
Preliminary Ecological Assessment

Land at New Mill, Halghton,
Near Whitchurch

For

Bleazard and Galletta

Grid Ref: S J 4 3 0 4 1 6

6th January 2022

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Contents

Introduction	2
Background	2
<i>Figure 1</i>	2
Details of proposed work	2
Scope of survey	3
Key Principles	3
Constraints and Disclaimers	3
Site description	4
Location and Landscape	4
<i>Figure 2: Aerial photograph</i>	4
Planning Policy and Legislation	5
Methodology	6
Visual inspection	6
Protected species	6
Personnel	7
Survey results	8
Desk study	8
<i>Figure 3: Map of SSSI's within 2km of the proposed development Boundary</i>	8
Habitats on site	9
Protected Species	10
<i>Figure 4: Areas of Open Water Within 250m of the Proposed Development</i>	11
Evaluation of Results and Potential Ecological Impact	13
Habitats	13
Protected Species	14
Mitigation and Enhancement	16
Habitat mitigation	16
Protected Species Mitigation	16
Enhancement	16
Conclusion	17
Appendix 1: Photographs	
Appendix 2: Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines for Roost Characteristics	
Appendix 3: Habitat Map	
Appendix 4: HSI Score	

INTRODUCTION

Background

Arborist and Ecological Services Ltd were commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at New Mill, Mill Lane, Halghton. The location of the building is shown in Figure 1 below and has been highlighted with a red outline. The existing agricultural building will be converted into living space and new access will be created to the dwelling, using an existing field access. A preliminary roost assessment was completed in the summer of 2021 by Arborist and Ecological Services. The roost was characterised as low roosting potential, which led to one activity survey being completed on the 21st June 2021.

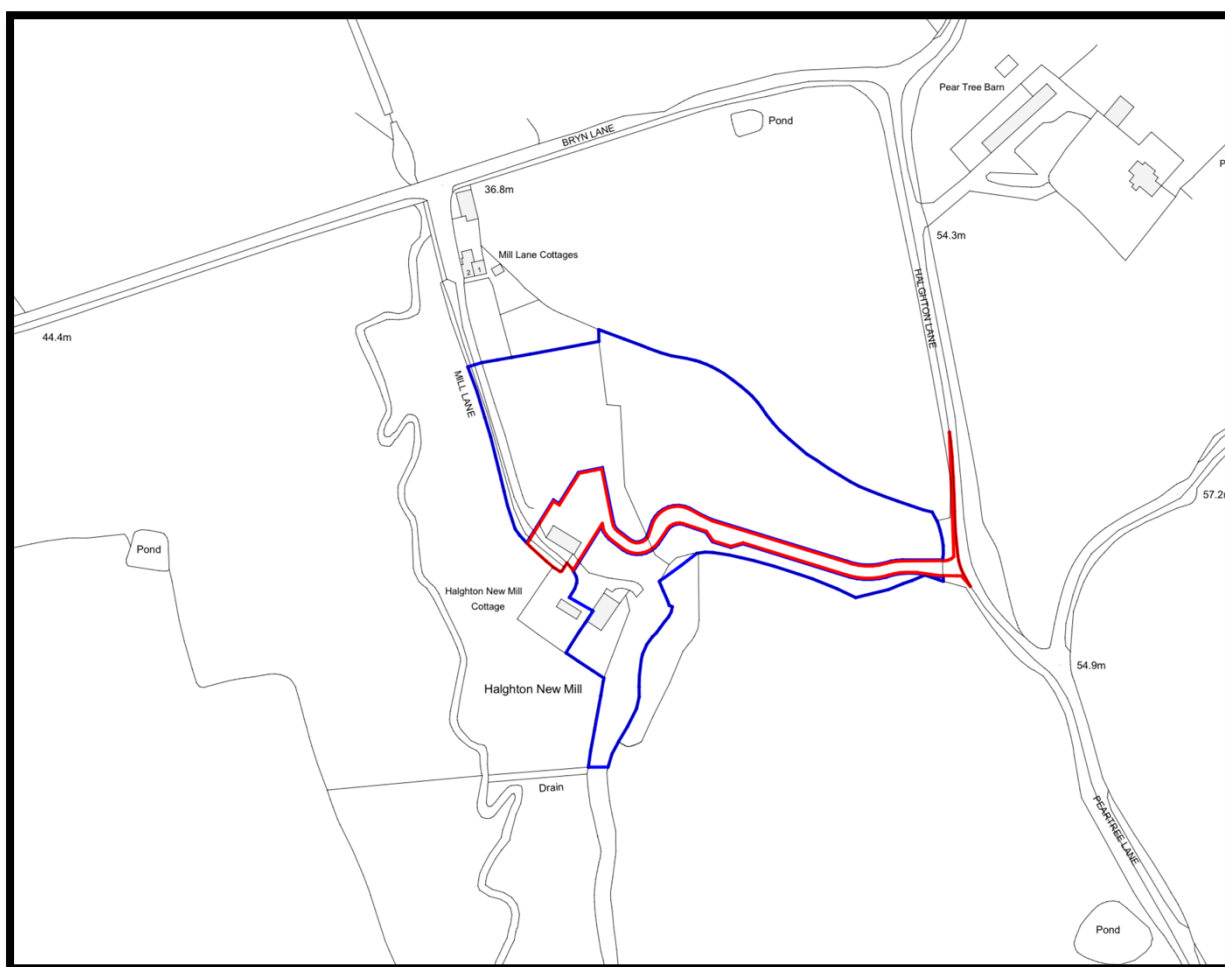


Figure 1: Proposed Layout

Scope of the Survey

This report sets out to establish;

- The ecological condition of the site and identify any potential impacts the scheme may have to existing habitats and protected species, which may be using the site.
- The report will evaluate the potential impacts of the proposals, offer mitigation measures and or, recommend further survey work where necessary.

The conversion of the building and the construction of the new access involves a change to the existing habitats on site. This could potentially cause harm or disturb protected species, if present. The nature of the surrounding habitat indicated that the following species could theoretically be affected by the proposals;

- Badgers
- Bats
- Breeding birds
- Great crested newts
- Otters
- Water vole

KEY PRINCIPLES

Avoidance - Seek options that avoid harm to ecological features (for example, by locating on an alternative site).

Mitigation - Adverse effects should be avoided or minimised through mitigation measures, either through the design of the project or subsequent measures that can be guaranteed – for example, through a condition or planning obligation.

Compensation - Where there are significant residual adverse ecological effects despite the mitigation proposed, these should be offset by appropriate compensatory measures.

Enhancements - Seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity over and above requirements for avoidance, mitigation or compensation.

Constraints and Disclaimers

There were no constraints to the survey being carried out successfully. The conditions on the day of the survey were cold but dry. The beginning of January is not optimal for Ecological Appraisals, however it was deemed acceptable for a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Whilst the surveyor has made every reasonable effort, Arborist and Ecological Services Ltd cannot guarantee that all protected species have been identified and survey results are definitive.

This report has been prepared by Arborist and Ecological Services Ltd for the sole use of the client and in connection with the development/ project described – this report cannot be relied upon by any third party without express written consent from both Arborist and Ecological Services Ltd and the client.

The findings of this report are valid for a maximum of two years from the survey date, however Arborist and Ecological Services Ltd recommend an annual update, owing to potential changes in site conditions/ constraints.

This is a technical report and does not represent legal advice/ opinion.

SITE DESCRIPTION & METHODOLOGY

LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE

The site is located within the hamlet of slightly undulating landscape , Halghton, near Whitchurch. This is surrounded by grassland, hedgerows, trees and scattered mature trees in the wider landscape. The site is in a very rural location with only scattered dwellings within the surrounding area.



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph

PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The following national and local planning policies and legislation affect ecology and provide context for the surveys conducted.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)- as listed in: Schedule 2: European Protected Species of Animals
Schedule 5: European Protected Species of Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)- as listed in:
Schedule 1: Birds Protected by Special Penalties at all times
Schedule 5: Protected Animals
Schedule 8: Protected Plants

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). The

protection of Badgers Act 1992

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC 2006)

National Planning Policy Framework (2018): Policy 15- conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services

METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

A number of data sets were investigated to ascertain the presence of nearby land designations, scheduled sites or protected species. Sources used included, OS Maps, MAGIC and the Forestry Commission Land Information search. Ecological Data Network was not purchased for the purposes of this planning application, given the nature of the site and surrounding habitats.

Visual Inspection

A visit was made to the site on the 6th January 2022 to survey the property. An assessment of the available internal and external habitat the cottage provides, led to consideration of the following protected species:

- Bats
- Breeding birds
- Great crested newts
- Badgers
- Otters
- Water voles

Bats

Any habitats on site such as buildings or old trees, containing cracks and crevices were inspected for any signs of use by roosting bats, from the ground. Trees and buildings with the potential to be affected by the proposals will be categorised using the Bat Conservation Trust: Good Practice Guidelines as high, moderate or low for their potential bat roosting habitat.

Badger

The site and an area within 30 metres (where accessible), of the site was closely searched for the following signs of badger activity: setts, tracks and footprints, latrines, snuffle holes.

Breeding birds

The habitat was assessed in terms of suitability for breeding birds, including any hedgerows, trees or buildings.

Great crested newts

A map and ground search was made for any areas of open water within 250 metres prior to the survey. An assessment was made to determine the suitability of the accessible waterbodies for great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) using a simplified version of the HSI methodology, as developed by Oldham et al (2000). The HSI provides a measure of the likely suitability of a waterbody for supporting newts. Generally, waterbodies with a higher score are more likely to support a breeding population of GCN than those with a lower score. Ten separate attributes are assessed for each waterbody to calculate the suitability of the waterbodies to support GCN:

- Location;
- Pond Area (size in metres 2)
- Permanence (how many times it may dry out in a decade);
- Water quality (invertebrate diversity);

- Shade (percentage of a waterbodies perimeter shaded);
- Fowl (impact of waterfowl if present);
- Fish (impact of fish if present);
- Pond Count (density of ponds within 1km)
- Terrestrial Habitat (quality of surrounding habitat); and
- Macrophages (percentage of surface occupied)

Otters

The brook to the west of the site was walked for approximately 300m, along the section closest to the building. Signs of otters, were searched for along the side of the brook. These included spraint, tracks, prints, feeding signs and holts.

Water Voles

The brook to the west of the site was walked for approximately 300m, along the section closest to the building. Signs of water vole were searched for along the side of the brook. These included droppings, feeding signs, tracks and holes were searched for.

Personnel

The survey was carried out by Zoe Adlington-Munro MSc, MArborA: an ecologist at Arborist and Ecological Services Ltd.

Bat Licence No: 2017-29048-CLS-CLS

Great crested newt licence No: 2015-13749-CLS-CL

SURVEY RESULTS

DESK STUDY

Nature Conservation or other designations

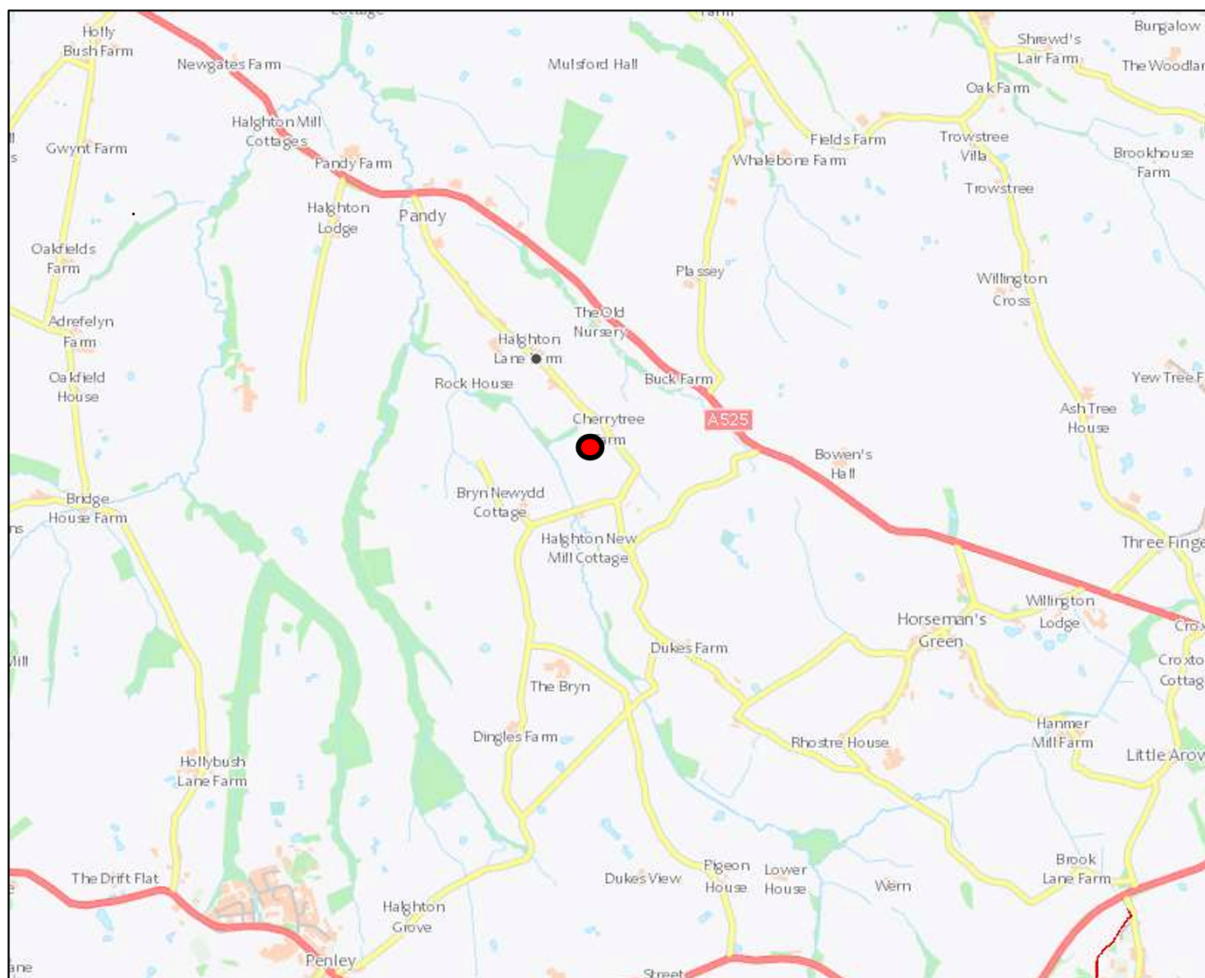


Figure 3: Map of Statutory Designated Sites Within 2km of the Proposed Development Boundary According to the Forestry Commission Land Information Search 2021

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the proposed development boundary. No impact to statutory designated sites are predicted as a result of this planning application.

HABITATS ON SITE

Building

The main habitat affected by the proposals is the small two storey outbuilding which is currently used for storage. This former hatchery will be converted into residential living space.

The building is now used for general storage purposes. There is a timber framed, pitched roof, finished with slate tiles. There is a roof liner present beneath the slates and ridge tiles along the apex. There is potential access into the building via open windows, a number of small holes within the roof, and between the ill-fitting doors. There are a number of gaps beneath the ridge tiles and there are sections of mortar missing between the roof tiles and brick on the gable ends.

The overall condition of the building is fair, however there are a number of potential access points for both bats and birds. The section of the first floor on the south east gable end is in very poor condition, and wasn't accessible on the day of the survey. There were a small number of bat droppings found within the central section of the first floor. These droppings appeared to be concentrated in one place, with only a few scattered droppings around the rest of the building. There were no feeding signs found within the internal space, although the southern end of the first floor could not be thoroughly inspected due to safety.

There was an active robins nest found within the southern end of the building on the ground floor and there were a number of disused swallows nests on both the ground and first floor.

Hedgerows

There are four hedgerows along the site boundaries. A list of the woody species within the hedgerows are listed in Table 1 below. None of the boundary hedgerows are deemed to be 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. There is no hedgerow removal proposed as part of this application.

Table 1: Woody Species Identified in Hedgerows

Hedge No.	Species	Age class
1	Hawthorn	Mature
	Bramble	N/A
2	Field rose	Early mature
	Blackthorn	Early mature
3	Hawthorn	Early mature
	Ash	Young
4	Hawthorn	Mature
	Ash	Mature
	Holly	Early mature

Trees

There are 5 trees within the site boundary. These are listed below, along with any potential roosting features identified in the trees. None of the trees on site are proposed for removal as part of this development.

Table 2: Trees On Site and Roosting Features Associated

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Roosting Features
T1	Oak	Late mature	A number of roosting features identified on this tree. There are large wound sites, one long hazard beam crack along a 1st order limb, major deadwood and ivy. This is classified as having high roosting potential for bats.
G1	Ash, hazel and hawthorn	Early mature	Obscured by dense ivy. No obvious cracks and crevices, but dense ivy is a feature associated with roosting bats. These have low potential for bats.
T2	Oak	Mature	Number of roosting features identified. Knotholes, cavities and deadwood. Classified as having high roosting potential for bats.
T3	Oak	Early mature	Number of roosting features identified. Knotholes, cavities and deadwood. Classified as having high roosting potential for bats.
T4	Oak	Mature	Small number of roosting features identified. Knotholes, cavities and deadwood. Classified as having moderate roosting potential for bats.
T5	Oak	Mature	Number of roosting features identified. Knotholes, cavities and deadwood. Classified as having high roosting potential for bats.

Grassland

There are two fields which will be impacted by the proposed development. Both fields are semi-improved grasslands, with moderate species diversity. They have been used to keep sheep. Species identified within the sward included Yorkshire fog, perennial ryegrass, ribwort plantain, broadleaved dock, knapweed, common selfheal and creeping buttercup.

Scrub

There is an area of scrub along the northern site boundary of field 2. The area of scrub is predominantly bramble and blackthorn and runs along H4 and beneath the canopy of T2 and T3. The area of scrub is very dense and was not accessible during the survey.

HABITATS ON ADJACENT LAND

Areas of Open Water

There are a number of ponds shown on the OS Map adjacent to the building proposed for conversion. These were ponds, used by the former fishery. These ponds are no longer present and all ponds within the yellow line on Figure 4 are no longer present. Pond 2 also contained no water at the time of the survey. No further information about these ponds has therefore been provided.

Pond 1 is located along a boundary hedgerow, within an improved grassland fields. There was 10% submerged vegetation. This HSI Score for Pond 1 is 0.712. Pond 3 is not shown on the OS Map, however, this was found during the site inspection. The pond is surrounded by collapsed willow stems and the water is very turbid and potentially polluted. The stagnant water was very shallow and it is likely that in prolonged periods of drought, there would be no water held here. The area of the pond is only 21m² and The HSI score for this pond is 0.406. Pond 4 is located within an improved grass field, and is bounded by oak and alder trees. There are a population of water fowl living on the pond. The mallard appear to have removed a lot of the submerged vegetation and vegetation along the pond banks. The HSI score for Pond 4 is 0.402, which means the pond provides poor breeding habitat for GCN.

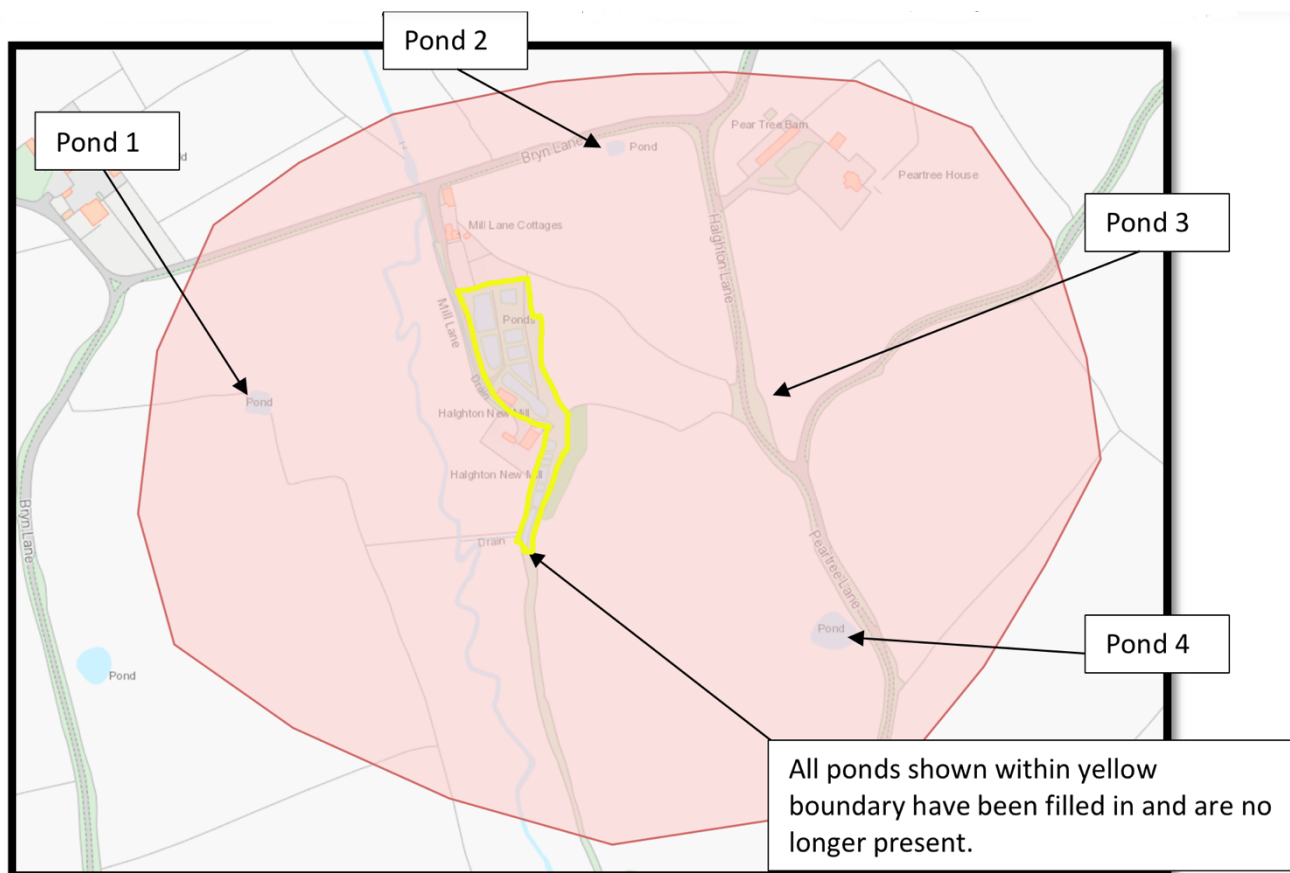


Figure 4: Location of Ponds Within 250m of the Proposed Development Boundary

EVALUATION OF RESULTS AND POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

HABITATS

The results of the preliminary ecological appraisal found that the main habitats affected by the proposals is the former hatchery building and semi-improved grassland fields, which the new access will be taken through.

PROTECTED SPECIES

Bats

There was low roosting potential associated with the small building, which is proposed for conversion. Due to the the low roosting potential, one activity survey was conducted in July 2021. The results of this survey found no bats to be roosting within the building. The building was searched again during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal conducted in January 2022. No fresh droppings or feeding signs within the building were found.

There were a number of mature oak trees along the site boundary which contained features associated with roosting bats in trees. These have been identified and noted in Table 2. None of the trees are proposed for removal as part of this development, therefore no impact to roosting bats is predicted. The semi-improved grassland fields, areas of scrub and boundary trees make this site an ideal foraging area for bats. However, the proposals will not have a significant impact on the foraging suitability of the site. The conversion of the building will be contained to the existing footprint of the building and the parking area and new access will cover approximately 0.1ha of semi-improved grassland. No hedgerow removal is proposed as part of the application, therefore connectivity to wider landscape will be maintained.

Breeding Birds

There is one robin nesting within the ground floor of the former hatchery building. The conversion of the building has the potential to exclude the species from the building. Birds will use all the boundary hedgerows, area of scrub and boundary trees for nesting (beginning of March to the end of August). There is no hedgerow removal proposed on the site, therefore no significant loss of nesting opportunities are predicted. It is recommended that the sealing of the building needs to be done outside the bird nesting season. If this does not fit with time scales, a pre-commencement survey would be required prior to any work beginning on the building.

Great Crested Newts

There are four areas of standing open water within 250m of the proposed development area, one of which contained no water at the time of the survey. Pond 3 and 4 were found to provide poor breeding habitat for great crested newts, however pond 1 was found to provide average breeding habitat for great crested newts. The pond could provide some breeding opportunities for the species, however the brook will provide a barrier to dispersal for GCN from the site. The water is very fast flowing, even in times where there has been very little rain. The water in the brook is deep and has begun to collapse the sides of the river bank through erosion.

Badgers

There is a badger sett entrance marked on the habitat map in the appendices. This is located on a 3m high bank, approximately 2m up the bank. There was only one sett entrance found in the bank. The badgers have caused the entrance along the field to collapse, as they have undermined the ground. The owners of the site informed the surveyor that the sett has been present for over 15 years, with a period of time where the badgers were not using the sett whilst the site was being used as a fishery. The badgers have now returned to the site, and use this sett on occasion, according to the owners. It is likely that this is an outlier sett, rather than a main sett, given its use and size.

The proposed parking area will be located 42m from the sett entrance. The direction of the collapsed embankment indicates the proposed parking area will not impact on the sett. There were mammal tracks found within Field 2. The tracks led across the field, from an area of scrub, through the field and through H3 into the adjacent field. The position of the tracks are showed on Figure 5 below. Although the driveway will cross the tracks within the field, it is not going to prohibit the movement of badgers across the site. It is likely that the badgers are utilising the scrubland and boundary hedgerows for moving around and foraging etc.

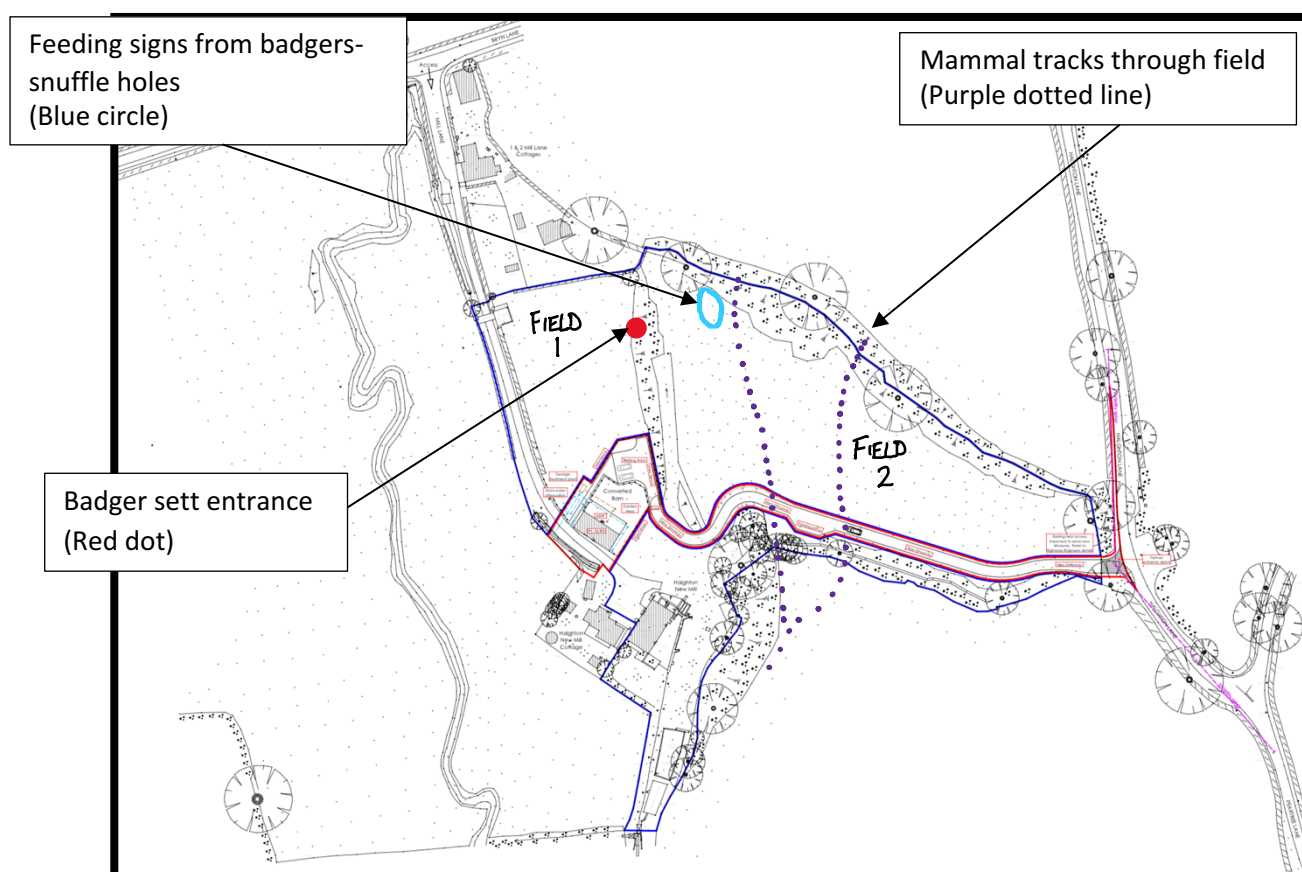


Figure 5: Location of Badger Sett and Mammal Tracks

Otters

There were no signs of otters along the brook. There were no prints seen, spraint or holts found along the banks, which would suggest any otter activity. No impact to the species is predicted as a result of this planning application.

Water vole

There were no signs of water vole. There were no runs found, droppings or feeding signs found along the banks, which would suggest any water vole activity. No impact to the species is predicted as a result of this planning application.

MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT

HABITAT MITIGATION

The conversion of the building and creation of the new access through a semi-improved grass field will only result in very low level impact to habitat on the site.

PROTECTED SPECIES MITIGATION

Bats

No mitigation for the species has been recommended as part of this planning application. The building was not found to support roosting bats, therefore no impact is predicted. The mature and late mature trees on site, which have been classified as having high roosting potential for the species will be retained as part of the application. Therefore no roosting habitat will be removed. The site will provide good foraging habitat for the species. Due to the small scale of the development, the foraging opportunities will not be impacted by the proposals and connectivity to the wider landscape will also be retained, so bat behaviour will not be significantly impacted either.

Breeding birds

The conversion of the building will mean the loss of one birds nest on the ground floor of the building. No hedgerow removal will be required as part of this development. The sealing of the building should be done outside the bird nesting season, to ensure birds are successfully excluded from the building prior to conversion. If this does not fit in with timings, a pre-commencement survey would be required, prior to any work beginning on site. If the species are found to be using this habitat, work would need to wait until the end of the breeding season (March to the end of August). Two small Schwegler bird boxes should be erected on the outside of the converted building, along with two swallow cups.

Great Crested Newts

There was one pond within 250m of the proposed development site which could provide average breeding opportunities for great crested newts. However, due to the fast flowing water course between the pond and the development area, and the presence of an improved grass field, which is regularly cultivated, it is unlikely that the species would be able to access the site, given the barrier to dispersal. For this reason, a Natural England Risk Assessment Tool has been used to calculate the probability of an offence being committed, under the parameters described. The results of which are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment Tool

Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land 100-250m from any breeding	0.01 - 0.1 ha lost or damaged	0.01
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
Maximum:		0.01
Rapid risk assessment result:		GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY

An offence is highly unlikely, given the small scale of the development, the distance from the pond with only average breeding habitat and a significant barrier to dispersal between the site and the pond. There is no hedgerow removal being done for this development, which could destroy potential hibernaculum or sheltering opportunities for the species. For this reason, a Method Statement for the proposed work to the building and the creation of the new access has been recommended. The Method Statement and Reasonable Avoidance Measures should include details for a Toolbox Talk for contractors, the responsibility of the Ecological Clerk of Works, details about when gentle ground searches should be done, vegetation clearance and timing and then details about what to do if a great crested newt is found during the construction phase and contact details in case of emergency.

Badgers

There was one sett entrance located within H1. This appears to be an outlier sett, not in constant use, but is part of a bigger sett, elsewhere in the landscape. It is an active sett and badgers have undermined the field, as the sett entrance is located on a high bank side. The proposed parking area will be located 42m from the sett and is unlikely to result in any significant impact to the sett or its use. The area of scrub and all boundary hedgerows will be retained as part of this development. Badgers using the site will be able to continue to use these corridors to travel across the landscape and these won't be impacted by the proposals. In order to ensure no impact to the sett during the construction phase and for its future use by badgers, a Method Statement and Reasonable Avoidance Measures should be provided for this development. This will include timing of work, details on the Toolbox Talk for contractors, exclusion areas for construction vehicles and what to do in case of a new sett entrance being found etc.

Otters

No mitigation or further survey work for otters has been recommended, as no evidence of the species was found to be associated with the brook.

Water vole

No mitigation or further survey work for water vole has been recommended, as no evidence of the species was identified along the banks of the brook on the day of the survey.

CONCLUSION

The Preliminary Ecological Assessment was conducted in January 2022 at New Mill, Mill Lane in Halghton following the need for additional information being required from Wrexham Council's ecology team. The planning application is for the conversion of small outbuilding, currently used for storage, into residential living space. New access to the building will be created, using an existing field entrance, and taken through a semi-improved grassland field.

The small two storey outbuilding on site proposed for conversion. This led to the consideration of bat potential within the building. A Preliminary Bat Scoping Survey was previously completed in June 2021, which found the small two storey building had low roosting potential for bats. An activity survey was then completed in July 2021, which found no bats to be roosting within the building. Noctules were recorded foraging within the neighbouring field to the west of the site, but will not be impacted by these proposals.

There are a number of mature oak trees along the site boundaries which contain high roosting potential for the species. These trees will be retained as part of the development, therefore no impact to roosting habitat is predicted as a result of this planning application. The construction of the new access will not remove a significant amount of foraging habitat from the landscape and no hedgerow loss is proposed. Connectivity for bats will be retained.

Breeding birds are using the small building for limited nesting opportunities. It is recommended that the building is sealed outside the nesting season (March to the end of August). If timings of works need to start within the nesting season, then a pre-commencement survey will be required. In order to mitigate for the loss of nesting habitat the building provides, two small Schwegler (or similar) and two swallow cups are proposed on the outside of the building.

There was one badger sett entrance found within an embankment, approximately 2m up the bank, within H1. The proposed parking area is 42m from the outlier sett entrance, meaning no impact to the sett is predicted and no detrimental harm to badgers is predicted, providing the work is carried out in a sensitive manner. In order to ensure no impact to badgers occurs and no offence is committed, a Method Statement and Reasonable Avoidance Measures have been recommended for the construction work.

There were four ponds found within 250m of the proposed development boundary. One contained no water at the time of the survey, two of the ponds contain poor breeding habitat for great crested newts, but Pond 1 was found to provide average breeding potential. The pond is located on the west side of the fast flowing brook, separating the pond and the development site. The brook is providing a barrier to dispersal from the pond to the site. For this reason, the Rapid Risk Assessment Tool from Natural England has been used to predict the likelihood of an offence being committed, should newts be using Pond 1. The results of this was found that an offence is highly unlikely. No hedgerow removal is being done either, so no removal of sheltering habitat or hibernacula is predicted. For this reason, a Method Statement and Reasonable Avoidance measures have been recommended.

There was no evidence of otters or water vole along the brook, so no impact to these species is predicted. No further survey work or mitigation for these species are required.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS



Building proposed for conversion



Fast flowing brook



T1- high roosting potential.



Pond 1- average breeding habitat for great crested newts.



Pond 3- Poor breeding habitat for great crested newts.



Tree 4- moderate potential for roosting bats.



Tree 5- high roosting potential



Pond 3- poor breeding potential for GCN



Snuffle holes found within the semi- improved grassland



H3.



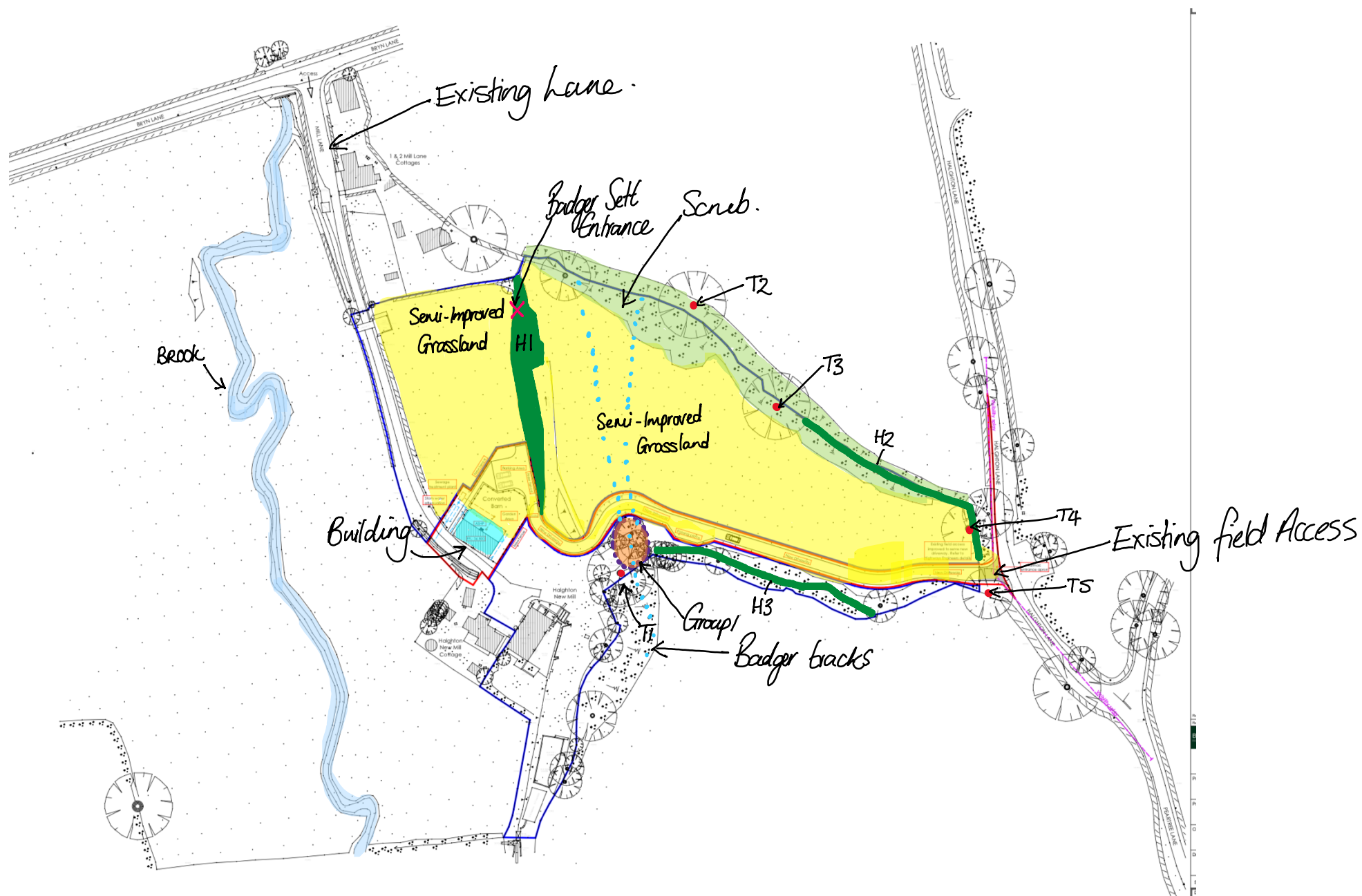
Badger sett entrance.



H1- will be retained.

Semi-improved
grassland

Appendix 2: Habitat Map



Appendix 3: Tables 4.1 and 7.3 from Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines

Table 4.1 Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Suitability	Description Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions^a and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation^b). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.^c	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^a and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^a and surrounding habitat.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

Table 7.3 Recommended minimum number of survey visits for presence/absence surveys to give confidence in a negative result for structures (also recommended for trees but unlikely to give confidence in a negative result).

Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
One survey visit. One dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey^a (structures). No further surveys required (trees).	Two separate survey visits. One dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. ^b	Three separate survey visits. At least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. The third visit could be either dusk or dawn. ^b

^a Structures that have been categorised as low potential can be problematic and the number of surveys required should be judged on a case-by-case basis (see Section 5.2.9). If there is a possibility that quiet calling, late-emerging species are present then a dawn survey may be more appropriate, providing weather conditions are suitable. In some cases, more than one survey may be needed, particularly where there are several buildings in this category.

^b Multiple survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period (see Table 7.1) as possible; it is recommended that surveys are spaced at least two weeks apart, preferably more. A dawn survey immediately after a dusk one is considered only one visit.

Appendix 4: HSI Scores

Habitat Suitability Index assessment									
Site		New Mill Halghton					Date	06.01.2022	
Pond 1								Score	HSI.
1	Location								1
2	Pond Area								0.2
3	Pond drying								0.5
4	Water quality								0.33
5	Shade								1
6	Fowl								0.67
7	Fish								0.67
8	Number of ponds within 1km								1
9	Terrestrial Habitat								0.9
10	Macrophytes								0.5
							Product	0.03333	
							HSI score	0.712	
Pond suitability for great crested newts is					Good				

Habitat Suitability Index assessment									
Site		New Mill Halghton					Date		06.01.2022
Pond 3									
							Score	HSI.	
1	Location								1
2	Pond Area								0.05
3	Pond drying								0.1
4	Water quality								0.01
5	Shade								1
6	Fowl								0.67
7	Fish								0.67
8	Number of ponds within 1km								1
9	Terrestrial Habitat								0.9
10	Macrophytes								0.3
							Product	0.00012	
							HSI score		0.406
Pond suitability for great crested newts is					Poor				

Habitat Suitability Index assessment									
Site		New Mill Halghton					Date	06.01.2022	
Pond 4									
							Score	HSI.	
1	Location								1
2	Pond Area								0.5
3	Pond drying								0.5
4	Water quality								0.33
5	Shade								1
6	Fowl								0.01
7	Fish								0.67
8	Number of ponds within 1km								1
9	Terrestrial Habitat								0.33
10	Macrophytes								0.3
						Product	0.00011		
						HSI score	0.402		
Pond suitability for great crested newts is					Poor				