

# Hopkins Ecology

**Site:** Northern Part of the Wellwick Land,  
St Osyth

**Item:** Ecology Assessment

**Client:** City and Country

**Author:** Dr GW Hopkins FRES CEnv MCIEEM  
**Date:** 03 April 2024

Hopkins Ecology Ltd, St George's Works, 51 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1DD



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## SUMMARY

Hopkins Ecology Ltd was appointed by City and Country to prepare an ecology assessment in relation to a proposed extension northwards of the residential scheme at the Wellwick Land. The proposals require the re-location of the existing bank at the northern end of the Wellwick Land, with the removal of areas of grassland currently on the raised ground above the main part of the pit. This assessment only considers these specific changes to the consented scheme.

The northern part of the Wellwick Land has a hedgerow along the western boundary and northern boundary. The areas within the scope of works comprise semi-improved grassland (species-poor):

At the bottom of the pit the sward has rye grass as a frequent component and few herbs.

The sloping bank of the pit has a free-draining sward, but species-poor.

The upper part has a free-draining sward (species-poor) but the northern end has a more nutrient-rich sward with rank grasses.

The two lengths of hedgerow qualify as priority Habitat of Principal Importance but not as Important Hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations. It is specifically considered that the drier, nutrient-poor swards do not constitute acid grassland, based on the absence of indicator species of such acid sward.

Many species are scoped out based on habitat conditions and / or direct survey evidence, including:

Great crested newts, based on distances from ponds within the Priory Estate and the negative e-DNA test results from the pond within the Wellwick Land.

Reptiles, based on the patches of scrub and cover being outside of the works area.

The species scoped in to the present survey area are:

Bats (roosting). A single tree in the northern hedgerow has low roost potential.

Bats (foraging). A small assemblage of foraging individuals is likely to be present.

Nesting birds. Common and widespread species in the hedgerow, scrub and longer sward.

Hedgehogs. Present locally and may forage over the Site and shelter in the denser scrub.

Invertebrates. The sloping bank is likely to be of value to species requiring hot open swards, but the species-poor herb component limits its likely value.

Based on the loss of semi-improved (species-poor) grassland, albeit including areas previously proposed for the archery club, the current proposals are therefore considered to be of minor ecological significance

Given that the areas of denser scrub lie outside of the works area, the recommendation for construction phase mitigation is:

Nesting birds. Vegetation clearance should either be outside of the nesting bird season which runs from March to August inclusive, or otherwise follow an inspection no more than 48 hours prior to works commencing, to confirm nesting birds are absent.

Ecological enhancement as identified previously remain valid.

Impacts on non-statutory sites and statutory sites were assessed previously for the Priory Estate and Wellwick Land schemes. The current proposals do not alter the conclusions of previous assessments.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Hopkins Ecology Ltd was appointed by City and Country to prepare an ecology assessment in relation to a proposed extension northwards of the residential scheme at the Wellwick Land. The proposals require the re-location of the existing bank at the northern end of the Wellwick Land, with the removal of areas of grassland currently on the raised ground above the main part of the pit.
- 1.2 Within the context of the wider Priory Estate scheme<sup>1</sup> this area under consideration was largely allocated to the re-located archery club plus open space. This assessment considers only the changes to the scheme as proposed, with the wider scheme having been tested by EIA.

## SITE CONTEXT

- 1.3 The Site is within the Northern Thames Basin National Character Area<sup>2</sup> (NCA), with land ~0.5km west being within the Greater Thames Estuary NCA<sup>3</sup>. The Northern Thames Basin NCA is characterised as being over London clay and with the characteristic semi-natural habitat locally being the Essex heathlands, while the Greater Thames Estuary is characterised as the coastal fringe of coastal marshes and 'reclaimed' farmland.

## LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

- 1.4 The following key pieces of nature conservation legislation are relevant to legally protected species (with a more detailed description in Appendix 2):
  - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations);
  - and
  - The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended).
- 1.5 Also, the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG, 2023<sup>4</sup>) requires local authorities to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity and, where possible, to provide net gains in biodiversity when making planning decisions. A substantial number of species are of conservation concern in the UK. A small number of these species are fully protected under the legislation listed above, but others in England are recognised as Species of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and reinforced by the National Planning Policy Framework. For these species local planning authorities are required to promote "*protection and recovery*" via planning and development control. Examples include the widespread reptiles, house sparrows and soprano pipistrelle and noctule bats.
- 1.6 Although the NPPF has an overarching aim of minimise impacts to biodiversity, the majority of species of conservation concern are not specifically recognised by legislation or planning

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to a number of applications made in 2011 and supported by an Environmental Statement.

<sup>2</sup> Natural England (2014) *NCA Profile 111: Northern Thames Basin*. Available from: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4721112340496384?category=587130>

<sup>3</sup> Natural England (2014) *NCA Profile 81: Greater Thames Estuary*. Available from: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4531632073605120?category=587130>

<sup>4</sup> MHCLG (2023) *A National Planning Policy Framework for England*. Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.

policy. The level of protection afforded to these is undefined and should be considered within the overall aim of minimising impacts on biodiversity.

## 2. METHODS

### PERSONNEL

- 2.1 This ecological assessment was prepared by Dr Graham Hopkins FRES CEnv MCIEEM, who holds full survey licences for great crested newts and bats. He has over 20 years of consultancy experience. He is familiar with the Site and local area having been the lead ecologist on the Priory Estate scheme and having continued working on the Estate since then.

### DATA SEARCH

- 2.2 The desk study information are taken from the Environmental Statement and supporting material for the Priority Estate scheme of which the scheme on the Wellwick Land<sup>5</sup> was for 190 dwellings.

### WALKOVER SURVEY

- 2.3 The walkover and Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken on 25 May and 27 September 2023. The description of habitats is based on the methods of JNCC (2010)<sup>6</sup> and hedgerows following DEFRA (2007)<sup>7</sup>. Trees were surveyed from ground level for their potential suitability for roosting bats, looking for gaps, cracks and other voids following *Bat Conservation Trust* guidance (Collins, 2016)<sup>8</sup>. Searches were also made for signs of badgers.
- 2.4 An e-DNA test of the pond within the Wellwick Land was undertaken on 25 May 2023 using SureScreen Scientific as the testing laboratory.
- 2.5 Other species groups were scoped according to data search information and professional judgement.

### GUIDANCE

- 2.6 The ecological assessment has been prepared with reference to best practice guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and as detailed in British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Biodiversity and Development.

### CONSTRAINTS

- 2.7 There are no substantial constraints to the survey and assessment as described.

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<sup>5</sup> 11/00333/OUT | Erection of 190 dwellings on 16.3 hectares of land; new junction and access roads; driveways; parking; footpaths; landscaping and all ancillary works; use of land as an archery range; construction of access drive and layout of parking area including siting of storage container for archery equipment. The proposals also include for a new footway to be built along a section of Colchester Road, south of the Wellwick. | The Priory Estate St Osyth Clacton On Sea Essex CO16 8NY

<sup>6</sup> JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Surveys*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

<sup>7</sup> DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook*. DEFRA, London

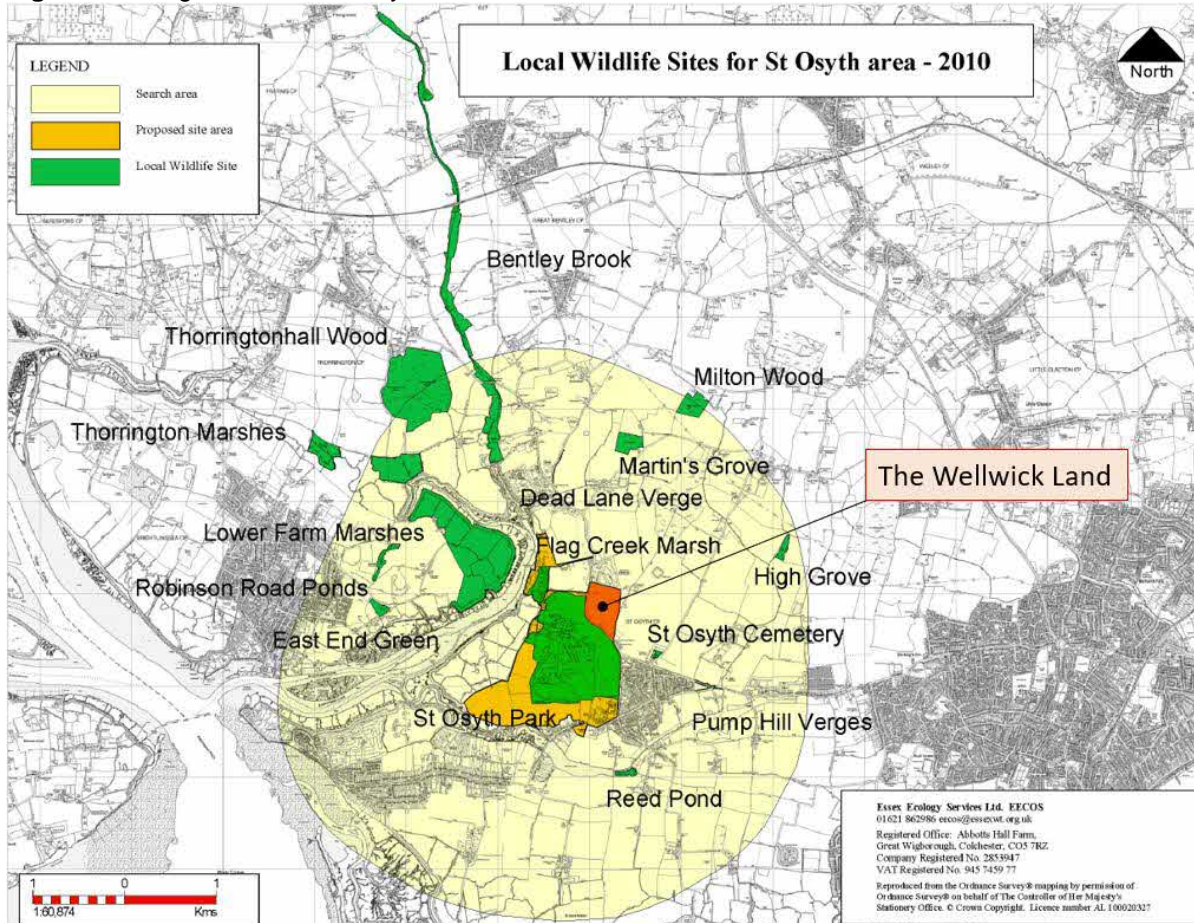
<sup>8</sup> Collins, J. (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

### 3. DESIGNATED SITES

#### OVERVIEW

3.1 The site is east of the main B1027 Colchester Road. Based on the small zone of influence of the current scheme and the previous assessments, designated sites are considered to a distance of 500m (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Designated sites locally.



#### STATUTORY SITES

3.2 Within 500m the statutory sites comprise those associated with the estuary plus a geological SSSI immediately west of the B1027 (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Statutory sites within 2km.

Site	Designated name and designation	Location	Summary of qualifying features
St Osyth Pit	St Osyth Pit SSSI	15m west	Geology
Colne Estuary	Colne Estuary (Mid Essex Phase 2) Ramsar Site	380m west	Various habitats, vegetation / plants, birds and other animals
	Colne Estuary (Mid Essex Phase 2) Special Protected Area		Various wildfowl and wetland birds
	Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation		Seven habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive
	Colne Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest		Habitats, flora, birds and invertebrates



## NON-STATUTORY SITES

3.3 Within 500m the only Local Wildlife Site is the St Osyth Priority Estate (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Local Wildlife Sites nearby (see also Figure 1).

Site name	Location	Summary of qualifying features
St Osyth Priory (Te57)	15m west	Mosaic of marshy and semi-improved neutral and acid grassland, woodland, parkland, scrub and ponds

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE / COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

3.4 The Site is within a B-Line ('bee-line') for pollinating insects, as promoted by Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust<sup>9</sup>.

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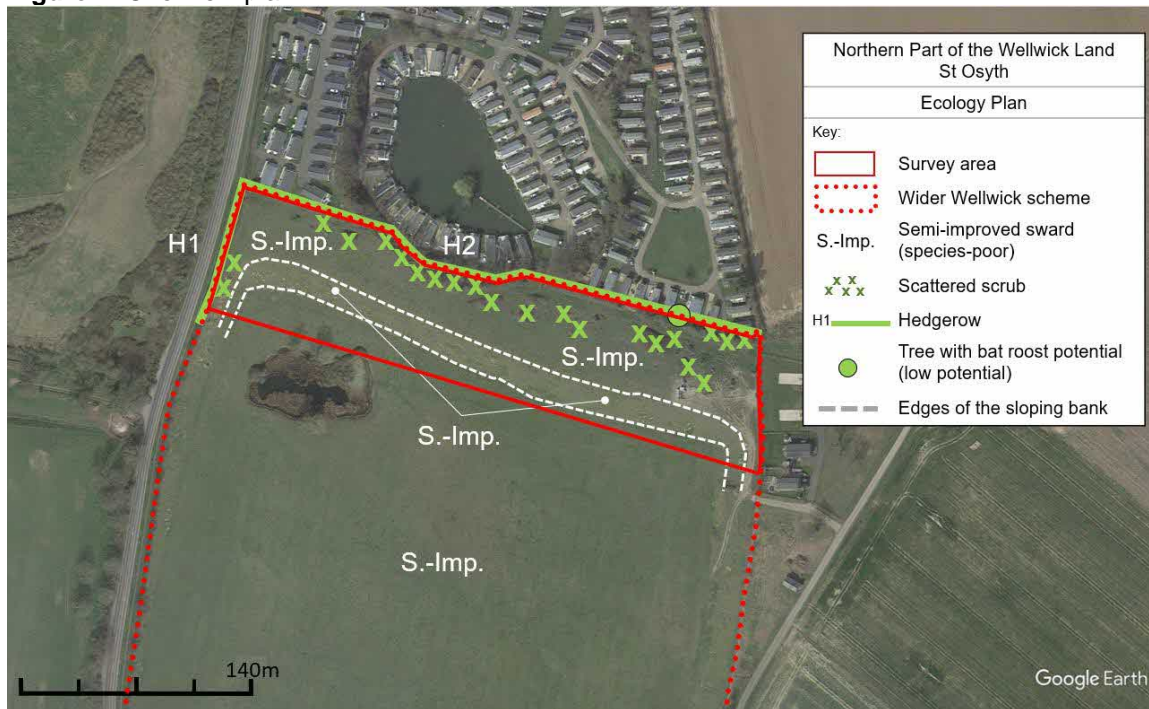
<sup>9</sup> <https://www.buglife.org.uk/b-lines-hub/east-of-england>

## 4. SITE DESCRIPTION

### OVERVIEW

- 4.1 The Wellwick Land comprises a former aggregate extraction pit with a total area of ~15.5ha. The current assessment considers the northern part (Figure 2), where the proposals are to extend the residential development northwards, requiring the northward re-location of the sloping bank and the removal of part of the raised land at the very north, with.
- 4.2 The natural soil type is a slightly acid loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage. The bottom of the pit has a clayey substrate while the slopes are more free-draining and richer in sand or similar mineral material.

Figure 2. Overview plan.



### ON-SITE

- 4.3 The habitats within the survey area are described as follows:

Semi-improved sward (species-poor). The grassland area comprises three distinct areas of semi-improved sward:

- At the bottom of the former workings the sward is classed as semi-improved but retains some character of what was considered to be a sown agricultural sward in 2010, with rye grass *Lolium perenne* as a frequent component but with scattered red fescue *Festuca rubra*, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and also Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. The herb component is species poor with occasional dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* as grassland species and also scattered plants of creeping thistle *Cirsium arvensis* and nettle *Urtica dioica*.
- The upper part of the site has flat terrain, and the sward is free-draining and presumably nutrient-poor at the west, becoming lush and with a sward suggestive of higher nutrient conditions to the east. Thus, at the west the sward

is dominated by common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and red fescue, but also occasional ranker species such as Yorkshire fog, with scattered grassland herbs such as ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, smooth hawksbeard *Crepis capillaris*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and also species with requirements for dry open swards such as hound's-tongue *Cynoglossum officinale*, field wood-rush *Luzula campestris* and bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. On moving eastwards this grades into a more nutrient rich sward roughly midway along the east-west length, such that Yorkshire fog, false oat grass and cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* are frequent species and common bent and red fescue are only occasional components, with other occasional grasses comprising false brome *Bromus sylvaticum*, soft brome *Bromus hordaceus* and also couch *Elymus repens* close to the eastern boundary. The herbs comprise common grassland species including selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, red clover *Trifolium pratensis*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping buttercup, ragwort, ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and germander speedwell. Ruderals are occasional components, comprising broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, nettle and creeping thistle.

- The slopes of the pit have a similar composition to the western end of the upper area, with an open sward over free-draining and nutrient-poor soil.

Hedgerow lengths are present along the west and north boundaries:

- H1 is a gappy roadside hedgerow to ~3m in height and comprises hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with scattered elm probably *Ulmus minor* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.
- H2 separates the site from the holiday park to the north and is 3-5m in height, comprising hawthorn with oak *Quercus robur*, blackthorn, elm, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and also a few gorse *Ulex europaeus* bushes.

Scattered scrub is present as blackthorn and elm suckers adjacent to hedgerow H1, with these <1m in height. The main part of the survey area has scattered bramble encroaching from the hedgerows and also some wider belts, with occasional plants of hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose *Rosa canina*, gorse and saplings of oak and ash.

## 5. SPECIES

### BATS

- 5.1 The parkland of the Priory Estate is likely to support a wide range of bat species based on the presence of veteran trees, traditional buildings and extensive areas of high-quality foraging habitats (SES, 2008<sup>10</sup>). The nearest European Protected Species Mitigation Licence that has been granted is for a site 3.5km west, in Brightlingsea, for common pipistrelle.
- 5.2 Within the Wellwick Land is an underground culvert that is judged as not being suitable for roosting bats, including for hibernation, based on it having an open end, straight length and a smooth concrete lined interior without 'nooks and crannies'.
- 5.3 There is a single tree with low bat roost potential within the northern hedgerow H2. A snag (standing dead tree) covered in sparse ivy *Hedera helix* along the eastern boundary is considered to the lack potential roost features.
- 5.4 The survey area is likely to only support a small assemble of foraging bats based on the species-poor grassland and relatively dry soil not likely to generate an abundance of small flies. The hedgerows are the main feature of relevance to foraging bats.

### GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

- 5.5 Great crested newts are reported from some waterbodies within the Priory Estate (Herpetologic, 2010<sup>11</sup>). None of the identified waterbodies are within 250m, and all are separated from the site by the Colchester Road. The pond within the Wellwick Land was surveyed for great crested newts in 2018 and returned a negative result (Hopkins Ecology, 2018<sup>12</sup>).
- 5.6 The test in 2023 also returned a negative result and great crested newts are concluded to be absent.

### BREEDING BIRDS

- 5.7 A wide range of breeding and wintering birds are known locally.
- 5.8 The survey area here considers mainly relatively short grass swards plus scattered scrub and the hedgerows. Nesting birds are potentially present in all three habitat types.

### REPTILES

- 5.9 Away from the marsh areas, the reptiles reported from the Priory Estate are grass snakes, common lizards and slow worms. The numbers are reported as being low and their distribution is very restricted, and not including the main areas of open grass (Herpetologic, loc. cit.).
- 5.10 The current survey area has open grass swards and isolated scrub which have a low likelihood of reptiles, principally common lizards. The patches of open grass are extremely unlikely to support reptiles outside of spring-autumn and the patches of scrub are generally sparse with the denser patches outside of the areas to be excavated as part of current proposals, i.e., the denser patches are adjacent to the hedgerow and will remain.

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<sup>10</sup> SES (2008) *Bat Survey. St Osyth's Priory*. Unpublished report.

<sup>11</sup> Herpetologic (2010) *Herpetofauna Survey & Assessment. St Osyth Priory, St Osyth. August 2010*. Unpublished report.

<sup>12</sup> Hopkins Ecology (2018) Wellwick Land, *St Osyth. Discharge of Conditions 17 and 24 of 11/00333/OUT*. Unpublished report.

## **BADGERS**

- 5.11 Badgers are known from the Priority Estate, and they were not previously reported from the Wellwick Land (Liz Lake, 2010<sup>13</sup>). There was no evidence of badgers within the survey area and it is concluded that they are absent.

## **HEDGEHOGS**

- 5.12 Hedgehogs are likely to be present locally and sheltering within the denser scrub and foraging more widely.

## **INVERTEBRATES**

- 5.13 The sloping banks of the Wellwick Land were identified as having high potential for bees and wasps and other species of hot, dry grassland (Edwards, 2010<sup>14</sup>). The wider grassland however was species-poor and offered relatively poor resources for invertebrates. This description is likely to remain valid.

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<sup>13</sup> Liz Lake (2010) *Badger Survey. St Osyth Priory*. Unpublished report.

<sup>14</sup> Edwards, M. (2010) *St Osyth Priory Entomological Survey. Update June 2010*. Unpublished report.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### EVALUATION

#### Habitats

- 6.1 The two lengths of hedgerow qualify as priority Habitat of Principal Importance (cf Maddock, 2019<sup>15</sup>) but not as Important Hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations.
- 6.2 It is specifically considered that the drier, nutrient-poor swards do not constitute acid grassland, based on the absence of indicator species of such acid sward.

#### Species

- 6.3 Many species are scoped out based on habitat conditions and / or direct survey evidence, including:
- Great crested newts, based on distances from ponds within the Priory Estate and the negative e-DNA test results from the pond within the Wellwick Land.
  - Reptiles, based on the patches of scrub and cover being outside of the works area.
- 6.4 The species scoped in to the present survey area are:
- Bats (roosting). A single tree in the northern hedgerow has low roost potential.
  - Bats (foraging). A small assemblage of foraging individuals is likely to be present.
  - Nesting birds. Common and widespread species in the hedgerow, scrub and longer sward.
  - Hedgehogs. Present locally and may forage over the site and shelter in the denser scrub.
  - Invertebrates. The sloping bank is likely to be of value to species requiring hot open swards, but the species-poor herb component limits its likely value.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER SURVEY

- 6.5 No additional surveys are considered necessary to inform the assessment of the current site.

### IMPACTS

#### Designated Sites

- 6.6 Impacts on non-statutory sites and statutory sites were assessed previously for the Priory Estate and Wellwick Land schemes. The current proposals do not alter the conclusions of previous assessments.

#### Local

- 6.7 The masterplan is shown below (Figure 3) and the key points are:
- The residential development area extends further north with the northward migration of the sloping edge and reduction in the area of the upper part of the site.

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<sup>15</sup> Maddock, A. (2011) *UK BAP Priority Habitat Descriptions*. Available from: [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP\\_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2010.pdf)



The northernmost belt of vegetation including hedgerow and scrub are not affected by works and are retained. The stability of the boundary area limits the extent to which the bank can be excavated.

**Figure 3.** The proposed layout for the Wellwick Land scheme.



6.8 The scheme therefore effectively reduces the area of semi-improved sward (species-poor), although some of this was previously allocated to the archery club scheme. The current proposals are therefore considered to be of minor ecological significance based on:

The species-poor character of the grassland.

The limited value of the grassland for animals, driven by its species-poor character. The net change in habitat areas for invertebrates is of negligible significance with the effective northward movement of the habitat. There would be short-term loss of habitat

but any re-colonisation would be expected from the Priory Estate area and areas of sloping bank not affected by works. The Environmental Statement identified the Priory Estate as the main area of importance to invertebrates and as the location for wider mitigation for invertebrates.

The areas of scrub affected by works are very limited in extent and sparse. The areas of denser scrub are outside of the scope of works.

### **MITIGATION: CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

- 6.9 Given that the areas of denser scrub lie outside of the works area, the recommendation for construction phase mitigation is:

Nesting birds. Vegetation clearance should either be outside of the nesting bird season which runs from March to August inclusive, or otherwise follow an inspection no more than 48 hours prior to works commencing, to confirm nesting birds are absent.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

- 6.10 Ecological enhancement as identified previously remain valid, in particular:

Bird and bat boxes proposed for dwellings.

Hedgehogs must have access to the completed scheme.

Landscaping on the sloping bank should retain some open vegetation rather than being densely planted with woody vegetation. Landscaping should use native species outside the development areas and within the developmental area species of recognised wildlife value should be used.



## 7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The northern part of the Wellwick Land has a hedgerow along the western boundary and northern boundary. The areas within the scope of works comprise semi-improved grassland (species-poor).
- 7.2 The two lengths of hedgerow qualify as priority Habitat of Principal Importance but not as Important Hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations. It is specifically considered that the drier, nutrient-poor swards do not constitute acid grassland, based on the absence of indicator species of such acid sward.
- 7.3 Many species are scoped out based on habitat conditions and / or direct survey evidence, including:
- Great crested newts, based on distances from ponds within the Priory Estate and the negative e-DNA test results from the pond within the Wellwick Land.
  - Reptiles, based on the patches of scrub and cover being outside of the works area.
- 7.4 The species scoped in to the present survey area are:
- Bats (roosting). A single tree in the northern hedgerow has low roost potential.
  - Bats (foraging). A small assemblage of foraging individuals is likely to be present.
  - Nesting birds. Common and widespread species in the hedgerow, scrub and longer sward.
  - Hedgehogs. Present locally and may forage over the site and shelter in the denser scrub.
  - Invertebrates. The sloping bank is likely to be of value to species requiring hot open swards, but the species-poor herb component limits its likely value.
- 7.5 Based on the loss of semi-improved (species-poor) grassland, albeit including areas previously proposed for the archery club, the current proposals are therefore considered to be of minor ecological significance
- 7.6 Given that the areas of denser scrub lie outside of the works area, the recommendation for construction phase mitigation is:
- Nesting birds. Vegetation clearance should either be outside of the nesting bird season which runs from March to August inclusive, or otherwise follow an inspection no more than 48 hours prior to works commencing, to confirm nesting birds are absent.
- 7.7 Ecological enhancement as identified previously remain valid.
- 7.8 Impacts on non-statutory sites and statutory sites were assessed previously for the Priory Estate and Wellwick Land schemes. The current proposals do not alter the conclusions of previous assessments.

## 8. APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure A1.**  
The northern part of the upper part of the site, with a more nutrient-rich sward.



**Figure A2.**  
The southern part of the upper part of the site, with an open sward over free-draining soil.



**Figure A3.**  
The sloping bank, with the south-facing area in the foreground.

## 9. APPENDIX 2: LEGISLATION SUMMARY

### Non-technical account of relevant legislation and policies.

Species	Legislation	Offence	Licensing
Bats: European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 41	Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberate disturbance of bats; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. [The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.]	A Natural England (NE) licence in respect of development is required.
Bats: National protection	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.1	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species [e.g. kingfisher].	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development.
Great crested newt: European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) Reg 41	Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt; deliberate disturbance of a great crested newt; deliberately take or destroy its eggs; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a great crested newt.	Licences issued for development by Natural England.
Great crested newt: National protection	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb it in such a place.	A licence is required from Natural England for surveying and handling.
Adder, common lizard, grass snake slow worm	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.9(1) and S.9(5)	Intentionally kill or injure any common reptile species.	No licence is required. However, an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken.
Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	To carry out or permit to be carried out any potentially damaging operation. SSSIs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Owners, occupiers, public bodies and statutory undertakers must give notice and obtain the appropriate consent under S.28 before undertaking operations likely to damage a SSSI. All public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs.

Species	Legislation	Offence	Licensing
County Wildlife Sites	There is no statutory designation for local sites.	Local sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Development proposals that would potentially affect a local site would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged.