



# PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Land at The Old  
Herb Garden, Pixey  
Green, Stradbroke  
IP21 5NJ

Final report  
4<sup>t</sup> September 2023

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*QUALITY CONTROL*

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The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

Every reasonable attempt has been made to comply with BS42020 (Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development, the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2012). If compliance has not been achieved, justification/explanation has been given.

## SUMMARY

- A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was carried out of an area of land at The Old Herb Garden Pixey Green, Stradbroke, in August 2023.
- The survey was required in connection with the potential development of the site, the details of which are currently unknown.
- The majority of the habitats present are common and widespread locally, regionally and nationally.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 *Background*

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken of an area of land at Pixey Green, Stradbroke, centered at approximate OS grid reference TM256746. The survey was undertaken on 14th August 2023.

The survey was required in connection with the potential future development of the site.

## 1.2 *Ecological Context*

The site lies at the south-western edge of the village of Fressingfield. The site is bordered to the west by the road known as Fressingfield road.

## 1.3 *Personnel*

The survey was carried out by Andy McCallum of McCallum's Property Surveying. Andy McCallum has over twenty years' experience of carrying out ecological surveys including Phase 1, botanical and protected species surveys.

## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

#### 2.1.1 General

A preliminary ecological appraisal, comprising of a Habitat Survey and protected species assessment, was undertaken following standard methods as described in the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2013) and a Habitat Survey Methodology (JNCC, 2010).

The suitability of habitats for any protected animal species was assessed at the same time as the Habitat Survey and any incidental evidence of such species was recorded if encountered. Species that might be expected to be present in the geographic location include bats, badger *Meles meles*, hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, nesting birds, great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, otter *Lutra lutra*, reptiles and water vole *Arvicola amphibius*.

Weather conditions during the site visit were good; sunny with a light breeze and an air temperature of 24°C.

#### 2.1.2 Badger

None aware off.

#### 2.1.3 Bats

The site was assessed for its suitability for roosting and foraging bats, no evidence was found

#### 2.1.4 Dormouse

Habitat was assessed for its suitability for dormouse based on vegetation structure, connectivity and species composition. A full dormouse survey was not undertaken.

#### 2.1.5 Otter and water vole

Not relevant .

#### 2.1.6 Great crested newt

As assessed within the PEA report no current evidence of any.

#### 2.1.7 Reptiles

Terrestrial habitats on site were assessed for their potential to support common reptile species, based on factors including vegetation structure and composition, and the availability of shelter and foraging resources.

#### 2.1.8 Nesting and wintering birds

Habitats on site were assessed for their suitability for breeding and over-wintering birds, including trees, scrub and grassland.

### 2.1.9 Invertebrates

Habitats present were briefly assessed to identify areas of value to invertebrates according to the extent and quality of the microhabitats present.

### 2.1.10 Other species

General habitat suitability and incidental sightings of other animal species, including UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plan species and invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

## 2.2 *Constraints*

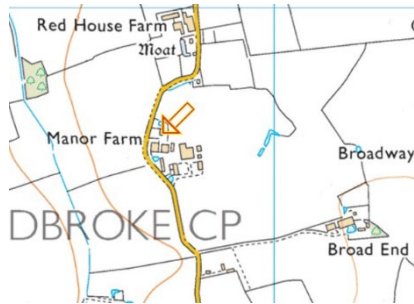
August is a suitable month for a survey, although some early-flowering species may be missed at this time of year. In addition, a single visit to a site at any time of year will only identify a proportion of the species present.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 General

The site occupies approximately half a acre. It comprises a variety of habitats including semi-improved grassland, buildings, hardstanding and scrub vegetation and small areas of dense scrub.

No additional evidence of any protected species was found on the site.





## 4 LEGISLATION

### 4.1 Introduction

This section briefly describes legal protection applying to species mentioned in this report. It does not comprehensively reflect the text of the legislation and it should not be relied upon in place of it. The following items of legislation are relevant:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (in England and Wales);
- Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC in the United Kingdom)
- The Local Government Act 1985;
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990; and
- The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (not itself a Statutory Instrument but referred to in SIs and planning guidance).

### 4.2 Protected Species

#### 4.2.1 Great crested newt, otter, dormouse and all species of British bat

The great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, otter *Lutra lutra*, dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* and all species of British bat (*Vespertilionidae* and *Rhinolophidae*) are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and receive full protection under Section 9. Protection was extended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act). These species are also all listed as European Protected Species on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC in the United Kingdom) which gives them full protection under Regulation 53.

It is also an offence to set and use articles capable of catching, injuring or killing bats, otters, dormice or great crested newts (for example a trap or poison), or knowingly cause or permit such an action.

The great crested newt, otter and seven species of British bat are included as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and as species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

#### 4.2.2 Water vole

Water vole *Arvicola amphibius* is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and receives full protection under Section 9.

#### 4.2.3 Birds

All species of bird are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Protection was extended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

Certain species are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and receive protection under Sections 1(4) and 1(5). The protection was extended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. There are special penalties where offences are committed for any Schedule 1 species.

#### 4.2.4 Common reptiles

Common lizard *Lacerta vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, and adder *Vipera berus* are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), in respect of Section 9(5) and part of Section 9(1). This protection was extended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

These species have recently been listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and as species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

#### 4.2.5 Hedgehog, brown hare and polecat

These species are listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and as species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

#### 4.2.6 Badger

The Badger (*Meles meles*) is protected in Britain under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* and *Schedule 6 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). The legislation protects Badgers and their setts.

The Badger is also protected under *Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) relating specifically to trapping and direct pursuit.

## 5 RELEVANT LITERATURE

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