Royal Hill Road, Spondon

ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

784-B038315

Miller Homes Limited

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	The site is located off Royal Hill Road, Spondon, to the east of Derby and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SK 39603 36712.
Proposals	The site proposals include residential development to deliver approximately 90 dwellings with a mix of tenures and dwelling types. The proposals also include access roads, pedestrian routes and cycle routes. The development also includes soft landscaping.
Scope of this Survey(s)	The purpose of the Ecological Appraisal is to provide an assessment of the habitats present on site and the likelihood/evidence of protected and / or notable species presence within and immediately adjacent to the site. This report details the results of the ecological appraisal which includes the results from the desk study search (2km search radius from the centre of the site) and the extended phase 1 habitat survey which was undertaken on 20th April 2022. A further bat emergence survey of buildings B3 and B4 and endoscope inspection of the tree T1 was undertaken on 8th of August 2022. The report will also outline the need for further surveys and mitigation required on site.
Results and Evaluation	**Designated Sites** The following designated sites were located within 2km of the site: • One statutory designated site (LNR) • 14 non-statutory designates sites (LWS, pLWS) The site also falls within the IRZ for two SSSI's. **Habitats** The habitats found on site consist of hedgerows, improved grassland, scattered broadleaved trees, scattered scrub, buildings, bare ground, hardstanding, fencing and a ditch. **Protected & Notable Species** The site is considered to have potential to support nesting birds, badgers, roosting, foraging and commuting bats, hedgehogs, barn owl, GCN and reptiles.
Recommendations and Conclusions	**Further protected species surveys** • Birds - Nesting bird check required prior to the commencement of works on the site. **Key recommendations of the report are:** • Bats, Birds and invertebrates - Planting up and managing newly planted hedgerows and incorporating nectar rich and seed / fruit producing plant species into the landscape plan for the development area. • A wildlife friendly lighting scheme is recommended across the entire site. Where possible, all lighting should be baffled to limit light spill onto

	vegetated habitats and the night sky, focusing on designated footpaths or roads. • A CEMP to be produced to mitgate impacts on the non-statutory designated site. • PMW to be produced and followed on site with an ECoW present on site for badgers, GCN, reptiles, hedgehogs and nesting birds. • Soft felling is also required to be conducted on trees T1 and T2 which will be lost during site proposals. • Pre-commencent badger and barn owl surveys 6 months prior to development works commencing. • Roost protection zones recommended around the trees with bat roosting potential on site to be retained. • Hedgerows to be created on site to mitigate for removal of H2 and the further removal of short sections of other hedgerows.

GLOSSARY

Badger Act	Protection of Badgers Act 1992
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust
BoCC	Bird(s) of Conservation Concern
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
EcIA	Ecological Impact Assessment
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EPSL	European Protected Species Licence
GCN	Great Crested Newt
Habitats Regulations	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
Hedgerow Regulations	The Hedgerow Regulations 1997
HEGS	Hedgerow Grading and Evaluation System
HPI	Habitat(s) of Principal Importance
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LERC	Local Ecological Record Centre
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
pLWS	Potential Local Wildlife Site
ACIEEM	Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
MCIEEM	Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
NE	Natural England
NERC Act	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
PMW	Precautionary Method of works
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAP	Species Action Plan
SPI	Species of Principal Importance
SSSI	Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest
W&CA	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Miller Homes in March 2022 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of Royal Hill Road, Spondon, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Tetra Tech Consultant Ecologist Athina Constantinou MSc BSc (Hons) ACIEEM and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located off Royal Hill Road, Spondon, a suburb of Derby, DE21 7AH (nearest postcode) and was centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SK 39603 36712 – see Figure 1. It comprises hedgerows, improved grassland, scattered broadleaved trees, scattered scrub, buildings, bare ground, hardstanding, fencing and a ditch. The site is bounded by agricultural (arable and pastoral) farmland to the north and west of the site, Royal Hill Road to the east and residential area to the south. The wider landscape comprises mainly residential areas, with the City of Derby to the west and Spondon, a suburban of Derby to the east. Beyond Longley Lane to the north are further areas of agricultural farmland.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The site proposals include residential development to deliver approximately 90 dwellings with a mix of tenures and dwelling types. The proposals also include access roads, pedestrian routes, cycle routes and associated soft landscaping.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to complete:

- A desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest and relevant records of protected/notable species within the site and its zone of influence (considered to be the site and the surrounding 2 km);
- An extended Phase 1 habitat survey, involving a walkover of the site to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species, and a reconnaissance survey for evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species;
- An assessment of the potential ecological receptors present on site, identify any constraints they pose to future development and (if possible) any recommendations for any further surveys, avoidance, mitigation or enhancement measures that are needed (as appropriate).

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of eighteen months from the date of the survey (20th of April 2022), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. The recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

Scientific names are provided at the first mention of each species and common names (where appropriate) are then used throughout the rest of the report for ease of reading.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 HISTORIC SURVEYS

No previous surveys or reports relating to ecology on site were known to exist at the time of writing this report.

2.2 DESK STUDY

The desktop study comprised two elements:

- A data search obtained from Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) in April 2022.
- Online element including a search using: Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (https://magic.defra.gov.uk) website and Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (https://www.bing.com/maps).

The geographical extent of the search area was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence. For this site the following search areas were considered appropriate:

- 10km for sites of International Importance (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar sites);
- 2km for sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), protected or otherwise notable species and non-statutory designated sites of County Importance (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS));
- 2km for biological records, and
- 1km for ancient woodland and mapped priority habitats, those listed within the UKBAP

Designated sites within 2km from the site are shown on Figure 2.

The data search did not cover Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); or Conservation Areas designated for their special architectural and historic interest.

2.3 FIELD SURVEYS

The following methodologies have been used to identify the ecological receptors present on or near the site, which are relevant to the proposed development. The survey extended beyond the site to a distance of 30m where accessible. A single pond was located within 500m of the site. Access to this pond was not available for the time of the survey.

2.3.1 Habitats

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken on the site on 20th of April 2022 by Tetra Tech Consultant Ecologist Athina Constantinou, BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM. The weather conditions were warm, dry, calm and clear with a temperature of 15°c.

The vegetation and broad habitat types within the site were recorded using the Phase 1 categories (JNCC, 2010), with the sites suitability to support notable flora assessed according to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management guidelines (CIEEM, 2017). Dominant plant species were recorded for each habitat present using standard nomenclature (Stace, 2019).

2.3.2 Protected and Notable Species

The site was inspected for evidence of, and its potential to support, protected or notable species, especially those listed under the Schedule 2 of the Habitat Regulations 2017 (as amended), Schedule 5 of the W&CA 1981 (as amended), the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, those

given extra protection under NERC, and species included in the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan LBAP.

The presence of some species was determined using standard best practice guidance and are listed below.

Badger

The site was surveyed for evidence of badger (*Meles meles)* setts or other badger activity such as paths, latrines or signs of foraging. Methodologies used and any setts recorded were classified according to published criteria (Harris, 1989).

Otter

The site was assessed for its suitability to support otter (*Lutra lutra)* using standing Government advice (Chanin, 2003).

Bats

Roosting Bats – Buildings / Structures / Trees

Any suitable buildings, structures or trees on site were assessed from the ground for their suitability to support breeding, resting and hibernating bats using survey methods based on the BCT *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2016) – hereafter referred to as the 'BCT Guidelines'. The categories used to classify the bat roost suitability of any features found, are explained in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Categories of Bat Roost Suitability (BCT Guidelines)

Suitability	Typical Roosting Features
Negligible	Negligible habitat feature on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roost features but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis & potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.

Foraging/commuting Bats

The BCT Guidelines use the criteria in Table 2 below to categorise the potential value of habitats and features for use by foraging and commuting bats and these have been used to characterise the value of this site.

Table 2. Categories of Habitat Suitability (BCT Guidelines)

Suitability	Typical Foraging & Commuting Features
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	Continuous high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

Roosting Bats – Bat Emergence / Re-entry Surveys

Surveys were undertaken in accordance with guidance set out in the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2016). For a building of low roost suitability, a single survey (comprising one dusk emergence or dawn re-entry between May and August.

All surveys were completed when weather conditions were suitable (i.e. not during heavy or persistent rain, low temperatures or strong / gusty winds). Dusk surveys began at least 15 minutes before sunset and continued for between 90 and 120 minutes after sunset. The weather conditions recorded during the survey are provided in Table 3 below.

Surveyors were positioned appropriately around the buildings so that all accessible potential bat access points or roosting features could be seen. Building location and position of surveyors around the building during the bat surveys are shown on Figure 2.

Table 3 Weather Conditions Recorded During Survey

Date of Survey	Sunset / survey times	Weather Parameters							
		Rain		Cloud (%)		Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale)		Temperature (˚C)	
		Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
06/08/2022	20:47 Start: 20:32 End: 22:17	Dry	Dry	20		F1	F1	23	19

Birds

Bird species identified at the time of survey were noted and nesting birds recorded as seen. An assessment of habitats was undertaken to determine the likely value to breeding and foraging birds.

Great Crested Newt & Common Amphibians

The site was appraised for its suitability to support great crested newt *(Triturus cristatus)* based on guidance outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent, 2003) and the *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook* (Langton, 2001). This appraisal also considered waterbodies within 500m of the site and their potential to be used for breeding newts. Each pond was assessed using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham R.S., 2000) which assigns a value to the pond calculated from 10 pre-identified features. If the value is above 0.46 then the waterbody has the potential to support this species.

Habitat suitability and evidence of other common amphibians was recorded on site where relevant.

Reptiles

The site was appraised for its suitability to support reptiles using guidance outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent, 2003).

Invertebrates

The site habitats were appraised for suitability to support assemblages of invertebrates and commented on in the report as appropriate.

Other Species

The site was also appraised for its suitability to support other protected or notable fauna with regard to the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI, 2013). Evidence of any current or historical presence of such species was recorded.

Invasive Species

Evidence of species listed on Schedule 9 of the W&CA as amended, were recorded as seen.

Scoped Out

Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) was scoped out within this report due to being absent in the county of Derbyshire as well as the suitable habitat on site and lack of connectivity to suitable habitat.

2.4 LIMITATIONS

The optimal period to undertake an extended Phase 1 habitat survey is April-September. The survey was completed in April which is inside the optimal survey window. As such this is not considered to be a limitation to the accurate assessment of the habitats and the dominant species of the respective vegetation types were visible and identifiable.

Any absence of desk study records cannot be relied upon to infer absence of a species / habitat as the absence of records may be a result of under-recording within the given search area.

The optimal period to undertake an emergence or re-entry bat survey for a low bat roosting potential building is May-August with endoscope inspections being optimal all year around. The bat emergence survey was completed in July and the endoscope inspection of the tree was undertaken in July. Both of these dates are inside the optimal survey window. As such this is not considered to be a limitation to the further surveys for this site. The surveys were completed with the assistance of bat detectors. All survey techniques are subject to bias, and bat detector surveys may under-record species with weak echolocation calls, such as brown long-eared bats. However, these biases were considered when interpreting the results. (It is also of note that Batloggers are very effective at picking up quiet calls from brown long-eared bats). Some bat calls are variable and extremely similar between species. Where identification to species level was not possible (for example in the Myotis bat group), bats were

identified to family level (e.g. Myotis sp.) where call parameters were inconclusive the species has been labelled as ‘unknown’. This allows the dataset to be interpreted accurately and transparently.

Bats vary their calls dependent on the habitats they fly in and on their activity (commuting, foraging, social interaction, etc). It is not always possible to identify bat calls to species level owing to the overlap of call parameters between some species and / or poor-quality recordings (e.g. brief and distant passes). In these cases, it is accepted that species are identified to genus level or group level (e.g. Myotis) (BCT Guidelines). This allows the dataset to be interpreted accurately and transparently.

As light levels drop after dusk, the visibility of features decreases over time. Conversely for dawn surveys, light levels are worst at the start of the survey, with visibility of features improving approaching sunrise. However, surveyors were positioned appropriately to ensure that any bats flying over or around the building would be recorded and therefore emergence or re-entries would be identified. Based on the species assemblage recorded and their usual emergence / re-entry times, it is considered that visibility after dusk and pre-dawn was not a constraint during surveys.

The details of this report relating to the extended phase 1 habitat survey will remain valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the survey (October 2023). The details of this report relating to the bat emergence survey and endoscope survey will remain valid for a period of one year from the date of the survey (August 2023), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. Note that the recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

3.0 RESULTS & EVALUATION

3.1 PROTECTED SITES

European and National designated sites identified within 10km of the proposed development are presented in Table 4 with the designation, qualifying features and proximity from the development site also indicated. Details of local non-designated sites within 2km and obtained from the Derbyshire biological records centre are also included.

Table 4. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study (Figure 2)

Site Name	Designation	Distance and direction from Site	Reasons for designation
Royal Hill Road hedge	LWS	64m south	Hedgerow
West Park Meadow	LNR	300m east	A prominent feature of the site is the ridge and furrow of the old farming systems. The area provides a number of different habitats - woodland, grassland and hedgerows as well as a pond.
West Park Meadows	LWS	435m south-west	Habitat mosaic
Lees Brook	LWS	650m north-west	Flowing water rivers and streams
Oaklands Brook	LWS	900m north-west	Flowing water rivers and streams
Spondon Wood	LWS	1.1km north-east	Secondary broadleaved plantation
Chaddesden Brook and Mossey Yard Plantation	LWS	1.23km west	Water vole population
Dale Road Park Pond	LWS	1.35km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland - mixed deciduous
Meadow Farm Marsh	pLWS	1.51km south-west	No data available but likely to contain woodland
River Derwent	LWS	1.53km south-west	Flowing water rivers and streams
Locko Park Lake	LWS	1.55km north-east	Standing open water
Convent Meadows	LWS	1.67km north-west	Unimproved neutral grassland
Meadow Lane Bank	LWS	1.86km south-west	Habitat mosaic
Spondon Bourne	pLWS	1.8km south-east	No data available but likely to contain hedgerows and grassland

Site Name	Designation	Distance and direction from Site	Reasons for designation
Former Shardlow Sewage Works	LWS	1.9km south-east	Habitat mosaic

No European sites were located within 10km of the site.

The site falls within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Morley Brick Pits SSSI and Breadsall Railway Cutting SSSI, for several categories of planning proposals listed below:

- **Infrastructure:** Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
- **Minerals, Oil & Gas:** Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
- **Air Pollution:** Livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons & digestate stores > 750m², manure stores > 3500t.

Breadsall Railway Cutting SSSI is designated for calcareous, neutral and acidic grassland, unimproved neutral grassland, scrub, woodland as well as notable butterfly species including species of local distribution in Derbyshire such as holly blue (*Celustrina argiolus)* and species which are now recolonising the county such as gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus)*. and is located 2.87km north of the site. Morley Brick Pits SSSI is designated for open water, woodland and tall fen and is located 4.75km north of the site.

The proposed development is for the construction of 90 dwellings and associated infrastructure. Residential development is not included in the above list of planning applications which are considered likely to impact the SSSI.

3.1.1.1 Priority Habitats

The habitats identified included:

- A single good quality semi-improved grassland HPI under NERC Act, 2006 was identified within 1km of the site located 170m north-east.
- 11 deciduous woodland HPI's were identified within 1km of the site with the closest located 370m south-west.
- Six broadleaved woodland HPI's were identified within 1km of the site with the closest located 356m southwest.
- A single mixed mainly conifer HPI was identified within 1km of the site located 973m west.
- A single Wood-pasture and Parkland HPI was identified within 1km of the site located 929m west.

All of these HPI's are located off-site with the good quality semi-improved grassland HPI and the broadleaved and deciduous woodland having connectivity to the site through hedgerows.

3.2 HABITATS

The following habitats have been identified through our assessment, a Phase 1 habitat map can be found in **Figure 2**, with detailed Target Notes and Photographic Plates included in Appendix B, as appropriate.

Table 5. Habitats

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
Scattered Scrub	Scattered scrub (TN8) was located around the site within the improved grassland. This was dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with elder (*Sambucus nigra*) frequently occurring and field rose (*Rosa arvensis)* rarely occurring. Understorey included common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and white dead nettle (*Lamium album*) occasionally occurring.	Of negligible importance - This habitat is of low botanical value. This habitat has the potential to support protected species including badgers, nesting birds, reptiles and GCN.
Scattered Broadleaved Trees	Scattered broadleaved trees (TN6) were located within the improved grassland on site and were all semi-mature trees. This was comprised by wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).	Of negligible importance - This habitat is of low botanical value. This habitat has the potential to support protected species including roosting bats and nesting birds.
Species-Poor Intact Hedgerows	A single species-poor intact hedgerow was located on site. Hedgerow 1 (H1) (TN1) was a species-poor intact hedgerow located on the east boundary of the site. This was dominated by hawthorn with bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), common nettle, perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), broadleaved dock, with hawthorn saplings and elder saplings occasionally occurring. H1 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H1 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Low' HEGS value. 20m of hedgerow H1 is to be removed as part of the site proposals.	Of negligible importance – This habitat has the potential to support protected species including foraging and commuting bats, nesting birds and badgers
Species-Poor Hedgerows with Trees	Four hedgerows on site were species-poor hedgerows with trees. The trees within the hedgerows ranged from young to mature. Hedgerow 2 (H2) (TN5) was a species-poor hedgerow with trees, located in the centre of the site. This was dominated by hawthorn with crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and elder trees frequently occurring and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) occasionally occurring. The understorey included white dead nettle, broadleaved dock, common nettle and bramble occasionally occurring. Hedgerow H2 will be entirely removed as part of the site proposals.	Of negligible importance – This habitat has the potential to support protected species including foraging and commuting bats, nesting birds and badgers

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
	H2 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H2 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Moderate' HEGS value. Hedgerow 3 (H3) (TN17) was a species poor-hedgerow with trees, located in the centre of the site. This was dominated by blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) with elder frequently occurring, English oak (*Quercus robur*), wild cherry, holly and juniper (*Juniperus sp*.) rarely occurring. The understorey included bramble, common nettle, common ivy (*Hedera helix*) and broadleaved dock. H3 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H3 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Moderately High to High' HEGS value. 69m of hedgerow H3 is to be removed as part of the site proposals. Hedgerow 4 (H4) (TN10) was a specie- poor hedgerow with trees, located on the south boundary of the site. This was dominated by hawthorn, with blackthorn frequently occurring and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees rarely occurring. The understorey included common hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), common nettle, bramble, perennial rye grass, green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*) and common ivy frequently occurring and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) with Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) occasionally occurring. H4 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H4 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Moderately High to High' HEGS value. Hedgerow 7 (H7) (TN25) was a species-poor hedgerow with trees located on the west boundary of the site. This was dominated by hawthorn with occasionally occurring elder and rarely occurring English oak. The understorey included bramble, common nettle and dandelion.	

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
	H7 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H7 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Moderately High to High' HEGS value.	
Species-Poor Defunct Hedgerow	Two of the hedgerows on site were species-poor defunct hedgerows. Hedgerow 5 (H5) (TN18) was a species-poor defunct hedge located in the centre of the site. This was dominated by hawthorn with occasionally occurring holly and field rose. The understorey included common nettle and bramble. H5 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H5 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Moderate' HEGS value. Hedgerow 6 (H6) (TN27) was a species-poor defunct hedgerow located on the northern boundary of the site. This was dominated by hawthorn with occasionally occurring blackthorn. Understorey included cleavers, perennial rye grass and bramble frequently occurring. H6 was assessed as not being an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations. H6 was assessed as being an HPI due to consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species. This hedgerow was assessed as having a 'Moderate' HEGS value.	Of negligible importance – This habitat has the potential to support protected species including bats, nesting birds and badgers.
Improved Grassland	This habitat dominated the site (TN3) and was used as grazing fields for horses. The majority of the fields were grazed to 5cm with the boundaries being overgrown to 20cm. This was dominated by perennial rye grass with broadleaved dock, common ragwort, broadleaved plantain, white dead nettle (*Lamium album*), common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and creeping buttercup occasionally occurring.	Of negligible importance – This habitat is of low botanical value. This habitat has the potential to support protected species including badgers, small mammals and birds for foraging.
Running Water	A ditch was located on site. Ditch D1 (TN11) was located on the south of the site. D1 was 2m wide with a 30cm depth and 65° angle banks. The ditch was slow flowing towards the west of the site. The banks of the ditch included hedgerow H4 on the north and tall ruderal vegetation on the south. No emergent vegetation is located within the ditch section covered	Of negligible importance – This habitat was not assessed as being suitable for any riparian species.

Habitat	Result	Importance assessment
	with water. Sections of the ditch are culverted with a small section close to the road being dry.	
Buildings	Four buildings used as stables were located on site (TN19). Two metal storage containers were also located on site (TN2, TN23). Detailed building descriptions can be found within Appendix B.	Of negligible importance - Low ecological value. However, can be suitable for roosting bats and nesting birds
Bare Ground	Bare ground (TN28) was located within the centre of the site.	Of negligible importance - Low ecological value.
Hardstanding	Hardstanding (TN21) was located around a building on site.	Of negligible importance - No ecological value.

3.3 FIELD SURVEYS

Dusk emergence survey 6th August 2022

No bats were confirmed emerging from the buildings B3 and B4 during the nocturnal emergence survey.

The flight lines of bats observed and locations of the four surveyors are shown in Figure 5.

During the survey, four species of bat (common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, myotis sp. Myotis sp. and brown long-eared *Plecotus auritius*) were identified. The first bat was identified at 20:56 (9 minutes after sunset) to the east of B3, this was a commuting noctule and was heard but not seen during the survey.

There was foraging and commuting activity along hedgerows H3 and H5 by the bats mentioned above until 21:54 located on the south of B3 and north of B4. The final bat, a common pipistrelle was recorded at 22:14 and was heard echolocating but was not seen.

Further Endoscope Inspection on tree T1 using ladders 26th August 2022

A trunk cavity feature located at the base of the tree was assessed from ground level and due to extending 20cm up the tree but also narrowing, it was assessed as having low bat suitability. A further endoscope inspection was conducted on tree T1. Ladders were used to access and inspect a potential bat roosting feature, a split located 2.5m from the ground. This feature extends 5cm back and contained a bird nest at the time of the survey. An additional feature in the form of a branch cavity was identified at a height of 2,5m. This feature extended for 5cm and did not extend any further. Both of these features were assessed as having negligible bat roosting suitability due to have not having enough space for a roosting bat. Therefore, overall, the tree was assessed as having low bat roosting suitability.

3.4 PROTECTED & NOTABLE SPECIES

Data purchased from the Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) confirmed the presence of a number of protected and notable species within 2km of the site. Relevant data are discussed in Table 6 below.

Protected and notable species identified as a receptor for the site are detailed in Table 6. For species with legal protection arising from persecution, such as badgers, some details are purposefully omitted to protect the species, but can be provided on request to inform the masterplan.

Table 6. Species

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
Badger	Badger Act; W&CA Schedule 6.	DBRC returned 10 records of badger within 2km of the site. The exact location of these records is confidential. Three mammal holes likely to be used by foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) or rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) were located on site (TN15, TN24). TN15 was located within the root system of a tree. A disused outlying badger sett was identified on site with one entrance (TN29). This sett contained leaf litter within the entrance. No other badger setts or field signs were identified on site or within 30m of the site during the survey. However, the habitats on site including scrub, grassland, hedgerows, scattered trees and ditch banks were suitable sett-digging, foraging and commuting habitats for badgers. It is therefore possible that badgers can utilise the site for foraging, commuting and sett building.	Of local importance – there is suitable habitat for badgers present onsite.
Hedgehog	Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	DBRC returned 19 records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) within 2km of the site boundary. The grassland, hedgerows and scrub on site are considered to be suitable for hedgehogs.	Of local importance – there is suitable habitat for hedgehog present onsite.
Otter	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; W&CA Schedules 5 & 6; Natural Environment and Rural	DBRC returned no records of otter (*Lutra lutra*). No otter field signs were identified on site during the survey. A flowing ditch (D1) (TN11) was located on site. However due to the isolated nature of this ditch from other watercourses in the wider landscape, it is considered unlikely that the ditch on site will be suitable for	Of negligible importance – habitats on site were not identified to be suitable for these species.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	Communities 2006 Section 41.	commuting otters. Therefore, otters are not considered likely to be present on site and are not discussed further in the report.	
Water vole	W&CA Schedule 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	32 records of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) were returned within 2km of the site. The majority of records were associated with Chaddesden Brook to the west and Lees Brook to the north of the site and were recorded between 2004-2007. These records had no connectivity to the site. The closest record of water vole was located 0.33km north of the site. A flowing ditch (D1) (TN11) was located on site. No water field signs were identified on site. However due to the isolated nature of this ditch from other watercourses in the wider landscape, it is considered unlikely that the ditch on site will support water voles. Therefore, water voles are not considered likely to be present on site and are not discussed further in the report.	Of negligible importance – habitats on site were not identified to be suitable for these species.
Bats	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; W&CA (as amended) Schedules 5 & 6; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	DBRC returned 36 records of bats within a 2km radius of the site. The bat species within the records included brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctule*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and whiskered / Brandt's bat (*Myotis mystacinus* / *Myotis brandtii*). The closest bat records were of brown long-eared, common pipistrelle Leisler's bat, Nathusius' pipistrelle, noctule and soprano pipistrelle all located 0.64km north-west. A search of MAGIC identified two granted European Protected Species Licence's (ESPL) for bats within a 2km radius of the site. The closest European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) (EPSM2012-4290) was of a brown long-eared bat and included the destruction of a resting place starting in 2012 and ending in 2012 and located 300m east of the site. Four buildings were located on site (TN19). All of these buildings are being used as stables for the horses on site. Buildings B3 and B4 were assessed as having low bat roosting suitability with buildings B1 and B2 assessed as having negligible bat roosting suitability. Following the bat emergence	The buildings on site were assessed as having negligible importance for bats The trees on site were assessed as having local importance for bats. The foraging and commuting habitats on site were assessed as having local importance for bats.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
		survey on B3 and B4, these buildings were reassessed as having negligible bat roosting suitability. During the ground level tree assessment on site, six trees were found to have bat roosting suitability. The rest of the trees were assessed as having negligible bat roosting suitability. T2 was a wild cherry assessed as having low bat roosting suitability (TN7). T5 (English oak) (TN16), T1 (wild cherry) (TN4), T4 (English oak) (TN20) and T6 (English oak) (TN14) were assessed as having moderate bat roosting suitability (TN14). T3 was an ash assessed as having high bat roosting suitability (TN9). Detailed assessment is located within Appendix B. Tree T1 was assessed from ground level and also by using ladders and an endoscope to check a trunk cavity, a split and a branch cavity. The assessment identified the split and branch cavity features as having negligible suitability to support roosting bats due to the features not extending into a suitable cavity and being exposed to the weather with the feature being likely to flood. The trunk cavity was assessed as having bat roosting suitability due to extending further up the tree and having some suitability for bats to use the feature. The commuting and foraging habitats for bats within this site included scrub, scattered trees, ditch and hedgerows. The site has good connectivity to the wider landscape to the west, north and south of the site through woodland sections and hedgerows. However, due to the majority of the site comprising of improved grassland, unsuitable for foraging and commuting bats, the site has been assessed as having low suitability for commuting and foraging bats.	
Birds	W&CA (as amended)	DBRC returned 92 records for a total of 11 bird species within 2km of the site. Of these, two species barn owl (*Tyto alba*) and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) were identified as legally protected bird species, listed as Schedule 1 of the W&CA (as amended). The data search also returned 31 records of six bird species of high importance (BoCC Red List) within 2km of the site. The closest barn owl record was located 1.2km northwest of the site. This	Of local importance – there is suitable habitat for nesting birds onsite.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
		record has limited connectivity to site due to a busy A road located between the record and the site. Anecdotal evidence included barn owls using a tree with pellets seen within hedgerow H7. The trees, ditch, hedgerows, buildings and scrub on site were suitable for nesting and foraging birds. The habitats present are likely to support a range of common garden bird species. The habitats on site including the trees were suitable for barn owls. However, the features on the trees are not found to be large enough for nesting barn owls. The habitats on site are unsuitable for any other Schedule 1 species returned within the desk study.	
GCN and common amphibians	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Schedule 2; W&CA Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	DBRC returned four records of GCN within 2km of the site, with the closest record located 1.15km north-west, recorded in 2010. A search of MAGIC identified no granted European Protected Species Licence (ESPL) for GCN within a 1km radius of the site. DBRC returned one record of common toad (*Bufo bufo)* within 2km of the site boundary. A Great Crested Newt Class Survey Licence Return (England) was identified 1.66km northeast of the site with GCN presence identified in 2014. A single pond (P1) was located within 500m of the site. Surface standing water was located on site (TN12). However, this was 5cm in depth and was considered unsuitable for breeding GCN. A flowing ditch was located to the south of the site with a depth of 30cm and 5cm respectively. These were considered unsuitable for GCN due to their flow. The habitats on site including scrub, scattered trees and hedgerows are also suitable for foraging and commuting GCN and common toad. A rubble pile (TN26) was also located on site and are considered suitable for hibernating GCN. A Natural England rapid risk assessment was conducted on site to assess the loss of suitable GCN habitats. No GCN breeding pond(s) would be impacted by the site proposals. No loss of land with 100m or 100-250m of any likely breeding pond(s) is expected to occur, with 0.6ha of scrub and	Of local importance – there is suitable terrestrial habitat for GCN onsite.

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
		hedgerow being lost within >250m from any breeding pond(s). P1 was located 370m south-east of the site. Due to the distance of P1 from the site, it was not considered likely that individual GCN would be impacted, therefore the rapid risk assessment allocated the 'individual great crested newts' section as 'No effect'. The rapid risk assessment resulted in 'Green: offence highly unlikely' (see Appendix B).	
Reptiles	*Adder, grass snake, slow worm and common lizard*: W&CA Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	DBRC returned two records of reptiles within 2km radius of the site boundary. Species recorded included one record of slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) identified in 2000 and located 0.89km north-west of the site and one record of grass snake (*Natrix Helvetica*) identified in 2007 and was located 1.45km east of the site. The flowing ditch, scrub, trees and hedgerows on site are suitable for foraging and commuting reptiles. A rubble pile was also located on site and is suitable for hibernating reptiles (TN26).	Of local importance – there is suitable habitat for reptiles onsite.
Invertebrates	Some invertebrates are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and W&CA. Many invertebrates are also listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).	DBRC returned eight records of seven UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species within 2km of the site. Due to the trees, grassland and ditch on site, common invertebrates are likely to be present. However, it is unlikely that any notable invertebrates are present on site.	Of local importance – there is suitable habitat for reptiles onsite.
Invasive species	W&CA Schedule 9;	DERC returned 67 records of 13 invasive species within 2km of the site.	Of no importance

Species	Legal protection	Result	Importance assessment
	Environmental Protection Act 1990.	None of these records were located on site and no invasive species were recorded on site at the time of the survey.	

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 MITIGATION AND FURTHER SURVEY

All of the works outlined below in Table 7 should be assumed as likely requirements for the pre-planning stage to inform a planning application, unless otherwise stated.

Table 7. Mitigation and Further Survey / Assessment

Ecological Receptor	Further survey / Assessment	Mitigation required	Opportunity for enhancement
Designated sites	The closest LWS to the site was Royal Hill Road hedge LWS located 64m south of the site. It is not considered likely that any of the other LWS located within 2km of the site are to be impacted by site proposals due to the distance between the LWS's and the site. The site falls within the SSSI IRZ of Morley Brick Pits SSSI and Breadsall Railway Cutting SSSI. However, the site proposals are not of a type that are likely to impact the SSSI sites. Therefore, no further mitigation or surveys are required for the SSSI's. No sites with European designation were located within 10km of the site.	A Construction Management Environmental Plan (CEMP) should be produced to mitigate impacts on the Royal Hill Road hedge LWS from site proposals.	Not applicable
Habitats – ditch, hedgerows, scattered trees, scattered scrub	The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report will assess the biodiversity units of the habitats on stie. All hedgerows on site were assessed as HPI's. It is recommended that hedgerows are retained where possible. If this is not possible, all	The best practice pollution prevention measures and light pollution prevention measures should be adopted during construction. It is recommended that all trees on site are retained and protected in accordance with British Standards	Enhance existing hedgerows to be retained and create three more hedgerows within the scheme design

Ecological Receptor	Further survey / Assessment	Mitigation required	Opportunity for enhancement
	hedgerows to be retained should be enhanced with new hedgerows to be planted to compensate for the loss of any existing hedgerows.	BS 5837 2012: Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. It is also recommended that all hedgerows on site are retained and enhanced or if hedgerows are to be removed, further hedgerows to be created for compensation. The site proposals include the retention of the majority of the hedgerows on site with hedgerow 2 being removed and small section of other hedgerows being removed. The retention of these hedgerows will help the site to achieve policy CP19 of the Derby City Local Plan (Council, 2017) by reducing habitat and species fragmentation.	
Badger	Mammal holes located on site. A disused badger sett with a single entrance was also identified on site. A pre-commencement badger site visit is required within 6 months of the development start date.	It is recommended that vegetation clearance on site is undertaken under a PMW with a ECoW present whilst vegetation clearance if conducted.	Not applicable
Otter	Habitats on site are considered unsuitable for otters.	No further mitigation for otters required.	Not applicable
Water vole	Habitats on site are considered unsuitable for otters.	No further mitigation for water voles required.	Not applicable
Bats	Based on the current concept masterplan of the site, the trees with bat roosting potential T3-T6 are to be retained, with trees T1 and T2 to be removed as part of the site proposals. T1 was initially assessed as having moderate bat roosting suitability due to a split and a cavity being present. During the further endoscope	It is required that the two low bat roost suitability trees (T1, T2) are dismantle felled under supervision of a Natural England licenced bat ecologist. The site proposals include the retention of the majority of the trees with bat roosting suitability. Retaining these trees on site will help the site to meet	Installation of bat boxes to be integrated within the buildings to be constructed and the existing or newly planted trees. Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat or Greenwood Crevice Bat

Ecological Receptor	Further survey / Assessment	Mitigation required	Opportunity for enhancement
	inspection, T1 was downgraded as having low bat roosting suitability. T2 is assessed as having low bat roosting suitability. No further nocturnal bat surveys are required for the trees to be removed as part of site proposals. Buildings B3 and B4 were assessed as having low bat roosting potential. It was recommended that a single emergence or re-entry survey is conducted for these buildings. These survey recommendations are based on current BCT Guidelines (Collins, 2016). The emergence bat survey was conducted on buildings B3 and B4, and no bat emergences were identified on these buildings. Therefore, buildings B3 and B4 were not identified as having any bat roosts and were downgraded as having negligible bat roosting potential. No transect bat surveys are recommended for this site as a single hedgerow is to be removed along with small sections of other hedgerows. Site proposals are not considered to significantly impact the commuting and foraging habitats on site. Therefore, no further surveys are recommended for bats for this site.	the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) policy 179 by retaining wildlife corridors and stepping stones likely to be used by protected species including roosting, foraging and commuting bats.	Box are recommended. Access bricks/tiles are also recommended for the newly constructed buildings on site. Additional hedgerows to be created on site.
Birds	No breeding bird surveys required. Pre-commencement barn owl survey to be conducted on hedgerow H7 on site 6 months prior to site works commencing on site. This	Hedgerow H2 will be removed as part of the site proposals with approximately 69m of hedgerow H3 and 20m of hedgerow H1. Sections of scrub will also be removed as part of the site proposals. The loss of these habitats is not significant enough to trigger a	Installation of bird boxes to be integrated within the buildings to be constructed

Ecological Receptor	Further survey / Assessment	Mitigation required	Opportunity for enhancement
	survey is required to be undertaken outside of barn own nesting season (March to August inclusive).	requirement for further breeding bird surveys. However, should works be required during the bird breeding season (between March and September inclusive) it is recommended that a suitably experienced ecologist (ECoW) undertakes a nesting bird check no more than 24 hours prior to the works commencing. Should an active nest be found then it must be left in situ until all the young have fledged and crease to return to the nest. There will also be a need to set up a buffer around the nest site, this is typically 5m but the size of the buffer is dependent upon the species and will be advised by the ECoW. Barn owl mitigation may be required depending on barn owl pre-commencement barn owl survey.	and the existing or newly planted trees.
GCN and common amphibians	No further GCN surveys required.	It is recommended that hedgerow and scrub vegetation clearance on site is undertaken under a PMW with a ECoW present whilst vegetation clearance if conducted.	Installation of log piles within the neutral grassland to be created on site.
Reptiles	No further reptile surveys required due to the connectivity to the surrounding habitats.	It is recommended that vegetation clearance on site is undertaken under a PMW with a ECoW present whilst vegetation clearance if conducted.	Installation of log piles within the neutral grassland to be created on site.
Invertebrates	No further invertebrate surveys required.	No further mitigation for invertebrates required.	Insect houses should be installed on retained trees within the site.
Invasive species	No further invasive surveys required on this site.	No further mitigation for invasive species required.	Not applicable

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The development proposals are considered to have a no impact on the statutory designated sites due to the site proposals not of a type likely to impact the SSSI sites. There was a non-statutory designated site located 64m of the south of the site. A CEMP is recommended to be produced for the construction works.

The habitats of most importance on site are the hedgerows which were all assessed as being HPI's. It was recommended that as much length of the hedgerows is retained as possible. Hedgerow H2 is to be removed from the site with small sections of other hedgerows to be removed (less than 20m). A number of new hedgerows are proposed to be created on site to mitigate for the removal of H2 and removal of other hedgerow sections.

The site has the potential to support a number of protected species including hedgehogs, badgers, GCN, roosting bats, commuting and foraging bats, reptiles and nesting birds,

Key recommendations of the report are:

- A CEMP to be produced to mitigate potential impacts on the non-statutory site
- Dismantle felling is also required to be conducted on trees T1 and T2 which will be lost during site proposals.
- PMW to be produced and followed on site with an ECoW present on site for badgers, GCN, reptiles, hedgehogs and nesting birds.
- Pre-commencent badger and barn owl surveys.
- Roost protection zones recommended around the trees with bat roosting potential on site which are to be retained.
- Hedgerows to be created on site to mitigate for removal of H2 and the further removal of short sections of other hedgerows.
- Implementation of sensitive bat lighting scheme, specifically to limit light spill onto green infrastructure features such as hedgerows, ditches and retained trees.

Provided the measures within this report for further survey and mitigation can be adopted, it is anticipated that a design could be brought forward for this site that would be compliant with current local and national biodiversity planning policy.

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FIGURES

Site Location Plan

Royal Hill Rd, Spondon

Miller Homes Ltd

Legend

Site boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: CD

Checked by: AC

Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1

Revision No. A

0 50 100 150 200 Meters

Scale 1:5,000 @A3

09 May 2022

NGR: 439610E 336751N

TETRA TECH

The Pavilion, 1st Floor
Botleigh Grange
Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF

Designated Sites Plan

Royal Hill Rd, Spondon

Miller Homes Ltd

Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Buffer
- 5km Buffer
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
- Potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS)

Notes:

Drawn by: CD
Checked by: AC
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 2
Revision No. A

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

Scale 1:50,000 @A3

09 May 2022

NGR: 439611E 336745N

TETRA TECH

The Pavilion, 1st Floor
Botleigh Grange
Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF

Waterbody Location Plan

Royal Hill Rd, Spondon

Miller Homes Ltd

F

Legend

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500 m buffer
- Brook
- Pond
- Ditch

Notes:

Drawn by: CD
Checked by: AC
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 4
Revision No. A

0 50 100 150 200 Meters

Scale 1:5,000 @A3

25 May 2022

NGR: 439610E 336751N

TETRA TECH

The Pavilion, 1st Floor
Botleigh Grange
Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF

Phase 1 Habitat Plan

Royal Hill Rd, Spondon

Miller Homes Ltd

Legend

- Site boundary
- Bare ground
- Buildings
- Hardstanding
- Improved grassland
- Scrub - scattered
- Defunct hedge - native species-poor
- Intact hedge - native species-poor
- Hedge and trees - native species-poor
- Running Water
- Fence
- Scattered scrub - broad-leaved
- Scattered tree - broad-leaved
- Target Notes

Notes:

Drawn by: CD
Checked by: AC
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A

0 25 50 75 Meters
Scale 1:1,500 @A3

22 August 2022

NGR: 439610E 336751N

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Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF

Building and Surveyor Locations with Bat Activity

Royal Hill Rd, Spondon

Miller Homes Ltd

Legend

- Site boundary
- Building
- Myotis sp., common pipistrelle and brown long eared flight line
- Noctule flight line
- Surveyor location

B3

B4

Notes:

Drawn by: CD
Checked by: AC
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 5
Revision No. A

0 5 10 15 20 Meters
Scale 1:500 @A3

22 August 2022
NGR: 439590E 336751N

TETRA TECH

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Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF

APPENDIX A – REPORT CONDITIONS

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The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections. Environmental conditions can vary, and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The "shelf life" of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client's instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

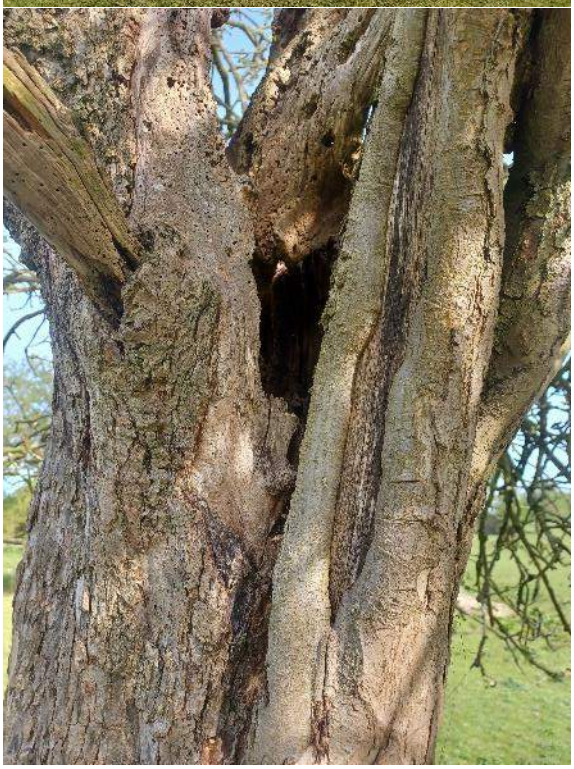
APPENDIX B –TARGET NOTES & SURVEY DATA

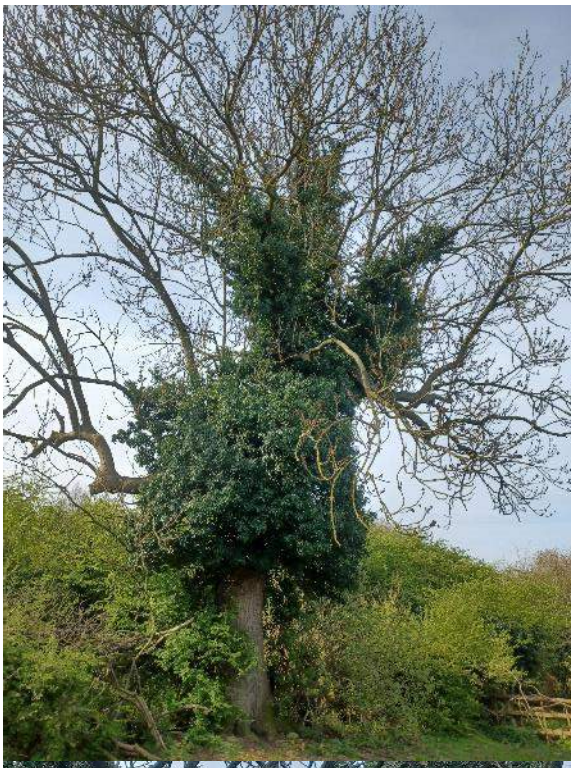
Target Notes

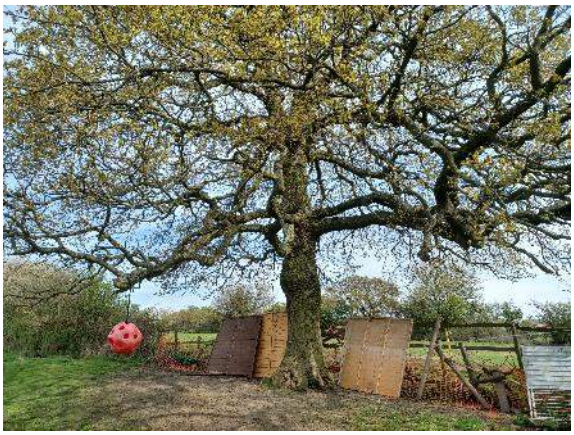
Target Note	Description	Photographic Plates
TN1	**Hedgerow 1 (H1)**	
TN2	Metal storage container used as stables	
TN3	**Improved grassland**	

TN4	Wild cherry tree (T1) with potential roosting features including a trunk cavity located on the base of the tree, 30cm from the ground. This feature was assessed as having low bat roosting suitability due to extending 20cm up the tree and narrowing as it extends. Four other knot holes were located on the tree but were facing towards the sky and were likely to become waterlogged, therefore these four features were considered unsuitable for roosting bats. Another feature including a branch cavity was located on a branch 2.5m from the ground. This extended 5cm and was likely to become waterlogged. A further roosting feature including a split was located on a branch 2.5m from the ground. This feature contained bird nesting material and was exposed to the weather. Both of these features were therefore assessed as having negligible bat roosting suitability. Tree T1 was assessed from ground level and also by using ladders and an endoscope to check a trunk cavity, a split and a branch cavity. The assessment identified the split and branch cavity features as having negligible suitability to support roosting bats due to the features not extending into a suitable cavity and being exposed to the weather with the feature being likely to flood. The trunk cavity was assessed as having bat roosting suitability due to extending further up the tree and having some suitability for bats to use the feature. A trunk cavity feature located at the base of the tree was assessed from ground level and due to extending 20cm up the tree but also narrowing, it was assessed as having low bat suitability. A further endoscope inspection was conducted on tree T1. Ladders were used to access and inspect a potential bat roosting feature, a split located 2.5m from the ground. This feature extends 5cm back and contained a bird nest at the	  

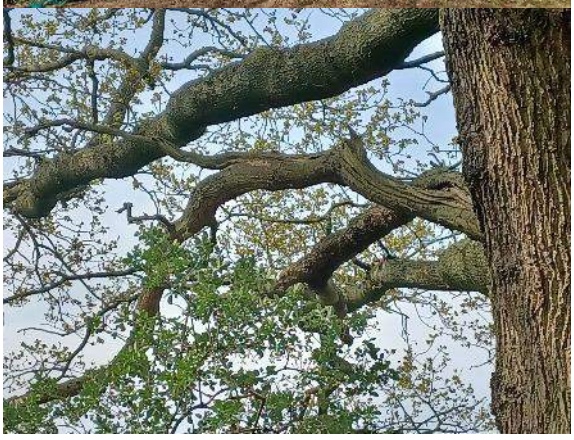
	time of the survey. An additional feature in the form of a branch cavity was identified at a height of 2,5m. This feature extended for 5cm and did not extend any further. Both of these features were assessed as having negligible bat roosting suitability due to have not having enough space for a roosting bat. Therefore, overall, the tree was assessed as having low bat roosting suitability. T1 was assessed as having **moderate** bat roosting suitability. This was downgraded to low suitability following endoscope inspection of the features.	
TN5	**Hedgerow 2 (H2)**	
TN6	**Scattered broadleaved trees**	

TN7	Wild cherry tree (T2) with potential roosting features including a trunk cavity facing towards the sky and likely to become waterlogged and therefore this feature was not considered to be suitable for roosting bats. Another feature included a branch cavity under a damaged branch facing south located 1.5m from the ground likely to be suitable for only one or two individual bats. Therefore, T2 was assessed as having **low** bat roosting suitability.	  

TN8	**Scattered scrub**	
TN9	Ash tree (T3) with potential roosting features including dense ivy cover overall around the tree, a branch cavity 5m from the ground facing west and two knot holes 5m from the ground facing north. Therefore, T3 was assessed as having **high** bat roosting suitability.	 

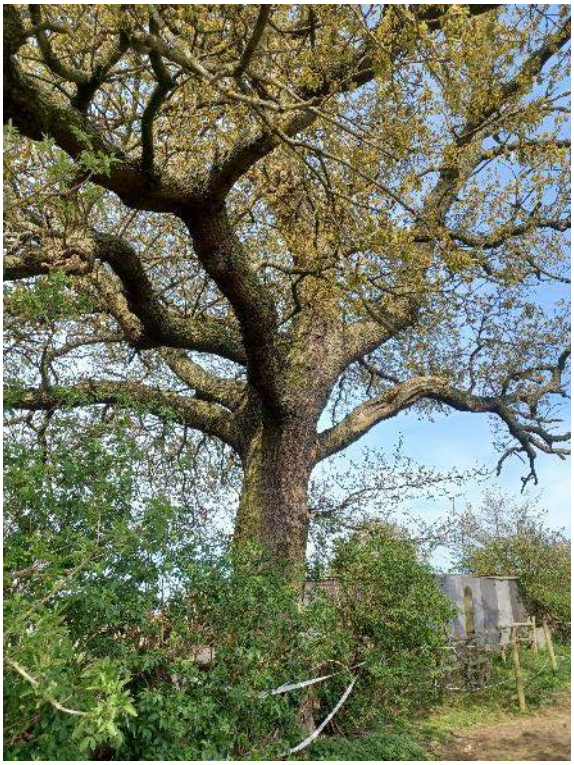
TN10	**Hedgerow 4 (H4)**	
TN11	**Ditch D1**	
TN12	Shallow standing water	
TN14	English oak tree (T6) with potential roosting feature in a hazard beam 4m from the ground facing west. Therefore, T6 was assessed as having **moderate** bat roosting suitability.	

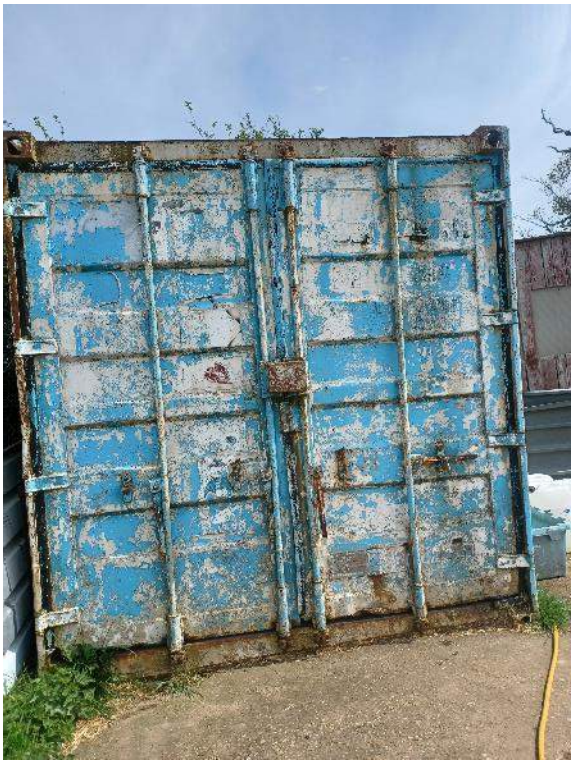
		
TN15	Mammal holes	 

TN16	English oak tree (T5) with a potential roosting feature, a hazard beam 4m from the ground facing east. Therefore, T5 was assessed as having **moderate** bat roosting suitability.	 
TN17	**Hedgerow 3 (H3)**	
TN18	**Hedgerow 5 (H5)**	
TN19	**Buildings:**	

B1	This building was used as a stable and was a wooden single-storey building with a gable corrugated roof. No potential roosting features were identified on this building. Therefore, B1 was assessed as having **negligible** bat roost suitability.	
B2	This building was used as a stable and was a wooden single-storey building with a flat corrugated roof. No potential roosting features were identified on this building. Therefore, B2 was assessed as having **negligible** bat roost suitability.	
B3	This building was used as a stable and was a wooden single-storey building with a shallow half pitch corrugated roof. This building has potential roosting features in the form of a gap between the corrugated roof and the wooden walls. Therefore, B3 is assessed as having **low** bat roost suitability. This building was downgraded as having **negligible** bat roost suitability following the bat emergence survey.	 

		  
B4	This building was used as a stable and was a wooden single-storey building with a shallow pitched corrugated roof. No potential roosting features were identified externally on this building. However, the internal section of the building had exposed wooden beams. Therefore, B4 was assessed as having **low** bat roost suitability. This building was downgraded as having **negligible** bat roost suitability following the bat emergence survey.	

		
TN20	English oak tree (T4) with potential roosting features including a knot hole 6m from the ground facing east and a branch cavity 3m from the ground facing east. Therefore, T4 was assessed as having **moderate** bat roost suitability.	 

TN21	**Hardstanding** around Building B3	
TN22	Manure pile next to building B3	
TN23	Metal storage container	

TN24	Rabbit warren	
TN25	**Hedgerow 7 (H7)**	
TN26	Rubble pile	
TN27	**Hedgerow 6 (H6)**	

TN28	**Bare ground**	
TN29	**Disused badger outlying sett.**	

Rapid Risk Assessment

Component	**Likely effect** (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	**Notional offence probability score**
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged	0.03
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:	0.03
Rapid risk assessment result:	**GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY**	

HEGS Hedgerow Assessment

Hedgerow No.	Length	Important Hedgerow	HPI	Structural Integrity	Connectivity Score	Diversity Score	Associated Features Score	Grade	Value
H1	**81m**	No	No	5	5	3	0	4	Low
H2	**221m**	No	No	15	3	5	4	3	Moderate
H3	**223m**	No	No	18	4	6	4	2	Moderately High to High
H4	**186**	No	No	15	6	5	0	2	Moderately High to High
H5	**60m**	No	No	7	4	5	0	3	Moderate
H6	**54m**	No	No	7	4	3	0	3	Moderate
H7	**199m**	No	No	14	3	5	0	2	Moderately High to High

APPENDIX C – CONCEPT MASTERPLAN WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT VISION DOCUMENT

APPENDIX D – KEY LEGISLATION

Habitats Directive

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or the 'Habitats Directive', is a European Union directive adopted in 1992 in response to the Bern Convention. Its aims are to protect approximately 220 habitats and 1,000 species listed in its several Annexes.

In the UK, the Habitats Directive is transposed into national law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, and via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.

Birds Directive

The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (791409/EEC) or 'Birds Directive' was introduced to achieve favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distribution range. In this context, the most important provision is the identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I or II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the European Commission. These sites, if ratified by Ministers, are then designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within six years. Public bodies must also help preserve, maintain and re-establish habitats for wild birds.

The 2018 amendments mainly related to the impact of the *People Over Wind* decision and some implications arising for neighbourhood plan development and a range of other planning tools including Local Development Orders and Permission in Principle – see here for full details:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1307/note/made

The 2019 amendments related to the EU exit. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant. The obligations of a competent authority in the 2017 Regulations for the protection of sites or species do not change. – see here for full details:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573

The Regulations make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 5.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in the UK. This legislation is the chief means by which the 'Bern Convention' and the Birds Directive are implemented in the UK. Since it was first introduced, the Act has been amended several times.

The Act makes it an offence to (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) intentionally:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Or to intentionally do the following to a wild bird listed in Schedule 1:

- disturbs any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- disturbs dependent young of such a bird.

In addition, the Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal listed on Schedule 5;
- interfere with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places; and
- The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals.

Finally, the Act also makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to: intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, or any seed or spore attached to any such wild plant; unless an authorised person, intentionally uproot any wild plant not included in Schedule 8; or sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Following all amendments to the Act, Schedule 5 'Animals which are Protected' contains a total of 154 species of animal, including several mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Schedule 8 'Plants which are Protected' of the Act, contains 185 species, including higher plants, bryophytes and fungi and lichens. A comprehensive and up-to-date list of these species can be obtained from the JNCC website.

Part 14 of the Act makes unlawful to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant which is listed in Part II of Schedule 9.

It is recommended that plant material of these species is disposed of as bio-hazardous waste, and these plants should not be used in planting schemes.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

The Act imposes a classification of soil and other waste containing viable propagules of invasive non-native plant species as controlled waste. This has been applied to Japanese Knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, with the result that waste containing this species must be disposed of in accordance with the duty of care set out in section 34 of the Act.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

The main legislation protecting badgers in England and Wales is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (the 1992 Act). Under the 1992 Act it is an offence to: wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger; dig for a badger; interfere with a badger sett by, damaging a sett or any part thereof, destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett, causing a dog to enter a sett or disturbing a badger while occupying a sett.

The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as: “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 41 (S41) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list (in consultation with Natural England) of Habitats and Species which are of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal (e.g. planning) functions. The S41 list includes 65 Habitats of Principal Importance and 1,150 Species of Principal Importance.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations were made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into force in 1997. They introduced new arrangements for local planning authorities in England and Wales to protect important hedgerows in the countryside, by controlling their removal through a system of notification. Important hedgerows are defined by complex assessment criteria, which draw on biodiversity features, historical context and the landscape value of the hedgerow.

Birds of Conservation Concern

This is a review of the status of all birds occurring regularly in the United Kingdom. It is regularly updated and is prepared by leading bird conservation organisations, including the BTO, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and RSPB.

The latest report was produced in 2015 (Eaton *et al*, 2015) and identified 67 red list species, 96 amber species, and 81 green species. The criteria are complex, but generally:

Red list species are those that have shown a decline of the breeding population, non-breeding population or breeding range of more than 50% in the last 25 years.

Amber list species are those that have shown a decline of the breeding population, non-breeding population or breeding range of between 25% and 50% in the last 25 years. Species that have a UK breeding population of less than 300 or a non-breeding population of less than 900 individuals are also included, together with those whose 50% of the population is localised in 10 sites or fewer and those whose 20% of the European population is found in the UK.

Green list species are all regularly occurring species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria are green listed.

Global IUCN Red List

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Threatened Species was devised to provide a list of those species that are most at risk of becoming extinct globally. It provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information about threatened taxa around the globe.

The system catalogues threatened species into groups of varying levels of threat, which are: Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), Critically Endangered (CE), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC), Data Deficient (DD), Not Evaluated (NE). Criteria for designation into each of the categories is complex, and consider several principles.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level),and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Some LBAP’s may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision making process.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

This Act offers protects a form of protection to all wild species of mammals, irrespective of other legislation, and focussed on animal welfare, rather than conservation.

Unless covered by one of the exceptions, a person is guilty of an offence if he mutilates, kicks, beats, nails or otherwise impales, stabs, burns, stones, crushes, drowns, drags or asphyxiates any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

It’s application is typically restricted to preventing deliberate harm to wildlife (in general) during construction works etc.

APPENDIX E – NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy Framework
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)3 is the top tier of planning policy. The Framework provides guidance to local authorities and other agencies on planning policy and the operation of the planning system. Section 15 relates to 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'. Relevant policies in relation to planning application include Paragraphs: "174. 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. 179. 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 biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; 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. 180. 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 reasons 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." .– see here for full details: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework

DERBY CITY LOCAL PLAN - PART 1 CORE STRATEGY (Council, 2017)	
Policy CP16 – Green Infrastructure	"The Council will seek to maintain, enhance and manage Derby's green infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to high quality natural and semi-natural habitats, green space and sport and recreation facilities. The Council will ensure that land is available and managed to assist in adapting to and mitigating against climate change. The Council will: (a) minimise and mitigate impacts and overall decline of biodiversity and, where possible, provide net gains (b) ensure that green infrastructure is an integral part of all development, contributing to the wider green infrastructure network, including the strategic network outside of the City (c) retain the principle of the Nottingham / Derby Green Belt and resist harmful and inappropriate development as defined by national policy (d) identify Green Wedges as areas of land that define the City's neighbourhoods and seek improvements to enhance the wider green infrastructure network (e) identify Derby's public green space hierarchy and ensure that everyone has access to a variety of public green spaces

DERBY CITY LOCAL PLAN - PART 1 CORE STRATEGY (Council, 2017)	
	(f) seek to ensure that connections between biodiversity habitats are resilient and appropriately protected. Where opportunities arise, new connections will be created (g) seek to avoid the fragmentation of habitats and, where unavoidable, provide appropriate compensation on a like-for-like basis (h) seek to enhance linkages to the green infrastructure network to improve access for residents, workers and visitors (i) prioritise investment in green infrastructure to: 1. Locations of major residential development and as part of business and employment development 2. Areas of poor provision and in areas needed for increasing functional connectivity 3. Areas needed for mitigating against and adapting to climate change and flooding mitigation and adaptation 4. Improve the role and function of the Green Wedges (j) support the aims and objectives of the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership to improve and enhance the wider green infrastructure network. (k) support improvements to the City's green infrastructure through the implementation of the Our City Our River programme, the implementation of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Management Plan and the restoration of the Derby and Sandiacre Canal. Appropriate improved links to Kedleston Hall, Elvaston Castle and the Trent and Mersey Canal will be supported (l) ensure that new residential development provides improvements to the public green space network either through new provision or improvements to existing spaces (m) ensure that where new development has an adverse impact on a recognised important element of green infrastructure, that impact should be clearly understood, minimised and any residual adverse impacts mitigated for. As a last resort, the impact should be compensated for, either on-site or off-site. Any opportunities for enhancement and better management of the asset through development should be sought. In assessing the impact of the development, its need and benefit will be weighed against the harm caused to the green infrastructure."
Policy CP19 – Biodiversity	"Nature is a sensitive, complex and interconnected system which is often taken for granted. The Council recognises the importance biodiversity plays in delivering an urban renaissance and plays an important part in creating safe and sustainable communities. The biodiversity and geodiversity assets across the City will be protected, enhanced, managed, restored, strengthened and created in a manner appropriate to their significance. The Council will: (a) seek to avoid, minimise and mitigate the impacts on biodiversity and contribute to the City's ecological and geological resources resulting in a net gain in biodiversity over the plan period (b) seek to reduce habitat and species fragmentation by developing a functional ecological network and maximising opportunities for restoration, enhancement, better management and connectivity of natural habitats, including links beyond the City (c) ensure that development will protect, enhance and restore the biodiversity and geodiversity value of land and buildings (d) support and contribute to the targets set out in the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan for priority habitats and species (e) work with partner organisations and neighbouring Local Authorities to ensure that Derby positively contributes to the wider, regional biodiversity network (f) work with relevant partners to help meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive to ensure that all surface and ground water bodies reach at least 'good' ecological status or 'good' ecological potential. All development should ensure the protection, conservation, and where possible, enhancement of biodiversity. Designated international, national and local sites of biological or geological importance

DERBY CITY LOCAL PLAN - PART 1 CORE STRATEGY (Council, 2017)	
	for nature conservation will be offered protection commensurate to their status within the established hierarchy. Sites of international nature conservation importance will receive the highest levels of protection. No development will be permitted which may have an adverse effect on such sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Proposed developments which would adversely affect a Nationally Designated Site such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (individually or cumulatively) will not be permitted. Exceptions will only be made where the benefits of the development on the particular site clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts. Proposals for development in, or likely to have an adverse effect (directly or indirectly) on a Locally Designated Site such as Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Geological Sites and/ or ancient woodlands, veteran trees and hedgerows or wildlife corridors, priority habitats and species will only be exceptionally permitted where: 1. they cannot be located on alternative sites that would cause less or no harm; 2. the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the impacts on the features of the site and the wider network of natural habitats; and 3. adequate mitigation or, as a last resort, compensation measures are provided. Where development proposals have the potential to impact on a natural heritage asset, including where sites are derelict, vacant or previously developed, the Council will require a supporting ecological site assessment to be submitted in conjunction with the planning application. The assessment should identify the nature and extent of any impact and mitigating measures that need to be taken."

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	
DCLP1 Policy CP19: Biodiversity within the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, 2018 (Council, Derby City, 2018)	The DCLP1 Policy CP19 Biodiversity seeks to protect, enhance, manage, restore, strengthen and create biodiversity and geodiversity assets across the City in a manner appropriate to their significance. In certain circumstances the Council may seek contributions towards the conservation of the natural environment and natural habitats. These may involve costs of mitigation for damage done or enhancement, including management of schemes which are outside the application site. These contributions will be negotiated on a case by case basis.