

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment

Survey site:

Premier inn London Uxbridge, Phase, 500 Riverside Way, Uxbridge UB8 2YF

Client:

Whitbread Group PLC

Survey date:

7th August 2024

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the London Borough of Hillingdon. The proposal is described as:

The partial demolition and extension of the building.

[Unsubmitted]

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

PRA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PRA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

Site Location and Context					
<p>The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 04811 83707 and has an area of approximately 0.75ha. The site comprises of one dwelling (B1), tarmacked car park, with scattered mature trees and shrubs. It is situated within the built-up urban town centre of Uxbridge. The immediate landscape comprises of residential properties with associated gardens to the east and commercial premises to the north and west. A small pocket of woodland is located to the east and southwest and connects to a large parcel of open grassland comprising of lines of trees, shrubs, The wider landscape consists of heavily built-up urban areas comprising of residential dwellings and commercial premises. There are several bodies of water surrounding the site. The river Colne is located ~25m immediately outside the site boundary to the east and west which connects to Colne Brook to the southwest and 8 large water bodes northwest of site.</p>					
Survey Details					
<p>The site survey was undertaken by Beth Ellison-Perrett BSc (Hons) MSc, MRSB, Consultant Ecologist, an ecologist with four years of experience, and holder of Natural England survey licences for bats [2023-11066-CL17-BAT] and great crested newt [2024-11998-CL08-GCN].</p>					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (mph)	Rain
07/08/2024	21	56	100	13	None
Survey limitations					
<p>It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood, and the known distribution of species as recovered during the searches of historical biological records.</p> <p>A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report.</p>					

Ecological Survey Factor	Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	
Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plan in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4). Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).	
Summary of Survey Findings (UKHab codes used) - Developed land; sealed surface (u1b) - Building (u1b5) - Modified grassland with scattered trees and introduced shrubs (g4 32 847) - Line of trees (u1 33) - Non-native ornamental hedge (h2b) - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (u1c)	Local habitats The site does not contain any habitats listed as a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). However, the site does contain tree lines which are of good quality and could be of value to local wildlife populations (as detailed in subsequent sections of this table). Other habitats within the site are common and widespread and have low ecological value. The closest notable habitat is deciduous woodland located on the south-eastern boundary of the site. The site is surrounded by further pockets of deciduous woodland. There are several large parcels of Lowland Calcareous Grassland which is classed as a as a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) with the closest parcel located ~603m northwest and another large parcel ~>1km south. Other habitats include several small parcels of good quality semi-improved grassland located ~683m southeast and Parcels of Ancient Woodland located to the northeast and southeast of site. On-site habitat descriptions <u>Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)</u> The majority of the site is comprised of developed land; sealed surface. The hard standing is comprised of block paving and concrete slabs which are of negligible habitat value for protected species. <u>Building (u1b5)</u> There is one building onsite (B1). B1 is a part three-storey, part single-storey brick-built building with a flat roof clad in lead flashing. The building is in very good condition, with no roosting features in which bats could roost.

	<p><u>Modified grassland with scattered trees and introduced shrubs (g4 32 847)</u></p> <p>Mainly to the east of the site, are small areas of modified grassland which are subject to intensive management through mowing, resulting in a sward of approximately 2cm in length. Species composition is comprised of perennial ryegrass (D), daisy (A), creeping cinquefoil (F), creeping buttercup (F), dandelion (O), self-heal (O), black meddick (O), plantain (O), hawkbit (R), large-leaved avens (R) and ragwort (R).</p> <p>Modified grassland condition assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is less than 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present. b) Sward height is not varied. c) No scattered scrub present d) Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. e) Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas. f) Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%. g) There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA). <p>Located within the grassland, are areas of introduced shrubs. These are comprised of Portuguese laurel, evergreen spindle, broadleaved mock orange, rose and Japanese mahonia. These areas have low ecological value.</p> <p>Present onsite are scattered trees throughout the site, which are comprised of pine, tulip poplar, hornbeam, birch and linden. The trees are approximately 3m-6m tall, with a DBH of approximately 5-15cm. The trees are young to semi-mature in age and represent a fair to good structural condition.</p> <p>Individual trees condition assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) >70% of the trees are native species. B) The tree canopy is predominantly continuous. C) <50% of the trees are mature.
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	<p>D) There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity).</p> <p>E) No ecological niches.</p> <p>F) >20% of the tree canopy is oversailing vegetation beneath.</p> <p><u>Line of trees (u1 33)</u></p> <p>Along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site is a line of trees. The treeline is comprised of maple, willow, holly, hawthorn, grey willow, whitebeam and hazel. The understory is comprised of dogwood, bramble, firethorn and snowmound spiraea. The treeline is approximately 8-10m tall, with a DBH of approximately 10-30cm. The trees are semi-mature to mature in age and represent a fair to good structural condition.</p> <p>Line of trees condition assessment:</p> <p>a) At least 70% of trees are native species.</p> <p>b) Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.</p> <p>c) No ecological niches or veteran trees.</p> <p>d) There is no undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing).</p> <p>e) At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.</p> <p><u>Non-native ornamental hedge (h2b)</u></p> <p>Along the northern boundary of the site is comprised of a non-native ornamental hedgerow. The hedge is comprised of privet, cotoneaster, laurel, buddleia and dogwood. The hedge is approximately 1.5m high and 2m wide.</p> <p><u>Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (u1c)</u></p>
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	<p>To the east of B1, is a small area of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface. This area is comprised of bare ground and is used as a walkway. It is of negligible habitat value for protected species.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p>On-site habitats</p> <p>The habitats on-site are widespread and not notable; however the proposed development will result in the loss a small area of modified grassland and 12 small scattered trees. This is likely to have minimal impact on biodiversity considering the small area of commonplace habitat being lost. Furthermore, the trees being felled are young and lack decay features which may provide ecological niches lowering their ecological value. As there are extensive trees within the locality, their loss is unlikely to significantly impact biodiversity.</p> <p>Notable habitats</p> <p>No direct impacts to any notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development. However, due to the proximity of the site to the deciduous woodland, indirect effects (e.g. pollution, dust, litter, surface run off, etc.) could occur during construction.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>On-site habitats</p> <p>Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012).</p> <p>Notable habitats</p> <p>Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution affecting the nearby ancient woodland must be implemented during construction. A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) may be required for this.</p> <p>Biodiversity net gain</p> <p>The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments (excluding exemptions) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. This is mandatory for larger developments and comes into force for smaller developments on 2nd April 2024. Therefore, the planning application must be accompanied by a landscaping/habitat creation and enhancement strategy, biodiversity net gain calculations and a habitat management and monitoring plan to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.</p>
Locality and Designated Sites	

<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p>On-site designations</p> <p>The site is not subject to any designation.</p> <p>Statutory designated sites (within 2km)</p> <p>There are 3 statutory sites within 2km of the site, the closest being Farthing Downs and Happy Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located 1,153m to the south of site.</p> <p>Ruffett and Big Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located 1,867m northwest.</p> <p>Foxley Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located 1,722m to the northeast.</p> <p>The site lies within the impact risk zone for Farthing Downs and Happy Valley (SSSI) ~1.15km south, Chipstead Downs SSSI ~>2km southwest and Riddlesdown SSSI ~>2km east and proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk for this designation.</p> <p>Non-statutory designated sites</p> <p>The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Greenspace Information for Greater London and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes ERC.</p>
<p><i>Foreseen Impacts</i></p>	<p>On-site designations</p> <p>No impacts foreseen.</p> <p>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</p> <p>No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known) as well as the urban location of the site with surrounding physical barriers.</p>
<p><i>Recommendations</i></p>	<p>On-site designations</p> <p>None required.</p> <p>Statutory and non-statutory designated sites</p>

	None required.
Invasive / Non-native species	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	N/A
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.
Invertebrates	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site, including grassland, ornamental shrubs and trees, likely provide common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. The site contains no further notable habitats which may provide niches for specialised or protected invertebrates.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Grassland and scattered trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>No further surveys.</p> <p>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development to provide additional opportunities for invertebrates on site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beetle banks • dead wood piles • floral borders
Bats	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>EPSL data</p> <p>A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites <2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence</p>

	or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There are 2 EPSLs within a 2km radius of site as detailed below:												
	<table><tr><th>EPSL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Distance from site</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>2017-27461-EPS-MIT</td><td>Brown long-eared bat</td><td>716m southwest</td><td>Destruction of a resting place</td></tr><tr><td>2017-27529-EPS-MIT</td><td>Brown long- eared bat Whiskered bat</td><td>1,603m southwest</td><td>Destruction of a resting place</td></tr></table>	EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence	2017-27461-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared bat	716m southwest	Destruction of a resting place	2017-27529-EPS-MIT	Brown long- eared bat Whiskered bat	1,603m southwest	Destruction of a resting place
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Foraging and commuting habitat													
Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of tree lined boundaries and scattered trees. Most notably, the tree lines on site are mature and extend beyond the site adding to the continuity of vegetated linear features present in the wider landscape. Bats are well known to utilise linear features to aid navigation whilst travelling between foraging resources and roost sites. Additionally, a small pocket of woodland is located to the east and southwest and connects to a large parcel of open grassland comprising of lines of trees, shrubs. There are several bodies of water surrounding the site. The river Colne is located ~46m immediately outside the site boundary to the east and west which connects to Colne Brook to the southwest.													
Roosting habitat													
There is one building onsite (B1). B1 is a part three-storey, part single-storey brick-built building with a flat roof clad in lead flashing. The flat roofs are in very good condition with no gaps in which bats could roost. The doors and windows are UPVC and appear in excellent condition with no suitable bat roosting sites. The brickwork around the building appears in excellent condition with no gaps or cracks within which crevice-dwelling bats could roost. Additionally, there is metal cladding on the walls, between the brickwork, which is in very good condition with no raised sections under which bats could roost. There are metal parapet walls around the building which are in good condition. There is no loft space within B1 as the building has a flat roof. Additionally, there are 12 small trees which will be removed as part of the proposed plans. However, these trees are young to semi-mature in age and represent a fair to good structural condition with no roosting features in which bats could utilise.													
Recommendations	Roosting habitat [Buildings and trees]												

	<p>B1 and the trees proposed to be removed have negligible habitat value for roosting bats. In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.</p> <p>Foraging and commuting habitat</p> <p>No further surveys are required.</p> <p>Artificial lighting</p> <p>A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2</p> <p>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>The installation of one bat box at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The bat boxes will be incorporated into the fabric of the new extension. They will be suitable for pipistrelles (which have been identified locally through EPSL data). Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar alternative brand.</p> <p>Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.</p>
Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>Buildings</p> <p>No evidence of nesting birds was identified on or within B1. B1 is deemed to provide negligible habitat value for nesting birds due to a lack of suitable nesting sites or access points.</p> <p>Trees and vegetation</p> <p>No bird nests were identified within the scattered trees or treeline on-site, however they all offer nesting opportunities and nest-building resources for birds.</p>

	<p>Barn owls</p> <p>The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls.</p> <p>Overwintering birds</p> <p>Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p>Buildings/trees</p> <p>No impacts are anticipated on nesting birds as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>Barn owls</p> <p>None foreseen.</p> <p>Overwintering birds</p> <p>None foreseen.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Buildings/trees</p> <p>Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged.</p> <p>Barn owls</p> <p>None required.</p> <p>Overwintering birds</p> <p>None required.</p>

	<p>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>The installation of a minimum of two bird boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries or on retained buildings will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g.</p> <p>Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes (trees)</p> <p>Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes (trees)</p> <p>Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees)</p> <p>Or a similar alternative brand.</p> <p>Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole.</p>
Reptiles	
<p><i>Summary of Survey Findings</i></p>	<p>EPSL data</p> <p>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site.</p> <p>Habitat suitability</p> <p>The site overall does not present high suitability for reptiles due to a lack of suitable habitat as the majority of the site is comprised of hard standing and is in constant use as a car park for the hotel. However, the tree lines provide sheltering and hibernation opportunities for reptiles. In any case, the tree lines are to be retained as part of the development proposals. There is no other suitable habitat present on site for reptiles due to a lack of habitats such as scrub and rank grassland which would offer refuge for these species. Further, the site is surrounded by urban development (i.e. roads and buildings) to the north, west and east which is considered sub-optimal for reptile migration and therefore reptiles are considered unlikely to migrate from any nearby suitable habitats to the development site. Additionally, the site is immediately adjacent to suitable deciduous woodland habitat to the south. Reptiles are unlikely to be present within the development areas but the presence of reptiles within peripheral habitats cannot be discounted.</p>

	<p>Wider landscape</p> <p>The adjacent sections of the river Colne and woodland are of elevated ecological value within the wider landscape and may represent important resources for local reptile populations. These adjacent habitats provide optimal foraging, commuting, and refuge opportunities for reptiles and are well connected to further suitable habitat in the wider landscape. The presence of reptiles utilising these adjacent habitats cannot be discounted.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p>Hard standing, modified grassland and scattered trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local reptile populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of reptiles, if present.</p>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles. • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. <p>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>The site could be enhanced for reptiles post-development with the inclusion of log piles (created from felled materials) and planting of areas of native shrubs, to provide sheltering opportunities.</p>
Amphibians	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>EPSL data</p> <p>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records within 500m of the site and no class licence or pond survey records for great crested newts within 2km of the site. However, there are 3 EPSLs, located 570m west, 1655m north-east and 1745m north-east</p>

	<p>which are for the destruction of a GCN resting place. Great crested newts exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton et al. 2001). As such, the great crested newt metapopulation known to be present over 500m from the site, are not suitably connected to the site.</p> <p>Habitat suitability</p> <p>A review of aerial imagery indicates no ponds are present on site or within 500m of the site. The site provides limited suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians given the lack of optimal habitat (i.e. scrub, rank grassland). The areas of hard standing and modified grass offer sub-optimal habitat for terrestrial amphibians. The tree lines may offer refuge for these species, however given the urban nature of the surrounding landscape (i.e. dominated by roads and hard standing which are sub-optimal for amphibians) it is unlikely that amphibians will migrate on to site. Further, there is limited suitable terrestrial habitat across the wider landscape reducing the likelihood of amphibians being present on site and across the surrounding areas.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Given the lack of suitably connected breeding ponds within 500m of the site, the presence of GCN on-site is considered unlikely and therefore impacts to amphibians as a result of the proposed development are deemed to be acceptably low.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.
Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>No evidence of badgers (e.g. latrines, snuffle holes, hairs) or badger setts were identified on or within influencing distance of the site. Furthermore, the site itself is mainly hard standing which is suboptimal for badgers. The treelines could be utilised by foraging badgers. Although, it is adjacent to suitable habitats to the south including deciduous woodland, the areas adjacent to site to the north, east and west (and further south) include main access roads with kerbs to the and urban dwellings with gardens. Badgers are highly unlikely to be present within the development areas but the presence of badgers within peripheral habitats cannot be discounted.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Hard standing, modified grassland and scattered trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to bat roosts, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which badgers could use. Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. <p>In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p> <p>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities for badgers.</p>
Riparian animals	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on site. The river Colne is located approximately 25m east of the site which connects to Colne Brook to the southwest and 8 large water bodies northwest of site. The river is likely to contain a suitable fish density to support a viable otter population. As a result, the presence of otters foraging and commuting adjacent to the west of the site cannot be discounted. However, there was no evidence, including spraints, burrows, holts, couches or feeding remains were observed onsite. Additionally, habitats recorded on site provide no opportunities for otters or water voles.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<p>Otters</p> <p>The proposed development will not result in the loss of any riparian habitats and no works will be undertaken within 8m of the watercourse (as per Environment Agency regulations). However, due to the presence of the watercourse within close proximity of the site, indirect effects such as pollution could occur during construction. Furthermore, construction activities could result in the death or injury of otters, if present.</p> <p>Water voles</p>

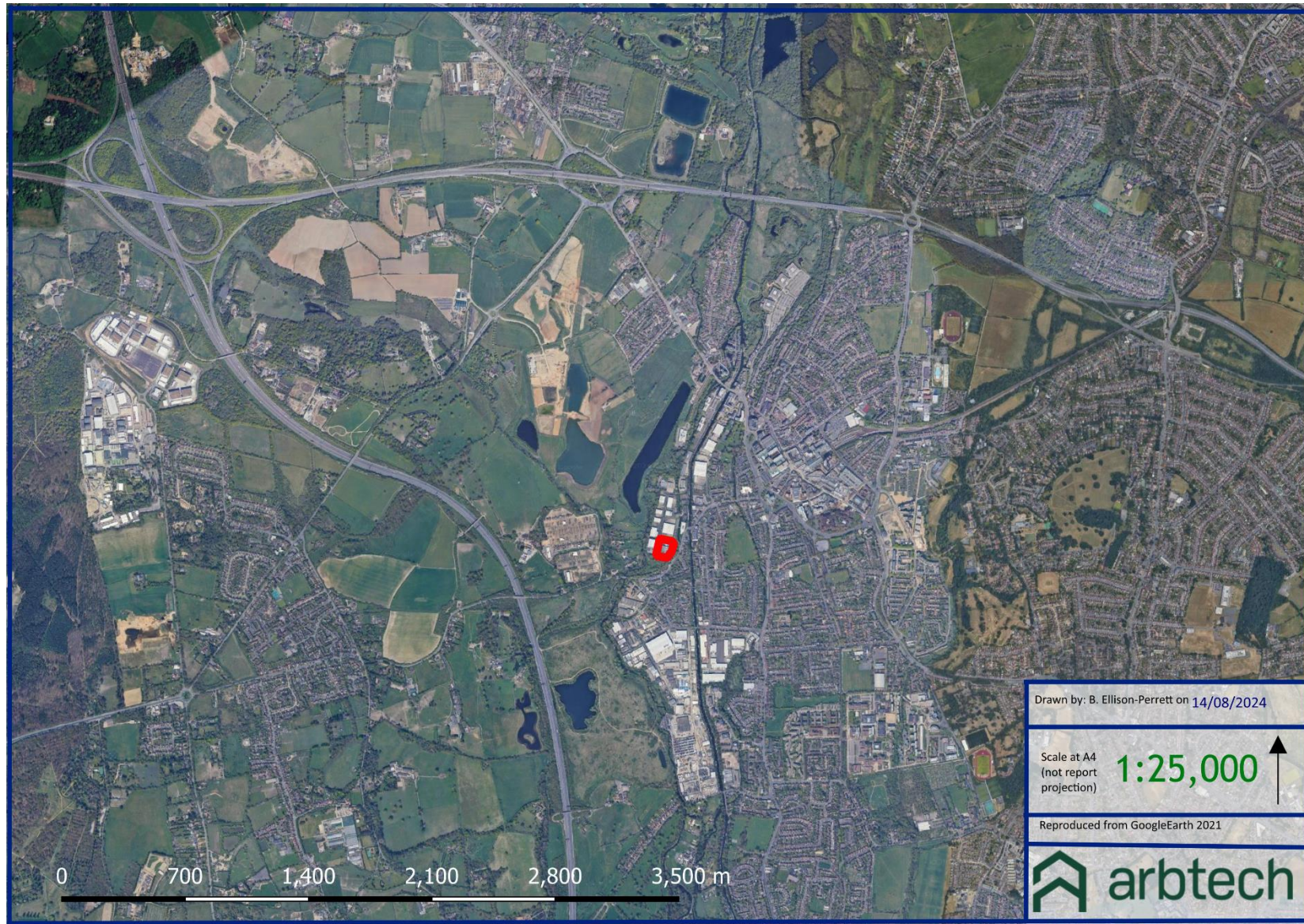
	No works will be undertaken within 5m of the top of the banks of the watercourse. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated on water vole as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Otters</p> <p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to otter, further otter surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to the watercourse and any retained habitats which otters could use. Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to the watercourse and any retained habitats that otters could use. Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. <p>In the unlikely event that an otter holt or den is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.</p> <p>Water voles</p> <p>None required.</p>
Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<p>EPSL data</p> <p>A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site.</p> <p>Habitat suitability</p> <p>No evidence of dormice was found within the site. It is not anticipated that dormice are present on the site due to the lack of suitable habitats present. For isolated habitats in the UK, research indicates that dormice require 20ha of woodland habitat to support a viable population (Bright et al. 1994). There are no areas of woodland on the site that are big enough (20ha) to support a dormouse population.</p>
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.

<i>Recommendations</i>	None foreseen.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No evidence of hedgehogs was found on site. The site itself is mainly hard standing, which is suboptimal for hedgehogs, however, the treelines could be utilised by foraging hedgehogs. Additionally, the regularly mown modified grassland could be utilised by hedgehogs for commuting and foraging opportunities. Although, it is adjacent to suitable habitats to the south including deciduous woodland, the areas adjacent to site to the north, east and west (and further south) include main access roads with kerbs to the and urban dwellings with gardens. The presence of hedgehogs within peripheral habitats cannot be discounted.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Hard standing, modified grassland and scattered trees will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<p>Similar to the badgers, a precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. <p>If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.</p> <p>Suggested biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities. Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas.

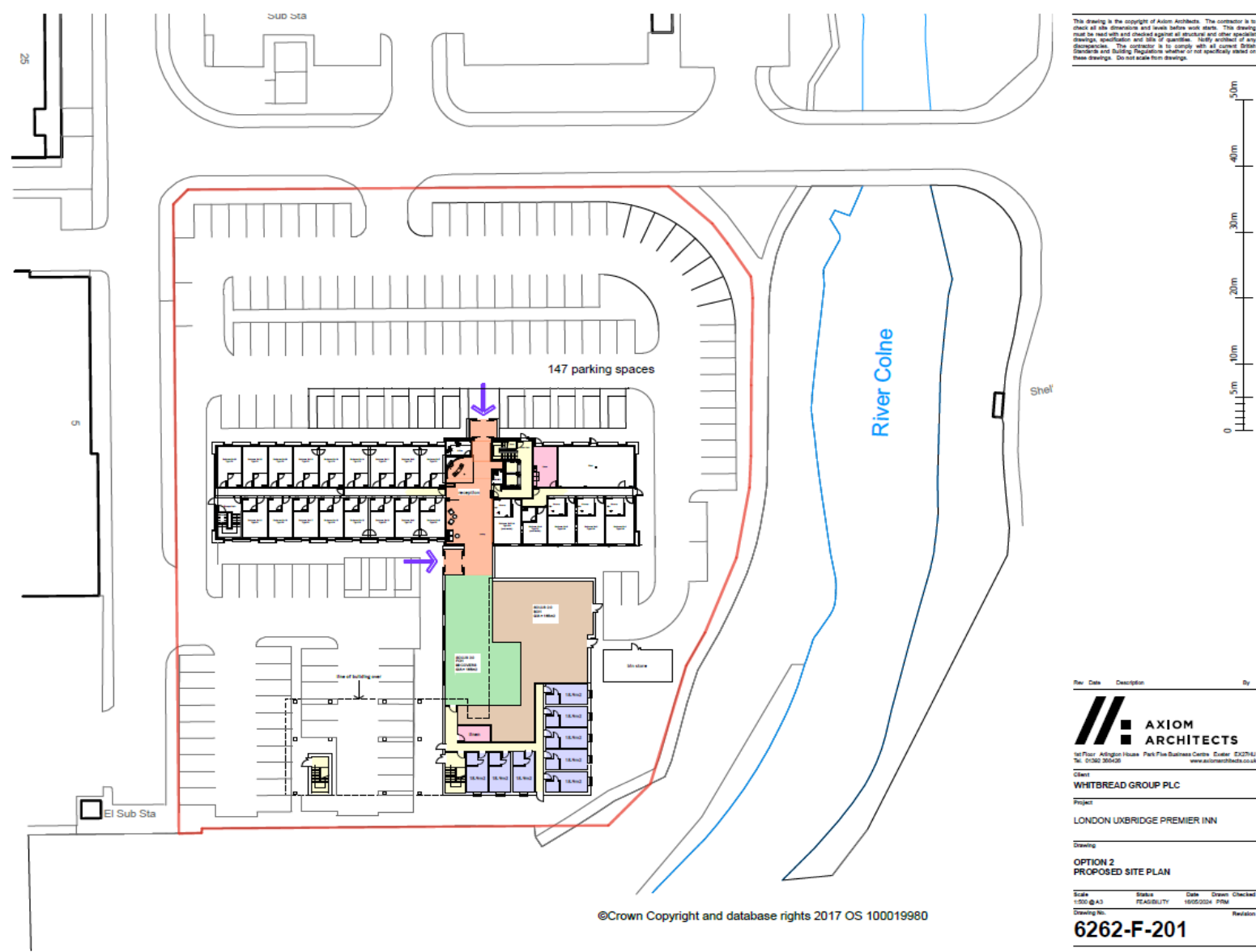
Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map







Appendix 3: Proposed plan



Appendix 4: Habitat Photos

Buildings	
Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 1 and figure 2: Main building (B1) on site.</p>
Modified grassland	
Photograph	Description

		Figure 3: modified grassland on site (to east of B1)
Introduced shrubs		
Photograph		Description
		Figure 4: Introduced shrubs on site (along northern side of site)
Scattered trees		
Photograph		Description

		<p>Figure 5: Scattered trees present on site</p>	
Tree line			
Photograph		Description	
		<p>Figure 6: Along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site is a line of trees. The treeline is comprised of maple, willow, holly, hawthorn, grey willow, whitebeam and hazel.</p>	
Non-native hedgerow			



Photograph		Description
		<p>Figure 7: privet, cotoneaster, laurel, buddleia and dogwood hedgerow along northern site boundary</p>
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface		
Photograph		Description
		<p>Figure 8: the bare ground to the east of the site</p>
Developed land; sealed surface		
Photograph		Description



Figure 9: the hard standing (to the south of B1)

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