

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

FOR FRIENDS OF STRATFIELD BRAKE
LAND AT THE TRIANGLE, KIDLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE
JUNE 2023 | VERSION 2.1



Client Name	Friends of Stratfield Brake			
Site Location	Land at The Triangle, east of Frieze Way, Kidlington, Oxfordshire			
Project Code	FN23-031			
Project Name	The Triangle			

Document Control

Version	Date	Changes	Confidentiality	Prep	Rev	Auth
V1.0	23/05/2023	Initial draft	N/A	AP	LM	LM
V2.0	26/05/2023	Final for client	N/A	AP	LM	LM
V2.1	26/06/2023	Amended final version	N/A	AP	LM	LM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Future Nature WTC was commissioned in April 2023 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the land at The Triangle in Kidlington, Oxfordshire. The appraisal sought to identify the value of the habitats present for biodiversity and whether there were opportunities for protected and priority habitats or species to be present.

The site is predominantly formed by willow coppice, surrounded and bisected by a grassland access track, with peripheral habitats also including dense mixed and hawthorn scrub and occasional trees. There is additionally an area of high quality woodland adjacent to the southern site boundary, and an ephemeral pond/waterbody within the boundary scrub.

The scrub, adjacent woodland and grassland habitats confer potential opportunities for bats (foraging, commuting and roosting), birds, invertebrates and limited potential opportunities for reptiles, amphibians, badger and other mammals such as hedgehogs. Accordingly any potential development would need to fully consider any potential adverse impacts on these habitats and species groups, with appropriate mitigation measures designed into the project.

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1 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

Future Nature WTC, as part of the Wildlife Trust Consultancies (WTC), was commissioned in April 2023 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at The Triangle, Kidlington to identify the habitats on site and the species they potentially support.

1.2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The Triangle is located just south of the village of Kidlington, next to the Oxford Parkway Park and Ride, with a central grid reference of SP 49865 12068, as shown in Figure 1. The site boundary, shown in Figure 2, is approximately 5 hectares in size, and predominantly comprises a willow coppicing plantation.

Beyond the boundary, the site is bound by the A4260 'Frieze Way' to the west, by Oxford Road to the east, and Kidlington roundabout to the north. The site is bound by woodland to the south, beyond which lies an arable field and the A34 road.

Figure 1: The Triangle Site Location

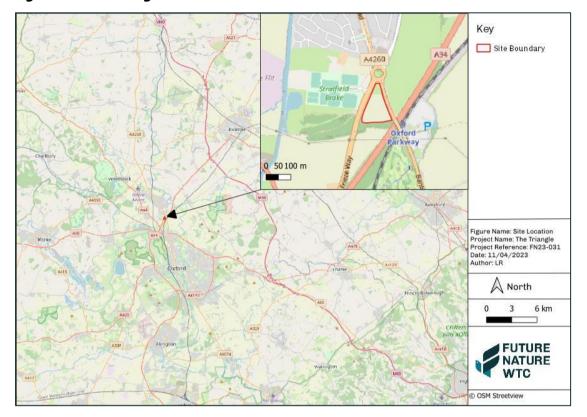


Figure 2: The Triangle Site Boundary



1.3 REPORT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this report are to:

- Identify statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site;
- Identify records of protected and notable species within 1 km of the site;
- Identify the habitats present on the site and their potential to support protected and notable species; and
- Identify any sensitive ecological receptors to potential development of the site.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK STUDY

A desk study was undertaken to identify surrounding habitats and species records:

- An assessment of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping;
- A search of the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website ¹ for statutory designated sites, priority habitats and records of European protected species within 2 km of the survey area; and
- A data search submitted to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) for notable species, invasive non-native species (INNS) and local non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site.

2.2 FIELD SURVEY

2.2.1 Habitats/Protected Species

The site was subject to a preliminary walk over survey, during which habitat types were identified and their boundaries mapped. Habitat types were defined as per the UK Habitat Classification criteria² and a habitat map was produced (Figure 3). The habitats were separated into those measured by area and those measured as linear features, as required by the UK Habitat Classification criteria.

During the preliminary survey the site was also checked for evidence of protected and priority species, and habitats were assessed for their potential to support them.

The survey visit was undertaken on 4th May 2023 in suitable weather conditions, as reported in Table 3.3.

¹ Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)

² The UK Habitat Classification, Habitat Definitions Version 1.1 (2020)

2.3 LIMITATIONS TO SURVEY

The field survey and associated habitat condition assessment was undertaken within the optimal growing season and in good conditions.

3 RESULTS

3.1 DESK STUDY

3.1.1 Designated Sites

A search of the MAGIC Website³ and local records centre indicated that a small section of the site itself is designated as a Cherwell District Wildlife Site, albeit this is primarily associated with the adjacent offsite woodland. There are two statutory designated sites within the 2 km search area and seven non-statutory sites, many of which comprise meadow. Details of these designated sites are summarised below in Table 1.

The site is situated within a number of SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Impact Risk Zones, which are used to 'to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)'. In particular the south west corner of the site is situated within a zone associated with Pixey and Yarnton Meads SSSI (which is also designated as Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation SAC), whereby any large infrastructure proposal with a floorspace of 1000m² or greater requires consultation from Natural England to determine any potential adverse impacts in respect of water supply, with a Habitat Regulations Assessment potentially being required due to the SAC designation.

Table 1: Designated Sites						
Designation	signation Site Name Reason for Designation					
			Survey Area			
Statutory designated sites						
Special Area	Oxford Meadows	Lowland hay meadows reflecting the	1867m			
of		influence of long term traditional				
Conservation		grazing and hay cutting over several				
		centuries. One of only three sites in				
		the UK known for creeping marshwort				
		Apium repens.				

³ Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) www.magic.gov.uk

SSSI	Pixey and Yarnton	Unimproved floodplain meadows with	1867m
	Meads	botanically rich grassland	
Non-Statutory	designated sites		
Cherwell	Stratfield Brake	Range of habitats including	Partially within
District /		broadleaved woodland, grassland,	and adjacent
Oxford City		ponds and scrub.	to south of
Wildlife Site			site.
Cherwell	Stratfield Brake	As above.	Immediately
District			west of the
Wildlife Site /			site, separated
Woodland			from the
Trust Reserve			above
			designation by
			the road Frieze
			Way.
LWS	Loop Farm	Wet, species-rich flood-plain fields	1465m
	Meadows	including a small area of reedbeds	
LWS	Meadows west of	Two fields that have retained ridge	668m
	Oxford Canal	and furrow with lowland meadow on	
		the ridges and fen in the furrows	
LWS	Canalside	Wet meadow grading into sedge-	1855m
	Meadow (Oxford	dominated fen. Important site for	
	Canal Marsh)	birds including snipe.	
LWS	Meadow Noth of	Small wet meadow with a mix of tall	1855m
	Goose Green	wetland habitat with large sedges and	
		rushes and wet grassland	
LWS	Wet Woodland	Wet woodland dominated by grey,	1450m
	and swamp south	crack and goat willow	
	west of Yarnton		

LWS	Cassington to Yarnton Gravel Pits	Series of gravel pit lagoons providing important habitat for wintering wildfowl and breeding birds.	1762m
LWS	Wolvercote Mead	Five meadows supporting unimproved grassland with areas of lowland hay meadow.	1647m
Oxford City Wildlife Site	Linkside Lake	Large pond thought to be spring fed with steeply sloping banks.	1341m
Conservation Target Area	Lower Cherwell Valley		493m

3.1.2 Priority Habitats

A search of the MAGIC website and the TVERC data identified the following priority habitats within the 1 km search area.

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland: There are several areas of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland within 2km of The Triangle. The closest area is located directly south of the site, with two small linear sections additionally situated along the west and east site boundary. Stratfield Brake woodland to the west is also recorded as this priority habitat.
- **Traditional Orchard:** There are four areas of Traditional Orchard within 2km of The Triangle.
- Coastal Floodplain Grazing Marsh: Two areas of CFGM are 658m south west of the site with reasonable connectivity through Stratfield Brake and the Lower Cherwell Valley CTA, constrained by Frieze Way road.
- **Lowland Meadows:** Adjoining the areas of CFGM are two fields classified as Lowland meadow, again with reasonable but constrained connectivity to The Triangle.
- Lowland Fens: Canalside Meadows LWS is 1855m south west of The Triangle. The LWS is separated from The Triangle by a number of major roads including the A40 and A34.
- Reedbeds: Loop Farm Meadows LWS and Dukes Lock Pond LWS are both reedbed sites 1465m south west of The Triangle but they are separated by roads.

• **Priority Ponds:** Two ponds are 500m to the west of The Triangle with good connectivity through Stratfield Brake, albeit constrained by Frieze Way road.

3.1.3 European Protected Species Licencing

The MAGIC website identified a number of granted European Protected Species (EPS) licenses within 2 km of the site, for Great Crested Newts (GCN) and a variety of bat species.

. abic E. Gla	nted EPS licenses within 1			
Reference	Species	Start and	Туре	Distance
		End Date		from Survey
				Area
2014-1382	Great Crested Newt	05/09/2014	Damage and	1.16km
EPS-MIT		to	destruction of	
		30/06/2019	resting place	
EPSM2012-	Great Crested Newt	06/12/2013	Destruction of	1.16km
5322		to	breeding site	
		30/06/2019	and resting	
			place	
2014-3653-	Brown Long-eared bat,	01/03/2015	Damage and	1.74km
EPS-MIT	Common Pipistrelle,	to	destruction of	
	Daubenton's bat,	31/08/2020	resting place	
	Natterers bat, Soprano			
	Pipistrelle			
2014-3653-	Brown Long-eared bat,	21/04/2015	Damage and	1.74km
EPS-MIT-1	Common Pipistrelle,	to	destruction of	
	Daubenton's bat,	31/08/2020	resting place	
	Natterers bat, Soprano			
	Pipistrelle			
2014-3653-	Brown Long-eared bat,	21/05/2015	Damage and	1.74km
EPS-MIT-2	Common Pipistrelle,	to	destruction of	
	Daubenton's bat,	31/08/2020	resting place	

	Natterers bat, Soprano Pipistrelle			
2014-3653- EPS-MIT-3	Brown Long-eared bat, Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, Natterers bat, Soprano Pipistrelle	01/06/2015 to 31/08/2020	Damage and destruction of resting place	1.74km
2014-3653- EPS-MIT-6	Brown Long-eared bat, Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, Natterers bat, Soprano Pipistrelle	23/08/2019 to 31/08/2022	Damage and destruction of resting place	1.74km
2014-3653- EPS-MIT-7	Brown Long-eared bat, Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, Natterers bat, Soprano Pipistrelle	03/11/2020 to 31/12/2022	Damage and destruction of resting place	1.74km
2014-3653- EPS-MIT-5	Brown Long-eared bat, Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, Natterers bat, Soprano Pipistrelle	14/03/2016 to 31/08/2022	Damage and destruction of resting place	1.74km

3.1.4 General Land Use

A review of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that the surrounding land use comprises a mixture of arable/recreational land and Oxford Parkway Park and Ride, whilst the Cherwell Wildlife Site/Woodland Trust reserve Stratfield Brake wood is located immediately to the west of the site.

3.2 DATA SEARCH

3.2.1 Local Records Centre

Protected and Notable Species

A total of 225 notable species were found within a 1km radius of the site including 106 birds, five amphibians, 48 plants, 37 insects, 18 mammals, four fish and two reptiles. A summary of the records of protected or otherwise notable species provided by TVERC is available in Appendix B.

Those records which are of particular note include 69 records of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, last recorded in 2018, and a number of bird records for species which have the potential to use the site and nearby habitats, which are discussed further in the relevant sections below.

3.3 FIELD SURVEY

3.3.1 Survey Conditions

A summary of the survey conditions are provided in Table 3.3.

Table 3.1: Survey Conditions						
Date	Average Temperature	Cloud Cover	Precipitation	Wind Conditions (Beaufort scale)		
04/05/2023	17°c	10%	None	2		

3.3.2 Habitat Assessment

The types of habitat identified on the site have been categorised using the UK Habitat Classification. A total of four habitat features were recorded during the survey.

Overview Description

The habitat features found in the survey area are described below in Table 3.2. The locations of these features are presented in the baseline habitat map on Figure 3. Target Notes are used to identify features of interest and their locations are shown on Figure 3 and described in Table 3.3.

Habitat	Area	Condition	Description	Photo
Feature				
c1d6 120	3.35ha	N/A	The majority of the site comprises dense stands of relatively young	
Short			willow coppice, managed for commercial use. The ground is relatively	
Rotation			damp in places. The ground flora is limited to occasional young	
Coppice			bramble Rubus fruticosus, ash Fraxinus excelsior, seedlings, broad-	
			leaved dock Rumex obtusifolius, creeping buttercup Ranunculus	
			repens, creeping cinquefoil Potentilla repens, whilst infrequent ground	
			ivy Glechoma hederacea, field forget-me-not Mysotis arvensis, young	
			hawthorn Crataegus monogyna, elm Ulmus minor saplings, horsetail	
			Equisetum sp. and common fleabane Pulicria dysenterica are also	
			present, with a strong moss component through much of the habitat.	
			On average there were approximately 6 ground flora species per metre	
			squared.	

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h3f 14 120	0.6ha	Moderate	An area of relatively young hawthorn dominant scrub is located within
Hawthorn			the northern corner of the site. The coverage is dense in places albeit
scrub			with frequent small gaps / clearings. Other shrubs are occasionally
			present, including willow, elm and oak. The ground flora is relatively
			sparse and includes frequent willowherb <i>Epilobium sp.</i> , with common
			fleabane, ragwort Senecio jacobaea, creeping buttercup, glaucous
			sedge Carex flacca, fescue Festuca sp., bugle Ajuga reptans, salad
			burnet Sanguisorba minor, Yorkshire fog Holcus lanatus and infrequent
			ground ivy present, whilst a strong moss component is also frequent.
			The ground is relatively damp in places, in particular there is a small
			section close to the entrance at Oxford Road, with willow becoming
			more frequent and rush <i>Juncus</i> sp. present.



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h3h 11	0.23ha	Moderate	A linear section of scrub is located along and adjacent to the eastern
120 162			and western boundaries of the site, effectively an over-wide hedgerow
Mixed			at the east, and a linear extension of the adjacent woodland
scrub			understorey to the west (here located adjacent to site). Although
			hawthorn dominant, the scrub is generally more mature and outgrown
			than the above described habitat, and includes a number of standard
			oaks. Other scrub species are occasionally present such as elm and
			hazel, with a dense bramble stand / deadwood pile infilling a gap in
			one location at the eastern boundary.
			The scrub occasionally encroaches into the grassland habitat around
			the site perimeter, particularly at the western site boundary.
			A small ephemeral waterbody was also noted within an offsite area of
			this habitat immediately adjacent to the eastern site boundary, which





does not support any aquatic / emergent vegetation. The waterbodies

potential to support amphibians is considered in section 3.3.4 below.

	0.701			
g3c 14	0.73ha	Poor	Grassland is located around the periphery of the site, which is	
120 Other			managed in keeping with its use as an access track to the willow	
neutral			coppice planting, which it also bisects in one location. The grassland is	
grassland			generally relatively species poor, varying between 6-8 species per	
			metre squared on average. The sward is grass dominant, though forbs	
			are occasional to frequent, with scattered rushes also present. There	
			are indicators of higher quality grassland in the sward such as common	
			spotted orchid and oxeye daisy, though these are infrequent, with	
			species such as common nettle, broad-leaved dock and creeping	
			buttercup likely indicating the areas of disturbance / localised nutrient	
			input. The grassland has some affinity with G3c8 Holcus – Juncus	
			neutral grassland, which is a species poor type of grassland.	
			Species present include Yorkshire fog, cocksfoot Dactylis glomerata,	
			wood false brome Brachypodium sylvaticum, soft rush Juncus effusus,	
			pendulous sedge Carex pendula (infrequent), creeping cinquefoil,	
			ground ivy, creeping buttercup, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> ,	
			willowherb sp., bramble seedlings, vetch Vicia sp., broad-leaved dock,	
			dove's foot cranesbill Geranium molle, raspberry Rubus idaeus,	
			ragwort, creeping thistle Cirsium arvense, St. John's wort Hypericum	





sp., white clover *Tifolium repens*, bristly oxtongue *Helminthotheca*

			echioides, field forget-me-not, common dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i> officinale agg., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , rose <i>Rosa</i> sp., bugle, speedwell <i>Veronica</i> sp., common daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i> , horsetail sp., plus infrequent common spotted orchid <i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> , oxeye daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> and cuckoo flower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> .	
w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (offsite)	N/A	N/A	An area of good quality deciduous woodland is located offsite adjacent to the southern site boundary. This woodland is identified as the Priority Habitat 'Deciduous Woodland' on MAGIC mapping, and is considered to be in line with this habitat description. The canopy is relatively continuous, albeit with frequent gaps which let some light through, and is typified by mature oak and ash, whilst there is also a scattered understorey throughout, predominantly formed by mature hawthorn. The ground flora is relatively continuous and diverse, with species including bramble, prunus sp., elm and hawthorn seedlings, plus ground ivy, Yorkshire fog, herb Robert, garlic mustard, cleavers, common dog violet, bindweed sp., raspberry, wood avens, wood false	

brome, lords & ladies, dogs mercury, pendulous sedge, goldilocks	
buttercup, cowslip, wood sedge, common ivy, bluebell (including	
dense patches native and hybrid) and lesser celandine.	
Some deer browsing damage was noted, whilst deadwood is	
occasionally present. A dry shallow ditch is also located close to the	
southern site boundary.	

Secondary Codes used include; 11 Scattered trees, 14 Scattered rushes, 120 Wet, 162 Temporary water bodies

Table 3.3: Target Note Descriptions		
Target Note	Description	
1	Deadwood pile present. Occasional scallops noted within willow coppice.	
2	Small section of scrub encroaches into onsite grassland. Two willow trees with moderate bat potential (due to rot holes and	
	deadwood) are also located adjacent to site at this location.	
3	Localised areas of decreased species diversity (6 species per metre squared) within grassland along western side of site.	
4	Diversity of grassland generally increases back to 8 species per metre squared.	
5	Linear section of scrub adjacent to site becomes more outgrown with elder Sambucus nigra additionally present.	
6	Localised area of scrub noticeably damper, with rushes present. Debris pile also present.	
7	Ephemeral waterbody present at edge of site.	
8	Slight decrease in species diversity of grassland (still at least 6 species per metre squared).	

Key Site Boundary UKHab Polygons g3c - other neutral grassland h3h - dense mixed scrub h3f - hawthorn scrub c1d6 - willow coppice Other Target Note Figure Name: Habitat Map Project Name: The Triangle Project Reference: FN23-031 Date: 24/05/2023 North 25 50 m **FUTURE** Adjacent Priority Habitat 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' © Google Satellite

Figure 3: The Triangle Habitat Map

3.3.3 Schedule 9 Plant Species

No non-native invasive species on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were identified during the field survey.

3.3.4 Protected Species

This section describes the potential for protected and priority/notable species to be present or supported in the habitats found at the site. It also outlines the results of the data search of local species records, provided by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

Bats

The data search returned 252 bat records from 13 species or species groups within 2km of the site, including rare species such as western barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* and Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*, recorded in 2016 and 2019 respectively.

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The scrub habitat at the site periphery confers moderate potential opportunities for foraging and commuting bats, particularly when considered in combination with Stratfield Brake wood to the west and parcels of Priority Habitat deciduous woodland along the A34 to the north and south. The woodland immediately adjacent to the site also confers good opportunities for this species group, including the aforementioned rare species which utilise woodland habitat. The grassland and willow coppice are also of some limited value, forming a mosaic with greater value habitats at the site.

The site additionally provides opportunities for roosting bats, including from rot holes / deadwood in 2 mature willows adjacent to the southwest corner of the site, whilst the adjacent offsite woodland generally offers moderate roosting potential for this species group.

Birds

Desk study

The data search returned records of 106 protected and notable bird species within 2km of the site. Several in each category are mentioned which would potentially find habitats at the site valuable. Nine of these are protected under Schedule 1 Part 1 of the WCA⁴ 1981 (as amended) including Redwing *Turdus iliacus*, Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* and Barn Owl *Tyto alba*.

Sixteen Species of Principle Importance (as listed under Section 41 of NERC⁵ Act) were also recorded including Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* and Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

Thirty-six species are Red listed BoCC⁶ and 54 are Amber listed Species include Whitethroat *Curruca communis*, Marsh tit *Poecile palustris* and Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*.

Field survey and nesting potential

During the field survey ten bird species were incidentally recorded, chiff chaff *Phylloscopus* collybita, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, blackbird *Turdus merula* and goldfinch *Cardeulis carduelis*, great tit *Parus major*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, long-tailed tit

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⁵ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

⁴ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

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Aegithalos caudatus, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* and dunnock *Prunella modularis* which is included in the Amber list (BoCC⁷):. It should be noted that this is only a small snapshot of species present at the time of survey, and that a suite of breeding bird surveys would be needed to understand the full breeding bird assemblage in detail.

Peripheral and boundary habitats at the site offer moderate foraging and sheltering opportunities for birds, including the scrub and trees, which are likely to support a modest assemblage of breeding birds, with greater opportunities afforded by the adjacent offsite woodland. Furthermore, the site provides connectivity through the landscape in combination with nearby areas of woodland Priority Habitat, in particular to the west, south and north.

Nesting birds are also likely to use the dense / woody vegetation within the scrub habitat and trees, of which any active nests are protected from disturbance until chicks have fledged.

Amphibians

The data search returned records of five amphibian species, including common frog *Rana temporaria*, common toad *Bufo bufo*, great crested newt, palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus* and smooth newt *Lissotriton* all of which are protected under schedule five part nine of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, whilst common toad and great crested newt are also a priority species. Great crested newt is also a European Protected Species⁸ and therefore receives additional protection.

The scrub, grassland and willow coppice habitat, plus the adjacent offsite woodland provide suitable terrestrial habitat for this species group.

A single ephemeral waterbody is located within mixed scrub at the eastern site boundary, in effect a widened section of ditch / small pond, whilst a further five ponds are located within 500m of the site, albeit separated by main roads. The onsite waterbody confers some minor potential for the protected species great crested newt, the priority species common toad *Bufo bufo* and other amphibians, however likelihood of this waterbody regularly drying somewhat reduces this potential, in addition to its lack of aquatic / emergent vegetation. A Habitat

Birds of Conservation Concern 5, December 2021
 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Suitability Index score for Great Crested Newts was calculated for this waterbody, which describes the waterbody as having a 'poor' suitability (please see Appendix C). There are additionally barriers to movement of this species group due to the site and land beyond to the south being bound by major roads.

Reptiles

The data search returned records for two species, slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and Grass Snake *Atrix helvetica* within 2km of the site in 2015, both of which receive partial protection under schedule five part nine of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in addition to being priority species.

The scrub, grassland and willow coppice habitat on site confer some minor opportunities for common reptiles, in addition to the adjacent offsite woodland, albeit the regular management of the grassland reduces the potential of this habitat. Piles of deadwood are present within the adjacent offsite woodland, whilst a debris pile is located near the site entrance, which provide potential refugia for reptiles. However, the potential use of the site by reptiles is constrained given that the site and land to the south beyond are bound by major roads which form a barrier to this species group.

Badger

The data search returned 23 records of badger *Meles meles* within 2km of site, with dates of records ranging from 1996 to 2010. Badger receive full protection under the Badger Protection Act 1992.

No evidence of badger setts or other specific activity were recorded within or adjacent to the site. The scrub and grassland habitats present within the site provide some opportunities for foraging badgers which have territories within the wider area, albeit this is constrained by the main roads which are present in all directions surrounding the site.

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Hazel Dormouse

The data search returned no records of dormice. Dormice are a European Protected Species⁹.

The scrub habitat, especially the more mature outgrown scrub at the site boundaries, confers some limited opportunities for dormice, in addition to the adjacent offsite woodland. This potential is however somewhat constrained by the roads surrounding the site which form barriers to suitable habitat in the wider landscape.

Other mammals

The data search returned six records of notable mammals within 2km of site between 2009 and 2020, including: hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, European water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, polecat *Arvicola amphibius* and otter *Lutra lutra*, all of which are priority species, whilst otter and water vole are a European Protected Species¹⁰.

There are no watercourses suitable for water vole or otter near the site which are therefore considered likely to be absent.

The dense scrub and deadwood / debris pile provide limited suitable habitat for hibernating and resting hedgehogs. The grassland, scrub, willow coppice and adjacent offsite woodland also provide suitable foraging habitat.

Other common mammals such as fox are likely to use the site, although these do not receive any specific protection.

Invertebrates

Forty-one invertebrate species were recorded within 2km of site, consisting of four true flies, 24 moths, two butterflies and six beetles.

Habitats present at the site are likely to support a modest assemblage of common invertebrates, in particular the mature boundary scrub, whilst the adjacent offsite woodland is likely to support a wider variety of invertebrates such as saproxylic species. A number of common species of invertebrate were incidentally recorded during the habitat survey,

⁹ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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including orange tip *Anthocharis cardamines*, peacock *Aglais io*, large white *Pieris brassicae*, brimstone *Gonopteryx rhamni* and an unidentified dragonfly.

4 SITE EVALUATION AND SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

4.1 **DESIGNATED SITES**

European Protected Sites

The south west section of the site is located within the Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation Impact Risk Zone as defined by MAGIC. This site is particularly vulnerable to pollution, invasive species and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions. As such, any development which increases the requirement for water use in the area may need to undergo a Habitat Regulations Assessment in order to understand any potential adverse impacts on this designation.

Local Protected Sites

The Cherwell District / Oxford City Wildlife Site 'Stratfield Brake' is situated immediately adjacent to the south of site, with a small section located within the south west corner of the site. The section closest to site comprises established woodland, which supports thirteen species of long established woodland, and a good range of bird species.

This woodland is vulnerable to increased human disturbance (further described in 4.2 below) and habitat fragmentation arising from potential development at the site, particularly when considering the faunal assemblage it is likely to support.

4.2 HABITATS

The dominant habitat at the site comprises willow coppice, which is of only low ecological value given its regular management.

The grassland which forms the access track around and through the coppice plantation is also currently of limited ecological value, due to the nature of its use and associated management. However a number of indicators of higher quality grassland/of botanical interest are present (e.g. common spotted orchid), whilst the sward regularly featured 8 species per metre squared

despite the intensive management. Any losses to this habitat would therefore lose the potential for restoration of this grassland.

The peripheral habitats primarily comprise dense scrub at the boundaries and an area of younger hawthorn scrub at the northern end of the site. These habitats provide good opportunities for fauna and are of elevated ecological value in the site context, but also when considering they provide connectivity with offsite habitats in the local area. Accordingly they are considered to be of moderate value at the local level, and would be sensitive to any losses and / or disturbance (such as from littering, which already occurs at points close to the main roads) arising from a change in land use.

The adjacent offsite woodland is considered to be of elevated ecological value, and accords with the Priority Habitat 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' designation, as indicated on Defra's MAGIC mapping and described within the Cherwell District Wildlife Site Citation. The ground flora is relatively diverse and several indicators of ancient woodland are present including wood sedge, pendulous sedge, goldilocks buttercup and bluebell, whilst historic OS mapping indicates this area of woodland (and the wider Stratfield Brake Woodland Trust Reserve to the west) to have been present since at least 1898¹⁰. Further detailed survey work would be required to confirm the likelihood of the habitat comprising ancient woodland. In any case, in line with current guidance, the habitat is considered to be of elevated ecological value up to the National Level¹¹. Any change in land use would have the potential to adversely impact on this habitat through increased recreational pressure, increase nutrient input from dog fouling and from other disturbance such as littering (already present within scrub near to the road), accidental damage, increased air- or water-borne pollutants and lighting (see fauna headings below).

4.3 BNG

If entered into the latest biodiversity metric (Defra 4.0), the habitats at the site are considered to have a baseline value of 17.89 habitat units. It should be noted that this metric does not account for fauna present at the site.

¹⁰ https://www.nls.uk/digital-resources/

¹¹ Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. Sustainability & Environment Appraisal, LA 108 Biodiversity, March 2020. Table 3.9 (af0517ba-14d2-4a52-aa6d-1b21ba05b465 (standardsforhighways.co.uk)

4.4 BATS

The site confers potential for commuting and foraging bats, including the scrub and adjacent woodland habitats, and particularly when considering connectivity to habitats in the wider landscape, albeit the roads surrounding the site will slightly reduce this benefit, especially for rarer/more sensitive species. Roosting opportunities are also afforded by mature willow boundary trees and generally by mature trees in the adjacent offsite woodland. At least 13 bat species are known to have occurred within 2km of the site, including the rare woodland specialists Bechstein's bat and western Barbastelle.

Further survey work would be required to understand use of the site by bats, though habitats present generally are of moderate potential for this species group, with any population present potentially sensitive to increased disturbance through a change in land use or increased lighting and habitat fragmentation as a result of this.

4.5 BIRDS

The scrub and adjacent woodland habitats at or near the site are likely to support a modest assemblage of breeding birds. Similarly to bats, the value of these habitats should be considered in combination with offsite habitats which provide connectivity through the wider landscape. A wide range of notable bird species are known to have occurred within 2km of the site, including the red list species nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* which favours dense scrubby habitat, plus lesser spotted woodpecker and spotted flycatcher which favour woodland habitat.

Further survey work would be required to fully understand the bird assemblage present, which would be sensitive to changes in land use which may cause an increase in disturbance or habitat fragmentation in the local area.

4.6 AMPHIBIANS

The site confers minor potential opportunities for amphibians, limited to a single small waterbody which appears to be ephemeral in nature and suitable terrestrial habitat including

in particular the scrub and adjacent woodland, albeit these are isolated from habitats in the wider area by major roads. Great crested newts (69 records) and other priority species of amphibian are known to occur within 2km of the site.

Further survey work would be required to understand the presence / likely absence of the protected species great crested newt, which if present would be sensitive to any increase in disturbance such as from littering and loss of terrestrial habitat which may arise from a change in land use. Great crested newts are European Protected Species and therefore appropriate mitigation and a licence from Natural England would be required for any works that could affect them.

4.7 REPTILES

Habitats at the site including the grassland, scrub and offsite woodland confer some potential opportunities for reptiles, albeit as with amphibians this is constrained by the road barriers surrounding the site and adjacent land. Grass snake and slow-worm are known to have occurred within 2km of the site.

Further survey work would be required to understand the extent of any reptile population which may be present, and their sensitivity to changes in land use arising from loss of terrestrial habitat and disturbance.

4.8 BADGER (AND OTHER MAMMALS)

Although no badger setts were identified at the site, they are potentially present in the wider area (including land to the south of the site, particularly before any roads become a barrier), and therefore may enter the site for foraging, with potential opportunities afforded by the scrub, grassland and adjacent woodland. Badgers are known to have occurred in the wider area, as are a number of other mammals which the site affords potential opportunities for, such as the priority species hedgehog and protected species polecat.

Should these species be present at the site, they would be sensitive to increased disturbance, loss of terrestrial habitat and mortality from any increase in road traffic.

4.9 **D**ORMICE

Some limited opportunities for dormice are present at the site, including the dense scrub and adjacent woodland, albeit none are known to have occurred in the wider area, whilst the roads form a barrier to colonisation of this species. They are therefore considered likely to be absent.

4.10 INVERTEBRATES

The scrub and grassland habitat at the site likely support a modest assemblage of invertebrates, with the adjacent woodland likely supporting a more diverse and complex assemblage. A wide range of notable species (42 total) are known to have occurred within 2km of the site, including several beetle species, numerous moth species and several flies, true bugs and molluscs. Two dragonfly/damselfly species are also known to occur, including the red list species common darter, with the ephemeral pond conferring some limited opportunities for this species group.

The invertebrate assemblage present will be sensitive to changes in land use which increase any levels of lighting, air pollution, habitat fragmentation or loss of terrestrial habitats.

5 Conclusion

Overall, the site supports habitats of elevated ecological value including dense / hawthorn scrub, whilst the grassland has some potential to be of higher quality, currently constrained by management practices. The adjacent woodland is of a high quality, and is considered to accord with the Priority Habitat designation 'Mixed Deciduous Woodland', whilst several ancient woodland indicator species are present within the ground flora.

Such habitats confer a range of opportunities for protected and notable species, in particular for foraging, commuting and roosting bats, breeding birds, invertebrates and minor potential for amphibians, reptiles, badger and hedgehog.

Further survey work would be required to further understand the presence of such species.

Any change in land use which increases human activity and reduces habitat area would have the potential to increase habitat fragmentation in the area, plus disturbance to habitats of elevated value and to notable / protected species which may use the site.

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – LOCAL RECORDS SEARCH

Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name	Eddin Hame	Directives	on registation	s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	HabDir- A5	WACA-Sch5-s9.5a	NA	NA	17	12/07/1995	19/06/2020
Common Toad	Bufo bufo	NA	WACA-Sch5-s9.5a	NERC- S41	NA	9	14/06/2003	23/04/2021
Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	HabDir- A2np, HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a	NERC- S41	NA	69	27/04/2009	14/06/2018
Palmate Newt	Lissotriton helveticus	NA	WACA-Sch5-s9.5a	NA	NA	6	11/05/2009	08/06/2009
Smooth Newt	Lissotriton vulgaris	NA	WACA-Sch5-s9.5a	NA	NA	37	21/04/2009	04/06/2015
Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	1	04/05/2019	04/05/2019
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	15	08/02/2000	08/04/2021
Barnacle Goose	Branta leucopsis	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	8	22/04/1998	18/04/2019
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NERC- S41	Bird-Amber	2	18/02/2000	26/03/2001
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	38	31/05/1998	06/07/2021

Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NERC- S41	Bird-Red, RL- Global- post2001- NT	62	27/03/1998	17/09/2019
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	1	19/04/2000	19/04/2000
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	4	11/05/1998	08/05/2019
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	23	14/03/1999	04/04/2006
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Amber	17	27/12/1998	04/03/2016
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	21	26/02/2019	06/07/2021
Common Gull	Larus canus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	13	18/12/2002	30/12/2019
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	33	10/05/1998	04/05/2013
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	31	14/05/1998	06/07/2021
Common	Latin Name	European Directives	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest Record	Latest
Name		Directives		s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	3	09/03/2003	29/06/2010
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	9	12/05/2000	06/05/2021
Curlew	Numenius arquata	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red, RL- Global- post2001- NT	25	07/03/1998	19/06/2019

Dunlin	Calidris alpina	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	5	15/03/1998	10/11/2004
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Amber	38	31/05/2001	06/07/2021
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Red	24	20/01/1998	04/03/2016
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	93	07/01/1998	08/04/2021
Garganey	Spatula querquedula	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	1	30/04/1998	30/04/1998
Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	NA	10	19/12/1998	04/03/2016
Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	NA	WACA-Sch1-p2	NA	Bird-Red	26	02/02/1998	13/04/2021
Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	1	15/10/2003	15/10/2003
Grasshopper Warbler	Locustella naevia	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	4	19/07/2000	29/06/2010
Great Black- backed Gull	Larus marinus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	1	01/01/2019	31/01/2019
Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	1	27/10/1999	27/10/1999
Great White Egret	Ardea alba	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	3	08/10/2019	28/12/2021
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	41	17/01/1998	11/10/2004
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	15	09/03/2003	07/04/2022

Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	8	13/05/1998	03/08/2019
Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	2	27/08/2003	14/01/2009
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	35	25/02/1998	14/05/2021
Greylag Goose	Anser anser	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	14	17/03/2000	08/04/2021
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	6	18/07/2002	05/03/2021
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	41	09/05/1998	01/09/2019
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name		Directives	s41	Designations	records	Record	Record	
Honey- buzzard	Pernis apivorus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	1	01/09/1998	01/09/1998
House Martin	Delichon urbicum	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	13	22/04/1998	19/06/2020
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	16	31/05/2001	19/04/2022
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	12	10/07/2000	06/07/2021
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	100	14/07/1995	28/05/2021
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	21	15/06/1998	01/06/2019
Lesser Black- backed Gull	Larus fuscus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	4	06/12/1998	04/03/2016

Lesser Redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	5	04/01/2006	18/01/2021
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dryobates minor	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	4	08/09/2000	19/06/2004
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	15	22/10/2000	11/04/2019
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	NA	26	29/06/2000	12/03/2021
Little Gull	Hydrocoloeus minutus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	1	21/04/2019	21/04/2019
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	65	21/03/1998	15/06/2006
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	28	23/03/1998	05/03/2021
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	2	19/10/1998	31/03/2003
Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	14	27/10/2003	28/12/2021
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	10	01/02/2000	24/03/2021
Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	3	11/04/2019	05/06/2020
Merlin	Falco columbarius	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Red	2	06/04/2000	03/11/2002
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	4	16/02/2009	17/01/2013

Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	20	31/05/2001	06/07/2021
Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	1	15/05/2001	15/05/2001
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	1	09/09/2000	09/09/2000
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	84	12/01/1998	30/06/2021
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name		Directives		s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	26	01/02/1998	20/10/2019
Pintail	Anas acuta	NA	WACA-Sch1-p2	NA	Bird-Amber	23	06/05/1998	19/12/2019
Pochard	Aythya ferina	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	22	07/12/1998	05/03/2021
Quail	Coturnix coturnix	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	1	20/05/1998	20/05/1998
Red Kite	Milvus milvus	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	RL-Global- post2001-NT	13	03/05/2002	28/05/2021
Redshank	Tringa totanus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	28	14/02/1998	09/10/2003
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	1	19/04/2006	19/04/2006
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Amber	18	01/04/2000	08/04/2021

Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Amber	28	29/11/1999	06/07/2021
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red, Bird- Amber	7	14/02/1998	10/08/2000
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	5	28/09/2006	08/04/2021
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	NA	13	29/03/1998	21/08/2002
Ruff	Calidris pugnax	BirdsDir- A1	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	Bird-Red	2	23/08/2002	14/01/2003
Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	7	31/05/2001	14/05/2021
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	7	01/01/2019	06/11/2019
Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	24	24/02/1998	01/06/2021
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	26	01/02/2000	06/07/2021
Smew	Mergellus albellus	BirdsDir- A1	NA	NA	Bird-Red	3	20/01/2019	23/03/2019
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	24	23/01/1998	30/09/2019
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Amber	46	18/04/2006	06/07/2021
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	5	18/06/2003	04/03/2016
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	9	11/07/1998	27/07/2006
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	18	07/05/1999	14/01/2020

Stock Dove	Columba oenas	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	8	26/02/2000	08/04/2021
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name		Directives	S	s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Swift	Apus apus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	50	20/07/2000	12/06/2021
Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	6	02/02/2006	19/10/2019
Teal	Anas crecca	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	21	17/08/1998	27/04/2021
Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii	NA	WACA-Sch1-p1	NA	NA	1	13/05/1998	13/05/1998
Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	1	30/08/2001	30/08/2001
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	1	12/04/2003	12/04/2003
Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	1	13/05/1998	13/05/1998
Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	3	16/05/1998	10/08/2003
Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	7	28/03/1998	21/04/2003
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	5	17/09/1998	08/08/2003
White-fronted Goose	Anser albifrons	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Red	2	20/04/2019	31/08/2019
Whitethroat	Curruca communis	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	15	17/06/2000	06/07/2021
Wigeon	Mareca penelope	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	40	07/01/1998	27/04/2021
Willow Tit	Poecile montanus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	2	18/09/2000	08/08/2002

						,		
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	4	09/04/2009	25/04/2013
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	51	31/05/2001	19/04/2022
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	35	31/05/2001	18/09/2022
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	NA	NA	NA	Bird-Amber	8	04/01/2019	01/12/2019
Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	2	17/04/1998	30/04/2021
Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava flavissima	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	5	17/04/1998	30/04/2021
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	NA	NA	NERC- S41	Bird-Red	10	11/02/1999	30/06/2009
Barbel	Barbus barbus	HabDir- A5	HabReg-Sch4	NA	NA	17	21/08/2001	14/06/2022
Brown Trout	Salmo trutta subsp. fario	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	26/09/2002	03/07/2008
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name		Directives		s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Brown/Sea Trout	Salmo trutta	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	4	26/09/2002	02/06/2016
Bullhead	Cottus gobio	HabDir- A2np	NA	NA	NA	20	21/08/2001	14/06/2022

A Flowering Plant	Spergula arvensis var. sativa	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB- post2001- VU	1	20/08/2012	21/09/2015
A Flowering Plant	Utricularia vulgaris	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Scarce	1	20/08/2012	21/09/2015
Annual Beard- grass	Polypogon monspeliensis	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Rare, Status-NS	1	19/07/2018	19/07/2018
Bladder-sedge	Carex vesicaria	NA	NA	NA	Oxon- Scarce, RL- Eng- post2001- VU	1	09/08/2005	09/08/2005
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non- scripta	NA	WACA-Sch8	NA	NA	7	12/07/1995	21/05/2021
Bogbean	Menyanthes trifoliata	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Scarce	1	17/06/2015	17/06/2015
Bulbous Meadow-grass	Poa bulbosa	NA	NA	NA	Status-NS	2	09/04/2020	19/04/2020
Butcher's- broom	Ruscus aculeatus	HabDir- A5	NA	NA	NA	1	07/03/2017	07/03/2017
Chives	Allium schoenoprasum	NA	NA	NA	Status-NS	1	21/05/2016	21/05/2016
Common Valerian	Valeriana officinalis	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	14	14/07/1995	24/06/2019

Corn Marigold	Glebionis segetum	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB- post2001- VU	2	21/09/2015	10/09/2016
Corn Mint	Mentha arvensis	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	2	18/09/2016	30/05/2021
Cornflower	Centaurea cyanus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	21/09/2015	21/09/2015
Cultivated Vetch	Vicia sativa subsp. sativa	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Rare	2	09/06/1995	23/02/2014
Devil's-bit Scabious	Succisa pratensis	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	5	09/06/1995	24/06/2019
Field Mouse- ear	Cerastium arvense	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	1	30/04/2005	27/06/2005
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name		Directives	3	s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Field Scabious	Knautia arvensis	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	3	14/06/2007	16/09/2016
Greater Spearwort	Ranunculus lingua	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Scarce	2	17/06/2015	21/07/2020
Harebell	Campanula rotundifolia	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	1	22/05/2000	22/05/2000

Hoary Plantain	Plantago media	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	2	22/05/2000	16/06/2016
Jacob's-ladder	Polemonium caeruleum	NA	NA	NA	Status-NR	1	17/06/2015	17/06/2015
Large-leaved Lime	Tilia platyphyllos	NA	NA	NA	Status-NS	1	18/05/2011	18/05/2011
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- VU	1	17/06/2015	17/06/2015
Marsh Arrowgrass	Triglochin palustre	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	1	04/09/2000	04/09/2000
Marsh Ragwort	Jacobaea aquatica	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	4	04/09/2000	29/06/2010
Marsh Stitchwort	Stellaria palustris	NA	NA	NERC- S41	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB- post2001-	5	04/09/2000	29/06/2010
					VU			
Marsh Willowherb	Epilobium palustre	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Rare	1	29/06/2010	29/06/2010
Meadow Saffron	Colchicum autumnale	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- post2001- NT	3	14/06/1997	28/10/2016
Mudwort	Limosella aquatica	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Rare, Status-NS	1	30/07/2016	30/07/2016

Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot- trefoil	Lotus tenuis	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Scarce	1	18/05/2011	18/05/2011
Nettle-leaved Goosefoot	Chenopodium murale	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- EN, RL-GB- post2001-	1	10/07/2016	10/07/2016
					EN			
Pale St John's- wort	Hypericum montanum	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Rare, RL- GB- post2001- NT	1	18/05/2011	18/05/2011
Quaking-grass	Briza media	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	5	09/06/1995	21/07/2012
Common	Latin Name	European Directives	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest Record	Latest
Name		Directives		s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Ragged-Robin	Silene flos-cuculi	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	13	04/09/2000	19/06/2020
River Water- crowfoot	Ranunculus fluitans	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Scarce	1	10/09/2016	10/09/2016
Round-fruited Rush	Juncus compressus	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB-	2	02/07/2001	08/08/2009
NuSII					post2001- VU			

Rye Brome	Bromus secalinus	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Scarce, Status-NS, RL- Eng- post2001- NT, RL-GB- post2001- NT	1	04/08/2016	04/08/2016
Slender Thistle	Carduus tenuiflorus	NA	NA	NA	Oxon-Rare	1	09/05/2013	09/05/2013
Spiny Restharrow	Ononis spinosa	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	3	14/06/2007	18/05/2011
Stinking Hellebore	Helleborus foetidus	NA	NA	NA	Status-NS	1	16/08/2007	16/08/2007
Strawberry Clover	Trifolium fragiferum	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB- post2001- VU	1	04/09/2000	04/09/2000
Tormentil	Potentilla erecta	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	3	01/01/2001	28/06/2021
Treacle- mustard	Erysimum cheiranthoides	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT	1	21/09/2015	21/09/2015
Tubular Water- dropwort	Oenanthe fistulosa	NA	NA	NERC- S41	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB- post2001- VU	3	22/06/2007	21/07/2020

Upright Spurge	Euphorbia serrulata	NA	NA	NA	Status-NR, RL- Eng- post2001- DD	1	18/08/2015	18/08/2015
Water-violet	Hottonia palustris	NA	NA	NA	RL-Eng- post2001- VU, RL-GB-	1	21/07/2020	21/07/2020
					post2001- VU			
Whorled Water- milfoil	Myriophyllum verticillatum	NA	NA	NA	Oxon- Scarce, RL- Eng- post2001- NT, RL-GB- post2001- VU	1	21/07/2020	21/07/2020
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Common Name	Latin Name	European Directives	UK Legislation	NERC s41	Other Designations		Earliest Record	Latest Record
	Latin Name Fragaria vesca		UK Legislation NA			of		
Name Wild		Directives		s41	Designations RL-Eng- post2001-	of records	Record	Record
Name Wild Strawberry	Fragaria vesca	Directives NA	NA	s41 NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT Notable,	of records	Record 16/06/2017	16/06/2017
Name Wild Strawberry A Beetle	Fragaria vesca Cercyon nigriceps Glaphyra	NA NA	NA NA	s41 NA NA	RL-Eng- post2001- NT Notable, Notable- B	of records 1	Record 16/06/2017 01/06/1998	16/06/2017 20/02/2010

A Beetle	Sepedophilus pedicularius	NA	NA	NA	Notable	1	01/06/1998	20/02/2010
A Beetle	Sigorus porcus	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- post2001- NT	1	01/06/1998	20/02/2010
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	NA	WACA-Sch5-s9.5a	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001- VU	47	16/08/2005	23/10/2020
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001- NT	3	01/01/1998	17/07/2019
White-clawed Crayfish	Austropotamobius pallipes	HabDir- A2np, HabDir- A5	WACA-Sch5-s9.1t/s9.5a	NERC- S41	RL-Global- post2001-EN	2	21/10/2004	21/10/2004
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- post2001- DD	3	14/07/1995	20/08/2012
Variable Damselfly	Coenagrion pulchellum	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- post2001- NT	1	25/06/2020	25/06/2020
Large Black Slug	Arion (Arion) ater	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- post2001- DD	1	29/03/1994	29/03/1994
Marsh Pond Snail	Stagnicola palustris/fuscus/corvus	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- post2001- DD	2	16/11/1978	21/07/1988
Beaded Chestnut	Agrochola lychnidis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	2	14/10/2000	14/10/2000
Blood-vein	Timandra comae	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	16/06/2000	31/07/2000

Centre-barred Sallow	Atethmia centrago	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	11/09/2000	11/09/2000
Common Name	Latin Name	European Directives	UK Legislation	NERC s41	Other Designations	No of records	Earliest Record	Latest Record
Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	2	16/06/2000	20/08/2012
Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	31/07/2000	31/07/2000
Dusky Thorn	Ennomos fuscantaria	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	11/09/2000	11/09/2000
Feathered Gothic	Tholera decimalis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	11/09/2000	11/09/2000
Figure of Eight	Diloba caeruleocephala	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	2	14/10/2000	14/10/2000
Ghost Moth	Hepialus humuli	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	16/06/2000	31/07/2000
Green- brindled Crescent	Allophyes oxyacanthae	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	14/10/2000	14/10/2000
Grey Dagger	Acronicta psi	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	06/05/2000	31/07/2000
Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	2	31/07/2000	31/07/2000
Large Wainscot	Rhizedra lutosa	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	14/10/2000	14/10/2000
Latticed Heath	Chiasmia clathrata	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	31/07/2000	31/07/2000
Mottled Rustic	Caradrina morpheus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	16/06/2000	16/06/2000

Mouse Moth	Amphipyra tragopoginis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	4	31/07/2000	11/09/2000
Oak Hook-tip	Watsonalla binaria	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	31/07/2000	31/07/2000
Powdered Quaker	Orthosia gracilis	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	1	06/05/2000	06/05/2000
Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	7	11/09/2000	14/10/2000
Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	4	31/07/2000	31/07/2000
Common Name	Latin Name	European Directives	UK Legislation	NERC	Other Designations	No of	Earliest Record	Latest Record
Name		Directives		s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Sallow	Cirrhia icteritia	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	11/09/2000	14/10/2000
Shaded Broad- bar	Scotopteryx chenopodiata	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	2	31/07/2000	31/07/2000
Small Square- spot	Diarsia rubi	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	11	08/04/2000	11/09/2000
White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	16/06/2000	12/08/2000
A True Bug	Lygus pratensis	NA	NA	NA	RL-GB- pre94-R	1	26/10/2009	26/10/2009
A True Fly	Elachiptera austriaca	NA	NA	NA	Notable	2	15/10/1999	08/08/2009
A True Fly	Oscinisoma gilvipes	NA	NA	NA	Notable	3	15/10/1999	08/08/2009
A True Fly	Urophora cuspidata	NA	NA	NA	Notable	1	15/10/1999	08/08/2009

Bechstein's Bat	Myotis bechsteinii	HabDir- A2np, HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	NA	1	11/10/2009	12/10/2009
Brown Long- eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	NA	11	28/09/2009	29/09/2021
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NA	NA	52	03/08/2009	18/10/2021
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NA	NA	2	05/10/2001	05/10/2001
Lesser Noctule	Nyctalus leisleri	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NA	RL-GB- post2001- NT	12	01/01/2016	12/10/2021

Myotis Bat species	Myotis	HabDir- A2np, HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001- CR, RL-GB- post2001- DD	37	03/08/2009	18/10/2021
Nathusius's Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus nathusii	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NA	RL-GB- post2001- NT	4	01/01/2016	18/10/2021
Common	Latin Name	European	UK Legislation	NERC	Other	No of	Earliest	Latest
Name		Directives		s41	Designations	records	Record	Record
Natterer's Bat	Myotis nattereri	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NA	NA	2	28/08/2008	29/08/2008
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	NA	43	03/08/2009	11/10/2021

Pipistrelle Bat species	Pipistrellus	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001- NT	25	10/06/2005	21/09/2021
Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NA	RL-GB- post2001- VU	6	01/01/2016	02/07/2021
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	NA	56	03/09/2009	18/10/2021
Western Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus	HabDir- A2np, HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5- s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001- VU	1	01/01/2016	01/01/2016
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	NA	3	02/03/2008	11/04/2021
Eurasian Badger	Meles meles	NA	Badgers-1992	NA	NA	23	09/03/1996	22/04/2021

Eurasian Otter	Lutra lutra	HabDir- A2np, HabDir- A4	HabReg-Sch2, WACA- Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a	NERC- S41	NA	109	21/04/2007	29/09/2021
European Water Vole	Arvicola amphibius	NA	WACA-Sch5-	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001-	33	01/01/1997	21/09/2020
vvater voie			s9.4a/s9.4b/s9.4c	341	EN			
Polecat	Mustela putorius	HabDir- A5	HabReg-Sch4	NERC- S41	NA	4	18/03/2000	21/04/2012
West European Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	NA	NA	NERC- S41	RL-GB- post2001- VU	62	04/04/1997	03/09/2021
Grass Snake	Natrix helvetica	NA	WACA-Sch5-s9.1k/s9.5a	NERC- S41	NA	14	10/08/2001	21/05/2020
Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	NA	WACA-Sch5-s9.1k/s9.5a	NERC- S41	NA	9	23/09/2009	24/04/2021

APPENDIX B - POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006¹² 13

Section 40 – To conserve biodiversity

Section 40 puts a duty on public authorities to conserve biodiversity when undertaking its duties and functions,

Section 41 - Biodiversity list and Action

Section 41 – Section 41 – Requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. They must also take such steps as appear to the Secretary of State to be reasonably practicable to further the conservation of the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section or promote the taking by others of such steps.

The 2007 lists were superseded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

UK BAP broad habitat	UK BAP priority habitat			
Boundary and Linear Features	Hedgerows			
Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland	Traditional Orchards			
	Wood-Pasture and Parkland			
	Upland Oakwood			
	Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland			
	Upland Mixed Ash woods			
	Wet Woodland			
	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland			
	Upland Birch woods			
Coniferous Woodland	Native Pine Woodlands			
Acid Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland			
Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Calcareous Grassland			
	Upland Calcareous Grassland			
Neutral Grassland	Lowland Meadows			
	Upland Hay Meadows			
Improved Grassland	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh			

¹² https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40

¹³ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41

¹⁴ http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5706

Protected Species Legislation

European Protected Species

European Protected Species (EPS) are species of plants and animals (other than birds) protected by law throughout the European Union. They are listed in Annexes II and IV of the European Habitats Directive and receive full protection under The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations (as amended) 2019. This make it an offence to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill any European Protected Species (EPS)
- to deliberately disturb any European Protected Species (EPS);
- to damage or destroy a breeding site or place of rest or shelter used by any European Protected Species (EPS).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) adds further protection by making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly¹⁵ disturb an EPS while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any structure or place the species uses for shelter or protection.

European Protected Species relevant to the site						
	Animals					
All bat species Great Crested Newt						

Species	Legislation	Level of Protection
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) it is an offence if any person: intentionally kills, injures or takes any wild bird intentionally takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird whils that nest is in use of being built; intentionally takes, damages or destroys eggs of any wild bird Wild birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are protected from: intentional or reckless disturbance whilst it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; disturbance of dependent young
Reptiles	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) it is an offence if any person: intentionally kills or injures any reptile

¹⁵ Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) extended the protection to cover reckless damage or disturbance

APPENDIX C – HABITAT SUITABILITY INDEX¹⁶

Category	Score
S1 Geographic Location	1
S2 Pond Area	0.1
S3 Permanence	0.1
S4 Water Quality	0.33
S5 Shade	0.2
S6 Waterfowl	1
S7 Fish	1
S8 Pond Count	0.1
S9 Terrestrial Habitat	0.67
S10 Macrophytes	0.33
Overall Suitability	Poor

¹⁶ ARG UK Advice Note 5, Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index, May 2010