

Phase 1 Extended Ecological Survey



Site: The Moorend, Ashperton Herefordshire .



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Summary Sheet

Date of Survey:	31 July 2024
OS Grid Reference:	SO 636 420
Main Findings:	 Location is a large low level barn and not in current use. Land around the barn/buildings is dominated by hardstanding, other structures with improved grassland to rear and side Old bird nesting material is found within the structure. Negligible potential for bats within the buildings due to construction type, materials and light levels. Seasonal pond adjacent to structure dry at time of survey and unsuitable for breeding location, other small pond present within farmyard with low GCN HSI score. Designated sites are sufficiently removed to be affected by small site. Traditional Orchard Priority Habitat is present external of site and unaffected by proposal.
Conclusions:	 Protected species are present locally and there is a minimal risk of disturbance. Timing of work is to be programmed to reduce disturbance to wildlife ie refurbishment, vegetation removal, dust and noise The habitat on site is common and widespread locally and within the UK and it is not considered that habitat losses will result in a significant ecological impact.
Recommendations for Mitigation & Enhancement:	 Ecological Clerk of Works to be appointed to check structures and surrounding area prior to work commencing. Bats – No external lighting, during construction and post construction of boundaries, sensitive lighting design will be adopted with no lighting of external boundaries. Herpetological RAMs required to reduce risk on site. Vegetation around margins is currently short and should be maintained in this condition. Bird and bat boxes are to be incorporated within the development scheme to include Insect/bee, hibernaculum and hedgehog hotel to be installed. New planting of suitable fruit trees and hedgerows will improve connectivity and habitat on and around the site .



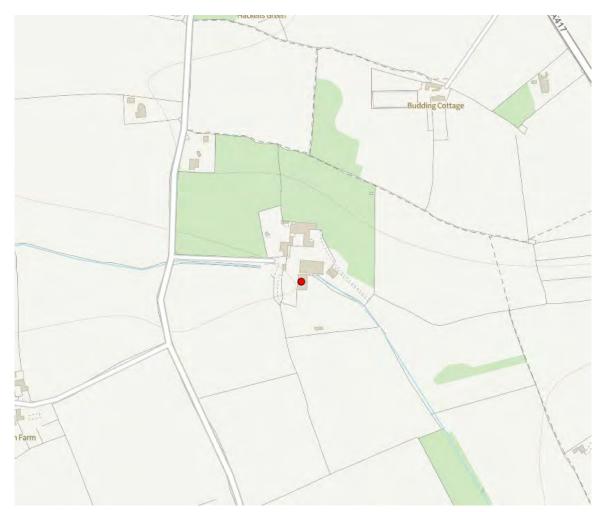
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1. Introduction

1.1 Instructions and Objectives

Heritage Environmental Contractors Ltd (HEC Ltd) was commissioned by Tompkins &Thomas Planning on behalf of applicants to undertake a Phase 1 Habitat Survey in support of a planning application for the conversion of an existing structures.

The desk study, field survey and evaluation are intended to provide information on the general habitat characteristics of the site and its surroundings including the likely presence of legally protected species and habitats encountered within the study area.



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2. Methodology

2.1 Study Area

The site is situated to the west of the village of Ashperton, east Herefordshire, approximately 12km to the east of the City of Hereford and 8km from the town of Ledbury and can be located by Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OSN GR) SO 636 420, it covers an area of approximately 0.1 ha. and has been used as agricultural storage for machinery and livestock. External of the application area is a residential farm house with a collection of various outbuildings and associated parking with shared access.

2.2 Desk Top Study

A desk study was carried out to identify the presence of any statutory or non-statutory sites within 1km of the study area together with records of any known legally protected or rare species. The site and land within the area was surveyed to the guidelines as in the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC 2010).

Herefordshire Biological Record Centre (HBRC) were consulted to provide data of legally protected species and locally rare species within 1km of the boundary of the study area. Details of any designated sites of importance for nature conservation were also requested.

Google maps was used for aerial views to identify important landscape features around the site.

2.3 Field Survey

A walk-over ecological survey of the study area was undertaken following guidelines for baseline ecological assessment '95 and as per the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC 2010). The site survey was carried out on 31 July 2024 and the weather conditions were warm, bright with light wind and a temperature of 22°c. for the purposes of this survey it can be considered optimum conditions. The survey was carried out by Mr J Fennessy BSc Hons. MEECW. M Arbor A. with over 25 years ecological surveying experience.

The Phase 1 habitat survey provides information on the habitats in the study area and assesses the potential for notable fauna to occur in the study area. Local Biodiversity BAP species and habitats potentially capable of supporting these species will be identified.



Preliminary investigations were undertaken to determine whether the site is supporting legally protected species by:

- Searching for signs of bird nests and identifying suitable nesting sites with the recording of mature trees and hedgerows.
- Recording of all birds observed during study area visits.
- Searching for signs of badger activity including setts, tracks and latrines.
- Searching for signs of potential roosting sites and flight lines for bats
- Searching for suitable habitats for breeding populations of great crested newts.
- Searching for suitable habitats for reptiles and general amphibians.
- Searching for signs of dormice.
- Searching for other species and habitats.

2.4 Evaluation and Significance of Impacts

The assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development needs to consider both on-site impacts as well as those which may occur to adjacent areas of ecological value. Impacts can be permanent or temporary, direct or indirect and can include:

- Direct loss of wildlife habitats;
- Fragmentation and isolation of habitats;
- Disturbance to species

2.4.1 Limitations

Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year and behaviour, the ecological survey of this site has not produced a complete list of plants and animals. Specific fauna and flora have a narrow period for leaf, flower or fruiting evidence outside this period of their existence can be limited or non-existent. Late spring/early summer is the period when most species show identifiable characteristics. Surveys can also be affected by time of day and weather conditions. For the purpose of this report the time of year will give an accurate indication of likely habitats and species to be found on site.

Please note the absence of a past record does not necessarily mean the absence of a rare species and may be an example of under recording.

HEC Ltd findings are limited to the specific time of the survey, any changes to the site post survey will have a bearing on composition and may affect the site recommendations.

Legal Guidance

The information set out within this report in no way constitutes a legal opinion on the relevant legislation. The opinion of a legal professional should be sought if further advice is required.



3. Results

3.1 Site Location and Setting

The proposed site is situated along an unclassified driveway off the C1151 road and is located within a collection of other farm buildings of mixed age and use and can be located by Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OSN GR) SO 636 420. The application area is a large existing barn structure with the main residential farm house at site entrance, the site is surrounded by improved grassland that is extensively used for cattle grazing, large traditional orchards are also found external of application area.

3.2 Desk Study

Data was provided for statutory and non-statutory designated sites and protected species within a 1km radius of the site from HBRC records and maps are to be found in appendix at rear.

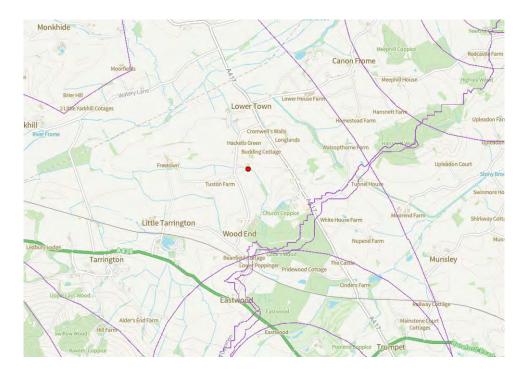
SO64/09 Ashperton Park SWS

The register states: "Ancient woodland with some larch and coppiced sweet chestnut. The wood is mostly ash and oak standards with neglected coppiced alder, ash and hazel." Date 1990

SO64/13 Old canal at Ashperton SWS

The register states: "There is a good, wooded margin along the whole length of this site with ash, alder, willow and some fine oak trees. Parts of the old canal basin are silted up and colonised by reed sweet-grass. The site forms an excellent habitat for insects and smaller birds. "Date 1990

SO64/31 Starling Orchard Please refer to attached citation. Date 2023



SSSI Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England). (c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2023. Ordnance Survey 100022861.



3.2.1 Protected species

Several protected species have been recorded within 1km of the local area of the site. For species list please refer to HBRC records and locations maps in rear appendix.

Bats – The most recent data for bats is 2018 within Ashperton Church 770m from site with Bat droppings observed 2016 records Common Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus) and Soprano Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pygmaeus) multiple times as present along roadside observations within Ashperton and Wood End villages.

2015 has entries for Bats droppings and roosting in woodland near Ashperton village church.

2014 & 2015 Has a large amount of data for site within centre of the village 780m from site species recorded present and roosting include Common Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus), Lesser Horseshoe Bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros),Soprano Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pygmaeus), Long-eared Bat species(Plecotus), Natterer's Bat (Myotis nattereri), Noctule Bat(Nyctalus noctula), Pipistrelle Bat species (Pipistrellus) and Unidentified (Bat Myotis).

2013 has a single entry for Common Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus) at a property within Wood End 710m to south.

2006 records a single roosting Lesser Horseshoe Bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros), at edge of data search to south.

Dormice - This species is not recorded

Hedgehog- Recorded opposite side of village in 2008 dead.

Otter – Not recorded locally.

Birds -The majority of biological data is dominated by birds and located around various site near village from 2001 - 2017

Red list species include (Linnet Linaria cannabina), Song Thrush (Turdus philomelos), Marsh Tit (Poecile palustris), Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus), Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris), Lesser Redpoll (Acanthis cabaret), Skylark (Alauda arvensis), Spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa striata),

House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), Starling (Sturnus vulgaris), Yellowhammer (Emberiza citronella) and Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava subsp. Flavissima).

Barn owls- Recorded 4 times from 1997 – 2006 within woodland margin near village church 750m from site.



Great Crested Newts (Triturus cristatus) –Recorded twice in 2011 opposites side of village 750m from site with major physical barriers of roads , houses and intensive agriculture. 2015 records breeding in similar location 830m from site.

Amphibians – Smooth Newt (Lissotriton vulgaris) adults recorded in 2011 at same location as Great Crested Newts

Reptiles –Slow-worm (Anguis fragilis) and Grass Snake (Natrix natrix) recorded in woodland near village church in 2010

Invertebrates – 1992 records near village and included Dot Moth (Melanchra persicariae), Garden Tiger (Arctia caja), Knot Grass (Acronicta rumicis), Mouse Moth (Amphipyra tragopoginis), Rosy Minor (Mesoligia literosa), Shaded Broad-bar (Scotopteryx chenopodiata), Small Square-spot (Diarsia rubi), White Ermine (Spilosoma lubricipeda), Knot Grass (Acronicta rumicis) and Rustic (Hoplodrina blanda)

Flora - Adder's-tongue (Ophioglossum vulgatum), Green-winged Orchid (Orchis morio), Box (Buxus sempervirens), Mistletoe (Viscum album), Soft Hornwort (Ceratophyllum submersum), Broad-leaved Helleborine (Epipactis helleborine), Daffodil(Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. Pseudonarcissus), Violet Helleborine (Epipactis purpurata) and Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) recorded at various site within search area.



4. Survey

4.1 Site description

The site is part of a large collection of large modern agricultural buildings incorporating a Dutch barn with older redbrick and timber framed buildings external of application area. The site has shared access with the farmyard, main residence and a further holiday let within adjacent field.

The application area is typical of this scale of farming within the county, other agricultural grassland is found beyond the application area used for sheep pasture with traditional cider orchards further away.

Habitat

Buildings (J3.6)/ Hard Standing (J5)

The barn is a large, corrugated sheet clad structure, it has a smaller building with the western elevation removed and a large lean to added, the barn would have been historically use to house cattle associated with the adjacent field. The front of the building is completely dominated by a large area of hardstanding and a mixture of concrete pads and crushed stone. vegetation in these areas is minimal and generally found around external margins, species were common and include Urtica dioica (Nettle), Taraxacum officinale (Dandelion) and Rumex obtusifolius (Broad-leaved dock) and typical of this type of farm yard habitat and animal enrichment.







Barn 1

A large simple structure that has been extensively altered with wall removed and extensive new lean to added on to the western elevation. The majority of the structure is supported by a simple timber frame of small gauge timber supporting a metal sheet corrugated roof.







The building has been historically used for cattle husbandry and now has a limited amount of short-term storage, 2 smaller sections are divided off from the main structure and also used for storage. The western elevation has a bank of windows with roof lights present .



Improved Grassland (B4)

The field around the barn is dominated by improved grassland, the sward was tightly grazed with limited structure .Grass species included Lolium perenne (Perennial ryegrass) and Phleum pretense (Timothy) with very limited vegetative diversity and typical of a commercial agricultural ley on short term rotation.

other species present included Trifolium repens (White clover), Ranunculus repens (Creeping buttercup), Urtica dioica (Nettle), Rumex obtusifolius (Broad-leaved dock) and Cirsium arvense (Creeping thistle). Vegetation was all common species typical of enriched improved grassland under management for cattle grazing.



A short section of grass is found at end of the barn and has same common G4 improved Grassland species, within this area and on margins Juvenile trees are found and include Quercus (robur), Betula pendula (Silver birch), Prunus avium (Cherry), Populus alba (Poplar) and Fraxinus excelsior (Ash).



Hedgerow (J2.).

The application area has a short section of field hedge, it is tall and well managed, species included Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn), Corylus avellana (Hazel), this hedgeline is part of a much longer field hedge and unaffected by proposal. The front of the hedge has a steep narrow field ditch with minimal vegetation due to grazing by cattle and considered to be part of the hedgerow feature.

Other boundaries on site consist of open post and rail fencing dividing the driveway and adjacent field from site.

Adjoining Habitats

The proposal share a strong boundary with other large modern agricultural structures, these area II unaffected by proposal and do not need further consideration The main farm house and a collection of red brick barns are found on the opposites site of a large farmyard, these area also unaffected by proposal







Traditional orchard

2 blocks of traditional orchard are recorded in the fields to the north of the farmyard, both fields have good coverage of older trees with an ongoing planting schedule and management plan in place and a good example of orchard management within the county, these areas are removed from application area and unaffected by proposal.

Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)



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4.2 Protected Species

Badgers – Badger activity was not recorded on the day of survey. No indicators including tracks, guard hairs, latrines etc, was observed around the structure or within the adjoining fields.

Bats - A full bat survey was not conducted. The following bat risk assessment was carried out.

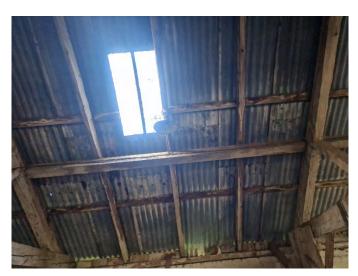
Barn 1 – This barn has been extended with a large lean too addition, this alteration is historic and involved the removal of internal walls. The timbers are small and support a corrugated sheet metal roof. Potential crevice dwelling features were inspected, but due to small size of timbers, these were minimal, no evidence of any use observed and areas were also cobwebbed further confirming lack of potential use.

Large windows and rooflights are present within the building giving high and light and temperature fluctuations. Such conditions are unsuitable for day-roosting bats. Horseshoe bats could potentially roost from the small roof timbers but unlikely due to light levels and usage. No evidence of bats was found during the internal inspection, this included dead bats, droppings, staining, smell and fras etc. giving this structure a Negligible value (Collins).









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No trees are within application area suitable for roosting and no evidence observed from ground observations, all other trees are sufficiently removed to be affected by proposal. The traditional farm house and other barns are external of the application area and will have standard opportunities for bat species, these are unaffected by the proposal and no flight lines from these structures will be affected.

The improved grassland field around the site offers very little habitat for bat species due to lack of cover and hunting opportunities.

The general area can be considered to be of value for bats with traditional orchards, small woodlands, tall hedges and wooded water courses, these areas are all unaffected by proposal.

Guidelines for assessing bat roosting potential of structures and trees.

Suitability	Habitat description	Further action required?
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site	No further bat risk assessment effort
Negligible	likely to be used by roosting bats.	or bat activity surveys are required.
	A structure with one or more potential	Structures: One bat activity survey
	roost sites that could be used by	is required to determine whether the
	individual bats opportunistically.	structure is being utilised by roosting
	However, these potential roost sites	bats; this may be a dusk or dawn
	do not provide enough space, shelter,	survey. This survey must occur
	protection, appropriate conditions	between May and August. The
	and/or suitable surrounding habitat to	discovery of a roosting bat during
Low	be used on a regular basis or by	this single bat activity survey will
	larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to	require further survey effort.
	be suitable for maternity or	
	hibernation).	
	A tree of sufficient size and age to	Trees: No further bat risk
	contain PRFs, but with none seen	assessment effort or bat activity
	from the ground or features seen with	surveys are required.
	only very limited roosting potential.	
	A structure or tree with one or more	Two bat activity surveys are required
	potential roost sites that could be	to determine whether the structure or
	used by bats due to their size,	tree is being utilised by roosting bats;
Moderate	shelter, protection conditions and	this should be comprised of one
	surrounding habitat, but unlikely to	dusk and one dawn survey. One
	support a roost of high conservation	survey must occur between May and
	status.	August.
	A structure or tree with one or more	Three bat activity surveys are
	potential roost sites that are obviously	required to determine whether the
	suitable for use by larger numbers of	structure or tree is being utilised by
	bats on a more regular basis and	roosting bats; this should be
High	potentially for longer periods of time	comprised of one dusk and one
	due to their size, shelter, protection,	dawn survey, with an additional
	conditions and surrounding habitat.	survey (either dusk or dawn). Two
		surveys must occur between May
		and August.



Dormouse – A nut check was able to be carried out along the field hedge at rear of application and only squirrel opening techniques were observed with no other evidence recorded. The general area has suitable native hedgerows and has limited connectivity to small external woodland blocks and optimum habitat.

Amphibians – Not observed, the site has limited suitable cover around the external margins of the buildings associated with the area of hardstanding and nettle stands however they appeared to be in general use and disturbed by livestock grazing.

The improved grass field has little opportunities for these species and mainly associated with the hedgerow boundaries, these will be dependent on ongoing grassland management and grazing. Within this area Magic Maps records a small pond, at time of survey the small pond did not have any areas of standing water, vegetative indicators show this pond is seasonally dry with plant species that are tolerant of wet conditions and typical of low lying seasonally wet ground, these include Lemna minuta (Duckweed) on soil, Glyceria fluitans (Floating Sweet-grass), Juncus eff.(Hard rush) and Chamaenerion angustifolium (Rosebay willowherb). Urtica dioica (Nettle), Rumex obtusifolius (Broad-leaved dock) and common grass species are also found in high numbers due to animal enrichment and runoff from cattle, the area has a simple wire fence and can be considered to provide terrestrial habitat rather than aquatic.



Great Crested Newts - A daytime survey was carried out and not observed. The buildings offer limited opportunities around the base with limited poor terrestrial habitat around small pond as described above at time of survey, the lack of water indicates it will be unsuitable for breeding due to annual drying out, this year's spring has been particularly wet when compared with previous years and no drought / heatwave over early summer confirming the assumption that this pond is seasonally wet in winter. Ongoing grazing close to the pond gives a disturbed site that is generally considered sub optimal for this species. The grazed improved grassland at rear of application generally represents sub optimal habitat for this species except for hedgeline margins, within the hedgeline a small narrow ditch is present , it is steeply trenched with a shallow flow and not suitable for this species to breed in.

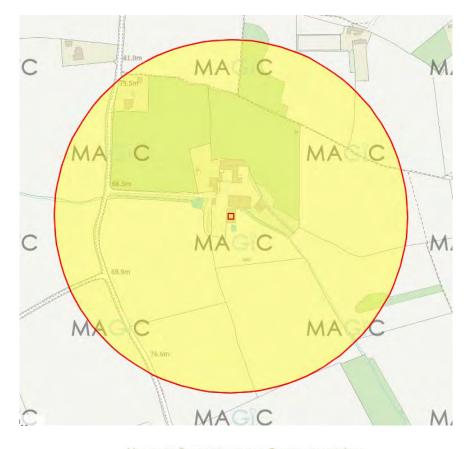


Another pond is found at site entrance and a HSI assessment was carried out which score 0.59 and "below average" score, Stickleback fish were observed, alongside some wildfowl grazing of limited margins, water quality probably effected by local agricultural practices. No other ponds are found within 250m of site.

ARGUK GCN HSI Calculator

	Pond Name	Moorer	nd	
	Grid Ref	SO 636	38 42029	
SI No	SI Description	SI Valu	е	
1	Geographic loca	ation	1.00	
2	Pond area		0.25	
3	Pond permaner	ice	0.90	
4	Water quality		0.33	
5	Shade		1.0	
6	Waterfowl effec	t	0.67	
7	Fish presence		0.33	
8	Pond Density		0.65	
9	Terrestrial habit	at	0.67	
10	Macropyhyte co	ver	0.7	
HSI Score 0.59				
Pond suitability (see below)			Below average	

250m buffer zone



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Reptiles – Not observed, the site has minimal cover around the rear margins of the buildings, the areas of short nettles may offer some temporary cover and will be dependent upon ongoing management. The front of the building has an area of extensive hardstanding that offers no cover or suitable habitat for these species.

The grassland at time of survey was grazed short and has little potential for these species, depending on level of cover grass snakes may use the wider field and its margins.



Birds –No evidence of Barn owl use was observed within any parts of the structure, old general bird nesting material can be seen within the building. The wider site has multiple opportunities that include older structures and hedgerows, these areas are all unaffected by proposal.

Birds recorded on the day include Robin (Erithacus rubecula), Buteo buteo (Buzzard), Columba palumbus (Pigeon), Corvus monedula (Jackdaw) Corvus corone (Carrion crow), Pica pica (Magpie), Red Kite (Milvus milvus) and Turdus merula (Black bird).

Invertebrates- The structure has standard opportunities associated with a building that has had livestock remove, externally the hardstanding and short grazed improved grassland offers minimal habitats. Small pond area will offer potential habitats depending on winter levels.



5. Site Evaluation

5.1 Habitat

The proposal is the conversion of a large existing barn that dominates the site with extensive hardstanding, this type of structure and site are common in Herefordshire with improved grassland to the rear and is generally considered to be of low ecological value as no protected species rely upon it as primary habitat.

The use of a specifically designed landscape scheme that is guided by biodiversity enhancement will deliver significant gain to the site. This will ensure this project will deliver a net gain to the site alongside a sensitively managed construction phase. The restoration of the overgrown seasonal pond area, planting of new fruit trees, hedges and the installation of bat, bird boxes with hibernaculum, insect and hedgehog hotels will benefit multiple species.

LPA will need to assess application via habitat regulation assessment in relation to residual nitrogen, phosphates or suspendates – "polices SD3 and SD4 of Herefordshire core strategy". The discharge of water will be dealt with in the Surface Water Plan following best practice and sustainable drainage (**SuDs**).

The proposed construction activities will be confined to areas within the site boundary. Any direct impacts to designated sites beyond the search area are expected to be negligible and will not affect any statutory designated sites within or external of search area. Traditional Orchard Priority Habitat is present on the farm, these areas are all unaffected by the proposal.

5.2 Mammals

Bats – The barn has been assessed as "Negligible" for Bats ref Bat Survey Guidelines, the construction type and small timbers are not considered suitable for bats due to lack of potential crevice or joint features, the internals will have large temperature fluctuations due to the sheet metal roof, large windows and roof lights also contribute to this unfavourable condition. Horseshoe species have been considered and the lack of any evidence reduces the use by these species to negligible.

Adjacent barns are of a more modern steel framed construction, also with corrugated sheeting and open sided, these structures are also classified as Negligible" for Bats and unaffected by proposal.

The main residential property and various older brick barn structures are all sufficiently removed from the application area and will be unaffected by small proposal.

The installation of various types of bat boxes will deliver a net gain for this structure. The use of a wide range of bat boxes across the site will be beneficial to this species.

The planting of additional new hedge lines with hedgerow trees and fruit trees will significantly increase connectivity and habitat on site.



Local biological data provides a good data sweep with Present /Foraging and Roosting recorded for a range of species generally associated with village area and village church, these and other species will be present with in the area, it is unlikely the proposal will have an adverse impact on these and other unrecorded populations.

No external lighting is to be used on any boundary or site margins, the existing lighting can be substituted to a more sensitive scheme with the use of directional beams, PiR sensors and low wattage. Dark Sky Principle can be followed and will be beneficial for the general area.

Ref: Institution of Lighting Professionals and Bat Conservation Trust (2018) Bats and artificial lighting in the Uk -Bats and the built environment series guidance notes 08/18

Badgers – No evidence of badgers using the proposed site has been found, the field to the rear and its external field margins offers potential for this transitory species. Badgers are unlikely to pass through the site and would be mainly found along external field margins which are removed from application area. A walk over should be carried out prior to any work commencing to establish that badgers have not colonised the site. Guidance under Badgers and Construction would be beneficial and would also help with all other species on site, specifically the covering of trenches overnight.

Dormice –Dormice are associated with deciduous woodland, hazel coppice and species rich hedges. The external field does possess mixed hedgerow around the external margins, however they have limited connectivity to small woodland blocks within the area and unaffected by the proposal.

The planting of additional hedges, hedgerow trees will all provide valuable new habitat and connectivity. This species has not been recorded within biological data and is unlikely be adversely effected by proposal.

Hedgehogs - The site has some suitable habitat for this species within the field to the rear. Any new boundaries that are to be installed should have free access and the planting of additional new hedgerows will be beneficial with the installation of 1 hedgehog hotel.

5.3 Birds

No evidence of barn owl or seasonal migratory species was observed, general nesting material was seen in the structure. Any potential loss of nesting habitat can be mitigated with the erection of a wide range of additional bird boxes. The general area has the standard opportunities for farmland bird species, the loss of a section of existing hardstanding and area of Improved grassland from a large field will have minimal impact. The planting of additional native hedging, fruit trees within a garden area will be beneficial to all birds in the wider region. Prior to any work being carried out within recognised bird nesting season the appointed ECoW should check the structure and confirm no nesting activity is taking place.



5.4 Amphibians

The current building has little use for amphibians, the improved grass land and access associated with the hardstanding area offer little potential for these species. A small seasonally wet pond is present close to structure ,vegetive indicators and google pro images confirm this. The area is more suitable for terrestrial habitat, however the hardstanding and tight cattle grazing isolates this area from other suitable habitats reducing its value. These types of small, shallow pond features suffer from drying out when the vegetation expands across the pond and then transforms into grassland characteristics, speeding the drying out process up. The reduction in vegetation within the pond itself and creation of open water will be beneficial and overseen by the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works. Currently this area represents terrestrial habitat and the area should be placed under species specific RAMs which will protect all herpetological species.

Biological data did not record any species on site, with Smooth newt recorded on opposite side of the village and divided my multiple barriers and will be unaffected by this proposal.

The proposal is unlikely to adversely affect any unrecorded populations, the provision of planting with hedges will provide additional cover and habitat. 2 hibernaculum should also be installed around external margins.

Great Crested Newts – The site has a small seasonally dry pond, at time of survey no water was present and would be unsuitable for a breeding pond for this reason. A small pond is found at the entrance to the farmyard and has been assessed with a GCN HSI score and considered to be "Below average", the presence of sticklebacks and wildfowl reduces the value of the small pond, more suitable terrestrial habitat is found in the opposite direction and associated with the traditional orchard at opposite side of farm. No other ponds are recorded within 250m of the site reducing potential effects to this species.

This species is recorded within village in 2011 & 2015 750m & 830m from site and divide by main road, multiple houses and intensive agriculture and will be unaffected by this small conversion.

The likelihood of encountering Great Crested Newts within the application area will be minimal and impacts to this species will be negligible. The use of Species Specific Herpetological RAMs will be beneficial and overseen by the appointed ECoW.

The planting of additional native hedging and construction of hibernaculum along the existing hedge lines will be beneficial to all amphibians in area.

5.5 Reptiles

Reptiles prefer a mixed mosaic type habitat, with varied structure to flourish. Warmth is a key factor, as is shelter from predators. The application area is dominated by the building and areas of hardstanding with minimal suitable habitat around the external margins of the site. The improved grassland in the adjoining fields are likely to be visited by Grass snakes as they have a large home territory, but will be dependent upon vegetation cover.

The additional hedgerows, and hibernaculum within the biodiversity scheme will directly benefit these and all herpetological species on site and surrounding wider landscape.

5.6 Invertebrates

The site has limited use for invertebrates, the general lack of diverse vegetation and deadwood habitat reduces the value of the area, the provision of the additional hedge planting and construction of deadwood piles will also provide valuable extra habitats to help increase a more varied and diverse invertebrate population. The restoration of the small pond will provide additional habitat for a range of insects and provide prey for other species.



6. Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Dec 2023)

Habitats and biodiversity

180. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. 181. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework62; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

182. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks

185. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity65; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation66; and

b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

186. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles: a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;



c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons67 and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

187. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites68; and

c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

188. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy 2011 - 2031

LD2 – Biodiversity and geodiversity – requires development proposals to conserve, restore and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity assets of Herefordshire. This is achieved through the retention and protection of nature conservation sites and habitats, and important species in accordance with their status, prioritising European sites and species.

LD3 – Green infrastructure encourages development proposals to protect, manage and plan for the "preservation of existing and delivery of new green infrastructure" with the aim of fulfilling the three listed criteria; identification and retention of existing green infrastructure corridors and linkages; provision of on-site green infrastructure with enhancement where possible and integration to and connection with the surrounding green infrastructure network.

Protected Species and Lighting (Dark Skies) (DEFRA-NPPF 2013/18)

a) At no time shall any external lighting except in relation to safe use of the approved or existing buildings be installed or operated in association with the approved development and no permanently illuminated external lighting shall be operated at any time, without the written approval of this local planning authority.

b) No external lighting should illuminate any biodiversity enhancement, boundary feature, highway corridors or adjacent habitats.

All lighting installed shall demonstrate compliance with latest best practice guidance relating to lighting and protected species-wildlife available from the Institution of Lighting Professionals



Legislation

Badgers

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to kill, injure or capture badgers or deliberately or recklessly interfere with a badger sett which includes damaging a sett, obstructing access to a sett, and disturbing a badger while it is occupying a sett.

Bats

All species of bats and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Protection act 1981(amended). The deliberate capture, disturbance, injury or killing of bats is prohibited as is damaging, destroying or obstructing access to any place used by bats for shelter or breeding, whether they are present or not. Reckless disturbance or obstruction of access to a roost are also a criminal offence.

Birds

The Wildlife and Countryside Protection act 1981(amended) provides the legal protection of wild birds. All nesting birds and their nests eggs and young are protected from killing, injury, taking or selling.

Great Crested Newts

The Great Crested Newt is protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Protection act 1981 (amended) and are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010. They are protected from deliberate killing, injury or capture with their habitat, including breeding site, resting place or any structure or place used for shelter or protection also protected against damage or destruction .it is also illegal to disturb great Crested Newts and their eggs are protected from taking or destroying.

Reptiles

Common reptile species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Protection act 1981(amended). The deliberate capture, killing and injury or being sold. The habitat of these reptiles is not directly protected, however, disturbing or destroying their habitat whilst they are present may lead to an offence.

Dormice

The Dormouse is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Protection act 1981 (amended) and the conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010. The deliberate capture, disturbance, injury or killing of Dormice is prohibited as is damaging, destroying any place used by Dormice for shelter or breeding, whether they are present or not. Reckless disturbance or obstruction of places used for shelter is also a criminal offence.



7. Conclusions

An ecological assessment comprising of a desk study and site visit has been conducted at the above site. SO 636 420 HBRC confirmed that there are legally protected species of conservation concern within the 1km search of the site. Further to the assessment of the site and results as identified within this survey it is concluded that there is a small risk of disturbance to protected species. The use of specific RAMs for Herpetological species under the supervision of the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works will reduce this risk to minimal.

The initiation of a biodiversity enhancement plan will be of value to this area.

The site should constitute a "Net gain" and the development of new fauna and flora will constitute enrichment for the area and as time passes it will continue to gain conservational value.

8. Recommendations

Appointed Ecological Clerk of Works to oversee site and Herpetological RAMs required.

No external lighting should be used on boundaries so that it will not affect the foraging opportunities for the transitory bat species, current lighting is to be altered to utilise more sensitive design techniques.

A badger walkover is to be carried out to ensure that there is no evidence of badgers upon the site and that no badger setts have been created along the boundaries, all badger setts whether in use or not are protected by law. Badgers passing through the site during construction may be at risk from trapping within deep excavations which are left open overnight (an offence under the Badger Act 1992), therefore, allowance should be made for these to be covered during nightfall.

New bird and bat boxes should be incorporated within all structures.

Planting of new fruit trees, mixed native hedging and hedgerow trees around the site will be a direct gain for the local biodiversity and will improve connectivity to the wider region.

Construction of hibernacula and habitat piles should be made and the erection of bug hotels/insect boxes would also help increase the invertebrate population and increase food sources for other species. A hedgehog house will also be located along rear hedgeline.



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9 Biodiversity Enhancements

(subject to final layout)

All local authorities have a statutory duty to assess the biodiversity implications and to ensure all site developments attain a "net gain" to the local environment and is a major influence upon a site delivering sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework and any specific local policies should feed into all findings from the initial ecological survey and any specific surveys and findings as well as proposed mitigation.

2 x Schwegler 1B 32mm Nest box

The nest box can be attached to a tree or wall using an aluminium nail or by hanging over a branch. Designed to attract Great, Blue, Marsh, Coal and Crested Tit, Redstart, Nuthatch, Collared and Pied Flycatcher, Wryneck, Tree and House Sparrow and bats.



2 x Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace – Provides housing for 3 sparrow families.



2 x Improved Crevice Bat Box – Suitable for the smaller British crevice-dwelling bats





Insects WoodStone Insect Block– Used by ladybirds, lacewings and solitary bees x 2

Hedgehog nest box Position in a quiet area on floor and cover with leaves x 1

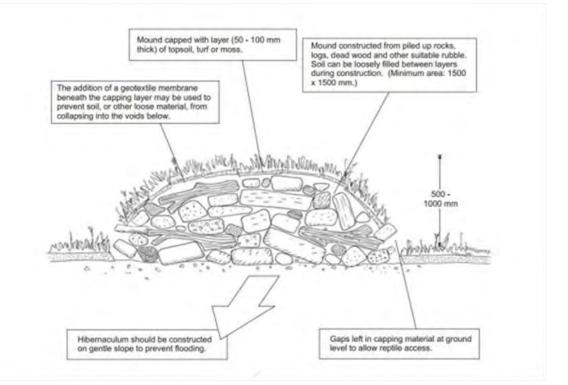
General

Hibernacula

To be built on site by hand, location along external rear margin, to be decided with the Ecological Clerk of the Works.

Hibernacula Design (Taken from DMRB Volume 10, Part 7 HA 116/05) Hibernacula x1

To be built on site by hand, to be located along hedge line







HERITAGE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTORS LTD LANDSCAPING + ARBORICULTURE + MITIGATION

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Appendices

Site Plan

Species Map

HBRC Recorded Species List

BAP Priority Map

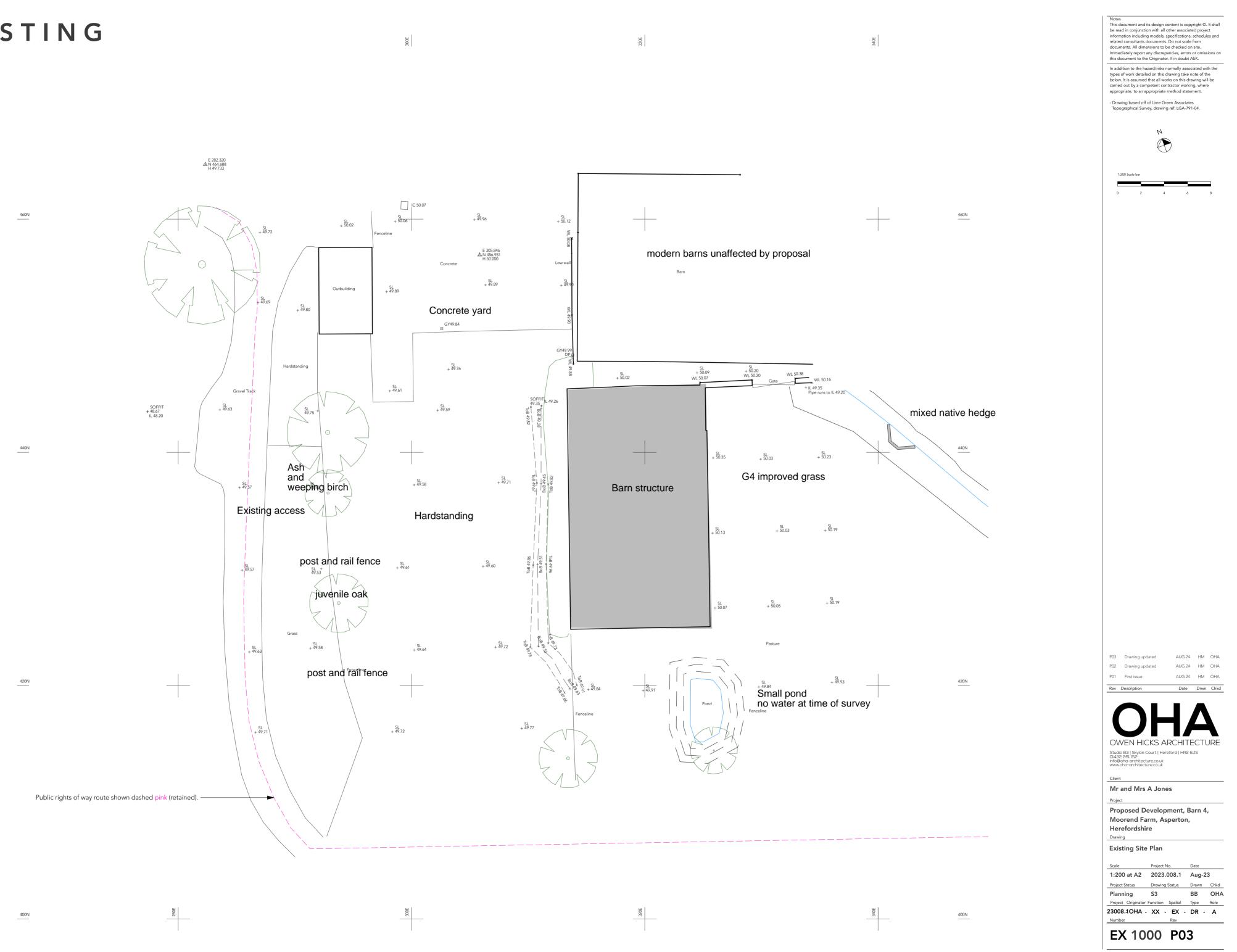
BAP Priority Habitat Legend

Phase 1 Habitat Map

Phase 1 Habitat Legend

Designated Sites

AS EXISTING SITE PLAN



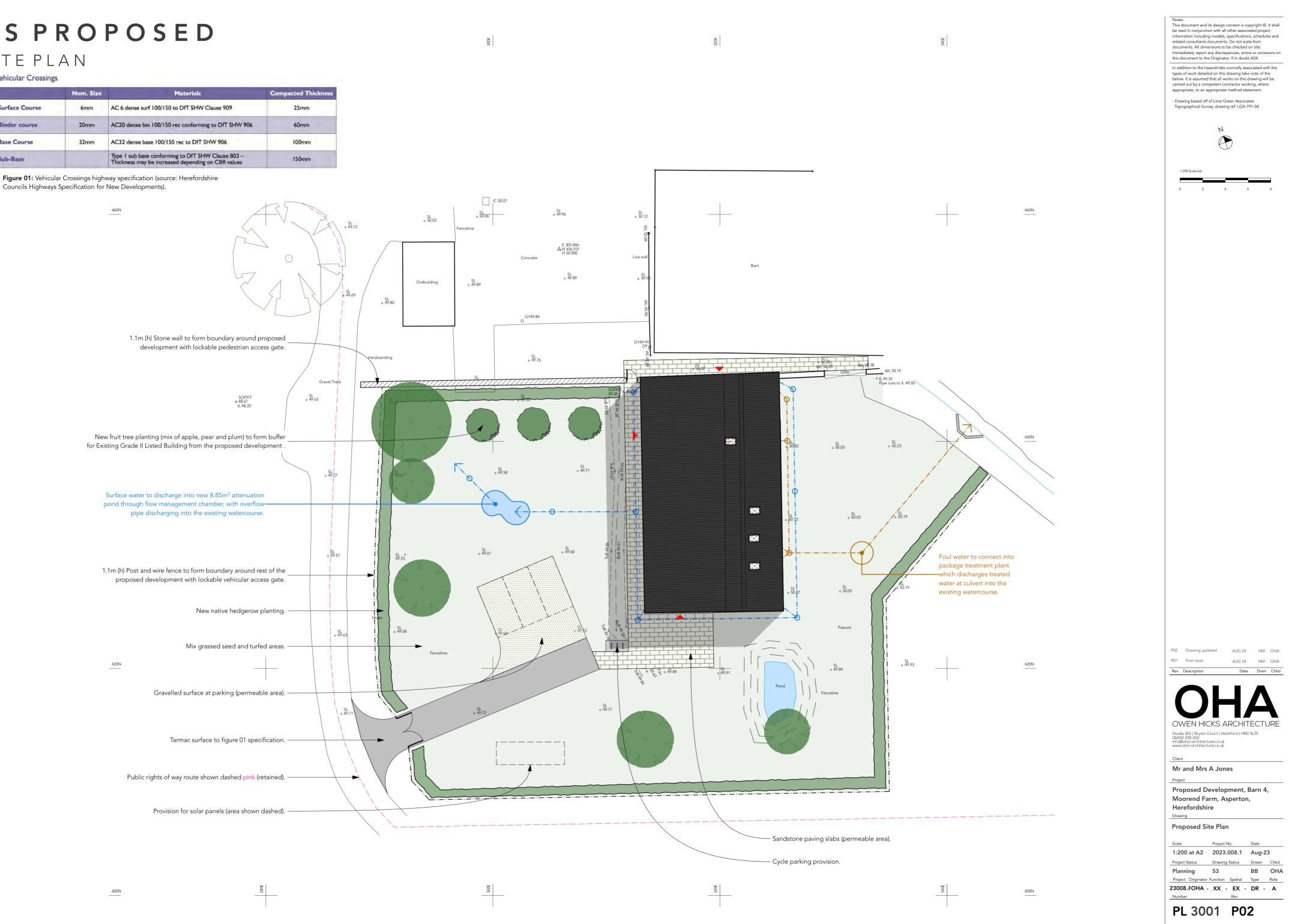
AS PROPOSED

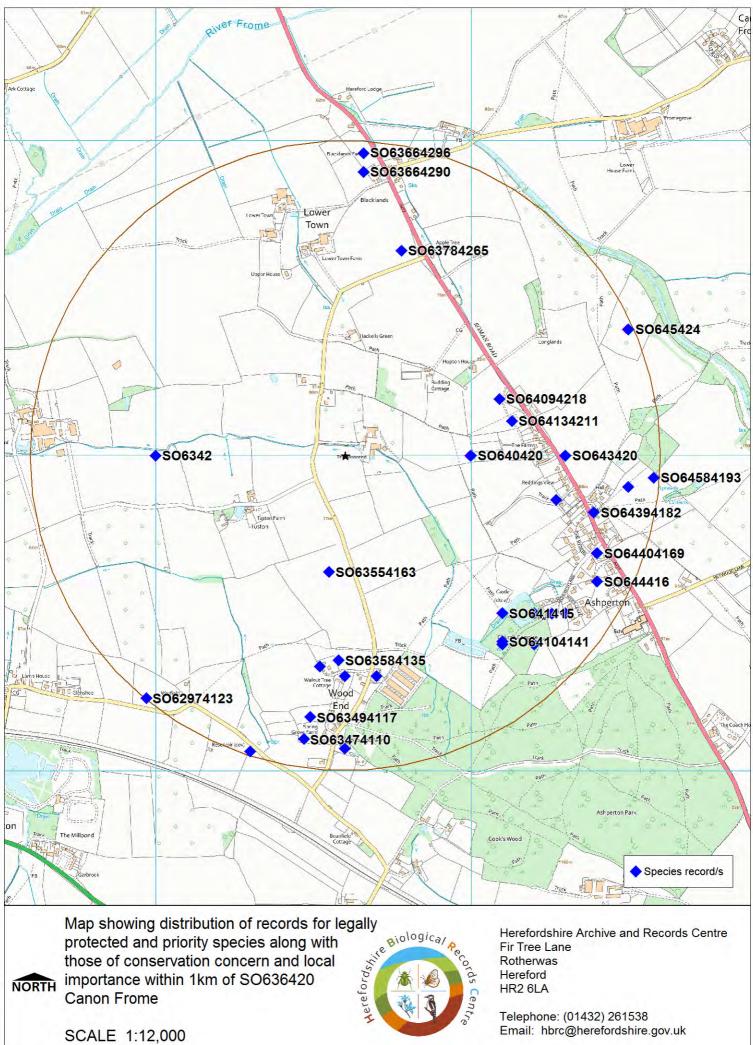
SITE PLAN

Vehicula	r Crossings
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	Nom. Size	Materials	Compacted Thickness
Surface Course	6mm	AC 6 dense surf 100/150 to DfT SHW Clause 909	25mm
Binder course	20mm	AC20 dense bin 100/150 rec conforming to DfT SHW 906	60mm
Base Course	32mm	AC32 dense base 100/150 rec to DfT SHW 906	100mm
Sub-Base		Type I sub base conforming to DIT SHW Clause 803 – Thickness may be increased depending on CBR values	150mm

Figure 01: Vehicular Crossings highway specification (source: Herefordshire





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Canon Frome

SO636420

Records for legally protected and priority species along with those of conservation concern and local importance within 1km

Species		Status, if known	Grid Ref.	Year	Measurement
Bats	Chiroptera			2017	100 Droppings
Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC	SO642414	2017	1 Present
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642414	2017	3 Present
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642414	2017	1 Feeding
Swift	Apus apus	BAmb	SO642414	2017	1 Adult In flight
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC,		2016	Present
		WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c,			
		WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b			
Green-winged Orchid	Orchis morio	CITESB, HBAPCC, RLGB.Lr(NT)	SO636413	2016	c.30 Present
Pipistrelle Bat	Pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b,		2016	Present
species		WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a,			
		WCA5/9.5b			

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Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2016	Present
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2016	Present
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2016	Present
Adder's-tongue	Ophioglossum vulgatum	HBAPCC	SO64584193	2015	c.20 Present
Bats	Chiroptera			2015	Present Droppings; Present Roosting
Bats	Chiroptera			2015	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Bats	Chiroptera			2015	Present Droppings
Bats	Chiroptera			2015	Present Droppings
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Feeding; Present Nursery colony; Up to 13 Roosting
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Feeding; Present Nursery colony; Up to 13 Roosting
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	BRed, HBAPCC, WCA1i	SO643420	2015	Present
Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	Bern2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Breeding
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern2	SO643420	2015	Present
Great Tit	Parus major	Bern2	SO643420	2015	Present

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House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO643420	2015	Present
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO643420	2015	Present In flight
Lesser Horseshoe Ba	t Rhinolophus hipposideros	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	,	2015	Present Droppings; Present Feeding; Present Roosting
Lesser Horseshoe Ba	t Rhinolophus hipposideros	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	,	2015	Present Droppings; Present Feeding; Present Roosting
Long-eared Bat species	Plecotus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	3 Roosting; Present Droppings; Present Feeding
Long-eared Bat species	Plecotus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	3 Roosting; Present Droppings; Present Feeding
Natterer's Bat	Myotis nattereri	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Feeding; Present Droppings; Up to 12 Roosting
Natterer's Bat	Myotis nattereri	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Droppings; Present Feeding; Up to 12 Roosting
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Feeding
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Feeding

Pipistrelle Bat species	Pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Pipistrelle Bat species	Pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Raven	Corvus corax	HBAPCC	SO643420	2015	Present In flight
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern2	SO643420	2015	Present
Unidentified Bat	Myotis	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Unidentified Bat	Myotis	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2015	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Bats	Chiroptera			2014	Present Droppings
Box	Buxus sempervirens	HBAPCC, NR-excludes, RLGB.DD	SO644416	2014	Present
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	Present Feeding; Present Nursery colony; Up to 13 Roosting
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO64404169	2014	Present Nest
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	t Rhinolophus hipposideros	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	Present Feeding; Present Droppings; Present Roosting
Long-eared Bat species	Plecotus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	3 Roosting; Present Feeding; Present Droppings
Mistletoe	Viscum album	HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO644416	2014	Present
Natterer's Bat	Myotis nattereri	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	Present Feeding; Present Droppings; Up to 12 Roosting

Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	Present Feeding
Pipistrelle Bat species	Pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern2	SO64404169	2014	Present Nest
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	BAmb, Bern2	SO64404169	2014	Present Nest
Unidentified Bat	Myotis	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2014	Present Droppings; Present Signs
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	BAmb, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HBAPSR	SO6442	2013	5 Present
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	BAmb, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HBAPSR	SO6442	2013	1 Present
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	BAmb, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HBAPSR	SO6442	2013	5 Present
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2013	1 Present
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC	SO6442	2013	1 Pair
House Martin	Delichon urbicum	BAmb, Bern2	SO6442	2013	20 Present
House Martin	Delichon urbicum	BAmb, Bern2	SO6442	2013	14 Present
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	7 Present
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	22 Present
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	10 Present
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	8 Present
Lesser Redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	1 Present
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO6442	2013	5 Present
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO6442	2013	1 Present
Little Owl	Athene noctua	Bern2, CITESA, HBAPCC	SO6342	2013	1 Present
Little Owl	Athene noctua	Bern2, CITESA, HBAPCC	SO6442	2013	1 Present

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Marsh Tit Marsh Tit Marsh Tit Meadow Pipit Meadow Pipit Meadow Pipit Raven Redstart	Poecile palustris Poecile palustris Poecile palustris Anthus pratensis Anthus pratensis Anthus pratensis Corvus corax Phoenicurus	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC HBAPCC BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC	SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442	2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013	1 Present 1 Present 24 Present 1 Present 4 Present 2 Present 1 Present
Reed Bunting	phoenicurus Emberiza schoeniclus	BAmb, Bern2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	1 Present
Siskin Siskin Skylark	Spinus spinus Spinus spinus Alauda arvensis	Bern2 Bern2 BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41	SO6442 SO6442 SO6442	2013 2013 2013	11 Present 5 Present 3 Present
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41	SO6442	2013	1 Present
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41	SO6442	2013	4 Present
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41	SO6442	2013	6 Present
Song Thrush Song Thrush Sparrowhawk Starling Stock Dove Stock Dove Stock Dove Swallow Swallow Treecreeper Willow Warbler Yellowhammer	Turdus philomelos Turdus philomelos Accipiter nisus Sturnus vulgaris Columba oenas Columba oenas Columba oenas Hirundo rustica Hirundo rustica Certhia familiaris Phylloscopus trochilus Emberiza citrinella	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS CITESA, CMS_A2 BRed BAmb BAmb BAmb BAmb, Bern2 BAmb, Bern2 Bamb Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, Sect.41,	SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442 SO6442	2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013	 6 Present 4 Present 1 Present 36 Present 1 Present 7 Present 1 Present 66 Present 11 Present 1 Present 1 Present 11 Present 11 Present 11 Present 11 Present
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	2013	6 Present

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Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern2	SO6442	2012	1 Present
Soft Hornwort	Ceratophyllum submersum	HBAPCC	SO641415	2012	Present
Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	Bern2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2011	7 Adult Male
Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	Bern2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2011	3 Adult Female
Honey-buzzard	Pernis apivorus	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, WCA1i	SO6442	2011	1 Present
Smooth Newt	Lissotriton vulgaris	HBAPCC, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	SO64394182	2011	12 Adult Male
Smooth Newt	Lissotriton vulgaris	HBAPCC, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	SO64394182	2011	3 Adult Female
Broad-leaved Helleborine	Epipactis helleborine	CITESB	SO64104141	2010	Present
Daffodil	Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. pseudonarcissus	HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO643415	2010	Present
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	SO642415	2010	1 Juvenile
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO6442	2010	1 Present
Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	SO642415	2010	3 Present
Violet Helleborine Bluebell	Epipactis purpurata Hyacinthoides non- scripta	CITESB, HBAPCC HBAPCC, WCA8	SO64104141 SO641414	2010 2009	Present Present

Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	Bern2, BRed, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO637413	2009	1 Pair; Present Breeding
Violet Helleborine	Epipactis purpurata	CITESB, HBAPCC	SO641414	2009	Present
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern2	SO642415	2008	3 Present
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern2	SO642415	2008	31 Present
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern2	SO645424	2008	6 Present
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC	SO645424	2008	1 Present
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	BAmb, Bern2	SO642415	2008	1 Present
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	BRed, HBAPCC, WCA1i	SO645424	2008	30 Present
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Bern2	SO642415	2008	1 Present
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern2	SO642415	2008	5 Present
Great Tit	Parus major	Bern2	SO645424	2008	5 Present
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	HBAPCC, HBAPSR, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO643420	2008	1 Dead
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642415	2008	1 Male
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO645424	2008	1 Female
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642415	2008	8 Present
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	BAmb, CMS_A2	SO645424	2008	2 Present
Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC	SO642415	2008	1 Present
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	BAmb	SO645424	2008	2 Present
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	CMS_A2	SO645424	2008	3 Present
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern2	SO645424	2008	1 Present
Raven	Corvus corax	HBAPCC	SO642415	2008	1 Present
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern2	SO645424	2008	2 Present
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41	SO642415	2008	1 Present
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41	SO642415	2008	2 Present
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642415	2008	2 Present
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	Bern2, BRed, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO645424	2008	1 Juvenile; 1 Pair; Present Breeding
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	BRed	SO645424	2008	14 Present
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	BAmb, Bern2	SO642415	2008	2 Present
Swift	Apus apus	BAmb	SO642415	2008	7 Present

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Willow Tit Yellowhammer	Poecile montana Emberiza citrinella	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO642415 SO642415	2008 2008	1 Present 3 Present
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern2	SO645424	2007	1 Present
House Martin	Delichon urbicum	BAmb, Bern2	SO645424	2007	8 Present
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern2	SO645424	2007	1 Present
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO645424	2007	1 Present
Troglodytes troglodytes subsp. troglodytes	Troglodytes troglodytes subsp. troglodytes	Bern2	SO645424	2007	1 Present
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, WCA1i	SO642415	2006	1 Present
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern2	SO645424	2006	3 Present
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	BAmb, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HBAPSR	SO645424	2006	3 Present
Coal Tit	Periparus ater	Bern2	SO645424	2006	1 Present
Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	HBAPCC	SO645424	2006	1 Present
Goosander	Mergus merganser	CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPSR	SO645424	2006	3 Present
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern2	SO645424	2006	1 Present
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642415	2006	1 Present
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO645424	2006	1 Male
Lesser Horseshoe Ba	t Rhinolophus hipposideros	Bern2, CMS_A2, HabRegs2, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b		2006	1 Roosting
Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC	SO645424	2006	5 Present
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	CMS_A2	SO645424	2006	2 Present
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern2	SO645424	2006	1 Present
Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba subsp. yarrellii	Bern2	SO645424	2006	4 Present
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO645424	2006	2 Present
Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	Bern2	SO645424	2006	2 Present

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Barn Owl	Tyto alba	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, WCA1i	SO642415	2005	1 Present
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO645424	2005	1 Present
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern2	SO645424	2005	Present Juvenile; Present Breeding
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern2	SO645424	2005	1 Present
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, HBAPCC, HBAPSR, WCA1i	SO645424	2005	1 Present
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO645424	2005	5 Pair
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	BAmb, CMS_A2	SO645424	2005	1 Adult; 8 Juvenile; Present Breeding
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	BAmb	SO645424	2005	1 Pair; Present Breeding
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	BAmb	SO645424	2005	c15 Present
Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	BAmb, HBAPCC	SO645424	2005	1 Pair; Present Breeding
Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava subsp. flavissima	Bern2, BRed, HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP	SO645424	2005	1 Present
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern2	SO642415	2004	1 Present
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	BAmb	SO642415	2004	1 Present
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	BRed, HBAPCC, HBAPPS	SO642415	2003	2 Present
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, WCA1i	SO642415	2002	1 Present
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	SO641415	2002	1 Adult; 1 Juvenile
Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	HBAPCC, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b	SO641415	2002	3 Adult
Bats	Chiroptera			2001	Present
Coal Tit	Periparus ater	Bern2	SO642415	2001	3 Present
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	BRed, HBAPCC, WCA1i	SO642415	2001	c.20 Present
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, HBAPCC, HBAPPS, WCA1i	SO642415	1997	1 Present
Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	1 Adult
Garden Tiger	Arctia caja	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	1 Adult
Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	1 Adult
Mouse Moth	Amphipyra tragopoginis	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	3 Adult

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Rosy Minor	Mesoligia literosa	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	1 Adult
Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	2 Adult
Shaded Broad-bar	Scotopteryx	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	1 Adult
	chenopodiata				
Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	1 Adult
Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	2 Adult
White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1992	2 Adult
Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1991	1 Adult
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	CMS_A2	SO641415	1991	Present
Mouse Moth	Amphipyra tragopoginis	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1991	1 Adult
Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	Sect.41, UKBAP	SO640420	1991	3 Adult
Wall	Lasiommata megera	BCRM, HBAPCC, RLGB.Lr(NT),	SO6442	1972	Present
		Sect.41, UKBAP			
Wall	Lasiommata megera	BCRM, HBAPCC, RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP	SO6442	1971	Present





BAP Priority Habitats Map Legend

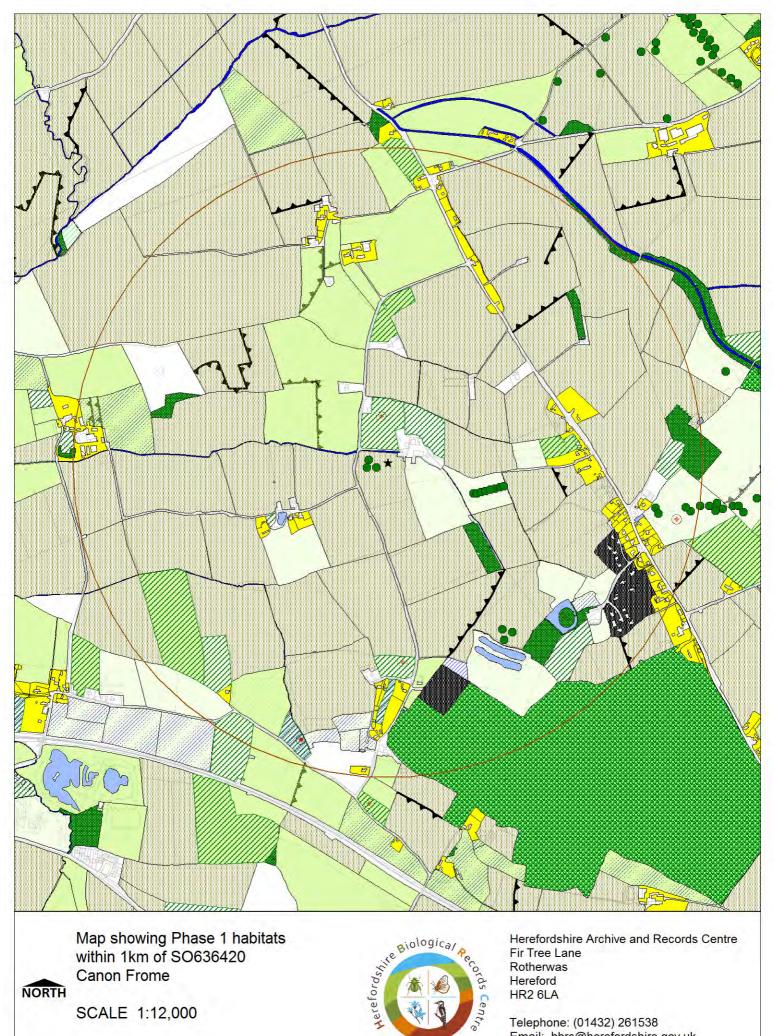
NORTH



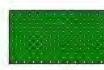
P.O. Box 230 Hereford HR1 2ZB

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Semi-Natural Broad-Leaved Woodland



Plantation Broad-Leaved Woodland



Semi-Natural Coniferous Woodland



Plantation Coniferous Woodland



Semi-Natural Mixed Woodland



Plantation Mixed Woodland



Dense/Continuous Scrub



0

Scattered Scrub

Parkland Scattered Broad-Leaved Trees Parkland Scattered Coniferous Trees Parkland Scattered Mixed Trees



Recently-Felled Broad-Leaved Woodland



Recently-Felled Conifereous Woodland



Recently-Felled Mixed Woodland



Orchard



Unimproved Acid Grassland

Semi-Improved Acid Grassland







Tall Ruderal

Acid Dry Dwarf Shrub Heath

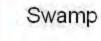
Wet Dwarf Shrub Heath

Continuous Bracken

Scattered Bracken



Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic



Inundation

Standing Open Water

Running Water

Acid/Neutral Scree

Acid/Neutral Other Exposure



Cave

Quarry

Spoil

Refuse

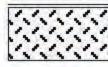


Arable

Amenity Grassland

Ephemeral/Short Perennial





Intact Hedge Species Rich Intact Hedge Species Poor Defunct Hedge Species Poor Hedge and Trees Species Poor Fence Dry Ditch Boundary Removed Earth Bank Caravan Site Buildings Bare Ground

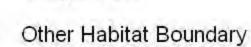


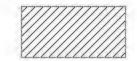
Miscellaneous Other Habitat



Target Note







Restricted Access





Unimproved Neutral Grassland



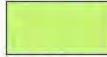
Semi-Improved Neutral Grassland



Unimproved Calcareous Grassland



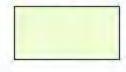
Semi-Improved Calcareous Grassland



Improved Grassland



Marsh/Marshy Grassland



Poor Semi-Improved Grassland



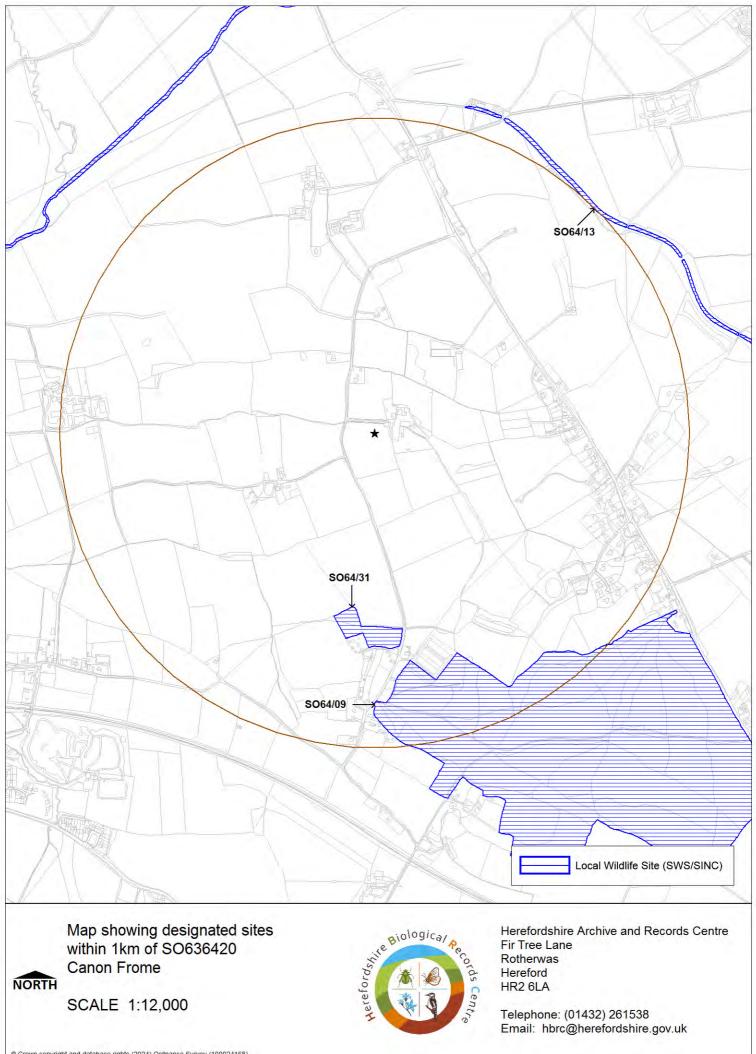
Herefordshire Phase 1 Habitat Map Legend



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Site name: Starling Orchard

County: Herefordshire

Site reference number: SWS_SO64/031

Parish: Ashperton

Status: Local Wildlife Site (LWS) - LWSs are areas of land that are especially important for their wildlife. They are some of our most valuable wildlife areas. LWSs are identified and selected locally using scientifically-determined criteria and surveys. More information about these sites is available at: <u>https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/local-wildlife-sites</u>.

Local Planning Authority: Herefordshire Council (Unitary Authority)

National Grid reference: SO63594136	Area: 0.8 ha
Date selected: 13 th October 2022	Date of last review: 13th October 2022

Reasons for selection:

Starling Orchard is an example of good neutral grassland, and also exhibits good examples of dry grassland existing in transition or mosaic with woodland or scrub. The **grassland's value is supported by the site's Priority Habitat Inventory status** and being characteristic of the Herefordshire Plateau NCA it lies within. The site also supports populations of the UK Red Data List Near Threatened green-winged orchid (*Anacamptis morio*).

General description:

Starling Orchard is a fantastic example of species rich grassland existing beneath traditional orchard to create a form of wood-meadow. The field is surrounded by wide, high hedgerows that are complemented by additional scrub edges giving a varied height profile.