



**Rolvenden Primary School, Hastings Road,  
Rolvenden, Kent.**

**Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

April 2025



Client	Construction Associates
Job title	Rolvenden Primary School
Job number	0701
Date	25/04/2025

	Name	Position	Date
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### **Declaration of compliance**

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

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
1.1 Aims of Study .....	1
1.2 Site Location .....	1
1.3 Site Description .....	2
1.4 Proposed Works.....	2
1.5 BNG calculation .....	2
2. Methods .....	3
2.1 Desktop Survey.....	3
2.2 Field Survey .....	3
2.2.1 Extended Habitat Survey.....	3
3. Habitat Survey: Results and Assessment.....	4
3.1 Desktop Survey .....	4
3.2 UK Hab Habitat Survey .....	7
4 Protected species likelihood, assessment and recommendations .....	12
5. Conclusions .....	18
6. References .....	21

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Aims of Study

Denny Ecology was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment for the proposed development site at Rolvenden Primary School (from hereon referred to as 'the Site') in April 2025.

This report details the methods and results of the PEA survey and assesses these results in relation to the potential ecological effects of the proposed development. The BNG elements of work are presented in the accompanying BNG Statement (see section 1.5 below).

## 1.2 Site Location

The Site is located on the south-west edge of the village of Rolvenden, which is in the south of the county of Kent, approximately 20km south-west of Ashford and 20km north-east of Hastings. At What3words location: ///remaining.intention.chefs

It is located within the largely pastoral High Weald area, with some pocket of arable farming and numerous small woods and hedgerows.

The Local Authority is Ashford Borough Council.

The location of the Site and red line boundary is shown in Figure 1.1 below. The proposed Site layout plan is given in Figure 1.2 below.

**Figure 1.1 Site location plan**



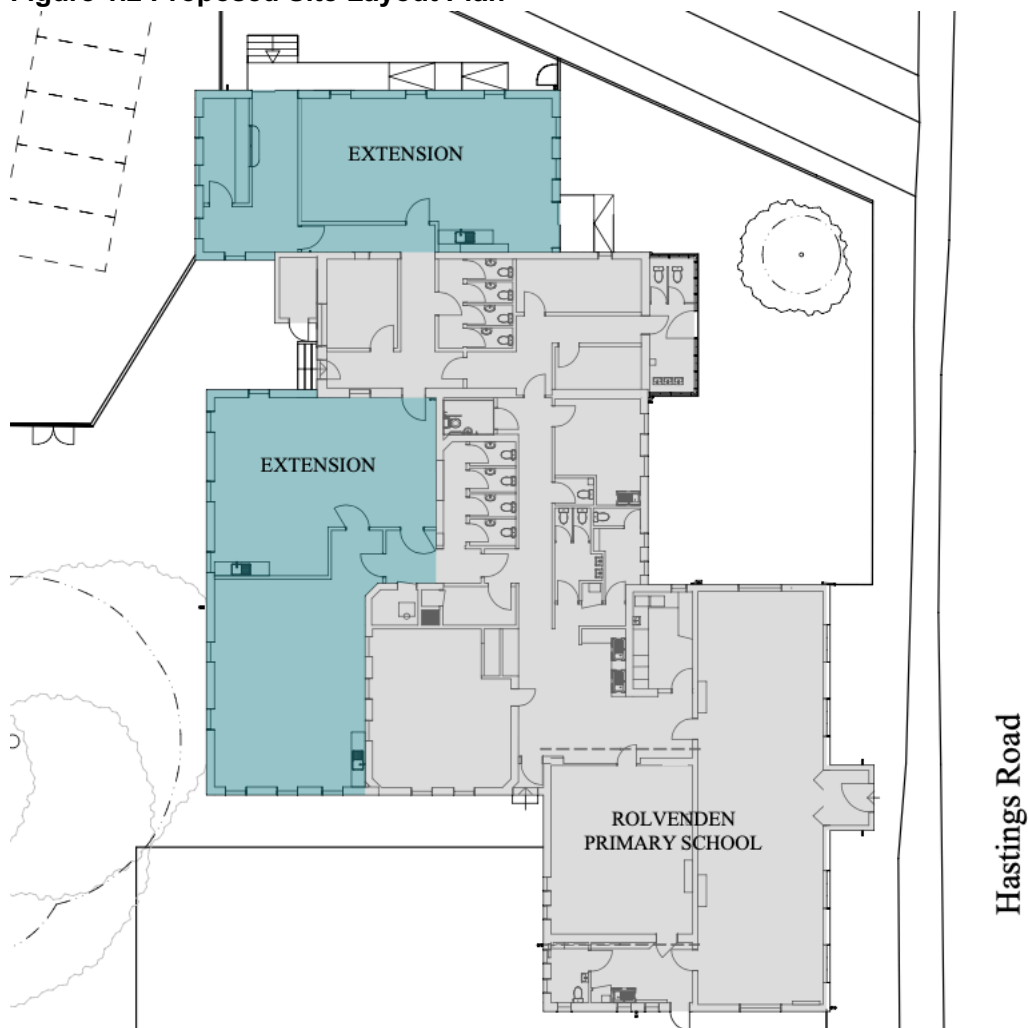
### 1.3 Site Description

The Site is the village primary school, comprising the main single-storey, Victorian brick building, two portacabins and a brick outbuilding. Much of the site is asphalt playground, with some shrub beds and small trees, and larger trees in the west corner of the Site. There is a small pond constructed using a butyl liner. To the north is a large amenity grass playing field.

### 1.4 Proposed Works

The proposals are to demolish the outbuilding and two portacabins and replace with an integral flat-roof, single-storey extension to the main building, on the north and west elevations. The proposed development layout plan is shown in Figure 1.2 below, with the new extensions shaded blue. Note these will be flat-roofed and will key into the existing building below eaves height. Figure 1.1 above shows the buildings to be removed outlined in dashed lines.

**Figure 1.2 Proposed Site Layout Plan**



### 1.5 BNG calculation

As this proposal forms a full planning application, it is subject to the statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021. A separate statement has been prepared detailing the BNG methods, results and conclusions (Denny Ecology 2025: filename 0658\_04-02-25\_BNG-statement\_de-ca). The plan is for the BNG compensation and enhancement measures to be delivered on-site.

## **2. Methods**

### **2.1 Desktop Survey**

A web-based search was undertaken for details of statutory designated sites, and existing protected and notable species records within 2km of the site, including records of great crested newt (GCN) Pond Survey results (2017-2019) and licence returns (Natural England). Natural England's MAGIC website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)) was used.

The site and surrounding area (500m radius) were searched for Priority Habitats. This was also undertaken using Natural England's MAGIC website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)).

Potential development impact zones around statutory designated sites were assessed using the Natural England MAGIC website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)) and its Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) tool.

In addition, the OS 1:10,000 map of the area, and an aerial photograph on Google Earth (Google Inc 2011), were examined to determine the possible habitats present on, and adjacent to the Site, and to search for ponds near to the Site, within a 250m buffer, to assess potential for breeding amphibians to disperse to the Site.

Given the small scale of the proposed development, it was considered unnecessary to request records from the Environmental Records Centre.

### **2.2 Field Survey**

The survey was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Light levels were suitable for assessing building elevations for potential bat roost features, and habitats, and visibility was good. The main roof void was accessed and checked for evidence of bat occupation, and for its potential to support roosting bats. A small void above a lean-to roof on the east aspect was also accessed and checked. The void above the northern-most existing classroom, formed from a false ceiling, could not be accessed. Roof voids to the southern areas of the building were not inspected, as these sections are located far enough away from the proposed works to not be subject to any likely impacts.

The survey was completed by Dr Matthew Denny, who is a full member of CIEEM with over 35 years of experience as an ecologist and holds Natural England licences for bats (Level 2) and great crested newts. He was assisted by ecologist, Susie Dighton-Brown.

#### **2.2.1 Extended Habitat Survey**

All areas of the Site were walked and assessed to categorise habitats present in these areas, using the UK Habitats classification (UKHab Ltd, 2023). The whole Site was accessible and was walked as part of the survey, although one roof void could not be accessed, and some others were not inspected due to being outside the predicted impact zone, as mentioned above.

In addition, evidence of, and potential for, habitats to support protected species and other species of importance, was recorded, and general potential ecological constraints for the proposed development were assessed according to standard survey methodology (CIEEM, 2017).

Buildings on the Site were assessed for potential to support roosting bats, following methods recommended by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins, J. (ed), 2023). Buildings and vegetation were also assessed for suitability for nesting birds, and habitats were assessed for their potential to support amphibians, reptiles, badgers, dormice and other protected species.

## 3. Habitat Survey: Results and Assessment

### 3.1 Desktop Survey

#### *Statutory Designated Sites*

There are no statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 2km.

Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are used to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risk to SSSIs posed by development proposals. The Site falls within an IRZ where a harmful effect on a SSSI is deemed unlikely, and does not trigger a requirement for further consultation with Natural England. The IRZ tool returned the following advice:

**You do not need to consult Natural England on the proposed development at this location.**

The Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI IRZs) indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on terrestrial Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites that they underpin.

Therefore, you do not need to consult Natural England on the likely impacts of development on terrestrial SSSIs and the SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that they underpin.

#### *Non-statutory Designated Sites*

The Records Centre was not contacted so this information is not available. This is not considered to be a limitation (see Sections 1.3 and 1.4 above).

#### *Priority Habitats*

Priority Habitats are defined under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance.

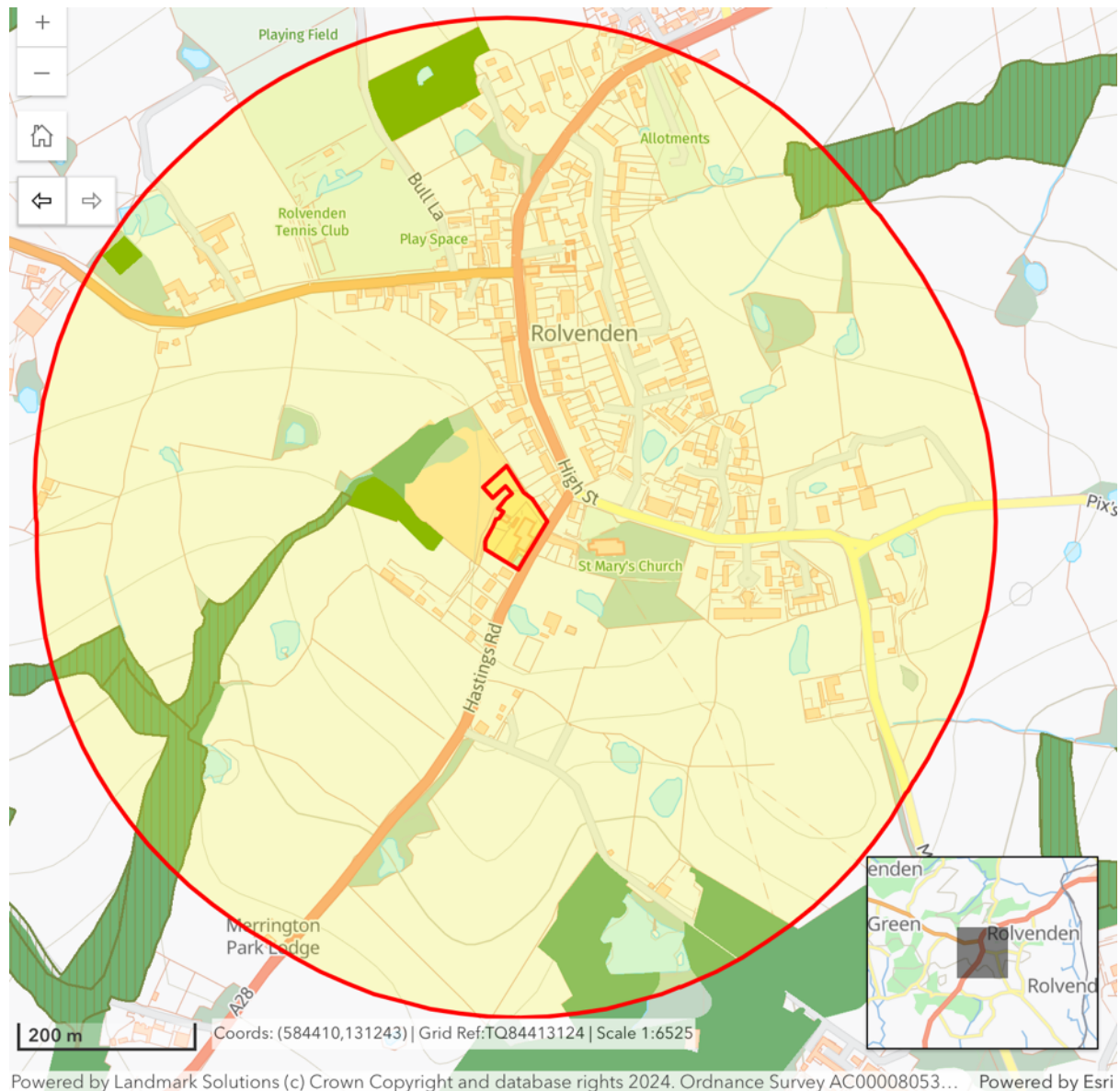
There are no Priority Habitats within the Site boundary, and the following are present within 500m of the Site:

- 3no Ancient Woodland parcels;
- 3no Deciduous Woodland parcels;
- 3no Traditional Orchard parcels

These are mapped in Figure 3.1 below and detailed in Appendix 4 of the accompanying BNG Statement.

These are all far enough from the Site to be considered unlikely to be affected by the proposals.

**Figure 3.1 Map of Priority Habitats within 500m (yellow-shaded buffer) of the Site (central red-bordered polygon).**



Key:

Light green = Traditional orchard

Dark green = Deciduous woodland

Dark green hatched vertical brown = Ancient & semi-natural woodland

### **Recommendations for Priority Habitats – None**

#### *Great crested newts (GCNs)*

There are eight ponds within 250m of the Site (see Figure 3.2) as marked on the OS map, and one unmapped, but known to be present within the Site. The general area has a high ponds density as can be seen in Figure 3.3. There are also four records of GCN presence close by: these are 310m, 405m, 505m and 605m north of the Site (Figure 3.3), and refer to records from 2015 held on the Natural England survey licence return database held on the magic website. Also held on this database is a record of a GCN mitigation licence held between 2015-2017 for the damage and destruction of a resting place (terrestrial habitat) 500m to the north-west.

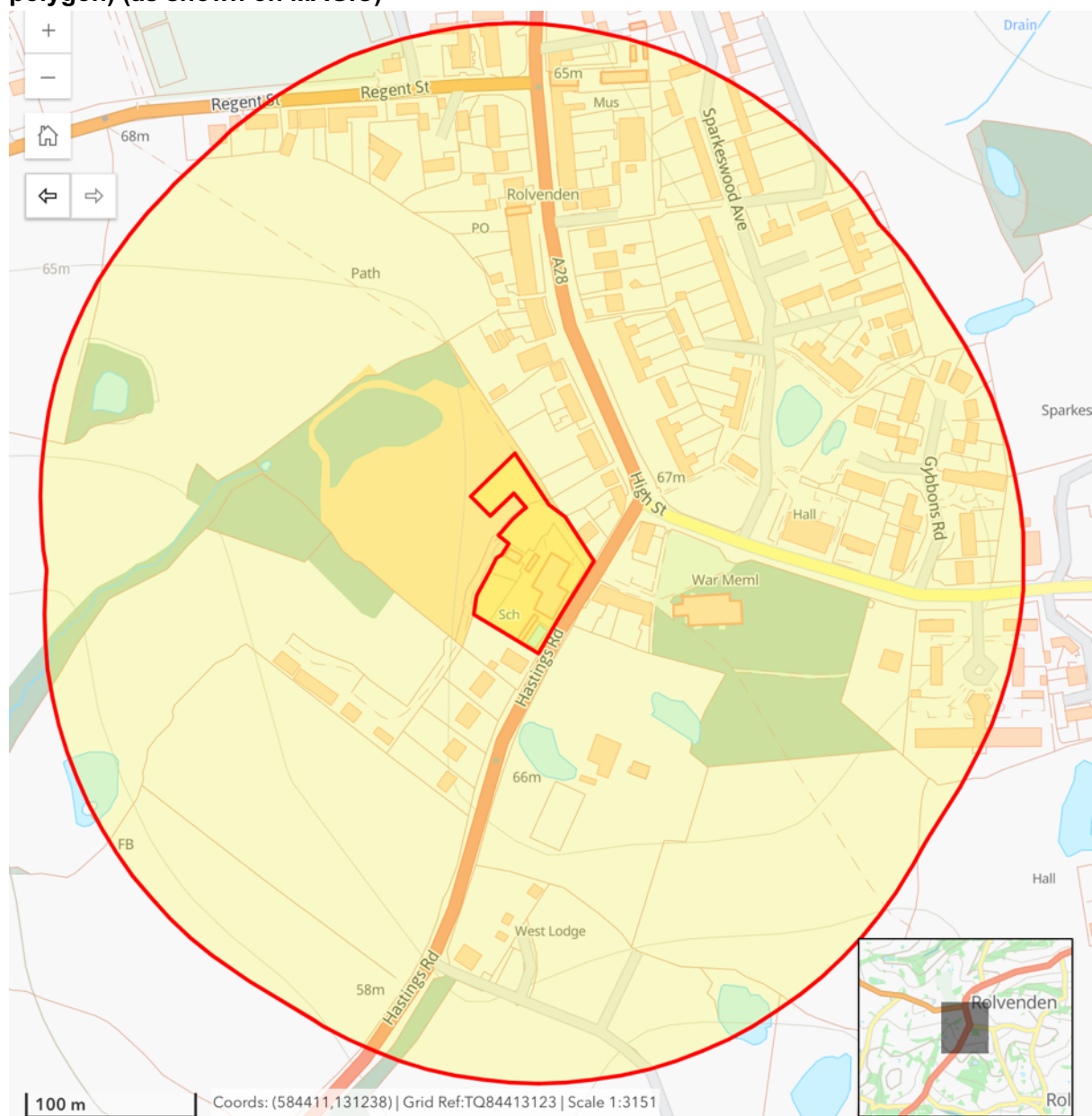
### Bats

There are three bat mitigation licence held on the MAGIC database within 2km: 605m west and 660m south-east, both for brown long-eared bat (BLE) and common pipistrelle resting places in 2015 and 2011, respectively; 1,560m north-east, for a BLE breeding roost in 2011.

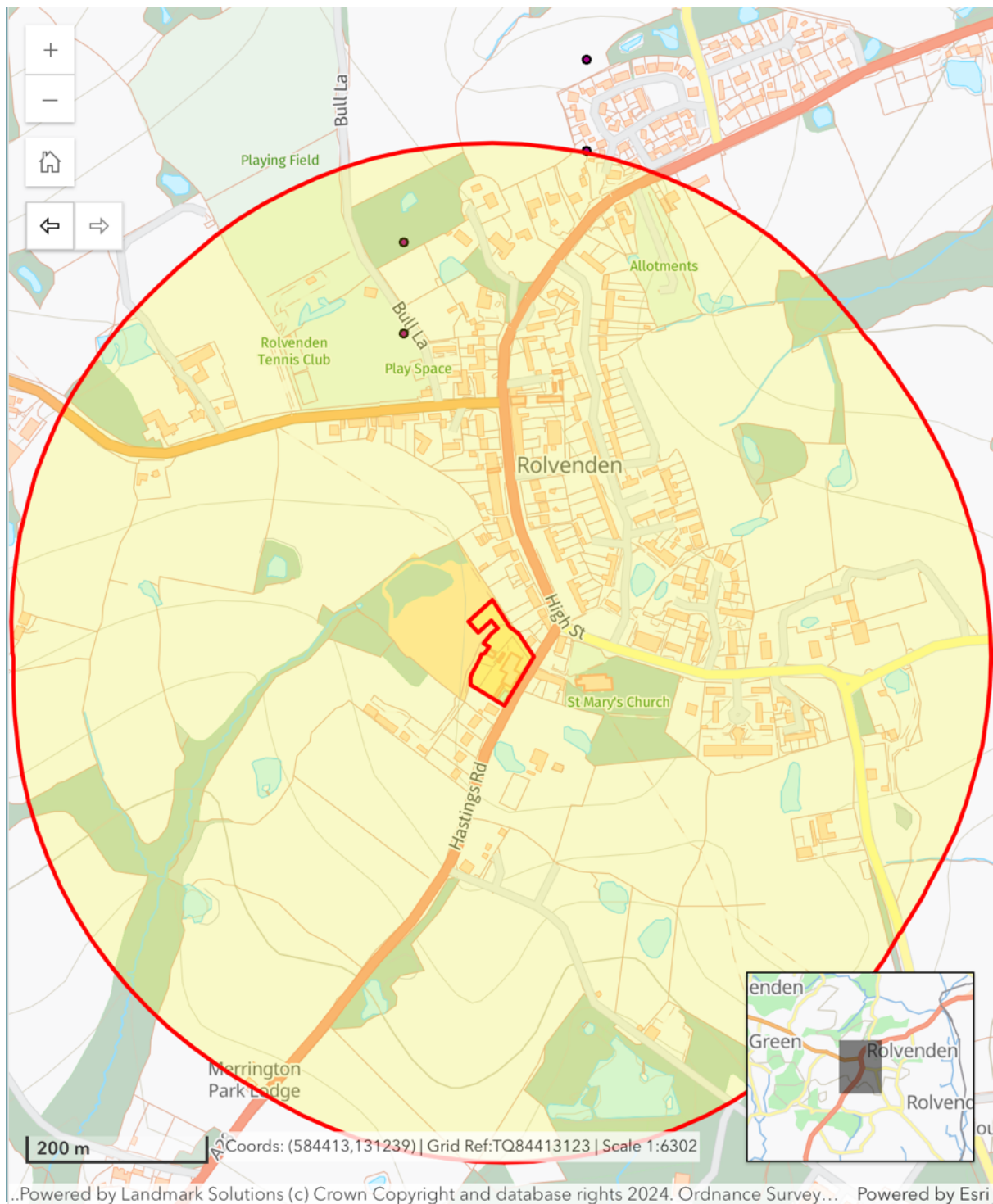
### Dormice

The MAGIC database holds a record for a dormouse mitigation licence 500m to the north/north-east, to damage and destroy both breeding and resting habitat.

**Figure 3.2 Ponds within 250m (yellow-shaded buffer) of the Site (central red-bordered polygon) (as shown on MAGIC)**



**Figure 3.3 Ponds and great crested newt records (pink circles) within and just beyond 500m (yellow shaded buffer) of the Site (central red-bordered polygon) (as shown on MAGIC)**



### 3.2 UK Hab Habitat Survey

Existing habitats within the site boundary are buildings and hardstanding (developed land; sealed surface), modified grassland, artificial grass, bare ground, pond, ruderal / ephemeral vegetation, introduced shrubs, trees and an 17m section of ornamental non-native hedgerow. Photos of some

of these habitats are presented in the accompanying BNG Statement. These habitats are mapped in the UKHab habitat plan in Figure 3.4, below.

***Developed land; sealed surface***

The majority of the Site is hardstanding and buildings, much of which will be retained. Small areas around the existing main school building will change from hardstanding to building, resulting in no change to the UKHab habitat type. Three outbuildings to the north of the existing main school building are to be removed, two to be made into vegetated garden (total area 330m<sup>2</sup>), the other into hardstanding.

***Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface***

In the western corner of the Site is an area of fake grass/felt blanket cut around five interspersed trees. The ground beneath is believed to be soil. We categorised this as artificial unsealed surface. It will be retained

***Introduced shrubs***

There is a small area of shrub/ very small trees to the north-east of the existing main school building, comprising the trees/group numbered G1 and T4-T8 in the accompanying tree report. These shrubs will be lost to the development.

Species recorded:

- Tutsan
- Common Hazel
- Rose spp
- Taiwanese Photinia
- Siberian Dogwood
- Japanese Pagoda Tree
- Purple Toadflax

***Unvegetated garden***

To the east of the existing main school building are raised bed areas of wood chip and bare ground, mainly along the school perimeter fence line. Some of this area will be lost to the development. There are two other areas of this habitat: one north-west of the existing school car park, to be lost to the development; the other east of the pond, to be retained.

***Ruderal / ephemeral***

There is a small area of this sparse habitat west of the pond, to be retained.

Species recorded:

- Ivy-leaved speedwell
- Mock Strawberry
- Cut-leaved dead nettle
- Stinking Iris
- Purple dead nettle
- Stinging nettle

***Modified Grassland***

The modified grassland, forming the south-east corner of the field to the north-east of the school, was found to be in poor condition (see Condition Assessment sheet in Appendix 2), with a high cover of moss species indicating this area has been / is subject to compaction.

Much of this area is where the temporary car parking will be located, which will utilise the following rubber matting to minimise direct damage and compaction to the grassland for up to 52 weeks

from March 2025:

Heavy Duty Rubber Grass Mats for Car Parks Playground Safety Mats – Rubber Co

The south-east section of the field will form the on-site BNG enhancement area. The modified grassland will be enhanced to other neutral grassland, by scarifying and sowing wildflower lawn mixture with a high content of yellow rattle (a hemiparasitic species, hosting on, and helping to outcompete coarse grasses. This allows other less competitive species to increase, thus increasing the condition and diversity of the grassland overall. This grassland can either be cut frequently, or left to grow for variable amounts of time, depending on the amenity and management requirements. All arisings from cutting should be removed from the area and composted to prevent nutrient deposition over time, which favours more competitive plant species.

Species recorded in 4no 1m<sup>2</sup> quadrats:

1.

- Perennial rye-grass (dominant)
- Moss sp (not vascular plant)
- Common Selfheal
- Common Yarrow
- Cock's-foot
- Common Chickweed
- Rough Hawkbit

2.

- Perennial rye-grass (dominant)
- White Clover
- Moss sp
- Common Daisy
- Cock's-foot

3.

- Perennial rye-grass (dominant)
- Moss sp.
- Ribwort Plantain
- White Clover
- Mouse Ear Chickweed
- Common Daisy

4.

- Perennial rye-grass (dominant)
- Creeping Buttercup
- Dandelion
- Rough Hawkbit
- Mouse Ear Chickweed
- White Clover

Average no. vascular species – 5

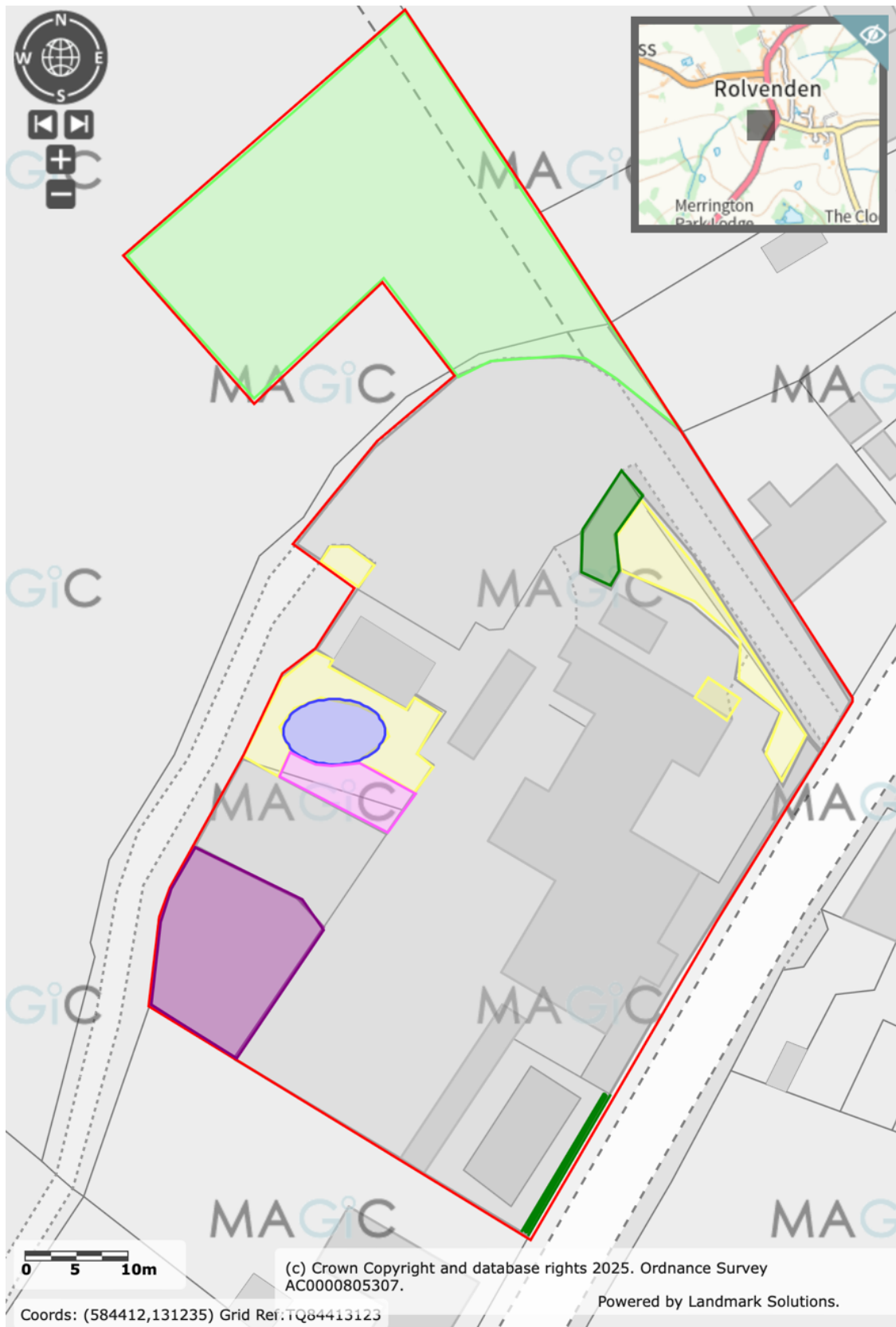
***Ornamental non-native hedgerow***

There is a 17m length of this hedgerow along the western end of the southern Site boundary. This was dominated by non-native ornamental species.

Species recorded:

- Holm oak
- Scarlet Firethorn
- Common Holly (c.20%)

Figure 3.4. UK Habitat map of Site (scale 1:500)



### ***Trees***

There are five small (<30cm DBH), seven medium (≥30<60cm), and 2 large (≥60<90cm DBH) sized trees within the application area. This differs from the trees recorded in the tree survey report, as five medium-sized trees in the north-west corner of the Site were not included in the tree survey, and three very small trees (<15cm DBH; numbered T6-T8 in the tree report), which were in a group of shrubs, were recorded separately in the tree survey, but included in the shrub group in this assessment.

Four small trees (T1, T4, T5 & T12) are to be removed to facilitate development. All medium-sized and large trees are to be retained.

### ***Pond***

This is a small ornamental pond, formed from a butyl liner. It is shallow (estimated max depth 50cm), with almost no aquatic macrophyte growth, is heavily choked with fallen leaf and other natural debris and is heavily shaded by the surrounding trees (Photo 11). There were numerous common frog tadpoles seen in the pond during the survey. The ponds habitat value was low due to the lack of aquatic vegetation, and relatively poor water quality from rotting leaf matter and other debris. It's potential to support great crested newts is considered separately below.

### ***Habitat valuation***

The semi-mature and mature trees within the Site have low to moderate ecological value at the Local scale. All other habitats have low or negligible ecological value at the Local scale.

## 4 Protected species likelihood, assessment and recommendations

### Bats

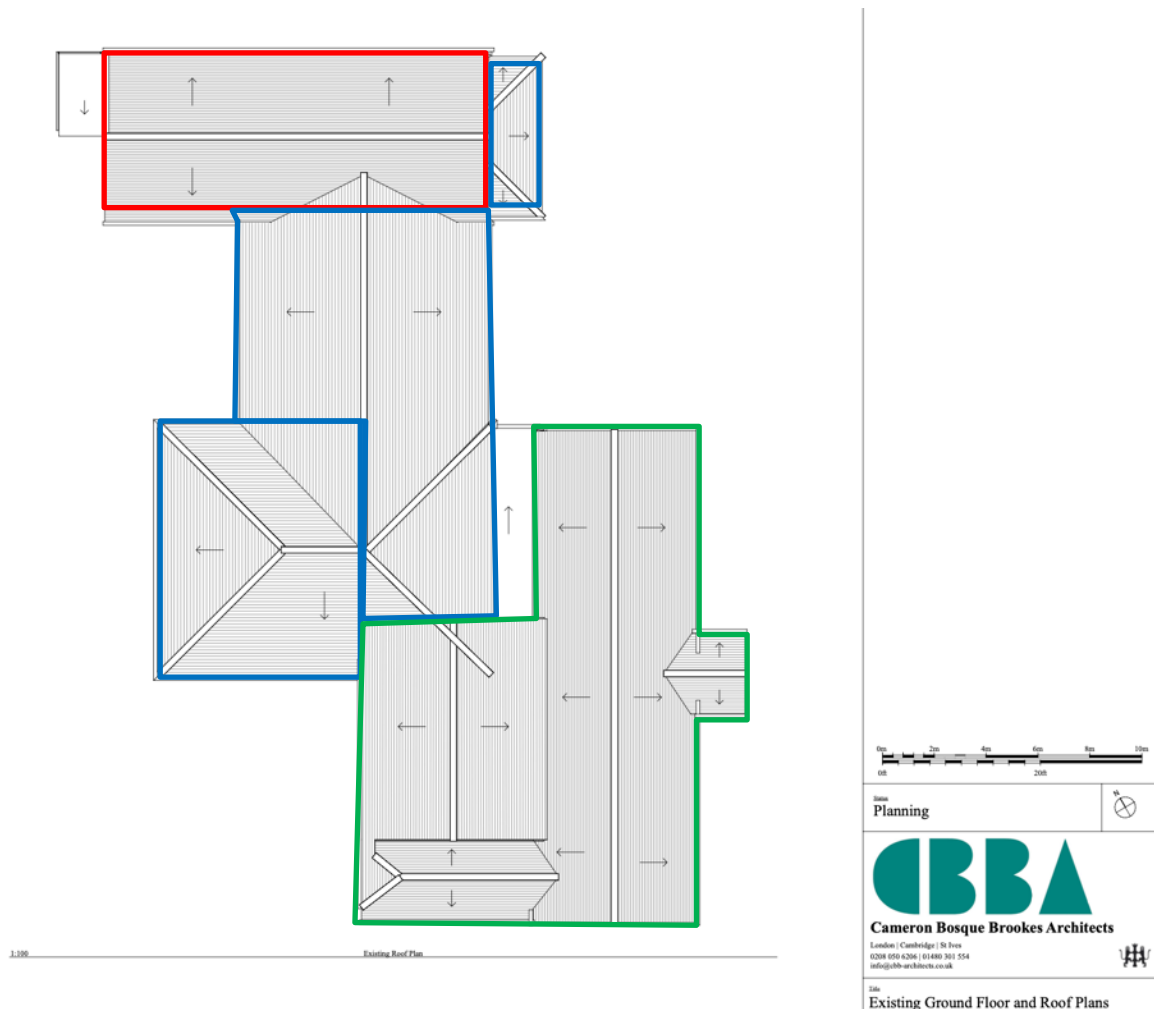
#### Trees

None of the trees on Site had potential to support roosting bats, but they do have potential to support foraging and commuting bats. They are to be retained, but care should be taken to ensure there is no light-spill onto them from artificial light. No existing external lighting of the areas with trees was apparent during the survey, and the removal of the portacabins and outbuilding, present an opportunity to reduce existing ambient light from internal lighting in the north-western area of the Site. Recommendations for lighting are presented below.

#### Buildings

The internal inspection of the main roof void found it to comprise two inter-connected voids: a large void over most of the main building, and a smaller void over the part jutting out to the west. A separate very small roof void to the eastern lean-to was also inspected. The void about the north-eastern section was not accessible as described above. Voids in the southern section were not surveyed as the development proposals will not impact them. Roof voids are marked in Figure 4.1.

**Figure 4.1. Roof voids of main building inspected during the survey. Blue outline = voids accessed and inspected; red outline = void not accessible; green outline = voids not inspected as no impact predicted**



The main roof voids were approximately 2.5m to apex, the frame was modern machine-cut wood, and the roof was all tightly sealed with modern, foil-backed membrane, with ventilation gaps to ridge tiles tightly sealed (see photos 1 & 2). Scattered mouse droppings were found, but no evidence of bat presence, and no potential external access for bats was noted, with no external light-spill noted when torches were extinguished within the roof voids. There were no suitable roosting features within these main roof spaces.

The small roof void to the lean-to on the eastern aspect was small (1m ht, 2m width, 5m length) with a traditional 1F felt lining but also plenty of rock-wall insulation (Photo 3). This lining is favoured by bats, but where the rock-wall insulation is present bats will avoid, and no evidence of bat occupation was found, with no external access was noted. The small dimensions are not conducive to internal use by roosting bats. As this void will not be impacted by the proposed works, it does not need to be considered further.

The inaccessible roof void to the northern section was formed from a false ceiling (see Photo 4). There was a possible access hole into this void from the eastern gable wall, although at the time of survey this was being used by a nesting starling (Photo 5) – see below. There were no other potential external access points to this void noted during the survey, with the northern eaves and roof verges of the gable walls being tight fitting – see below. All works impacting this section of the building will be below eaves level, and therefore the roof void and any potential access points will not be directly impacted, so no further surveys for this section of the building are recommended.



Photo 1. Main roof void with machine-cut timber framework, sealed foil-backed insulated roof lining and rock-wall floor insulation

Foil-backed insulation tightly sealed around ridge tile ventilation apertures



Photo 3. 1F felt lining to roof and partial rock-wall insulation to roof void above east aspect lean-to section



Photo 4. False ceiling to northern section of building, with no access into roof void above



Photo 5. Hole in brickwork to east elevation of northern section of building, where starling was nesting – note abundant bird dropping evidence, indicating frequent and intense use by nesting birds



Photo 6. Tight-fitting soffits to western aspect of main building, with cobwebs evident in few very narrow gaps



Photo 7. Brickwork cracks on north-east elevation of main building, found on close-inspection to be too shallow (<3cm) to support roosting bats



Photo 8. North elevation of main building, with a few gaps under tiles, but no gaps in brickwork, no soffits, and no access to internal void at eaves level



Photo 9. Brick outbuilding with flat, concrete felt-covered roof. Note no gaps or other potential bird nesting or bat roosting features



Photo 10. Flat felt roof to portacabins, damaged on one corner, forming a limited cavity. This had minimal bat roost potential, but some bird nesting potential. Direct torchlight inspection found no evidence of bird nesting or bat presence at the time of survey



Photo 11. On-site ornamental pond, choked with leaf debris and heavily shaded



Photo 12. Debris surrounding and under portacabins near to pond, to be checked and cleared under ECoW supervision prior to portacabin demolition

The external inspection noted the following potential roost features:

- Hole in brickwork on eastern gable wall of main building, with active starling nest at time of survey (Photo 5)
- Few gaps under tiles on northern elevation of main building (Photo 8)
- Gap in damaged roof felting on corner portacabin (very low potential) (Photo 10)

Overall, there was minimal bat roosting potential on any of the buildings (Photos 6-9). The only feature to be directly impacted by the proposed development is the damaged portacabin corner (Photo 10). As this had only very low potential and was fully inspected on the survey, no further survey is required of this. The other potential features noted are all being retained and will not be directly impacted by the proposed works.

### Recommendations for bats –

- **Lighting** - A sensitive lighting plan should be produced to ensure that the lighting for the new development is done with bats and other nocturnal wildlife in mind. This should ensure that retained trees in the south of the Site, neighbouring buildings and the woodland to the south and west are all fully protected from any additional light spill as a result of the proposed development.
- **ECoW supervision** – Before removal of the portacabins, the damaged area of the roof should be inspected by a qualified ecologist prior to demolition, and this area should be carefully dismantled by hand under ECoW supervision.

### Badgers and other mammals

No evidence of badger or hedgehog was found on the Site. It is possible that both are present in the wider area and may use the habitats on the Site, although existing access for badgers is likely to be limited by the perimeter fencing/hedges.

### Recommendations for hedgehog and other mammals -

- **Construction phase measures** - During work, any pits left overnight should either be covered or boarding should be placed to allow an escape route for any animals falling.

**Retain and improve permeability for wildlife** - Maintain existing permeable boundaries to the Site. Create new gaps 13cm x 13cm in the base of any new/replaced fencing and walls.

### Birds

The hedgerows, trees, shrubs and buildings on the Site provide opportunities for nesting, foraging and roosting birds. A starling was recorded nesting in a hole on the eastern gable wall of the northern section of the school building (Photo 5). However, proposed works will not impact this nest-site, nor any other potential nest-sites on buildings.

Recommendations are made to avoid direct impacts to any nesting birds and replace loss of hedgerow nesting habitat.

### Recommendations for nesting birds -

- **Avoid nesting bird season** – Remove vegetation outside of nesting bird season (taken to be March to August, inclusive).
- **Pre-works checks if needed**- If removal outside nesting bird season is not possible, then an ecologist will need to carry out a check for nesting birds no more than 24 hours prior to the vegetation removal/clearance and demolition of the portacabins – as detailed for bats above. Any active nests found will need to be left with an appropriate buffer of habitat around them, until the chicks have fledged.
- **Replacement nest provision** – Replacement nesting opportunities in the form of 2no nest boxes should be provided on retained trees within the ownership boundary (see below for details)

### **Great crested newts and other amphibians**

The pond within the Site was surveyed for its suitability for great crested newts (GCNs) (see Photo 11), using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) methods (Oldham et al. 2000).

The results of this survey are presented in Table 4.1, and indicate that the pond is of poor suitability for GCNs, with a score of 0.45. Therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that it supports GCNs. However, given the high density of ponds in the local landscape, and known local GCN populations, there is a very small possibility that the odd individual GCN may be present on the Site.

There are suitable GCN terrestrial habitats present around and under the portacabins to be removed, in the form of debris (Photo 12), and these may provide shelter for GCNs.

**Table 4.1 Results of HSI score for offsite (adjacent) woodland pond**

SI <sub>1</sub>		SI <sub>2</sub>		SI <sub>3</sub>		SI <sub>4</sub>		SI <sub>5</sub>		SI <sub>6</sub>	
Location		Pond Area		Pond Drying		Water Quality		Shade		Fowl	
Zone A	1	50-100m <sup>2</sup>	0.1	Dries Annually	0.1	Poor	0.33	86-90%	0.4	Absent	1
SI <sub>7</sub>		SI <sub>8</sub>		SI <sub>9</sub>		SI <sub>10</sub>		Product	HSI	Suitability	
Fish		Ponds*		Terrestrial Habitat		Macrophytes					
Absent	1	>12	1	Moderate	0.67	6-10%	0.4	0.00035	0.4517	Poor	

\*within 1km radius

### **Recommendations for great crested newts –**

#### **Pre-works search:**

- An ecologist to search the area around the portacabins prior to works commencing, to check no amphibians, including GCN, are present. They should also supervise the removal of the portacabins as there is some potential refuge/cover underneath. Any amphibians found can be moved to retained woodland to the south of the Site. In the event of GCN being found on the Site, an ecologist will decide the best course of action.

#### **Construction phase measures:**

- During construction, any pits left overnight should either be securely covered or boarding should be placed to allow an escape route for any animals falling in. This must be done at the end of each day.
- During construction, avoid creating piles of vegetation and debris which could be used as refuges by amphibians.
- Any materials kept on the Site overnight should be stored off of the ground eg on pallets or in sealed packaging.

### **Reptiles**

It is considered very unlikely that reptiles will be present in habitats on the Site.

### **Dormice**

There are no suitable habitats for dormice within the Site, so despite there being existing records for the species very close by, the species will not occur on the Site and will not be impacted by the proposals.

## 5. Conclusions

### **Ecological value of the Site**

The existing ecological value of the habitats on the Site are of low Local value.

### **Further surveys prior to planning application**

None.

### **Mitigation and compensation measures**

#### ***Nesting birds***

Vegetation and portacabin clearance/demolition work in the period September-February, inclusive) outside the nesting bird season. If this is not possible, an ecologist will need to carry out a check for nesting birds no more than 24 hours prior to the vegetation removal/clearance and portacabin demolition. Nest-boxes to be provided to compensate for lost features.

#### ***Bats – roosting***

Mitigation in the form of ECoW checks and supervision for potential bat roosting features, immediately prior to work commencing, as described above.

#### ***Bats - lighting***

If any external lighting is proposed, this should be focussed into the Site and steps taken to ensure light spill beyond the Site boundary is avoided. Retained trees and bat features included as enhancement features should be protected from lighting.

Advice can be provided for ways to achieve this; the use of hoods/cowls, low level lighting, and colours/wavelengths that cause less disturbance to nocturnal wildlife can be helpful. See Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023) for more details.

#### ***Hedgehog and small mammals***

Any excavations and holes must be covered over securely every night, or planks placed in at the end of every day, to allow animals to escape.

#### ***Permeability for wildlife***

If any additional fencing or walls are to be installed, or existing fences/walls be replaced as part of the works, these should include regular holes at the base of the fencing at least 13 x 13cm.

#### ***Great crested newts***

Potential amphibian refuge habitat to be removed around and under the existing portacabins, to be checked and removed under ECoW supervision prior to work commencing in these areas. Any amphibians to be moved to the playing field edges to the north. In the unlikely event of great crested newts being found, works must cease while a decision is taken regarding how to proceed.

Construction-phase works should avoid making the Site more favourable for amphibians and other animals by ensuring no piling of vegetation brush and building materials, storage of materials on

pallets, and ensuring excavations and holes are covered over securely every night, or planks placed in at the end of the day, to allow animals to escape.

Assuming the above mitigation is implemented, the proposed development is likely to have no negative ecological impact.

### **Enhancements**

The following recommended ecological enhancements should be implemented, to ensure that the development can deliver an enhancement for biodiversity, in accordance with planning policy guidance. These are in conjunction with but separate to, habitat delivery as part of Biodiversity Net Gain.

The new building is to be single-storey, which reduces its suitability for bat and bird boxes. Bat boxes instead should be secured to retained mature trees elsewhere within the wider property.

Table 5.1 gives details of features to be delivered as enhancement for wildlife.

### ***Enhancements - NPPF***





Under the NPPF there is a requirement for planning applications to include ecological enhancement measures. The new habitat features specified in Table 5.1 above will satisfy this requirement.

These have been chosen for their suitability specific to this site, in terms of both target species and availability of suitable locations for their installation.

### ***Enhancement – BNG***

As detailed in the separate BNG statement report, we have used the BNG Metric to guide habitat enhancement and creation on the Site, such that with the recommended purchase of off-site habitat units, the BNG plan outlined above will deliver a 10% BNG.

**Table 5.1 Features for wildlife (biodiversity enhancement)**

Species	Number	Suggested design	Location	Photo of suggested design
Bats	2no	Schwegler 2F bat box or similar	Minimum height 3m, ideally higher.  Uncluttered entrance.  Must not be illuminated.  Away from disturbance.	
Birds	3no	Schwegler 1B bird nest box (illustrated); triple-chambered swift nest box; house sparrow terrace. Or similar	At least 3m above ground level in shaded location	
Hedgehog	1no	Hoglio Hedgehog Nest box (with internal tunnel)	In quiet area within BNG enhancement area of playing field	
Invertebrates	1no	National Trust Bee & Insect Tower	On a retained tree near BNG enhancement area of playing field  South – facing  Height 1m	

## 6. References

Collins, J. (ed) (2023). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

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Department for Communities and Local Government (2023). *National Planning Policy Framework*

Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023). *Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Guidance Note GN08/23.*

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (<https://www.ukhab.org>)