

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

of the land at

Church Road, Bedfield,
Suffolk

Carried out for:

Nathan Ashton Architectural Services Ltd

1st

Prepared by:

Abrehart Ecology
The Barn, Bridge Farm
Friday Street, Brandeston
Suffolk IP13 7BP

Tel: 01728 684362 - 07798 941555

e-mail: toby@abrehartecology.com

Website: abrehartecology.com

Issue/revision	1
Remarks	
Prepared by	AJK
Date	14.10.21
Checked	TRA
Authorised	TRA

Contents

Executive Summary	3
<i>Overview</i>	3
<i>Results</i>	3
1. Background to Commission	4
<i>Aims of Study</i>	4
<i>Site Description</i>	4
<i>Relevant Legislation</i>	6
2. Methods.....	7
<i>Desk Study</i>	7
<i>Field Survey</i>	7
<i>Survey Limitations</i>	7
3. Results	8
<i>Data Search (for maps see Appendix II)</i>	8
<i>Data Search</i>	8
<i>Field Survey Results</i>	9
4. Protected and Priority Species Within the Site	10
5. Potential Impacts and Recommendations	13
6. Conclusions.....	16
7. References.....	17
Appendix I: Site Photos	18
Appendix II: Species Lists	20
Appendix III: Site Pond Descriptions and HSI Results.....	21
Appendix IV: Figures	22
Appendix V: Desk Study.....	24

Executive Summary

Overview

Abrehart Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Nathan Ashton Architectural Services Ltd to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a small development site at the land at Church Road, Bedfield, Suffolk. The site is proposed for development – to include the construction of a small building to be used as a dog grooming studio and associated infrastructure (access and parking).

The land within the red line boundary is approximately 0.03 ha, comprised of an area of managed grassland, a dry ditch, and hardstanding, surrounded by further areas of farmyard and agricultural land. The land to be covered by building and footpath will be approximately 60m² (0.006ha).

A preliminary ecological appraisal was carried out on the 12th of October 2021 by Alister Killingsworth of Abrehart Ecology Ltd.

Results

The habitats recorded on and adjacent to the site included:

- Grassland
- Hardstanding
- Buildings

The habitats listed above, and features recorded within the site, provided potential habitat for great crested newts and reptiles.

1. Background to Commission

- 1.1 Abrehart Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Nathan Ashton Architectural Services Ltd to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a small development site at the land at Church Road, Bedfield, Suffolk (central grid reference TM 22636 66452; Fig. 1; hereafter referred to as the Site).
- 1.2 The survey was required to inform a planning application at the Site; construction of a small building (to be used as a dog grooming studio) and associated infrastructure (footpath access and parking on existing concrete hardstanding) is proposed.

Aims of Study

- 1.3 This report provides an ecological appraisal of the Site following the completion of a desk study and site visit. The aim of this study was to:
- Provide a description of existing habitat types;
 - To determine the existence and location of any ecologically valuable areas;
 - To identify the potential (or actual) presence of protected and/or notable species;
 - To provide the legislative and/or policy protection afforded to any habitats present or any species assessed as likely to be associated with the site; and
 - To recommend any further ecological surveys considered necessary to inform mitigation requirements for the planning application within the Site.

Site Description

- 1.4 The Site is located off Church Road, in Bedfield, Suffolk. The proposed construction zone is approximately 0.006ha (within a larger red line boundary of 0.03ha) comprising managed grassland surrounded by areas of farmland and farmyards (and associated storage buildings). There were no buildings within the Site boundary. Adjacent to the grassland habitats were a dry ditch, wildfowl grazed grassland, hardstanding yard areas, access tracks, ponds, and scattered trees.
- 1.5 Beyond the habitats immediately surrounding the grassland (listed above), the Site is surrounded by agricultural land (predominantly comprising arable fields and occasional grassland habitats), woodland blocks, ponds, and residential areas of small villages – Bedfield, Monk Soham, and Worlingworth (see Figure 1).

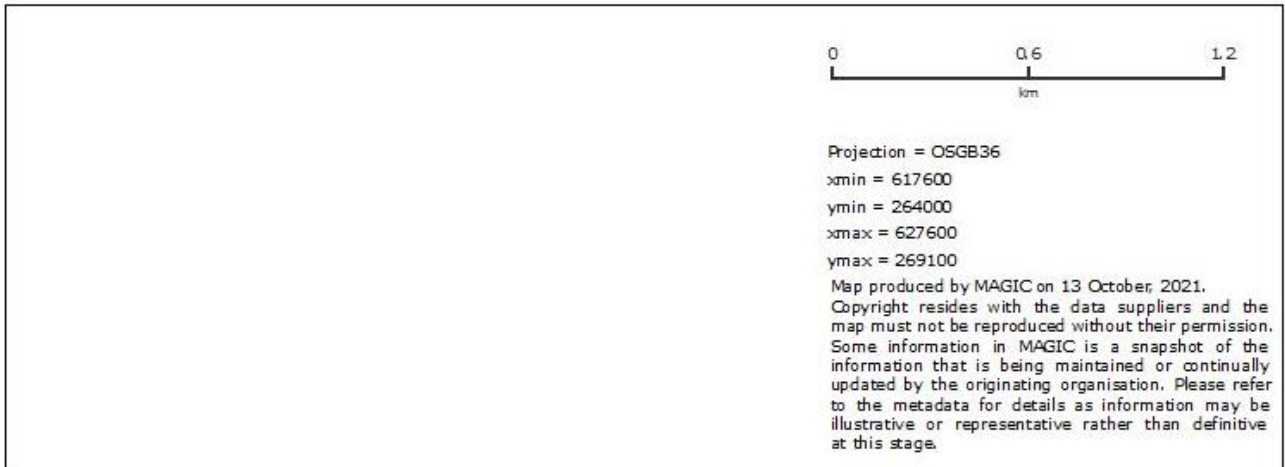
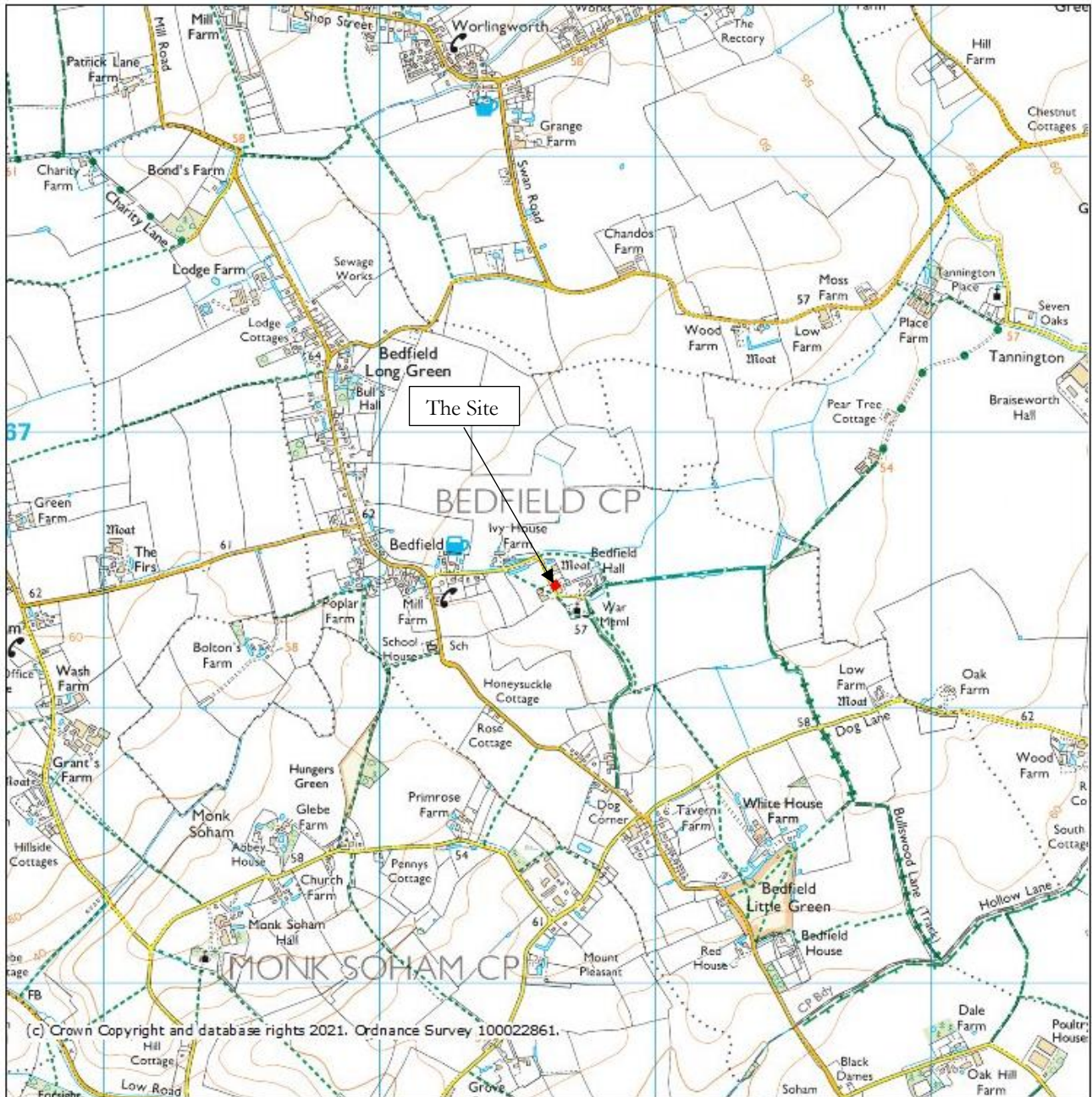


Figure 1. Site location

Relevant Legislation

- 1.6 Protected species, as referred to within this report, are taken to be those protected under UK Legislation (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Protection of Badgers Act 1992); and those of principle importance in England as listed in Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).
- 1.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 places responsibility on Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity in and around developments. Section 40 of the NERC Act requires every public body to “have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”. Biodiversity, as covered by the Section 40 duty, is not confined to habitats and species of principal importance but refers to all species and habitats. However, the expectation is that public bodies would refer to the Section 41 list (of species and habitats) through compliance with the Section 40 duty.
- 1.8 Appendix V details legislation which protects species and groups relevant to the site (bats, reptiles, birds, and badgers).

2. Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1 Data obtained from the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) were used to conduct a standard data search¹ for any information regarding statutory and non-statutory sites and records of protected and priority species within a 2km radius of the Site. The data were received on the 13th of October 2021.
- 2.2 A 7km radius search for European Designated Sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsars was undertaken using MAGIC (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/>).

Field Survey

- 2.3 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was carried out by Alister Killingsworth BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM (Natural England Great Crested Newt Class Survey Licence WML-CL08; Natural England Bat Class Survey Licence WML-CL17) on the 12th of October 2021 in accordance with standard best practice methodology for Phase 1 Habitat Surveys set out by the JNCC (JNCC 2010). Weather conditions during the survey were 90% cloud cover, a moderate breeze (Beaufort Scale 3), and a temperature of 14°C, with moderate to good visibility. The Site was traversed slowly by the surveyor, mapping habitats and making notes on dominant flora and fauna. The survey was extended to identify the presence of invasive species and included an assessment of the potential for the habitats in and around the site to support protected species.

Survey Limitations

- 2.4 The survey was conducted outside the optimal period for botanical surveys; however, given the habitat types on Site, this was not considered to be a significant constraint to the survey.

¹ The standard data search identifies designated sites including:- Ramsar; Special Areas of Conservation; Special Protection Areas; Sites of Special Scientific Interest; National Nature Reserves; Local Nature Reserves; County Wildlife Sites; Regionally Important Geological Sites; Ancient Woodland; and protected and priority species identified by the:- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedules 1, 5 & 8; Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 Schedules 2 & 5; Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Bonn Convention Appendix 1 & 2; Bern Convention Annex 1 & 2; Birds Directive Annex 1; Habitats Directive Annex 2, 4 & 5; NERC Act 2006 Section 41; UKBAP (both local and national); IUCN Red List species; Red & Amber Bird List; Nationally Scarce / Rare; Locally Scarce / Rare; and Veteran trees.

3. Results

3.1 The following section details the results of the desk study and field survey. Consideration has been given to species likely to be found in the habitats recorded on site and potential impacts to designated sites within the local area.

Data Search (for maps see Appendix II)

3.2 The following section details the results of the desk study and field survey. Consideration has been given to species likely to be found in the habitats recorded on site and potential impacts to designated sites within the local area. Several protected species have been ‘scoped out’ of the report, as the Site was not considered suitable to support them. Species scoped out were dormice, water voles, and otters.

Data Search

3.3 There are no statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site.

3.4 There are two County Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site. These are:

- RNR 146 – a Roadside Nature Reserve with boulder clay flora.
- RNR 188 – a Roadside Nature Reserve with sulphur clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*).

3.5 There are no European Conservation Sites (Ramsar, SAC, or SPA) within 7km of the Site.

3.6 The data search showed records of protected species in the area, which could potentially occur on the Site. These are detailed within the relevant sections below.

Field Survey Results

- 3.7 The Site consisted of an area of managed grassland, occasionally used for vehicle storage, within an active farmyard. There were no buildings or trees within the red line boundary and habitats within the proposed construction zone were limited to grassland and hardstanding.
- 3.8 Hardstanding areas within the Site boundary were concrete and connected the buildings to Church Road (tarmac), which ran to the west of the Site. This had very minimal vegetation regrowth and where present this was restricted to cracks or joins within the concrete.
- 3.9 The grassland was regularly managed and had a consistent sward height across its extent (<10cm), with a very small strip near to the buildings that was unmanaged – this area was dominated by stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), and other common ruderal species. Although the grassland contained tussock forming species, such as the false oat grass and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), the management regime meant that no tussock structure had formed / developed. Forbs were common across the grassland; however, these were dominated by a few common species, such as silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), and bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*). At the eastern boundary of the grassland, separating it from a gravel track and concrete hardstanding, was a small area of ephemeral vegetation. This area of disturbed ground supported a mixture of grassland forbs, ruderal species, knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), and arable weeds – likely from nearby arable fields.
- 3.10 Running the length of the western boundary, and extending beyond, was a dry ditch. Although dry at the time of survey, the presence of hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and sedge (*Carex sp.*) tussocks indicated that this held water seasonally or retained a level of dampness.



- 3.11 The above photo shows the habitat (grassland) to be lost for the construction of the building – proposed to be 8m x 6m. The white markers indicate the proposed location of the building.
- 3.12 A map showing the habitat types on Site can be seen in Appendix II.

4. Protected and Priority Species Within the Site

Flora

- 4.1 The desk study highlighted several species of rare plant have been previously recorded within 2km of the Site, such as dwarf spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), and sulphur clover, which are listed as 'Vulnerable' on the England Red List, and bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), which is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 (as amended)).
- 4.2 No uncommon, rare, or protected plant species were recorded during the survey.

Badgers

- 4.3 The Site was visually searched for evidence of the presence of badgers (*Meles meles*), including setts, footprints, latrines, and snuffle marks. Habitats within and adjacent to the Site are suitable for foraging badgers; however, no signs were found to suggest badgers use habitats within the Site boundary.
- 4.4 There were no records of badgers returned within the data search.

Bats

- 4.5 There were no buildings within the Site boundary and none of the surrounding buildings will be impacted by the proposed works.
- 4.6 The early-mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) adjacent to the large farm building was observed from ground level and no obvious roost features were noted. All pruning wounds or knot holes were sealed.
- 4.7 The field boundary hedgerows and trees in the local landscape offer an ideal commuting and foraging route for bats.
- 4.8 The data search returned records of serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) bats within 2km of the Site. This included likely breeding colonies of serotine, pipistrelle, and brown long-eared bats.

Birds

- 4.9 Habitats within the Site were unsuitable for nesting bird species. There were no buildings, trees, or hedgerows within the Site boundary.
- 4.10 The grassland was likely too frequently managed and disturbed to provide suitable nesting habitat for ground nesting birds, such as skylark (*Alauda arvensis*). This grassland could be used by low numbers of foraging birds.
- 4.11 The desk study contained records of species that could use the habitats on the Site. These have been detailed in Appendix IV, along with their relevant level of protection, and most recent records within 2km.

Great Crested Newts

- 4.12 Habitats recorded throughout the Site offered limited habitat for amphibians, including great crested newts (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*), during their terrestrial phase. The grassland offered

- potential commuting opportunities; however, it lacked structure or features suitable for good quality foraging habitat or sheltering animals.
- 4.13 A small rubble pile on the hardstanding appeared recently created, and given vehicle and material movement on the farm, was unlikely to be a permanent feature that could be exploited by amphibians.
- 4.14 There were several potential breeding ponds highlighted within the local area (500m proximity of the Site, see Appendix II) during the desk study. Two of these were adjacent to the Site and so were assessed for their potential to support breeding GCN. One was dry and so could not be assessed and the other was found to have 'Poor' suitability for breeding newts; a full description and HSI results table can be found in the Appendix.
- 4.15 The Site was surrounded by farmland, farmyards, and residential gardens which could provide sub-optimal commuting routes for amphibians using these ponds or other waterbodies within the local area (such as ditches).
- 4.16 The data search contained seven records of great crested newts within 2km of the Site, all of which were over 1km from the Site. This included records of eggs and adults within ponds in the surrounding landscape.

Hedgehogs

- 4.17 The areas of managed grassland and dry ditch provided potential foraging habitat and surrounding farmland and garden areas, hedgerows, and field boundaries in the immediate surrounding habitat providing potential commuting corridors and further foraging habitat.
- 4.18 There were very limited stored materials around within or adjacent to the Site, limiting sheltering and hibernating opportunities. A lack of deciduous trees near to the Site also reduced nest building material.
- 4.19 Although no evidence of hedgehogs was recorded during the survey, the data search returned nine records of hedgehog within 2km of the Site from 2014 to 2018. These records were predominantly from the villages of Bedfield and Worlingworth.

Reptiles

- 4.20 As with amphibians, the grassland within the Site provided commuting habitat for reptiles but lacked structure for foraging or sheltering animals. The ponds throughout the surrounding landscape provided suitable foraging habitat for grass snakes (*Natrix helvetica*) – which have been recorded in the local landscape. The grassland, arable margins, ditches, and hedgerows in the surrounding habitat provided commuting corridors for reptiles and the Site was also connected to other areas of suitable habitat (via hedgerows, residential gardens, and field boundaries).
- 4.21 No other reptile records were returned in the data search.

Invertebrates

- 4.22 Habitats within the Site, the managed grassland, were not considered suitable for supporting assemblages of common and rare/protected terrestrial invertebrates. No terrestrial invertebrates were recorded during the survey. The ditch appeared to dry yearly and contained grassland species (very few aquatic / damp ground species), so was no suitable for supporting aquatic invertebrates, such as great silver water beetles (*Hydrophilus piceus*), which have been recorded in the local area.

- 4.23 The data search returned four records of small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and wall (*Lasiommata megera*) butterflies, both species of principal importance in England.

Other Protected Species

- 4.24 Although the surrounding grassland and arable habitat are suitable for brown hare during different seasons of the year, there were no records returned in the data search.
- 4.25 The sedge tussocks within the dry ditch were found to support small mammals (droppings found), such as bank voles or harvest mice. No nests were found to indicate harvest mouse presence and no records were returned in the data search.

5. Potential Impacts and Recommendations

Statutory Designated Areas

- 5.1 There were no statutory designated sites within 2km of the proposed development, and the construction zone did not fall within any Impact Risk Zones for SSSIs.

Flora and Habitats

- 5.2 The proposed development includes the construction of a small building (to be used as a dog grooming studio) and associated infrastructure (footpath from existing hardstanding). This will result in the loss of a very small area of semi-improved grassland. Whilst the lost habitat is not listed within the Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as being of principle important to the conservation of biodiversity within the UK, it (and the immediate adjacent areas) does provide opportunities for a range of protected species (discussed below), primarily due to its proximity to ponds and more valuable habitats in the surrounding area.
- 5.3 The species highlighted within the data search are found on arable fields, woodland, or within unimproved meadows. The Site does not contain these habitats and predominantly comprised buildings and was therefore unsuitable for supporting these rare species.
- 5.4 **Further botanical survey is not considered necessary.**

Protected Species

Badgers

- 5.5 Habitat suitable for badger foraging was identified surrounding the Site; however, no badger signs were observed during this survey and there were no records of badger returned in the data search.
- 5.6 **No further survey is necessary; however, as the Site provides suitable foraging habitat for mammals, and brown hare and hedgehogs have been recorded in the local area, construction works should have implemented several precautionary measures, including the following:**
- Covering excavations overnight to prevent animals falling in, or the provision of an escape ramp;
 - Safe storage of materials that may harm animals; and
 - Security lighting to be set on short timers to avoid disturbing nocturnal animals using the Site and immediate surrounding area.

Bats

- 5.7 There were no buildings or trees within the Site boundary and the grassland offered sub-optimal foraging habitats. Higher quality habitat, such as ponds, mature trees, and hedgerows, will not be impacted by the proposals.
- 5.8 **No further survey is necessary.**

Birds

- 5.9 A number of species with the potential to nest or forage within, or near to, the Site boundary were highlighted within the desk study (see Appendix V). These included BoCC red listed, SPI and Local

Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species. Low numbers of common species within agricultural land – corvid and woodpigeon / doves were seen and heard over adjacent habitats during the survey.

- 5.10 **The grassland should be maintained at a short sward height (<5cm) to prevent structure developing for nesting birds. Should the vegetation grow and develop structure, then clearance should be carried out outside the breeding bird season (which runs from March to September) or following a nesting bird survey by a suitably experienced ecologist – to prevent infringing legislation which protects all nesting birds.**

Great Crested Newts

- 5.11 The habitats within, and directly adjacent to, the Site provide limited habitat for amphibians during terrestrial phases (with several potential breeding ponds in the local landscape – several within 100m of the Site boundary) and there were records of great crested newts returned in the data search.
- 5.12 The entire site area equates to roughly 0.03ha; however, less than 0.01ha of grassland will be lost as part of the development and a large area of the land within the red line boundary is hardstanding. The extent of grassland and plantation woodland is approximately 0.2ha. Natural England provide guidance within the Method Statement template, in the form of a Rapid Risk Assessment Tool. This takes the form of a Microsoft Excel document with drop-down options for the likely effects to great crested newts within the vicinity of ponds supporting great crested newts. The Excel spreadsheet is provided below, with the effects of the proposed development included.
- 5.13 In summarising the table below, the ponds potentially supporting great crested newts (also found to be dry or of ‘Poor’ suitability for breeding GCN) will not be impacted and only habitat to support a small building (~50m²) and a small footpath (~10m²) will be affected. **On the basis that the Reasonable Avoidance Measures are undertaken, no individual great crested newts will be impacted.** As such, Natural England’s Rapid Risk Assessment Tool provides a ‘Green’ result, suggesting an offence is unlikely, and therefore a mitigation licence would not be required.

Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	0.001 - 0.01 ha lost or damaged	0.05
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:	0.05
Rapid risk assessment result:	GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY	

Hedgehogs

- 5.14 Further survey is not considered necessary; however, as there are nearby records of this species, and the Site is suitable, any potential nesting habitat (discarded building materials, log piles, dense vegetation) should have been removed outside the hibernation period (which is November to March) or under supervision of an ecologist. In addition, the construction should follow recommendations set out in paragraph 5.6, to minimise the risk of harm to foraging hedgehogs.

Reptiles

- 5.15 The construction of the building will include the permanent loss of a small area of suitable reptile habitat – commuting opportunities – and there were two records of grass snakes within 2km of the Site. Therefore, **although no further survey is required (due to habitat types being lost and overall size) and although the risk to reptiles is considered minimal; it is recommended that any vegetation, or wood/building material piles removal is undertaken with an ecologist in attendance – to safely move any animals that may be using these habitats. Furthermore, any potential hibernacula should have been dismantled by hand with an ecologist in attendance. Habitat destruction is likely to be completed under mitigation methods for great crested newts.**

Invertebrates

- 5.16 The Site contained minimal habitat for small assemblages of common invertebrates and was not considered suitable for supporting the rare/protected species highlighted within the desk study.

Other Protected Species

- 5.17 Due to the small areas of suitable habitat for brown hare and the availability of ideal habitat in adjacent areas of land, it was considered that brown hare would not be significantly impacted.
- 5.18 The dry ditch will not be impacted by proposals and so small mammals can continue to use the Site throughout the development.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The preliminary ecological appraisal found the Site contained habitats suitable for supporting several protected species – predominantly great crested newts and reptiles. The following recommendations are made to minimise the risk of harm to individual animals throughout the construction phase:
- **Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for great crested newts and reptiles.**
 - Covering of excavations and/or provision of exit ramps is recommended during works to prevent harm to mammals.
- 6.2 It is unlikely that the proposed construction of a small building would cause a significant long-term impact to the conservation status of protected species in the area.
- 6.3 However, short-term impacts to species populations or individuals would be minimised through the incorporation of the above recommendation prior to, and during construction.
- 6.4 Enhancement features, such as native tree planting, the creation of wildflower areas, composting areas, and log piles, could be incorporated into the final designs and therefore provide additional breeding, foraging, and sheltering opportunities for a range of wildlife.

7. References

Collins, J (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn.). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Cresswell, W.J. Birks, J.D.S, Dean, M., Pacheco, M., Trehella, W.J., Wells, D. & Wray, S. (2012) UK BAP Mammals Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impacts and Mitigation. Eds. The Mammal Society, Southampton.

Froglife (1999) Reptile survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. Froglife Advice Sheet 10. Froglife, Halesworth.

JNCC (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit (revised reprint) JNCC: Peterborough.

Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*). Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155.

Stace, C. (1997). New Flora of the British Isles (2nd Edition). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Web references

http://www.bats.org.uk/data/files/bats_and_lighting_in_the_uk_final_version_version_3_may_09.pdf

<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Appendix I: Site Photos



Concrete hardstanding – to be used as parking



Church Road and ditch



Short grassland and longer ruderal vegetation



Dry, shallow ditch



Small mammal droppings in sedge tussocks



Further areas of short grassland



Pond 1



Geese grazing the grassland and using the pond



Pond 1



Early mature ash with no bat roost potential



Dry pond



Very limited stored materials on hardstanding

Appendix II: Species Lists

Plants

Species

Anthriscus sylvestris
Arrhenatherum elatius
Epilobium hirsutum
Carex sp.
Cirsium arvense
Cirsium vulgare
Convolvulus arvensis
Festuca rubra
Galium aparine
Geranium molle
Geranium pusillum
Hedera helix
Helminthotheca echioides
Heracleum sphondylium
Holcus lanatus
Juncus inflexus
Lamium album
Lapsana communis
Lolium perenne
Plantago lanceolata
Plantago major
Polygonum aviculare
Potentilla anserina
Ranunculus repens
Rubus fruticosus agg.
Rumex obtusifolius
Senecio vulgare
Solanum nigrum
Sonchus asper
Taraxacum agg.
Trileurospermum inodorum
Urtica dioica
Veronica persica

Appendix III: Site Pond Descriptions and HSI Results

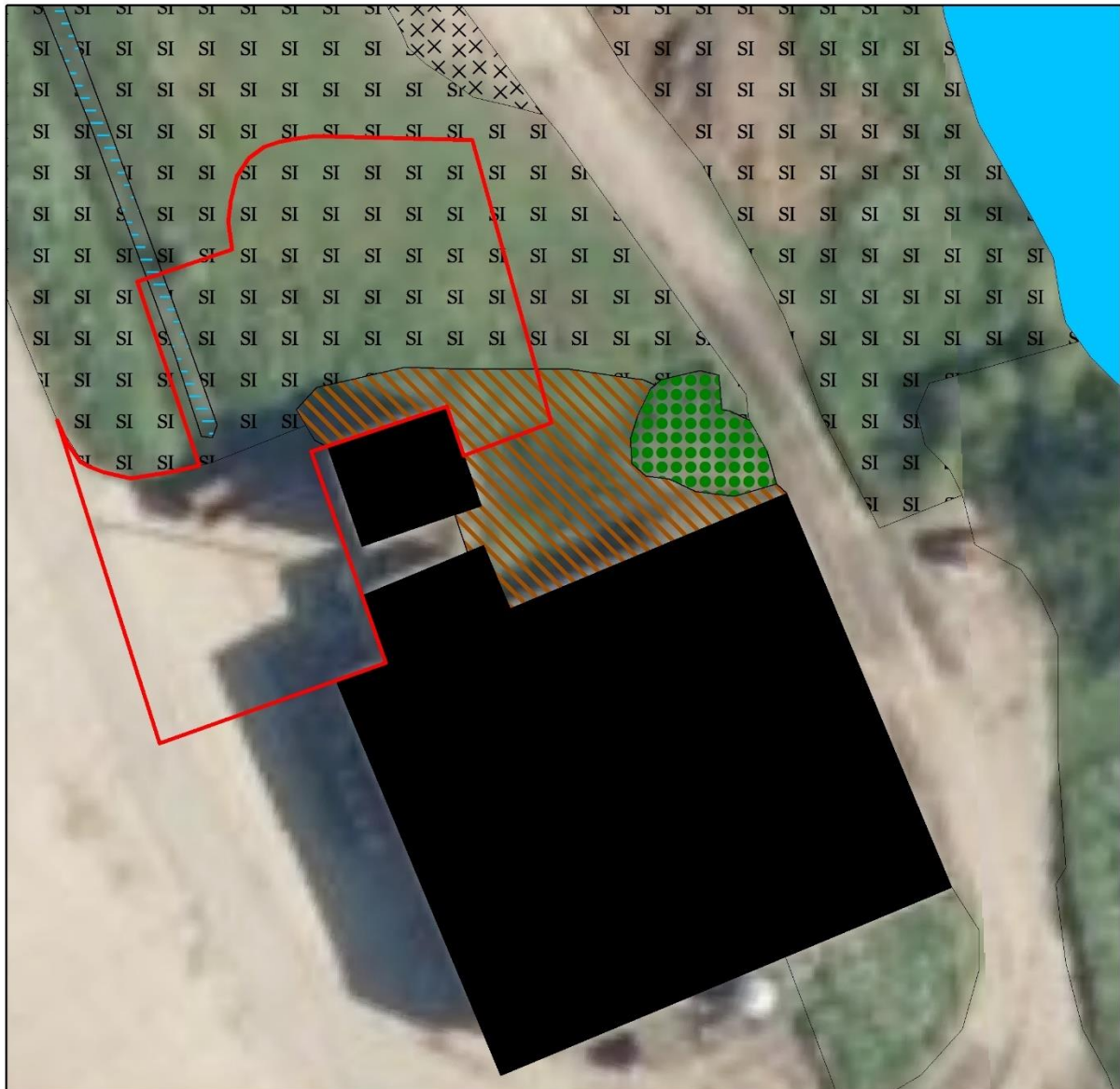
	Pond 1	
	Field Score	SI Value
Location	A	1
Pond area (m ²)	550	1
Pond permanence	Never dries	0.9
Water quality	Poor	0.33
Shade	0-60%	1
Fowl	Major	0.01
Fish	Possible	0.7
Pond density	>12	1
Terrestrial Habitat	Moderate	0.67
Macrophyte cover	<1%	0.3
HSI value	0.4573	
Pond Suitability	Poor	

Pond 1	A large pond surrounded by managed and wildfowl grazed grassland which had some overhanging bramble and ivy. Aquatic macrophytes and marginal vegetation were limited to very small stands of willowherb, woody nightshade, water mint, and gypsywort at the margins, with very little vegetation seen in deeper areas; however, these areas were obscured due to high turbidity from wildfowl.
---------------	---

Appendix IV: Figures

Phase 1 Habitat Map

TM 22641 66446: Hall Church Farm, Church Road, Bedfield, Suffolk



1:300
 0 20 m

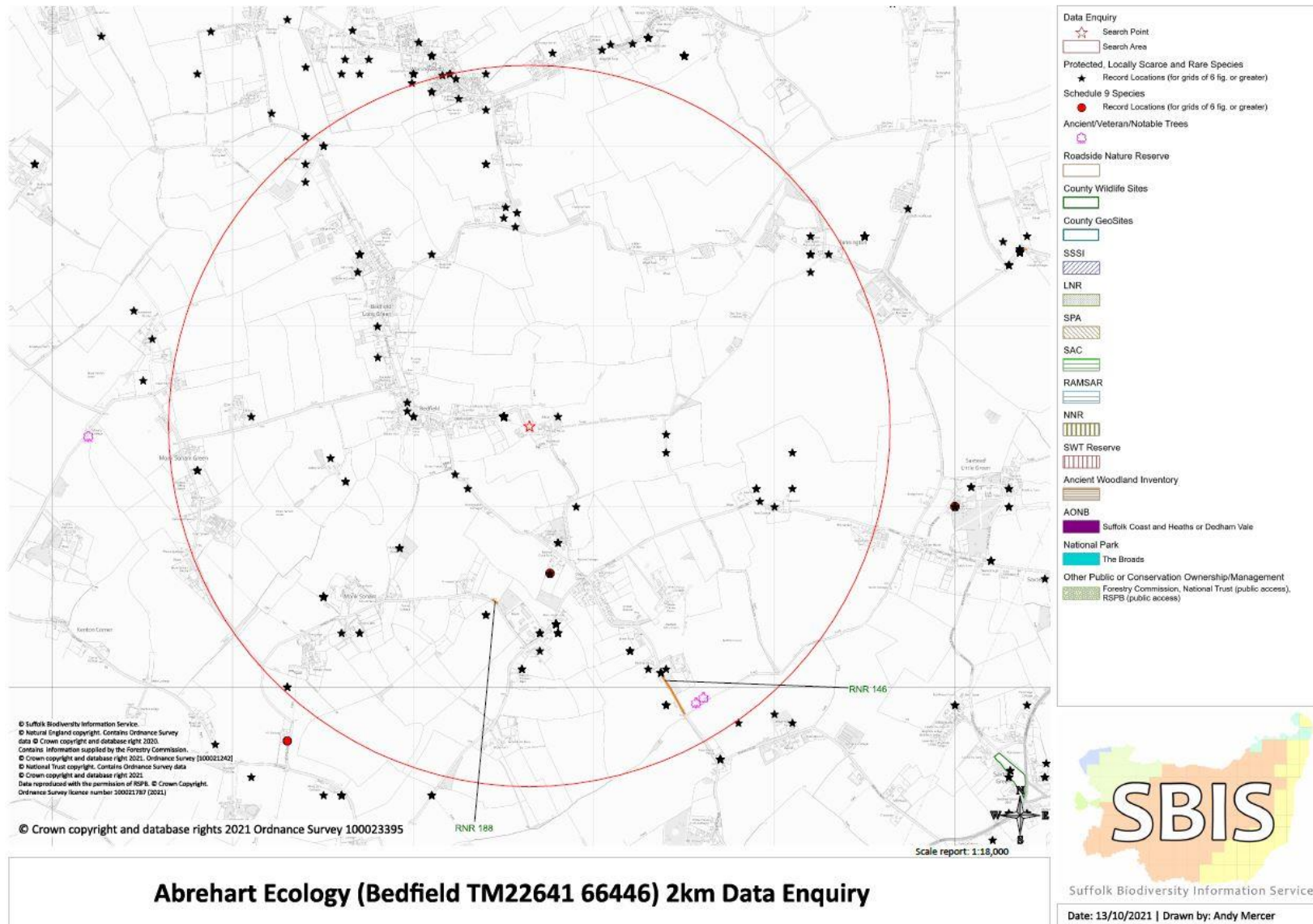
Key

-  Site Boundary
- NVC code**
-  A3.1 Scattered broad-leaved trees
-  B6 Poor semi-improved grassland
-  C3.1 Tall ruderal herb and fen
-  G1 Standing water
-  J1.3 Ephemeral/short perennial
-  J2.6 Dry ditch
-  J3.6 Buildings
-  J5 Hardstanding

Drawing Title: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Date Printed: 13/10/2021
Projection: EPSG: 27700 (British National Grid)

Produced by Abrehart Ecology for Nathan Ashton

Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2km of the Site



Appendix V: Desk Study

WCA Sch. 1, BoCC Red Listed and Priority (BAP) bird species records within 2km of the Site

<i>Species</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Most Recent Record</i>
Turtle Dove	BoCC Red; S41	2011
Cuckoo	BoCC Red; S41	2010
Barn Owl	WCA	2015
Swift	Suffolk Priority Species	2018
Skylark	BoCC Red; S41	2015
Grey Wagtail	BoCC Red	2009
Dunnock	S41	2015
Fieldfare	BoCC Red; WCA	2015
Song Thrush	BoCC Red; S41	2019
Redwing	BoCC Red; WCA	2015
Mistle thrush	BoCC Red	2015
Starling	BoCC Red; S41	2015
House Sparrow	BoCC Red; S41	2019
Linnet	BoCC Red; S41	2015
Brambling	WCA	2011
Bullfinch	S41	2015
Yellowhammer	BoCC Red; S41	2019
Reed Bunting	S41	2015

Appendix VI: Relevant Protected Species Legislation

Species	Legislation	Protection
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended) ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981), Schedule 5 (as amended) ▪ Wild Mammals Act (1996) 	<p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intentionally kill, injure or take any bat ▪ Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat ▪ Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost
Great Crested Newts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended) ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981), Schedule 5 (as amended) 	<p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intentionally kill, injure or take a great crested newt ▪ Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt ▪ Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by a great crested newt for shelter or protection
Widespread Reptiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981), Schedule 5 (as amended) 	<p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intentionally kill or injure a reptile ▪ Sell, offer or expose for sale, have in possession or transport for the purpose of sale any live or dead reptile or any part of, or anything derived from, a reptile
Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (as amended) 	<p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird ▪ Intentionally take, damage or destroy nests in use or being built ▪ Intentionally take, damage or destroy eggs <p>Species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981) are afforded additional protection, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb such species at, on or near an active nest</p>