Oadby & Wigston - Call for Sites

784-B045956

Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey, Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline and Local Wildlife Site Assessment

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Site Location	Tetra Tech was commissioned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in June 2024 to undertake an ecological assessment of nine sites, in Leicestershire. Three of the sites reside within Oadby, with the additional six sites in Wigston. One of the sites (WIG/008) was a re-visit from a series of surveys undertaken in 2023 (Tetra Tech, 2024 ref. Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline and Local Wildlife Site Assessment_V2) and comprises a small extension to the existing site boundary.
Scope of this Survey(s)	The purpose of this report is to: • Evaluate the selected sites as either suitable for future development or as being of local value for nature conservation. This will contribute towards the council's evidence base to support the emerging Local Plan. • Provide Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) baseline calculations, to indicate the biodiversity value of the sites as recorded at the time of the survey. • Highlight features within the sites that are suitable for selection as potential Local Wildlife Sites. • Undertake a desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation, and relevant records of protected/notable species within and in proximity to the sites. • Present the results of an extended UK Habitat Classification Survey (UKHab), involving a walkover of the sites to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species, and evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species. • Evaluate potential ecological receptors on the sites and within the zone of influence, to identify any potential constraints to the development.
Results and Evaluation	Please see Table 1 below.

Table 1: Submission sites

Initial Site Ref.	Site Name	Biodiversity Units	Habitats Present	Further Survey Recommendations for Protected & Notable Species	Current Designations on Site or Adjacent	Additional LWS Potential
OAD_012	Baxters Place ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 1.69	Urban habitats alongside grassland and scattered trees.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), nesting birds.	None	None
OAD_013	Brooksby Square ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.00	Urban habitats of limited ecological value.	Roosting bats (PRA), nesting birds.	None	None
OAD_014	Oadby Water Treatment Works	Habitat units: 8.81 Hedgerow units: 0.08	Grassland, woodland, sealed surface.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), bat activity, nesting birds.	Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	None
SWIG/001	Magna Road	Habitat units: 2.17	A complex of scrub habitats.	Bat activity, reptiles, nesting bird, badger.	The site is adjacent to the Rough Grassland LWS	The expanse of scrub satisfies secondary criteria for LWS selection
WIG/012	North Street Parking ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.12	Modified grassland and urban development, with a single tree.	None	None	None

Initial Site Ref.	Site Name	Biodiversity Units	Habitats Present	Further Survey Recommendations for Protected & Notable Species	Current Designations on Site or Adjacent	Additional LWS Potential
WIG/013	Spring Lane ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.67	Modified grassland, ornamental shrub planting, urban development and scattered trees.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), nesting birds.	None	None
WIG/014	Paddock Street ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.77	Modified grassland, ornamental shrub planting, urban development and scattered trees.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), nesting birds.	None	None
WIG/015	Glebe Farm	Habitat units: 84.00 Hedgerow units: 31.46	Hedgerows, individual trees, cropland, scrub, tall herb communities, and developed land associated with the farm.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), bat activity, nesting birds, badger, otter.	The site itself does not support and LWS or Green Wedges but is strategically placed in the centre of several surrounding designated features.	Species-rich hedgerows have the potential to satisfy LWS criteria.
WIG/008	Land North of Newton Lane (addition)	Habitat units: 37.10 Hedgerow units: 3.68	Modified grassland, hedgerows and individual trees.	Roosting bat (GLTA), nesting birds.	The site itself supports Newton Lane Ash Trees LWS and is immediately adjacent to both Newton Lane Meadows and the Oadby Wigston Green Wedge.	None

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in June 2024 to undertake a UK Habitat Classification survey and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment of nine sites, in Leicestershire. Three of the sites reside within Oadby, with the additional six sites within Wigston. One of the sites (WIG/008) was a re-visit from a series of survey undertaken in 2023 (Tetra Tech, 2024 ref. Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline and Local Wildlife Site Assessment_V2) and comprises a small extension to the existing site boundary.

This report has been prepared by Senior Ecologist Rob Gavan BSc (Hons), MSc ACIEEM and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The sites vary in character with five of the sites present in an urban setting, either in the centre of Oadby or Wigston, one of the sites is in an area of industrial land, one site is an active water treatment works, and the final two sites are in an arable setting. The locations of the sites can be found in Figure 1, with more detailed site descriptions provided in the relevant chapters of this report. A separate assessment was undertaken for an arable site (OAD/015), which saddled the boundary lines of both Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council. This assessment has been appended as Appendix E.

1.3 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Evaluate the selected sites as either suitable for future development or as being of local value for nature conservation. This will contribute towards the council's evidence base to support the emerging Local Plan;
- Provide Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) baseline calculations, to indicate the biodiversity value of the sites as recorded at the time of the survey;
- Highlight features within the sites that are suitable for selection as potential Local Wildlife Sites (LWS);
- Undertake a desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation, and relevant records of protected/notable species within and in proximity to the sites;
- Present the results of an extended UK Habitat Classification Survey (UKHab), involving a walkover of the sites to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species, and evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species; and
- Evaluate potential ecological receptors on the sites and within the zone of influence, to identify any potential constraints to the development.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK STUDY

The desktop study comprised two elements:

- A review of closed source data provided by Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre via Oadby & Wigston Borough Council in August 2024.
- A review of open source data using Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (https://magic.defra.gov.uk) website, Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (https://www.bing.com/maps), and historic maps (www.maps.nls.uk).

Given the scope of the project, the reasonable geographical extent of the search parameters was considered appropriate at the following ranges:

- 2 km for sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g., Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR)) and protected or otherwise notable species;
- 1 km for ancient woodland and mapped priority habitats; and,
- 1 km for non-statutory designated sites of County Importance (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS) and Potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS)).

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

There were no Internationally Important sites within 10 km of the sites and as such these have not been considered in this report.

For five of the sites (OAD/012, OAD/013, WIG/012 WIG013 and WIG/014) which were considered highly urbanised, no field assessment was undertaken. Sites of this nature are not generally associated with distinctive habitats. As such the assessment of these sites was completed using a combination of aerial data, and photographs supplied by Oadby and Wigston Council.

2.2 FIELD SURVEYS

The following methodologies have been used to identify the ecological receptors present on or near the site.

2.2.1 Habitats

An extended habitat classification survey was undertaken on the sites between the 22nd and 26th of July by Tetra Tech's Senior Ecologist Rob Gavan MSc BSc ACIEEM (FISC Level 4). The weather conditions were variable but mostly dry and fair.

The habitats present on site were mapped in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification Professional Edition – Version 2.0 (UK Hab Ltd., 2023), hereafter referred to as 'UKHab'. The habitats have been classified to a minimum of UKHab Level 4, to identify the presence of any Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) listened under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Where habitats occur in multiple areas of the site or are of different condition, additional polygons of the same habitat have been mapped so that their condition may be assessed independently.

The minimum recording unit for habitat is 25 m² or 5 m in length for linear habitats, such as hedgerows. Dominant plant species were recorded for each habitat present using standard nomenclature (Stace, 2019).

Features were assessed against the Guidelines for the Selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (Leicestershire County Council, 2011) to rapidly identify features that may qualify for selection as potential Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

2.2.2 Protected and Notable Species

The sites were inspected for evidence of, and their potential to support, protected or notable species, especially those listed under the Schedule 2 of the Habitat Regulations 2017 (as amended), Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (W&CA) 1981 (as amended), the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, those given extra protection under the NERC Act 2006 and species and habitats included in the Leicester Local Biodiversity Action (LBAP). Key legislation is detailed within Appendix B.

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

Badger

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

Otter

The sites were assessed for their suitability to support otter *Lutra lutra* using standing Government advice (Chanin, 2003).

Bats

Roosting Bats – Buildings / Structures / Trees

Any suitable buildings, structures or trees on the sites were assessed from the ground for their suitability to support breeding, resting and hibernating bats using survey methods based on the BCT Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (Colins, 2023) – hereafter referred to as the 'BCT Guidelines'.

Foraging / Commuting Bats

Potential habitat for foraging and commuting bats were assessed on the sites according to the BCT Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Birds

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

Great Crested Newt & Common Amphibians

The sites were appraised for their suitability to support great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* based on guidance outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003) and the *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook* (Langton, et al., 2001). Each pond was assessed using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham, et al., 2000) which assigns a value to the pond calculated from 10 pre-identified features. The HSI value gives a correlation of likely use by GCN. This metric is a guide and should be assessed on a site-by-site basis as waterbodies with low HSI have been known to support GCN.

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

Reptiles

The sites were appraised for their suitability to support reptiles using guidance outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003).

Invertebrates

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

Other Species

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

Invasive Species

Evidence of species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, were recorded as seen.

Scoped Out

Hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* have been scoped out of the survey as Leicestershire is currently considered outside of the species known range (PTES, 2018).

2.3 BIODIVERSITY METRIC

The assessment has been completed using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024a), hereafter referred to as 'the Metric'. The associated methods were informed by the User Guide (Defra, 2024b) and Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (Baker, Hoskin, & Butterworth, 2019). Further detail of habitat descriptions and target notes can be found in Appendices C and D.

The methodology set out below defines a simplified version of the method used to carry out the BNG assessment. For full details including rules and methodology refer to the guidance documents referenced above.

The Metric generates a value measured in 'biodiversity units' for a site. It assesses habitat parcel units, including urban trees, separately from linear habitat units which are split into either hedgerows (including lines of trees) or rivers. Area habitats are measured in hectares (ha), whereas linear habitats are measured in kilometres (km). Watercourses have been given a precautionary score of 'good' for the purpose of this assessment, to calculate a best-case value for watercourse biodiversity units. They will require further survey to confirm their condition and are beyond the scope of this assessment. Ditches have been assessed as part of the condition assessment.

The Metric calculates an output based on the habitat parcel area / linear habitat length and a range of factors that are associated with its assessed quality. The generated biodiversity value is therefore based on 'quality' factors that are multiplied together. These are detailed in Table 2.

Habitats were separated into discrete parcels either where they were geographically discrete or where there was a change in habitat condition across a single location. Each parcel was recorded and calculated separately using the Metric. Urban trees are counted as habitat areas, although the method of calculating area is different to other habitat parcels, this is described below.

For individual trees (not including lines of trees or woodland) their area is calculated from stem diameter, which equates to a specified size group (small, medium or large). Full details on how this is calculated is defined within the User Guide. The number of individual trees of each size is then input to the 'Urban Tree Helper' table within the Metric, and an area is given which is entered into the Metric as a habitat area. Each of the factors listed in Table 2 below are then applied to this area.

The sizes of urban trees are measured using their diameter at breast height (DBH) and defined as:

- Small tree = <10 cm;

- Medium tree = 10-30 cm;
- Large tree = 50-90 cm.
- Very large tree = >90 cm

Given the rapid nature of this field survey, individual trees were not processed through a condition assessment, but a measurement of the trunk DBH was estimated. The two features correlate strongly, with trees of a greater DBH, associated with a better condition score in relation to biodiversity. As trees are an important ecological feature of the site, a percentage split was used to group trees into either 'Medium' or 'Large' sizes, with upper and lower outliers not used. Those allocated 'Large size' were considered in 'Good' condition, whilst those allocated 'Medium size' were considered in 'Moderate' condition.

In the Metric, hedgerows and lines of trees are measured by hedgerow biodiversity units. This uses length (km), distinctiveness, condition and strategic significance to calculate the hedgerow units

The areas of identified and mapped habitats were calculated in hectares (ha) to two decimal places. These habitats were assessed during the site survey and, where necessary, were updated to reflect the habitats as currently present on site. The area of identified habitats is calculated in hectares (ha), ignoring linear features such as hedgerows or ditches (the area should be measured to the centre line of such features). The length of linear features is measured separately in kilometres (km).

Table 2 below sets out the methodology for calculating the baseline and post-intervention biodiversity values.

Table 2: Methodology for Assessing Factors within the Metric

Factor	Baseline
Habitat type	Habitat types were categorized and mapped using UKHab.
Area	Habitats were separated into parcels: geographically discrete or a change in habitat condition across a single location. Each parcel was recorded and calculated separately within the Metric. Areas were calculated in ha to two decimal places using digital mapping in ArcGIS[1].
Distinctiveness	Distinctiveness value is automatically generated by the Metric based on habitat type. The overall distinctiveness categories used for habitat areas is shown within the User Guide, habitats will be defined as Very Low, Low, Medium, High or Very High.
Condition	Habitat condition is a score based on the quality of the habitat, judged against the perceived ecological optimum state for that particular habitat. It is, therefore, a means of measuring variation in the quality of patches of the same habitat type rather than a measure of quality between habitat types. The 'condition assessment'[2] involves assessing each habitat type / parcel against criteria in the associated condition sheet, resulting in a condition score (Good, Moderate or Poor) which is then input into the Metric. Some intensively managed habitats have a pre-defined condition score; and for other very low distinctiveness habitats no assessment is required.
	A condition assessment was carried out during the field survey.

[1] ESRI. ArcGIS online https://www.arcgis.com/index.html
[2] Defra. Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets and Instructions

Strategic Significance	Strategic significance utilises published local plans and objectives to identify local priorities for targeting biodiversity and nature improvement. It works at a landscape scale and gives additional unit value to habitats that are located in preferred locations for biodiversity and other environmental objectives. as there is yet to be a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Leicestershire and Rutland area, habitats were considered to be of strategic significance if they were formal identified in plans or policies, particularly the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. If formally identified the habitat was then assessed to determine if it was of a suitable size and/or composition to provide strategic connectivity value to the wider landscape.

There were no 'irreplaceable habitats' present on site. For reference however, these habitats cannot be accounted for in the Metric and require separate consideration[3].

2.4 LIMITATIONS

The five sites which were subject to a desk study assessment only (OAD/012, OAD/013, WIG/012, WIG/013 and WIG/014), will have severe limitations in the validity of the mapping of habitat size and type. Despite this, as habitats associated with urban settings are often less distinctive, the margin of error is diminished. On a precautionary basis, all identified habitats have been provided a condition score of 'Good' where a condition is applicable. This is in line with best practice outlined in the Metric User Guide (Defra, 2024b).

For the sites which were subject to physical survey (OAD/014, SWIG/001, WIG/015 and WIG/008) presence or likely absence of protected species, is usually determined across multiple visits at suitable times of the year. This survey focuses on assessing the potential of the sites to support protected and/or notable species. This report cannot, therefore, be considered a comprehensive assessment of the ecological interest of the sites but does highlight areas where further survey work may be recommended.

Habitats have been mapped using a 'Minimum Mappable Unit' area of 25 m^2 applied in line with UKHab methodology. As such some small areas of habitats have been excluded from the BNG assessment. Given the size of the site/s this will not significantly affect the Metric calculations undertaken as part of this assessment.

Streams and canals have been given a precautionary score of 'Good' for the purpose of this assessment and they will require further survey to confirm their condition.

[3] National Planning Policy Framework (2023) Glossary provides a definition and examples of irreplaceable habitats

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 OAD/012 – BAXTERS PLACE

3.1.1 Site Description

The site is 1.13 ha in size and is located in Oadby town centre, to the west of The Parade concentrated around West Car Park. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SK 62066 00573, and comprises a complex of buildings, with parking and associated roads. To the south of the site is a small expanse of modified grassland with scattered semi-mature trees.

3.1.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site. Locally designated sites are listed in Table 7 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km are included in Table 8 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	0.76 km South	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	0.80 km South	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.
Knighton Spinney	LNR	1.41 km West	Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve is characterized by a secondary woodland ecosystem dominated by oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus* sp., situated within the broader Knighton Park. This habitat is of significant ecological value, supporting a diverse array of wildlife. The reserve also boasts a rich woodland flora, notably featuring extensive populations of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

Table 4: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Hermitage Hotel Beech	LWS	0.31	Southwest
Opposite Invicta Park	LWS	0.50	South

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	0.64	South
Brocks Hill Country Park	LWS	0.76	South
Oadby Municipal Golf Course – Wet Grassland	LWS	0.61	West
Spinney Pond	LWS	0.80	South

Ancient woodland

There was no ancient woodland identified within 1 km of the site.

Connectivity

The site is highly urbanised, with only a small expanse of semi-natural habitat in the form of modified grassland and scattered trees. This habitat may act as a stepping-stone for species wishing to disperse from the neighbouring gardens but lacks functional connectivity to the east. There are no statutory or non-statutory sites in close proximity and the site is considered to be off negligible connectivity benefit to wildlife.

3.1.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed in Table 9 below, have been identified from **aerial imagery only and have been given a good condition as a precautionary measure**, the UK Habitat Classification map can be found in Figure 4.

Table 5: Habitats

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
u1b Developed land; sealed surface	Areas of established sealed hard standing, comprising buildings, parking and a road network.	Not applicable.	N/A
g4 Modified grassland	An area of amenity grassland used for recreational purposes.	Not applicable.	**Good** precautionary
Urban trees	A collection of five planted trees of medium size.	Not considered to be mature and as such not considered for LWS selection	**Good** precautionary

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **1.69 biodiversity units**, with a summary of the calculation provided in Table 10 below.

Table 6: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
g4 - Modified grassland	0.094	Good	Not formally identified in plans	0.56
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	0.826	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00

u1b5 - Buildings	0.204	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.009	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
Urban trees (5 medium size)	-	Good	Formally identified but not considered significant	1.13
Total Area	**1.26**		**Total Units**	**1.69**

3.1.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council indicated an absence of species records within the site or in close proximity, as illustrated in Figure 3.

MAGIC returned one EPS licence within 2 km of the site pertaining to the destruction of a common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* resting place from March – July 2018 (2017-32747-EPS-MIT). This was located 620 m south-east of the site.

Eight records of GCN licence returns were also returned from the MAGIC search. The closest records of GCN were located 900 m north-west of the site and were recorded in 2016. There is no suitable connectivity between the sites where GCN have been recorded and the site.

The site supported structures that may be suitable for roosting bats or nesting birds, and further assessment would be required prior to any development.

3.2 OAD/013 – BROOKSBY SQUARE

3.2.1 Site Description

The site is 1.26 ha and located in Oadby town centre, concentrated around East Street Car Park, between The Parade and Brooksby Drive. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SK 62212 00611, and comprises a complex of buildings, parking and associated roads.

3.2.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site. Locally designated sites are listed in Table 3 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km are included in Table 4 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 7: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	0.76 km South	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	0.80 km South	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.
Knighton Spinney	LNR	1.45 km West	Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve is characterized by a secondary woodland ecosystem dominated by oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus* sp., situated within the broader Knighton Park. This habitat is of significant ecological value, supporting a diverse array of wildlife. The reserve also boasts a rich woodland flora, notably featuring extensive populations of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

Table 8: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Hermitage Hotel Beech	LWS	0.29	Southwest
Opposite Invicta Park	LWS	0.52	South
Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	0.64	South
Brocks Hill Country Park	LWS	0.76	South
Oadby Municipal Golf Course – Wet Grassland	LWS	0.77	West

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Spinney Pond	LWS	0.80	South

Ancient woodland

There was no ancient woodland identified within 1 km of the site.

Connectivity

The site is highly urbanised, with no habitats of a semi-natural composition identified through the aerial assessment. There are no statutory or non-statutory sites in close proximity and the site is considered to off negligible connectivity benefits for wildlife.

3.2.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed in Table 5, have been identified from **aerial imagery only and have been given a good condition as a precautionary measure**, the UK Habitat Classification map can be found in Figure 4.

Table 9: Habitats

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
u1b Developed land; sealed surface	Areas of established sealed hard standing, comprising buildings, parking and a road network.	Not applicable.	N/A

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **0.00 biodiversity units**, with a summary of the calculation provided in Table 6 below.

Table 10: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	0.75	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1b5 - Buildings	0.46	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.05	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
Total Area	**1.26**		**Total Units**	**0.00**

3.2.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council indicated an absence of species records within the site or in close proximity, as illustrated in Figure 2.

MAGIC returned one EPS licence within 2 km of the site pertaining to the destruction of a common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* resting place from March – July 2018 (2017-32747-EPS-MIT). This was located 550 m southeast of the site.

There were 11 records of confirmed GCN presence through licence returns were also identified from the MAGIC search. The closest record were located 980 m northwest of the site and was recorded in 2016. There is no suitable connectivity between the site and any of the identified GCN records.

The site supported commercial properties that may be suitable for roosting bats and/or nesting birds, and further assessment would be required prior to any development.

3.3 OAD/014 – SEWAGE WORKS

3.3.1 Site Description

The site is 2.65 ha in size and comprised an operational water treatment works to the west of Oadby. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SK 61516 00240, and contained a complex of treatment cylinders, buildings, and an associated sealed walkway. Around the periphery of the site was a thin band of broadleaved woodland, with the centre of the site supporting a closely mown modified grassland sward with scattered trees to the east. During the survey, earthworks were taking place, and the north of the site comprised unvegetated bare ground.

3.3.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site. Locally designated sites are listed in Table 11 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km are included in Table 12 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 11: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	0.46 km Southeast	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	0.63 km Southeast	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.
Knighton Spinney	LNR	0.87 km Northwest	Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve is characterized by a secondary woodland ecosystem dominated by oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus* sp., situated within the broader Knighton Park. This habitat is of significant ecological value, supporting a diverse array of wildlife. The reserve also boasts a rich woodland flora, notably featuring extensive populations of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

Table 12: Statutory and non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	Onsite	NA
Oadby Municipal Golf Course – Wet Grassland	LWS	0.19	West

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Opposite Invicta Park	LWS	0.21	South
Hermitage Hotel Beech	LWS	0.31	Southwest
Brocks Hill Country Park	LWS	0.38	Southeast
Knighton Park Hedgerows	LWS	0.71	West
Mature Trees Knighton Park	LWS	0.75	West
Brock's hill mature trees	LWS	0.80	Southeast
Spinney Pond	LWS	0.80	South
Saffron Brook	LWS	0.82	West
Race Course Meadow	LWS	0.89	Northwest

Connectivity

The site is currently designated as a Green Wedge within the Local Plan (The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan, 2019). It abuts the Lecester Racecourse to the west and acts as a corridor linking greenspace. As an individual component, however, the site is small in size and offers sub-optimal habitat to aid dispersal and would be considered of low significance for landscape connectivity.

3.3.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed in Table 13 below, were identified during the site walkover, with indicative photographs provided in Appendix D and a map providing a spatial reference provided in Figure 4.

Table 13: Habitats

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
Woodland	w1g Other broadleaved woodland	A band of semi-mature woodland was present around the periphery of the site. The largest section was to the northwest where a sparse understorey had established. The canopy species comprised ash *Fraxinus excelsior,* sycamore *Acer psuedoplatanus* and grey poplar *Poplus canescens* with an understorey of rowan *Sorbus acuparia*, non-native cherry laurel, *Prunus laurocerasus,* wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and elder *Sambucus nigra.* The ground flora was indicative of nutrient enrichment with nettle *Urtica dioica*, ivy *Hedera helix* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* abundant throughout.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy LWS selection criteria.	**Moderate**
Grassland	g4 Modified grassland	A species-poor, and structurally simple mown grassland present within the centre of the site. The composition was indicative of a lawn mix, with perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne,* white clover *Trifolium repens* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* the dominant species, along with daisy *Bellis perennis* and dandelion *Taraxacum* agg.	Not applicable.	**Poor**

Urban	u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	During the survey the northern section of the site was undergoing earth works, which has formed a band of bare ground.	Not applicable.	N/A
	u1b5 Buildings	Buildings associated with the treatment works were located to the south of the site. These comprised a brick exterior with flat asphalt roofing. Some more temporary compound buildings were located to the southeast of the site, which were associated with ongoing construction works.	Not applicable.	N/A
	u1b5 Other developed land	Concreate treatment cylinders positioned throughout the site.	Not applicable.	N/A
	u1b Developed land sealed surface	Sealed land associated with the road network, parking and the internal walkways.	Not applicable.	N/A
Hedgerows	h2a6 other native hedgerows	A thin linear band of field maple *Acer campestre* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* was located to the north of the site. It was approximately 22 m in length, 3 m wide and 12 m high. Although not managed as a hedgerow the feature provides the same function.	Due to low woody species count these hedges are unlikely to meet LWS selection criteria.	N/A
Trees	Individual Trees (Medium)	Planted trees found to the east of the site. They were semi-mature individuals which included a non-native maple, ash and a pine *Pinus* sp.	These trees are unlikely to satisfy primary or secondary criteria for LWS selection, but further survey would be recommended.	Moderate

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **8.81 units** and hedgerows were calculated at **0.09 units**. The site constitutes part of the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge, but none of the identified habitats were suitable for LWS selection. A summary of the metric calculations is provided in Table 14 and Table 15 below.

Table 14: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
g4 - Modified grassland	0.65	Good	Not formally identified in plans	1.30
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	0.40	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1b5 - Buildings	0.07	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1b6 - Other developed land	0.51	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1c - Unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.23	NA	Not formally identified in plans	1.30
u1e - Built linear features	0.15	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.65
w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved	0.63	Moderate	Formally identified but not considered significant	5.18
Urban trees (3 medium individuals)	-	Moderate	Formally identified but not considered significant	0.39
Grand total	**2.65**		**Total Units**	**8.81**

Table 15: Metric Summary - Hedgerows

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Line of trees	0.02	Good	Not formal identified in plans	0.09
Grand total	**0.02**		**Total Units**	**0.09**

3.3.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council indicated an absence of species records within the site or in close proximity, as illustrated in Figure 3.

MAGIC returned one EPS licence within 2 km of the site pertaining to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place from March – July 2018 (2017-32747-EPS-MIT). This was located 1.1 km east of the site.

10 records of GCN presence confirmed through survey licence returns were also returned from the MAGIC search. The closest records of GCN were located 1.1 km north of the site and were recorded in 2014. There is no suitable connectivity between the sites where GCN have been recorded and the site.

Evidence of protected and notable species was identified on site, with the site's suitability to support species is summarised in Table 16 below.

Table 16: Species

	[redacted]	Otter	Water vole	Bats	Birds	GCN and Amphibians	Reptiles	Invertebrates	Invasive Species
Desk Study	[redacted]	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Field Survey	[redacted]	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

Species Summary

[redacted]

Bats

The trees on site were young to semi-mature and offered limited opportunities for roosting bats. The buildings to the south were in a state of disrepair, particularly the larger structure believed to be the pump station. The asphalt roofing provided several cavities where the side flashing had become loose. The brick work was in poor condition. The site offered moderate foraging habitat, with woodland fringes and open water.

Birds

The site supported nesting resources including buildings, woodland and scattered trees, with active nests identified in wooded areas.

3.4 SWIG/001 – MAGNA ROAD

3.4.1 Site Description

The site is 0.59 ha in size and located in South of Wigston, where Harrison Close meets Magna Road. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 59477 98113, and contained a complex of scrub communities, with a small band of non-native woodland along the eastern boundary. Human disturbance was evident throughout the site, with litter, evidence of fire-pits and encampments towards to east. Along the western boundary, but beyond the site perimeter, was a canalised stream.

3.4.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There was one nationally designated site identified within 2 km of the site which is provided in Table 17 below. No locally designated sites were present within 2 km.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km of the site are included in Table 18 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 17: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Kilby – Foxton Canal	SSSI	1.89 km East	The canal hosts a diverse community of pondweeds, including two nationally rare species. Fennel-pondweed *Stuckenia pectinata* dominates the open water, while hairlike pondweed *Potamogenton trichoides* and broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogenton nutans* occur throughout. The canal's banks support swamp and emergent plant communities, with a well-documented colony of Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* resides in Fleckney Tunnel. It is currently considered in an unfavourable condition (2010) due to deterioration in water quality and species-richness.

Table 18. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Rough Grassland, Landsdowne Grove, South Wigston	Green Wedge	Immediately adjacent	East
Grand Union Canal	LWS	0.20	South
Poplars, River Sence	LWS	0.26	South
Wigston, Bushlow High School Ash	LWS	0.28	Northwest
Wigston Triangle	LWS	0.32	North
Mill Lane Grasslands	LWS	0.36	South
Dismantled Railway South of Crow Bridge	LWS	0.45	Southwest
Navvy's Pit	LWS	0.68	Southeast
River Sence Floodplain Meadow	LWS	0.70	South

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
River Sence Floodplain grassland	LWS	0.85	Southeast
Countesthorpe. streamside willow	LWS	1.45	South
Wigston, St Petrox' Ash	LWS	1.45	East
Foston Gate Meadow	LWS	1.72	East
Barn Pool Meadow	LWS	1.76	East
Wigston Harcourt Crooks Lane Hedge	LWS	1.85	East

Connectivity

The site is positioned on the periphery of an industrial estate but offers connectivity as a 'stepping stone' between Rough Grassland LWS to the southeast and Wigston Triangle LWS to the northwest. Given the dominance of scrub, the site is of greatest use to nesting birds, but is both small and encompassed by urban habitats. Due to its limited use, the site would be considered of low significance for landscape connectivity.

3.4.3 Habitats

The following habitats were identified during the site walkover, with indicative photographs provided in Appendix D and a map providing a spatial reference provided in Figure 4.

Table 19: Habitats

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
h3h Mixed scrub	A dense stand of scrub was present at the base of a bank and was spreading westward. The composition was structurally complex with a variety of species including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, cherry *Prunus avium*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, elder, and ash saplings. There was significant damage to the ground flora in central areas where a human encampment was present. Entwined throughout the scrub was bramble and large bindweed *Calystegia silvatica*, which created an impenetrable barrier to certain areas.	The scrub component was predominantly native and provided a closed canopy greater than 1 ha. As such, it satisfied secondary criteria for LWS selection.	Moderate
h3d Bramble scrub	Pockets of dense briar comprising bramble and large bindweed. These were impenetrable.	Included within the larger component of scrub listed above when assessed against LWS selection.	NA

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
w1g Other woodland broadleaved	A band of Italian alder *Alnus cordata* was present to the east of the site. Goat willow *Salix caprea* was occasional in the understorey, whilst the ground flora was a dense stand of bramble. The individual trees appeared semi-mature, and it is assumed that the woodland has seeded naturally as opposed to being planted.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy LWS selection criteria.	Poor

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **2.17 units**. The site is adjacent to the Rough Grassland LWS and the expanse of scrub satisfies secondary criteria for LWS selection. A summary of the metric calculations is provided in Table 20 below.

Table 20: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
h3d - Bramble scrub	0.13	NA	Not formal identified in plans	0.54
h3h - Mixed scrub	0.34	Moderate	Not formal identified in plans	1.08
w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved	0.11	Poor	Not formal identified in plans	0.54
Total	**0.59**		**Units**	**2.17**

3.4.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council indicated an absence of species records within the site or in close proximity, as illustrated in Figure 3.

MAGIC returned two EPS licences within 2 km. The closest pertained to the destruction of a resting place for common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat from December 2011 to December 2013 (EPSM2011-3852) and was located 710 m southwest of the site. The second pertained to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place from May – December 2018 (2018-34559-EPS-MIT) and was located 1.4 km northwest of the site.

As the site was dominated by a single habitat; scrub, there was limited potential for protected and notable species. Additionally, the evident human disturbance would act as a significant deterrent for some species. In review of both the desk and field data the site's suitability to support species is summarised in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Species

	[redacted]	Otter	Water vole	Bats	Birds	GCN and Amphibians	Reptiles	Invertebrates	Invasive Species
Desk Study		-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Field Survey		-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-

Species Summary

[redacted]

Bats

Although there were no opportunities for roosting bats on site, the site offered moderate foraging habitat in accordance with BCT guidelines (Collins, 2023). This was due to the presence of scrub, woodland and an adjacent watercourse off the Grand Union Canal which is connected to wider woodland, hedgerows and grassland habitats.

Birds

The site supported nesting resources in the form of scrub, with active nests identified across the site. Notable species observed and/or heard include:

- Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* (Amber[4]) – Heard to the east of the site within the wooded area.
- Woodpigeon *Columbia palumbus* (Amber) – Nesting throughout the scrub.
- Whitethroat *Curruca communis* (Amber) – Heard within briar patches to the north.

Reptiles

The onsite scrub provides opportunities for sheltering reptiles and hibernating reptiles. Furthermore, the site has connectivity to other suitable habitats in the wider area including rough grassland, woodland and hedgerows.

Amphibians

There was limited suitability for amphibian breeding within the site, due to a lack of standing water. Refuse, such as plastic sheeting, car tires and wooden boards, may provide suitable hibernacula, and although no waterbodies are present in the wider landscape, there is suitable landscape connections to rough grassland to the east. The watercourse that runs along the western boundary is steep and canalised and would act as a sufficient barrier to amphibian migration.

[4] Birds of Conservation Concern Amber list (Version 5) -See Appendix B for further details

3.5 WIG/012 – BURGESS JUNCTION

3.5.1 Site Description

The site is 1.14 ha in size and is located in Wigston town centre, between Junction Road and North Street. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 60766 99217, and comprises a complex of buildings, with parking and associated roads. A single band of modified grassland with an ornamental tree is present in the centre of the site.

3.5.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site. Locally designated sites are listed in Table 22 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km are included in Table 23 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 22: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	1.00 km East	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	1.30 km East	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.
Knighton Spinney	LNR	1.51 km Northwest	Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve is characterized by a secondary woodland ecosystem dominated by oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus* sp., situated within the broader Knighton Park. This habitat is of significant ecological value, supporting a diverse array of wildlife. The reserve also boasts a rich woodland flora, notably featuring extensive populations of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

Table 23: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study Within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	0.75	North
Oadby Municipal Golf Course – Wet Grassland	LWS	0.81	North

Ancient woodland and priority habitats

There was no ancient woodland identified within 1 km of the site.

Connectivity

The site is highly urbanised, with only a thin belt of habitat in the form of modified grassland and a single tree. The grassland is greater than the di-minimis threshold (25 $m^{2)}$) which means the site would not be exempt from an BNG assessment. There are no statutory or non-statutory sites in close proximity and the site is considered to be off negligible connectivity benefit to wildlife.

3.5.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed below in Table 24, have been identified from **aerial imagery only and have been given a good condition as a precautionary measure**. The UK Habitat Classification map can be found in Figure 4.

Table 24: Habitats

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
u1b Developed land; sealed surface	Areas of established sealed hard standing, comprising buildings, parking and a road network.	Not applicable.	N/A
g4 Modified grassland	A thin belt of modified grassland provided for ornamental purposes.	Not applicable.	**Good** precautionary
Urban trees	A single ornamental tree is present in the band of grassland.	Not considered to be mature and as such not considered for LWS selection	**Good** precautionary

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **1.69 biodiversity units**, with a summary of the calculation provided in Table 25 below.

Table 25: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
g4 - Modified grassland	0.01	Good	Not formally identified in plans	0.06
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	1.01	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.12	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
Urban trees (1 medium size)	-	Good	Formally identified but not considered significant	0.12
Total Area	**1.14**		**Total Units**	**0.12**

3.5.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council included a single species record for swift *Apus apus* immediately east of site, as illustrated in Figure 3. Swift is included in the BOCC Red List but the site does not offer any habitat features suitable for nesting swift, and the record is therefore considered to be a 'fly-over'.

Two records of GCN presence confirmed through licence returns were also returned from the MAGIC search. The closest records were located 1.3 km southeast of the site and were recorded in 2014. There is no suitable connectivity between the sites where GCN have been recorded and the site.

The site supported structures that may be suitable for roosting bats or nesting birds, and further assessment would be required prior to any development.

3.6 WIG/013 – CHAPEL MILL

3.6.1 Site Description

The site is 0.97 ha and is located in Wigston town centre, adjacent to Spring Lane. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 60790 99114, and comprises a complex of buildings, with parking and associated roads. To the northeast of the site, Wigston library was encompassed by introduced shrubs and trees.

3.6.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site. Locally designated sites are listed in Table 26 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km are included in Table 27 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 26: Statutory Designated Sites Identified During the Desk Study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	1.10 km Northeast	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	1.42 km Northeast	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.
Knighton Spinney	LNR	1.73 km Northwest	Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve is characterized by a secondary woodland ecosystem dominated by oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus* sp., situated within the broader Knighton Park. This habitat is of significant ecological value, supporting a diverse array of wildlife. The reserve also boasts a rich woodland flora, notably featuring extensive populations of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

Table 27: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	0.85	North
Oadby Municipal Golf Course – Wet Grassland	LWS	0.93	North

Ancient woodland

There was no ancient woodland identified within 1 km of the site.

Connectivity

The site is highly urbanised, with habitats that contribute to the biodiversity levels limited to ornamental shrub planting and ornamental trees. From aerial imagery and open-source data, the eastern tree appeared mature. There are no statutory or non-statutory sites in close proximity and the site is considered to be off negligible connectivity benefit to wildlife.

3.6.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed below in Table 28, have been identified from **aerial imagery only and have been given a good condition as a precautionary measure**. The UK Habitat Classification map can be found in Figure 4.

Table 28: Habitats

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
u1b Developed land; sealed surface	Areas of established sealed hard standing, comprising buildings, parking and a road network.	Not applicable.	N/A
Non-native shrub planting	Blocks of shrub planting have been provided as landscaping around the library.	Not applicable.	N/A
Urban trees	Five ornamental trees are present in amongst the ornamental planting, with a single more mature individual located at the entrance of the library.	Not considered to be mature and as such not considered for LWS selection	**Good** precautionary

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **0.67 biodiversity units**, with a summary of the calculation provided in Table 29 below.

Table 29: Metric Summary – Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Non-native shrub planting	0.05	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.10
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	0.52	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1b5 - Buildings	0.29	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.01	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
Urban trees (6 medium size)	-	Good	Formally identified but not considered significant	0.57
Total Area	**0.97**		**Total Units**	**0.67**

3.6.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council indicated a single species record for swift to the north of the site, as illustrated in Figure 3. Swift is included in the BOCC Red List; however, the site does not offer any habitat features of suitability to nesting swift and the record is considered to be a 'fly-over'.

Two records of GCN presence confirmed through licence returns were also returned from the MAGIC search. The closest records were located 1.3 km south-east of the site and were recorded in 2014. There is no suitable connectivity between the sites where GCN have been recorded and the site.

The site supported structures that may be suitable for roosting bats or tree nesting birds, and further assessment would be required prior to any development.

3.7 WIG/014 – LONG LANES

3.7.1 Site Description

The site is 0.90 ha in size and is located in Wigston town centre, adjacent to Paddock Street. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 60800 98965 , and comprises a complex of buildings, with parking and associated roads. The parking and building peripheries have been planted-up with ornamental shrubs and trees.

3.7.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site. Locally designated sites are listed in Table 30 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km are included in Table 31 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 30: Statutory Designated Sites Identified During the Desk Study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	1.20 km Northeast	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	1.52 km Northeast	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.
Knighton Spinney	LNR	1.83 km Northwest	Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve is characterized by a secondary woodland ecosystem dominated by oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus* sp., situated within the broader Knighton Park. This habitat is of significant ecological value, supporting a diverse array of wildlife. The reserve also boasts a rich woodland flora, notably featuring extensive populations of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

Table 31: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	0.95	North

Ancient woodland and priority habitats

There was no ancient woodland identified within 1 km of the site.

Connectivity

The site is highly urbanised, with habitats that contribute to the biodiversity levels limited to ornamental shrub planting and ornamental trees. There are no statutory or non-statutory sites in close proximity and the site is considered to be off negligible connectivity-benefit to wildlife.

3.7.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed in Table 32 below, have been identified from **aerial imagery only and have been given a good condition as a precautionary measure**, the UK Habitat Classification map can be found in Figure 4.

Table 32: Habitats

Habitat	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
u1b Developed land; sealed surface	Areas of established sealed hard standing, comprising buildings, parking and a road network.	Not applicable.	N/A
Non-native shrub planting	Blocks of shrub planting have been provided as landscaping around the buildings and parking bays.	Not applicable.	N/A
Urban trees	Young trees have been planted at the end of parking bays and within ornamental shrub borders.	Not considered to be mature and as such not considered for LWS selection	**Good** precautionary

Habitat Summary

Overall, the area-based habitats were calculated at **0.77 biodiversity units**, with a summary of the calculation provided in Table 33 below.

Table 33: Metric Summary – Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Non-native shrub planting	0.05	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.11
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	0.52	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1b5 - Buildings	0.29	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.011	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
Urban trees (10 medium size)	-	Good	Formally identified but not considered significant	0.67
Total Area	**0.97**		**Total Units**	**0.77**

3.7.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council included a single species record for Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* identified to the east of the site, as illustrated in Figure 3. This is a non-native invasive species but is not listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA.

Two records of GCN presence confirmed through licence returns were also returned from the MAGIC search. The closest records were located 1.3 km south-east of the site and were recorded in 2014. There is no suitable connectivity between the sites where GCN have been recorded and the site.

The site supported structures that may be suitable for roosting bats or nesting birds, and further assessment would be required prior to any development.

3.8 WIG/015 – GLEBE FARM

3.8.1 Site Description

The site is 37.1 ha, located around Glebe Farm to the southeast of Wigston. It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 62666 97205 and comprises a series of arable habitats indicative of a working farm, including hedgerows, cropland and associated farm buildings. The site is separated into a northern and southern section by the East Midlands Railway, with the southern section accessed via an underpass. A slow-flowing brook ran west along the rail embankment. The main component of the site was a mosaic of either a recently harvested crop or perennial rye leys.

3.8.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There was one nationally designated site identified within 2 km of the site which is provided in Table 34 below. No locally designated sites were present within 2 km.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km of the site are included in Table 35 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 34: Statutory Designated Sites Identified During the Desk Study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Kilby – Foxton Canal	SSSI	1.89 km East	The canal hosts a diverse community of pondweeds, including two nationally rare species. Fennel-pondweed *Stuckenia pectinata* dominates the open water, while hairlike pondweed *Potamogenton trichoides* and broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogenton nutans* occur throughout. The canal's banks support swamp and emergent plant communities, with a well-documented colony of Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* resides in Fleckney Tunnel. It is currently considered in an unfavourable condition (2010) due to deterioration in water quality and species-richness.

Table 35: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Oak North of Grand Union Canal	LWS	0.23	South
Wigston Harcourt Lane Ash 2	LWS	0.30	Northwest
Turnover Lock Grassland, Wistow	LWS	0.34	Southeast
Canal Pasture	LWS	0.47	West
Trees West of Newton Harcourt	LWS	0.47	East
Wigston Harcourt Lane Ash 2	LWS	0.49	Northwest
Canal Rough Grassland	LWS	0.52	Southwest
Wigston Harcourt, Crooks Lane Hedge	LWS	0.56	West

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Mature Willow, River Sence	LWS	0.84	West
Barn Pool Meadow	LWS	0.95	West
Wistow Road Verges	LWS	1.00	South

Connectivity

The site itself does not support any LWS or Green Wedges but is strategically placed in the centre of several surrounding designated features. There was a network of hedgerows and ditches that provided connectivity across the site, however, field margins were narrow and there were no signs of environmentally conscious farming practices, such as sowing of nectar-rich seed mixes or installation of bird and bat boxes. The site would be considered of moderate significance to landscape connectivity.

3.8.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed in Table 36 below, were identified during the site walkover, with indicative photographs provided in Appendix D and a map providing a spatial reference provided in Figure 4.

Table 36: Habitats

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
Urban	u1b Developed land; sealed surface	Areas of established sealed hard standing, comprising buildings, roads, the farm lay-down area and cow sheds. This was concentrated to the east of the site.	Not applicable.	N/A
Cropland	c1c5 Temporary grass and clover leys	Several fields were a monoculture of perennial rye grass, to be harvested for sileage.	Not applicable.	N/A
	c1c7 Other cereal crops	Fields which had been harvested have been included as this habitat classification.	Not applicable.	N/A
Grassland	g4 Modified grassland	A species-poor grassland of amenity value was associated with the farmhouse garden. The grassland had a composition indicative of lawns, with a lush, but closely cropped sward, which was grazed by sheep. The predominant grass was red fescue, but Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and false-oat grass *Arrhenantherum elatius* were present, whilst herbs included creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* and daisy.	Not applicable.	**Poor**
Tall herb communities	g4 16 Tall forbs (Tall ruderal) (1)	Along the banks of the brook, and across the rail embankment was a dense thicket of tall herbs indicative of more moist conditions	Not applicable.	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		including great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, nettle, and bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, alongside bramble, large bindweed and false oat grass.		
	g4 16 Tall forbs (Tall ruderal) (2)	Isolated pockets of tall herb communities were scattered across the site, but a large band was present along a bund that encompassed the cow sheds. The composition was species-rich and included mugwort *Artiemisia vulgaris*, artichoke thistle *Cynara cardunculus*, liquorice *Astagalus glycyphyllos*, large bindweed, buddleia *Buddleia davidii*, and hemlock *Tsuga heterophylla*. The bund was ca. 5 m wide and provided a good nectar source for invertebrates.	Not applicable.	**Good**
Heathland and shrubs	h3f Hawthorn scrub	A small area of dense hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub was present to the southwest of the site.	The area was less than 1 ha and does not qualify for LWS selection	**Poor**
Hedgerows	h2a5 Species-rich native hedgerows	Hedgerows were an important ecological feature of the site, particularly those with greater than five woody species, which places them as species-rich. The main shrub component was a combination of hawthorn and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, with field maple *Acer campestre*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and dog rose *Rosa canina* frequent. Ash was the dominant tree species, but in areas where planting has occurred this was joined by pear *Pyrus communis* and damson *Prunus domestica*. The ground flora was indicative of a higher nutrient regime, with retention of a very narrow field margin.	Due to high woody species count these hedges are **likely to meet LWS selection criteria**.	**Good**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	h2a6 Other native hedgerows	Hedgerows which were considered species-poor (contained less than five species per indicative 30 m section) were the most common feature. These were often 'gappy', both horizontally and vertically and were dominated by a single shrub, either hawthorn or blackthorn and accompanied by elder, wych elm and field maple. As above, the ground flora was indicative of a higher nutrient regime, with retention of a very narrow field margin.	Due to low woody species count these hedges are unlikely to meet LWS selection criteria.	**Moderate**
	50 Associated with a ditch	A ditch network was present to the west and south of the site. The banks were over-steep and overgrown, with great willowherb the dominant herb. Shallow water was present in ditches to the south, which exhibited no flow.	Not applicable.	N/A
Trees	Individual Trees (Large)	Trees were primarily associated with hedgerows across the site, with larger individuals considered ecologically important. None appeared of veteran or ancient status, despite several having large trunk cavities. The dominant species was ash, but along wet ditches crack willow *Salix fragilis* was locally abundant. A number of the ash trees exhibited signs of ash dieback *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* disease, but an arboriculturist would be required to confirm its presence on site. The average diameter at breast height (DBH) was approximately 60 cm, placing them as 'large' individuals. In the absence of an individual condition assessment for each tree, they have been provided 'Good' condition status as a collective.	Further survey will be required to determine effects of heart-rot on trees, however, given the density of mature trees across the site, it is possible the site as a whole satisfies secondary criteria and is **likely to meet LWS selection criteria.**	**Good**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		It was estimated that 20% of the 56 trees were considered large, which accounts for 11 trees.		
Trees	Individual Trees (Medium)	Remaining trees associated with more recent planting. These were more frequent in proximity to the main farmhouse and along centre hedgerows. It was estimated that 80% of the 56 trees were considered large, which accounts for 45 trees.	These trees are unlikely to satisfy primary or secondary criteria for LWS selection, but further survey would be recommended.	**Moderate**

Habitat Summary

Overall, the biodiversity value of the site was calculated at 84.00 habitat units and 31.46 hedgerow units, with a summary of the metric calculation provided in Table 37 and Table 38 below. There are no features suitable for selection as LWS on this site.

Table 37: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
c1b5 - Rye-grass and clover ley	20.311	NA	Not formally identified in plans	40.62
c1c7 - Other cereal crops	13.901	NA	Not formally identified in plans	27.80
g4 - Modified grassland	0.243	Poor	Not formally identified in plans	0.49
16 - Tall forbs (South)	0.162	Moderate	Not formally identified in plans	0.65
16 - Tall forbs (Around cow sheds)	0.287	Good	Not formally identified in plans	1.72
h3f - Hawthorn scrub	0.115	Poor	Not formally identified in plans	0.46
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	1.120	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1b5 - Buildings	0.606	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.305	NA	Not formally identified in plans	0.00

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Individual trees (11 Large sized individuals)	-	Good	Formally identified	6.74
Individual trees (45 Medium sized individuals)	-	Moderate	Formally identified	5.52
Grand Total	**37.10**			**84.00**

Table 38: Metric Summary - Hedgerows

Hedgerow feature type	Length (km)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.375	Good	Formally identified	10.35
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.457	Good	Formally identified	9.46
Species-rich native hedgerow	0.473	Good	Formally identified	6.53
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.321	Moderate	Formally identified	2.95
Native hedgerow with trees	0.417	Moderate	Formally identified	3.84
Native hedgerow	1.886	Moderate	Formally identified	8.68
Grand Total	**3.93**			**31.46**

3.8.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council confirmed the presence of several protected and notable species within 2 km of the site (see Figure 2). These were primarily birds, indicative of farm landscapes including fieldfare, bullfinch, linnet and yellowhammer.

MAGIC returned two EPS licences within 2 km. They were both for the same location and pertained to the destruction of a resting place for common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat from May 2016 until April 2021 (2016-22733-EPS-MIT ; 2016-22733-EPS-MIT-1). The licences were located 1.8 km south-east of the site.

Three records of GCN presence obtained via survey licence returns were also returned by MAGIC. The closest was from 2016 and was located 1.1 km north of the site. The hedgerows and agricultural fields in the wider area offer some suboptimal connectivity from the record location and the site, with roads in the wider area acting as a barrier to dispersal.

In review of both the desk and field data the site's suitability to support species is summarised Table 39 below.

Table 39: Species

	[redacted]	Otter	Water vole	Bats	Birds	GCN and Amphibians	Reptiles	Invertebrates	Invasive Species
Desk Study		-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Field Survey		-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

Species Summary

Based on the desk study, habitats present on site and field signs, the protected and/or notable species listed below are potentially present on site. No evidence of amphibians, badger, otter or water vole was identified on site; however, features were present that may support their various resource needs. No invasive non-native species were identified during the site walkover, however, a record of Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* was returned 0.33 km east of the site.

[redacted]

Bats

The mature trees within the site were of an age and size likely to have features suitable for roosting bats. A full Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) was not undertaken at the time of survey. The farmhouse building comprised of a brick exterior, with a wooden barge board and clay roof tiles. Potential roosting features for bats were present under lifted tiles and between the barge board and brick exterior. A full Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) to classify the roosting suitability of the building was not undertaken during the survey.

The underpass to the south of the site comprised of a brick arch. The pointing was in good condition in and around the arch, but there was some missing masonry along the northern wing-walls.

The onsite habitats offered moderate suitability for foraging and commuting bats (Collins, 2024). The hedgerows offered good commuting lines for bats, but foraging potential was limited to areas around the cow sheds and along the brook to the south of the site.

Birds

A large abundance of bird records were returned within and in close proximity to the site. These were indicative of wooded and arable settings and species such as fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, red kite *Milvus milvus*, and Redwing *Turdus iliacus.*

Avian species of note recorded during the site walkover included:

- Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* (Red[5]) – multiple records across the site.
- Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (Red) - multiple records across the site located along hedgerows.
- House sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Red) – observed nesting in the equipment sheds to the north of the farm lay-down area.

The barn structures lacked internal beams and were not considered suitable for barn owl *Tyto alba* with an indicative image of the barn structures is provided in Appendix D. The remainder of the site contained hedgerows of suitability to nesting birds.

GCN and Amphibians

No records of amphibians were returned from the desk study, however, MAGIC returned four positive records of GCN. These were all north of the site, with two associated with Seven Oaks Farm 1 km and 1.3 km northwest, and two associated with Glen Gorse golf course 1.2 km and 1.8 km northeast of the site.

No ponds or standing water suitable for amphibian breeding were identified on site. Within proximity offsite, the only suitable features for breeding would be the arable ditch network, however, the terrestrial habitat would be considered sub-optimal for amphibians, particularly GCN which favour rank grassland and canopied woodland for dispersal.

Otter and water vole

No records of otter and water vole were identified on site or in proximity to the site.

The brook beyond the extents of the site to the south, offered suitable commuting habitat for otter. This watercourse provides good connectivity east to west, with links to the Grand Union Canal. It is considered unlikely that the brook contained fish, and as such would not provide a significant foraging resource.

No evidence of water vole was identified on site, and the watercourse and ditch network offered either negligible or sub-optimal habitat for foraging and bank burrowing. This was due to the morphological composition of the banks, which were over-steep, whilst the water flow was either absent, as was the case with much of the ditch network, or too shallow, as was the case with the southern brook.

[5] Birds of Conservation Concern Red list (Version 5) - See Appendix B for further details

3.9 WIG/008 - LAND NORTH OF NEWTON LANE (ADDITIONAL)

3.9.1 Site Description

The site is 0.4 ha in size and comprises an addition to a site previously surveyed in 2023 (Tetra Tech, 2024). It is the southern field in an area of arable land to the east of Wigston, north of Newton Lane and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP62259867. The additional area comprises an area of sheep-grazed grassland, surrounded by hedgerows.

3.9.2 Protected Sites & Connectivity

There were no nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site, but one locally designated site, which is presented in Table 40 below.

Details of local non-designated sites within 1 km of the site are included in Table 41 below, with spatial references provided in Figure 3a and Figure 3b.

Table 40: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 2 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	0.80 km North	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	1.23 km North	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.

Table 41: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study within 1 km

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Newton Lane Ash Trees	LWS	Onsite	NA
Oadby Wigston Green Wedge	Green Wedge	Immediately adjacent	North
Newton Lane Meadows	LWS	0.02	South
The Meadows Balancing Reservoir	LWS	0.19	Southwest
Wigston Harcourt: Cooks/Newton Lane Ash 2	LWS	0.44	Southwest
Wigston Harcourt: Cooks/Newton Lane Ash 1	LWS	0.48	South
Wigston Harcourt, Cooks Lane hedge	LWS	0.77	Southwest
Severn Oaks Farm great crested newt ponds	LWS	0.80	North
Brock's hill mature trees	LWS	0.80	North

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Brocks Hill Country Park and LNR, Oadby	LWS	0.80	North
Glen Gorse Golf Course	LWS	0.80	North
Great Crested Newt pond, off Newton Lane	LWS	0.84	Northwest
Foston Gate Meadow	LWS	0.84	Southwest
Cooks Lane Pasture	LWS	0.85	Southwest
Spinney Pond, Brock's Hill Country Park	LWS	0.92	North
Barn Pool Meadow (Cooks Lane grassland)	LWS	0.98	Southwest
Hermitage Hotel Beech	LWS	0.99	Northwest
Wigston Harcourt, Newton Lane meadow hedge	LWS	1.00	Northwest

Connectivity

The site itself supports Newton Lane Ash Trees LWS and is immediately adjacent to both Newton Lane Meadows and the Oadby Wigston Green Wedge. The connectivity of the site should be considered for WIG/008 as a whole and not as an individual component. As such, the network of hedgerows, woodland bands, field ponds and ditches of the wider site offer good dispersal features for wildlife. The grazed fields, which were the main component of the site, were species-poor and detriment to species dispersal. As such, the site would be considered of moderate significance to landscape connectivity.

3.9.3 Habitats

The following habitats listed in Table 42 below were identified during the site walkover, with indicative photographs provided in Appendix D and a map providing a spatial reference provided in Figure 4.

Table 42: Habitats

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
Grassland	g4 Modified grassland	A lush and species-poor sward dominated by perennial ryegrass, with creeping buttercup, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius,* white clover and hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* occasional. At the peripheries there was a greater abundance of false oatgrass.	Not applicable.	**Poor**
Hedgerows	h2a6 Other native hedgerows	There were three species-poor hedgerows encompassing the site. The northern feature had signs of clear management, with a compact structure that transitioned to willow scrub to the west. The eastern feature appeared more mature, with a much more complex vertical structure where the shrubs have been allowed to expand. Within this hedgerow, there was a number of mature ash trees, which comprise the LWS discussed above. The southern feature was a 'gappy' hedge which provided the boundary to Newton Lane. The shrub present included hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, wych elm and field maple, whilst the tree species was ash.	Due to low woody species count these hedges are unlikely to meet LWS selection criteria.	**Moderate**
Trees	Individual Trees (Large)	Trees within the eastern hedgerow were considered mature. They had an average diameter at breast height (DBH) of approximately 60 cm, placing them as 'large' individuals. In the absence of an individual condition assessment for each tree, they have been provided 'Good' condition status as a collective. There were nine trees in total within this feature.	These trees have already been designated as a LWS feature	**Good**
Trees	Individual Trees (Medium)	The remaining four trees were considered young to early mature. These had an average DBH of between 30 cm and 50 cm and were considered of	These trees are unlikely to satisfy primary or secondary	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		medium size. In the absence of an individual condition assessment for each tree, they have been provided 'Moderate' condition status as a collective.	criteria for LWS selection, but further survey would be recommended.	

Habitat Summary

Overall, the biodiversity value of the site was calculated at 9.52 habitat units and 3.68 hedgerow units, with a summary of the metric calculation provided in Table 43 and Table 44 below. There are no additional features suitable for selection as LWS on this site.

Table 43: Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
g4 - Modified grassland	2.18	Poor	Not formally identified in plans	4.37
Individual trees (9 Large sized individuals)	-	Good	Formally identified	4.55
Individual trees (4 Medium sized individuals)	-	Moderate	Formally identified	0.60
Grand Total	**37.10**			**9.52**

Table 44: Metric Summary - Hedgerows

Hedgerow feature type	Length (km)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Native hedgerow with trees	0.4	Moderate	Formally identified	3.68
Grand Total	**0.4**			**3.68**

3.9.4 Protected and Notable Species

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council confirmed the presence of several protected and notable species within 2 km of the site. These were primarily avian records, which are indicative of farm settings, such as barn owl, fieldfare, bullfinch, and skylark. Additional records of amphibians and reptiles were also present, including seven records of GCN, four records of smooth newt, common frog and grass snake.

MAGIC returned one EPS licence within 2 km which pertained to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place from March to July 2018 (2017-32747-EPS-MIT). This was located 1.6 km northeast of the site.

Seven records of GCN survey licence returns were also returned by MAGIC. The closest was from 2016 and was located 230 m south of the site. The hedgerows and agricultural fields in the surrounding area provide connectivity from the breeding pond to the site.

Table 45: Species

	[redacted]	Hazel Dormouse	Otter	Water vole	Bats	Birds	GCN and Amphibians	Reptiles	Invertebrates	Invasive Species
Desk Study		-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Field Survey		-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

Species Summary

[redacted]

Bats

The mature ash trees within the eastern hedgerow were of an age and size likely to have features suitable for roosting bats, however, a full GLTA was not undertaken. The onsite grassland and hedgerows offer moderate suitability for foraging and commuting bats, forming continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape (Collins, 2024).

Birds

All species recorded during the site visit were common and widespread, and indicative to the habitats present.

GCN and Amphibians

No ponds or standing water were identified on site and the terrestrial habitat would be considered sub-optimal for amphibians, particularly GCN which favour rank grassland and canopied woodland for dispersal. However, there is connectivity via hedgerows and terrestrial habitat between waterbodies

within 500 m of the site. Therefore, GCN presence cannot be ruled out and further survey to determine presence within 500 m is required.

4.0 SITE SUMMARY AND FURTHER SPECIES SURVEYS

Both the field data and desk study records have been summarised in Table 46 below.

Table 46: Data summary

Initial Site Ref.	Site Name	Biodiversity Units	Habitats Present	Further Survey Recommendations for Protected & Notable Species	Current Designations on Site or Adjacent	Additional LWS Potential
OAD_012	Baxters Place ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 1.69	Urban habitats alongside grassland and scattered trees.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), nesting birds.	None	None
OAD_013	Brooksby Square ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.00	Urban habitats of limited ecological value.	Roosting bats (PRA), nesting birds.	None	None
OAD_014	Oadby Water Treatment Works	Habitat units: 8.81 Hedgerow units: 0.08	Grassland, woodland, sealed surface.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), bat activity, nesting birds.	Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge	None
SWIG/001	Magna Road	Habitat units: 2.17	A complex of scrub habitats.	Bat activity, reptiles, nesting bird, badger.	The site is adjacent to the Rough Grassland LWS	The expanse of scrub satisfies secondary criteria for LWS selection

Initial Site Ref.	Site Name	Biodiversity Units	Habitats Present	Further Survey Recommendations for Protected & Notable Species	Current Designations on Site or Adjacent	Additional LWS Potential
WIG/012	North Street Parking ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.12	Modified grassland and urban development, with a single tree.	None	None	None
WIG/013	Spring Lane ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.67	Modified grassland, ornamental shrub planting, urban development and scattered trees.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), nesting birds.	None	None
WIG/014	Paddock Street ***Desk based assessment only***	Habitat units: 0.77	Modified grassland, ornamental shrub planting, urban development and scattered trees.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), nesting birds.	None	None
WIG/015	Glebe Farm	Habitat units: 84.00 Hedgerow units: 31.46	Hedgerows, individual trees, cropland, scrub, tall herb communities, and developed land associated with the farm.	Roosting bat (PRA and GLTA), bat activity, nesting birds, badger, otter.	The site itself does not support and LWS or Green Wedges but is strategically placed in the centre of several surrounding designated features.	Species-rich hedgerows have the potential to satisfy LWS criteria.
WIG/008	Land North of Newton Lane (addition)	Habitat units: 37.10 Hedgerow units: 3.68	Modified grassland, hedgerows and individual trees.	Roosting bat (GLTA), nesting birds.	The site itself supports Newton Lane Ash Trees LWS and is immediately adjacent to both Newton Lane Meadows and the Oadby Wigston Green Wedge.	None

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FIGURES

Site Location - OAD/012

Oadby LWS

Site Name: Baxters Place

Legend

Site Boundary

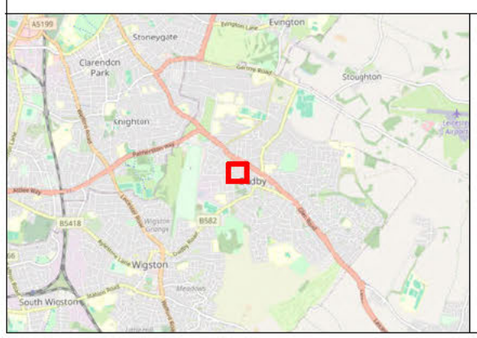
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462089E 300588N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - OAD/013

Oadby LWS

Site Name: Brooksby Square Development

Legend

Site Boundary

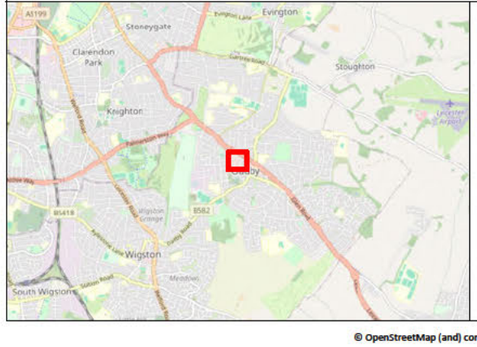
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462195E 300616N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - OAD/014

Oadby LWS

Site Name: Sewage Works

Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 461513E 300231N

TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - SWIG/001

South Wigston LWS

Site Name: Magna Road Employment

Legend

Site Boundary

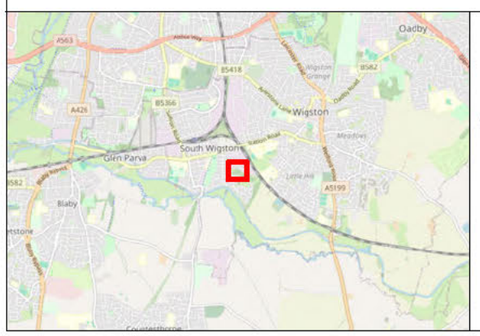
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 459471E 298127N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - WIG/012

Wigston LWS

Site Name: Burgess Junction Development

Legend

Site Boundary

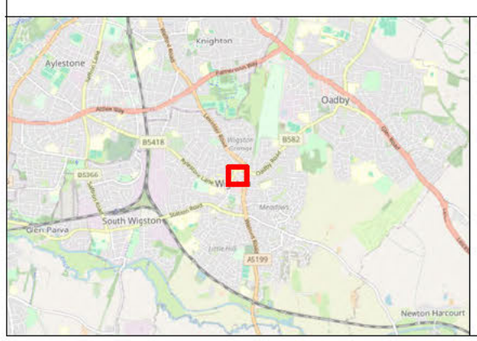
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 460738E 299218N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - WIG/013

Oadby LWS

Site Name: Chapel Mill Development

Legend

Site Boundary

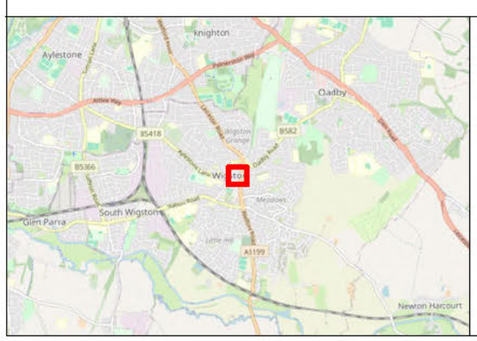
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 460784E 299085N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - WIG/014

Wigston LWS

Site Name: Long Lanes Development

Legend

Site Boundary

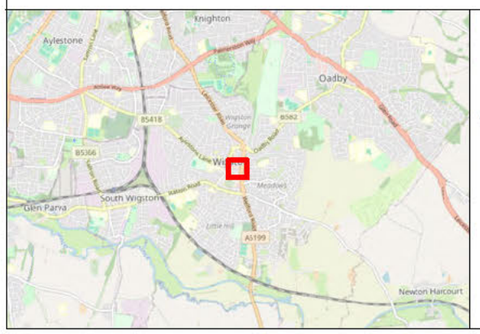
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 460772E 298971N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - WIG/015

Oadby LWS

Site Name: Glebe Farm

Legend

Site Boundary

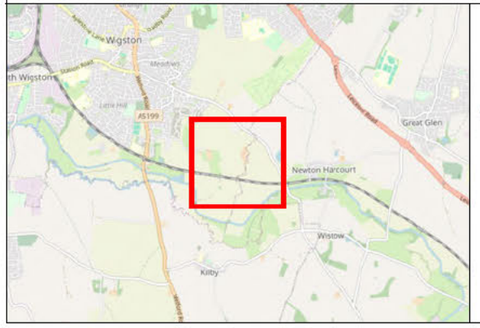
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 50 100 150 200 Meters
Scale 1:5,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462512E 297093N



TETRA TECH

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

Site Location - WIG/008

Wigston LWS

Site Name: Land at Newton Lane

Legend

Site Boundary

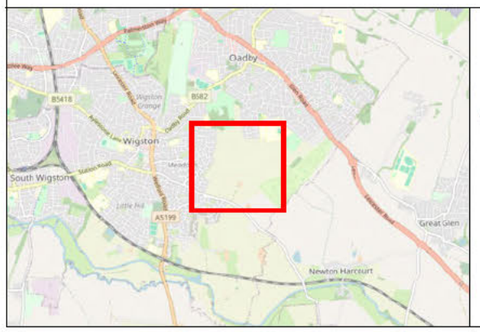
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 50 100 150 200 Meters
Scale 1:5,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462229E 298669N



TETRA TECH

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

Protected Species - OAD/012

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

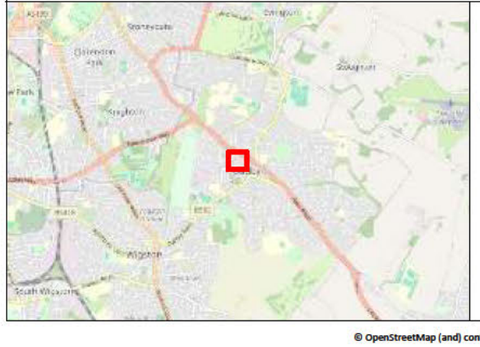
11 September 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 462195E 300616N



TETRA TECH

3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Protected Species - OAD/013

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

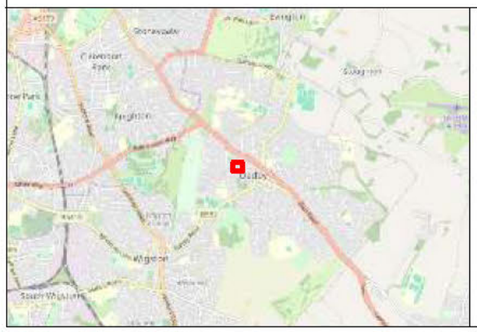
11 September 2024

0 5.5 11 16.5 22 Meters

Scale 1:500 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 462089E 300588N



TETRA TECH

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Protected Species - OAD/014

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

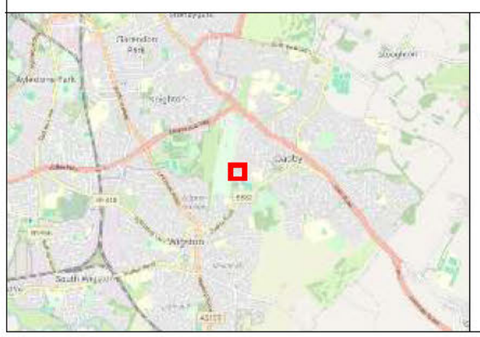
11 September 2024

0 9 18 27 36 Meters

Scale 1:800 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 461513E 300231N



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United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

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Registered in England
number: 01959704

Protected Species - SWIG/001

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

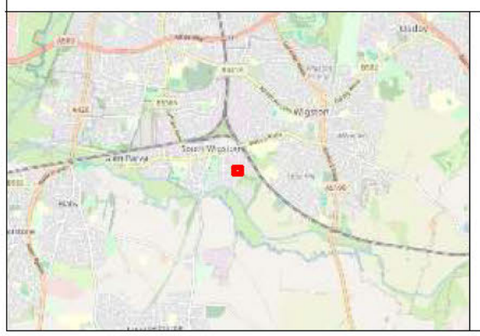
11 September 2024

0 4.5 9 13.5 18 Meters

Scale 1:400 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 459471E 298127N



TETRA TECH

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Registered in England
number: 01959704

Protected Species - WIG/012

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Priority Species (Cat 2)

Swift

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

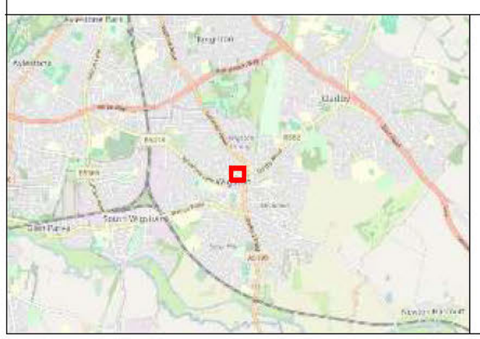
11 September 2024

0 7.5 15 22.5 30 Meters

Scale 1:700 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 460738E 299218N



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number: 01959704

Protected Species - WIG/013

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Priority Species (Cat 2)

Swift

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

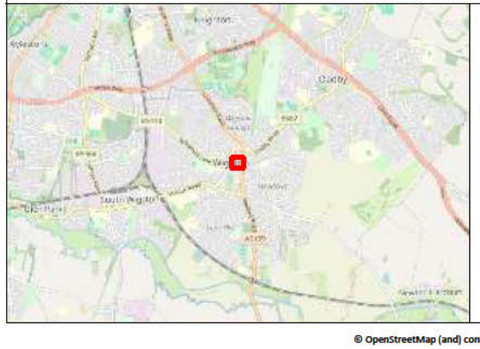
11 September 2024

0 6.5 13 19.5 26 Meters

Scale 1:600 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 460784E 299085N



TETRA TECH

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LS1 4ER

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Registered in England
number: 01959704

Protected Species - WIG/014

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Harlequin Ladybird

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

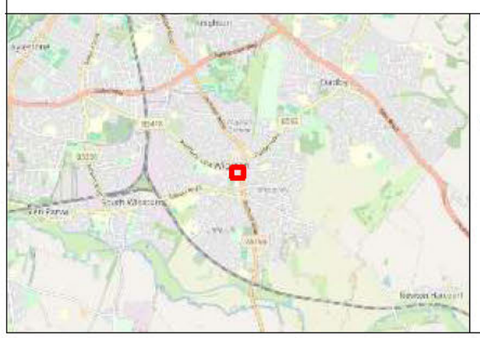
11 September 2024

0 6.5 13 19.5 26 Meters

Scale 1:600 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 460772E 298971N



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number: 01959704

Protected Species - WIG/015

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Fieldfare
- Greylag Goose
- Kingfisher
- Red Kite
- Redwing

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Bullfinch
- Canada Goose
- Dunnock
- Harlequin Ladybird
- Japanese Knotweed
- Lapwing
- Linnet
- Reed Bunting
- Rye Brome
- Skylark
- Song Thrush
- Swallow
- Tree Sparrow
- Wren
- Yellow Wagtail
- Yellowhammer

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 40 80 120 160 Meters

Scale 1:4,100 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 462512E 297093N

TETRA TECH

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Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Protected Species - WIG_008

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Barn Owl
- Brambling
- Common Frog
- Fieldfare
- Grass Snake
- Great Crested Newt
- Hobby
- Kingfisher
- Peregrine
- Quail
- Red Kite
- Redwing
- Smooth Newt

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Beaded Chestnut
- Blood-vein
- Brindled Beauty
- Buff Ermine
- Bullfinch
- Centre-barred Sallow
- Cinnabar
- Common Mouse-ear
- Cornflower
- Dot Moth
- Dusky Brocade
- Dusky Thorn
- Ghost Moth
- Grey Partridge
- Hare
- Harlequin Ladybird
- Hedgehog
- House Martin
- House Sparrow
- Knot Grass
- Large Nutmeg
- Mottled Rustic
- Mouse Moth
- Rustic
- Sallow
- Shoulder-striped Wainscot
- Skylark
- Small Emerald
- Song Thrush
- Starling
- Swallow
- Swift
- White Ermine
- Yellowhammer

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 50 100 150 200 Meters

Scale 1:4,700 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 462229E 298669N

TETRA TECH

3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
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United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites Within 2km Overview

Oadby & Wigston LWS Surveys

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- All Sites 2km Buffer
- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Wildlife Site

Leicestershire Golf Course and adj sites
Evington Green
Stoughton Grange, Dam's Spinney and lake
Stackyard Spinney
Tanglewood, Oadby - Ash tree
Gartree Rd mature trees
Mature pedunculate oak (pLWS B)
Roadside near Stoughton Farm Park
Blackthorn Manor Pond
Race Course Meadow
Oadby, boundary hedgerow
Mature trees, Knighton Park
Saffron Brook Knighton Park hedgerows
Oadby Municipal Golf Course - Wet Grassland
Opposite Invicta Park Oadby
Hermitage Hotel Beech
Severn Road wet meadow
Fludes Lane & Spinney
Oadby Grange lake
Oadby Grange Ash
Washbrook Stream
Gorse Pasture Oadby
Stretton Hall hedgerows
Glen Gorse Golf Course
Brocks Hill Country Park and LNR, Oadby
Lucas Marsh
Spinney Pond, Brock's Hill Country Park
Brock's hill mature trees
Grassland A6 Roundabout
Wigston Triangle
Wigston, Bushlow High School Ash
The Meadows Balancing Reservoir
Newton Lane Ash Trees
Severn Oaks Farm great crested newt ponds
Rough Grassland, Landsdowne Grove, South Wigston
Horse Paddock, Crow Mills, South Wigston
Wigston Harcourt, Newton Lane meadow hedge
Mill Lane Grasslands
Navvy's Pit
Foston Gate Meadow
Wigston Harcourt: Cooks/Newton Lane Ash 1
Wigston Harcourt: Cooks/Newton Lane Ash 2
Wigston, St Petrox' Ash
Wigston Harcourt, Cooks Lane hedge
River Sence floodplain Meadow
Poplars, River Sence
Dismantled Railway S of Crow Bridge
River Sence Floodplain grassland
Cooks Lane Pasture
Trees West of Newton Harcourt
Grand Union Canal
Barn Pool Meadow (Cooks Lane grassland)
Grand Union Canal, Newton Harcourt/Kilby
Canal Pasture
Countesthorpe, streamside willow adj to Sewage Works
Mature Willow, R Sence
Oak N of Grand Union Canal
Canal Rough Grassland
Countesthorpe, Glebe Garden Centre Ash trees
Countesthorpe, Foston Lane Ash
Turnover Lock Grassland, Wistow
Streamside Willow
Churchyard copper beech
Foston Road Grassland
Wistow Road verges
Kilby community woodland

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Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3a
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 0.5 1 1.5 Kilometers
Scale 1:35,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462579E 299635N

TETRA TECH
3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - OAD/013

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

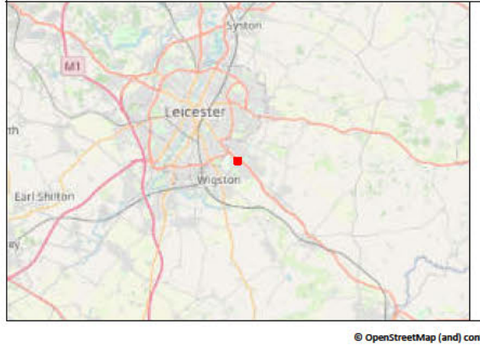
Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 462195E 300616N



TETRA TECH

3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - OAD/012

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)

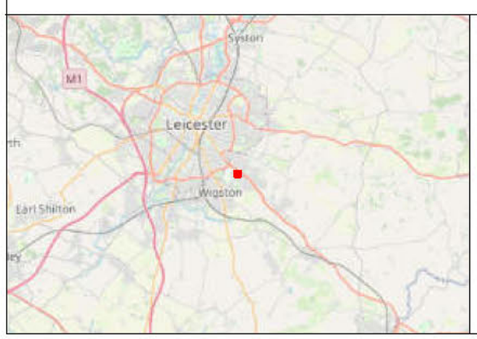
Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462089E 300588N



TETRA TECH

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Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - OAD/014

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)

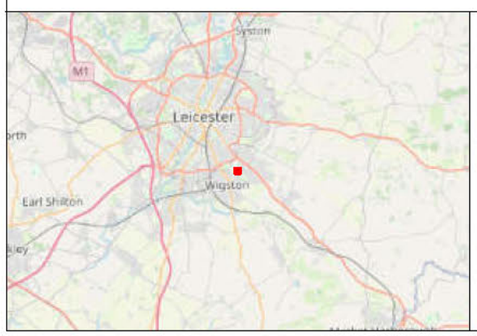
Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 461513E 300231N



TETRA TECH
3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - SWIG/001

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)
- Local Wildlife Site

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 459471E 298127N

TETRA TECH
3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - WIG/012

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters
Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 460738E 299218N

TETRA TECH

3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - WIG/013

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 460784E 299085N

TETRA TECH

3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - WIG/014

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site Boundary

Site boundary buffer (2km)

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 460772E 298971N

TETRA TECH

3 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS1 4ER

Tetra Tech Limited.
Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - WIG/015

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Wildlife Site

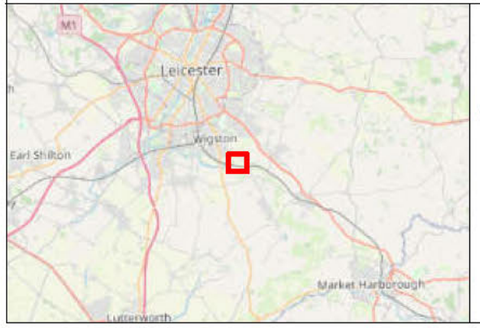
Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 50 100 150 200 Meters
Scale 1:5,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462512E 297093N



TETRA TECH

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LS1 4ER

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Registered in England
number: 01959704

Designated Sites - WIG_008

Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site boundary buffer (2km)
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
02 October 2024

0 50 100 150 200 Meters
Scale 1:5,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 462229E 298669N

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Pre-Development Plan - OAD/013

Brooksby Square Development

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1e - Built linear features

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

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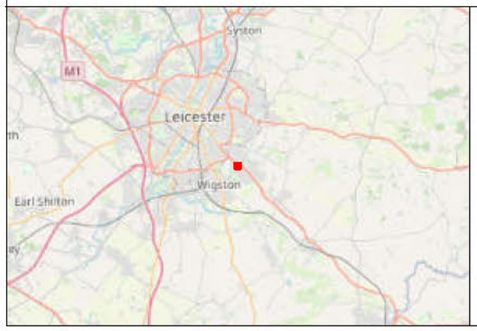
Scale 1:1,000 @A3



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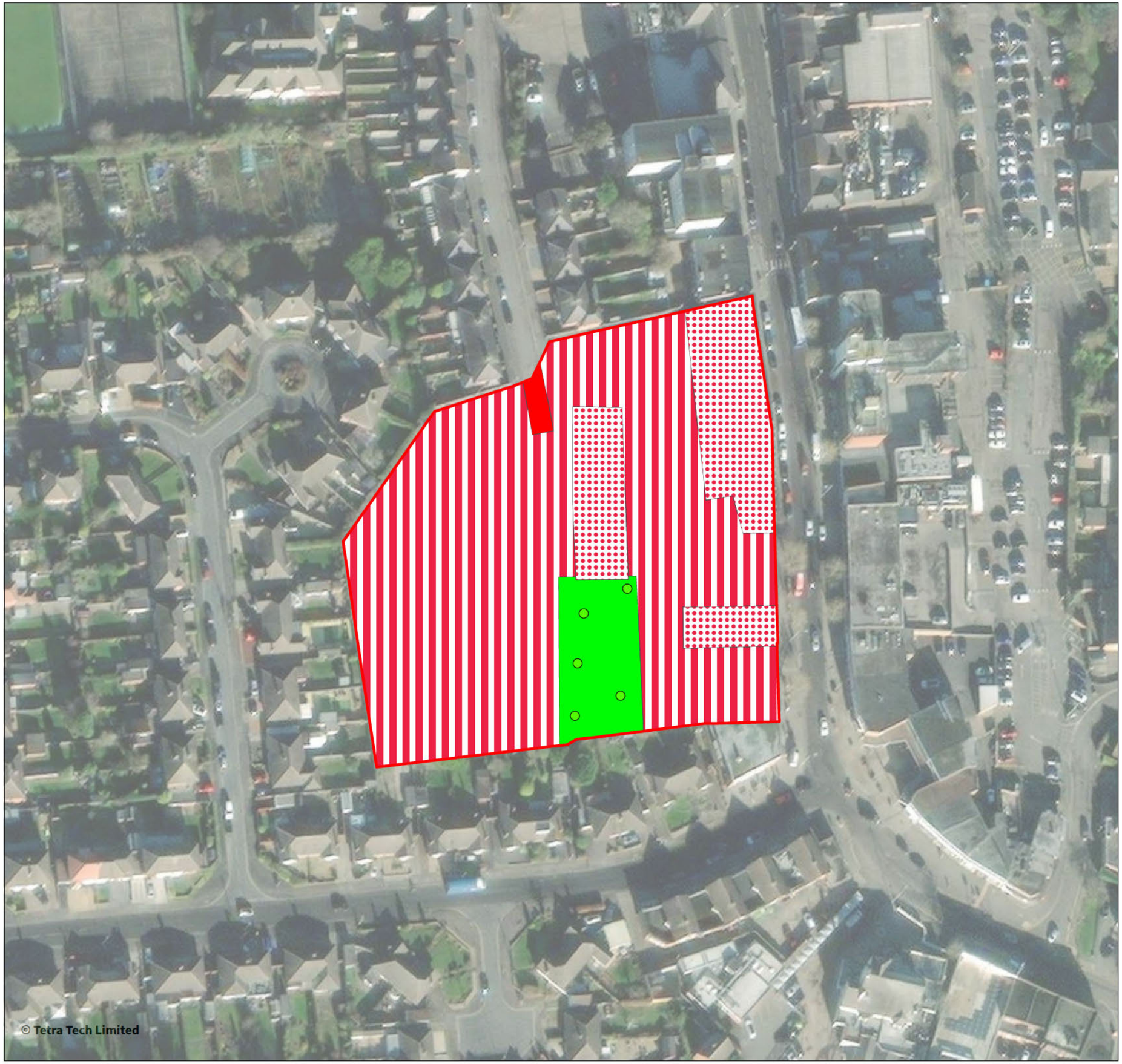

Pre-Development Plan - OAD/012

Baxters Place

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1e - Built linear features
- Urban Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

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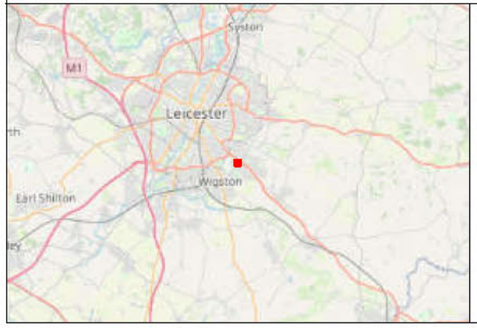

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Pre-Development Plan - OAD/014

Sewage Works

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- u1e - Built linear features
- w1g - Other woodland, broadleaved
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerows
- Urban Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

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Scale 1:1,000 @A3

British National Grid

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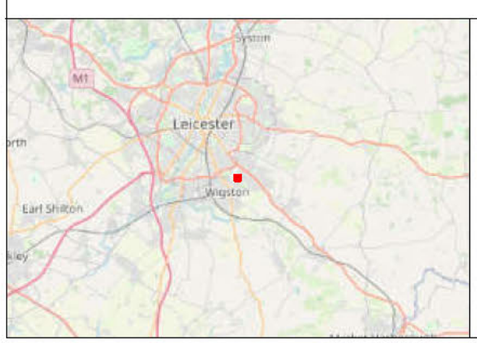

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Pre-Development Plan - SWIG/001

Magna Road

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- w1g - Other woodland, broadleaved

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

NGR: 459471E 298127N

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Scale 1:1,000 @A3

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Pre-Development Plan - WIG/012

Burgess Junction Development

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1e - Built linear features
- Urban Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

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Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

NGR: 460738E 299218N

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,000 @A3

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Pre-Development Plan - WIG/013

Chapel Mill Development

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- h2b - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1e - Built linear features
- Urban Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

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Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

NGR: 460784E 299085N

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,000 @A3

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Pre-Development Plan - WIG/014

Long Lanes Development

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- h2b - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1e - Built linear features
- Urban Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

NGR: 460772E 298971N

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Scale 1:1,000 @A3

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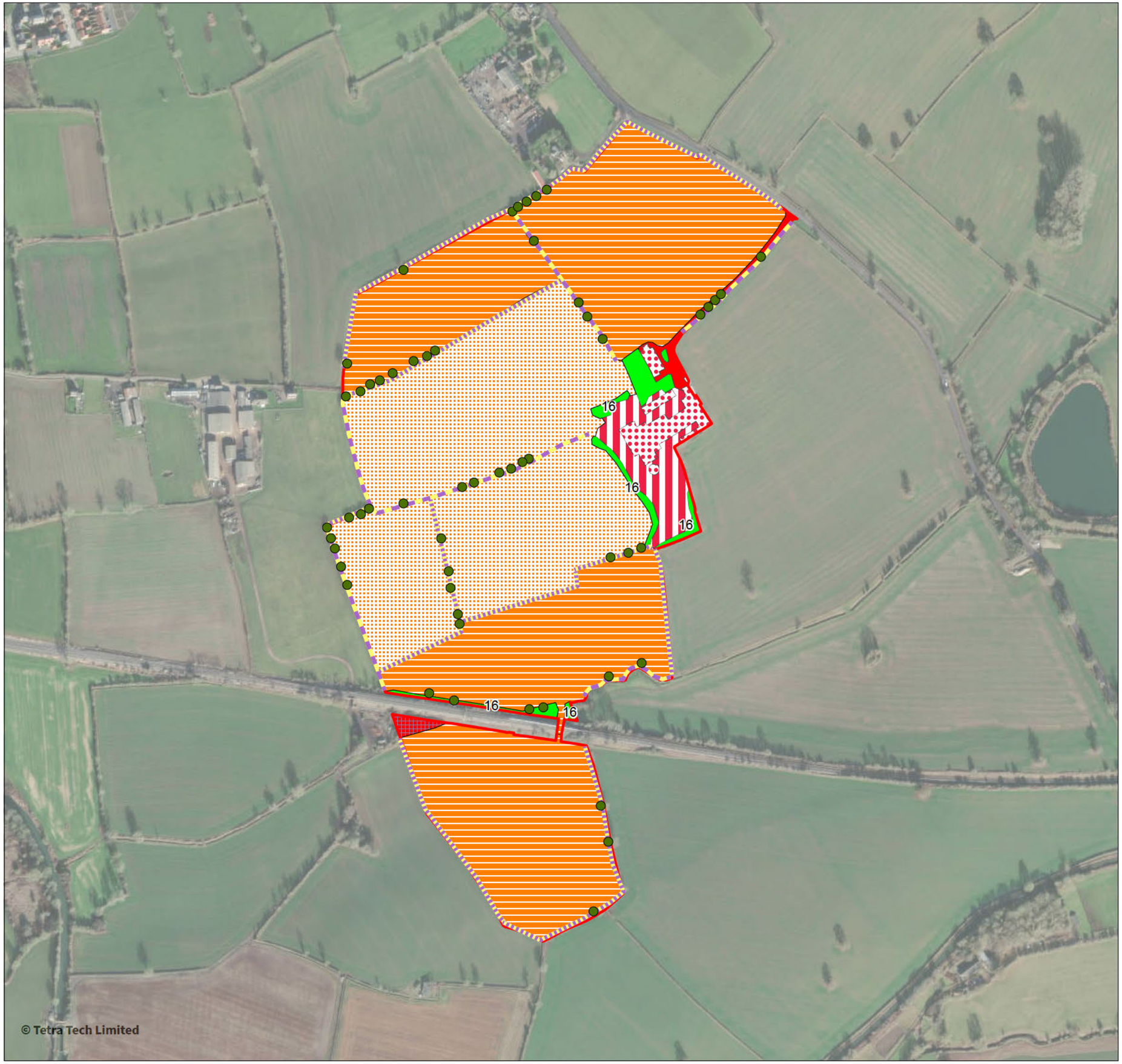


Pre-Development Plan - WIG/015

Glebe Farm

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- c1b5 - Rye-grass and clover ley
- c1c7 - c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1e - Built linear features
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerows
- Rural Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

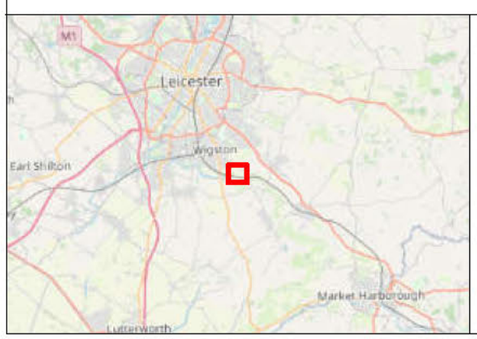
11 September 2024

0 50 100 150 200 Meters

Scale 1:5,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 462512E 297093N



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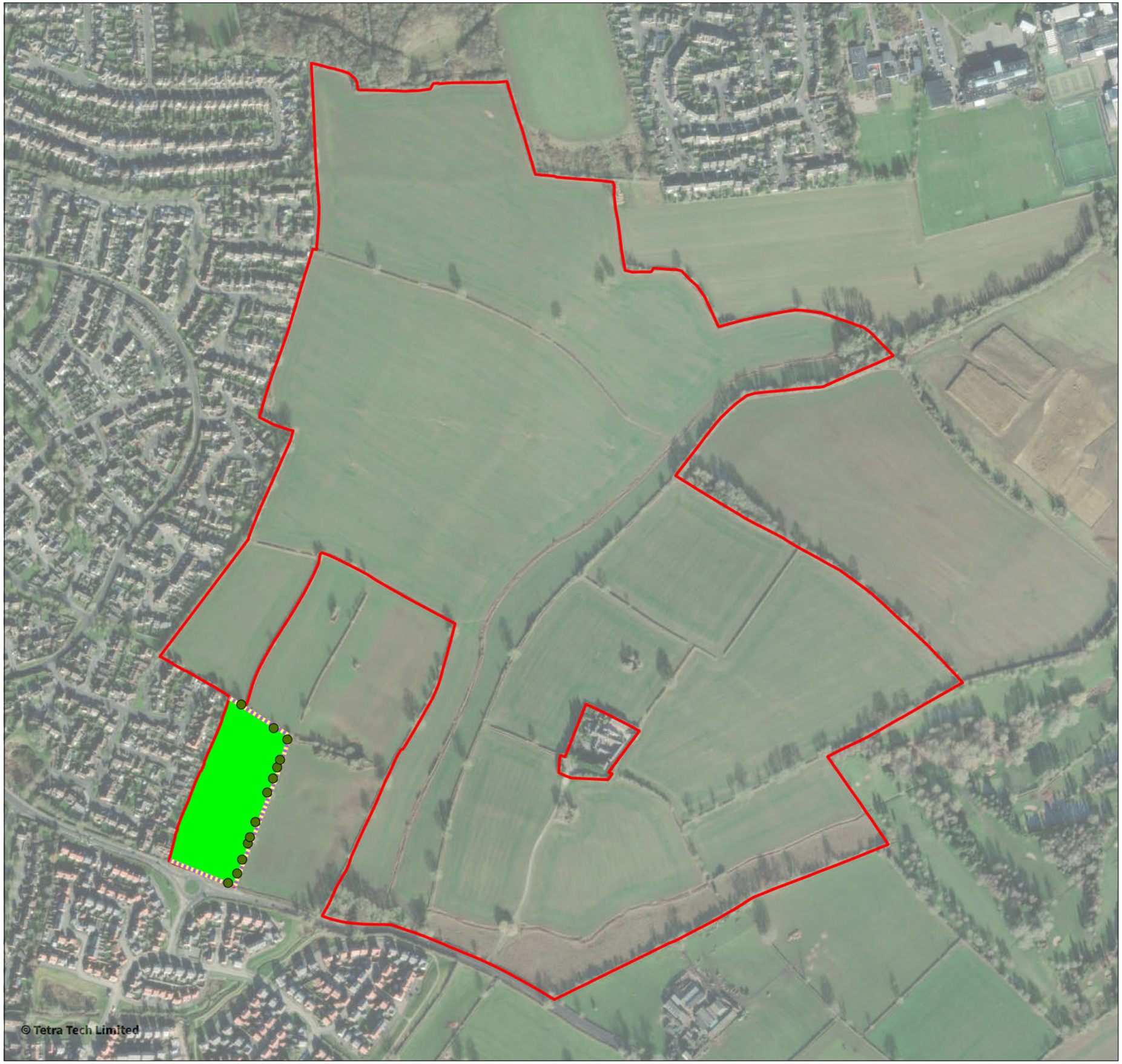

Pre-Development Plan - WIG/008

Land at Newton Lane

Oadby & Wigston Council

Legend

- Site Boundary
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerows
- Rural Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

NGR: 462229E 298669N

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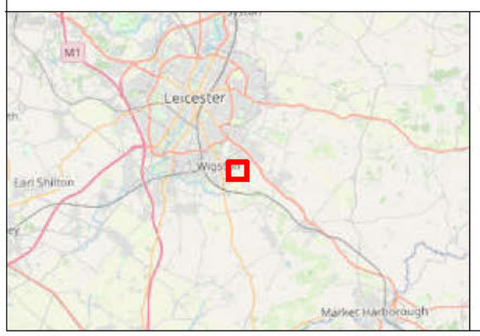
Scale 1:5,000 @A3



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of Oadby Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council ("the Clients") for the proposed uses stated in the report by Tetra Tech Limited ("Tetra Tech"). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder's permission.

No liability is accepted or warranty given for; unconfirmed data, third party documents and information supplied to Tetra Tech or for the performance, reliability, standing etc of any products, services, organisations or companies referred to in this report. Tetra Tech does not purport to provide specialist legal, tax or accounting advice.

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

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

Tetra Tech reserves the right to share this Report and any related materials, surveys, drawings and/or documents at any time with the relevant Local Ecological Records Centre (LREC), any relevant statutory body or any equivalent organisation as Tetra Tech may reasonably require from time-to-time.

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

APPENDIX B: KEY LEGISLATION

Habitats Directive

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

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

Birds Directive

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

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

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

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

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

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

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

Birds of Conservation Concern

This is a review of the status of all birds occurring regularly in the United Kingdom. It is regularly updated and is prepared by leading bird conservation organisations, including the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The latest report was produced in 2021 (Eaton *et al*, 2021) and identified 67 red list species, 96 amber species, and 81 green species. The criteria are complex, but generally:

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

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

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

Global IUCN Red List

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

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

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

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

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

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

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

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

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

APPENDIX C: SPECIES TARGET NOTES

OAD/014 – Sewage Works

Target Note	Description	Photos
[redacted]		

WIG/015 – Glebe Farm

Target Note	Description	Photos
BT.1	Underpass masonry flaws to the south of the site	

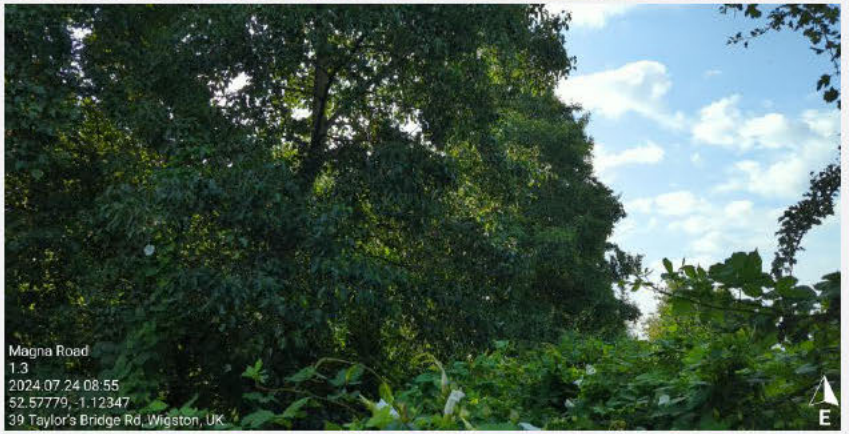
BT.1	Unnamed brook beyond the site extents to the south, with suitability for otter commuting.	

APPENDIX D: INDICATIVE HABITAT PLATES

Site	Indicative Habitat	Description	Photos
WIG/015 - Glebe Farm	**Hedgerows with mature trees**	Mature hedgerows with trees. Note the lack of an arable field margin.	
	Hedgerows without trees	Species poor hedgerows, which were often dominated by either hawthorn or blackthorn.	

	Ley fields	The fields were either recently harvested and therefore bare, or lush swards of perennial ryegrass.	
	Tall herbs	Tall herb bund located around the lay-down area	

	Farm structures	The farm lay-down area, with equipment storage and open cow sheds.	 

SWIG/001 -Magna Road	**Scrub**	Indication of scrub complexes throughout the site.	
	Other woodland broadleaved	Band of Italian alder to the east of the site.	

	Human disturbance	Evidence of human encampments and litter throughout.	
OAD/014 Sewage Works	**Woodland**	Band of deciduous woodland around the site perimeter.	

	Grassland	Internal structure of the site, with amenity grassland and treatment cylinders.	
	Earthworks	Bare ground created by ongoing earthworks to the north of the site	

WIG/008 Land North of Newton Lane (Addition)	**Modified grassland**	Main site component was a species-poor grassland.	
	Mature Hedgerow	Mature hedgerow with ash trees that have LWS status	

	Defunct hedgerow	Gappy hedge along Newton Lane	

APPENDIX E: STRETTON HALL OAD/015 ASSESSMENT

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Oadby & Wigston and Harborough District Call for Sites

784-B045956

Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey, Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline and Local Wildlife Site Assessment

Oadby & Wigston and Harborough District Councils

September 2024

Document prepared on behalf of Tetra Tech Limited. Registered in England number: 01959704

TETRA TECH

Tetra Tech Birmingham, One Victoria Square, Birmingham, United Kingdom, B1 1BD

Tetra Tech Limited. Registered in England number: 01959704
Registered Office: 3 Sovereign Square, Sovereign Street, Leeds, United Kingdom, LS1 4ER

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document:	Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey, Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline and Local Wildlife Site Assessment
Project:	Oadby & Wigston and Harborough District Call for Sites
Client:	Oadby & Wigston and Harborough District Councils
Project Number:	784-B045956
File Origin:	\\lds-dc-vm-101\Data\Projects\784-B045956_Oadby___Wigston_LWS_Surveys\60 Project Output\63 Published

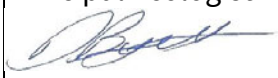
Revision:	**V1**	**Prepared by:**	Rob Gavan ACIEEM Senior Ecologist 
Date:	12/09/2024	**Checked by:**	Dave Byett MCIEEM Principal Ecologist 
Status:	**Final Report**	**Approved By:**	Holly Lewis MCIEEM Associate Ecologist 
Description of revision	First draft		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	Tetra Tech was commissioned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council in June 2024 to undertake an ecological assessment of a large site in the joint district boundaries of Oadby and Harborough, in Leicestershire. This site is known to the respective authorities as OAD/015 in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and SHELAA Ref ID: 24/8631 in Harborough District Council. For the purpose of this report, it will hereafter be referred to as 'the site'.
Scope of this Survey(s)	The purpose of this report is to: • Evaluate the selected site as either suitable for future development or as being of local value for nature conservation. • Provide a Biodiversity Net Gain baseline calculation, to provide an indication of the biodiversity value of the site as recorded at the time of the survey. • Highlight features within the site that are suitable for selection as potential Local Wildlife Sites. • Undertake a desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation, and relevant records of protected/notable species within and in proximity to the site. • Present the results of an extended UK Habitat Classification Survey (UKHab), involving a walkover of the site to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species, and evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species. • Evaluate potential ecological receptors on site and within the Zone of Influence (ZoI), to identify any potential constraints to the development.
Results and Evaluation	The site comprised a series of habitats indicative of rural environments, with a mix of grazed and unmanaged grassland, woodland, individual trees, hedgerows, scrub, ponds, tall herb communities, watercourses, ponds and associated farm buildings and infrastructure. The collective biodiversity value of the site equated to 1273 habitat units, 349 hedgerow units and 12.52 watercourse units. The site is extensive and contains three designated Local Wildlife Sites and a potential Local Wildlife Site associated with mature trees, a brook and hedgerows. Additionally, given its size, it also borders three LWS and a Green Wedge Area to the west. Three features were also considered to have the potential to satisfy LWS criteria: Field Ponds Mature Trees and Hedgerows. Further survey is recommended for the following species and habitats: • Breeding birds; • Reptiles; • Bat roosting, foraging/commuting habitat; • Otters; • Badgers; • Hedgerows; and • Ancient and veteran trees (i.e. arboricultural).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council in June 2024 to undertake an ecological assessment of a large site in the joint district boundaries of Oadby and Harborough, in Leicestershire. This site is known to the respective authorities as OAD/015 in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and SHELAA Ref ID: 24/8631 in Harborough District Council. For the purpose of this report, it will hereafter be referred to as 'the site'.

This report has been prepared by Senior Ecologist Rob Gavan BSc (Hons), MSc ACIEEM and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is centred around OS Grid Reference SP 65248 99627, at Stretton Hall, to the east of Oadby and south of Leicester Airport. It comprises ca. 360 ha, of which ca. 64 ha falls within the council boundary of Oadby and ca. 296 ha falls within the District Council boundary of Harborough. The site has been mapped in Figure 1 for reference.

The site presented a series of habitats indicative of the rural landscape, with a complex of both arable and grazed fields, interlaced by a network of mature hedgerows and ditches. Two watercourses were present flowing north to south across the site. The central watercourse was a culverted brook with steep banks and a gentle flow. The eastern watercourse was the River Sence, which had a meandering form and supported mature woodland along its banks.

Woodland blocks and thin bands were scattered across the site, often located along ditch lines, or where historic hedgerows have been allowed to expand and develop upper canopy layers. The largest of these was a woodland to the southwest of the site, historically known as Glen Gorse.

The site also includes two operational farms; Stretton Hall Farm, within the site centre and Oadby Lodge Farm to the northwest. The latter farm was more industrial in appearance, comprising of warehouse units and supporting metal framed facilities, which appeared more recently built. Stretton Hall Farm had a much smaller footprint, comprising of stables, a farmhouse and outhouses of brick and slate tiles and wooden barns.

To the north of the site along Gantry Road, was the historic and now abandoned St Giles' Church. The surrounding sheep grazed fields, had an unusual undulating topography, whilst the historic boundary hedges were still present, if not overgrown and defunct.

1.3 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Evaluate the selected site as either suitable for future development or as being of local value for nature conservation.
- Provide a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) baseline calculation, to provide an indication of the biodiversity value of the site as recorded at the time of the survey.
- Highlight features within the sites that are suitable for selection as potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS).
- Undertake a desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation, and relevant records of protected/notable species within and in proximity to the site.

- Present the results of an extended UK Habitat Classification Survey (UKHab), involving a walkover of the site to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species, and evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species.
- Evaluate potential ecological receptors on site and within the Zone of Influence (ZoI), to identify any potential constraints to the development.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK STUDY

The desk study comprised two elements:

- A review of closed source data provided by Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre from October 2024.
- A review of open source data using Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (https://magic.defra.gov.uk) website, Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (https://www.bing.com/maps), and historic maps (www.maps.nls.uk).

Given the scope of the project, the reasonable geographical extent of the search parameters was considered appropriate at the following ranges:

- 10 km for sites of International Importance (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites (as designated under the Ramsar Convention (1971));
- 2 km for sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g., Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR)) and protected or otherwise notable species;
- 1 km for ancient woodland and mapped priority habitats; and
- 1 km for non-statutory designated sites of County Importance (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS) and pLWS).

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

2.2 FIELD SURVEYS

The following methodologies have been used to identify the ecological receptors present on or near the site.

2.2.1 Habitats

An extended habitat classification survey was undertaken on the site between the 22nd and 26th of July by Tetra Tech's Senior Ecologist Rob Gavan MSc BSc ACIEEM (FISC Level 4). The weather conditions were variable but mostly dry and fair.

The habitats present on site were mapped in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification Professional Edition – Version 2.0 (UK Hab Ltd., 2023), hereafter referred to as 'UKHab'. The habitats have been classified to a minimum of UKHab Level 4, to identify the presence of any Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) listened under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Where habitats occur in multiple areas of the site or are of different condition, additional polygons of the same habitat have been mapped so that their condition may be assessed independently.

The minimum recording unit for habitat is 25 m^2 or 5 m in length for linear habitats, such as hedgerows. Dominant plant species were recorded for each habitat present using standard nomenclature (Stace, 2019).

Features were assessed against the Guidelines for the Selection of LWS in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (Leicestershire County Council, 2011) to rapidly identify features that may qualify for selection as pLWS.

2.2.2 Protected and Notable Species

The site was inspected for evidence of and its potential to support protected or notable species, especially those listed under the following Acts, Regulations and Plans:

- Schedule 2 of the Habitat Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (W&CA) 1981 (as amended);
- The Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
- Those given extra protection under the NERC Act 2006; and
- Species and habitats included in the Leicester Local Biodiversity Action (LBAP).

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

Badger

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

Hazel Dormouse

The site was surveyed for its suitability to support hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* based on best practice guidance (Bright, et al., 2006).

Otter

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

Bats

Roosting Bats – Buildings / Structures / Trees

Any suitable buildings, structures or trees on site were assessed from the ground for their suitability to support roosting and hibernating bats using survey methods based on the BCT *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Colins, 2023)– hereafter referred to as the 'BCT Guidelines'.

Foraging / Commuting Bats

Potential habitat for foraging and commuting bats were assessed on site according to the BCT Guidelines.

Birds

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

Great Crested Newt & Common Amphibians

The site was appraised for its suitability to support great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* based on guidance outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003) and the *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook* (Langton, et al., 2001). Each pond was assessed using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham, et al., 2000) which assigns a value to the pond calculated from 10 pre-identified features. The HSI value gives a correlation of habitat suitability for GCN. This metric is a guide and should be assessed on a site-by-site basis as waterbodies with low HSI have been known to support GCN.

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

Reptiles

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

Invertebrates

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

Other Species

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

Invasive Species

Evidence of species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, were recorded as seen.

Scoped Out

Hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* have been scoped out of the survey as Leicestershire is currently considered outside of the species known range (PTES, 2018).

2.3 BIODIVERSITY METRIC

The assessment has been completed using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024a), hereafter referred to as 'the Metric'. The associated methods were informed by the User Guide (Defra, 2024b) and Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (Baker, Hoskin, & Butterworth, 2019). Further detail of habitat descriptions and target notes can be found in Appendices C and D.

The methodology set out below defines a simplified version of the method used to carry out the BNG assessment. For full details including rules and methodology refer to the guidance documents referenced above.

The Metric generates a value measured in 'biodiversity units' for a site. It assesses habitat parcel units, including urban trees, separately from linear habitat units which are split into either hedgerows (including lines of trees) or rivers. Area habitats are measured in hectares (ha), whereas linear habitats are measured in kilometres (km). Watercourses have been given a precautionary score of 'good' for the purpose of this assessment, to calculate a best-case value for watercourse biodiversity units. They will require further survey to confirm their condition and are beyond the scope of this assessment. Ditches have been assessed as part of the condition assessment.

The Metric calculates an output based on the habitat parcel area / linear habitat length and a range of factors that are associated with its assessed quality. The generated biodiversity value is therefore based on 'quality' factors that are multiplied together. These are detailed in Table 1.

Habitats were separated into discrete parcels either where they were geographically discrete or where there was a change in habitat condition across a single location. Each parcel was recorded and calculated separately using the Metric. Urban trees are counted as habitat areas, although the method of calculating area is different to other habitat parcels, this is described below.

For individual trees (not including lines of trees or woodland) their area is calculated from stem diameter, which equates to a specified size group (small, medium or large). Full details on how this is calculated is defined within the User Guide. The number of individual trees of each size is then input to the 'Urban Tree Helper' table within the Metric, and an area is given which is entered into the Metric as a habitat area. Each of the factors listed in Table 1

below are then applied to this area.

The sizes of urban trees are measured using their diameter at breast height (DBH) and defined as:

- Small tree = <10 cm;
- Medium tree = 10-30 cm;
- Large tree = 50-90 cm.
- Very large tree = >90 cm

Given the rapid nature of this field survey, individual trees were not processed through a condition assessment, but a measurement of the trunk DBH was estimated. The two features correlate strongly, with trees of a greater DBH, associated with a better condition score in relation to biodiversity. As trees are an important ecological feature of the site, a percentage split was used to group trees into either 'Medium' or 'Large' sizes, with upper and lower outliers not used. Those allocated 'Large size' were considered in 'Good' condition, whilst those allocated 'Medium size' were considered in 'Moderate' condition.

In the Metric, hedgerows and lines of trees are measured by hedgerow biodiversity units. This uses length(km), distinctiveness, condition and strategic significance to calculate the hedgerow units

The areas of identified and mapped habitats were calculated in hectares (ha) to two decimal places. These habitats were assessed during the site survey and where necessary were updated to reflect the habitats as currently present on site. The pre-development habitats are shown in Figure 4. The area of identified habitats is calculated in ha, ignoring linear features such as hedgerows or ditches (the area should be measured to the centre line of such features). The length of linear features is measured separately in km.

Table 1 below sets out the methodology for calculating the baseline and post-intervention biodiversity values.

Table 1: Methodology for Assessing Factors within the Metric

Factor	Baseline
Habitat type	Habitat types were categorized and mapped using UKHab.
Area	Habitats were separated into parcels: geographically discrete or a change in habitat condition across a single location. Each parcel was recorded and calculated separately within the Metric. Areas were calculated in ha to two decimal places using digital mapping in ArcGIS[1].
Distinctiveness	Distinctiveness value is automatically generated by the Metric based on habitat type. The overall distinctiveness categories used for habitat areas is shown within the User Guide, habitats will be defined as Very Low, Low, Medium, High or Very High.
Condition	Habitat condition is a score based on the quality of the habitat, judged against the perceived ecological optimum state for that particular habitat. It is, therefore, a means of measuring variation in the quality of patches of the same habitat type rather than a measure of quality between habitat types. The 'condition assessment'[2] involves assessing each habitat type / parcel against criteria in the associated condition sheet, resulting in a condition score (Good, Moderate or Poor) which is then input into the Metric. Some intensively managed habitats have a pre-defined condition score; and for other very low distinctiveness habitats no assessment is required.
	A condition assessment was carried out during the field survey.

[1] ESRI. ArcGIS online https://www.arcgis.com/index.html
[2] Defra. Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets and Instructions

Strategic Significance	Strategic significance utilises published local plans and objectives to identify local priorities for targeting biodiversity and nature improvement. It works at a landscape scale and gives additional unit value to habitats that are located in preferred locations for biodiversity and other environmental objectives.

There were no 'irreplaceable habitats' present on site. For reference, however, these habitats cannot be accounted for in the Metric and require separate consideration[3].

2.4 LIMITATIONS

To determine presence or likely absence of protected species, usually requires multiple visits at suitable times of the year. This survey therefore focuses on assessing the potential of the site to support protected and/or notable species. As such, this report cannot be considered a comprehensive assessment of the ecological interest of the site, but does highlight areas where further surveys will be required in order to further inform a more detailed assessment.

There was no access to the operational area of Oadby Lodge Farm during the survey. From a distance the habitats all appeared urban in nature and were therefore of very low distinctiveness. However, structures hidden from view could not be inspected for their suitability for protect protected and/or notable species. This is particularly pertinent to roosting bats.

Habitats have been mapped using a 'Minimum Mappable Unit' area of 25 m^2 applied in line with UKHab methodology. As such some small areas of habitats have been excluded from the BNG assessment. Given the size of the site this will not significantly affect the Metric calculations undertaken as part of this assessment.

The rapid assessment of trees (as outlined in the survey methodology) will result in some trees which are of a small size i.e. <30 cm DBH, being accounted for as medium size i.e. between 30 cm and 60 cm DBH. Despite this, there were a number of trees present on site that would qualify under the extra-large category of >90 cm DBH. The exclusion of the upper outliers is believed to sufficiently compensate for the exclusion of the lower outliers, and the impact on the overall biodiversity value of the site is considered marginal.

Streams and canals have been given a precautionary score of 'Good' for the purpose of this assessment (due to health and safety or working near water) and they will require further survey to confirm their condition. This is also true when assessing the riparian banks for signs of burrows and/or features that may support protected and notable species.

[3] National Planning Policy Framework (2019) Glossary provides a definition and examples of irreplaceable habitats

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 PROTECTED SITES AND CONNECTIVITY

There were no Internationally Important sites within 10 km of the site and therefore none have been considered within this report.

Nationally designated sites identified within 2 km of the site are presented in Table 2 with the designation, qualifying features and proximity from the site also indicated. Details of local designated sites within 1 km of the site, primarily LWSs obtained from the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre have been included in Table 3. This information is provided in Figure 3 to provide a spatial reference.

Table 2. Statutory Designated Sites Identified During the Desk Study

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site	Reasons for Designation
Kilby – Foxton Canal	SSSI	1.82 km South	The canal hosts a diverse community of pondweeds, including two nationally rare species. Fennel-pondweed *Stuckenia pectinata* dominates the open water, while hairlike pondweed *Potamogenton trichoides* and broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogenton nutans* occur throughout. The canal's banks support swamp and emergent plant communities, with a well-documented colony of Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* resides in Fleckney Tunnel. It is currently considered in an unfavourable condition (2010) due to deterioration in water quality and species-richness.
Brocks Hill Country Park	LNR	1.68 km West	Brocks Hill Country Park spans 27 ha and features young broadleaved woodland, orchards, hedgerows, ponds, meadows, and a medieval ridge and furrow field. The park's diverse habitats and garden areas make it a biodiverse urban-fringe site.
Lucas Marsh	LNR	1.89 km West	Lucas Marsh is present immediately north of Brocks Hill Country Park. It comprises 1.5 ha of semi-natural habitat including ponds, woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and a central marsh of good condition. The complex supports a diverse range of invertebrate and bird species.

The site is also within the Foxton Canal SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). A development project which causes any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than $2m^3$/day to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream will require consultation with Natural England.

Table 3. Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Washbrook Stream	LWS	On site	Within the northwest of the site
Stretton Hall old sewage works trees	LWS	On site	East of Stretton Hall
Ash Trees, London Road	LWS	On site	Within the south of the site

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Glen Rise Oak Tree	LWS	On site	Within the east of the site
Hotel Ash Tree	LWS	On site	Within the northwest of the site
Oadby, boundary hedgerow	LWS	On site	Within the southwest of the site
Stretton Hall hedgerows	LWS	On site	Scattered around Stretton Hall Farm
Great Glen, Ash, Chestnut Drive S	LWS	On site	South
Great Glen, Leicester Rd Ash opposite The Pippins	LWS	On site	Southwest
Great Glen, Oaks, Chestnut Drive S	LWS	On site	Along the southeast of the site
Oadby Grange Ash	LWS	On site	Within the southwest of the site
River Sence	LWS	On site	Along the eastern boundary
Glen Gorse	pLWS	On site	Along the western boundary
Marsh	pLWS	On site	Within the west of the site
Great Stretton, St Giles Church	pLWS	On site	At St Giles' Church
Grassland A6 Roundabout	LWS	Immediately adjacent	South
Oadby Grange Country Park	LWS	Immediately adjacent	West
Gartree Rd mature trees	LWS	Immediately adjacent	North
Mature pedunculate oak	LWS	Immediately adjacent	Northwest
Great Glen, Ash north of London Road	LWS	0.06	Northwest
Oadby Grange lake	LWS	0.09	West
Glen Gorse Golf Course	LWS	0.13	West
Fludes Lane & Spinney	LWS	0.17	Southwest
Roadside near Stoughton Farm Park	LWS	0.17	Northeast
Stretton Road Oak Tree	LWS	0.26	East
Stretton Road Ash Tree	LWS	0.26	East
Stackley Barn Scrub/ Stream/ Grassland	LWS	0.27	Northeast
Ash Trees, Path West of London Road	LWS	0.28	North
Verges A6 Roundabout	LWS	0.28	South
Ash Tree East of Stretton Road	LWS	0.29	East
Stoughton Grange, Dam's Spinney and lake	LWS	0.33	North
Stackley Barn Cracked Willow	LWS	0.34	Southeast

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Direction
Churchyard Ash	LWS	0.40	Southeast
Stackley Barn Cracked Ash	LWS	0.40	Southeast
Stackyard Spinney	LWS	0.59	Southeast
Old Oak, Stackley House	LWS	0.68	Southeast
Stackley House Grassland	LWS	0.69	Southeast
Stoughton, Leicester Airport, northern runway verge	pLWS	0.70	North
Leicestershire Golf Course	LWS	0.77	West
Nook Farm wetland, Great Glen	LWS	0.80	Southwest
Great Glen, Stackley House grassland Horse Chestnut	LWS	0.81	Southeast
Newton Lane Ash Tree	LWS	0.82	Southeast
Oak, South of A6 Roundabout	LWS	0.84	South

Ancient woodland and priority habitats

There was no ancient woodland identified within 1 km of the site.

Deciduous woodland is present throughout the site and wider landscape and have been mapped as fragmented components. Deciduous woodland is not considered a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) (i.e listed under S41 of the NERC Act 2006), but may indicate the presence of a HPI, which can only be determined following a site survey.

Connectivity

The site is extensive and contains three designated LWS and a pLWS associated with mature trees, a brook and hedgerows, as displayed in Figure 3. Given its size it also borders three LWS and a Green Wedge Area to the west. It has excellent connectivity via a network of mature hedgerows, some of which supporting ditches, and well-maintained field margins. These offer uninterrupted functional connectivity across the landscape.

3.2 HABITATS

The following habitats have been identified through our assessment and are displayed in Figure 4a and Figure 4b. Detailed Target Notes and Photographic Plates are included in Appendix C as appropriate.

Table 4. Habitat Classifications

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
Cropland	**c1c Cereal crops**	Two main crops comprised the arable component of the site; wheat *Triticum aestivum* and oat *Avena sativa.* These were interspersed throughout the site.	Not applicable.	N/A
	c1c5 Temporary grass and clover leys	Several fields were a monoculture of perennial rye grass, to be harvested for sileage.	Not applicable.	N/A
	c1c7 Other cereal crops	Fields which had been harvested, or where recently tilled have been included as this habitat classification.	Not applicable.	N/A
	c1c8 Arable fields – pollen and nectar	There were several fields which had been sown with a nectar-rich seed mix. These comprised large expanses encompassing either partial or full cover of previously arable fields. The sward was tall and comprised species including greater willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, chicory *Chichorium intybus*, viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*, prickly sowthistle *Sonchus asper*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, musk mallow *Malva moschata*, and false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius.*	Not applicable.	N/A

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	c1a Arable field margins	Field margins were maintained across the site. These ranged in width from ca. 4 m to 15 m. The ground flora was indicative of modified grassland with a general species-richness of between 5 – 8 species per 1m² quadrat. The general sward was herb deficient but rich in grasses, which included tufted-hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, timothy *Phleum pratense*, perennial-rye grass *Lolium perenne.*	Margins lack abundance and frequency of listed species associated with arable communities.	N/A
Grassland	**g4 Modified grassland (1)**	A species-poor, but structurally more varied sward isolated to the meanders of the River Sence. Given its location it would not be considered part of the arable field margins. The species comprised abundant perennial rye and false-oat grass, with locally abundant meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratense.* Herbs include broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius,* creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and white clover *trifolium repens.*	Not applicable.	**Poor**
	g4 Modified grassland (2)	A closely cropped species-poor grass sward was present within the grazed fields across the site. These were predominantly sheep grazed, however, in proximity to Stretton Hall Farm several fields were grazed by cows, and a single horse grazed paddock was located to the east of the farm. Herbs were indicative of nutrient enrichment and included broadleaved dock, white clover, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and dandelion *Taraxacum* agg. The southern sheep grazed fields, although herb-poor, and a good assemblage of grasses including meadow barley *Hordeum secalinum*, tufted-hair grass, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum oderatum,* common bent *Agrostis capilaris*, and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus.*	Not applicable.	**Poor**
	g4 Modified grassland (3)	A species-poor grassland of amenity value was associated with the farmhouses of Oadby Lodge Farm and Stretton Hall Farm. Both grasslands appeared as lawns, with	Not applicable.	**Poor**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		a lush, but closely mown sward and few herbs. The predominant grass was red fescue, but Yorkshire fog and false-oat grass were present, whilst herbs included creeping buttercup, selfheal and daisy *Bellis perennis.*		
	g4 16 Tall forbs (Tall ruderal)	Isolated pockets of tall herb communities were scattered across the site but were larger and found more frequent around Oadby Lodge Farm to the west. These were primarily associated with unmanaged areas around ponds and in the margins of fields. Greater willowherb was the most abundant of the herbs identified, with nettle *Urtica dioica,* common hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and rosebay willowherb *Chaemerion angustifolium* frequent.	Not applicable.	**Moderate**
	g3c Other neutral grassland (1)	To the east of the site in a low-lying area adjacent to the River Sence, was a grassland which presented a composition indicative of **g3c7 *Deschampsia* neutral grassland**. Meadow foxtail and Yorkshire fog provided the primary grass matrix, with creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and tufted-hair grass locally frequent. The herbs comprised wild angelic *Angelica sylvestris,* meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and smooth tare *Vicia tetrasperma*, whilst compact rush *Juncus conglomeratus* was locally abundant.	The grassland is less than 2500 m² and lacks both the abundance and richness of listed indicator species and does not satisfy neutral grassland criteria.	**Moderate**
	g3c Other neutral grassland (2)	Within the enclosed boundary of St Giles' church yard, the southern section of grassland was a herb-rich sward indicative of **g3c5 *Arrhenatherum* neutral grassland**, comprising of abundant false-oat grass, accompanied by lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgaris,* common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis,* selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and smooth tare.	The grassland is less than 2500 m² and does not satisfy neutral grassland criteria.	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	g3c Other neutral grassland (3)	To the southeast of the site was a small rectangular area of grassland, which although not species-rich, showed signs of management and contained species indicative of g3c grassland including yarrow, white campion *Silene latifolia,* common vetch *Vicia sativa*, and common knapweed. The grass component comprised of red fescue *Festuca rubra*, false-oat grass and Yorkshire fog.	The grassland is less than 2500 m² and lacks both the abundance and richness of listed indicator species and does not satisfy neutral grassland criteria.	**Moderate**
	g3c Other neutral grassland (4)	To the west of the site, on the boundary of an area of plantation woodland, was a small area of unmanaged species-rich grassland. The sward was tussocky, with tufted-hair grass frequent throughout, whilst common agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria,* common knapweed, lady's bedstraw, bush vetch *Viccia sepium,* common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus,* were all occasional. The composition was indicative of **g3c7 *Deschampsia* neutral grassland**.	The grassland is less than 2500 m² and lacks both the abundance and richness of listed indicator species and does not satisfy neutral grassland criteria.	**Moderate**
Woodland	**w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (1)**	Along the banks of the River Scene was a mature woodland, with a canopy co-dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and crack willow *Salix fragilis.* The abundance of the respective species varied along the length of river, with low lying areas containing more willow and raised areas more ash. The under storey was complex, comprising of blackthorn *Prunus spinosa,* hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and elder *Sambucus nigra*. The ground flora was variable, with a local dominance of nettle ivy *Hedera helix* and common hogweed. In more diverse areas, species included hairy brome *Bromus ramosus*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, broad-buckler fern *Dryopteris dilitata* and wood millet *Milium effusum*, whilst greater willowherb was more frequent on the peripheries of the woodland.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and only contains one of the listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland: Wood millet. As such, the woodland does not satisfy LWS selection criteria.	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (2)	A small expanse of woodland was located to the central north of the site with a culverted brook running along its western extent. Ash was the dominant canopy species, with more mature individuals in proximity to the brook, but planted horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum,* Norway maple *Aecr platanoides* and grey poplar *Populus x canescens* were also present to the east and south. Ivy was a key component of both the understorey and ground layer, alongside hawthorn, elder and field maple *Acer campestre*. The domanat herb was nettle, with cuckoopint *Arum maculatum* and ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea* frequent throughout.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Moderate**
	w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (3)	A woodland historically known as Glen Gorse was located to the west of Stretton Hall Farm. It was a woodland of two halves, with a tall canopy dominated by grey poplar to the west and a more diverse canopy of ash and oak *Quercus sp.* to the east. The understorey and was more uniform with dense tangle of elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*. The ground flora was dominated by grasses including wood bluegrass *Poa nemoralis*, hairy brome, and cock's-foot grass *Dactylus glomerata*. Herbs included red campion *Silene dioica* and hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, with nettle forming dense stands.	Woodland does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Moderate**
	w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (4a and 4b)	Two linear strips of woodland were present to the east and west of Chestnut Drive to the south of the site. These were likely remnants of the same larger woodland and had similar species compositions. The canopies of both were co-dominated by ash and oak, but with horse chestnut in the western strip and cherry *Prunus* sp. and beech *Fagus sylvatica* in the eastern strip. The understories were relatively similar, with a structurally complex assemblage of elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, and field maple. The ground flora was diverse, comprising herb Robert	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		Geranium robertianum, red campion, creeping soft grass *Holcus molis*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and wood dock *Rumex sanguineus*.		
	w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (5)	A strip of more mature woodland was clearly distinguishable from the more juvenile block. This was located to the west of Oadby Lodge Farm and the canopy was dominated by mature oak and ash, with regular understory structure containing elder, hawthorn, and wych elm. The ground flora assemblage was indicative of nutrient enrichment including nettle, cleaver *Galium aparine*, wood avens *Geum urbanum* and bramble.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Moderate**
	W1d Wet woodland	A small area of grey willow *Salix cinerea* dominated woodland was located to the north of the site. The composition was scrubby in character, with grey willow accompanied by hawthorn and elder. There was clear evidence of a high moisture regime, with bullrush locally dominant. The ground layer was bare, and it is likely occupied by standing water in the wetter months.	Less than 0.25 ha and does not satisfy woodland criteria.	**Poor**
	w1g Other broadleaved woodland (1), (2), (3) and (4)	Small woodland blocks scattered across the site had established around small waterbodies or where hedgerows had been allowed to expand and establish multiple defined canopies. The blocks were subject to a higher moisture regime and were comprised of an ash upper canopy with crack willow, whilst elder was often abundant in the understorey alongside grey willow *Salix cinerea*. The ground flora was sparse, with nettle and elder seedlings a constant. It is likely open water is present for some of the year, evidenced by the bare ground present in a depression.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		An additional woodland block present in a drier situation (3), presented a composition shared by the surrounding hedgerows. Here the canopy species were comprised of mature oak individuals, with an understorey of hawthorn and bramble and a ground flora comprising nettle, cock's-foot grass and ivy.		
	w1g Other broadleaved woodland (5) and (6)	Two small spherical woodlands were present to the west on Oadby Lodge Farm. These appeared planted and comprised semi-mature to mature ash (5) and oak (6) individuals, with a sparse understorey containing hawthorn. Given how open the canopy was, the ground flora in each woodland comprised great willowherb, nettle and a patchy sward of cock's-foot.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such, the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Poor**
	w1g Other broadleaved woodland (7) and (8)	It is assumed that these woodlands have established naturally, either through maturity of scrub (7) or through expansion of more mature woodland (8). Both blocks comprised semi-mature ash, oak and sycamore individuals, with a dense understorey of hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble. The ground flora was indicative of more nutrient-rich localities, with cleavers, nettle, and wood avens abundant throughout. Both woodland blocks transition into shrubland on their peripheries.	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for Leicestershire and Rutland. As such, the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	**Moderate**
	w1g Other broadleaved	Two planted broadleaved woodlands were present to the northwest of the site along Gartree Road. The species mix contrasted with the other woodlands identified on site and comprised semi-mature beech *Fagus sylvatica*, cherry *Prunus* sp., sweet chestnut	Woodland is smaller than 2 ha and does not contain listed ancient woodland indicators for	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	woodland (9) and (10)	*Castanea sativa* and horse chestnut horse *Aesculus hippocastanum.* Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris* was also locally occasional, but at a frequency that would not alter the habitat type to 'mixed'. The understorey was relatively bare, but the ground flora was species-rich containing cuckoo pint, red campion, hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica,* ground ivy, cow parsley and wood avens. To the east of the western woodland (9), crack willow becomes the dominant species, which encompasses a shallow depression, which may have contained a wet ditch historically. Here nutrient enrichment was high, and nettle and bramble dominated in a dense ground layer.	Leicestershire and Rutland. As such the woodland does not satisfy criteria.	
	w1h Other mixed woodland (1) and (2)	Two areas of woodland comprising an even mix of deciduous and coniferous trees were identified on site. To the south along London Road, the woodland comprised semi-mature Scot's pine, ash, oak and sycamore, with *Rhododendron ponticum* abundant in the understorey. To the north, adjacent to Giles Church, was a copse of larch *Larix* sp. These were accompanied by hawthorn and ash saplings, with a dense stand of nettle and creeping thistle.	Not applicable.	**Poor**
	w2c Other coniferous woodland	Two small circular blocks of coniferous woodland were present to the west of the site. These were both dominated by non-native species, believed to be *Seqouia,* a species native to North America. There was no understorey present, other than a periphery of hawthorn, whilst bramble and nettle dominated the ground layer.	Not applicable.	**Poor**
Heathland and shrub	**h3h Mixed scrub**	Small areas of mixed scrub were scattered across the site. These were often associated with woodland encroachment, with young shrub species expanding beyond core woodland areas. The composition was similar throughout with hawthorn and blackthorn the dominant species and elder, wych elm and ash saplings	No individual component is greater than 1 ha. No identified areas satisfy scrub criteria.	**Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
		frequent. The individual components were too small to contain structural features such as glades and/or rides.		
	h3a Blackthorn scrub (1) and (2)	Two areas of blackthorn scrub were present across the site. One was in a depression within the centre of the site (1), and the second was associated with St Giles's Church (2). This latter component was both dense and mature, creating an impenetrable barrier around the northwestern corner of the church.		**Poor**
	h3j Willow scrub	A single area of grey willow scrub was located to the west of a depression. It was a thin, but dense band, which encompassed the bank.		**Poor**
	h3d Bramble scrub	A single block of bramble dominated scrub was present to the west of Oadby Lodge Farm.		**N/A**
Fen, marsh and swamp	**f2d Aquatic marginal vegetation**	Encompassing a small waterbody in the centre of the site, was a small expanse of tall herbs indicative of inundated conditions. These comprised bullrush *Typha latifolia,* great willowherb, and rosebay willowherb, with smaller herbs including water mint *Mentha aquatica* and water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides.*	The fringe of marginal vegetation does not contain listed features and species to satisfy primary or secondary criteria for LWS selection.	**Good**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
Standing open water and canals	**r1a Eutrophic standing water (1) and (2)**	Two areas of open water were identified outside of woodland situations. Each of the ponds were small in size at approximately 60 m², present in a depression, and were encompassed by tall herb vegetation. The ponds were unlikely to be stocked with fish and showed no signs of waterfowl use. The water quality was good with minimal turbidity, but both lacked substantial emergent and submerged vegetation.	Both ponds are set within an arable setting and would be considered 'permanent or temporary field ponds'. As such they **satisfy secondary criteria for selection as a pLWS.**	**Moderate**
	r1a Eutrophic standing water (3)	A single waterbody was identified in a woodland setting. Again, this was present in a shallow depression and was small at approximately 40 m². The water surface was completely shaded by the adjacent shrubs and trees, with a stagnant appearance.	The pond is in a woodland setting and cannot be considered a 'field pond'. It does not satisfy any of the listed primary or secondary criteria for selection as an LWS.	**Moderate**
Rivers and Streams	**r2a Priority River**	The River Sence, which runs along the eastern boundary of the site supported evidence of otter *Lutra lutra,* which is an Annex II species listed under the Habitats Directive. As such satisfies criterion 7 of the priority status criteria. The river had a moderate flow and contained some emergent vegetation. The substrate had a sandy-silt composition, but the banks for much of watercourse that was present within the site, were over-steep.	The River Sence would be considered small within the site extents. Despite this the watercourse lacks suitable hydro-morphological features and does not satisfy listed primary or secondary criteria for selection as an LWS.	Not assessed so assumed **Moderate**

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	r2b non-priority river	This comprised a single slow flowing brook in the centre of the site, which is culverted under Gartree Road. The banks were over steep and the brook lacked emergent vegetation. It is unclear where the brook flows following the woodland, with no evidence of flowing water beyond the dense band of tall herbs.	The brook lacks suitable hydro-morphological features and does not satisfy listed primary or secondary criteria for selection as an LWS.	Not assessed so assumed **Moderate**
Hedgerows	**h2a5 Species-rich native hedgerows**	Hedgerows across the site were a key and important ecological feature to the site. The boundaries showed evident antiquity with those containing trees, supporting mature and/or over mature individuals. The dominant matrix species were hawthorn and blackthorn, with wych elm locally abundant. Other key species included field maple, dogwood, and elder, whilst osier *Salix viminalis* and damson *Prunus domestica* were less frequent. The dominant tree species was overwhelmingly ash, but to the west around Oadby Lodge Farm oak was locally dominant. The average number of native species per 30 m section ranged from five to eight species.	Due to high woody species count these hedges are **likely to meet LWS selection criteria**.	**Good**
	h2a6 Other native hedgerows	Hedgerows which were considered species-poor (contained less than five species per indicative 30m section) were more frequent to the west of the site around Oadby Lodge Farm. Despite lacking species-richness, a number of hedges still supported mature trees.	Due to low woody species count these hedges are unlikely to meet LWS selection criteria.	**Moderate**
	50 Associated with a ditch	A ditch network was present across the site. These were all dry at the time of survey but are likely to hold water during the wetter months. Hedgerows ran along the top of the ditch banks, which were over-steep at approximately 1 m to 1.5 m. The channels were often narrow at 0.5 m to 1 m. Aquatic vegetation was sparse, but in areas of higher moisture regime, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, water parsnip *Sium suave,* great willowherb, nettle, osier and willow were more frequent.	Not applicable.	N/A

Broad Habitat	Classification	Result	LWS Status & Potential	Condition
	h2b Non-native and ornamental hedgerows	A single line of Leyland cypress trees *Leylandii x Cupressus* were present to the east of the site, where it abutted a residential garden. The trees were semi-mature and the hedge was continuous.	Not applicable	N/A
Trees	**Individual Trees (Large)**	Trees associated with hedgerows across the site were considered ecologically important. As discussed above, these showed significant antiquity, particularly around St Giles's Church, and further assessment by an arboriculturist is recommended to determine veteran and ancient status. The dominant species was ash, with oak more frequent to the west. The average diameter at breast height (DBH) was approximately 70 cm, placing them as 'large' individuals. In the absence of an individual condition assessment for each tree, they have been provided 'Good' condition status as a collective. It was estimated that 80% of the 357 trees were considered large, which accounts for 286 trees.	Further survey will be required to determine effects of heart-rot on trees, however, given the density of mature trees across the site, it is possible the site as a whole satisfies secondary criteria and is **likely to meet LWS selection criteria.**	**Good**
Trees	**Individual Trees (Medium)**	Remaining trees associated with more recent planting. These were more frequent to the west of the site in and around Oadby Lodge Farm. These comprised a range of species, including ash, oak, horse chestnut, cherry and sycamore. It was estimated that 20% of the 357 trees were considered large, which accounts for 71 trees.	These trees are unlikely to satisfy primary or secondary criteria for LWS selection, but further survey would be recommended.	**Moderate**

3.3 BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

Each of the listed habitat were processed through the Metric, accounting for their area, distinctiveness, condition, and their strategic significance to the local area. With regards to the latter variable, as there is yet to be a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Leicestershire and Rutland area, habitats were considered to be of

strategic significance if they were formal identified in plans or policies, particularly the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. If formally identified the habitat was then assessed to determine if it was of a suitable size and/or composition to provide strategic connectivity value to the wider landscape. A summary of the Metric assessment is provided in Table 5 (habitats), Table 6 (hedgerows) and Table 7 (main watercourses discounting ditches).

Table 5. Metric Summary - Habitats

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
c1a - Arable field margins	35.45	NA	Not formal identified in plans	141.80
c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys	3.53	NA	Not formal identified in plans	7.06
c1c - Cereal crops	210.59	NA	Not formal identified in plans	421.18
c1c7 - Other cereal crops	14.91	NA	Not formal identified in plans	29.83
c1c8 - Arable fields - pollen and nectar	11.98	NA	Not formal identified in plans	47.92
f2d - Aquatic marginal vegetation	0.08	Good	Not formal identified in local plans	0.47
g3c - Other neutral grassland	0.59	Moderate	Formal identified but too small to be considered significant	4.70
g4 - Modified grassland	68.55	Poor	Not formal identified in plans	137.11
16 - Tall forbs	1.95	Moderate	Not formal identified in plans	7.78
h3a - Blackthorn scrub	0.30	Poor	Not formal identified in plans	1.18
h3d - Bramble scrub	0.11	NA	Not formal identified in plans	0.44
h3h - Mixed scrub	1.54	Moderate	Not formal identified in plans	12.34
h3j - Willow scrub	0.03	Poor	Not formal identified in plans	0.14
r1a - Eutrophic standing waters	0.10	Moderate	Formal identified	0.89
u1b - Developed land; sealed	1.69	NA	Not formal identified in plans	0.00
u1b5 - Buildings	0.97	NA	Not formal identified in plans	0.00
u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed	0.10	NA	Not formal identified in plans	0.00
u1e - Built linear features	0.65	NA	Not formal identified in plans	0.00

w1d - Wet woodland	0.08	Poor	Formal identified but too small to be considered significant	0.48
w1f - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	14.74	Moderate	Formal identified but too small to be considered significant	176.91
w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved	7.94	Moderate	Formal identified but too small to be considered significant	63.55
w1h - Other woodland; mixed	0.53	Poor	Not formal identified in plans	2.12
w2c - Other coniferous woodland	0.53	Poor	Not formal identified in plans	1.05
Individual trees (286 Large sized individuals)	10.48	Good	Formal identified	144.63
Individual trees (71 Medium sized individuals	2.64	Moderate	Formal identified	24.27
Grand Total	**376.94**			**1225.84**

Table 6. Metric Summary - Hedgerows

Hedgerow feature type	Length (km)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.652	Good	Formally identified	18.00
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	5.483	Good	Formally identified	113.50
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	1.299	Good	Formally identified	26.89
Species-rich native hedgerow	7.962	Good	Formally identified	109.88
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.867	Moderate	Formally identified	11.96
Native hedgerow with trees	5.536	Moderate	Formally identified	50.93
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.307	Moderate	Formally identified	2.82
Native hedgerow	3.202	Moderate	Formally identified	14.73
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.118	Poor	Not formally identified	0.12
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.652	Good	Formally identified	18.00
Grand Total	**25.43**			**348.83**

Table 7. Metric Summary – Main watercourse (discounting the ditch network)

Row Labels	Length (km)	Condition	Strategic significance	Units
Priority river	0.578	Moderate	Formally identified	10.64
Other rivers and streams	0.161	Moderate	Not formally identified	1.93
Grand Total	**0.739**			**12.52**

Habitat Summary

Overall, the biodiversity value of **habitats was calculated at 1226 units**, **hedgerows was calculated at 349 units** and **watercourses was calculated at 12.52 units**. The species-rich native hedgerows showed significant maturity and may be suitable for selection as LWS on this site. This is also true for individual trees which presented a DBH in line with mature and/or over mature specimens. This would reflect the previously identified LWSs on site, which include Stretton Hall Hedgerows LWS, Mature Pedunculate Oak LWS, and Oadby, boundary hedgerow LWS. The two ponds identified in proximity to Stretton Hall Farm, would be considered 'Field Ponds' and as such would be suitable for selection as LWS.

3.3 PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

Data provided by the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre via Oadby and Wigston Borough Council confirmed the presence of several protected and notable species within 2 km of the site. This data, along with onsite observations, has been summarised in Table 8 below, with the desk study data illustrated in Figure 2.

Table 8. Species

	[redacted]	Hazel Dormouse	Otter	Water vole	Bats	Birds	GCN and Amphibians	Reptiles	Invertebrates	Invasive Species
Desk Study		-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Field Survey		-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-

Species Summary

Based on the desk study, habitats present on site and field signs, the following protected or notable are potentially present on site:

[redacted]

Bats

Desk: Seven species of bat were recorded across the site and in proximity to the site. These included common pipistrelle *Pippistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pippistrellus pygmaseus* serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auratus* and natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*, Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*. The highest concentration of records was associated with the farm buildings to the east and west and a residential property north of St Giles's Church.

Site: There was an abundance of mature trees within the site of suitability for roosting bats, whilst Stretton Hall Farm supported a complex of farm buildings of a composite (which strongly correlates with the presence of roosting bats). Potential roosting features within the buildings included loose roof tiles and masonry cavities. The hedgerow network and woodland fringes offered excellent commuting habitat for bats, whilst planting of nectar-rich seed mixes, maintenance of field margins and variety semi-natural habitats onsite supply ample foraging resources.

Birds

Desk: An abundance of bird records were returned within and in close proximity to the site, totaling 1424 record, which accounted for 30 protected spcies. These were indicative of wooded, arable and riparian settings, with species such as fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus* and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* well-represented. The Schedule 1 listed species; peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, barn owl *Tyto alba* and red kite *Milvus milvus* were also well-represented in the returned data.

Site: Avian species of note recorded during the site walkover included:

- Linnet *Linaria cannabina* (Red[4]) – recorded north of Oadby Lodge Farm.
- Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* (Red) – multiple records across the site, concentrated around both farm complexes.
- Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (Red) - multiple records across the site located along hedgerows.
- Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Amber[5]) – recorded south of Stretton Hall Farm.

[4] Birds of Conservation Concern Red list (Version 5) - See Appendix B for further details
[5] Birds of Conservation Concern Amber list (Version 5) -See Appendix B for further details

- Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* (Amber) – Recorded to the south of the River Sence.
- Woodpigeon *Columbia palumbus* (Amber) – Recorded throughout wooded areas and along hedgerows.

The site supported optimal foraging and nesting resources, with active nests identified in hedgerows and wooded areas, whilst Stretton Hall Farm supports a swallow colony in the southern barn buildings.

The site also held potential for barn owl *Tyto alba*, with large tree cavities of suitability for roosting. Of greatest proclivity was the northern barn associated with Stretton Hall Farm, which structurally; provided the most suitable conditions for roosting owls.

GCN and Amphibians

Desk: Three records of GCN were returned from ponds and/or ditches within the site, with a further two records returned from ponds within 100 m of the site. Other amphibian records include common frog *Rana temporaria*, common toad *Bufo bufo* and smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*.

Site: Three ponds were recorded on site, which scored 'Good', 'Average' and 'Below Average' respectively (r1a.1 – r1a.3) in the HSI assessment (detailed assessment results are provided in Appendix E). The Site offered good functional connectivity across the landscape, through the hedge and ditch network and along arable field margins. The site provides sufficient foraging, breeding and commuting resources to support amphibians, including GCN.

Otter and water vole

Desk: There were 25 records of otter returned within 2 km of the site, one of which was a record within the River Sence. There were also two records of water vole returned, the closest being 0.13 km to the north, again along the River Sence.

Site: Evidence of otter was identified to the east of the site along the River Sence (OT.1). A spraint and prints were observed along a sand bank, with additional prints identified along a ditch line, 5 m from the river. As a feature the river offers excellent commuting and foraging potential. The embankments of the river could not be thoroughly inspected due to the health and safety limitations imposed on the survey. From what could be assessed, the banks did not exhibit features indicative of otter holt, such as overhanging tree roots. Further survey would be required to confirm this assessment. The remaining watercourse on site, and ditch network, offered commuting habitat only.

No evidence of water vole was identified on site, and the watercourses and ditch network offered either negligible or sub-optimal habitat for foraging and bank burrowing. This was due to the morphological composition of the banks, which were over-steep, whilst the water flow was either absent, as was the case with much of the ditch network, or too shallow, as was the case with the mapped streams.

Reptiles

Desk: A total of 21 records of reptile were returned within 2 km of the site, including adder *Vipera berus*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis.* Grass snake were recorded within the northeast of the site, whilst adder and common lizard were present within 0.4 km.

Site: Similarly to amphibians, the site supports a network of semi-natural habitats that would support reptile dispersal. This was more prevalent to the east of the site, in proximity to the River Sence, which offers fluvial pathways, rank grassland and woodland edge ecotones that favour the foraging and commuting habitat of grass snake *Natrix helvetica*. Potential hibernacula habitat was present within the woodland and scrub components across the site and open ditches could be utilised for basking sites.

Other notable species

Three observations were made of brown hare *Lepus europaeus* with the maintained arable field margins offering suitable ley creation habitat, whilst large expanses of modified grassland to the north and south of the site provide suitable foraging habitat.

The grassland within St Giles's Church graveyard supported a population of cinnabar caterpillars *Tyria jacobaeae*, an invertebrate listed under S41 of the NERC Act 2006. Additionally, given the abundance of wych elm in the hedgerows and woodland understoreys, there is an abundance of foraging resource for white-letter hairstreak butterfly *Satyrium w-album.*

4.0 SITE SUMMARY AND FURTHER SPECIES SURVEYS

Both the field data and desk study records have been summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 7 – Data summary

Initial Site Ref.	Site Name	Biodiversity Units	Habitats Present	Further Survey Recommendations for Protected & Notable Species	Current Designations on Site or Adjacent	Additional LWS Potential
OAD_015	Stretton Hall Farm and Oadby Lodge Farm	Habitat units: 1225 Hedgerow units: 349 Watercourse units: 12.52	Grassland, woodland, sealed surface, individual trees, hedgerows, scrub, ponds, tall herb communities, watercourses, ponds and emergent vegetation.	• Breeding bird; • Reptile; • Bat roosting, foraging/commuting; • Otter; • Badger; • Hedgerow; and • Arboricultural.	The site is extensive and contains three designated LWS and a pLWS associated with mature trees, a brook and hedgerows. Given its size it also borders four LWS.	• Field ponds; • Mature trees; and • Hedgerows.

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FIGURES

Site Location

Oadby LWS

Site Name: Land South of Gartree Road and East of Oadby_2

Legend

Site Boundary

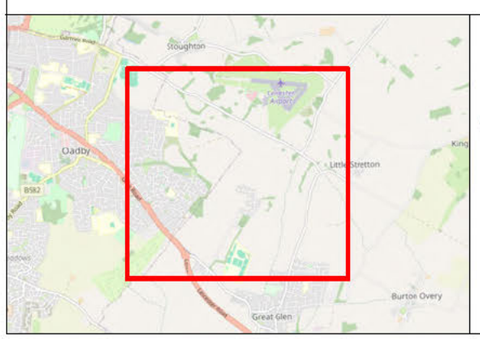
Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by:
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1
Revision No. A
11 June 2024

0 130 260 390 520 Meters
Scale 1:12,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 464949E 300077N



TETRA TECH

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

Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Barn Owl
- Fieldfare
- Grass Snake
- Hobby
- Merlin
- Peregrine
- Red Kite
- Redwing

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Bullfinch
- Canada Goose
- Chicory
- Cinnabar
- Cuckoo
- Curlew
- Dunnock
- Grey Partridge
- Hare
- Hedgehog
- Herring Gull
- House Sparrow
- Lapwing
- Lesser Redpoll
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
- Linnet
- Marsh Tit
- Reed Bunting
- Ring-necked Parakeet
- Skylark
- Song Thrush
- Spotted Flycatcher
- Starling
- Swallow
- Swift
- Tree Sparrow
- Turtle Dove
- Willow Tit
- Wren
- Yellow Wagtail
- Yellowhammer

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2a

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 30 60 90 120 Meters

Scale 1:3,100 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 463909E 301280N

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Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Common Frog
- Great Crested Newt
- Pipistrelle Bat species
- Red Kite

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Bullfinch
- Chicory
- Cinnabar
- Dunnock
- Grasshopper Warbler
- Grey Partridge
- Hare
- House Sparrow
- Large Garden Bumblebee
- Marsh Tit
- Redstart
- Skylark
- Song Thrush
- Starling
- Variegated Yellow Archangel
- Willow Tit
- Wren
- Yellowhammer

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2b

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 30 60 90 120 Meters

Scale 1:3,400 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 464788E 300949N

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Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Barn Owl
- Brown Long-eared Bat
- Common Pipistrelle
- Great Crested Newt
- Otter
- Peregrine
- Pipistrelle Bat species
- Red Kite
- Smooth Newt

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Other/Unknown
- Corn Bunting
- Grey Partridge
- Swallow

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2c

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 30 60 90 120 Meters

Scale 1:3,200 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 465766E 300397N

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Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Barn Owl
- Fieldfare
- Otter
- Peregrine
- Whimbrel

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Other/Unknown
- Chinese Muntjac
- Cinnabar
- Cuckoo
- Willow Tit

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2d

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 25 50 75 100 Meters

Scale 1:2,400 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 466489E 300182N

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Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Barn Owl
- Bat
- Brown Long-eared Bat
- Common Pipistrelle
- Fieldfare
- Great Crested Newt
- Long-eared Bat species
- Noctule Bat
- Pipistrelle
- Pipistrelle Bat species
- Red Kite
- Redwing

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Bee Orchid
- Common Mouse-ear
- Harlequin Ladybird
- House Martin
- House Sparrow
- Marsh Tit
- Wren

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2e

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 40 80 120 160 Meters

Scale 1:4,300 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 464765E 299168N

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Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Bat
- Bluebell
- Common Frog
- Common Pipistrelle
- Common Toad
- Great Crested Newt
- Kingfisher
- Pipistrelle Bat species
- Red Kite

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Blood-vein
- Bullfinch
- Canada Goose
- Cinnabar
- Common Mouse-ear
- Dunnock
- Grey Partridge
- Harlequin Ladybird
- House Martin
- House Sparrow
- Latticed Heath
- Marsh Tit
- Reed Bunting
- Song Thrush
- Spreading Hedge-parsley
- Starling
- Swallow
- Swift
- Tree Sparrow
- Willow Tit
- Wren

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2e

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 25 50 75 100 Meters

Scale 1:2,500 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 464172E 300307N

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Protected Species

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Legend

- Site boundary

Protected Species (Cat 1)

- Bat
- Brown Long-eared Bat
- Common Frog
- Common Pipistrelle
- Great Crested Newt
- Kingfisher
- Myotis Bat species
- Noctule Bat
- Red Kite
- Serotine
- Smooth Newt
- Soprano Pipistrelle

Priority Species (Cat 2)

- Common Mouse-ear
- Large Nutmeg
- Linnet
- Mottled Rustic
- Reed Bunting
- Rustic
- Shoulder-striped Wainscot
- White Ermine
- Willow Tit

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 2f

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 30 60 90 120 Meters

Scale 1:3,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 465772E 299407N

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Designated Sites - OAD/015

Oadby LWS

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Green Wedge
- Local Wildlife Site

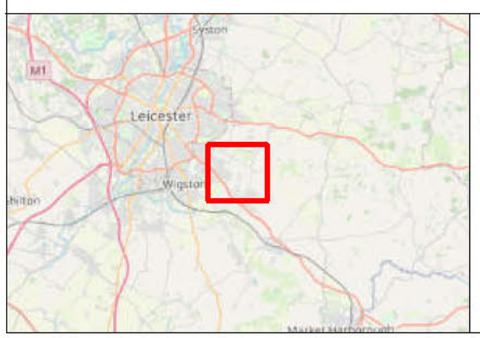
Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN
Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 3
Revision No. A
12 September 2024

0 200 400 600 800 Meters
Scale 1:16,000 @A3

British National Grid
NGR: 464981E 299980N



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UKhab Plan (Habitats)

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston and Market Harborough Councils

Legend

- Site Boundary
- c1a - Arable field margins
- c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c7 - c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1c8 - Arable fields - pollen and nectar
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g3c5 - Arrhenatherum neutral grassland
- g3c7 - Deschampsia neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3a - Blackthorn scrub
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- r1a - Eutrophic standing water
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- u1e - Built linear features
- f2d - Aquatic marginal vegetation
- w1d - Wet woodland
- w1f - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- w1g - Other woodland, broadleaved
- w1h - Other woodland, mixed
- w2c - Other coniferous woodland
- Target notes

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4a

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

British National Grid

NGR: 464785E 299930N

0 170 340 510 680 Meters

Scale 1:15,000 @A3

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United Kingdom
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UKhab Plan (Linear Features)

Stretton Hall and Oadby Lodge Farm

Oadby & Wigston and Market Harborough Councils

Legend

- Site Boundary
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerows
- h2b - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- r2a - Rivers (priority habitat)
- r2b - Other rivers and streams
- Rural Tree

Symbology defined by UK Habs. https://ukhab.org/ukhab-documentation/

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: Rob Gavan

Figure No. 4b

Revision No. A

11 September 2024

0 170 340 510 680 Meters

Scale 1:15,000 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 464785E 299930N

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of Oadby Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council ("the Clients") for the proposed uses stated in the report by Tetra Tech Limited ("Tetra Tech"). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder's permission.

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

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

Tetra Tech reserves the right to share this Report and any related materials, surveys, drawings and/or documents at any time with the relevant Local Ecological Records Centre (LREC), any relevant statutory body or any equivalent organisation as Tetra Tech may reasonably require from time-to-time.

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

APPENDIX B: KEY LEGISLATION

Habitats Directive

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

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

Birds Directive

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

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

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

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

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

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

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

Birds of Conservation Concern

This is a review of the status of all birds occurring regularly in the United Kingdom. It is regularly updated and is prepared by leading bird conservation organisations, including the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The latest report was produced in 2021 (Eaton *et al*, 2021) and identified 67 red list species, 96 amber species, and 81 green species. The criteria are complex, but generally:

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

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

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

Global IUCN Red List

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

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

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

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

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

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

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

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

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

OT.1	Otter spraint and faded prints found along the River Sence.	
NA	Stretton Hall Farm indicative structure. Numerous cavities under lifted tiles and in masonry for suitability for roosting bats. Building to left with suitability for barn owl roosting, with several internal beams.	

APPENDIX D: INDICATIVE HABITAT PLATES

Indicative Habitat	Description	Photos
Hedgerows with mature trees	The vast majority of hedgerows contained mature ash trees with a shrub composition dominated by either blackthorn or hawthorn and with a wych elm frequent.	
Hedgerows without trees	Species-rich hedgerows were more prevalent to the east of the site, and were subject to unstructured management.	

Indicative mature trees of possible veteran status	Numerous trees presented severe cavities and offered ecological niches indicative of individuals of veteran status.

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	More mature woodland exhibited a complex understorey structure, with ash the dominant species, but with a ground flora often more indictive of high nutrient levels.	
Modified grassland	Short cropped and often grazed by sheep, but with cows and horses grazing around Stretton Hall Farm. The sward was species poor and lacked structural diversity.	

Arable field margins and nectar-rich seed mix	The field margins ranged from 2 m to 10 m in width, leaving a band of species-poor grassland on the peripheries. These were well maintained, whilst several fields had been seeded with a specific mix designed to encourage invertebrates.	
The River Sence	Moderate flowing stream with wooded banks. The water was slightly turbid and the channel had a cobble substrate.	

Other neutral grassland

Small pockets of species-rich neutral grassland were scattered across the site. Indicators included common knapweed, oxeye daisy, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's tail and meadow vetchling.

(Right: St Giles's Church grassland)

APPENDIX E: HSI CALCULATIONS

r1a.1			
Description	**Results**	**HSI Score**	**Photograph**
Geographic location	A	1.00	
Pond surface area	600m²	1.00	
Pond drying out	Rarely dries	1.00	
Water quality	Poor	0.33	
Shading	0%	1.00	
No. of waterfowl	Minor	0.67	
Fish	Absent	1.00	
No. of ponds within 1 km	2	0.50	
Terrestrial habitat	Good	1.00	
Macrophyte cover	60%	0.90	
	Score:	**0.70**	**Good**

r1a.2			
Description	**Results**	**HSI Score**	**Photograph**
Geographic location	A	1.00	
Pond surface area	60m²	0.2	
Pond drying out	Rarely dries	1.00	
Water quality	Poor	0.33	
Shading	0%	1.00	
No. of waterfowl	Minor	0.67	
Fish	Absent	1.00	
No. of ponds within 1 km	2	0.50	
Terrestrial habitat	Good	1.00	
Macrophyte cover	90%	0.85	
	Score:	**0.69**	**Average**

r1a.3			
Description	**Results**	**HSI Score**	**Photograph**
Geographic location	A	1.00	
Pond surface area	50m²	0.2	
Pond drying out	Rarely dries	1.00	
Water quality	Poor	0.33	
Shading	100%	0.20	
No. of waterfowl	Minor	0.67	
Fish	Absent	1.00	
No. of ponds within 1 km	2	0.50	
Terrestrial habitat	Good	1.00	
Macrophyte cover	20%	0.50	
	Score:	**0.69**	**Below Average**