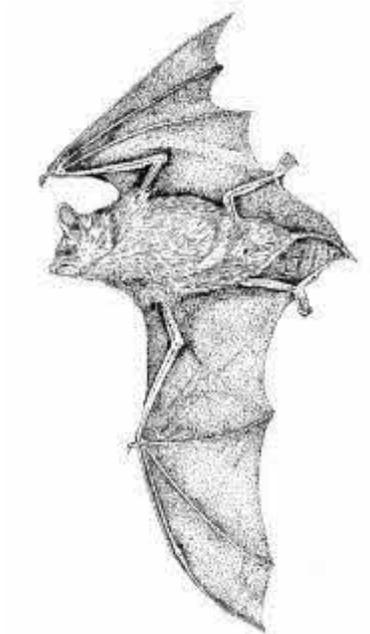


# ANGLIAN ECOLOGY



PROTECTED SPECIES AND HABITAT SURVEYS

## PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL OF:

Land at

1 Green Farm Barns, Buggs Road, Burgate,  
Diss, Suffolk

## REPORT FOR:

Mr. Reece Jones & Agents

## DATE OF FIELD SURVEY:

31/01/2024.

## REPORT WRITTEN BY:

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FM: 20. 02.2024

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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at Land at 1 Green Farm Barns, Buggs Road, Burgate, Diss, Suffolk

Recipients: Reece Jone & Agents

Relevant LPA: Mid Suffolk District Council

Please note:

Records form a vital part of conservation work and potentially inform decisions within the wider area. In line with good practice, all recordings of protected species found during this site survey will be given to the relevant county recording service within one week of report issue, unless specific instructions to the contrary are received within this timeframe from the client.

Ecosystems and wildlife species are constantly changing and moving and can be dependent on surrounding impacts and climate conditions. Therefore, any field survey, no matter how thoroughly undertaken, can only represent a 'snapshot' of conditions at the time of visit.

If in doubt as to wildlife or protected species issues, seek advice from a suitably qualified ecologist, as the legislature will not accept ignorance as defence. All site owners and contractors should make themselves aware of their legal obligations concerning species and habitats.

A précis of the current legislation as it may apply to this site is contained within the Appendix of this report, but whilst every effort has been made to include relevant legislation the information is not fully comprehensive. For full details of legislation regarding protected species and sites clients should visit: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/protected-sites-species> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/> Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment and provides a range of information including regional contact details on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/services-information>

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The information that I have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared in accordance with the guidance of my professional institutes.

I therefore confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.



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The approximate area surveyed is outlined in white on the photograph below.



## SUMMARY

Mr. Reece Jones commissioned Anglian Ecology to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a plot of land known as 1 Green Farm Barns, Buggs Road, Burgate, Diss, Suffolk in relation to a proposed new artist's studio development on this land. Please consult the accompanying submitted plans.

The purpose of the PEA was to determine any potential impacts on protected species and habitats of the proposed works on this plot, and to identify any constraints, opportunities, and requirements for further survey. Enclosed recommendations relate to information provided by the client, or the client's agent, at the time of survey; any subsequent changes may alter recommendations and the proposed mitigation or enhancement measures.

The PEA included a desktop survey, analysis of all species and sites records within a 2 km radius, Phase I<sup>1</sup> field survey of the proposed site area, and an on-site walkover search for signs of protected species and habitats using appropriate guidelines<sup>2</sup>. It was conducted by qualified surveyor Sue Morgan on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, in appropriate seasonal and weather conditions.

The site lies within the SSSI Impact Zone<sup>3</sup> of Burgate Wood SSSI 500 m to the north. There are six County Wildlife Sites<sup>4</sup> within a 2 km radius. The current proposals will not affect any of these protected sites.

From the data search instigated by Suffolk Biological Information Service (SBIS), there are 599 records of protected or notable species within a 2-km radius of the site of which 440 are for birds covering 86 species, 11 of which are Schedule 1<sup>5</sup>. There are also records for flowering plant, moss, hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), badger (*Meles meles*), smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), (GCN), common toad (*Bufo bufo*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*), invertebrates, (butterflies, moths, and true bug), and at least ten species of bat. The nearest specific record is for hedgehog from 48 m to the east dated 2017.

There are seven records of great crested newt within the SBIS search radius, the nearest being from 178 m to the north dated 2004. Great crested newt (GCN) is a European Protected Species and there is a waterbody bordering the site area to the immediate north east. There are a further 16 ponds within a 500 m radius as marked on DEFRA's MAGIC Map.

It is possible that GCN are present within surrounding ponds, and within the small pond to the immediate north east of the site, further surveys for this species should be conducted using eDNA testing methodology in the correct survey window to inform any need for District Level Licensing or further mitigation. Please see below for further recommendations concerning GCN.

The surveyed site consists of a shingled driveway leading south west of Burgate Green to a small rectangular garden area lying on a northwest/south east access beyond a shingled parking/turning area which also serves other properties. The garden area is swarded improved grass land with scattered young trees and is surrounded by hedgerows with trees to the southwest and south east. This garden area adjoins a small wooded area to the northwest. The site has post and wire fencing to the boundaries with predominantly arable land.

There is a wet ditch bordering the site to the southeast and a ditch to the south west boundary which is holding water to the western end. There is a pond adjoining the shingled car parking area to the immediate northeast of the site. In total the site area measured approx. 2016 m<sup>2</sup> inclusive of the buildings which were excluded from the survey.

<sup>1</sup> The Phase One Survey followed the standard Phase I Survey methodology (JNCC, 1993, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines published for individual species surveys by specialist organisations such as The Bat Conservation Trust, The Mammal Society, and Natural England.

<sup>3</sup> SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)

<sup>4</sup> County Wildlife Site is a conservation designation in the United Kingdom, which despite conferring no statutory protection onto a site, does affirm a site's importance and value for wildlife in its county context.

<sup>5</sup> All birds are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) Some birds, known as 'schedule 1 birds', e.g. barn owls, (*Tyto alba*) have extra legal protection.

No evidence of protected species was found from the field survey of the site.

There is suitable habitat for GCN and other amphibians, within the pond adjoining the site to the immediate north west and many last season's nests were observed in the boundary hedgerow and trees. Please see the precis for further survey and mitigation requirements below. Full details of these requirements, together with enhancement recommendations are provided in the relevant sections within.

This PEA does not constitute a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, (not yet required for small sites) however recommendations for enhancement have been made within.

SUMMARY OF FURTHER ACTIONS/SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to all the requirements below, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) must be appointed prior to the commencement of works to deliver a Toolbox Talk to the main contractor with reference to best working practice in an area where protected species may be encountered. This Toolbox Talk must contain species identification photographs. The ECoW should also search any areas of grassland/tall ruderals/ brash to be affected by works, along with the any areas of potential disturbance to hedgerow bottoms or ditches for the potential presence of reptiles, amphibians, or small mammals as a precaution.

Habitat/Species	Action	Enhancement Opportunity
Bats	No tree should be removed without being first subject to a Potential Bat Roost Assessment. Lighting must be kept to the existing low lux levels both before, during and after works. This species must be referred to in the Toolbox Talk.	New landscaping with native pollinating plants would benefit bat species. At least two bat boxes should be installed within the site area for occupation by either Pipistrelle species or brown long eared bat, both recorded within a 2 km radius
Great crested newt/other amphibians (smooth newt, frog, toad).	There are records of great crested newt within the data search results, a pond to the immediate northeast, and at least 16 ponds within 500 m radius. All ponds within 250 m which have ecological continuity to the site must be eDNA tested for the presence/absence of GCN to inform the client further.  Other amphibians recorded within the data search may also be present on the site at times; the ECoW should mention their potential presence in the Toolbox Talk.	Enhancement recommendations for these species will be partially dependent on the results of further survey. In general enhancements would be the creation of log and stone piles on site to act as a refugia, and retention of areas of long grass and tall ruderals.
Reptiles/ small mammals t, hedgehog, brown hare)	Best practice should be observed on site during works. The EcoW should conduct a search of the site area immediately prior to works. This species must be referred to in the Toolbox Talk.	Areas of tall ruderals should be retained.
Birds	The site contains good habitat for breeding birds. On this site enhancement should be directed to increasing invertebrate levels. The site has many mature trees to the borders. No trees should be removed between March – September without first being checked for breeding birds.	Open space areas should be sown with more species-rich grasses and allowed to flower once established. New wildflower planting should be undertaken as part of the landscaping scheme. Tall ruderals with connectivity to the boundaries of the site should be retained.
Invertebrates	The site contains some habitat for these species in the form of tall ruderals, wet ditches, trees, and mature hedgerows. However, there are large areas of improved grassland.	New landscaping must provide invertebrate habitat on existing improved grassland by a mixture of native grass and wildflower species.  Dead wood piles and at least two ‘bug hotels’ should be incorporated into the landscape design.
Hedgerows	There are mature hedgerows with trees bordering the site to all aspects. At present there are no plans to remove any hedgerow.	No new lighting should affect the hedgerows or trees.
Wet ditches	These are outside the ownership of the client.	

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE OF PEA

Anglian Ecology was commissioned by Mr. Reece Jones to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of an area of land known as Land at 1 Green Farm Barns, Buggs Road, Burgate, Diss Suffolk in connection with a proposal for the erection of an artist's studio on this land.

The purpose of the PEA was to assess the potential impact of the development on protected species and habitats within the site area or with ecological continuity to it, and to identify constraints, opportunities, and requirements for further survey prior to planning submission. Where appropriate to the remit of this report and where sufficient information is available, recommendations for minimising impacts using avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement proposals are also given.

A separate Biodiversity Net Gain calculation is not required for small sites currently. Further recommendations for enhancement will be made separately and after the results of all Stage II surveys are known.

### 1.2 PERSONNEL

Sue Morgan is a Chartered Ecologist and Chartered Environmentalist and qualified botanical surveyor, with 22 years' experience of surveying similar sites, structures and protected species habitats.

She works on projects for the Church of England, the National Trust, County and District Councils, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, multi-national engineering consultancies, and private landowners. She is a Natural England licenced Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor and holds Natural England licenses to survey for protected species.

She is a qualified teacher and delivers training courses for adults on ecological surveying, woodland management, and protected species, please visit: [www.anglianecology.co.uk](http://www.anglianecology.co.uk) for more information.

She is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and a past Convener of its East of England Section, and a Chartered member of the Institute of Environmental Management (MIEMA).

#### NATURAL ENGLAND LICENCES:

Natural England Licence Holder for the Surveying of Barn Owls Number CL29/00106.

Natural England Licence holder Class Licence CL18 Registration number: 2015-11320-CLS-CLS for the surveying & handling of bats in all counties of England.

Natural England Survey Class Licence WML-CL08 Registration number 2015-19101-CLS-CLS. (great crested newts).

Natural England Survey Class Licence holder 2016-21569-CLS-CLS (dormice).

Natural England licence Holder for the Surveying and Disturbance of Schedule I birds: Natural England Registration Numbers; 2022-61354-SCI-SCI-1, (stone curlew), 2022-61478-SCI-SCI (woodlark).

#### BIOLOGICAL SURVEYING:

Postgraduate Certificate in Conservation Management University of East Anglia and The Field Studies Council (1999)



## 2.4 SITE CONTEXT

The site lies within the hamlet of Burgate Little Green, approximately 6 km to the south east of Diss. It lies within the jurisdiction of Mid Suffolk District Council.

The site is within Suffolk Landscape Character Area<sup>6</sup> Ancient Plateau Claylands in a section of this landscape character type to the north side of the Gipping valley in an arc on the north-east edge of the central clay plateau northwards and westwards from Creeting St Peter through to Hepworth and Barningham, and then eastward to the western side of Eye in the Dove valley.

It takes the form of a flat or gently rolling arable landscape of clay soils dissected by small river valleys and a remnant field pattern of ancient enclosure, often co-axial, with patches of straight-edged fields associated with the late enclosure of woods and greens.

There are scattered parcels of ancient woodland in this landscape type containing a mix of oak (*Quercus robur*), lime (*Tilia* sp) cherry (*Prunus avium*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betula*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), with hedges of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp) and oak, ash and field maple (*Acer campestre*) as hedgerow trees.

As well as the creation of more recent very open 'prairie' landscapes due to modern arable farming methods, there are also substantial open areas created for WWII airfields. However, there are still networks of smaller lanes with hedgerows. As is found nearby to the site.

It is generally a dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets, and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin, with villages often associated with medieval greens or tyes.

Burgate Little Green, an area of common land lies to the north of the site (and immediately to the east and west of the site entrance) and contains good quality semi-improved grassland (a Priority Habitat).

Burgate Wood is a 29.9-hectare biological Site of Special Scientific Interest is 500 m to the north. This is ancient coppice with standards oak (*Quercus robur*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) woodland. The flora is diverse, including the rare lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), and the uncommon herb paris, (*Paris quadrifolia*) yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), and hairy woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*).

The site is within National Character Area 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands, and the landscape typology<sup>7</sup> is RCA.

Typology R consists of intermediate rolling/undulating areas, below 1000 ft, including descriptive landform classes 'low hills plateau' and 'rolling lowland' - associated mainly with Mesozoic (Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic & Permian) or Tertiary rocks of sedimentary origin and glacial till.

Typology C consists of clayland - heavy, often poorly draining land associated with base-rich, clayey and loamy soils developed on soft (Mesozoic & Tertiary) clay and chalky till. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and, although utilized extensively for cereal growing in Eastern England, this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland in central and western areas where neutral grassland is the characteristic associated habitat.

Typology A consists of a wooded landscape often ancient woods as is found close by here at Burgate Wood 500 m to the north, Stubbings Wood 910 m to the northwest, and Gittin Wood 1.7 km to the north.

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<sup>6</sup> Suffolk Landscape Character Areas, Suffolk County Council and District Councils, Phil Watson Landscape Officer, Suffolk County Council June 2011

<sup>7</sup> Landscape Typology as defined by MAGIC (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside)

## 2.5 SITE DESCRIPTION

All measurements are approximate.

The site measures approximately 2016 m<sup>2</sup> and is comprised of shingled driveway and parking area leading to a rectangular garden which lies on a slightly northwest/southeast axis.

Parking/ access.

Parking is available on site. The site is accessed south west off Buggs Road, via a 3 m wide shingled trackway with common land to the east and west. A low (1.5 m high) mixed native hedgerow to the garden of Stable Cottage, a neighbouring residential property, borders the access trackway to the south; species include beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) with timber picket fencing behind.

At the end of the driveway which runs for approx. 40 m is a five-bar timber access gateway through which the shingled trackway continues, curving around a pond within the gardens of the residential barn complex to the north. To the south the trackway is fringed by improved grassland perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) dominant surrounding the sheds and garaging of Stable Cottage.

Further to the west, a line of mature leylandii (*Cupressus × leylandii*), 22 m long x 10 m high and a small timber log store borders the trackway here. The log store which is to remain unaffected by works has a corrugated metal roof and is open to the north. It measures approx. 2 m x 2 m and has a bird box (empty at the time of inspection) affixed to the east wall. Beyond the log store to the west this south boundary of the access trackway has timber post and rail fencing 1.25 m high with mature trees beyond. At the end of the trackway the shingled area broadens out to form a larger parking area and curves around the pond to the adjacent residential barn property.

The shingled parking area measures approximately 24 m x 21 m at its widest point with a small indent (10 m x 4.5 m) to the entrance of the property. This indent contains a small bed (4 m x 0.5 m) of perennial ornamental grasses (with Mexican orange blossom (*Choisya ternate*) and one *Magnolia* sp surrounded by a 1 m island of improved grassland. There is also a short (4 m) run of ornamental metal fencing and to the south boundary an oil tank on a concrete plinth (2 m x 3 m).

Please see photographs below.

Figure 1: Looking west along the access trackway (left and right).



Figure 2: The trackway as it opens out into a wider parking area to the fore of 1 Green Farm Barns (left and right).



Pond

The pond which is off site within the ownership of the neighbouring property lies to the northeast of the site and measures approximately 210 m<sup>2</sup>. It is roughly oval and fringed by mature trees including alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), and beech. It has a mixture of improved grassland and scrub (predominantly bramble and ivy (*Hedera helix*) banks. The banks are graduated to the north and west with steeper banks to the south and east.

Figure 3 Looking north across the pond from the access track (left) and looking east across the pond from the shingled parking area (right).



The garden area

The proposed artist’s studio will be located to the measures approximately 850 m<sup>2</sup> and is mainly laid to improved grassland with inset planting of nine saplings. Species include perennial rye-grass, annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), rough stalked-meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), common mouse-ear, (*Cerastium fontanum*), and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).

The south garden boundary is made up of a post and rail timber fenceline with a 15 m hedgerow of blackthorn trees and shrubby honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*) with dense bramble and one laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) to the western end. Beyond the fencing to this boundary is a standing wet ditch bordering arable land. There is one beech to this east boundary and a pile of newly cut brush to the grass area to the immediate fore.

Figure 4: Looking west along the south boundary hedgerow (left) and looking back toward the south boundary from the garden area with the pile of newly cut brush on the lawn and the grassland area of proposed works to the fore (right).



The west boundary has a post and rail timber fence line with some honeysuckle colonisation and a hedgerow with trees bordering a wet ditch beyond. Tree species include ash, alder, and blackthorn, many of which are ivy-clad. There is small willow (*Salix* sp) and a Mahonia sp to the immediate fore of this boundary within the grassland.

Figure 5 Looking west (left) and southwest (right) across the west boundary fenceline.



Figure 6 Wet ditch beyond the west boundary fenceline (left) and looking east across the garden along the length of the west boundary (right).



The north boundary of the garden area has timber post and rail fencing behind which is an area of maturing woodland with many ivy clad trees with high bat roosting potential. This area is outside the ownership of the client and was not surveyed. To the fore of this north boundary is a small stand of blackthorn saplings. There is also a small compost heap and log pile to this boundary.

Figure 7 Looking north across the garden to the north boundary fence line (left) and small stand of saplings to the eastern end (right).



East boundary

This boundary consists of a brick wall 2 – 3 m high which runs for approx. 20 m with logs stacks and some ivy colonisation along its length. There is a small timber weatherboarded shed with a sloping flat felt roof standing on a paved area adjacent to this wall measuring approx. 3 m x 2 m. Beyond the wall to the south is the pan tiled residential property and garaging of 1 Green Farm Barn these buildings were not surveyed.

Figure 8 East boundary wall of the site (left), garden shed to the fore and 1 Green Farm Barn property (right).



There is a water butt to the south boundary of the house and a low brick wall borders a patio area (3 m x 6 m) to the west elevation. Bordering this is a raised herbaceous bed (2.5 m x 1.5 m) containing ornamental grasses and common herbs such as a rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) and sage (*Salvia officinalis*). A three-step rise leads to a further paved hard standing area (8 m x 3 m) with ornamental pots and a small willow.

Figure 9 Looking north along the west elevation of the property (left) and looking northeast toward the property from the garden area (right).



## 2.6 GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION

The soil association for the site is: 711r BECCLES 1 with ancillary subgroup and soil series 712 Ragdale: Chalky till. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils, associated with similar clayey soils.

Soilscape (England)

Reference: 18

Name: SLOWLY PERMEABLE SEASONALLY WET SLIGHTLY ACID BUT BASE-RICH LOAMY AND CLAYEY SOILS

Main Surface Texture Class: LOAMY

Natural Drainage Type: IMPEDED DRAINAGE

Natural Fertility: MODERATE

Characteristic Semi-natural Habitats: LOWLAND SEASONALLY WET PASTURES AND WOODLANDS

Main Land Cover: GRASSLAND AND ARABLE SOME WOODLAND

## 2.7 HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION

The total hardness in groundwater in the Chalk on this site is 400 and the Chloride ion concentration is 25 -50 mg/l.

The average rainfall is 600 millimetres.

Aquifer Designation Map (Bedrock) (England)

Typology: Principal

Aquifer Designation Map (Superficial Drift) (England)

Typology: Secondary (undifferentiated)

### 3 LEGISLATION

This PEA has been undertaken with reference to relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy. Relevant legislation considered within the scope of this document includes the following:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
  - The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.
- The Hedgerow Regulations (1997).
- The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)
- The Environment Act (2021)

Please note: In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is mandatory from February 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). Developers (with some exceptions) must deliver a BNG of 10%. BNG for small sites will come into force on the 2nd April 2024.

Small sites are defined as:

Residential development of between 1-9 dwellings on 1 hectare or less

If number of residential dwellings is unknown it's a site area of less than 0.5 ha

For commercial developments it's for sites less than 1 ha or the floor space is less than 1000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Matches the definitions in the town and country planning order.

The exemptions of BNG altogether are impacts of less than 25 m<sup>2</sup> of area habitat OR less than 5 m of linear habitat. Also self-build applications of no more than 9 houses and less than 0.5 ha will be exempt. Permitted development etc will also be exempt. For more information on this please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-exempt-developments>

In addition to obligations under wildlife legislation, a new version of the National Planning Policy Framework was published on 20 July 2021<sup>8</sup>, this sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Chapter 2 'Achieving sustainable development', members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection<sup>9</sup>

The environmental objective is to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy. Chapter 15: 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' sets out how requires planning decisions must contribute to conserving and enhancing the local environment.

The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework', published in July 2012, succeeded the UK BAP. The framework particularly set out the priorities for UK-level work to support the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS), launched in May 2011. Many of the outputs originally developed under the UK BAP remain valid and of use. Background information on UK Priority Habitats (HAPs) and species (BAPs) still inform biodiversity work at country level and are a point of reference for targeted conservation efforts.

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<sup>8</sup> (soon to be updated: please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>)

<sup>9</sup> Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Please also see: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/joint-local-plan>. This Local Plan sets out how the area should be developed and contains policies which the Council will use when making decisions on planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans, once made, also form part of the development plan.

## 4 METHODS

This report is written with reference to:

The British Standard BS 42020:2013, Biodiversity a Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI<sup>10</sup> 2013).

As a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) and of the Institute of Environmental Management the author of this report followed the institutes Codes of Professional Conduct and Technical Guidelines, including CIEEM's Sources of Survey Methods, whilst conducting the field survey and compiling the accompanying written report of findings.

Species and habitats were assessed following guidance found within CIEEM's Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal the United Kingdom (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2017).

Plant species nomenclature follows that of Stace<sup>11</sup> (2019).

A BNG Condition Assessment for this site (should this be required) would require a separate survey and documentation in line with BS 8683:2021: Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification (August 2021) and current Natural England and CIEEM Biodiversity Net Gain report and audit calculation templates.

### 4.1 DESKTOP SURVEY

The desktop survey searched for and analysed previous surveys, records of protected species and sites within a 2-km radius using DEFRA's MAGIC MAP, information supplied by the client, and information supplied from a 2 km search radius by Suffolk Biological Information Service. An assessment of their relevance in relation to the impact of proposed development in the site area follows below.

### 4.2 PHASE ONE SURVEY

The Phase I Survey of the proposed site area for signs of protected species or their potential habitat followed the standard Phase I survey methodology (JNCC<sup>12</sup>, revised 2016). A Biodiversity Net Gain calculation (if required) would require a further UK Habs methodology assessment but is unlikely to be required for this site due to its size and the scale of development.

### 4.3 RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment was undertaken prior to the field survey. There were no risks other than those usually encountered when surveying out of doors. Parking is available on site. No buildings were entered.

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<sup>10</sup> British Standards Institute

<sup>11</sup> Stace: C. New Flora of the British Isles, C & M Floristics, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed, 2019.

<sup>12</sup> Joint Nature Conservation Council

## 5 SURVEY RESULTS

### 5.1 DESKTOP SURVEY

#### 5.1.1 HISTORY

As far as the author of this report is aware there have been no previous surveys on this site.

#### 5.1.2 PROTECTED SPECIES AND SITES, DATA SEARCH DETAILS

Suffolk Biological Information Service (SBIS) conducted a standard data search for all records of protected species and sites within a 2-km radius.

Ownership of the data used in this report remains with the original recorder and SBIS. The data search was instigated on 25/01/2023, all data use restrictions apply.

All protected sites, Priority Habitats, and areas of local or regional conservation importance within a 2 km radius have been assessed within the Geographic Frame of Reference<sup>13</sup> which is comprised of seven levels:

- International;
- UK;
- National (i.e. England/Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales);
- Regional/ County (or Metropolitan - e.g. in London);
- District/ (or Unitary Authority, City, or Borough);
- Local or Parish;
- within zone of influence only (which might be the project site or a larger area).

No sites of International, national, regional, county, or district importance will be affected by the proposed development of the site area.

All details of sites and Priority Habitats within a 2 km radius of the site are detailed below. Results of the MAGIC Map search and the SBIS protected species and sites map for a 2 km radius are included in the appendix.

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<sup>13</sup> Geographic Frame of Reference, Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK, CIEEM, 2006

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### 5.1.2.1. PROTECTED OR NOTABLE SITES

#### 1. SSSI Sites and SSSI Impact Zones

The site lies within the SSSI Impact Zones of: Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC 5 km to the northwest, Burgate Wood SSSI 500 m to the north, Gypsy Camp Meadows Thrandeston lies 4.5 km to the northeast, Buggs Hole Fenn Thelnetham SSSI and Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fens SSSI both lie just over 6 km to the northwest, Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI lies 4.5 km to the southwest, Redgrave and Lopham Fen SSSI lies 3.2 km to the northwest, Wortham Ling SSSI lies 4.1 km to the north, and Major Farm Braiseworth SSSI lies 5.1 km to the southeast.

The proposals will not affect these protected sites.

#### 2. Ramsars, AONB's SAC's, and SPA's and other sites with statutory protection

Other than the above, there are no sites with statutory protection within a 2 km radius.

#### 3. Priority Habitat Inventory

The following Priority Habitats are within 2 km of the site, in each case the nearest example is given.

1. Good quality semi-improved grassland 55 m to the north (also to north east and south east).
2. Lowland dry acid grassland 1.3 km to the northeast.
3. Deciduous woodland 500 m to the southeast, with other examples with 2 km.
4. National Forest Inventory (Broadleaved woodland) as above, with other examples of both conifer and broadleaved within a 2 km radius.
5. Traditional Orchards 1.8 km to the southeast
6. Woodpasture and Parkland 1.4 km to the northeast.
7. No main habitat but additional habitat exists: Lowland meadows 83 m to the north.
8. Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland: Burgate Wood 500 m to the north, (with Gittin Wood 1.7 km to the north, Stubbings Wood 910 m to the northwest).
9. Chalk Rivers (drain 548 m to the west).

#### 4. County Wildlife Sites

There are six County Wildlife Site within a 2 km radius of the site.

1. CWS Mid Suffolk 101: Mellis Common 1.8 km to the southeast.
2. CWS Mid Suffolk 135: Gittin Wood 1.7 km to the north
3. CWS Mid Suffolk 139: Jacobites Wood 1.2 km to the northwest.
4. CWS Mis Suffolk 25: Stubbings Wood 910 to the west.
5. CWS Mid Suffolk 35: Burgate Little Green bordering the site to the northeast.
6. CWS Mid Suffolk 36: Burgate Great Green 1.5 km to the north

#### 5. Registered Common Land (England)

Common Name: Little Green (East Suffolk), unique ID: 35457, Common Land Number: CL119, immediately bordering the site to the northeast.

None of the above sites or habitats will be affected by the proposals.

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#### 5.1.2.2 PROTECTED SPECIES RECORDS AND PROTECTED SPECIES SCOPING SURVEY

Although there is potential habitat for some, no species with European Protection status were identified during the field survey.

The SBIS search returned 599 records of protected or notable species within a 2-km radius of the site of which 440 are for birds covering 86 species, 11 of which are Schedule 1. The nearest specific record is for hedgehog from 48 m to the east dated 2017.

These records have been analysed in terms of their relevance to the site area and any possible impact the proposed works may have upon the species and this information is contained with the field survey results in 5.2 below.

The site habitats and those with ecological continuity to it were evaluated for the potential or actual presence of or signs of protected species. All existing protected species data for within a 2 km radius was used to make an evaluation as to the constraints to works and to inform any requirement for further survey, mitigation, compensation, or enhancement.

Where there is negligible likelihood of a protected species being present, such as in the case of marine or freshwater species on a site with no aquatic habitats, then these species have been omitted from consideration. In each case the designation for each species is given in an abbreviated form in brackets after the name. A key to these designation abbreviations is given in the appendix.

Records are only a small indicator of what may or may not be present within an area depending on the knowledge of the recorder and the amount of survey effort undertaken. A species may be present on the site or within a 2 km radius even though there are no records.

On this site, the species listed below were searched for and/ or present within the recorded data for a 2 km radius.

No records of protected species pertained directly to the development site. In many cases records are to grid square accuracy only and it is impossible to discern their precise location.

#### Special note

‘Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence’ a field survey is only a reflection of a short visit and data records are not comprehensive.

## 1. Birds

The search returned 440 are for birds covering 86 species, 11 of which are Schedule 1. The nearest record (grid reference only) is for turtle dove (Streptopelia turtur), (BD2.2, BRed, CITESA, ScotBL, Sect.41, UKBAP), from 140 m to the northwest dated 2020. The site lies also within Priority Species for CS Targeting<sup>14</sup> for this species.

The site has good habitat for breeding birds, with hedgerows to all boundaries and a small, wooded area adjoining the site to the northwest. If the proposals necessitate the removal of any trees these trees should be replaced with new standards of either the same species or other native fruit bearing trees.

Any removal or works to a tree or hedgerow should avoid the breeding bird season which runs from March- September inclusive. If this timing cannot be adhered to then the tree or hedge section must be checked for breeding birds by the ECoW prior to any works. If breeding birds or evidence of new nesting is found, then works must wait until after the young have fledged.

## 2. Bat species

There are 15 records for bats within a 2-km radius covering ten species. No records pertain to the site area. The nearest records are for Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), from 1.5 km to the northeast dated 2009.

Other species recorded within the 2 km search radius are common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) (CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*) (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, RLGB.VU, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) (Bern2, CMS\_A2, CMS\_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, RLGB.Lr(NT), WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a).

All bats are protected under UK and European legislation under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2017 (as amended), and all subsequent Brexit legislation.

The site contains excellent habitat for foraging, commuting, and roosting bat species. No tree should be removed without first being subject to a Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) to inform the need for further surveys if required.

The site should remain as dark as possible to the margins to ensure bat species in the area are not disturbed. A site enhancement would be the planting of more native wildflower and grass species to encourage invertebrates.

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<sup>14</sup> CS Targeting: Countryside Stewardship target species.

### 3. Hedgehog

(Bern Convention: Appendix 3, Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species: Priority Species, Biodiversity Lists - England: England NERC S.41, Red listing based on 2001 IUCN guidelines (from 2018): Vulnerable)

There are ten records for hedgehog within a 2 km radius of the site, the nearest being from 48 m to the east dated 2017.. The site contains an abundance of suitable habitat for this species, very little of which will be lost as part of the proposals. Hedgehogs are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside act (as amended) and is listed as a Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The welfare of this species must be taken into consideration before works, please see requirements regarding small mammals. This species should be mentioned by the ECoW in the Toolbox Talk.

### 4. Brown hare

(Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species: Priority Species, Biodiversity Lists - England: England NERC S.41, EBAP, Red listing based on 2001 IUCN guidelines (from 2018): Not Evaluated). Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

There are also four records for brown hare within a 2 km radius, the nearest being from 1.8 km to the east dated 2015. The site does not contain optimum habitat for this species, but there is ecological continuity into the site from the surrounding fields which increases the likelihood of at least occasional species presence. The welfare of this species must be taken into consideration before works; excavations and plant movement must not pose a threat to any individuals, in particular leverets, the ECoW must search all areas of long vegetation prior to works and the likelihood of species presence must be addressed by the Toolbox Talk. No suitable habitat will be lost.

### 6. Amphibians

The four widespread species of amphibian, the smooth and palmate newts, the common frog and common toad, are protected only by Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This section prohibits sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or to buy. Collection and keeping of these widespread amphibian species is an offence.

The UK's populations of the great crested newt are internationally important. They're under threat from habitat loss and intensification of farming practices. The Great Crested Newt is a European protected species and is afforded protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (As amended), and all subsequent Brexit legislation. It is an absolute offence to kill, injure or capture a great crested newt, disturb a great crested newt in its place of shelter or breeding, obstruct, damage or destroy the places where great crested newts live, or possess, control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead great crested newt or any part of a great crested newt without a licence to do so.

There are seven records of great crested newts (Bern2, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a), the nearest being from 178 m to the north dated 2004. Great crested newt (GCN) is a European Protected Species and there is a waterbody bordering the site area to the immediate north east. There are a further 16 ponds within a 500 m radius as marked on DEFRA's MAGIC Map.

It is possible that GCN are present within surrounding ponds, and within the small pond to the immediate north east of the site, further surveys for this species should be conducted using eDNA testing methodology in the correct survey window to inform any need for District Level Licensing or further mitigation.

There are seven records for Common Frog (Bern3, HSD5, WCA5/9.5a), the nearest being from 365 m to the north east dated 2004. There are three records for common toad (Bern3, ScotBL, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.5a), the nearest being from 1.3 km to the north east dated 2004. There are five records for smooth newt (Bern3, WCA5/9.5a), the nearest being from 170 m to the northeast dated 2004.

All these species need to be taken into consideration with any areas of disturbance being hand-searched for their possible presence by hand by an ECoW prior to works. These species should be mentioned by the ECoW in the Toolbox Talk. Please also see recommendations as to best working practice below.

## 7. Invertebrates

There are 54 records of invertebrates covering true bug (Hemiptera), butterfly, and moth species. The nearest being for white-letter – hairstreak (*Satyrion w-album*), (RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.5a), butterfly 840 m to the northeast dated 2017. The site provides some habitat for invertebrates within the grassland, hedgerows, and trees, some of the grassland will be lost as part of the proposals and should be compensated for by the planting of a wildflower area as part of the landscaping proposals.

## 8. Flowering plants

There are 50 records of flowering plant, the nearest being for wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) (RENG.Lr(NT)), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) (RENG.VU, ScotBL), tubular dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*) (fRENG.VU, RLGB.VU, ScotBL, Sect.41, UKBAP) and bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) (CITESB), all from 330 m to the north west dated 2017.

No flowering plants of note were identified on site during the field survey. An enhancement for this site would be the planting of areas of native wildflowers as part of a proposed landscaping scheme.

## 9. Moss

There are two records for moss species within a 2 km radius, the nearest being for *Tortula schimperii* (*Tortula schimperii*), (NR-excludes), from 1.5 km to the north dated 2013. No moss species of note were observed on site.

## 10. Evidence of other species

There was no evidence of other species observed on site.

11. Schedule 9 species<sup>15</sup>

There are 12 records of Schedule 9 species within the search radius covering five species: Red kite (*Milvus milvus*), Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*). The nearest record is for Egyptian goose from 330 m to the northwest dated from 2008

5.2 FIELD SURVEY

5.2.1 TIMING AND WEATHER

The site was surveyed on Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, during daylight hours.

5.2.2 SURVEY CONDITIONS

Temp / and Relative Humidity (average)	Wind direction	Wind speed	Cloud cover	Visibility
6 C / 74 %	SW	13 mph gusts	90%	Good

5.2.3 PHASE 1 SCOPING SURVEY

The proposed development site was examined for any signs of a protected species or their potential habitat. None was found. The wider surveyed site was also examined for protected species and habitats and again none were found. Please note off-site but ecologically important features are also recorded below.

The habitats have been classified using the JNCC Phase I system with appropriate coding in brackets. Please see the Appendix for Phase I Habitats Map, Target Notes, and sections above for further details. The habitats consist of the following.

1. Improved grassland (B4) (BNG Modified grassland)

This habitat is the largest habitat on site and occupies the whole of the development footprint. It is dominated by perennial ryegrass with some rough stalked meadow-grass, and other low common forbes.

2. Intact species -rich hedgerow and trees (J2.3.1)

This habitat is found off site beyond the boundary fencelines to the south, north, and east, commonly re-occurring species include blackthorn, hawthorn, alder. Many of these trees have high bat roosting potential and several of last season's birds' nests were observed.

3. Line of trees – Leylandii (A3)

There is a line of tall Leylandii to the south boundary of the access track into the site.

<sup>15</sup> Schedule 9 species are those listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9 lists non-native species that are already established in the wild, which continue to pose a conservation threat to native biodiversity and habitats, so that further releases should be regulated. It lists plants that may not be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. It applies throughout England, Wales and Scotland. The species are all alien (non-native) species that have the potential to spread rapidly to the detriment of the native species.

#### 4. Wet ditch (G.1)

This habitat is found to the south and east boundaries of the site.

#### 5. Fence (J2.4)

Post and rail fenceline can be found to all boundaries.

#### 6. Wall (J2.5)

There is a high (2 m +) brick wall to the east boundary of the garden area.

#### 7. Scrub (A.2.1)

Bramble and honeysuckle scrub is found to the south and east boundaries. Ivy is found to the off-site trees bordering the site. There is a large area of newly cut scrub brush to the south east corner of the garden area.

#### 8. Hardstanding (J 4)

There are small areas of patio- hardstanding to the west of the property and the access trackway and car parking/turning areas to the fore of the property are shingled.

#### 9. Arable (J1)

Herbaceous beds are found amidst the shingled entrance area to the south of the house, and to the hardstanding patio area to the west elevation of the house bordering the improved grassland area.

#### 10. Ponds

There is an off -site pond to the immediate northeast of the site with a further 16 ponds marked on DEFRA's MAGIC Map within a 500 m radius of the site. The pond to the immediate northeast, together with all other ponds with ecological continuity to the area of works within a 250 m radius of the site, should be surveyed for the presence of great crested newts. NB. The nearest pond is not within the ownership of the client.

#### 11. Woodland (A1.)

This habitat is found off -site bordering the north garden boundary., species include pedunculate oak, ash, blackthorn, and hawthorn. Many of these trees have high bat roosting potential and several last season's birds' nests were observed.

#### 12. Scattered trees (A3.1)

This habitat is found to the central garden area and consists of approx. nine saplings, a young willow, a stand of young blackthorn and one semi- mature hawthorn.

#### 13. Outbuildings (J6)

These comprise a small wooden garden shed adjacent to the west boundary wall and the garaging to the immediate south west of the property. These buildings will be unaffected by works and were not surveyed.

## 6 EVALUATION

An evaluation of the site's ecological features regarding species and habitats following the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM September 2018, Version 1.2 - Updated April 2022) and using the recommended geographic frame of reference is presented in Table 2 below.

### 6.1 EVALUATION OF ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF THE SITE

Level of Ecological Value of habitats on site or within a 2 km radius	Description and discussion	Level of impact
<p><b>International</b></p> <p>Features of international value are sites with international protection or designations, e.g. sites designated under the 2010 Habitats Directive, these include Ramsars, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation</p>	<p>There are no sites international importance within a 2-km radius.</p> <p>It is possible that species (such as bats and birds) with European and UK protection are present within the site area, but they are unlikely to be in a sufficient assemblage, or rarity value to be of international importance.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>National</b></p> <p>Features of national value are sites with statutory protection e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or sites designated as being of national importance for nature conservation either for their habitat or the species assemblage present, or possibly present, such as National Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>There is one SSSI within a 2 km radius: Burgate Wood, 500 m to the north. The site lies within the SSSI Impact Zones of: Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC 5 km to the northwest, Burgate Wood SSSI 500 m to the north, Gypsy Camp Meadows Thrandeston lies 4.5 km to the northeast, Buggs Hole Fenn Thelnetham SSSI and Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fens SSSI both lie just over 6 km to the northwest, Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI lies 4.5 km to the southwest, Redgrave and Lopham Fen SSSI lies 3.2 km to the northwest, Wortham Ling SSSI lies 4.1 km to the north, and Major Farm Braiseworth SSSI lies 5.1 km to the southeast. The proposals will not impact on these sites.</p> <p>It is possible that species (such as great crested newts) with European and UK protection are present within the site area, but they are unlikely to be of sufficient assemblage, or rarity value to be of national importance. Please see further comments below regarding this species.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>

<p>County/District</p> <p>Local authorities and The Wildlife Trusts have designated sites that are recognised as of importance at regional/county, district/borough levels. A variety of names are used to identify these sites, e.g. County Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Roadside Nature Reserves, Local Sites</p>	<p>The following Priority Habitats are within 2 km of the site, in each case the nearest example is given.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Good quality semi-improved grassland 55 m to the north (also to north east and south east).</li> <li>2. Lowland dry acid grassland 1.3 km to the northeast.</li> <li>3. Deciduous woodland 500 m to the southeast, with other examples with 2 km.</li> <li>4. National Forest Inventory (Broadleaved woodland) as above, with other examples of both conifer and broadleaved within a 2 km radius.</li> <li>5. Traditional Orchards 1.8 km to the southeast</li> <li>6. Woodpasture and Parkland 1.4 km to the northeast.</li> <li>7. No main habitat but additional habitat exists: Lowland meadows 83 m to the north.</li> <li>8. Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland: Burgate Wood 500 m to the north, (with Gittin Wood 1.7 km to the north, Stubbings Wood 910 m to the northwest).</li> <li>9. Chalk Rivers (drain 548 m to the west).</li> </ol> <p>None of the above sites will be directly affected by the proposed development.</p> <p>There are six County Wildlife Site within a 2 km radius of the site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CWS Mid Suffolk 101: Mellis Common 1.8 km to the southeast.</li> <li>2. CWS Mid Suffolk 135: Gittin Wood 1.7 km to the north</li> <li>3. CWS Mid Suffolk 139: Jacobites Wood 1.2 km to the northwest.</li> <li>4. CWS Mis Suffolk 25: Stubbings Wood 910 to the west.</li> <li>5. CWS Mid Suffolk 35: Burgate Little Green bordering the site to the northeast.</li> <li>6. CWS Mid Suffolk 36: Burgate Great Green 1.5 km to the north</li> </ol> <p>None of the above sites will be directly affected by the proposed development.</p> <p>Bat species may be utilising the trees bordering the site. There is also a plentiful habitat for nesting birds within the hedgerows.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>Low, so long as recommendations are followed. Lux levels must remain low across the site.</p>
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	<p>There are records of great crested newts within a 2 km radius of the site and there is a water body on site to the immediate northeast, together with wet ditches to the boundaries and further ponds forming a cluster within 500 m.</p> <p>There are records of other amphibians, hedgehog, brown hare and badger within a 2 km radius. Reptiles are also potentially present as there are areas of scrub and wet ditches to the margins The ECoW should undertake a site search and supervision prior to any works.</p>	<p>Potentially high great crested newts are a protected species and as such any injury or disturbance to this species or its habitat would be an absolute offence.</p> <p>Further surveys for this species are required to inform the client prior to any works.</p> <p>Low. There is a possibility of injury to small mammals such as hedgehog and brown hare, known to be present locally. No suitable habitat for these species will be lost because of these proposals.</p> <p>An ECoW should deliver a Toolbox Talk to the contractor prior to works and outline best working practice.</p>
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<p>Local/Parish</p> <p>Impacts within the immediate local area and surroundings, such as village greens, parks, small wildlife areas, spinneys, verges, local habitat connectivity including steams, brooks, and ditches, as well as local or potential species assemblages or habitats e.g. bat roosts, great crested newt or water vole presence.</p>	<p>On site the area of improved grassland on which the proposed studio is to be situated is of low ecological value with widespread examples of improved grassland across the site and in the locality.</p> <p>However, the construction process (e.g. disturbance to the ground, or heavy plant movement) could impact detrimentally on wildlife inhabiting the wider site. No works should take place until the results of Stage II surveys for great crested newt presence/absence have been undertaken.</p> <p>Irrespective of the results of Stage II surveys the site is likely to harbour many small mammals and potentially amphibians and reptiles.</p>	<p>High- further surveys required.</p> <p>High – an EcoW must be appointed to deliver a Toolbox Talk prior to the start of works and to oversee any removal of long vegetation.</p>
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## 7 ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINT AND REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the client to ensure that they are familiar with all relevant legislation prior to any works.

### 7.1 ON-SITE HABITATS

#### 7.1.1 Areas of Improved/ modified grassland

This is of low ecological value and its loss would not be significant within the International, National, County, or local level. This habitat does not constitute a constraint to development of this site area.

### 7.2 WIDER SITE HABITATS AND POTENTIAL SPECIES PRESENCE

7.2.1 The following habitats are present on or immediately bordering this site: Hedgerows with trees, woodland, tall ruderals, scrub, wet ditches. (special reference to breeding birds, bats), pond.

These are important habitats for breeding birds, GCN, amphibians, small mammals, bat species, and potentially reptiles which are known to be present locally.

At present, the potential presence of great crested newt in these habitats constitutes a constraint to development. These constraints must be mitigated by following the recommendations made based on the results of further surveys and/or by the presence of an Ecological Clerk of Works on site. It is an offence to disturb or injure GCN or destroy their habitat. GCN are fully protected at all times under UK legislation.

It is an offence to disturb/injure breeding birds and their nests during the breeding bird season which runs from March to September, some species of birds listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are protected at all times, Schedule 1 birds have been recorded within 2 km of this site.

Breeding birds will be using the trees and hedgerows for nesting during the season, bat species may be using the surrounding trees for roosting, foraging and/or commuting. None of these habitats is likely to be affected by the proposals. If this situation changes, then further surveys for breeding birds and/or bat species may be required.

Small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles may be present within areas of scrub and tall ruderals. An ECoW must be present to supervise and hand search the clearance of all areas of this potential habitat for the presence of these species prior to their removal by mechanical means.

### 7.3 REQUIREMENTS

An ECoW must be appointed prior to the start of works. Please see ECoW responsibilities below.

No external lighting should be directed towards trees; lighting should be of a low lux level and directed away from any potential bat commuting habitat both during and after works.

Any tree likely to be impacted by plant movement will require root protection in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction which site contractors must follow.

At present there are no plans to remove any trees or hedgerows. Should this situation change, all trees subject to pruning or removal must first have a Potential Bat Roost Assessment carried out to inform the contractors of their legal responsibilities towards a protected species.

The pond to the immediate northeast of the site and all ponds with ecological continuity to the site within at least a 250 m radius must be subject to eDNA testing for the presence/absence of GCN prior to any works to inform the client further.

No hedgerows or trees should be subject to works between March- September inclusive to avoid the breeding bird season. If these timings cannot be adhered to, then any tree or hedgerow work must be preceded by a breeding bird check by the ECoW.

### 7.3.1 Ecological Clerk of Works

Due to the potential presence of protected species on this site an ECoW must be appointed to deliver a Toolbox Talk to the main contractor (who will assume responsibility for cascading the information) immediately before work commences. This talk must outline best working practice on a site where there is the potential for protected species presence. It must also provide information on the protective legislation and the consequences of infringement, and identification photographs of the species most likely to be encountered. The ECoW must outline the following requirements:

The ECoW must agree a Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) and plant storage area with the contractors prior to any works.

All chemicals and plant machinery should be stored in allocated areas away from trees and wildlife corridors and kept to hardstanding areas as demarcated by the ECoW before the start of works.

Direct mortality to many species during the construction phase can be avoided through implementation of best practice, details of which should be followed by all site personnel.

If a protected species is discovered on site, the ECoW must stop work and decide whether further surveys and/or a Natural England licence of derogation is required before works can proceed.

The area of grassland on which the residential unit is to be located, together with any areas of long vegetation scheduled for removal must be hand searched prior to mechanical vegetation removal and cutting operations as they may potentially support reptiles and small mammals.

Due to the potential presence of larger mammals such as badger within the adjoining countryside care should also be taken to ensure that all excavations are back filled or covered over before nightfall on the same day under ECoW supervision.

All piles of spoil must be kept clear of the ground, by removal either to a skip, or by being elevated, to ensure that potential refugia sites are not inadvertently created.

There should be no lighting of bonfires. Any brash on site should be searched by hand before removal/skipping and if hedgehogs or other small mammals are discovered that they should be translocated to a suitable location.

7.4 SUMMARY OF FURTHER ACTIONS/SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to all the requirements below, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) must be appointed prior to the commencement of works to deliver a Toolbox Talk to the main contractor with reference to best working practice in an area where protected species may be encountered. This Toolbox Talk must contain species identification photographs. The ECoW should also search any areas of grassland/tall ruderals/ brash to be affected by works, along with the any areas of potential disturbance to hedgerow bottoms or ditches for the potential presence of reptiles, amphibians, or small mammals as a precaution.

Habitat/Species	Action	Enhancement Opportunity
Bats	No tree should be removed without being first subject to a Potential Bat Roost Assessment. Lighting must be kept to the existing low lux levels both before, during and after works. This species must be referred to in the Toolbox Talk.	New landscaping with native pollinating plants would benefit bat species. At least two bat boxes should be installed within the site area for occupation by either Pipistrelle species or brown long eared bat, both recorded within a 2 km radius
Great crested newt/other amphibians (smooth newt, frog, toad).	There are records of great crested newt within the data search results, a pond to the immediate northeast, and at least 16 ponds within 500 m radius. All ponds within 250 m which have ecological continuity to the site must be eDNA tested for the presence/absence of GCN to inform the client further.  Other amphibians recorded within the data search may also be present on the site at times; the ECoW should mention their potential presence in the Toolbox Talk.	Enhancement recommendations for these species will be partially dependent on the results of further survey. In general enhancements would be the creation of log and stone piles on site to act as a refugia, and retention of areas of long grass and tall ruderals.
Reptiles/ small mammals t, hedgehog, brown hare)	Best practice should be observed on site during works. The EcoW should conduct a search of the site area immediately prior to works. This species must be referred to in the Toolbox Talk.	Areas of tall ruderals should be retained.
Birds	The site contains good habitat for breeding birds. On this site enhancement should be directed to increasing invertebrate levels. The site has many mature trees to the borders. No trees should be removed between March – September without first being checked for breeding birds.	Open space areas should be sown with more species-rich grasses and allowed to flower once established. New wildflower planting should be undertaken as part of the landscaping scheme. Tall ruderals with connectivity to the boundaries of the site should be retained.
Invertebrates	The site contains some habitat for these species in the form of tall ruderals, wet ditches, trees, and mature hedgerows. However, there are large areas of improved grassland.	New landscaping must provide invertebrate habitat on existing improved grassland by a mixture of native grass and wildflower species.  Dead wood piles and at least two ‘bug hotels’ should be incorporated into the landscape design.
Hedgerows	There are mature hedgerows with trees bordering the site to all aspects. At present there are no plans to remove any hedgerow.	No new lighting should affect the hedgerows or trees.
Wet ditches	These are outside the ownership of the client.	

## 8 ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are suggested enhancements for this site. These recommendations are not a substitute for providing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This site qualifies as a 'Small Site' due to its size and the scope of works, BNG for small sites becomes mandatory from April 2024. Should a BNG Site Assessment and Metric calculation be required in the future, this should take the form of a separate report and once the results of all further stage II surveys for GCN are known.

1. The site area is comprised of improved /Modified grassland. The loss of monoculture is of low ecological impact but enhancement for the site would be the creation of a more varied higher-value species rich grassland and wild flower planting within the meadow area.
2. In addition to the above, new landscaping proposals should utilise the opportunity of creating additional log-piles and two 'bug hotels' to provide habitat for invertebrates.
2. Four bat boxes could be installed within the site area suitable for occupation by either Pipistrelle species or brown long eared bat, both recorded within a 2 km radius.
3. The hedgerows surrounding the site contains very good habitat for breeding birds. On this site enhancement should be directed to increasing invertebrate levels by grassland and wildflower planting as above.
4. The loss of any must be compensated for by the planting of at least the equivalent standard trees, preferably native fruit bearing trees. Suggested species are Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), holly, rowan, hawthorn, hazel, and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).

Please see below for a list of other useful links to facilitate some of the above:

1. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion>
2. Bat boxes [http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat\\_boxes.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_boxes.html)
3. <https://www.turfonline.co.uk/blog/wildflowers-for-clay-soils/>
4. <https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/wild-flower-only-mixtures/wild-flowers-for-clay-soils/>
5. <https://www.johnchamberswildflowers.co.uk/wildflower-seeds-mixes/100-wildflower-mixes/john-chambers-pro-clay-soils-100-wildflower-seed-mix>
6. <https://www.naturescape.co.uk/product/n6-clay-soils-meadow-mixture/>
7. <https://www.birdfood.co.uk/wildlife/bees-insects>

## 9 REFERENCES

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- Suffolk Biological Information Service Data Search February 2024.
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- <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

## 10 APPENDICES

Regarding this site and the species likely to be present within it or within habitats linked to it, the following legislation and planning policies may apply. Below represents a summary only, it is the client's responsibility to ensure they are aware of the details of legislation and planning policy regarding this site.

### 10.1 LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

#### 10.1.1 LEGISLATION

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

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1 The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Ministers have made changes to parts of the 2017 Regulations so that they operate effectively. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant.

##### The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 came into force on 30th November 2017. The Regulations consolidate and update the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which have been updated a total of 10 times since they were last consolidated in 2010. As such, the new set of Regulations seeks to improve clarity and accessibility to the legislation. On this site, this legislation may be particularly applicable for bat and bird species.

The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities.

Licenses may be granted for several purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority is satisfied that there are no satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on wild population of the species concerned.

It is a criminal offence, liable to prosecution, which could result in imprisonment or fine, if these regulations are contravened without one of the detailed defences outlined within the regulations.

With reference to this survey: It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, to possess a bat (whether live or dead), disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not.

Please refer to the actual legislation for the precise wording, which can be found at:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/pdfs/ukxi\\_20100490\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/pdfs/ukxi_20100490_en.pdf)

Natural England SNCO full guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposal>

### The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act protects wild birds, from being killed, injured or captured, and in addition, their nests and eggs are protected from being damaged, destroyed, or taken. Certain reptiles and amphibians also receive protection under this act.

Some breeding birds, (such as some of those recorded within the 2-km search radius for the site), receive additional protection through being listed on Schedule 1 of the Act, which also makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb this species whilst it is nest-building, is at or near a nest with eggs or young, or to disturb dependent young.

### The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

Part III, (40): Duty to conserve biodiversity.

Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. Section 41 of The NERC Act lists all species which are habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list covers 56 habitats and 943 species and is based on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) List of Priority Species and Habitats Action Plans (HAPs).

In addition to the above:

The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal (para 98, ODPM circular 06/2005). It is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision'. (para 99, ODPM<sup>16</sup> circular 06/2005).

### Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

This act places a duty on Government Departments to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Schedule 9 of the Act amends SSSI provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, including provisions to change SSSIs and providing increased powers for their protection and management.

Schedule 12 of the Act amends the species provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, strengthening the legal protection for threatened species. The provisions make certain offences 'arrestable', create a new offence of reckless disturbance, confer greater powers to police and wildlife inspectors and enables heavier penalties on conviction of wildlife offences.

### Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

This Act makes it an offense for any person to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

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<sup>16</sup> Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

### The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

In England and Wales (the law is different in Scotland) it is an offence to:

Willfully kill, injure, or take a badger, (or attempt to do so), cruelly treat a badger, dig for a badger, intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a badger sett or obstruct access to it, cause a dog to enter a badger sett, or disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett.

### The Environment Act 2021

Aims to improve air and water quality, protect wildlife, increase recycling and reduce plastic waste. The Act is part of a new legal framework for environmental protection, given the UK no longer comes under EU law post-Brexit. The Act contains provision for a new Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) watchdog and creates a framework for legally binding targets, such as to reduce particulate pollution. It gives people a greater say in the management of local street trees and enshrines in law the idea of biodiversity offsetting and includes the mandating of biodiversity net gain in relation to development.

In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has become mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). Developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This means a development will result in more or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development. BNG for small sites will come into force on the 2nd April 2024.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-biodiversity-net-gain#:~:text=In%20England%2C%20BNG%20is%20becoming,than%20there%20was%20before%20development.>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

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## 10.1.2 PLANNING POLICIES

Much of the pressure on biodiversity is related to development and land use. Consequently, the planning and development process has a fundamental role to play in controlling and relieving this pressure. Failure to address biodiversity issues may cause a planning application to be refused.

This important role for the planning system has been recognised in legislation and the Government's planning guidance. The principle is continued through the draft Regional Planning Guidance for the East of England to 2021 (RPG14) and applied at local level through development plans for Norfolk i.e. the relevant policies in the Mid Suffolk District Plan). Within the Local Government Act 2000 (Part 1, Section 2.1.c), local authorities are given powers to improve the environmental well-being of their area, of which biodiversity is a key element.

Restoration and enhancement may be necessary to rebuild what has been lost as well as maintain what we have at present. It is also important that monitoring post development is undertaken through the land-use planning system. The loss of biodiversity and the subsequent negative environmental impact runs contrary to the aims and objectives of sustainable development. In principle, sustainable development should not lead to a 'net loss' in biodiversity or natural resources.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021 (soon to be updated: please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>)

National Planning Policy Framework was published on 20 July 2021, this sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Chapter 2 'Achieving sustainable development', members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The National Planning Policy Framework must be considered in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Planning policies and decisions must reflect and where appropriate promote relevant EU obligations and statutory requirements. Policy Framework constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

The NPPF covers a wide range of topics including housing, business, economic development, transport and the natural environment. The NPPF introduced the presumption in favour of sustainable development which means that development which is sustainable should be approved without delay. There are three pillars of sustainability (social, economic and environmental) and the Framework contains a number of sections which, taken as a whole, constitute the Government's view of what sustainable development means in practice.

The Natural Choice- securing the value of nature, Natural Environment White Paper (Implementation Update Report October 2014).

In 2011 this White Paper set out how the value of nature could be mainstreamed across our society. It set out 92 specific commitments for action. commitment 90 promised to “develop a set of key indicators...to track progress on the ambitions of this White Paper”. These are now in place and are entitled the England Natural Environment Indicators (ENEIs).

Of relevance to proposed development in communities are commitments 4-7' Local Nature Partnerships', Commitments 8-13 'Nature Improvement Areas', Commitment 14 'Protecting Natural Value Through the Planning System' Commitment 15 'Offsetting the Impact of Development on Biodiversity' Commitments 20-22 'Protecting and improving our woodland and forests' (Commitments and commitments 23-24 'Diverse and living landscapes'.

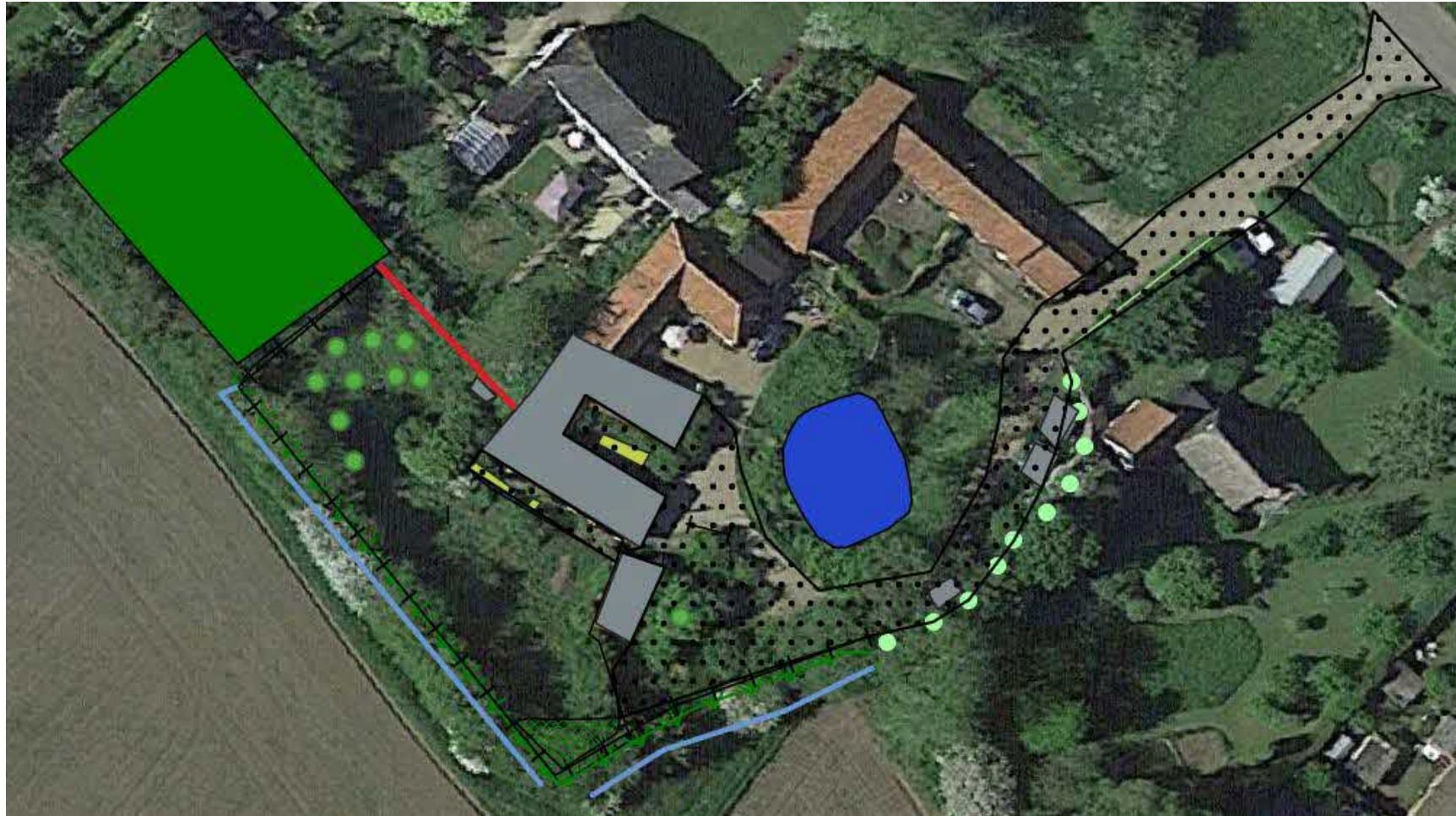
Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-environment-white-paper-implementation-updates>

## 10.2 (A) PHASE 1 SURVEY MAP

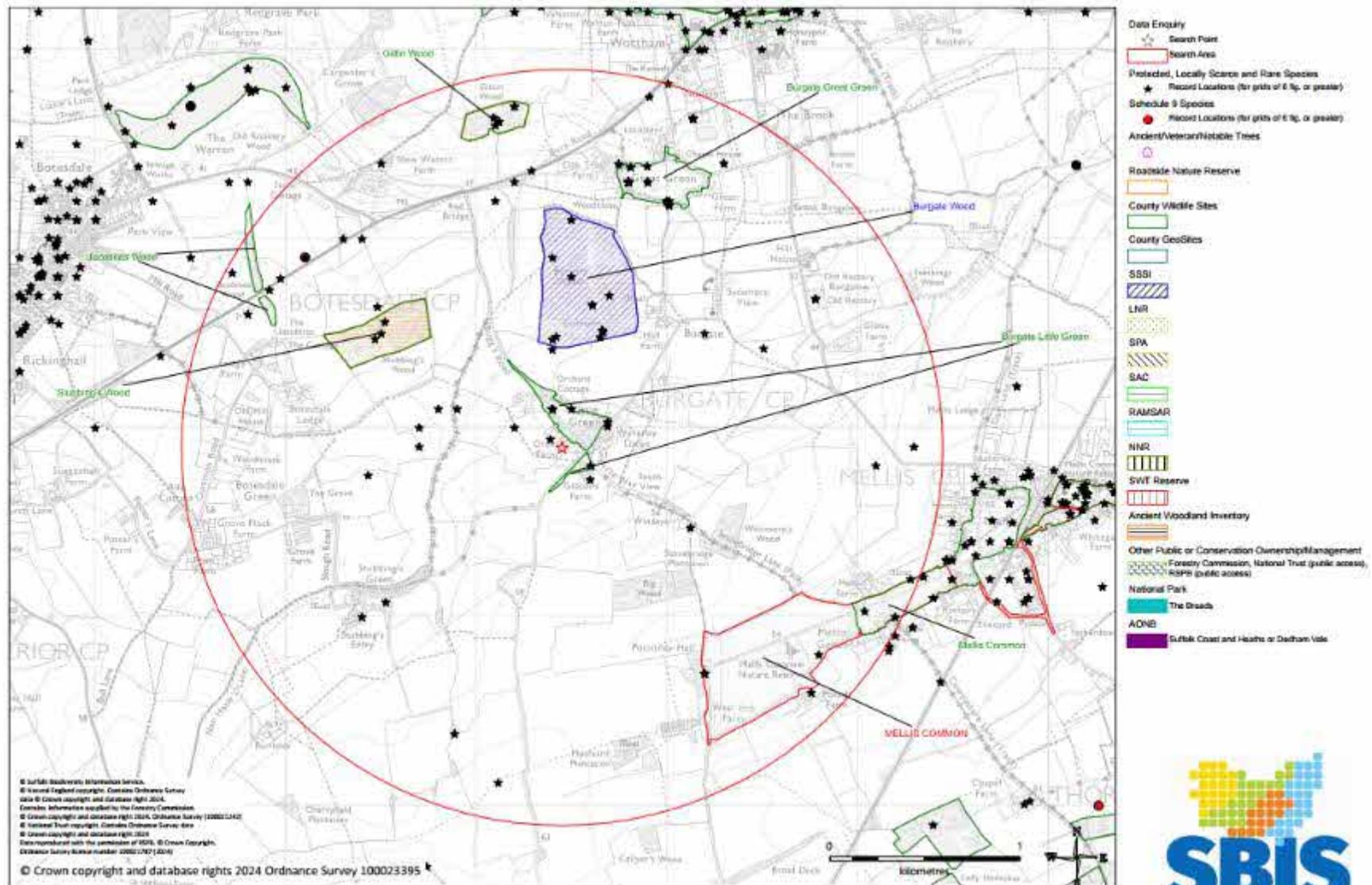
Land at 1 Green Farm Barns, Buggs Road, Burgate, Diss, , Suffolk, IP22. 1QG Survey date: 31/01/20234 NGR: TL 99225 76068. Do not scale from this drawing. To be used in conjunction with architect's plans.



10.2 (B) PHASE I SURVEY MAP (SATELLITE)



### 10.3 SBIS MAP OF PROTECTED SPECIES AND SITES WITHIN 2KM



Anglian Ecology (1 Green Farm Barns, Buggs Road, Burgate Little Green TM07451 74895) 2km Data Enquiry



## 10.4 TARGET NOTES

### TN 1

All areas of tall vegetation/scrub should be hand searched by or in the presence of the ECoW immediately prior to any removal by mechanical means.



### TN 2

#### Ponds/wet ditches

All waterbodies within 250 m with ecological continuity to the site must be surveyed for the presence/absence of GCN to inform the client and to their legal obligations regarding this species prior to works.



MAGiC

1 Green Farm Barns Burgate



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**Legend**

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Calamarian Grassland (England)
Local Nature Reserves (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (England)
National Nature Reserves (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Good quality semi-improved grassland (Non Priority) (England)
National Parks (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Calcareous Grassland (England)
Ramsar Sites (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (England)
Proposed Ramsar Sites (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Meadows (England)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture (England)
SSSI Impact Risk Zones to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Upland Calcareous Grassland (England)
Special Areas of Conservation (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Upland Hay Meadows (England)
Possible Special Areas of Conservation (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Heathland (England)
Special Protection Areas (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Upland Heathland (England)
Potential Special Protection Areas (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Upland Heathland (England)
Biosphere Reserves (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Upland Heathland (England)
Community Forests (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Blanket Bog (England)
National Forest (England)	Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Fen (England)
RSPB Reserves (GB)	

Projection = OSGB36  
 xmin = 601400  
 ymin = 272600  
 xmax = 612600  
 ymax = 277400

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10.6. ALL RECORDS

QGIS generated map showing approximate locations of all protected species records. The surveyed site centre is marked by a red asterisk.

- **Common Toad**
- **Hedgehog**
- *Badger*
- **Bat**
- **Brown Hare**
- **Moss**
- **Invertebrate**
- **Flowering plant**
- **Bird**
- **Smooth Newt**
- ◆ **Great Crested Newt**
- **Common Frog**
- \* **site centre**



## 10.7 DESIGNATIONS KEY

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
International	Bern1	Bern Convention Appendix 1	Special protection ('appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures') for the plant taxa listed, including prohibition of deliberate picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting and, as appropriate, possession or sale.
International	Bern2	Bern Convention Appendix 2	Special protection ('appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures') for the animal taxa listed, including all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing; the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting place
International	Bern3	Bern Convention Appendix 3	Special protection through 'appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures', of the listed wild fauna species.
International	BD1	Birds Directive Annex 1	Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. As appropriate, Special Protection Areas to be established to assist conservation measures.
International	BD2.1	Birds Directive Annex 2.1	Birds which may potentially be hunted under national legislation within the geographical land and sea area to which the Directive applies. (Note that some species are protected by the national legislation of some Member States although hunting would potentially be a separate issue).
International	BD2.2	Birds Directive Annex 2.2	Birds which may potentially be hunted under national legislation only within certain specified Member States. (Note that some species are protected by the national legislation of some Member States although hunting would potentially be legal under the Dir
International	BD3.1	Birds Directive Annex 3.1	Birds (or parts / derivatives of) which may be sold, kept for sale or transported for sale provided they have been legally killed, captured or otherwise legally acquired (see Article 6.1).
International	BD3.2	Birds Directive Annex 3.2	Birds (or parts / derivatives of) which may be sold, kept for sale or transported for sale provided they have been legally killed, captured or otherwise legally acquired provided authorisation has been granted by the relevant Member State (see Article 6.2
International	BD3.3	Birds Directive Annex 3.3	Birds which, in 1979, the European Commission were charged under Article 6.4 with carrying out studies to assess the biological status of and the effects of marketing on such status. (Note this Annex is no longer operative, these studies having now been u
International	CMS_A1	Convention on Migratory Species, Appendix 1	Endangered migratory species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and for which Range States are obliged to prohibit taking and to take protective measures to conserve. (Note that taking may be permitted in some
International	CMS_A2	Convention on Migratory Species, Appendix 2	Migratory species having an unfavourable conservation status for which Range States are encouraged to conclude international agreements for their benefit.

International	CMS_AEWA-A2	Convention on Migratory Species, African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement - Annex II	Conservation of migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status.
International	CMS_ASCOBANS	Convention on Migratory Species, Small Cetaceans Agreement, Baltic, NE.Atlantic, Irish, N Seas	Conservation of small cetacean species to achieve favourable conservation status, conscious that the management of threats to their existence, such as bycatch, habitat deterioration and other anthropogenic disturbance, requires concerted and coordinated r
International	CMS_EUROBATS-A1	Convention on Migratory Species, EUROBATS - Annex I	Protection and enhancement of species populations through legislation, education, conservation measures and international co-operation.
International	CITESA	EC CITES Annex A	All CITES Appendix I species. Some CITES Appendix II and III species, for which the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures. Some non-CITES species.
International	CITESB	EC CITES Annex B	All other CITES Appendix II species not listed in Annex A. Some CITES Appendix III species. Some non-CITES species.
International	CITESC	EC CITES Annex C	All other CITES Appendix III species not listed in Annex A or Annex B.
International	CITESD	EC CITES Annex D	Some CITES Appendix III species for which the EU holds a reservation (CITES reservations - English, French, Spanish). Some non-CITES species.
International	HSD2np	Habitats Directive Annex 2 - priority species	Species which are endangered, the conservation of which the Community has a particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the territory of the Community. They require the designation of special areas of cons
International	HSD2p	Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in
International	HSD4	Habitats Directive Annex 4	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat. Note that the c
International	HSD5	Habitats Directive Annex 5	Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.
International	OSPAR	OSPAR Convention	OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats.
Nat Legislation	PBA	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	An Act to consolidate the Badgers Act 1973, the Badgers Act 1991 and the Badgers (Further Protection) Act 1991. Prohibits the wilful injuring, killing or taking of badgers, except as permitted by or under the Act.
Nat Legislation	Sect.41	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec	Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to c
Nat Legislation	HabRegs2	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2)	Schedule 2- European protected species of animals.
Nat Legislation	HabRegs4	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4)	Schedule 4- Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways

Nat Legislation	HabRegs5	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 5)	Schedule 5- European protected species of plants.
Nat Legislation	ScotBL	Scottish Biodiversity List of species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation	The Scottish Biodiversity List is a list of flora, fauna and habitats considered by the Scottish Ministers to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation. The development of the list has been a collaborative effort involving a great many stakeholders.
Nat Legislation	WO1i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
Nat Legislation	WO1ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 1 Part 2)	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season.
Nat Legislation	WO2i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 2 Part 1)	Birds which may be killed or taken outside the close season.
Nat Legislation	WO2ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 2 Part 2)	Birds which may be killed or taken by authorised persons at all times. This has now been deleted and no longer applies: the provision of this part is covered by General Licences issued annually.
Nat Legislation	WO3	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 3)	Birds which may be sold dead at all times.
Nat Legislation	WO4	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 4)	Birds which may be shown for competitive purposes.
Nat Legislation	WO5	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected at all times.
Nat Legislation	WO6	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 6)	Animals which may not be killed or taken by certain methods.
Nat Legislation	WO7	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 7)	Animals which may be sold alive or dead at any time.
Nat Legislation	WO8i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 8 - Part 1)	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, removal or destruction and from selling (in whole or part) and from advertising for sale.
Nat Legislation	WO8ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 8 - Part 2)	Plants which may not be sold.
Nat Legislation	WO9i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 9 - Part 1)	Animals which established in the wild but may not be released from captivity.
Nat Legislation	WO9ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 9 - Part 2)	Plants which may not be caused to grow in the wild.
Nat Legislation	WCA1i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
Nat Legislation	WCA1ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 2)	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season.

Nat Legislation	WCA2i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 2 Part 1)	Birds which may be killed or taken outside the close season.
Nat Legislation	WCA2ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 2 Part 2)	Birds which may be killed or taken by authorised persons at all times.
Nat Legislation	WCA3i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 1)	Birds which may be sold alive at all times if ringed and bred in captivity.
Nat Legislation	WCA3ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 2)	Birds which may be sold dead at all times.
Nat Legislation	WCA3iii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 3)	Birds which may be sold dead from 1st September to 28th February.
Nat Legislation	WCA4	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 4)	Birds which must be registered and ringed if kept in captivity.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.1(kill/injuring)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring))	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.1(taking)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking))	Section 9.1 Animals which are protected from taking.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.2	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.2)	Section 9.2 Animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4a)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.5b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5b)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4A*	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Ceteaca/basking shark that are not allowed to be intentionally or recklessly disturbed.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4c	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.
Nat Legislation	WCA6	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 6)	Animals which may not be killed or taken by certain methods.
Nat Legislation	WCA8	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) fo

Nat Legislation	WCA9i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 9 Part 1)	Animals which may not be released or allowed to escape into the wild.
Nat Legislation	WCA9ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 9 Part 2)	Plants which may not be planted or caused to grow in the wild.
Nat Legislation	Sect.42	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in Wales (secti	Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to con
New NBIS List	Breck_Special	Breckland Specialists	Species identified as Breckland specialits by the Breckland Biodiversity audit 2010
New NBIS List	NRPI	Norfolk Rare Plants	Norfolk rare plants as identified by BSBI County recorder Bob Ellis
Other rare/scarce	FEP1	Farm Environment Plan Guidance 001	Species is listed in the DEFRA document 'Environmental Stewardship Farm Environment Plan Guidance 001: Hedgerow Woody Species (from Schedule 3 of Hedgerow Regulations 1997)'.
Other rare/scarce	FEP7/2	Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007- Table 2	Species is listed in 'Table 2: Farm Environment Plan Species to be recorded in Part 2 of the FEP' of the DEFRA document 'Environmental Stewardship Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007: Plant & animal species in the Farm Environment Plan (FEP)'.
Other rare/scarce	FEP7/3	Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007- Table 3	Species is listed in 'Table 3: High Value Arable Margin Indicator Species' of the DEFRA document 'Environmental Stewardship Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007: Plant & animal species in the Farm Environment Plan (FEP)'.
Other rare/scarce	NRMar	Nationally rare marine species	Species which occur in eight or fewer 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit.
Other rare/scarce	NSMar	Nationally scarce marine species	Species which occur in nine to 55 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit.
Other rare/scarce	N	Nationally Notable	Species which are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares. (subdivision into Notable A and Notable B is not always possible because there may be insufficient information available). Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no I
Other rare/scarce	NA	Nationally Notable A	Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in 30 or fewer 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less well-recorded groups, within seven or fewer vice-counties. Superseded by
Other rare/scarce	NB	Nationally Notable B	Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less-well recorded groups between eight and twenty vice-counties. Super
Other rare/scarce	NR-excludes	Nationally rare. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.
Other rare/scarce	NS-excludes	Nationally scarce. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.

Red Data List	BAmb	Bird Population Status - amber	Amber list species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeder
Red Data List	BRed	Bird Population Status - red	Red list species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
Red Data List	RLGB.CR	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Red Data List	RLGB.DD	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGB.EN	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
Red Data List	RLGB.EW	IUCN (2001) - Extinct in the wild	A taxon is Extinct in the wild in Great Britain when it is known to survive only in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed extinct in the wild when exhaustive surveys in k
Red Data List	RLGB.EX	IUCN (2001) - Extinct	A taxon is Extinct in Great Britain when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual in Great Britain has died. A taxon is presumed extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual
Red Data List	RLGB.NT	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or V
Red Data List	RLGB.RE	IUCN (2001) - Regionally Extinct	Category for a taxon when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual potentially capable of reproduction within the region has died or has disappeared from the wild in the region, or when, if it is a former visiting taxon, the last individual ha
Red Data List	RLGB.VU	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
Red Data List	RLGB.CR	IUCN (1994) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Red Data List	RLGB.DD	IUCN (1994) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGB.EN	IUCN (1994) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
Red Data List	RLGB.EX	IUCN (1994) - Extinct	Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their localities and other known likely places. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.

Red Data List	RLGBLr(NT)	IUCN (1994) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or V
Red Data List	RLGB.VU	IUCN (1994) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
Red Data List	RDBGB.EN	IUCN (pre 1994) - Endangered	Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RDBGB.EX	IUCN (pre 1994) - Extinct	Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their localities and other known likely places. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RDBGB.Inde	RDB - Indeterm	Taxa not seen since 1970 but require further survey before they can be declared extinct known to be Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare, but where there is not enough information to say which of these categories is appropriate. Superseded by new IUCN c
Red Data List	RDBGB.Insu	RDB - Insuff known	Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories (i.e. Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare), because of the lack of information. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, so no longer in use.
Red Data List	RDBGB.R	IUCN (pre 1994) - Rare	Taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk. (In GB, this was interpreted as species which exist in fifteen or fewer 10km squares). Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists
Red Data List	RDBGB.Thre	RDB - Threatened endemic	Taxa which are not known to occur naturally outside Britain. Taxa within this category may also be in any of the other RDB categories or not threatened at all.
Red Data List	RDBGB.VU	IUCN (pre 1994) - Vulnerable	Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RLGLB.CR	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Critically Endangered (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
Red Data List	RLGLB.EN	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
Red Data List	RLGLB.VU	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
Red Data List	RLGLB.DD	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known

Red Data List	RLGLB.EX	IUCN (2001) - Extinct	A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range h
Red Data List	RLGLB.NT	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	A taxon is Near Threatened when it has been evaluated against the criteria but does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.
Red Data List	RLGLB.CR	IUCN (1994) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Red Data List	RLGLB.DD	IUCN (1994) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGLB.EN	IUCN (1994) - Endangered	Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RLGLB.LR(cd)	IUCN (1994) - Lower risk - conservation dependent	Taxa which are the focus of a continuing taxon-specific or habitat-specific conservation programme targeted towards the taxon in question, the cessation of which would result in the taxon qualifying for one of the threatened categories above within a peri
Red Data List	RLGLB.NT	IUCN (1994) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or V
Red Data List	RLGLB.VU	IUCN (1994) - Vulnerable	Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
UK BAP	UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).

REPORT ENDS