

**BMD**

# **HAREFIELD COMPOSTING FACILITY, UXBRIDGE**

**ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

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**BMD.21.0069.RPE/P1.804.--Ecology**  
**DATE: DECEMBER 2024**



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*December 2024*

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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Project Number: 21.0069		Document Reference: BMD.21.0069.RPE/P1.804.- .Ecology			
Revision	Purpose of Issue	Originated	Technical Reviewed	Approved	Date
-	PLANNING	LT/KD	JP	JP	17/12/2024

**Declaration of compliance with professional code of ethics or conduct**

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bonafide opinions.

Every reasonable attempt has been made to comply with the relevant best practice guidelines and BS42020:2013 (Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development).

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Client .....	Envar Composting Ltd.
Consultant .....	Bradley Murphy Design Ltd.

### SITE

Location.....	West London Composting, New Years Green Lane, Harefield
National Grid Reference...	Approx. centre TQ 07128805
Over-view .....	The Site is an area of hardstanding, and several buildings/storage containers associated with a composting facility under active management.
Landscape context .....	The Site is situated to the west of the town of Ruislip, in a rural location. It is surrounded by horse paddocks and arable fields. Habitat within the wider landscape is comprised of villages, arable fields, hedgerows, ponds, and woodland areas to the north/northeast including Bayhurst Wood, Mad Bess Wood, Copse Wood and Park Wood. To the north of the Site is an area of ongoing construction works associated with HS2.

### DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING BACKGROUND

Proposed works.....	Planning Application seeking planning permission for replacing an approved Waste Transfer Station building at Envar's West London Composting Site, with a focus on bulking and waste transfer operations for approximately 50,000 tonnes of waste per year.
Planning stage.....	Planning

### ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

General.....	A previous ecological assessment of land that partially overlaps the Site was undertaken by BMD in March 2022 (Ref: BMD.21.0069.RPE/P1.801.-Ecology). BMD undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment for land north of the Site in November 2022 and February 2023 respectively (Ref: BMD.21.0069.RPE-P1.802.-Ecology & BMD.21.0069.RPE-IA.803.-Biodiversity Net Gain Plan).
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### SURVEY

Objectives.....	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To provide an ecological baseline, including nature conservation value, of the Site with a focus on habitats and potential for protected and notable species.</li><li>2. To identify the need and level of more detailed species-specific surveys for a planning application.</li><li>3. To guide the initial stages of master planning and indicative mitigation required to ensure net biodiversity gain is achieved and favourable conservation status of species utilising the site as a result of the proposed development.</li><li>4. To provide specialist advice and make appropriate recommendations to ensure compliance with wildlife law and recognised best practice.</li></ol>
Approach.....	Desk based assessment using online resources, including the MAG/C database, and data from the Local Biological Records Centre (Greenspace Information for Greater London). Habitat assessment – based on JNCC Phase 1 Habitat Survey. Evaluation of habitats based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
Date.....	8th November 2024.
Results .....	The Site is comprised of predominantly hardstanding alongside three storage buildings/features associated with the active West London Composting facility on site. A small area of bare ground is present adjacent to one the building features within the Site. The Site has the potential to support the following Protected and Notable Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bats;</li><li>• Nesting birds; and</li><li>• Hedgehog</li></ul>
Conclusions.....	The development of the Site is not considered to have a negative ecological impact on the local area if best practice mitigation is followed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

No further surveys are considered to be required at this stage. Ecological clerk of works will be required during the proposed works.
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background Information

1.1.1 Bradley Murphy Design (BMD) was commissioned by Envar Composting Ltd. in October 2024 to undertake an Ecological Assessment of their site West London Composting, Newyears Green Lane, Harefield - hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site is approximately centred on national grid reference: TQ 07128805. A plan depicting the Site's location is provided in the Appendix.

1.1.2 The following assessments were completed within November 2024:

- Desk based assessment; and
- Habitat survey.

1.1.3 This report presents the approach, results and evaluation of the assessments and survey undertaken at the Site in order to determine the ecological baseline and nature conservation value of the Site. The data will:

- Enable the identification of the need and level of more detailed species-specific surveys where required for a successful determination of a planning application;
- Enable potential ecological constraints to the proposed development to be identified; and
- Further guide the scheme proposals to ensure that net biodiversity gain is met (an obligation of the NPPF, 2024 and the emerging requirements of the Environment Act, 2021) through design and mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate).

### 1.2 Proposed Development

1.2.1 Application seeking planning permission for replacing an approved Waste Transfer Station building at Envar's West London Composting Site, with a focus on bulking and waste transfer operations for approximately 50,000 tonnes of waste per year. This includes materials such as cardboard, plastics, metal, paper, wood, and construction and demolition waste, but no processing or treatment will take place on-site.

### 1.3 Site Context

#### *Historic Context*

1.3.1 A review of readily available historical maps and aerial imagery indicated that the Site composed part of an arable field complex associated with St Leonard's Farm and Elm Tree Farm which connected to the still present Newyears Green Lane within the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Site remained in this state until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century where it became part of an industrialised

composting development, this subsequently led to the majority of the Site being transformed to hardstanding, where it has remained in this state until present day.

1.3.2 The local area and greater landscape within the vicinity of the Site has undergone very little landscape change throughout time according to readily available historical maps and aerial imagery. Exceptions to this include: the completion of multiple developments within the 19<sup>th</sup> century along Harvil Road, Newyears Green Lane and Breakspear Road which transformed some of the arable landscape to hardstanding developments; slight urban expansion along the outskirts of Ruislip situated approximately 560 m east from the Site and the urban expansion of the perimeters of the town of Ickenham situated approximately 1.8 km southeast from the Site. The Chiltern Main Line railway line that runs west-east into Ruislip lies approximately 760 m south of the Site and has been present within the landscape since at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, alongside a block of ancient woodland associated with Ruislip Woods located approximately 420 m north of the Site which has remained untouched since at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century also.

### **Present Context**

1.3.3 The Site is approximately a 0.54 ha parcel of presently developed/disturbed land associated with an active Composting Facility. Situated in a semi-rural context within the London Green Belt northwest of the London Borough of Hillingdon, the Site lies approximately 2.3 kilometres southeast of the village of Harefield, 1 kilometre north of the locality of Ickenham and 500 m west of Ruislip. The Site comprises largely of hardstanding as well as three buildings including a large storage warehouse, and two smaller storage units associated with the active composting facility on/adjacent to the Site. A small area of bare ground is present to the south of the Site adjacent to the warehouse building.

1.3.4 The majority of the Site is immediately surrounded by further built areas associated with the composting facility. Newyears Green Lane runs west-east north of the Site, bounding areas of the northern Site boundary and connecting to Harvil Road to the west approximately 1 km from the Site and Breakspear Road to the east approximately 330 m from the Site. These two roads further link to the South Harefield area and the outer perimeters of Ruislip. Further north of the Site, beyond Newyears Green Lane, ongoing construction works are present associated with the major infrastructure project HS2.

1.3.5 Within the wider context, the landscape surrounding the Site consists of primarily arable landscape and hedgerows, with some patches of developed land situated along roadways such as a composting facility that lies approximately 330 m southeast from the Site along Breakspear Road and a recycling site that lies along Newyears Green Lane approximately 530 m southwest of the Site. Furthermore, a large block of ancient woodland (Bayhurst Woods) associated with Ruislip Woods is located 420 m north of the Site, and the Chiltern Main Line railway that runs

west-east into Ruislip is located approximately 760 m south of the Site. Denham Country Park lies approximately 1.7 km southwest of the Site and contains multiple man-made lakes, the Grand Union Canal, the River Misbourne and the River Colne which flows 2.5 kilometres west of the Site in a north-south course. The Grand Union Canal also follows the same course as the River Colne through the Country Park.

1.3.6 Open-source mapping indicate multiple small waterbodies are located within 500 m of the Site, scattered throughout the surrounding arable landscape. A larger waterbody feature is located approximately 500 m southeast of the Site.

#### **1.4 Ecological Context**

1.4.1 A previous ecological report for land overlapping and adjacent to the Site was undertaken by SLR in 2012 (Ref:416.00996.00006). An updated ecological assessment for land overlapping and adjacent to the Site was then conducted by BMD in March 2022 (Ref: BMD.21.0069.RPE-P1.801.-Ecology). Further assessments of land north of the Site were then undertaken by BMD including a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment in November 2022 and February 2023 respectively (Ref: BMD.21.0069.RPE-P1.802.-Ecology & BMD.21.0069.RPE-IA.803.-Biodiversity Net Gain Plan).

1.4.2 No further surveys were considered necessary in order for the LPA to grant planning permission. Appropriate mitigation and precautions were recommended to avoid negative impacts on protected or notable species.

1.4.3 It is understood that there have been no previous ecological assessments undertaken for the Site itself prior to this assessment. No further surveys for the Site or land adjacent are known.

#### **1.5 Compliance with Policy, Guidance and Legislation**

1.5.1 A summary of national planning policy and wildlife legislation relating to development projects in England is provided in Appendix A. The protocols, evaluations and recommendations contained within this report were made in accordance with these policies and legislation.

## 2. APPROACH

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This report has been produced with reference to current guidelines for ecological assessments (e.g. CIEEM, 2017 and 2017a) although adapted to be appropriate for the conditions on Site. Reference was also made to BS42020:2013: Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development. The assessment comprised the following:

- Desk study; and
- Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.

2.1.2 Table 2.1 summarises the geographical extent of the study.

**Table 2.1 Geographical extent of study**

Element	Study area
Desk study	1 – 5 km. See Table 2.2 for specific details
Detailed Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	Site boundary
Local site context (broad habitat types)	Approx. 50 m from Site boundary (identified from within Site only)

2.1.3 Full survey methodologies are provided in Appendix B and summarised below. Details of dates, surveyors, weather conditions and a review of survey limitations are provided in Appendix C. Definitions of technical terms used in this report are provided in the Glossary in Section 8. Common names of species are used throughout the report with scientific names provided in Section 8.2.

### 2.2 Desk Study

2.2.1 The desk study involved gathering and analysing existing ecological focused data within the Site boundary and extending to 5 km. The results of the desk study aid in the interpretation of the survey results. Table 2.2 provides a summary of the data and their sources reviewed in the desk study.

### 2.3 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

2.3.1 An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken at the Site in accordance with industry standards (JNCC, 2010) and best practice guidance although adapted to be appropriate to the Site.

#### **Habitats**

2.3.2 The vegetation and broad habitat types within the Site were noted during the survey in accordance with the categories specified for a Phase 1 Vegetation and Habitat Survey (JNCC,

2010). Dominant plant species were recorded for each habitat present using nomenclature according to Stace (2019). The Site was also appraised for its suitability to support notable flora, with regard to the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017).

2.3.3 In line with the requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, the condition of the habitats was also assessed against the habitat condition criteria relevant to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

***Protected and Notable Species***

2.3.4 The Site was inspected for evidence of, and its potential to support, protected or notable species, especially those listed under the Schedule 2 of the Habitat Regulations, Schedule 5 of the W&CA, the CRoW Act, those given extra protection under the NERC Act, and species included in the local BAP.

**Table 2.2 Desk study data sources**

Data <sup>1</sup>	Search area	Source <sup>2</sup>	Justification of search area
<b>Species</b>			
Protected & Notable Species	1 km	A, B, E	The Site is anticipated to have low ecological value and the habitats on site are largely hardstanding, common and widespread. However, given the habitats within the local proximity of the Site there is potential for protected and notable species to be present/utilise the habitats onsite.
European Protected Species Licence Applications (excl. bats)	1 km	B	The Site has negligible potential to provide terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. Impacts on newt populations/ meta populations can be accumulative arising from other developments off site. A review of licence applications within the local area can provide indicative implications if great crested newt habitat is confirmed on site. It also helps in reviewing the conservation status of the species in the area.
European Protected Species Licence Applications (bats)	5 km	B	There is potential that the Site supports features that may be used by bat species. Bats can travel a number of kilometres from their roosts in a single night to forage. A wider search area provides an indication of the potential value the Site may have for foraging bats based on known roosts that have been affected by other development in the area.
Non-native Invasive Species	1 km	A	The Site has low potential to support non-native invasive species.
<b>Habitats</b>			
UK Priority Habitats	1 km	B	The Site is previously developed and as such is unlikely to support long established habitats such as priority woodland. There is potential for mosaic features to have developed over the short to medium term e.g. open mosaic habitats
Ancient Woodland	1 km	B	
Other notable habitats	1 km	A, B, D	
Change over time/landscape context	1 km	C	To provide an indication of ecosystem connectivity into the wider landscape and subsequent movement of protected and notable species.
<b>Sites</b>			
Statutory Protected Sites – Impact Risk Zones	Site	B	To assess whether any SSSI/SACs are likely to be impacted upon by the works.
Non-statutory Protected Sites (e.g. LWS)	1 km	A	As habitats above.
Statutory Protected Sites	2 km (5 km for bats)	B	These sites may have been designated for their populations of European Protected Species (EPS). As the Site has potential to support EPS a wider consideration of statutory protected sites is required.
<b>Notes</b>			
1. See glossary for definitions and species and habitats considered.			
2. A. Local Biological Records Centre: Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) [reviewed 24/11/2024].			
B. MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) [accessed 04/11/2024].			
C. Readily available aerial images and current/historic map sources			
D. Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory			
E. PTES The Big Hedgehog Map [accessed: 04/11/2024]			

## 2.4 Limitations

2.4.1 Full considerations of limitations are provided in Appendix C; in brief it is considered that none of the limitations identified were sufficient to negatively affect the overall outcome of the assessment.

## **2.5 Evaluation and Review**

2.5.1 Upon completion of the desk study and field surveys the evaluation and review will consider each of the following:

- Habitats
  - reviewed in relation to S41 Priority Habitats descriptions;
  - reviewed in relation to Local Biodiversity Plans;
  - condition assessed using criteria used to inform FEPs (i.e. that used in Biodiversity Impact Assessment Matrices); and
  - potential to support protected and notable species.
- Species – focusing on protected and notable species
  - evidence on Site; and
  - potential to occur on Site based on habitats, connectivity and known records.
- Potential constraints to development (legal and policy implications relating to wildlife).
- Potential for biodiversity enhancement.

2.5.2 The majority of impacts associated with development relate to species, including through habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, as well as direct harm and indirect effects. Therefore, until any necessary species-specific surveys, based on the outcome of this habitat focused ecological assessment, are completed it is not feasible to identify specific impacts in relation to developing the Site.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Full documentation of the data considered as part of this Ecological Assessment is provided in Appendix D. This section presents the key findings of significance to development at the Site. Species records are considered within the last 10 years (from date of desk study). The exception to this is species that are typically under recorded and/or have low dispersal rates, such as dormouse and white clawed crayfish. Other exceptions would be species likely to have strong associations with the habitats on Site.

3.1.2 A data search using *MAG/C* was completed on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### ***Statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance***

3.1.3 The Site itself does not lie within any statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance.

3.1.4 There are five statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 2 km of the Site according to *MAG/C*. These sites are summarised in Table 3.1.

***Table 3.1 Statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 2 km of the Site***

Site	Designation <sup>1</sup> & area	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description <sup>2</sup>
Ruislip Woods	National Nature Reserve (NNR) & Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)  ~307.45 ha	~415 m north  Some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland and arable landscape.	The site is designated for its four ancient semi-natural woodland blocks which further contain a mosaic of habitats such as acidic grass-heath and wetland areas. The site is particularly beneficial for flora and insect species diversity, including many rare individuals such as the great oak beauty and heath spotted orchid.
Frays Valley	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)  ~71.87 ha	~1.5 km southwest  Some connectivity via arable landscape, hedgerows, a railway corridor, waterbodies and woodland parcels.	The site is designated for its mosaic of habitats including ancient wet woodland, meadows and lakes besides the Grand Union Canal which is managed using conservation grazing and is used by many rare species such as water vole and siskin.
Denham Quarry Park	LNR  ~29.61 ha	~1.9 km southwest  Some connectivity via arable landscape, hedgerows, a railway corridor, waterbodies and woodland parcels.	Connected to Denham Country Park, the sites are designated for their parkland, meadows, quarries and the Colne and Melbourne rivers that pass through. They are used by a variety of wildlife including species of damselflies and dragonflies, alongside wetland bird species.

Site	Designation <sup>1</sup> & area	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description <sup>2</sup>
Denham Country Park	LNR ~19.82 ha	~1.9 km southwest  Some connectivity via arable landscape, hedgerows, a railway corridor, waterbodies and woodland parcels.	Connected to Denham Quarry Park, the sites are designated for their parkland, meadows, quarries and the Colne and Melbourne rivers that pass through. They are used by a variety of wildlife including species of damselflies and dragonflies, alongside wetland bird species.
Fray's Farm Meadows	SSSI ~26.3 ha	~1.9 km southwest  Some connectivity via arable landscape, hedgerows, a railway corridor, waterbodies and woodland parcels.	The site is designated for its relatively unimproved wet alluvial grassland habitats which are particularly rare in the London area. Many scarce plants species such a ragged robin and marsh marigold thrive here and the increase of washland area loss in London means this site is increasingly valuable.
<b>Notes</b>			
1. Refer to glossary for definitions. 2. As provided by MAGIC [ reviewed 04/11/2024].			

3.1.5 The Site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of two statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance: Ruislip Woods SSSI & NNR and the Mid Colne Valley SSSI. The following have been identified as potential risks and causes of risk to these designated sites if such development takes place within the area under assessment:

- **Infrastructure:** Pipelines and underground cables, pylons and overhead cables (excluding upgrades and refurbishment of existing network). Any transport proposal including new or extended footways, cycleways, roads/car parks, railways and waterways (excluding routine maintenance). Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
- **Minerals, Oil & Gas:** Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
- **Rural Non-Residential:** Large non-residential developments outside of existing settlements/urban areas where the footprint exceeds 1 ha.
- **Residential:** Residential development of 100 units or more.
- **Rural Residential:** Any residential development of 50 or more units outside existing settlements/urban areas.
- **Air Pollution:** Any development that could cause air pollution (including: industrial/commercial processes, livestock & poultry units, slurry lagoons & digestate stores, manure stores).
- **Combustion:** All general combustion processes. Including: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion.

- **Waste:** Mechanical and biological waste treatment, inert landfill, non-hazardous landfill, hazardous landfill, household civic amenity recycling facilities construction, demolition and excavation waste, other waste management.
- **Composting:** Any composting proposal. Including: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.
- **Discharges:** Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 5m<sup>3</sup>/day that is discharged to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream.
- **Water Supply:** Any development needing its own water supply e.g. remote rural housing that is not connected to a mains water supply, or large infrastructure such as warehousing/industry where the total net additional gross internal floorspace following development is 1,000m<sup>2</sup>.

3.1.6 The development proposals within the Site are listed as potential risks and causes of risk to the SSSIs and NNRs outlined above. It is considered likely that consultation with Natural England will be required at the planning stage.

3.1.7 Additionally, the Site lies within the London Area Green Belt area. The Green Belt is intended to check further growth of large built-up areas (sprawl), to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another, and to preserve the special character of towns. Inside a Green Belt, approval should neither be given, except in very special circumstances, for the construction of new buildings, or for the change of use of existing buildings, nor for purposes other than agriculture, sport, cemeteries, institutions standing in extensive grounds, or other uses appropriate to a rural area. Therefore, consultation to the local council is required in order to ensure the development does not affect the Green Belt area.

### ***Non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance***

3.1.8 There are seven non-statutory designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within 1 km of the Site as provided by Greenspace Information for London (GiGL), returned 24/11/2024. These sites are summarised in Table 3.2.

***Table 3.2 Non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 1 km of the Site as depicted by GiGL***

Site	Designation <sup>1</sup> & area	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description <sup>2</sup>
Newyears Green	Sites of Borough Importance (Grade I)	~295 m southwest Good connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels,	A 19th century planted woodland consisting of predominantly pedunculate oak, ash and hornbeam. The locally scarce shrub buckthorn and spindle are found here within the scrub area. An area north-east of the

Site	Designation <sup>1</sup> & area	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Summary description <sup>2</sup>
	19.13 ha	woodland edges, grassland and arable landscape.	wood consists of unimproved, horse grazed pasture with a herb-rich grassland centre.
Ruislip Woods and Poor's Field	Sites of Metropolitan Importance 345.48 ha	~415 m north  Some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland and arable landscape.	The site comprises the largest area of ancient woodland within London with additional habitats of interest including acid grassland, heathland and wetland. The site supports an array of breeding birds including wood warbler, woodcock and tawny owl as well as reptiles, nationally rare and scarce invertebrates and at least nine species of bats.
Breakspear Road South Pond	Sites of Borough Importance (Grade II) 0.28 ha	~530 m southeast  Some connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable landscape, and field margins.	A secluded pond with extensive marshy edges, vegetation and good water quality. Emergent and marginal vegetations approximately covers one third of the ponds area. The adjacent areas of grassland and scrub, particularly to the south, are likely to provide refuge for birds and insects associated with the pond.
Brackenbury Railway Cutting	Sites of Borough Importance (Grade II) 4.87 ha	~760 m southwest  Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, woodland edges, arable landscape and a railway corridor.	The site comprises a broad, wooded railway cutting. The dense tree and scrub cover is dominated by pedunculate oak, elder and English elm. An oak dominated coppice situated by the roadside to the south-west is also included in the site.
West Ruislip Golf Course and Old Priory Meadows	Sites of Borough Importance (Grade I) 17.94 ha	~800 m southeast  Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, woodland edges, arable landscape and waterbodies.	The site is made up of two sections on opposing banks of the River Pinn. The area to the west of the river comprises of Old Priory meadow, a site rich in wildflowers. A pond beside the railway embankment once supported great crested newts, but the current status is uncertain.
Bury Street Open Space & Wallington Close Streamside	Sites of Local Importance 3.74 ha	~830 m northeast  Some connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland parcels, residential/urban pathways and arable landscape.	A site consisting of a stream, a tributary of the River Pinn, and its adjacent habitats which include open spaces, native scrub and grassland which support the European hornet, a scarce invertebrate species.
Mad Field Covert, Railway Mead and the River Pinn	Sites of Borough Importance (Grade II) 12.43 ha	~875 m southeast  Some connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland parcels, arable landscape, railway corridors and watercourses/bodies.	An area of herb-rich grassland south of the Chiltern Main Line railway with high flora diversity, a large pond, a section of the River Pinn and its associated riparian corridor consisting of woodland and marginal vegetation. The site is known to support kingfisher as well as speckled wood butterfly and ruddy darter dragonfly.
<b>Notes</b>			
1. Refer to glossary for definitions.			
2. As provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) returned 24/11/2024			

### **Priority habitats**

3.1.9 Priority habitats returned by the desk study are listed in Appendix D. In summary, the following UK Priority Habitats occur (as depicted on *MAGIC*) within 1 km of the Site:

- **Lowland meadows:** two parcels, the closest of which is located approximately 890 m southeast of the Site.
- **Deciduous woodland:** 16 blocks of 17 parcels, the nearest of which is located approximately 220 m southwest of the Site.
- **Open mosaic habitat:** 1 parcel, situated approximately 360 m west of the Site.

### **Notable habitats**

3.1.10 The following non-priority but notable habitats occur within 1 km of the Site:

- **Good quality semi-improved grassland:** 3 blocks of 4 parcels, the closest of which is located approximately 720 m southeast, bordering the River Pinn watercourse.
- **Ancient and semi-natural woodland:** 3 parcels, the majority associated with Ruislip Woods where the closest parcel is located 430 m from the Site to the north.
- **No main habitat but additional habitat exists:** 6 parcels, the closest of which is located approximately 50 m northwest of the Site.

3.1.11 A review of the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory highlighted one known ancient, veteran or notable tree within 1 km of the Site, a notable wild service tree located approximately 715 m northwest from the Site, within Bayhurst Wood.

### **National Habitat Networks Map**

3.1.12 The Site is situated within a Network Expansion Zone, as depicted by *MAGIC*. This refers to land beyond the Network Enhancement Zones with potential for linking networks across the wider landscape. It is possible that works within this zone can improve connections between existing habitat through targeted development.

### **Protected Species**

#### **Bats:**

3.1.13 There were no statutory designated sites within 5 km of the Site that are designated for bats.

3.1.14 A search on *MAGIC* returned a total of thirty-five licence applications within 5 km of the Site relating to bats. Table 3.3 summarises the development bat licence applications within 5 km of the Site within the last 10 years.

**Table 3.3 Development bat license applications within 5 km of the Site identified during the data search via MAGIC**

Species	Date	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Licenced activity
Daubenton's bat	20/07/2020-31/12/2030	~1.3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, arable landscape, grassland and hedgerows.	Unknown
Daubenton's bat	20/07/2020-31/12/2030	~1.3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, arable landscape, grassland and hedgerows.	Unknown
Brown long eared bat & soprano pipistrelle	06/10/2020-31/12/2030	~1.3 km west Good connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, hedgerows, residential pathways and arable landscape.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	30/07/2020-31/12/2030	~1.4 km southwest Good connectivity to the Site via the railway corridor, woodland parcels, hedgerows and arable landscape.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	13/11/2019-13/12/2019	~1.4 km southwest Good connectivity to the Site via the railway corridor, woodland parcels, hedgerows and arable landscape.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	13/11/2019-13/12/2019	~1.4 km southwest Good connectivity to the Site via the railway corridor, woodland parcels, hedgerows and arable landscape.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	20/04/2020-31/12/2030	~1.4 km southwest Good connectivity to the Site via the railway corridor, woodland parcels, hedgerows and arable landscape.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	20/04/2020-31/12/2030	~1.4 km southwest Good connectivity to the Site via the railway corridor, woodland parcels, hedgerows and arable landscape.	Unknown
Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle & brown long eared bat	16/06/2016-15/06/2021	~1.8 km north Some connectivity to the Site via Ruislip Woods, arable landscape and hedgerows.	Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	18/12/2018-30/12/2023	~2.5 km west Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels and multiple waterbodies.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	20/02/2019-30/12/2023	~2.5 km west Good connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels and multiple waterbodies.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	14/11/2019-31/10/2024	~2.5 km west Good connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels and multiple waterbodies.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle & soprano pipistrelle	08/10/2012-01/09/2015	~2.5 km southeast Some connectivity via urban/residential corridors and features, the railway	Destruction of a resting place

Species	Date	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Licenced activity
		corridor, woodland parcels and arable landscape.	
Brown long eared bat & Leisler's bat	01/09/2020-31/12/2031	~2.6 km northeast Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle & brown long eared bat	25/10/2019-17/10/2029	~2.7 km northeast Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site Destruction of a resting place
Daubenton's bat	20/07/2020-31/12/2030	~2.7 km southwest Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, grassland, watercourse corridors, waterbodies and hedgerows.	Unknown
Daubenton's bat	20/07/2020-31/12/2030	~2.7 km southwest Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, grassland, waterbodies, watercourse corridors and hedgerows.	Unknown
Daubenton's bat	10/01/2020-08/01/2025	~2.8 km southwest Some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, grassland, arable landscape, waterbodies and hedgerows.	Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	08/01/2018-20/12/2022	~2.9 km west Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, hedgerows and multiple waterbodies.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site
Common pipistrelle	01/09/2016-31/08/2021	~2.9 km northeast Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle	27/04/2017-31/08/2018	~2.9 km northeast Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	13/11/2019-13/12/2019	~3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, hedgerows and multiple waterbodies.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	13/11/2019-13/12/2019	~3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, hedgerows and multiple waterbodies.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	20/04/2020-31/12/2030	~3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland	Unknown

Species	Date	Proximity (distance/direction) & connectivity to Site	Licenced activity
		parcels, hedgerows and multiple waterbodies.	
Soprano pipistrelle	30/07/2020-31/12/2030	~3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, hedgerows and multiple waterbodies.	Unknown
Soprano pipistrelle	20/04/2020-31/12/2030	~3 km northwest Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, hedgerows and multiple waterbodies.	Unknown
Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle & brown long eared bat	11/09/2014-01/10/2016	~3.5 km east Some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban areas.	Damage to a resting place
Common pipistrelle	01/07/2017-31/08/2017	~4 km northeast Slight connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle & brown long eared bat	01/10/2017-30/09/2018	~4.2 km north Slight connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat & brown long eared bat	03/02/2020-30/01/2030	~4.2 km northwest Slight connectivity to the Site via multiple waterbodies, woodland parcels and agricultural landscape.	Impact on a breeding site Destruction of a breeding site Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle	01/09/2018-30/09/2023	~4.4 km north Slight connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	18/01/2016-17/01/2021	~4.6 km northeast Slight connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Damage to a resting place Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle & brown long eared bat	07/10/2015-24/12/2017	~4.6 km northeast Slight connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels, waterbodies and urban pathways.	Damage to a resting place Destruction of a resting place
Soprano pipistrelle	24/04/2015-21/04/2020	~4.9 km west Slight connectivity to the Site via multiple waterbodies, woodland parcels and agricultural landscape.	Destruction of a resting place
Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle & brown long eared bat	21/07/2020-31/03/2026	~5 km west Slight connectivity to the Site via multiple waterbodies, woodland parcels and agricultural landscape.	Destruction of a resting place

**Other protected species:**

3.1.15 A review of MAG/C returned no other European protected species applications or survey data within 1 km of the Site for additional protected species.

3.1.16 Table 3.4 summarises the protected species records, provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), returned 24/11/2024, that occur within 1 km (2 km for bats) of the Site within the last 10 years where possible. Due to the format of the data provided by GiGL, the nearest records for some species are over 10 years old.

**Table 3.4 Protected species recorded within 1 km (2 km for bats) of the Site (as provided by GiGL, 24/11/2024)**

Species	Level of protection <sup>1</sup>	N <sup>o</sup> ., distribution & connectivity	Summary of records <sup>2</sup>	
			Distance, direction & date Nearest	Distance, direction & date Most recent
<b>Bats</b>				
Bat sp.	UK (En.)	6 records, some with good connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland parcels/corridors, scattered urban/residential infrastructure and agricultural landscape.	~212 m west 01/04/2020	~212 m west 01/04/2020
Brown long eared	UK (En.)	16 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape and scattered buildings.	~1 km north 11/10/2017	~1.5 km north 17/10/2017
Common pipistrelle	UK	36 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape, large waterbodies and scattered buildings.	~603 m northwest 20/10/2002	~1.8 km west 22/09/2019
Daubenton's	UK	41 records with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland parcels/corridors, large waterbodies, scattered buildings and agricultural landscape.	~795 m north 02/06/2001	~1.9 km west 01/09/2019
Leisler's	UK	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland parcels/corridors, agricultural landscape and scattered buildings.	~1.5 km north 18/10/2017	~1.5 km north 18/10/2017
Nathusius' pipistrelle	UK	2 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape, large	~1.8 km west 22/09/2019	~1.8 km west 22/09/2019

Species	Level of protection <sup>1</sup>	N <sup>o</sup> ., distribution & connectivity	Summary of records <sup>2</sup>	
			Nearest	Distance, direction & date Most recent
		waterbodies and scattered buildings.		
Natterer's	UK	14 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape and scattered buildings.	~795 m north 02/06/2001	~1.5 km north 22/10/2017
Noctule	UK (En.)	19 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape and scattered buildings.	~757 m northwest 08/06/2001	~821 m northwest 19/10/2017
Pipistrelle sp.	UK (En.)	9 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape and scattered buildings.	~812 m northwest 20/10/2002	~1.8 km west 01/09/2019
Serotine	UK	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, scattered buildings and agricultural landscape.	~1 km north 08/10/2017	~1 km 08/10/2017
Soprano pipistrelle	UK (En.)	45 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape, large waterbodies and scattered buildings.	~757 m northwest 08/06/2001	~1.8 km west 22/09/2019
Whiskered/Brandt's	UK	11 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows, agricultural landscape and scattered buildings.	~1 km north 10/10/2017	~1.3 km northeast 17/10/2017
<b>Birds</b>				
Barn owl	UK	10 records within 1 km of the Site. The exact location of the record is not provided due to confidentiality, however, suitable habitat within the surrounding area of the Site includes agricultural land, grassland, field margins and woodland parcels/corridors.	Location not provided due to sensitivity.	Most recent record dated 09/06/2020.
Brambling	UK	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, hedgerows and woodland patches.	~798 m northwest 23/06/2018	~798 m northwest 23/06/2018
Cetti's warbler	UK	2 records within 1 km of the Site. The exact location of the records is not provided due to	Location not provided due to sensitivity.	Most recent record dated 22/04/2021

Species	Level of protection <sup>1</sup>	N <sup>o</sup> ., distribution & connectivity	Summary of records <sup>2</sup>	
			Nearest	Most recent
		confidentiality, however, suitable habitat within the surrounding area of the Site includes hedgerows, waterbodies, grassland, ditches and watercourse corridors.		
Fieldfare	UK	7 records with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, hedgerows, scattered trees, agricultural land and woodland parcels/corridors.	~490 m northwest 16/12/2015	~983 m west 14/02/2021
Green sandpiper	UK	1 record with slight connectivity to the Site via agricultural land and grassland.	~798 m northwest 09/04/2018	~798 m northwest 09/04/2018
Peregrine	UK	3 records within 1 km of the Site. The exact location of the records is not provided due to confidentiality, however, suitable habitat within the surrounding area of the Site includes agricultural land and grassland.	Location not provided due to sensitivity.	Most recent record dated 18/06/2016.
Red kite	UK	9 records with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, roadway corridors, arable landscape, and woodland parcels/corridors.	~770 m northeast 07/01/2014	~983 m west 01/12/2020
Redwing	UK	8 records with some connectivity to the Site via agricultural landscape, woodland parcels/corridors and grassland.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~983 m west 14/02/2021

Notes

1. EU – European; UK – UK; (En) – also a notable species in England, e.g. UK Priority/S41 species. Refer to Glossary for details and definitions.

2. As provided by GiGL

### **Notable species**

3.1.17 There is one grassland farmland bird assemblage with a maximum of two species, as depicted on *MAGIC*, which overlap with the Site itself. Species known to overlap with the Site itself includes lapwing and snipe, therefore there is potential that such species may occur on or use the Site if suitable habitat is present.

3.1.18 Five live hedgehog records were recorded on the Big Hedgehog Map within 1 km of the Site (PTES, 2024) as of 04/11/2024. The closest record is located approximately 550 m east of the Site with some connectivity via hedgerows, treelines and arable field margins. The majority of records are associated with suburban areas of Ruislip, with the exception of one record located to the west of the Site within a parcel of grassland.

3.1.19 Table 3.5 summaries the notable species records, provided by GiGL returned 24/11/2024, that occurred within 1 km of the Site and within the last 10 years where possible. Due to the format of the data provided by GiGL, the nearest records for some species are over 10 years old. This table excludes any species that are specifically protected (see Table 3.4).

**Table 3.5 Notable species recorded within 1 km of the Site (as provided by GiGL, 24/11/2024).**

Species	Status				Summary of records		
	BAP <sup>1</sup>	S41	BoCC <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	N-°, distribution & connectivity	Distance, direction & date	
<b>Birds</b>							
Cuckoo	✓	✓	✓ R	✓ LPS	4 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, wooded corridors, grassland and farmland.	~744 m north 11/05/2004	~798 m northwest 10/07/2019
Dunlin			✓ R		1 record with limited connectivity to the Site via scattered waterbodies.	~798 m northwest 08/03/2018	~798 m northwest 08/03/2018
Dunnock				✓ LPS	3 records with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, woodland parcels/corridors, scrub and agricultural land.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020
Greenfinch			✓ R		1 record with some connectivity via hedgerows, arable land, grassland and woodland parcels.	~798 m northwest 02/12/2018	~798 m northwest 02/12/2018
Grey wagtail			✓ A		9 records with some connectivity to the Site via grassland and woodland corridors/hedgerows.	~798 m northwest 30/12/2018	~798 m northwest 30/12/2018
Hawfinch	✓	✓	✓ R		1 record within 1 km of the Site. The exact location of the record is not provided due to confidentiality, however, suitable habitat within the surrounding area of the Site includes woodland parcels/corridors, scattered trees and watercourse corridors.	Location not provided due to sensitivity.	Most recent record dated 23/10/2019
Herring gull	✓	✓	✓ R		3 records with some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape and grassland.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020
Lapwing	✓	✓	✓ R	✓ LPS	3 records with some connectivity to the Site via agricultural land, field margins and grassland.	~798 m northwest 26/02/2018	~798 m northwest 26/02/2018
Lesser black-backed gull			✓ A	✓ LPS	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape and grassland.	~798 m northwest 18/06/2016	~798 m northwest 18/06/2016
Lesser redpoll	✓	✓		✓ LPS	14 records, the closest of which has some connectivity to the Site via	~798 m northwest 30/12/2018	~798 m northwest 30/12/2018

					woodland parcels, arable land, hedgerows and grassland.		
Lesser whitethroat				✓ LPS	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels, wooded corridors, scrub, arable land, grassland and hedgerows.	~798 m northwest 21/04/2019	~798 m northwest 21/04/2019
Linnet	✓	✓	✓ R	✓ LPS	5 records with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows, scrub and arable land.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020
Mistle thrush			✓ R	✓ LPS	1 record with slight connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, scattered trees and scrub.	~983 m west 14/02/2021	~983 m west 14/02/2021
Reed bunting	✓	✓	✓ A		11 records with some connectivity to the Site via arable land and hedgerows.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020
Skylark	✓	✓	✓ R		7 records with some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, field margins and grassland.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020
Song thrush	✓	✓	✓ A	✓ LPS	5 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, scattered trees and grassland.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020
Starling	✓	✓	✓ R	✓ LPS	1 record with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, arable land and woodland parcels/corridors.	~798 m northwest 03/01/2019	~798 m northwest 03/01/2019
Swift			✓ R	✓ LPS	8 records with some connectivity to the Site via arable landscape, grassland and scattered agricultural infrastructure.	~564 m northwest 05/07/2016	~977 m northeast 23/05/2022
Tawny owl			✓ A	✓ LPS	7 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors and agricultural land.	~798 m northwest 29/11/2020	~983 m west 01/12/2020
Tree sparrow	✓	✓	✓ R		5 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows and agricultural land.	~798 m northwest 02/12/2018	~798 m northwest 002/12/2018
Whinchat			✓ R		2 records with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, woodland	~798 m northwest 24/08/2019	~798 m northwest 24/08/2019

					parcels/corridors and scrub.		
Yellow wagtail	✓	✓	✓	R	18 records with some connectivity to the Site via grassland and agricultural land.	~798 m northwest 30/12/2018	~798 m northwest 30/12/2018
Yellowhammer	✓	✓	✓	R	6 records with some connectivity to the Site via arable land, grassland, scrub and hedgerows.	~798 m northwest 04/09/2018	~798 m northwest 04/09/2018
<b>Invertebrates</b>							
Large skipper				✓ LPS	18 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, grassland, field margins and roadside verges.	~412 m northwest 02/07/2009	~706 m northwest 13/06/2021
Small copper				✓ LPS	10 records with some connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, field margins and grassland.	~430 m northwest 31/07/2011	~706 m northwest 13/06/2021
Small heath	✓	✓		✓ NT LPS	5 records with slight connectivity to the Site via wooded corridors/parcels, roadway verges and grassland.	~1 km west 14/08/2023	~1 km west 14/08/2023
Small skipper				✓ LPS	10 records with slight connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, grassland, field margins and roadside verges.	~739 m southwest 28/07/2004	~1 km south 29/06/2018
Stag beetle	✓	✓		✓ WCA5 LPS	4 records with some connectivity to the Site via hedgerows and scattered trees.	~722 m east 27/06/2021	~722 m east 27/06/2021
White admiral	✓	✓		✓ VU LPS	1 record with slight connectivity to the Site via woodland parcels/corridors, scrub and hedgerows.	~988 m north 16/07/2022	~988 m north 16/07/2022
<b>Mammals</b>							
West European hedgehog	✓	✓		✓ VU LPS	6 records with some connectivity to the Site via grassland, urban areas, field margins and hedgerows.	~643 m east 04/05/2022	~643 m east 04/05/2022
<b>Plants</b>							
Large-leaved lime				✓ NS	1 record with slight connectivity to the Site via hedgerows and grassland.	~977 m east 01/01/2020	~977 m east 01/01/2020
<p>Notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biodiversity Action Plan: UK – UK</li> <li>2. Birds of Conservation Concern: R - Red listed; A – Amber listed</li> <li>3. Other: Great Britain Threat Status/England Threat Status or Local Threat Status: EN – Endangered; NT – Near Threatened; VU – Vulnerable; NS – Nationally Scarce; LS – Locally Scarce; LR – Locally Rare; LD – Locally Declining; EX – Locally Extinct; LPS – London Priority Species; WCA5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5</li> </ol> <p>Refer to Glossary for definitions</p>							

### ***Non-native Invasive Species***

3.1.20 Records of two non-native invasive species occur within 1 km of the Site and within the last 10 years as returned by GiGL (24/11/2024). Qualifying species are principally those with legislative classification, listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) but excludes widely naturalised species such as grey squirrel and Canada goose. The records include:

- Seven records of ring-necked parakeet the closest of which is located approximately 790 m northwest of the Site with some connectivity though woodland parcels/corridors, hedgerows and scattered tree features. The most recent record is dated 07/11/2020.
- One record of Chinese muntjac situated approximately 950 m northwest of the Site, dated 24/01/2021. There is slight connectivity to the Site through woodland parcels/corridors, agricultural land and grassland.

### **3.2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey: Habitats**

#### ***Local Context***

3.2.1 The following habitats were recorded immediately adjacent to the Site i.e., approximately 50 m from the Site boundary and visible from boundary/inferred from aerial photography:

- North: The Site is bound to the north by Newyears Green Lane. Further north lies an active maturation area associated with West London Composting facility as well as large areas of hardstanding and buildings associated with a haulage business.
- East: The Site is bound to the east by further built areas associated with the West London Composting Facility.
- South: The Site is bound to the south by further composting storage buildings associated with the composting facility as well as a small, wooded area beyond.
- West: Further built areas associated with the West London Composting facility lies to the west of the Site including storage units and areas of hardstanding.

#### ***Site***

3.2.2 A map depicting the distribution of the habitats, Site photographs and species recorded are provided in the Appendix.

3.2.3 The Site comprises of hardstanding and three buildings associated with the composting facility on site, including a large warehouse and two smaller open storage/composting features. A small strip of bare ground is present to the east of the warehouse on Site.

3.2.4 The Site is currently under active management as part of West London Composting facility with high levels of disturbance throughout and adjacent to the Site due to regular vehicle and human activity.

3.2.5 The following habitats were present on Site:

#### **Hardstanding**

3.2.6 Hardstanding on Site comprised of access roads for the composting facility as well as areas of hardstanding surrounding the buildings on Site and adjacent to the Site (Photograph 1 & 2).

#### **Buildings**

3.2.7 Three building features are present within the Site including a large storage warehouse unit within the southwest of the Site as well as an open fuel storage feature and composting vessel. Further details and photographs of each building is provided within Appendix E.

### Bare ground

3.2.8 A small strip of bare ground was present along the eastern side of the large warehouse unit on Site (Photograph 3). The area appeared to have been recently cleared of vegetation leaving behind bare soil. The feature was a narrow strip approx. 1m wide by 20m and was considered to be a limited habitat feature..

### **3.3 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

3.3.1 There was no direct evidence of any protected and notable species on or immediately adjacent to the Site.

3.3.2 However, the habitats present within the Site had the potential to support the following protected and notable species:

- **Bats** – The building features on Site were assessed as providing negligible potential for roosting bats however the Site may offer limited foraging and commuting opportunities for bats within the local area that may commute through the Site to higher value habitat within the surrounding area.
- **Nesting birds** – The large, open warehouse unit on Site may provide potential opportunities for nesting birds within the local area.
- **Hedgehog** – There was an absence of suitable terrestrial habitat on Site for hedgehog, however, the Site is surrounded further to the south, east and west by suitable habitats such as wooded areas, hedgerows and grassland and thus hedgehog may commute through the Site to access the wider landscape.

3.3.3 Other species recorded during the survey are listed in Appendix F. The potential for the habitats on Site to support other protected and notable species is discussed in Section 4: Evaluation.

## 4. EVALUATION

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This Section reviews the results of the desk study and field surveys in relation to the proposed development proposals; it:

- Determines the ecological importance of habitats at an appropriate geographic level
- Determines the likelihood of protected and notable species occurring on Site
- Identifies any legal and policy implications for developing the Site in relation to nature conservation sites, habitats and species potentially associated with the Site
- Identifies high-level biodiversity gain opportunities.

### 4.2 Habitats

4.2.1 Due to the nature of the proposals, there will be only minor habitat loss largely associated with bare ground related to the development of the Site boundaries. This area was approximately 1m wide (see Photograph 3) and 20m in length and as such is considered to meet the de minimis thresholds relevant to BNG. As such a detailed BNG assessment is not considered to be required in this case.

4.2.2 No habitats on Site meet the appropriate criteria to be considered as UK Priority Habitats or Local BAP Habitats.

4.2.3 Table 4.1 provides a summary of the nature conservation importance of habitats within Site.

***Table 4.1 Ecological importance of habitats occurring on Site and geographical context***

Habitat	Meets UK Priority/Local BAP habitat criteria	Condition <sup>2</sup>	Geographical context <sup>3</sup>
Hardstanding	No	N/A	Site
Buildings	No	N/A	Site
Bare ground	No	N/A	Site
<b>Notes</b>			
2. As determined using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.			
3. Geographic level at which the habitat is considered important.			

4.2.4 Hard standing and buildings dominated the Site, both of which are common habitats locally and nationally. Hardstanding provides limited value to faunal species whilst buildings may be utilised by nesting birds or roosting bats based upon the condition and type of feature. Habitats of this type do not have associated conditions.

4.2.5 Bare ground is also common both locally and nationally with the potential to support common native botanical species or non-native species. These habitats are easily restored or re-created

and are of limited value to faunal species due to low botanical species diversity. The area of bare ground on Site had been recently cleared of vegetation leaving behind bare soil with no floral species remaining at the time of survey.

4.2.6 Due to the small size of the area, it is considered the Site is exempt from a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment under the de minimis thresholds.

### **4.3 Species**

4.3.1 This section considers the actual occurrence or potential occurrence of protected and notable species (including non-native invasive species) occurring on Site. It takes account of known data records and habitats on Site and connectivity, appropriate to given species, across the landscape. Species not specifically listed in this Section are unlikely to occur on Site on account of at least one of the following factors:

- No habitat on Site to support the species;
- No connectivity to suitable habitat beyond the Site boundary; and
- Site is outside of the species typical geographic range.

4.3.2 Of the protected and notable species with potential to occur on Site:

#### **Bats**

4.3.3 The desk study identified a total of thirty-five species application licences relating to bats within a 5 km radius of the Site as depicted by *MAGIC* as well as an additional 205 records of bats returned by *GiGL* within 2 km of the Site. Species associated with these records included Daubenton's, brown long eared, soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, Leisler's, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Natterer's, noctule, pipistrelle sp., serotine and whiskered/Brandt's.

4.3.4 The habitats occurring on Site provide negligible potential for roosting bats, the buildings were largely open features and utilised for active composting procedures and storage indicating a high level of disturbance alongside a lack of potential roosting features. A full assessment of each building is provided within Appendix E. It was considered that bats in the local area may utilise the peripheries of the Site, such as the small, wooded area to the south, for foraging purposes as well as commuting through the Site to access higher value habitat within the wider landscape.

4.3.5 Overall, it was considered that the Site provided limited opportunities for bats, and it is unlikely that the Site forms a significant part of foraging and commuting grounds for local bats.

#### **Nesting Birds**

4.3.6 There is one grassland farmland bird assemblage with a maximum of two species, as depicted by *MAGIC*, which overlap with the Site itself. Species known to overlap with the Site itself includes

lapwing and snipe however the Site is largely hardstanding and thus opportunities are absent for these species.

4.3.7 The buildings on Site provide some limited nesting opportunities for common and widespread species such as feral pigeon and magpie which were observed during the survey.

### ***Hedgehog***

4.3.8 Five live hedgehog records were recorded on the Big Hedgehog Map within 1 km of the Site (PTES, 2024) as of 04/11/2024. The closest record is located approximately 550 m east of the Site with some connectivity via hedgerows, treelines and arable field margins.

4.3.9 The Site itself provides limited suitable habitat for hedgehog, however, some peripheral areas bordering the Site such as the small, wooded area to the south may provide limited potential for foraging and commuting hedgehogs. It is further considered that whilst individual hedgehog may use the Site for commuting given there is optimal habitat within the wider landscape, significant populations are absent from the Site.

### ***Invasive species***

4.3.10 Two records of non-native invasive species were returned by GiGL within 1 km of the Site, including ring-necked parakeet and Chinese muntjac. It is considered that suitable habitat for these species is absent from the Site.

4.3.11 No invasive species were recorded during the walkover.

4.3.12 There is limited potential for non-native invasive species to occur within the strip of bare ground on Site due to the tendency of invasive species to colonise disturbed ground. No non-native invasive species, however, were recorded within the vicinity of the Site.

### ***Other Notable Fauna***

4.3.13 Based on the habitats recorded on Site, the Site is considered unlikely to support significant populations of other protected or notable species. The habitats supported a lack of species diversity and are generally common and widespread.

4.3.14 Table 4.2 provides a summary of protected and notable species considered in this assessment. Where there is potential for a species to occur but no current evidence the likely associated habitats and location within the Site are given. Associated habitats and location within the Site are also indicated where there is evidence of a species occurring on Site.

**Table 4.2 Summary of protected and notable species considered in this assessment**

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Confirmed on Site <sup>2</sup>	Potential to occur	Associated habitats/location on Site
Bat	EU, UK, N	No	Yes – commuting and foraging only	Building
Hedgehog	UK, N	No	Yes – commuting only	Hardstanding and peripheral areas
Nesting birds	UK, N	No	Yes	Building
Invasive species (plants)	UK	No	Yes – limited potential	Bare ground
<b>Notes</b>				
1. EU – European protected. UK – UK protected. N – Notable species.				
2. Field – field evidence; Desk – desk study evidence.				

## 4.4 Legal and Policy Implications

### *Nature conservation sites*

4.4.1 The Site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of two statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance: Ruislip Woods SSSI & NNR and the Mid Colne Valley SSSI. The proposed application is included on the list of developments that are considered likely to cause a risk to the corresponding SSSI's, therefore, consultation with Natural England will be required during the planning application.

4.4.2 The other nature conservation sites identified during the desk study are sufficiently removed from the Site to not be affected by the proposed development directly. Therefore, no legal or policy implications are anticipated.

### *Habitats*

4.4.3 None of the habitats identified on Site meet the definitions to be considered as Priority habitats and are not considered to be irreplaceable or priority habitats as defined by the NPPF.

### *Species*

4.4.4 The potential presence of protected and/or notable species on Site means that they are a material consideration in the planning system through the NPPF and the Local Planning Policy. The following species/species groups have policy implications if impacted by the proposed development and include:

- Bats;
- Nesting birds; and
- Hedgehog;

4.4.5 Any development of the Site could have impacts on the other listed species if confirmed to be present. While it is our professional opinion, based on current knowledge of the proposed works, that further surveys are not necessary to inform mitigation for any potential impacts on these

other species, the LPA may request further species-specific surveys prior to determining a planning application associated with the Site.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Surveys**

5.1.1 Based on the evaluation documented in Section 4 it is not considered that further surveys are deemed appropriate and/or necessary to provide a fuller evaluation of the proposed development at this stage.

5.1.2 Due to the small size of the bare ground habitat on Site, it is considered that the Site is predominantly restricted to hardstanding and buildings and thus is considered exempt from a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment under the de minimis thresholds.

### **5.2 Retention and Enhancement.**

5.2.1 due to the baseline habitat types and nature of the application opportunities for retention and enhancement are limited in this case.

### **5.3 Mitigation**

5.3.1 Due to the nature of the proposals, there will be some minor habitat loss including areas of hardstanding and the small area of bare ground related to the re-development and expansion of the large warehouse unit on Site.

5.3.2 This Section is based solely on the current baseline data set out above. It outlines recommended ecological control and protection measures to be undertaken to ensure:

- No harm comes to faunal species (unprotected species as well as protected and notable species);
- There is minimal habitat loss and disturbance;
- No harm comes to the adjacent habitats;
- Pollution risk is minimised;
- Ecological best practice is followed;
- Conformity with current planning requirements pertaining to wildlife; and
- No breaches of current wildlife legislation.

5.3.3 The following mechanisms will ensure implementation of the protection measures:

- Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) appointment of a project ECoW whose role will include the delivery/management of the ecological requirements set out below.

5.3.4 The measures detailed below focus on legally protected and notable species but will also ensure harm and disturbance is minimised to other fauna, such as rabbits, deer and foxes that may utilise the Site.

### ***Generic safeguarding measures***

5.3.5 Ecological tool box talk:

- To be given to all contractors on Site during their Site induction making them aware of potential for protected/notable habitats and species, the need for protective fencing and pollution awareness. This should cover key species relevant to the works areas and adjacent areas.
- Following the tool box talk, Site contractors should have sufficient knowledge and confidence to provide a watching brief in low risk areas and during low risk operations and know when to contact the Ecological Management Team for guidance and assistance.

5.3.6 Pollution:

- The former Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG) have been withdrawn while they are being reviewed and updated. Until such time as new guidance becomes available, standard industry best practice in relation to construction sites and dust production/water pollution must be adhered. Further guidance is to be documented in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Measures to include:
  - Throughout the construction period appropriate spill kits to be readily available at all times.
  - Fuel to be appropriately and safely stored to current construction site standard.
  - Dust damping measures.

5.3.7 Works between sunset and sunrise:

- To be avoided.
- If works cannot be avoided, then there is to be no significant increase in external light and noise over and above what is anticipated in the area post construction.

### ***Habitats – Retained and adjacent to site***

5.3.8 Air and waterborne pollution:

- Standard industry best practice in relation to construction sites and dust production/water pollution will minimise impacts to retained/adjacent habitats.

### ***Bats***

5.3.9 Lighting:

- No additional flood lighting to be used between sunset and sunrise without agreement with the Ecological Clerk of Works.
- If bats or evidence of roosting bats are found elsewhere at any stage on Site:
  - All works, that are likely to cause disturbance and/or within the zone of influence of the bats, MUST stop and not re-commence until advice has been received from the ECoW.
  - Liaison with E may be necessary.
  - A European Protected Species Licence may be necessary before works can re-commence.

### ***Nesting Birds (General)***

5.3.10 Works in proximity to/impacting the buildings during the core nesting season (March to August inclusive):

- Immediately prior to works commencing (within 48 hours) an inspection by the Ecological Clerk of Works to check for any evidence of nesting or nest building birds. If evidence is found, works may be delayed.

5.3.11 If nesting birds are found at any stage during construction works:

- All works that are likely to cause disturbance and/or within the zone of influence of the birds, MUST stop and not re-commence until advice has been received from the Ecological Clerk of Works/Ecological Manager.
- Depending on the species, situation, stage of nesting and works in immediate vicinity it is likely that an exclusion zone will be put up around the nest and works will be stopped or restricted within the exclusion zone.

### ***Other fauna (including hedgehog)***

5.3.12 Hedgehog:

- If active hedgehogs are encountered works that are likely to cause disturbance and/or within the zone of influence of the hedgehog MUST stop and not re-commence until advice has been received from the Ecological Clerk of Works/Ecological Manager.
- If required, the Ecological Clerk of Works will carefully move the hedgehog by hand from the construction area to nearby retained habitat features away from construction works.
- If a hibernating hedgehog is encountered (i.e. during the months of November to February) works MUST stop and the Ecological Clerk of Works will assess the situation. If the hedgehog can be left *in-situ* then the nesting material will be carefully replaced and suitable food/water will be left in the area as a precaution should the hedgehog come out of hibernation. The nest area will be monitored by the Ecological Clerk of Works until it is evident that that hedgehog has moved on. If the hedgehog is left *in-situ* then habitat

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connectivity must be maintained, i.e. it must not become isolated by being surrounded by areas of high-risk and/or low suitability. If there is an imperative reason for the clearance works to continue then the Ecological Clerk of Works would be required to carefully relocate the hedgehog within its nesting material to an appropriately sheltered location away from the works area. Food and water would be left in the vicinity of the relocation site as a precaution should the hedgehog come out of hibernation.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1.1 Based on the current study:**

- No further surveys are considered necessary in order for the LPA to validate this activity.
- The scheme is exempt from a BNG assessment under the de minimis thresholds.
- No statutory Nature Conservation Sites will be negatively impacted by the proposed works.
- The Site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of two statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance: Ruislip Woods SSSI & NNR and the Mid Colne Valley SSSI. The proposed application is included on the list of developments that are considered likely to cause a risk to the corresponding SSSI's, therefore, Natural England should be consulted during the application.
- No non-statutory Nature Conservation Sites will be negatively impacted by the proposed works.
- No S41/Priority Habitats will be negatively impacted by the proposed works.
- No protected or notable species will be negatively impacted if appropriate mitigation and precautions are followed, as set out in this report.

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## 8. GLOSSARY

### 8.1 Scientific Terms and Acronyms

**Badger sett** An underground complex of tunnels utilised by badger as a den and accessed by one or more entrances at ground surface level.

**BoCC** Birds of Conservation Concern, the UK Red-list for birds, produced by the British Trust for Ornithology and last updated in December 2015.

**CIEEM** Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, the professional organisation and provider of professional codes of conduct for ecological consultancy.

**EPS** European Protected Species For the purposes of this report EPS are species that require particular licences to allow certain works to go ahead. Species falling within the following situations are not considered as EPS within this report:

Birds listed on Appendix 2 of the Bern Convention (European legislation). The protection requirements of this Appendix are fully integrated in UK law, notably through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Birds listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (European legislation). The protection of such species survival and reproduction within their geographic distribution is ensured through special conservation measures in relation to their habitats. Such measures are implemented through the establishment of Special Protection Areas. Therefore, any implications are considered at regional habitat and country level rather than individual bird/species level.

**LBAP** Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

**Level of protection – ‘EU’** Protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017).

**Level of protection – ‘UK’** Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

**LNR** Local Nature Reserve. Statutory designation.

**NNR** National Nature Reserve. Statutory designation.

**Non-native invasive species** For the purposes of this report: species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Widely naturalised species, such as grey squirrel, are excluded.

**Notable species** A species which is listed as a UK Priority Species, carries an unfavourable conservation status (e.g. scarce, rare, threatened, Red-listed), is invasive or is otherwise worthy of note from an ecological perspective.

**Protected species** A species protected under specific UK or European legislation, including Habitats Directive, Wildlife and Countryside Act.

**PTES** Peoples Trust for Endangered Species

**SAC** Special Area of Conservation. Designated under European Union Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) to protect species and habitat of European interest.

**SBI** Site of Borough Importance. Borough sites are further divided into Borough Grade I and Borough Grade II categories; both types are of significant nature conservation value, but Borough I sites are of greater importance

**SMI** Site of Metropolitan Importance.

**SNIC** Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

**SPA** Special Protection Area. A site designated under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

**SSSI** Site of Species Scientific Interest. Statutory designation of biological or geological importance.

**UK Priority Habitat and species** A habitat or species identified as a priority for conservation in accordance with Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Section 40 of the Act places a duty on public authorities to have regard for the conservation objectives of these habitats and species. (Also known as Section 41 (S41) habitats/species).

## 8.2 Scientific Names

8.2.1 Scientific names of species mentioned in this report are outlined in Table 8.1. This table excludes species recorded on Site; see Appendix F.

**Table 8.1 Scientific names of species mentioned within this report**

English Name	Scientific Name
<b>Amphibians</b>	
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
<b>Bats</b>	
Bat sp.,	<i>Chiroptera</i>
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>
Leisler's bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>
Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>
Whiskered/Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus/Myotis brandti</i>
<b>Birds</b>	
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Ring-necked parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Wood warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
<b>Invertebrates</b>	
Great oak beauty	<i>Hypomecis roboraria</i>
Large skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>
Ruddy darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Stag beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
White admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>
<b>Mammals</b>	
Chinese muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Water vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>
<b>Plants</b>	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
English elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
Heath spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Large-leaved lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>
Oak sp.	<i>Quercus sp.</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Ragged robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Wild service tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>

## **APPENDICES**

## **PLANS AND SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Drawing BMD.21.0069.DRE.904. Phase 1 Habitat Survey

	Application boundary
	Bare ground
	Hardstanding
	Building
	Target note



Rev	Description
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—

Purpose of Issue  
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Job No. 21.0069	Scale 1:700	Sheet Size A3	Revision -

Drawing Number BMD.21.0069.DRE.904		
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**Photograph 1: An example of hardstanding access roads/areas within the Site.**



**Photograph 2: Another example of hardstanding areas within the Site.**



**Photograph 3: Narrow area of bare ground along the eastern side of the large warehouse (B2) unit on Site.**

## A. POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

### A.1 Overview

A.1.1 Tables A1.1 and A1.2 provide a summary of wildlife legislation and policy of relevance to development at the Site.

**Table A1.1 Overview of species/species groups relevant to the current proposals and associated legislation and policy**

Species/Species group	European	UK <sup>1</sup>	Priority species <sup>2</sup>
Bats (all species)	✓	Full	Species dependent
Birds		Full	Species dependent, incl. House sparrow
Mammals (general)		Species-dependent	Incl. hedgehog
<b>Notes</b>			
<sup>1</sup> Principally the Wildlife and Countryside Act: Full = full protection, either from the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) alone or in combination between this act and European legislation; partial = partially protected. ✓ = covered by other specific legislation.			
<sup>2</sup> Includes over 900 species listed in accordance with section 41 of the NERC Act (2006). Species known or most likely to utilise the Site are indicated where appropriate.			

**Table A1.2 Relevant species legislation for development at the Site to be refined on a site by site basis**

Species / group	Legislation <small>see notes</small>													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bats (all species)					✓		✓		✓	✓				✓
Birds (nesting)		✓	✓							✓				
Hedgehog							✓			✓				✓
<b>Notes</b>														
<sup>1</sup> Protection of Badgers Act 1992														
<sup>2</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Part 1														
<sup>3</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Schedule 1 (some species, none recorded within the Site)														
<sup>4</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Schedule 5, Section 9														
<sup>5</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Schedule 5, Section 9 (4b, 4c) and (5)														
<sup>6</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Schedule 5, Section 9 (1, in respect of killing and injuring) and (5)														
<sup>7</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Schedule 6, Section 11														
<sup>8</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) – Schedule 9, Section 14														
<sup>9</sup> Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 – Schedule 2 (European protected species)														
<sup>10</sup> Natural England and Rural Communities Act (2006) – Various species listed in accordance with Section 41														
<sup>11</sup> Invasive Species regulations: EU Regulation (1143/2014) on invasive alien (non-native) species														
<sup>12</sup> Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014														
<sup>13</sup> Environmental Protection Act 1990														
<sup>14</sup> Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996														

A.1.2 The key national planning policies and documents are:

- The Environment Act (2021);
- Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990);
- The National Planning Policy Framework (2024); and
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006).

## **B. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES**

### **B.1 Desk Study**

B.1.1 The desk study involved:

- Gathering and analysing existing ecological data within the Site boundary and extending to a radius of 5 km; and
- Reviewing readily available habitat data within 5 km radius of the Site boundary.

B.1.2 The results of the desk study were used to aid in the interpretation of the survey results and were obtained from the following sources:

- The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (*MAGIC*) – web-based database;
- Greenspace Information for Greater London (*GiGL*)
- The Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory;
- Natural England Great crested newt class licence database and District Licensing database;
- People's Trust for Endangered Species Big Hedgehog Map – web-based citizen science database of hedgehog sightings;
- Readily available maps (modern and historic); and
- Readily available aerial photographs.

B.1.3 In terms of species, particular attention was given to the following species/species groups:

- Bats;
- Birds; and
- Hedgehog

B.1.4 Some species, such as the blue tit, may be listed on red data books but described as neither threatened nor near threatened; such species are not included in the protected and notable species tables within the desk study sections. Species listed solely on Schedule 5 Section 9(5)a and 9(5)b are not considered to be protected species in the context of this report as offences detailed in these Sections relate to sale/intention to sell.

B.1.5 For the purposes of this report species falling within the following situations are not indicated as having European level of protection in the desk study tables:

- Birds listed on Appendix 2 of the Bern Convention (European legislation). The protection requirements of this Appendix are fully integrated in UK law, notably through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Birds listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. The protection of such species survival and reproduction within their geographic distribution is ensured through special conservation

measures in relation to their habitats. Such measures are implemented through the establishment of Special Protection Areas. Therefore, any implications are considered at regional habitat and country level rather than individual bird/species level.

B.1.6 For the purposes of this report widely naturalised non-native invasive species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and County Act, such as grey squirrel and muntjac, are excluded.

## **B.2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

B.2.1 The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey involved a walk-over of the Site recording and mapping the various habitats present (as defined by and in line with the standard methodology in JNCC, 2010) in each definable land parcel. Where applicable, land parcels were separated into their component habitats. In addition to the floristic component of each habitat or habitat parcel (where it had a different character), each was described in terms of its likely origin (e.g. self-established, planted), character, condition and management. The condition of the habitat was determined using professional judgement and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessments.

B.2.2 Attention was also paid to the presence or potential for protected and notable species occurring on Site. This focused on the species/species groups as listed in paragraph B1.3.

B.2.3 Target notes were used to aid the interpretation of mapped habitats to indicate notable features within the Site.

## **B.3 Evaluation**

### ***Habitats***

B.3.1 The habitats were assessed against the criteria and descriptions of Priority Habitats to determine if they could be considered as Priority Habitat and, therefore, likely to have greater implication on developing the Site.

B.3.2 Habitats were also considered in relation to their wider landscape integration, notably connectivity and acting as a buffer to other habitats or protected sites.

B.3.3 The habitat condition assessments followed the habitat condition criteria set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric guidance.

### ***Species***

B.3.4 The Site was assessed in terms of its potential to support protected and notable species with particular attention being paid to those listed in paragraph B1.3. It takes account of habitats present on Site, the desk study species data, connectivity to known records and other suitable habitat and geographic range of species. For example, a Site may have suitable habitat for sand lizard but is outside the species geographic distribution and as such would not be considered in the evaluation of the Site. Another example would be if water vole were returned in the desk study data but there was no watercourse within the site or within a zone of influence which may be indirectly affected by pollution run-off.

## C. METADATA, SURVEY CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

### C.1 Metadata

Factor	Detail
Data	Habitats described and mapped in accordance to JNCC (2010). Target notes of specific features.
Reason for collection	To provide baseline ecological data to inform master planning, planning applications and appropriate mitigation in relation to proposed development.
Location	Highview Farm, New Years Green Lane, Harefield Approx. centre TQ 07128805
Date	08/11/2024
Method of collection	Phase 1 Habitat Survey: JNCC (2010).
Who collected	Katie Dalton BSc (Hons) MRSB ACIEEM Jasmine Whitmore BSc (Hons) Lili Timms BSc MSc

### C.2 Survey Conditions

Date	Start Time	Preceding days	Cloud (%)	Sun	Temp. (°C)	Precipitation	Wind (Beaufort scale)
08/11/2024	10:30	Cloudy, light rain	90	Cloudy and overcast	10	None	2-3

### C.3 Limitations Review

Consideration	Comment
<b>Survey &amp; data</b>	
Personal competence, i.e. qualifications, training, skills, understanding, experience	<p>All survey works were undertaken by or directly supervised by personnel experienced in ecological surveying (see meta data; Section C1).</p> <p><u>Katie Dalton BSc (Hons) MRSB ACIEEM</u> has over 7 years' experience in ecological consultancy, including an experience of performing the survey work and assessments undertaken at Site, along with technical reporting.</p> <p><u>Lili Timms MSc BSc</u> has over a years experience in ecological consultancy, including assisting in survey work and assessments undertaken at site along with technical reporting.</p> <p><u>Jasmine Whitmore BSc (Hons)</u> has over a years experience in ecological consultancy, including carrying out survey work and assessments undertaken at Site, along with technical writing.</p> <p><u>James Patmore CECOL CEnv MCIEEM</u> has over 22 years' experience in ecological consultancy, including an extensive amount of experience performing and directing the survey work and assessments undertaken at the Site.</p>
Resources (equipment and/or personnel)	Appropriate resources and suitably qualified personnel were used.
Time spent surveying	Sufficient time was spent on site to undertake all surveys. No surveys were 'cut short'.
Data (e.g. arising from incomplete or inappropriate surveys)	The data used and collected were sufficient for the purpose of the works. This data is considered sufficient for the assessment.
Lack of statistical robustness and higher uncertainties	Statistical analysis of data was not deemed necessary for the purpose of the current works.
Old and out of date data	The data used to complete this assessment was current and up to date. Local records data is yet to be reviewed but will be provided in an addendum report.
Timing or seasonal constraints and suboptimal survey periods	The survey was conducted in November 2024. Although this is out of the optimal survey period, the habitats on site do not limit the survey period.
Partial use of and/or departures from good practice guidelines	All surveys accorded with the relevant best practice guidelines.
<b>Site conditions &amp; other factors</b>	
Adverse weather conditions	No significantly adverse weather conditions were encountered during the survey work undertaken at the Site that would be considered to have significantly adversely impacted the reliability and accuracy of data collected.
Restricted access to site or part of site	Access was not restricted.
Unrealistic deadlines	No restrictions on survey data collected or analysed to date are as a result of unrealistic deadlines.
Unproven or untested measures for mitigation and compensation	N/A
Evaluation of conservation value and impacts	<p>The evaluation of the conservation value of habitats and species associated (or potentially associated) with the site and impacts of the development, are based on the current information available.</p> <p>This evaluation will need to be reviewed and updated as necessary should a considerable period of time (24 months) elapse and/or more data from other survey work (on and within 500 m of the site) becomes available.</p>

## D. DESK STUDY SCOPING EXERCISE

D.1.1 A data search on *MAGIC* and other web-based data sources was completed on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024. A summary of features checked is provided in Tables D1.1. to D1.5.

D.1.2 A review of the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory highlighted one known ancient, veteran or notable tree within or adjacent to the Site. The feature was a notable, wild service tree situated approximately 715 m northwest of the Site, within Bayhurst Wood.

**Table D1.1 Statutory nature conservation sites within 2 km of the Site (extending to 5 km for European designated sites)**

Site designation	Number of sites				
	Total	On Site	0-1 km	1-2 km	2-5 km
AONB	0	0	0	0	N/A
LNR	3	0	0	3	N/A
NNR	1	0	1	0	N/A
National Park	0	0	0	0	N/A
Ramsar	0	0	0	0	0
SSSI	2	0	1	1	N/A
SAC	0	0	0	0	0
SPA	0	0	0	0	0
Impact Risk Zone	Yes – Ruislip Woods SSSI & NNR & Mid Colne Valley SSSI.				

**Table D1.2 Priority (and notable) habitats within 1 km of the Site**

Broad category	Priority Habitat Inventory	Other habitats	On Site	0-1 km
Coastal	Saltmarsh		0	0
	Sand Dunes		0	0
	Vegetated Shingle		0	0
	Maritime Cliffs and Slopes		0	0
	Mudflats		0	0
	Saline Lagoons		0	0
Grassland	Calaminarian Grassland		0	0
	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh		0	0
			0	3 blocks of 4 parcels
	Lowland Calcareous Grassland		0	0
	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland		0	0
	Lowland Meadows		0	2 parcels
	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture		0	0
	Upland Calcareous Grassland		0	0
	Upland Hay Meadows		0	0
Heath	Lowland Heathland		0	0
	Mountain Heaths and Willow Scrub		0	0
	Upland Heathland		0	0

Broad category	Priority Habitat Inventory	Other habitats	On Site	0-1 km
Limestone pavements	Limestone Pavements		0	0
Marine	Intertidal Substrate Foreshore		0	0
Wetland	Blanket Bog		0	0
	Lowland Fens		0	0
	Lowland Raised Bog		0	0
	Reedbeds		0	0
	Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps		0	0
Woodland		Ancient: Semi-natural	0	3 parcels
		Ancient: Replanted	0	0
	Deciduous Woodland		0	16 blocks of 17 parcels
		National Inventory of Woodland & Trees <sup>1</sup>	0	13 parcels
	Traditional Orchards		0	0
	Wood pasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat		0	0
Trees <sup>2</sup>		Ancient, veteran or notable trees	0	1
Other		Fragmented heath (Non-Priority)	0	0
		Grass Moorland (Non-Priority)	0	0
		No main habitat but additional habitat exists		6 parcels
	Open Mosaic Habitat		0	1 parcel
<b>Notes</b>				
1. Not notable habitats but provide information to guide mitigation				
2. Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory				

**Table D1.3 European Protected Species licence applications within 1 km and 5 km (bats) of the Site. NB excluding GCN, see Table D1.4.**

Protected species licence applications	Number of applications				
	Total	On Site	0-1 km	1-2 km	2-5 km
Bat	35			✓	✓
<b>Species covered by the bat licences</b>					
Alcathoe bat					
Barbastelle					
Bechstein's bat					
Brandt's bat					
Brown long-eared bat	9			✓	✓
Common pipistrelle	12			✓	✓
Daubenton's bat	6			✓	✓
Greater horseshoe bat					
Grey long-eared bat					
Leisler's bat	1				✓
Lesser horseshoe bat					

Protected species licence applications	Number of applications				
	Total	On Site	0-1 km	1-2 km	2-5 km
Nathusius pipistrelle					
Natterer's bat					
Noctule					
Pipistrelle sp.					
Serotine					
Soprano pipistrelle	23			✓	✓
Whiskered bat					

**Table D1.4 Great crested newt data within 1 km of the Site**

Data source	Number of records		
	Total	On Site	0-1 km
NE Class licence database <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
NE country-wide survey data <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0
Development licenses <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
<b>Notes</b>			
1. As depicted on MAGIC			

**Table D1.5 Notable fauna in relation to the Site**

Species	On Site	0-1 km
<b>Farmland bird assemblages<sup>1</sup></b>		
Arable (max number of species)	0	0
Grassland (max number of species)	1 (2 species)	1 (2 species)
Black grouse		
Cirl bunting		
Corn bunting		
Curlew		
Grey partridge		
Lapwing	✓	✓
Redshank		
Snipe	✓	✓
Stone curlew		
Tree sparrow		
Turtle dove		
Twite		
Yellow wagtail		
<b>Mammals</b>		
European hedgehog <sup>2</sup>	0	5
<b>Notes</b>		
1. As depicted on MAGIC		
2. As depicted on the Big Hedgehog Map (PTES, 2024).		

## **E. HABITAT TARGET NOTES**

E.1.1 The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey involved a walk-over of the Site recording and mapping the various habitats present (as defined by and in line with the standard methodology in JNCC, 2010) in each definable land parcel. Where applicable, land parcels were separated into their component habitats. In addition to the floristic component of each habitat or habitat parcel (where it had a different character), each was described in terms of its likely origin (e.g. self-established, planted), character, condition and management. The condition of the habitat was determined using professional judgement and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessments.

E.1.2 Table E1.1 to E1.2 outlines target note descriptions of key features within the Site including different habitat types and buildings within the Site.

**Table E1.1 Habitat areas and significant features on Site**

Target Note ID	Description	Condition
1	<p>Hardstanding</p> <p>The Site was dominated by areas of hardstanding associated with the active composting facility on Site to allow for vehicle and pedestrian accessibility throughout the compound.</p>	N/A
2	<p>Bare ground</p> <p>A small strip of recently cleared vegetation was present along the eastern edge of the large warehouse building on Site, outlined within TN B2. The area was void of species and consisted of disturbed soil only.</p>	N/A

**Table E1.2 Buildings on Site and their initial suitability for bats**

Target Note ID	Building description and assessment	Photos	Building suitability
B1	<p>Fuel storage feature</p> <p>A small structure within the southwestern extent of the Site, partially overlapping the Site boundary, currently used as a fuel and oil storage area. The structure was largely comprised of metal with a slightly pitched roof, with a large gap between the roof and walls. The structure lacked suitable roosting features for bats and was considered to be highly disturbed, making the feature negligible for roosting bats.</p>		Negligible potential
B2	<p>Storage warehouse</p> <p>A large waste storage warehouse within the southwestern extent of the Site. The structure is comprised of a concrete block and a corrugated metal frame and roof. The warehouse is permanently open with</p>		Negligible potential

	<p>window features and gaps within the frame creating bright conditions within the interior. Alongside a lack of suitable roosting features for bats, the structure is likely subject to regular disturbance making it negligible for roosting bats.</p>	 	
B3	<p>Composting vessel</p> <p>A feature associated with the composting process on Site, partially overlapping the southern boundary of the Site. The structure is metal framed with metal sides and a tarpaulin covered roof. Due to a lack of appropriate features to support bats, the material composition of the structure and the active use as part of the composting facility, it was considered the feature supported negligible potential for bats.</p>		Negligible potential

## **F. DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS**

### **F.1 Species Recorded on Site**

English Name	Scientific Name
<b>Birds</b>	
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>

# BMD

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