local Priority
Brown Long-eared Bat, <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	13	1995 - 2020	Protected, Priority, Local Priority
Common Pipistrelle, <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto</i>	6	2011 - 2014	Protected, Local Priority
Noctule Bat, <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	3	1979 - 2019	Protected, Priority, Local Priority
Pipistrelle Bat species, <i>Pipistrellus</i>	23	1976 - 2020	Protected, Priority, Local Priority
Soprano Pipistrelle, <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2	2014 - 2014	Protected, Priority, Local Priority
Western Barbastelle, <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	2	2014 - 2014	Protected, Priority, Local Priority

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LERC Search Summary Report - Citation Sheets

Grid Reference: TF 06963 60316
Buffer: 2km

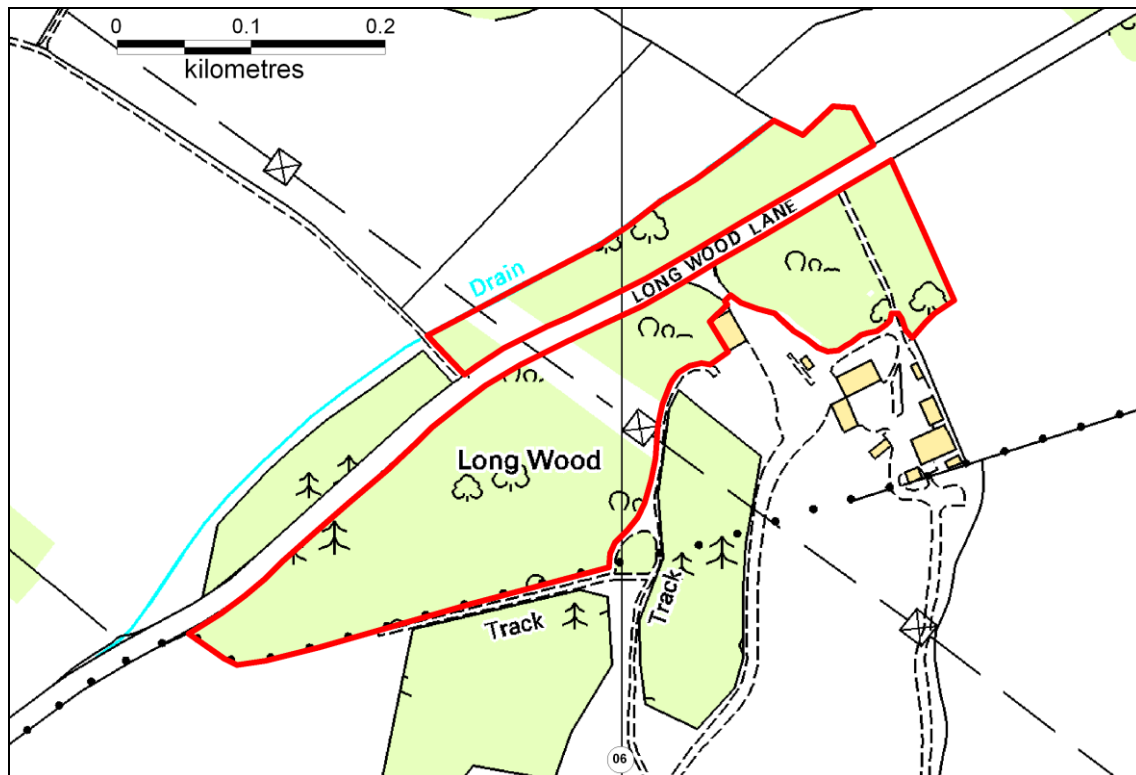
Date of publication: 20/12/2022
Expires: 20/12/2023

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Long Wood, Blankney



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Grid ref: TF060593
Area: 7.4 ha

Survey: 10 July 2008
Surveyor: T.Inskipp

Main habitat: Semi-natural woodland
Additional habitat: Unimproved neutral grassland
Additional features: Standing/fallen dead wood, steep slopes, hummocky ground, shallow ditches

South of road

An area of woodland to the south of Long Wood Lane, bounded on the southern side by quarries, one currently in use and a bigger area around it that was formerly worked. Most of the wood is on a fairly steep north-west facing slope and is quite shady with dense canopy and thick undergrowth and fallen trees. There are some small cleared areas along the route of overhead power lines and the south-western aspect is bounded by a grassy track and species more typical of open habitats. The wood is dominated by sycamore, and other common trees are ash, beech and elm. In the southern part a few pines have been planted and one or two horse chestnuts and small-leaved limes were probably also planted.

A total of 108 plant species were recorded during the survey (with 3 others reported during a previous survey in 1978). These included six woodland indicators: wood anemone, dogwood, spindle, hairy St John's-wort, wild cherry and guelder rose, Five calcareous grassland indicators were present: tor-grass, common knapweed, wild basil, lady's bedstraw and red bartsia and the southern track had two additional neutral grassland indicators: common sedge and ox-eye daisy.

Birds recorded included 6 crossbills flying out of the pines, spotted flycatcher, and singing blackcap, chiffchaff, blackbird and wren. Along the southern track meadow brown, gatekeeper and ringlet butterflies were frequent.

North of road

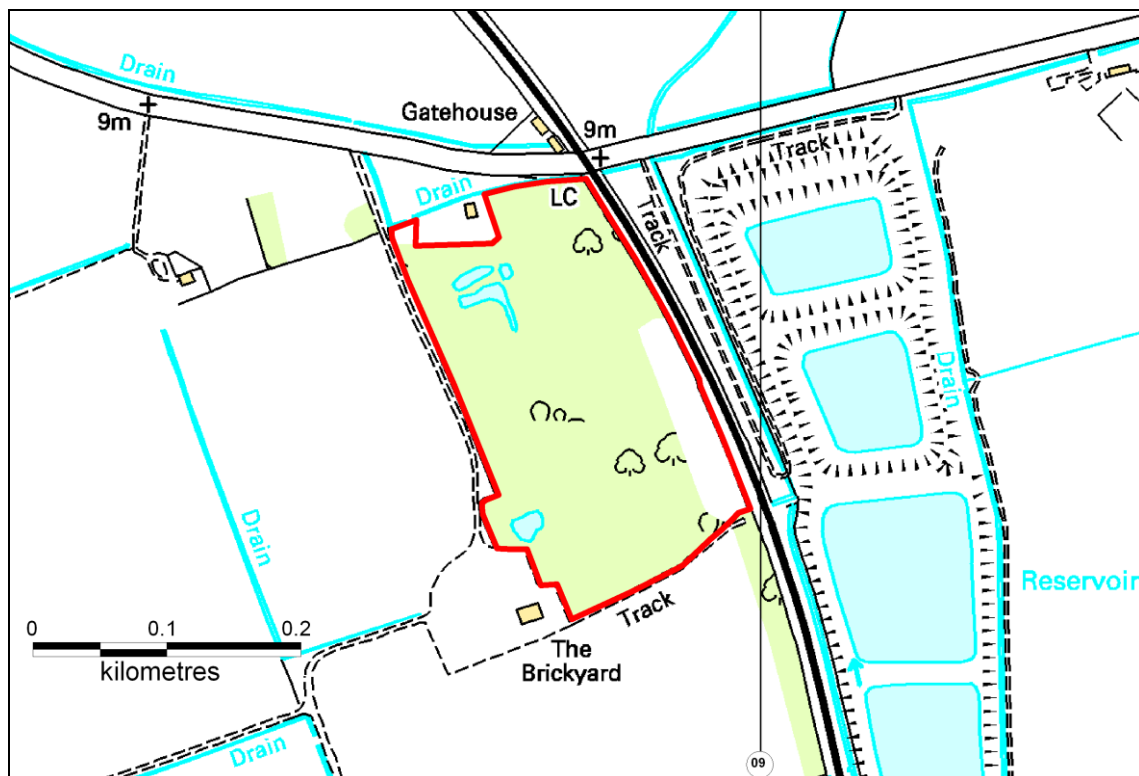
A thin strip of woodland bounded on the south side by Long Wood Lane, and on the other sides by open farmland. The section east of the small dividing road is dominated by sycamore, with frequent ash, beech and elm, and abundant nettles and ivy on the ground. It is bounded on the north side by a drain, but this appeared to be dry at the time of the survey.

Birds recorded included spotted flycatcher, and singing blackcap, blackbird, song thrush, goldcrest and wren.

Criteria passed: WD1, WD1a

Recommended as a Local Wildlife Site: 10 September 2009

Blankney Brick Pit



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Grid ref: TF088603

Area: 4.9 ha

Main habitats:

Additional habitats:

Additional features:

Semi-natural woodland

Wet woodland, standing water

**Standing/fallen dead wood, hummocky ground,
areas with frequent/prolonged flooding**

Survey: 7 July 2008

Surveyor: T.Inskipp

A disused brick pit, about 2 km east of Blankney village on the south side of a minor road to Walcott. The east side is bounded by a railway line and the south and west sides by open farmland.

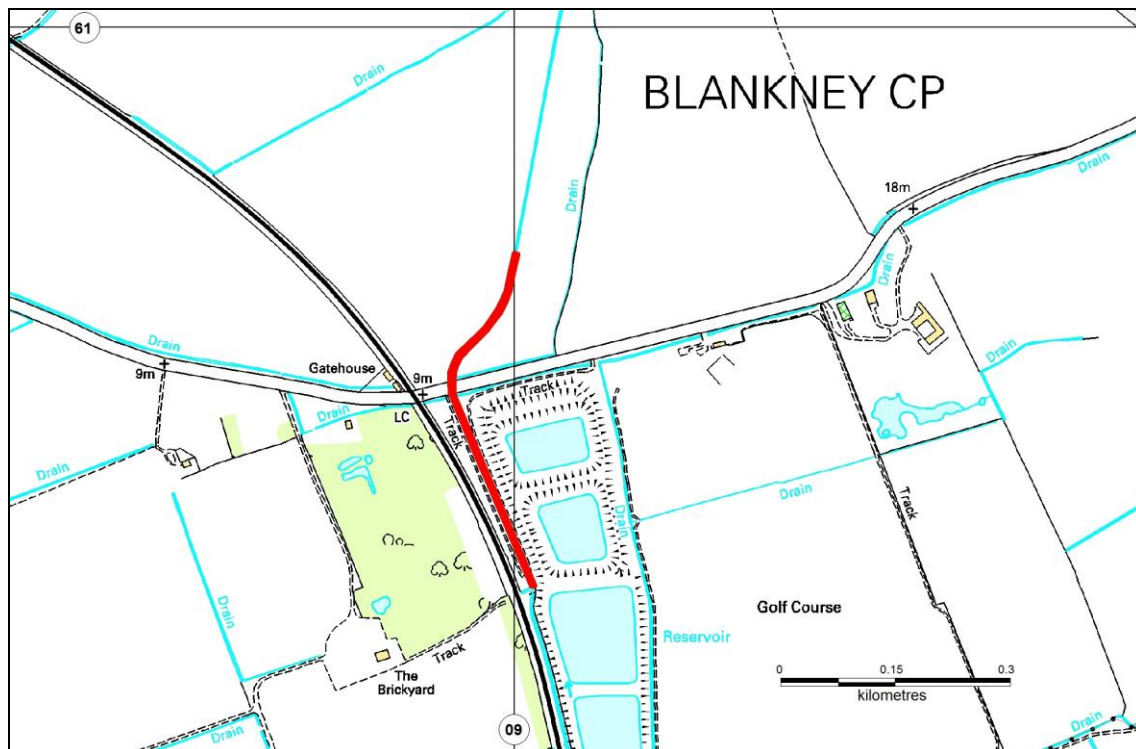
The previous survey in 1978 described it as an 'area of clear water, deep pits with sedgey edges; difficult to negotiate; also woodland.' This suggests that it was fairly open habitat at that time. However, it is now very overgrown, with almost complete tree cover, and the pits are shallow and shaded. Access is very difficult because the boundary is lined with thick bushes and nettles. For this survey access was made in the north-east corner and a zigzag course was followed between fallen trees, thick bushes, extensive nettle patches and the wet pits, eventually emerging on a track on the south side.

A total of 82 plant species were recorded, including a few woodland indicator species, suggesting that at least some woodland has existed here for some time: lady fern, hazel, creeping-jenny, primrose, common figwort and guelder rose. It is likely that there were more water plant species when the habitat was more open; of those remaining the most notable were tufted sedge and the introduced least duckweed. Very few animal species were noted, given the nature of the terrain. A few birds were singing: blackcap, chiffchaff, blackbird, robin and wren, and a hobby was noted flying over just outside the site. Mosquitoes were extremely abundant.

Criteria passed: WD4, Sw2

Recommended as a Local Wildlife Site: 10 September 2009

Blankney Dyke



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Grid ref: TF090607 – TF090602

Area: 0.5 km

Survey: 14 September 2010

Surveyor: A.Prendergast

Main habitat: Drain/ditch
Additional habitat: Calcareous grassland, Arable
Additional features: Tussocky vegetation, Steep slopes

A ditch following an apparently natural course, running through arable fields and crossed by a minor road. The ditch is fed via a culvert just north of the road.

The site supports a reasonably varied aquatic flora including stands of greater pond sedge *Carex riparia*, bulrush *Typha latifolia* and branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* but also occasional foals watercress *Apium nodiflorum*, yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*, purple-loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and water figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*.

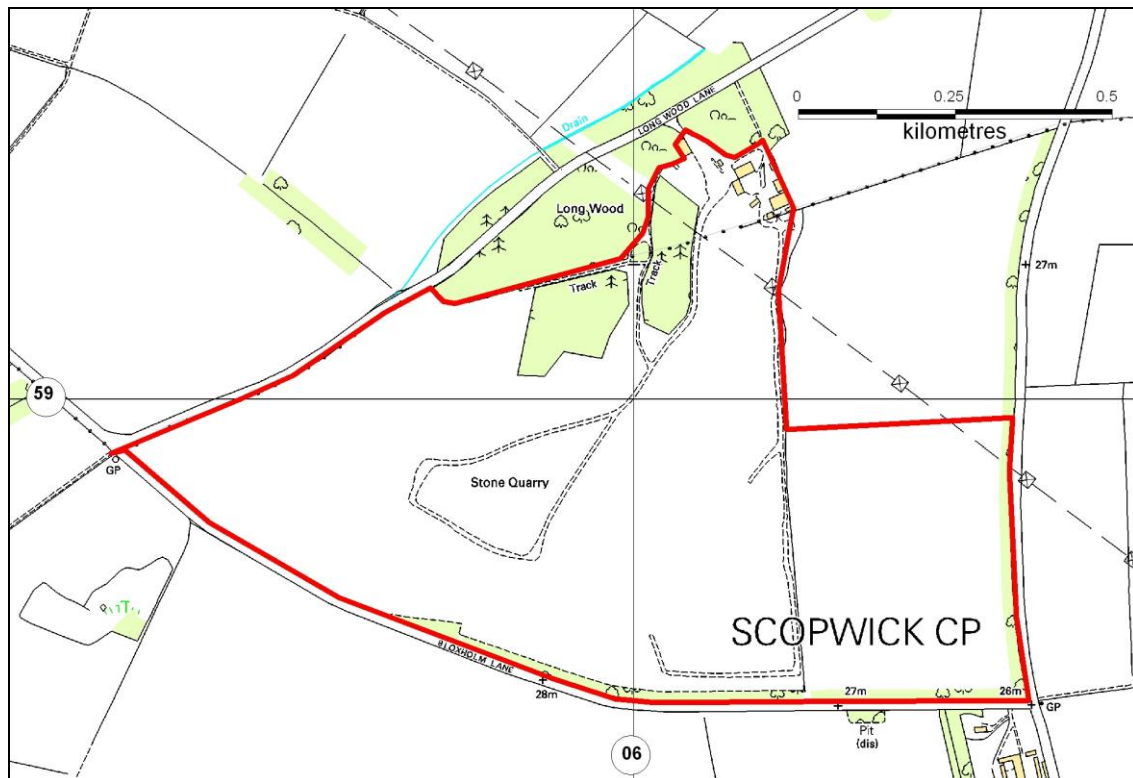
The upper banks support a rudimentary calcareous-neutral grassland flora with tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* dominating over large sections and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* also frequent. Occasional hawthorns *Crataegus monogyna* are present on the banks.

The section of the dyke to the south of the road is swamped by scrub. Species present include hawthorn, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, field rose *Rosa arvensis*, grey willow *Salix cinerea* and guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*.

Criterion passed: Sw2

Recommended as a Local Wildlife Site: 1 April 2011

Longwood Quarry, Blankney



OS copyright No. AL100016739, Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. LN9 5HF

Grid ref: TF058589 **Survey:** November 2009
Area: 70.8 ha **Recorder:** J.Aram, T.Langdale-Smith, R.Bartlett

Description and geomorphology

The quarry presents an impressive wide and low-lying vista of almost horizontal limestone beds, strongly conveying the scale of the depositional environment. Activity in the quarry is at a low level and large parts are now left dormant. The faces extant are relatively low and, due to the extensive flat quarry floor, are easily and safely accessible.

A layer of Glacial Till can be seen draped over the limestone beds. Channels cut into the limestone bedrock and then filled with glacial deposits can be seen at more than one locality.

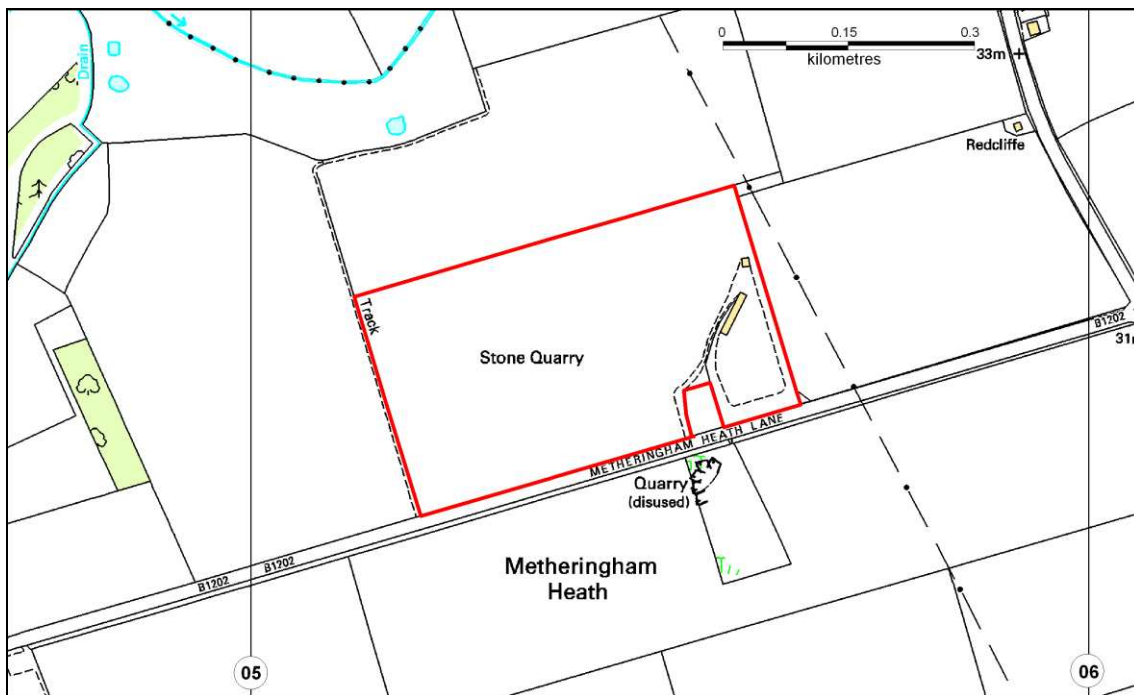
Brief history and present status

The quarry was established in the 19th century when the Blankney Estate was owned by the Chaplin family, to provide lime to improve the local soils. A kiln was built at the quarry to burn the limestone. It is now defunct and almost completely overgrown.

The quarry continues to supply aggregate and dimension stone to a local market at a low level of activity.

Criteria passed: Scientific, Cultural, Educational, Access and safety
Recommended as a Local Geological Site: 6 December 2010

Metheringham Heath Quarry



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Grid ref: TF053615 **Survey:** November 2009
Area: 12.7 ha **Recorder:** J.Aram, T.Langdale-Smith, R.Bartlett

Description and geomorphology

The limestone strata are exposed in the steep faces. A 1m thick shale interval in the middle of the succession has formed a platform for removing the limestone from beyond the deep central part of the quarry. The deepest part of the quarry is in the southeast corner where the blue mudstone that underlies the limestone is exposed.

Brief history and present status

The quarry has been inactive for a number of years but recently, following the purchase by the Blankney Estate, some minor quarrying is taking place.

A Dimension Stone business is active on the quarry floor. In the past the quarry has been popular with 4WD and Moto-Cross clubs.

Criteria passed: Scientific, Cultural, Educational, Access and safety

Recommended as a Local Geological Site: 6 December 2010

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