

## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Survey site:**

Mardale Rd, Longridge, Preston PR3 3EU

**Client:**

Ribble Valley Borough Council

**Survey date:**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Project:**

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Ribble Valley Borough Council. The proposal is described as:  
*3G football pitch with access pathway to car park*

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2026](#).

The survey results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion.

Site Location and Context					
<p>The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SD 59600 36100 and has an area of approximately 1.21ha.</p> <p>The site comprises a playing field and car park, with scattered trees along the east and west site ownership boundary and a hedgerow along the southwest site ownership boundary. It is situated within the town of Longridge, Preston. The scattered trees within the site extend into the local agricultural landscape to the west. Aerial imagery shows the local landscape to have a residential character to the north and northeast, and an agricultural character to the south and southwest. There are also several small woodland swathes in close proximity to the site. Water bodies can be found nearby, such as Savick Brook located ~85m to the west and Alston reservoir located ~650m to the northeast. Such features likely enhance the area for a variety of species, including bats, amphibians and reptiles.</p> <p>This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tree Survey Report – Mardale Playing Fields, Longridge, Preston, PR3 3EU – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd.,2026)</li> </ul>					
Survey Details					
<p>The site survey was undertaken by Lizzie Hill BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist (Accredited Agent on Bat Class 2 Licence Number: 2025-85397-CL18-BAT to undertake Level 1 bat survey work).</p>					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (mph)	Rain
20/01/2026	9	71	70	25	None
Executive Summary					
<p><b>Biodiversity net gain</b></p> <p>The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments (excluding exemptions) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. Therefore, the planning application must be accompanied by a landscaping/habitat creation and enhancement strategy, biodiversity net gain calculations and a habitat management and monitoring plan to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.</p> <p><b>Great Crested Newt</b></p> <p>Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys will be required of any ponds within 250m of the site (pond 1, 9 and 14) (where accessible) to determine the presence or absence of great crested newts.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Alternatively, a district level licence (DLL) could be obtained. A DLL can be sought without any further survey work and will require no compensatory habitat creation and less stringent on-site mitigation during construction. However, it's important to note that entering the DLL scheme requires the applicant to make a conservation payment to the DLL provider to provide the compensatory habitat creation off-site on their behalf.</p> <p><b>Bats</b></p>					

<p>A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors.</p> <p><b>Other protected species</b>                  Precautionary working measures will be followed to ensure that nesting birds, amphibians, otters, water voles, badgers and hedgehogs are not harmed by the works.                  In the unlikely event that a protected animal is found during construction, all works must stop and a suitably qualified ecologist must be contacted.</p>
<p><b>Survey limitations</b></p>
<p>It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood.</p> <p>A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report.</p> <p>The PEA survey was completed outside of the optimal survey period (May to September) limiting the identification of ground flora species, however, an adequate judgement could be made from the vegetation visible therefore it is not considered to be a significant limitation.</p>

<p><b>Ecological Survey Factor</b></p>	<p><b>Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.</b></p>
<p><b>Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, pond map in appendix 3, proposal plan in appendix 4 and photos in appendix 5).</b></p> <p><b>Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).</b></p>
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p>The site does not contain any habitats listed as a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). However, the site also contains grassland which could be of value to local wildlife</p>

<p>(UKHab codes used)</p>	<p>populations (as detailed in subsequent sections of this table). Other habitats within the site are common and widespread and have low ecological value. Notable habitats are present within 2km.</p> <p><b>On-site habitat descriptions</b></p> <p><b>u1b – Developed land/sealed surface</b> The north section of the site comprises tarmac hardstanding and is used as a car park (Fig.1).</p> <p><b>g4 – Modified grassland</b> The remaining area within the development boundary comprises modified grassland (Fig.2). The grassland is frequently mown and has a uniform short sward height (~10cm). Large sections of the grassland are used for playing sports and there is evident physical damage to sections of grass which are frequently utilised. Species present include: perennial rye <i>Lolium perenne</i> (D), lesser celandine <i>Ficaria verna</i> (O), creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> (O), common daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i> (O).</p> <p>This habitat was subject to a condition assessment using the Grassland habitat type: Grassland – Modified grassland habitat condition sheet. The results are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. There are less than 6-8 vascular plant species per m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>B. Sward height is uniform (~10cm).</li> <li>C. Presence of scrub accounts for &lt;20% of total area.</li> <li>D. Physical damage is evident in &gt;5%</li> <li>E. Cover of bare ground is &lt;10%</li> <li>F. Cover of bracken is &lt;20%</li> <li>G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species.</li> </ul> <p>It is considered that the modified grassland is classified as <b>poor</b> condition.</p> <p><b>Local notable habitats</b></p> <p>There are several Priority habitats situated within 2km of the site boundary. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deciduous Woodland ~200m southwest.</li> <li>- Traditional Orchards ~1km northwest.</li> <li>- Lowland Fens ~1km east.</li> <li>- Ancient Woodland ~1.2km west.</li> <li>- Lowland Meadows ~1.3km southwest.</li> </ul>
<p>Foreseen Impacts</p>	<p><b>On-site habitats</b></p> <p>The proposed development will result in the loss of ~0.6ha of modified grassland. This is likely to have a minimal impact on biodiversity due to the low ecological value of these habitats.</p> <p><b>Notable habitats</b></p>

	<p>No impacts to any notable habitats are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such habitats as well as the urban location of the site with surrounding physical barriers.</p>
<p><i>Recommendations</i></p>	<p><b>On-site habitats</b> Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012).</p> <p><b>Notable habitats</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity net gain</b> The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments (excluding exemptions) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. Therefore, the planning application must be accompanied by a landscaping/habitat creation and enhancement strategy, biodiversity net gain calculations and a habitat management and monitoring plan to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.</p>
<p><b>Locality and Designated Sites</b></p>	
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p><b>On-site designations</b> The site is not subject to any designation.</p> <p><b>Statutory designated sites (within 2km)</b>  There is one statutory site within 2km of the site, as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fishwick Bottoms Local Nature Reserve located ~1.3km southwest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Habitats include woodland, wetlands, wildflower meadows, an orchard and hedgerows.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The site lies within the impact risk zone for Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><b>Statutory designated sites (within 10km)</b> There is one national network sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) located within 10km, as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA) located ~8.4km north</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Designated because of its importance for the Annex I upland breeding birds hen harrier and merlin. It also supports an internationally important population of breeding lesser black-backed gulls which is proposed as an additional feature of the site.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Non-statutory designated sites</b> The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Lancashire Environmental Records Network.</p>

<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p><b>On-site designations</b> No impacts foreseen.</p> <p><b>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</b> The site lies within the impact risk zone for Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods SSSI. The proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk for this designation.</p>										
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>On-site designations</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</b> None required.</p>										
<b>Invasive / Non-native species</b>											
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.										
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	None foreseen.										
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.										
<b>Invertebrates</b>											
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site, including modified grassland, likely provide common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. The site contains no further notable habitats which may provide niches for specialised or protected invertebrates.										
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Modified grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally.										
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys.										
<b>Bats</b>											
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p><b>EPSL data</b> A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites &lt;2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There are 3 EPSLs within a 2km radius of site as detailed below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #d4edda;"> <th>EPSL reference</th> <th>Bat species affected</th> <th>Distance from site</th> <th>Impacts allowed by licence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EPSM2013-6761B</td> <td>Common pipistrelle</td> <td>~0.9km southeast</td> <td>Damage to a resting place</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence	EPSM2013-6761B	Common pipistrelle	~0.9km southeast	Damage to a resting place
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EPSM2013-6761B	Common pipistrelle	~0.9km southeast	Damage to a resting place								

			Destruction of a resting place
	EPSM2013-6761	Common pipistrelle	~0.9km southeast Destruction of a resting place
	2019-43457-EPS-MIT	Soprano pipistrelle	~1.8km southeast Affects breeding place Destruction of a breeding place
<p>There are no Special Areas of Conservation designated for bats within 10km of the site.</p> <p><b>Foraging and commuting habitat</b> Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of modified grassland within the development boundary and scattered trees and hedgerow within the ownership boundary. These habitats are likely to provide micro-climatic conditions that support invertebrates that will in turn provide foraging opportunities for local bat populations. Most notably, the hedgerows located at the south of the ownership boundary are mature and extend into the tree lines and beyond the site adding to the continuity of vegetated linear features present in the wider landscape. Bats are well known to utilise linear features to aid navigation whilst travelling between foraging resources and roost sites.</p> <p><b>Roosting habitat</b> There is no roosting habitat within the development boundary and therefore there are no impacts on roosting habitat as a result of the development.</p>			
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p><b>Foraging and commuting habitat</b> The proposed development will result in the loss of small areas of ~0.6ha of modified grassland but given their low value and the presence of more extensive areas of foraging and commuting habitat in the locality, this is likely to be inconsequential for bats.</p> <p><b>Artificial lighting</b> The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats.</p>		
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>Foraging and commuting habitat</b> No further surveys are required.</p> <p><b>Artificial lighting</b> A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: <a href="https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting">https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting</a></p>		
<b>Birds</b>			
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<b>Trees and vegetation</b>		

	<p>No suitable habitat present on site for nesting birds. The scattered trees situated along the western and eastern edges of the ownership boundary and the hedgerow along the southern edge of the ownership boundary provide suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p><b>Barn owls</b> The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls.</p> <p><b>Overwintering birds</b> Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p><b>Trees and vegetation</b> No impacts are anticipated on nesting birds as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p><b>Barn owls</b> None foreseen.</p> <p><b>Overwintering birds</b> None foreseen.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p><b>Trees and vegetation</b> Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged.</p> <p><b>Barn owls</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Overwintering birds</b> None required.</p> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b> The installation of a minimum of two bird boxes on mature trees around the site ownership boundary will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes Woodstone Nest Box Or a similar alternative brand.</p>

	Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole.
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p><b>EPSL data</b> A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site.</p> <p><b>Habitat suitability</b> Given the management regime employed on the modified grassland, as well as the species composition, it is considered unlikely that this faunal group would be present within this habitat. However, the tree lines around the edges of the ownership boundary provide sheltering and hibernation opportunities for reptiles. In any case, the tree lines are to be retained as they are not within the development boundary.</p> <p><b>Wider landscape</b> The close by Savick brook and woodland swathes are of elevated ecological value within the wider landscape and may represent important resources for local reptile populations. These nearby habitats provide optimal foraging, commuting, and refuge opportunities for reptiles and are well connected to further suitable habitat in the wider landscape. The presence of reptiles utilising these nearby habitats cannot be discounted but reptiles are unlikely to commute on to site from these more suitable habitats.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on reptiles as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.
<b>Amphibians</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p><b>EPSL and survey data</b> A review of the MAGIC database returned 14 EPSL records for great crested newts and 7 great crested newt class survey licence returns within 2km of the site. The MAGIC database also returned evidence indicating the presence of great crested newts resulting from historic pond surveys undertaken in 2018. These records are located ~750m southwest. Great crested newts exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton <i>et al.</i> 2001). As such, the great crested newt metapopulation known to be present ~750m southwest are not suitably connected to the site.</p> <p><b>Aquatic habitat suitability (including ponds within 500m)</b> Great crested newts (GCN) exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton <i>et al.</i> 2001).</p>

There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of 15 ponds within 500m:

Pond ID	Distance from site	Suitably connected?	If no, barrier to dispersal
P1	~145m east	Yes	
P2	~260m east	Yes	
P3	~280m east	Yes	
P4	~420m east	No	Roads with high kerbs
P5	~350m southeast	Yes	
P6	~450m southeast	Yes	
P7	~450m southeast	Yes	
P8	~460m southeast	Yes	
P9	~200m south	Yes	
P10	~275m south	Yes	
P11	~350m west	Yes	
P12	~420m west	Yes	
P13	~450m southwest	Yes	
P14	~250m northwest	Yes	
P15	~430m northwest	Yes	

A pond map showing approximate pond locations is provided in Appendix 3.

**Terrestrial habitat suitability**

The site provides limited suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians given the lack of optimal habitat (i.e. scrub, rank grassland). The areas of hard standing and frequently mown modified grassland offer sub-optimal habitat for terrestrial amphibians. The hedgerow south of the redline boundary may offer refuge for these species, and there is good habitat connectivity between the site and the majority of the ponds within 500m meaning that amphibians may use the site to commute across and therefore may be present for transient periods.

*Foreseen Impacts*

When georeferencing the proposed development plans over scaled mapping of the site, it is noted that the development area is likely to result in the loss or significant disturbance of ~0.65ha of grassland. If great crested newts are present within the

	<p>pond ~145m to the east of the site, when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces an <b>Amber risk score</b>, which states: <b>Offence Likely</b> (see table below).</p>																								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="528 264 1028 411"><b>Component</b></th> <th data-bbox="1028 264 1525 411"><b>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)</b></th> <th data-bbox="1525 264 1648 411"><b>Notional offence probability score</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 411 1028 451">Great crested newt breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1028 411 1525 451">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1525 411 1648 451">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 451 1028 515">Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1028 451 1525 515">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1525 451 1648 515">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 515 1028 579">Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1028 515 1525 579">0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged</td> <td data-bbox="1525 515 1648 579">0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 579 1028 643">Land &gt;250m from any breeding pond(s)</td> <td data-bbox="1028 579 1525 643">0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged</td> <td data-bbox="1525 579 1648 643">0.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 643 1028 683">Individual great crested newts</td> <td data-bbox="1028 643 1525 683">No effect</td> <td data-bbox="1525 643 1648 683">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 683 1028 722"></td> <td data-bbox="1028 683 1525 722" style="text-align: right;">Maximum:</td> <td data-bbox="1525 683 1648 722">0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 722 1028 762">Rapid risk assessment result:</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1028 722 1648 762" style="text-align: center;"><b>AMBER: OFFENCE LIKELY</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Component</b>	<b>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)</b>	<b>Notional offence probability score</b>	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)	0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged	0.3	Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged	0.03	Individual great crested newts	No effect	0		Maximum:	0.3	Rapid risk assessment result:	<b>AMBER: OFFENCE LIKELY</b>	
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Rapid risk assessment result:	<b>AMBER: OFFENCE LIKELY</b>																								
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys will be required of any ponds within 250m of the site (where accessible) to determine the presence or absence of great crested newts. This will comprise collecting water samples and sending them off for laboratory analysis and such surveys must be undertaken between mid-April and June, in accordance with current survey guidelines (Biggs et al, 2014).</p> <p>The surveys are likely to be required before planning permission can be granted.</p>																								
<b>Badger</b>																									
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site. Further, no evidence of foraging badgers was noted within the development area. However, the site was considered suitable for badger sett excavation and foraging habitat.</p>																								
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p>No works will be undertaken within 30m of a badger sett. Modified grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present.</p>																								

<p><i>Recommendations</i></p>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to badgers, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>• The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which badgers could use.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> </ul> <p>In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p>
<p><b>Riparian animals</b></p>	
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are waterbodies nearby: Savick brook located ~85m west, drainage ditches along the ownership boundary ~ 80m south and ~15m east of the development boundary. Alton Reservoir is located ~650m northwest.</p> <p><b>Otters</b> The nearby brook located ~85m west and ditches located along the ownership boundary (~80m south and ~15m east of the development boundary), likely provide suitable foraging and commuting opportunities for otters. However, the lack of riparian vegetation within the site offers few foraging resources. Otters could be present for transient periods when commuting and foraging as the site benefits from habitat connectivity via hedge-and-tree-lined field boundaries which may facilitate movement between the other brooks and ditches in the wider landscape.</p> <p><b>Water Voles</b> The nearby brook ~85m west is likely unsuitable for water voles due to the presence of fast water flow; however the banks may provide foraging options. The ditches along the ownership boundary ~80m south and ~15m east of the development boundary likely provide suitable foraging and commuting opportunities for water vole. Water vole also may be present in the ponds within the wider landscape. However, water voles are unlikely to migrate from the more suitable habitat available in the wider landscape onto site due to the low value of habitats present on site, lack of riparian vegetation on site and the distance from the ponds to the site.</p>
<p><i>Foreseen Impacts</i></p>	<p><b>Otters</b> The proposed development will not result in the loss of any riparian habitats and no works will be undertaken within 8m of the watercourse (as per Environment Agency regulations). Construction activities could result in the death or injury of otters, if present for transient periods.</p> <p><b>Water voles</b></p>

	No works will be undertaken within 5m of the top of the banks of the watercourse. Construction activities could result in the death or injury of water voles, if present for transient periods.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to riparian mammals, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>• The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to the watercourse and any retained habitats which otters could use.</li> <li>• Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to the watercourse and any retained habitats that otters could use.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> </ul> <p>In the unlikely event that an otter holt or evidence of water vole is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p>
<b>Hazel dormouse</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p><b>EPSL data</b> A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site.</p> <p><b>Habitat suitability</b> The site lies outside of the know current range for hazel dormice and there are no suitable habitats within the development area. As such it is considered likely that hazel dormice are absent from site.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None foreseen.
<b>Other e.g. hedgehog</b>	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The modified grassland onsite provides limited foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs, with hedgerow and scattered tree habitat nearby.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Modified grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use.</li> <li>• Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.</li> </ul> <p>If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.</p> <p><b>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</b></p> <p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas.</li> </ul>
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Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



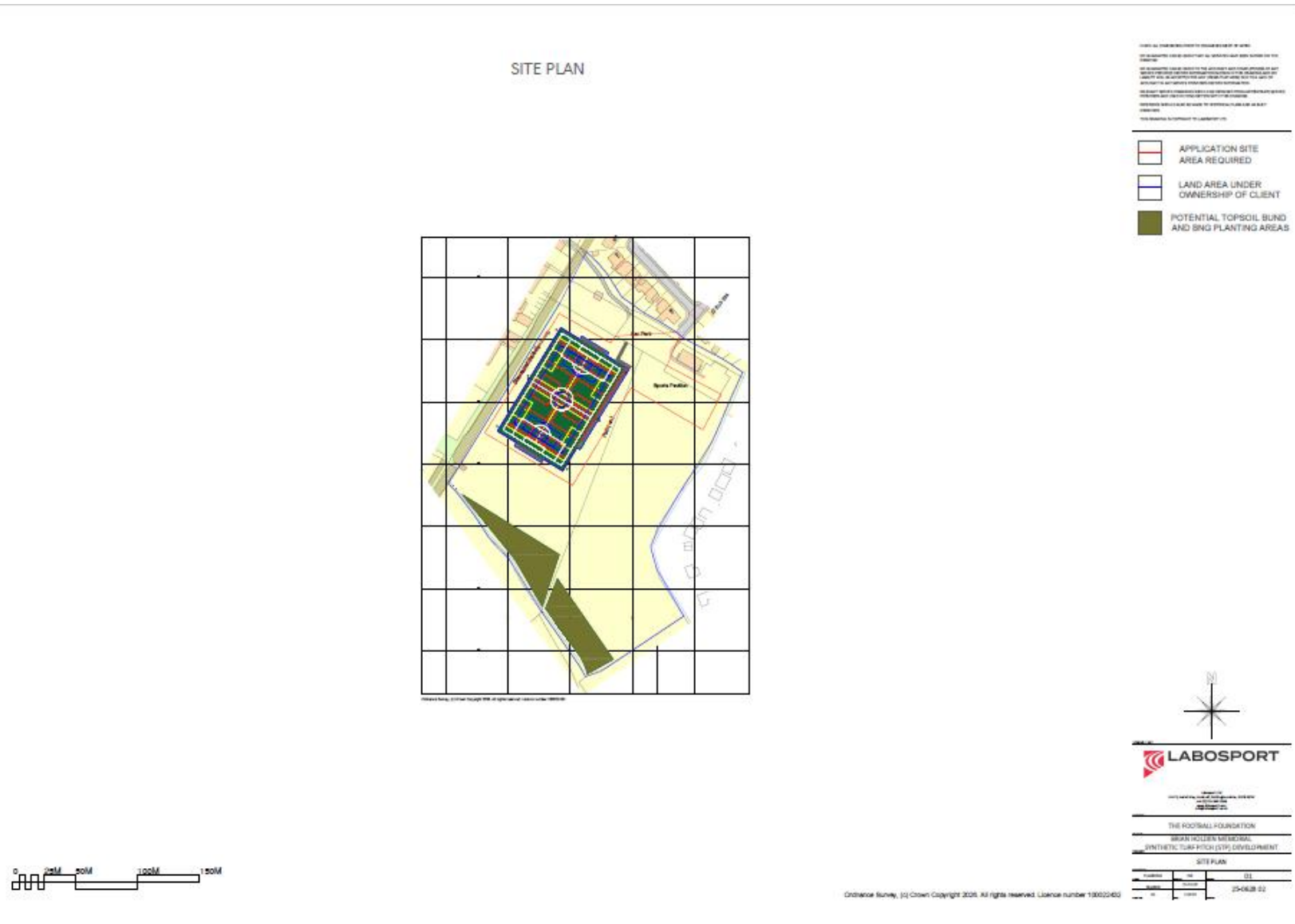
**Appendix 2: Location map**



Appendix 3: Pond Map



Appendix 4: Proposed plan



**Appendix 5: Habitat Photos**

Developed land, sealed surface	
Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 1: tarmac hardstanding used as car park at the north of the development boundary</p>
Modified grassland	
Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 2: Modified grassland dominates the development boundary</p>

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Proof	0.2	Elen Griffin BSc (Hons), MRSB, Senior Ecologist, Class 2 Bat Licenced	26/01/2026
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