17.0 HERSTMONCEUX SITES
FIGURE 20.2

HERSTMONCEUX: ECOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS

- Site Assessment Boundary
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Ancient Woodland

March 2017
WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 0100031673
### Site Summary Description

A 5.70ha. very species poor improved grassland field with a single developing oak tree near the western boundary with Lime Wood. The Site is adjacent to Lime Wood Ancient Woodland to the west. A line of mature trees, including sweet chestnut with veteran characteristics, lies to the north.

### ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

#### Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site is located on the southern fringes of Herstmonceux, with built development to the north partially separated by Lime Wood Ancient Woodland on its north western boundary and large residential properties to the south east. The southern boundary of the Site opens onto mixed pasture and arable fields defined by hedges and small woodlands.

#### Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (see Figure 20.2)

- The Site lies approximately 1.4km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: **Pevensey Levels SAC**: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*. Anisus vorticulus occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports *Anisus vorticulus* in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.

- **Pevensey Levels SSSI**: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier *Stratiotes aloides*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton frusti*, the pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* and river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow *Althaea officinalis* as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale *Crambe maritime*. The citation states: *The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for...*
Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera … A ramshorn snail Segmentina nitida (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damselfly Coenagrion pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

• Pevensey Levels Ramsar: Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km</th>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Wood</td>
<td>Adjacent West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw</td>
<td>500m North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lower Shunts Green Farm Shaw</td>
<td>780m North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Ginger’s Green Shaw</td>
<td>720m WNW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill</td>
<td>340m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Shaw</td>
<td>500m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Allfree Wood</td>
<td>900m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Pocket Shaw</td>
<td>760m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw</td>
<td>675m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood-pasture &amp; parkland BAP priority habitat – Herstonceux park</td>
<td>850m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named</td>
<td>470m North</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Protected Species</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguis fragilis</td>
<td>Slow worm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eptesicus serotinus</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyctalus noctula</td>
<td>Noctule bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</td>
<td>Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus sp.</td>
<td>Pipistrelle sp. bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plecotus sp.</td>
<td>Long-eared bat sp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sussex BAP Species</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acronicta rumicis</td>
<td>Knot Grass (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coenonympha pamphilus</td>
<td>Small Heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecliptopera silaceata</td>
<td>Small Phoenix (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasionympha megera</td>
<td>Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydraecia micacea</td>
<td>Rosy Rustic (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spilosoma lubricipeda</td>
<td>White Ermine (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonalla binaria</td>
<td>Oak Hook-tip (moth)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sussex Rare Species Inventory</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eilema sororcula</td>
<td>Orange Footman (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furcula bicuspis</td>
<td>Alder Kitten (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globia sparganii</td>
<td>Webb’s Wainscot (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicago polymorpha</td>
<td>Toothed Medick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenia lunularia</td>
<td>Lunar Thorn (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia platyphyllos</td>
<td>Large-leaved lime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Notable Bird Inventory</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apus apus</td>
<td>Swift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardea cinerea</td>
<td>Grey heron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botaurus stellaris</td>
<td>Bitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco peregrinus</td>
<td>Peregrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirundo rustica</td>
<td>Swallow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Invasive Alien Species Inventory</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allium triquetrum</td>
<td>Three-cornered garlic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</td>
<td>Montbretia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallopia japonica</td>
<td>Japanese Knotweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica (= H. x massartiana)</td>
<td>Hybrid bluebell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhododendron ponticum</td>
<td>Rhododendron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (see Figure 20/069)

**Improved grassland** – Very species poor with perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and very few and low content of forbs, including white clover *Trifolium repens*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinalis* (agg.) and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*. Managed as cattle pasture with a low and relatively homogenous sward.

**Trees** – A single developing oak near Lime Wood.

### Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.
Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species

No non-native invasive species recorded during the survey.

Assessment of Potential for Notable and Protected Species

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site and although OS maps indicate the presence of a pond in Lime Wood to the west there is also no suitable terrestrial habitat within the Site.

**Breeding birds** – May be used by ground nesting species such as skylark.

**Bats** – Although there are no trees or structures suitable to be used as bat roosts within the Site, there are trees adjacent to the Site that would be suitable. The western and northern edges of the Site in particular are likely to be used by foraging and commuting bats.

**Badgers** – Little potential for setts but foraging possible, though not noted during the Phase I field survey.

**Brown hare** – Possible, although not recorded during the Phase I field survey.

Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)

No specific surveys are currently recommended in relation to this Site, due to very limited quality of its existing habitats and extremely limited potential to support species of nature conservation value. However, consideration should be given to the likelihood that bat roosts, as well as bat dispersal and foraging activity, is present along the hedgeline forming the northern boundary of the Site and Lime Wood forming the Site’s western boundary. Prevention of potential harm to bats is addressed through recommendations for habitat creation as a component of the outline mitigation proposals described below, without necessarily a requirement for a specific bat survey. This would, however, be dependent on the size, scale and nature of any specific development proposals brought forward.

INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

**Low value** – very species-poor grassland, with little or no ecological value in itself or as potential habitat for supporting species of nature conservation interest. However, adjacent to Lime Wood Ancient Woodland and relatively high value mature trees.

Impact Avoidance

No avoidance measures are currently considered to be necessary.

Outline Mitigation

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- Buffer adjacent Lime Wood and mature trees with undeveloped strips of created and positively

July 2017

Wealden Local Plan Sites
Landscape & Ecological Assessment Study

Chris Blandford Associates
managed habitat, to include for example, species rich grassland, scrub trees and pond(s). To provide a clear, undeveloped boundary between the hedgelines and Lime Wood.

- In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.
- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.

### Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Planting of appropriate native shrub species to form a hedge along the Site’s south western and south eastern boundaries where it adjoins existing woodland.
- Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen Site boundary vegetation, for example where it adjoins residential properties and to link to adjoining habitat and incorporating retained trees where relevant, along the Site’s south eastern boundary.
- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
- Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;
- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
- Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Settlement/Area: Herstmonceux

Site Address: Land at Chapel Row, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 071/2090

Site Summary Description

A 19.35ha. Site comprising largely very species-poor improved grassland but also including species-rich hedge and trees, and ephemeral/short perennial and tall ruderal in and around yard areas at Lime End Farm. Adjacent to Allfree Wood Ancient Woodland to the east.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The northern boundary of the Site is formed by the A271 for much of its length between the settlements of Herstmonceux and Windmill Hill. Allfree Wood Ancient Woodland lies to the east; residential properties and commercial development to the west and south west. The southern boundary of the Site opens out onto a large expanse of grassland, with Herstmonceux Castle and grounds further beyond.

Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (See Figure 20.2)

- The Site lies approximately 1.3km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: Pevensey Levels SAC: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*. Anisus vorticulus occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports *Anisus vorticulus* in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.
- Pevensey Levels SSSI: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier *Stratiotes aloides*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton fiesii*, the pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* and river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow *Althaea officinalis* as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale *Crambe maritime*. The citation states: The Site...
supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera … A ramshorn snail Segmentina nitida (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damselfly Coenagrion pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

- **Pevensey Levels Ramsar**: Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

- The Site lies within 1km north-west of **Herstmonceux Park SSSI**. The Citation states: “Herstmonceux Park contains 7 examples of wetland habitats on Tunbridge Wells sandstone, and is especially notable for its fen vegetation … The Site comprises a narrow stream valley occupied by a series of artificial ponds with fringing fen vegetation and associated wet woodland. The open water of the ponds contains a range of aquatic plant species including water violet Hottonia palustris and arrowhead Sagittaria sagittifolia … [and] … milk parsley Peucedanum palustre in its only locality outside … Somerset and East Anglia … Wet woodland dominated by grey willow Salix cinerea and alder Alnus glutinosa occupies the valley floor … An area of sweet chestnut Castanea sativa coppice in the south east of the Site contains Cornish moneywort Sibthorpa europaea in one of its few localities outside southwest Britain”.

- **800m South East of the Site.**
### Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Description</th>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Calvesfield Shaw</td>
<td>950m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Nunningham Wood</td>
<td>690m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Pocket Shaw</td>
<td>180m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw</td>
<td>420m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Wood</td>
<td>630m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill 2</td>
<td>770m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill</td>
<td>900m WSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Shaw</td>
<td>450m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Little Wood</td>
<td>460m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Comphurst Wood</td>
<td>730m South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Allfree Wood</td>
<td>Adjacent East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Rocks Farm Shaw</td>
<td>600m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood-pasture &amp; parkland BAP priority habitat – Herstoneux park</td>
<td>620m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named</td>
<td>580m North East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km

#### Protected Species
- Anguis fragilis: Slow worm
- Natrix natrix: Grass snake
- Pipistrellus pipistrellus: Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat
- Pipistrellus sp.: Pipistrelle sp. bat
- Plecotus auritus: Brown Long-eared bat
- Plecotus sp.: Long-eared bat sp.

#### Sussex BAP Species
- Acronicta rumicis: Knot Grass (moth)
- Coenonympha pamphilus: Small Heath
- Ecliptopera silaceata: Small Phoenix (moth)
- Lasiommata megera: Wall
- Hydraecia micacea: Rosy Rustic (moth)
- Spilosoma lubricipeda: White Ermine (moth)
- Watsonalla binaria: Oak Hook-tip (moth)

#### Sussex Rare Species Inventory
- Buxus sempervirens: Box
- Eilema sororcula: Orange Footman (moth)
- Furcula hiccupis: Alder Kitten (moth)
- Globia sparganii: Webb's Wainscot (moth)
- Selenia lunularia: Lunar Thorn (moth)
- Tilia platyphyllos: Large-leaved lime

#### Notable Bird Inventory
- Apus apus: Swift
- Ardea cinerea: Grey heron
- Botaurus stellaris: Bittern
- Delichon urbicum: House martin
- Falco peregrinus: Peregrine
- Falco subbuteo: Hobby
- Hirundo rustica: Swallow
- Milvus milvus: Red kite
**Invasive Alien Species Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allium triquetrum</td>
<td>Three-cornered garlic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotoneaster horizontalis</td>
<td>Wall cotoneaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</td>
<td>Montbretia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica (= H. x massartiana)</td>
<td>Hybrid bluebell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impatiens glandulifera</td>
<td>Indian balsam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petasites fragrans</td>
<td>Winter heliotrope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa rugosa</td>
<td>Japanese rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field Survey: Habits Descriptions (see Figure 20/071)**

**Improved grassland** - Very species poor with perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and locally annual meadow grass. Forbs are few and of low cover and comprise very common and widespread species including creeping and field buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and *acris*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, nettle greater plantain *Plantago major*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* (agg.) and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*. A narrow strip beside a track through the centre included black medick *Medicago lupulina*, self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*, scarlet pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* and pea lump *Sagina sp.*. Managed as cattle pasture with a low and relatively homogenous sward.

**Ephemeral/short perennial** – Heavily poached area adjacent to Lime End Farm with species present in adjoining grassland but also much annual meadow grass, knotgrass *Persicaria aviculare*, pineapple weed *Matricaria discoidea*, scentless mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum* and shepherds purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris*.

**Tall ruderal** – Around silage clamp and yard/dumping area and comprising nettle, docks, thistles, false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, fathen *Chenopodium album*, spear-leaved orache *Atriplex prostrata* and bristly ox-tongue *Picris echioides*. These areas also contain stored materials and log and rubble piles etc.

**Hedges** – On the western and northern boundary are species rich with hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, wild plum, ash, sycamore, rose, field maple and oak. On the northern boundary it includes a number of mature oak and horse chestnut.

**Trees** – A line of ash and sycamore on the eastern part of the northern boundary.

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

**Badgers** – Active sett confirmed present at TN1. Within the Site/field edge this comprises a two entrance hole with badger hair present. Further Hole(s) with bedding appear to be present in the edge of the adjoining Allfree Wood, and pushes under the fence between the wood and field are noted nearby.

**Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species**

No non-native invasive species recorded during the survey.

**Assessment of Potential for Protected and Notable Species**

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site. However OS maps indicate there are ponds at Lime Cross Nursery, approximately 100m to the north of the Site, at Lime Park approximately 100m to the west and possibly also to the south of Lime End Farm, approximately 180m to the south west. The hedges and tall ruderal represents suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. However, all the ponds apart from that at Lime End Farm are separated from the Site by quite busy roads and suitable terrestrial habitat is relatively plentiful near to most of the ponds and very limited within the Site. It is therefore considered the probability of great crested newt being present within the Site is very low.

**Reptiles** – The areas of tall ruderal, combined with features such as rubble and log piles etc, around the yard areas near Lime End Farm represent suitable habitat for reptiles.

**Breeding birds** – Especially in hedges but the grassland may be used by ground nesting species such as skylark.

**Bats** – Trees and mature trees in particular, with features such as cracks and cavities have potential to be...
used as roosts. Given the habitats and features present activity, including foraging and commuting, is likely throughout, but especially in and around woodland and trees, scrub and hedges.

**Dormice** – Some potential in hedges.

**Badgers** – Active sett confirmed present at TN1 and within adjoining Allfree Wood. Further setts possible in hedges and woodland edge and all or any part of the Site may be used for foraging.

**Brown hare** – Some potential.

---

**Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)**

- **Amphibian (including great crested newt)** – (March – June) of the ponds at Lime Cross Nursery, Lime Park and Lime End Farm.
- **Reptiles** – (May – June; September – October) in suitable habitat around the yard areas near Lime End Farm.
- **Bats** – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees to determine the scope for further survey.
- **Dormice** – (April – November) in hedges and woodland edge (Allfree Wood).
- **Badgers** – (Year round but Spring / Autumn optimal) of whole Site and adjoining woodland.

---

**INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**Low value** – largely the Site comprises very species poor grassland which of itself has very limited ecological value and very limited potential to support species of nature conservation value. The habitats and features present along the Site’s boundaries, particularly the hedgerows and trees have potential to support some notable/protected species. The Site also adjoins Allfree Wood Ancient Woodland to the east.

---

**Impact Avoidance**

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining and buffering hedges, including mature trees and their features.
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.

---

**Outline Mitigation**

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spills and pollution incidents;
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spills of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- Buffer adjacent Allfree Wood Ancient Woodland.
- Buffers to comprise undeveloped strips of created and positively managed habitat, to include for
example, species rich grassland, scrub, trees and pond(s).

- If great crested newts are found in the pond at Lime Cross Nursery, Lime Park and/or Lime End Farm, appropriate measures will need to be put in place to prevent harm to them during their terrestrial phase, for example herp fencing the development Site and possibly trapping and translocation to a suitable receptor site.

- If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development.

- In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.

- New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.

- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.

- If dormice are found to be present the retention and appropriate buffering of in hedges and woodland edge (Alfree Wood) (as noted above).

- Development should seek to avoid any prime foraging grounds identified through the badger survey, avoid severance to commuting corridors within territories and avoid any construction works within at least 30m of the nearest badger setts.

### Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Planting of appropriate native shrub species to form a hedge along the Site’s southern and north western boundaries to provide a buffer and habitat connectivity.

- Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen Site boundary vegetation, for example where it adjoins residential properties and the farm along the Site’s south western boundaries, to newly created hedges on the southern boundary.

- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.

- Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;

- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;

- Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
FIGURE 20/071
HERSTMONCEUX - Site Ref 071/2090
- PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
## ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

**Settlement/Area:** Herstmonceux

**Site Address:** Site North of James Avenue, Herstmonceux

**Site Reference Number:** 081/2090

**Site Summary Description**

1.23ha. species-poor grassland field(s) with boundary tall ruderal and hedge with trees on eastern boundary. Includes access driveways.

## ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

### Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site lies immediately adjacent to existing residential development to the north of the A267, beyond which lie hedge-lined fields and small woodlands.

### Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (see Figure 20.2)

- **The Site lies approximately 1.9km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar.** Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below:
  - **Pevensey Levels SAC:** Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*. *Anisus vorticulus* occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports *Anisus vorticulus* in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.
  - **Pevensey Levels SSSI:** Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier *Stratiotes aloides*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latilolium* and river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow *Althaea officinalis* as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale *Crambe maritime*. The citation states: The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera … A ramshorn snail *Segmentina nitida* (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic
snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damsel Coenagrion pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

- **Pevensey Levels Ramsar:** Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

**Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>775m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>785m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>375m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>670m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>525m E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160m East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Kiln Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Stunts Green Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lower Stunts Green Farm Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Ginger’s Green Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Pocket Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Calvesfield Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguis fragilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eptesicus serotinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyctalus noctula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plecotus sp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sussex BAP Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coenonympha pamphilus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sussex Rare Species Inventory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicago polymorpha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia platyphyllos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notable Bird Inventory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apus apus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardea cinerea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco peregrinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirundo rustica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milvus milvus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invasive Alien Species Inventory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allium triquetrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocosmia pottii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elodea nuttallii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyacinthoideas non-scripta x hispanica (= H. x massartiana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhododendron ponticum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (see Figure 20/081)**

**Poor semi-improved grassland** – Variable sward from short to tall. Species poor with Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* the most frequent and abundant grasses, though common couch *Elytrigia repens* is also locally abundant. Forbs are few and comprise very common and widespread species, and apart from locally abundant creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and white clover *Trifolium repens*, are generally of low abundance, but include field buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinalis* agg., as well as occasional dock.

**Tall ruderal** – Narrow strip on south-eastern field edge adjoining gardens and stand of nettle on a mound within the field. There are some small areas of tall false-oat grass and tall ruderal beside the access drive in the south of the Site.

**Hedge** – Species rich with hawthorn, blackthorn, rose, holly and ash and including mature ash and oak trees.

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.
Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species

No non-native invasive species recorded during the survey.

Assessment of Potential for Protected and Notable Species

Great crested newts – There are no ponds within the Site. However OS maps indicate there is a pond among trees approximately 70m to the west of the Site, and at New Barn Farm approximately 300m to the west. The hedge and tall ruderal represents suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. However, suitable terrestrial habitat is relatively plentiful near to most of the ponds and very limited within the Site. It is therefore considered the probability of great crested newts being present within the Site is very low.

Reptiles – Some potential along field edges.

Breeding birds – Especially in hedge.

Bats – Mature trees with features such as broken limbs, cracks and knot holes, have potential to be used as bat roosts. Foraging and commuting especially along hedge.

Badgers – Sett possible but unlikely along hedge and foraging possible throughout, though neither noted.

Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)

Amphibian (including great crested newt) – (March – June) of the ponds to the west of the Site.

Reptiles – (May – June; September – October) in suitable habitat around field edges.

Bats – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees to determine the scope for further survey.

INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Low value – the grassland is of low ecological value but the hedge and its mature trees have some value. The habitats and features present have limited potential to support some notable/protected species.

Impact Avoidance

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining and buffering the hedgerow with created and positively managed strips of habitat, to include for example, species rich grassland, scrub, trees and pond(s).
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.

Outline Mitigation

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
• Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
• On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
• If great crested newts are found in ponds close to the Site, appropriate measures will need to be put in place to prevent harm to them during their terrestrial phase, for example herp fencing the development Site and possibly trapping and translocation to a suitable receptor site.
• If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development.
• In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.
• New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.
• Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.

Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

• Planting of appropriate native shrub species to form a hedge along the Site’s western and south eastern boundaries to provide a buffer.
• Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen Site boundary vegetation, for example along the Site’s north eastern boundary.
• Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
• Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;
• Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
• Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Settlement/Area: Herstmonceux

Site Address: Higham Farm, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 553/2090

Site Summary Description

A 3.32ha. species-poor grassland field with stands of bracken on field edges and species-rich hedges of the northern and western boundaries.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site lies immediately north of the A267 on the fringes of Herstmonceux. It is bordered to the south west by residential development and to the east by a garden nursery. Open countryside lies to the north comprising relatively large pasture and arable fields, with some woodland and a sparse hedgerow network.

Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (see Figure 20.2)

- The Site lies approximately 1.76km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: **Pevensey Levels SAC**: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*. *Anisus vorticulus* occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports *Anisus vorticulus* in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.

- **Pevensey Levels SSSI**: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier *Stratiotes aloides*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton frisii*, the pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* and river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow *Althaea officinalis* as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale *Crambe maritima*. The citation states: The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera … A ramshorn snail *Segmentina nitida*.

Distance from Site

- 1.76km South of the Site.
(RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damselfly Coenagrion pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

**Pevensey Levels Ramsar:** Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

### Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Type</th>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Calvesfield Shaw</td>
<td>650m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Street Shaw</td>
<td>130m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Nunningham Wood</td>
<td>390m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Pocket Shaw</td>
<td>100m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Buckwell Farm Shaw 2</td>
<td>910m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Lime Wood</td>
<td>540 WSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Buckwell Gill 2</td>
<td>935m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Lime Shaw</td>
<td>860m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Little Wood</td>
<td>975m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Allfree Wood</td>
<td>630m South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland  – Rocks Farm Shaw</td>
<td>830m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named</td>
<td>400m West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km**

**Protected Species**
- Eptesicus serotinus
- Natrix natrix
- Nyctalus noctula
- Pipistrellus pipistrellus
- Pipistrellus sp.
- Plecotus sp.

**Sussex BAP Species**
- Acronicta rumicis
- Coenonympha pamphilus
- Ecliptopera silaceata
- Lasionymata megera
- Hydraecia micacea
- Spilosoma lubricipeda
- Watsonalla binaria

**Sussex BAP Species**
- Pipistrellus sp.
- Plecotus sp.

**Sussex Rare Species Inventory**
- Eilema sororcula
- Furcula bicuspis
- Glosia sparganii
- Medicago polymorpha
- Selenia lunularia

**Notable Bird Inventory**
- Apus apus
- Ardea cinerea
- Falco peregrinus
- Hirundo rustica
- Milvus milvus

**Invasive Alien Species Inventory**
- Allium triquetrum
- Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora
- Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica
- Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum
- Rhododendron ponticum

**Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (see Figure 20/553)**

**Poor semi-improved grassland** – Has recently been cut for hay, making assessment more difficult. However, it is species poor, with low forb content. Yorkshire fog Holcus lanatus, common bent Agrostis capillaris and sweet vernal-grass Anthoxanthum odoratum are the most abundant and frequent grasses and creeping and field buttercup Ranunculus repens and acris, white clover Trifolium repens, common sorrel Rumex acetosa, ribwort plantain Plantago lanceolata, dandelion Taraxacum officinalis (agg.) and cat’s ear Hypochaeris radicata the most frequent forbs. There are some narrow uncut sections on the field edge which include frequent hogweed Heracleum sphondylium and some common knapweed Centaurea nigra.

**Bracken** – Stands on the north east and north west edges of the field.

**Wet depression** – In the north east corner, with small stands of branched bur-reed Sparganium erectum, great willowherb Epilobium hirsutum, woody nightshade Solanum dulcamara and soft rush Juncus effusus.
**Hedges** – On the northern and western boundaries are species rich with hazel, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, rose, field maple, willow, oak, birch, sycamore and ash.  
**Scrub** – Stands of bramble along the southern fence line and a few bushes in the north east corner.  
**Trees** – Some developing sycamores on the southern boundary.

### Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.

### Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species

No non-native invasive species recorded during the survey.

### Assessment of Potential for Protected and Notable Species

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site. However OS maps indicate ponds are present at Lime Cross Nursery, approximately 70m to the east of the Site and in woodland approximately 100m to the north west. The hedges, bracken, tall ruderal and other boundary vegetation represents suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts.  
**Reptiles** – Some potential along field edges, especially in and around stands of bracken.  
**Breeding birds** – Especially in hedges and trees and scrub.  
**Bats** – There are no trees or structures within the Site with potential to be used as bat roosts. Foraging and commuting especially along hedges and adjoining woodland edge.  
**Dormice** – Some potential in hedges.  
**Badgers** – Sett possible along hedges/field boundaries. Holes noted on bank in north east corner of a size and shape typical of badgers, but no further signs recorded. Foraging possible throughout.

### Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)

**Amphibian (including great crested newt)** – (March – June) of the ponds at Lime Cross Nursery and in woodland to the north west.  
**Reptiles** – (May – June; September – October) in suitable habitat around field boundaries.  
**Dormice** – (April – November) in hedges.  
**Badgers** – (Year round but Spring / Autumn optimal) of whole Site and adjoining woodland.

### INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

**Low value** – mostly species poor grassland of low ecological value, although the hedges and associated field margin vegetation and depression in the north east corner have some value to support a variety of species. The habitats and features present have potential to support some notable/protected species.

### Impact Avoidance

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:  
- Retaining existing hedgerows on the boundary of the Site to maintain habitat continuity and corridors.  
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outline Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Buffer the hedges with a combination of retained and created habitat strips that are positively managed, to include for example, species rich grassland, bracken, scrub, trees and pond(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> If great crested newts are found in the pond at Lime Cross Nursery or adjacent woodland, appropriate measures will need to be put in place to prevent harm to them during their terrestrial phase, for example herp fencing the development Site and possibly trapping and translocation to a suitable receptor site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> If dormice are found to be present the retention and appropriate buffering of the hedges (as noted above).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Development should seek to avoid any prime foraging grounds identified through the badger survey, avoid severance to commuting corridors within territories and avoid any construction works within at least 30m of the nearest badger setts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological/green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen Site boundary vegetation, for example where it adjoins residential properties, the A267 and the northern boundary, to link to adjoining habitat and incorporating retained trees where relevant, along the Site’s south eastern boundary.
- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
- Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;
- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
- Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Settlement/Area: Herstmonceux

Site Address: Land at Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 582/2090

Site Summary Description

A 2.59ha. sloping grassland field of which most is species poor, but includes areas of richer marshy grassland on the lower slopes. Enclosed by hedges and with a stream and narrow wooded strip on the western boundary.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site lies on the north eastern fringes of Herstmonceux, with existing residential development adjoining immediately to the south. Open countryside lies to the north comprising relatively large pasture and arable fields, with some woodland, including Street Shaw Ancient Woodland, and a sparse hedgerow network.

Desk Study: Designations within 1km (See Figure 20.2)

- The Site lies approximately 1.76km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: **Pevensey Levels SAC**: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*. Anisus vorticulus occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports *Anisus vorticulus* in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.

- **Pevensey Levels SSSI**: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier *Stratiotes aloides*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton fríesii*, the pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* and river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow *Althaea officinalis* as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale *Crambe maritime*. The citation states: The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.76km South of the Site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera … A ramshorn snail Segmentina nitida (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damselfly Coenagriphon pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenozaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

• **Pevensey Levels Ramsar:** Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km</strong></th>
<th><strong>Distance from Site</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw ext</td>
<td>Adjacent North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Calvesfield Shaw</td>
<td>540m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw</td>
<td>130m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Nunningham Wood</td>
<td>390m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Pocket Shaw</td>
<td>100m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw 2</td>
<td>910m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Wood</td>
<td>540 WSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill 2</td>
<td>935m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Shaw</td>
<td>860m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Little Wood</td>
<td>975m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Allfree Wood</td>
<td>630m South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Rocks Farm Shaw</td>
<td>830m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named</td>
<td>210m West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km

#### Protected Species
- **Anguis fragilis** (Slow worm)
- **Eptesicus serotinus** (Serotine bat)
- **Natrix natrix** (Grass snake)
- **Nyctalus noctula** (Noctule bat)
- **Pipistrellus pipistrellus** (Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat)
- **Pipistrellus sp.** (Pipistrelle sp. bat)
- **Plecotus sp.** (Long-eared bat sp.)

#### Sussex BAP Species
- **Acronicta rumicis** (Knot Grass (moth))
- **Coenonympha pamphilus** (Small Heath)
- **Ecliptopera silaceata** (Small Phoenix (moth))
- **Lasiommata megera** (Wall)
- **Hydraecia micacea** (Rosy Rustic (moth))
- **Spilosoma lubricipeda** (White Ermine (moth))
- **Watsonalla binaria** (Oak Hook-tip (moth))

#### Sussex Rare Species Inventory
- **Eilema sororcula** (Orange Footman (moth))
- **Furcula bicuspis** (Alder Kitten (moth))
- **Globia sparganii** (Webb's Wainscot (moth))
- **Medicago polymorpha** (Toothed Medick)
- **Selenia lunularia** (Lunar Thorn (moth))

#### Notable Bird Inventory
- **Apus apus** (Swift)
- **Ardea cinerea** (Grey heron)
- **Falco peregrinus** (Peregrine)
- **Hirundo rustica** (Swallow)
- **Milvus milvus** (Red kite)

#### Invasive Alien Species Inventory
- **Allium triquetrum** (Three-cornered garlic)
- **Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora** (Montbretia)
- **Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica (= H. x massartiana)** (Hybrid bluebell)
- **Rhododendron ponticum** (Rhododendron)

### Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (See Figure 20/582)

**Poor semi-improved grassland** – Much of the field is species poor with a short sward. The dominant grasses are perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*. Creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and white clover *Trifolium repens* are the only frequent forbs, although red clover *Trifolium pratense* and common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* are occasional. Docks and creeping thistle are also frequent. There is a small fenced area of unmanaged grassland with tall ruderal and scrub on the southern edge of the Site.

**Marshy grassland** – Is present in patches on the lower third of the field. As well as abundant Yorkshire fog and common bent it includes abundant jointed rush *Juncus articulatus*, and frequent and locally abundant soft rush *Juncus effusus*, as well as locally abundant pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*. Forb content is quite high with abundant greater bird’s-foot trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* and common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, as well as frequent tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.
and creeping buttercup and occasional marsh thistle. Hairy sedge Carex hirta is also frequent in grassland close to the north western boundary.

**Hedges** – This includes both species-rich (e.g. south eastern boundary) and species-poor sections (most of northern eastern and south western boundaries). The richer sections include hazel, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, rose, field maple and ash. The poorer sections are dominated by hawthorn.

**Scrub** – Including dense and scattered bramble and hawthorn was present in a mosaic with tall grass and ruderal along the small stream on the north west boundary.

**Woodland** - A very narrow strip (or overgrown hedge) alongside the stream on the north west boundary. Included mature oak and sycamore trees, holly and hazel, with bramble, ivy, nettle, pendulous sedge, male and broad buckler ferns Dryopteris felix-mas and dilatata, brooklime Veronica beccabunga and woody nightshade Solanum dulcamara.

**Stream** – Very small with low flow on the north western boundary

---

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.

**Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species**

No non-native invasive species recorded during the survey.

**Assessment of Potential for Protected and Notable Species**

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site. However OS maps indicate ponds are present in woodland approximately 100m north of the Site and at Lime Cross Nursery, approximately 250m to the east. The hedges and other boundary vegetation represents suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. However, given the distance to the pond, the availability of suitable terrestrial habitat nearby and the relative lack of it within the Site it is considered the probability of great crested newts being present within the Site is low.

**Reptiles** – Some potential along field edges, especially the north western and in the tall grassland and ruderal and scrub in the southern part of the Site, next to Gardner Street.

**Breeding birds** – Especially in woodland, hedges and scrub

**Bats** – Trees and mature trees in particular, with features such as cracks and cavities have potential to be used as roosts. Given the habitats and features present activity, including foraging and commuting, is likely throughout, but especially along the hedges and field boundaries.

**Dormice** – Some potential in hedges and woodland

**Badgers** – Sett possible along hedges/field boundaries and foraging throughout, though neither noted

---

**Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)**

**Amphibian (including great crested newt)** – (March – June) of the ponds to the north and at Lime Cross Nursery

**Reptiles** – (May – June; September – October) in suitable habitat around field boundaries

**Bats** – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees to determine the scope for further survey and activity surveys

**Dormice** – (April – November) in hedges

**Badgers** – (Year round but Spring / Autumn optimal) of whole Site and adjoining woodland/scrub
**INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**Low to Moderate value** – much of the grassland is species poor and of low ecological value, but the marshy grassland, woodland and hedges and the stream are of moderate value. Habitats and features have some potential to support notable-protected species.

**Impact Avoidance**

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining the woodland, hedges and marshy grassland.
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.

**Outline Mitigation**

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- Buffer and positively manage the woodland, hedges and marshy grassland. Buffer strips to include for example, species rich grassland, scrub, trees and pond(s).
- If great crested newts are found in the pond at Lime Cross Nursery, or the ponds further to the north, appropriate measures will need to be put in place to prevent harm to them during their terrestrial phase, for example herp fencing the development Site and possibly trapping and translocation to a suitable receptor site.
- If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development.
- In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.
- New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.
- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.
- If dormice are found to be present the retention and appropriate buffering of the hedges (as noted above).
- Development should seek to avoid any prime foraging grounds identified through the badger survey, avoid severance to commuting corridors within territories and avoid any construction works within at least 30m of the nearest badger setts.

### Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Positively and appropriately manage retained habitats and features, including woodland, scrub, hedges, mature trees and grassland, to maintain and enhance their ecological value.
- Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen Site boundary vegetation, for example where it adjoins residential properties to the south, the garden nursery to the east and the woodland to the north to link to adjoining habitat, and incorporating retained trees where relevant.
- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
- Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Area: Herstmonceux

Site Name: Land at Collin’s Honda, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 608/2090

Site Summary Description

A 0.52ha. Site comprising largely buildings and hard standing, but including a small area of amenity grassland and a bank with planted, mostly non-native trees and shrubs.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site is on the southern fringes of Herstmonceux, south of the A271. Buckwell Gill 2 Ancient woodland forms the southern boundary to the Site, with relatively large arable fields, hedges and small woodlands beyond.

Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (see Figure 20.2)

- The Site lies approximately 1.2km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: **Pevensey Levels SAC**: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*. *Anisus vorticulus* occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports *Anisus vorticulus* in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.

- **Pevensey Levels SSSI**: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier *Stratiotes aloides*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton frisii*, the pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* and river water-dropwort *Oenanthe iluviatilis*, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow *Althaea officinalis* as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale *Crambe maritime*. The citation states: *The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera ... A ramshorn snail *Segmentina nitida* (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush...*
vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damsell Coenagrion pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

• Pevensey Levels Ramsar: Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

**Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km**

- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw 2
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Lower Stunts Green Farm Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Ginger’s Green Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Squirrels Wood
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill 2
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Lime Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Lime Wood
- Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named

**Distance from Site**

- 450m North
- 660m North
- 520m North West
- 270m North West
- 810m West
- Adjacent South
- 200m South
- 570m South East
- 140m North East
- 850m North East

**Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km**

**Protected Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguis fragilis</td>
<td>Slow worm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eptesicus serotinus</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyctalus noctula</td>
<td>Noctule bat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sussex BAP Species**

*Coenonympha pamphilus*  
Small Heath

**Sussex Rare Species Inventory**

*Medicago polymorpha*  
Toothed Medick

*Tilia platyphyllos*  
Large-leaved lime

**Notable Bird Inventory**

*Apus apus*  
Swift

*Ardea cinerea*  
Grey heron

*Botaurus stellaris*  
Bittern

*Falco peregrinus*  
Peregrine

*Hirundo rustica*  
Swallow

**Invasive Alien Species Inventory**

*Allium triquetrum*  
Three-cornered garlic

*Crocospia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora*  
Montbretia

*Fallopia japonica*  
Japanese Knotweed

*Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica (= H. x massartiana)*  
Hybrid bluebell

*Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum*  
Variegated yellow archangel

*Rhododendron ponticum*  
Rhododendron

**Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (see Figure 20/608)**

**Amenity grassland** – A small area around buildings with a typical range of common and widespread species.

**Introduced trees and shrubs** – Planted on a bank to the north of the car park.

**Buildings** – Including a flat-roofed showroom and industrial unit(s) but also house(s) with pitched and tiled roofs.

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.

**Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species**

*Rhododendron* is present in the boundary planting.

**Assessment Potential for Protected and Notable Species**

**Great crested newts** – there are no ponds within the Site and although OS maps indicate a pond is present in Lime Wood, approximately 280m to the north east of the Site, there is little or no suitable terrestrial habitat within the Site and abundant suitable habitat close to the pond. The probability of great crested newts being present within the Site is therefore considered to be very low.

**Breeding birds** – among planted trees and shrubs

**Bats** – Showroom and industrial unit(s) are considered to have low potential to be used as bat roosts, but the house(s) may have some potential under the roof tiles and in the eaves.
Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)

**Bats** – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of buildings, especially house(s) to determine the scope for further survey.

**INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**Low value** – Mostly buildings and hard standing with amenity grassland and introduced trees and shrubs. The buildings have limited potential to support protected species (bats).

**Impact Avoidance**

No avoidance measures are currently identified.

**Outline Mitigation**

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Timing of vegetation clearance works to avoid the bird breeding season (March – August inclusive).
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- Buffer woodland, including Ancient Woodland, on southern boundary.
- In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.
- New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.
- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.
## Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
- Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;
- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
- Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 20/608
HERSTMONCEUX - Site Ref 608/2090
- PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

KEY
- Site Assessment Boundary
- Broadleaved Tree
- Coniferous Tree
- Amenity Grassland
- Introduced Shrub
- Bare Ground

October 2016
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Settlement/Area: Herstmonceux

Site Address: Land adjacent to Collins Honda, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 609/2090

Site Description

A moderately species rich grassland field of variable quality, with adjoining hedges and Ancient Woodland. Also includes an area of hard standing and industrial unit(s).

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site is on the southern fringes of Herstmonceux, south of the A271. Buckwell Gill Ancient Woodland forms the southern boundary to the Site, with relatively large arable fields, hedges and small woodlands beyond.

Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (see Figure 20.2)

- The Site lies approximately 1.2km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: Pevensey Levels SAC: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail Anisus vorticulus. Anisus vorticulus occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports Anisus vorticulus in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.

- Pevensey Levels SSSI: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed Potamogeton acutifolius and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier Stratiotes aloides, flat-stalked pondweed Potamogeton frisiae, the pondweed Potamogeton trichoides, greater water-parsnip Sium latifolium and river water-dropwort Oenanthe fluviatilis, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow Althaea officinalis as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin Lychnis flos-cuculi, water mint Mentha aquatica and cuckoo flower Cardamine pratensis. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale Crambe maritime. The citation states: The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera ... A ramshorn snail Segmentina nitida (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush

- 1.2km South of the Site.
vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail Valvata macrostoma (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle Hydrophilus piceus (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown Hydrovatus clypealis (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly Brachytron pratense and variable damsel fly Coenagri on pulchellum. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of Placobdella costata (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders Dolomedes plantarius (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing Vanellus vanellus which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe Gallinago gallinago may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover Pluvialis apricaria are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers Acrocephalus schoenoaenus and reed warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails Motacilla flava in Sussex.

- **Pevensey Levels Ramsar**: Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

### Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>660m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520m North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270m North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>810m West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>570m South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140m North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>830m North East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected and Notable Species within 1km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Anguis fragilis** Slow worm
- **Eptesicus serotinus** Serotine bat
- **Nyctalus noctula** Noctule bat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plecotus sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrelle sp. bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-eared bat sp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sussex BAP Species**

- Coenonympha pamphilus

**Sussex Rare Species Inventory**

- Hydrocharis morsus-ranae
- Medicago polymorpha
- Tilia platyphyllos

**Notable Bird Inventory**

- Apus apus
- Ardea cinerea
- Butaurus stellaris
- Cetti cetti
- Delichon urbicum
- Egretta garzetta
- Falco peregrinus
- Falco subbuteo
- Hirundo rustica
- Vanellus vanellus

**Invasive Alien Species Inventory**

- Allium triquetrum
- Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora
- Fallopia japonica
- Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica

**Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (see Figure 20/609)**

**Poor semi-improved grassland** – Variable in structure and species composition. Yorkshire fog Holcus lanatus and common bent Agrostis capillaris are the most abundant grasses throughout, though false oat grass Arrhenatherum elatius and cocksfoot Dactylis glomerata are also present. The western section is richest, with frequent common sorrel Rumex acetosa, bird’s foot trefoil Lotus corniculatus, meadow vetchling Lathyrus pratensis, ribwort plantain Plantago lanceolata, hogweed Heracleum sphodrium, germander speedwell Veronica chamaedrys, common knapweed Centaurea nigra and ox eye daisy Leucanthemum vulgare. Other species include lesser stitchwort Stellaria graminea, field bindweed Convolvulus arvensis and autumn hawkbit Leontodon autumnalis. Much of the eastern part is very short with locally heavy rabbit grazing and patchy disturbance. This area is less rich, though still contains a number of the species present in the western part and other frequent or locally abundant species included creeping buttercup Ranunculus repens, self-heal Prunella vulgaris and white clover Trifolium repens.

**Tall ruderal** – Stand of mainly nettle on a mound in the east of the field.

**Hedges** – On the northern and western boundaries are species rich with holly, hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, and wild plum. A section includes oak and beech trees.

**Scrub** – Dense stand of bramble with young ash and other scrub on the southern boundary.

**Woodland** – A small section of a larger area of Ancient Woodland located on the steep bank(s) of a depression on the Site’s south east boundary. Viewed only from western edge. Species composition...
suggests it is wet or damp, with alder, ash, birch, oak and white willow canopy and hazel and grey willow shrub layer. Field layer dominated by bramble, nettle, bracken and ivy, but also including dog’s mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), enchanter’s nightshade (*Circea lutetiana*), creeping buttercup and marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*).

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.

**Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species**

No invasive non-native species recorded during the survey.

**Assessment of Potential for Notable Species**

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site. However, OS maps indicate a pond is present in Lime Wood, approximately 220m to the north of the Site. The woodland, hedges and scrub, as well as some of the grassland (dependent on management) represents suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. However, suitable terrestrial habitat is widely available near the pond and it is considered the probability of great crested newts being present within the Site is relatively low.

**Reptiles** – Especially along grassland edges beside hedges, scrub and woodland.

**Breeding birds** – Especially in woodland, hedges and scrub.

**Bats** – Trees and mature trees in particular, with features such as cracks and cavities have potential to be used as roosts. Given the habitats and features present activity, including foraging and commuting, is likely throughout, but especially along the hedges and field boundaries.

**Dormice** – Some potential in hedges and woodland.

**Badgers** – Sett possible in woodland and along hedges/field boundaries and foraging throughout, though neither noted.

**Recommendations for Further Survey (including optimal survey timings)**

**Amphibian (including great crested newt)** – (March – June) of the pond at Lime Wood.

**Reptiles** – (May – June; September – October) in suitable habitat around field boundaries.

**Bats** – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees to determine the scope for further survey and activity surveys.

**Dormice** – (April – November) in woodland and hedges.

**Badgers** – (Year round but Spring / Autumn optimal) of whole site.

**INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**Moderate** – includes section of Ancient Woodland as well as species-rich hedges and grassland with some diversity. The habitats and features present have potential to support some notable/protected species.

**Impact Avoidance**

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining the woodland and hedges and if possible at least part of the grassland, prioritising the richer western section.
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.
### Outline Mitigation

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- Buffer and positively manage the woodland and hedges and if possible at least part of the grassland, prioritising the richer western section. Buffer strips to include for example, species rich grassland, scrub, trees and pond(s).
- If great crested newts are found in the pond at Lime Wood, appropriate measures will need to be put in place to prevent harm to them during their terrestrial phase, for example herp fencing the development Site and possibly trapping and translocation to a suitable receptor site.
- If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development.
- In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/s GRASS and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.
- New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.
- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.
- If dormice are found to be present the retention and appropriate buffering of the woodland and woody vegetation (as noted above).
- Development should seek to avoid any prime foraging grounds identified through the badger survey, avoid severance to commuting corridors within territories and avoid any construction works within at least 30m of the nearest badger setts.

### Potential Enhancement and Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Positively and appropriately manage retained habitats and features, including woodland, scrub, hedges, mature trees and grassland.
- Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen Site boundary vegetation on all sides.
• Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
• Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;
• Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
• Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 20/609
HERSTMONCEUX - Site Ref 609/2090
- PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Area: Herstmonceux

Site Name: Land at Braemar, Bagham Lane, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 610/2090

Site Description

A 0.32ha. house and garden with amenity grassland, hedges and a mature oak tree. Garden extension of species poor grassland and tall ruderal.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site lies on the north eastern fringes of Herstmonceux, with existing residential development adjoining immediately to the south. Open countryside lies to the north comprising relatively large pasture and arable fields, with some woodland and a sparse hedgerow network.

Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (see Figure 20.2)  

- The Site lies approximately 1.8km north to the nearest point of the Pevensey Levels SAC / SSSI / Ramsar. Extracts from the relevant citations are set out below: Pevensey Levels SAC: Comprising inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.5%) and humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97.5%). The SAC is designated for its Annex II population of Ramshorn snail Anisus vorticulus. Anisus vorticulus occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports Anisus vorticulus in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.

- Pevensey Levels SSSI: Pevensey Levels is a large area of low-lying grazing meadows intersected by a complex system of ditches which show a wide variety of form and species composition and support important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Site supports the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed Potamogeton acutifolius and several nationally scarce aquatic plants including watersoldier Stratiotes aloides, flat-stalked pondweed Potamogeton frigidii, the pondweed Potamogeton trichoides, greater water-parsnip Sium latifolium and river water-dropwort Oenanthe fluviatilis, whose presence are largely the result of ditch management to maintain ‘wet fences’ for grazing. Rich bankside floras also support a variety of plants such as the nationally scarce marshmallow Althaea officinalis as well as more widespread species such as ragged robin Lychnis flos-cuculi, water mint Mentha aquatica and cuckoo flower Cardamine pratensis. An area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands is included within the Site and although the shingle is largely bereft of vegetation it does support the nationally scarce sea-kale Crambe maritima. The citation states: The Site supports outstanding invertebrate populations and is a top national Site for Molluscs and aquatic Coleoptera ... A ramshorn snail Segmentina nitida (RDB: Endangered), is found in well-oxygenated drains with lush
vegetation. Particularly widespread and abundant on this Site is an aquatic snail *Valvata macrostoma* (RDB: Vulnerable). Of the many species of water beetle recorded at the Site, the most interesting are confined to the ditches in areas of permanent pasture. Of particular interest is Britain’s largest water beetle, the great silver water beetle *Hydrophilus piceus* (RDB: Rare) which is found only on grazed levels in the southern part of Britain. Also of importance is Bagous puncticollis (RDB: Endangered), found on Horse Eye Level and several nationally rare water beetles such as the small reddish-brown *Hydrovatus clypealis* (RDB: Rare) confined to the coast of southern England. Over fifteen species of dragonfly (Odonata) have been recorded including the nationally scarce species, hairy dragonfly *Brachytron pratense* and variable damselfly *Coeagrión pulchellum*. Survey has also revealed Britain’s only known location of *Placobdella costata* (provisional RDB), a large leech … One of Britain’s largest spiders *Dolomedes plantarius* (great raft spider) (RDB: Endangered) has also been recorded. The Site is of national importance for its wintering lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* which exceed 1% of the total British population. The numbers of snipe *Gallinago gallinago* may also be of national importance … Wintering golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* are of local significance and in some years are of national importance. Sedge warblers *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* and reed warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* … breed in numbers of local significance. The Site also supports about one fifth of the breeding yellow wagtails *Motacilla flava* in Sussex.

**Pevensey Levels Ramsar:** Pevensey Levels is one of the largest and least-fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The Site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. A small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sand is included within the Site. The Site supports an outstanding assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates including many British Red Data Book species. The Site supports 68% of vascular plant species in Great Britain that can be described as aquatic. It is probably the best Site in Britain for freshwater molluscs, one of the five best sites for aquatic beetles Coleoptera and supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies Odonata.

### Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
<th>Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>890m West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lower Stunts Green Farm Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940m West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Ginger’s Green Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650m West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920m South West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>775m South West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940m South West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350m South West</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>895 South</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lime Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>990 South East</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Allfree Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>625m East</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Pocket Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360m East</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>675m North East</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Nunningham Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>560m North</td>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Calvesfield Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50m North</td>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat – un-named</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected Species</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguis fragilis</td>
<td>Slow worm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eptesicus serotinus</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natrix natrix</td>
<td>Grass snake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyctalus noctula</td>
<td>Noctule bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</td>
<td>Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus sp.</td>
<td>Pipistrelle sp. bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plecotus sp.</td>
<td>Long-eared bat sp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sussex BAP Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronicta rumicis</th>
<th>Knot Grass (moth)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coenonympha pamphilus</td>
<td>Small Heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecliptopera silaceata</td>
<td>Small Phoenix (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasionommata megera</td>
<td>Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydraea micacea</td>
<td>Rosy Rustic (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spilosoma lubricipeda</td>
<td>White Ermine (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonalla binaria</td>
<td>Oak Hook-tip (moth)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sussex Rare Species Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eilema sororcula</th>
<th>Orange Footman (moth)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furcula bicuspis</td>
<td>Alder Kitten (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globia sparganii</td>
<td>Webb's Wainscot (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicago polymorpha</td>
<td>Toothed Medick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenia lunalaria</td>
<td>Lunar Thorn (moth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia platyphyllos</td>
<td>Large-leaved lime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notable Bird Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apus apus</th>
<th>Swift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ardea cinerea</td>
<td>Grey heron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco peregrinus</td>
<td>Peregrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirundo rustica</td>
<td>Swallow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milvus milvus</td>
<td>Red kite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Invasive Alien Species Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allium triquetrum</th>
<th>Three-cornered garlic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</td>
<td>Montbretia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica (= H. x massartiana)</td>
<td>Hybrid bluebell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhododendron ponticum</td>
<td>Rhododendron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (see Figure 20/610)

**Amenity grassland** – With a typical range of common and widespread species. Poor semi-improved grassland – species poor with a mown, rather homogenous sward. Grasses dominated by Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris* but including frequent perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*. Forb content is very limited but includes creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, red and white clover *Trifolium pratense* and *repens* and cat’s ear *Hypochaeris radicata*.

**Tall ruderal and scrub** – On and adjacent to southern boundary, including bramble and nettle.

**Introduced trees and shrubs** – Scattered throughout main garden and extension, including number of conifers (cypresses).

**Hedges** – Species poor and contains much privet in parts.

**Trees** – Including a mature oak beside the entrance and developing sycamores on the southern...
**Buildings** – A single storey house with pitched and tiled roof.

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.

**Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species**

No non-native invasive species recorded during the survey.

**Assessment of Potential for Notable Species**

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site, although OS maps indicate a pond is present in woodland approximately 370m to the north of the Site. However, the distance from the pond, as well as the very limited suitable terrestrial habitat present within the Site and widespread availability of suitable habitat near the pond, means the probability of great crested newts being present within the Site is considered to be low.

**Reptiles** – Limited potential on edges of garden extension, dependent on management.

**Breeding birds** – In hedges and trees.

**Bats** – Some potential in the mature oak, which may have features such as cracks and cavities that have potential to be used as roosts. The house also has some potential to support bat roosts. Given the habitats and features present activity, including foraging and commuting, is likely throughout, but especially along the hedges and field boundaries.

**Recommendations for Further Survey (including optimal survey timings)**

**Reptiles** – (May – June; September – October) in suitable habitat around boundaries of garden extension.

**Bats** – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees and house to determine the scope for further survey.

**INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**Low** – Largely house and garden with limited potential to support protected species.

**Impact Avoidance**

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining the mature oak.
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.

**Outline Mitigation**

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
• Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
• Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
• Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
• On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
• Buffer the mature oak.
• If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development.
• In light of the potential presence of breeding birds, if possible cutting back or removal of woody vegetation, including trees, shrubs/scrub and hedgerows should not be carried out during the bird breeding season, which is March-August inclusive. If this is not possible then the relevant vegetation should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to the commencement of works.
• New development may need to incorporate bat roosts as alternative or replacement habitat if roosts are likely to be lost.
• Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.

Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

• Positively and appropriately manage retained habitats and features, including mature trees.
• Where appropriate gap-up planting of appropriate native trees and shrubs, to strengthen the Site’s boundary vegetation, for example where it adjoins residential properties to the south and the open fields to the north to link to adjoining habitat.
• Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat or to form habitat corridors or links, to include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
• Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit;
• Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings;
• Implementation of good management practices for retained habitats, notably hedgerow and tree management.
WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 20/610
HERSTMONCEUX - Site Ref 610/2090
- PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

KEY
- Site Assessment Boundary
- Scattered Scrub
- Broadleaved Tree
- Coniferous Tree
- Hedge - Intact Species Poor
- Dense Scrub
- SI Poor Semi-improved Grassland
- Amenity Grassland
- Introduced Shrub

October 2016
11124101_Herstmonceux Ecology Figures_12-10-16.indd

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 0100031673
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Area: Herstmonceux

Site Name: New Barn Farm, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux

Site Reference Number: 858/2090

Site Summary Description

A 2.5ha Site comprising largely of heavily pony-grazed rather species poor grassland but with species rich hedges, including sections with mature trees.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site is located to the west of Herstmonceux, to the north of the road to Stunts Green. There are several residential properties immediately to the south west and an industrial/depot area to the west of the centre of the Site. It is otherwise set in open country of mostly grassland fields with hedges and small woodlands.

Desk Study : Designated Sites within 1km (See Figure 20.2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Distance from Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Kiln Wood</td>
<td>675m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Remzells Wood / Denward shaw</td>
<td>890m North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Beech Wood</td>
<td>1000m North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Stunts Green Shaw</td>
<td>220m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Lower Stunts Green Farm Shaw</td>
<td>375m South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw</td>
<td>480m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw 2</td>
<td>175m South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw</td>
<td>865m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland – Calvesfield Shaw</td>
<td>465m East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard BAP priority habitat (un-named)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specie</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguis fragilis</td>
<td>Slow worm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eptesicus serotinus</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyctalus noctula</td>
<td>Noctule bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</td>
<td>Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipistrellus sp.</td>
<td>Pipistrelle sp. bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plecotus sp.</td>
<td>Long-eared bat sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex BAP Species</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coenonympha pamphilus</td>
<td>Small Heath</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sussex Rare Species Inventory
Medicago polymorpha
*Toothed Medick*
Tilia platyphyllos
*Large-leaved lime*

Notable Bird Inventory
Apus apus
*Swift*
Falco peregrinus
*Peregrine*
Hirundo rustica
*Swallow*
Milvus milvus
*Red kite*

Invasive Alien Species Inventory
Allium triquetrum
*Three-cornered garlic*
Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora
*Montbretia*
Elodea nuttallii
*Nuttall’s Water-Weed*
Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica
*(= H. x massartiana)*
*Hybrid bluebell*
Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum
*Variegated yellow archangel*
Rhododendron ponticum
*Rhododendron*

Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (See Figure 20/858)

**Poor semi-improved grassland** – Generally a short to very short (0-5cm) heavily pony-grazed sward, although the northern field is a little less heavily grazed. Species poor, in which Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* are the most frequent and abundant grasses. Although forb content could be moderately high, up to 50%, it comprises largely of very common and widespread species, especially creeping and meadow buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and acris, white clover *Trifolium repens*, self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, and yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, but also occasional red clover *Trifolium pratense*, common mouse ear *Cerastium fontanum*, cats ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg.. Tall ruderals, including broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, nettle and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* are occasional but locally frequent or abundant. Very short or poached areas have frequent or abundant annual meadow grass *Poa annua* and knotgrass *Persicaria aviculare*. There is a small area of somewhat taller and more structurally diverse, though species poor, grassland to the west of the farm buildings.

**Amenity grassland** – There is a small area of recently established, species poor amenity grassland adjacent to the house.

**Tall ruderal** – Stand of nettle in a small unmanaged area in the south of the Site.

**Hedges** – Species rich with hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly and rose. Some sections include trees or mature trees, including ash, field maple and oak. A section to the west of the farm buildings is gappy and partly covered by a large spoil heap from the neighbouring property.

**Trees and scrub** – A bank on part of the western boundary with the neighbouring industrial/depot area supports trees and scrub rather than a definite hedge. This includes some of the species present in the hedges, but also developing sycamores. There is also some bramble on a boundary in the south west of the Site.

Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species

No species considered notable for their nature conservation value recorded during the Phase I habitat field survey.

Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species

No invasive non-native species recorded within the Site.
Assessment of Potential for Protected and Notable Species

**Great crested newts** – There are no ponds within the Site. However, there is a pond beside the buildings at New Barn Farm. At the time of the survey this is filled with greater reedmace *Typha latifolia* with no visible water (though there may have been some present). It is set within gravel drives and the buildings but close to the fields and hedges. There is also a pond to the north, towards Little Hollingwood, approximately 140m from the Site and two ponds to the south west, approximately 350m and 480m distant respectively. Suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts within the Site is largely limited to the hedges, the trees and scrub on the western boundary and tall ruderal.

**Reptiles** – Very limited potential along boundaries, for example more diverse grassland to the west of the farm buildings, and tall ruderal.

**Breeding birds** – In hedges, trees and scrub

**Bats** – Trees and mature trees in particular, with features such as cracks and cavities, have potential to be used as roosts. Activity, including foraging and commuting, is likely throughout but especially along hedges.

**Dormice** – Moderate potential in woodland, hedges and scrub due to connectivity with adjoining hedge network.

**Badgers** – Potential for setts within the hedges, trees and scrub, but with or without setts badgers may also use any or part of the Site for foraging. However, neither setts nor foraging signs are recorded during the survey.

**Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)**

**Amphibian (including great crested newt)** – (March – June) of the pond at New Barn Farm and the ponds to the north and south west of the Site.

**Reptiles** – (May – June, September – October) in suitable habitat if present.

**Bats** – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees to determine the scope for further survey.

**Dormice** – (April – November) – in suitable habitat.

**Badgers** – (Year round but Spring / Autumn optimal) – of whole site.

**INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

**Low value** – species poor grassland or relatively low value but the hedges, including the trees, and especially mature trees, are of some value both in their own right and as habitat capable of supporting a range of species.

The Site has low - moderate potential to support notable/protected species.

**Impact Avoidance**

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining and buffering the hedges, including mature trees and their features
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.

**Outline Mitigation**

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Timing of vegetation clearance works to avoid the bird breeding season (March – August inclusive).
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents;
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- If great crested newts are found to be present in pond at New Barn Farm or to the north or south west of the Site, measures should be put in place to prevent harming or killing them, including for example the erection of herptile fencing to exclude them from work areas, and possibly trapping and translocation to suitable receptor areas elsewhere.
- If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development (for example in buffer strips beside retained hedges, as noted above).
- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.
- If dormice are found to be present, retention and appropriate buffering of hedges.
- Development should avoid construction works within at least 30m of the nearest badger setts and seek to avoid prime foraging grounds identified through the badger survey and severance of commuting corridors within territories.

### Potential Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:

- Positively and appropriately manage retained habitats and features, including hedges and mature trees.
- Strengthen boundary vegetation by planting appropriate native species, for example on the south western boundary and along the access track to New Barn Farm.
- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat, or to form habitat corridors or links. To include for example:
  - Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;
  - Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;
  - Scrub and trees; and
  - Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.
- Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit.
- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings.
- Incorporate features to SuDS scheme(s), such as the use of native wetland plant species, to enhance their value.
FIGURE 20/858
HERSTMONCEUX - Site Ref 858/2090
- PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

KEY

- Site Assessment Boundary
- Scattered Scrub
- Broadleaved Tree
- Hedge - Intact Species Rich
- Hedge - Species Rich with Trees
- Dense Scrub
- Poor Semi-improved Grassland
- Tall Ruderal
- Amenity Grassland
- Bare Ground

- Broadleaved Tree
- Dense Scrub
- Poor Semi-improved Grassland
- Tall Ruderal
- Amenity Grassland
- Bare Ground

October 2016

WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN:
LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SITES
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 0100031673
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area:</th>
<th>Herstmonceux</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Name:</td>
<td>Land at Stunts, Herstmonceux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Reference Number:</td>
<td>879/2090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Site Summary Description

A 0.34ha Site comprising largely of dense scrub and tall ruderal but also species poor and species rich hedges and mature trees.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Green Infrastructure Context (see Figure 20.1)

The Site is located within a characteristic High Weald landscape of small to medium sized fields, including both grassland and arable, set within a relatively extensive and intact hedgerow network which includes frequent trees. Woodland, including Ancient Woodland, is relatively plentiful and includes both large and small parcels. Gill woodland is also present along some of the stream corridors. Further to the south a broader, low lying landscape of larger open pasture and grazing marsh develops towards the Pevensey Levels. The Site is located to the west of Herstmonceux, to the south of the road to Stunts Green. There are several residential properties immediately to the north of the road but the Site is otherwise set in open country of mostly grassland fields with hedges and small woodlands.

Desk Study: Designated Sites within 1km (See Figure 20.2)

- None

Desk Study: BAP Priority Habitats within 1km

- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Kiln Wood
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Remzells Wood / Denward shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Beech Wood
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Stunts Green Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Lower Stunts Green Farm Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Buckwell Farm Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Street Shaw
- Ancient & semi-natural woodland – Calvesfield Shaw
- Orchard BAP priority habitat (un-named)

Desk Study: Protected and Notable Species within 1km

**Protected Species**

- *Anguis fragilis* Slow worm
- *Eptesicus serotinus* Serotine bat
- *Nyctalus noctula* Noctule bat
- *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz) bat
- *Pipistrellus sp.* Pipistrelle sp. bat
- *Plecotus sp.* Long-eared bat sp.

**Sussex BAP Species**

- *Coenonympha pamphilus* Small Heath

Distance from Site

- 525m North
- 740m North
- 1000m North West
- 220m South West
- 375m South West
- 580m South
- 275m South
- 865m East
- 300m North East
- 465m East
**Sussex Rare Species Inventory**

*Medicago polymorpha*  
Toothed Medick

*Tilia platyphyllos*  
Large-leaved lime

**Notable Bird Inventory**

*Apus apus*  
Swift

*Falco peregrinus*  
Peregrine

*Hirundo rustica*  
Swallow

*Milvus milvus*  
Red kite

**Invasive Alien Species Inventory**

*Allium triquetrum*  
Three-cornered garlic

*Crocosmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora*  
Montbretia

*Elodea nuttallii*  
Nuttall’s Water-Weed

*Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica*  
Hybrid bluebell

(*H. x massartiana*)  
Variegated yellow archangel

*Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum*  
Rhododendron ponticum

**Field Survey: Habitat Descriptions (See Figure 20/879)**

**Poor semi-improved grassland**  
There is a small area of species poor grassland in the north of the Site. Species include Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, ground ivy *Clethra hederacea*, wood avens *Geum urbanum* and fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Tall ruderal – most of the centre and south of the Site is occupied by nettle with scattered bramble.

**Scrub**  
Dense stands of bramble in the north and parts of the east of the Site. Also scattered bushes of hawthorn and willow etc.

**Trees**  
Several mature oaks, mainly on the northern and eastern boundaries as well as a mature ash standing in the edge of the field in the north of the Site. Two non-native cedars on the western boundary.

**Hedges**  
Mostly species poor, with a mix of native and non-native species, including especially hawthorn and hazel but also rose and especially non-native privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*. The hedge on the short northern boundary is richer and the base of the hedge includes several Ancient woodland Indicator Species, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, butchers broom *Ruscus aculeatus* and stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*, as well as male fern *Dryopteris felix-mas*.

**Field Survey: Protected and Notable Species**

Badger – probable foraging signs (snuffle holes) and latrine in the grassland area in the north of the Site

**Field Survey: Invasive Non-native Species**

No invasive non-native species recorded within the Site.

**Assessment of Potential for Protected and Notable Species**

**Great crested newts**  
There are no ponds within the Site. However, there is a pond at New Barn Farm approximately 150m to the north. There are also two ponds to the west and south west, approximately 220m and 330m distant respectively. The entire Site represents suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts.

**Reptiles**  
Potential throughout much of the Site

**Breeding birds**  
In hedges, trees and scrub

**Bats**  
Trees and mature trees in particular, with features such as cracks and cavities, have potential to be used as roosts. Activity, including foraging and commuting, is likely throughout.

**Dormice**  
Moderate potential in hedges and scrub due to connectivity with adjoining hedges and woodland.
Badgers – Potential foraging signs recorded and badgers may use any part of the Site for foraging. Potential for sets throughout the Site but these are not found during the survey.

Recommendations for Further Survey (and optimal survey timings)

Amphibian (including great crested newt) – (March – June) of the ponds to the north and west/south west of the Site.
Reptiles – (May – June, September – October) in suitable habitat.
Bats – (inspections: year round; activity surveys April – October) in the first instance inspection of trees to determine the scope for further survey.
Dormice – (April – November) – in suitable habitat.
Badgers – (Year round but Spring / Autumn optimal) – of whole site.

INDICATIVE ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Low value – largely species poor vegetation of common and widespread species. However, hedges on the northern boundary and the northern part of the eastern boundary as well as the mature trees have value.
The Site has moderate potential to support notable/protected species.

Impact Avoidance

In order to limit, as far as possible, potentially adverse effects of development including potential harm to the integrity of the wider green infrastructure network, effort should be made to avoid the more ecologically valuable parts of the Site by:

- Retaining and buffering the mature trees and their features and the hedges on the northern boundary and the northern part of the eastern boundary.
- As far as possible and appropriate retaining and buffering habitats and features supporting notable/protected species, based on the results of more detailed surveys.

Outline Mitigation

Should development at this Site proceed, generic (standard) mitigation for impacts upon habitats and species is set out below. Further detailed or species-specific mitigation may be required dependent upon the outcome of the recommended protected habitat or species surveys.

- Implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage site-specific issues relating to the potential impacts of construction on ecological features of interest.
- Timing of vegetation clearance works to avoid the bird breeding season (March – August inclusive).
- Offset buffers to protect retained habitats (minimum 10m).
- Use of protective fencing to define construction areas and protect retained habitats.
- Avoidance of night-time working wherever possible. When not possible, use directional lighting to prevent lightshed into surrounding habitats.
- Inclusion of mammal ladders or similar in any trenches left open overnight.
- Sealing of pipework overnight, to prevent animals becoming trapped.
- Defined and bunded areas for fuel storage and refuelling to prevent spillages and pollution incidents.
- On-Site spill incident equipment, in the event of spillages of fuel or other materials. Specific measures will be required if any works are close to watercourses and/or waterbodies.
- If great crested newts are found to be present in ponds to the north or west/south west of the Site, measures should be put in place to prevent harming or killing them, including for example the erection of herptile fencing to exclude them from work areas, and possibly trapping and translocation to suitable receptor areas elsewhere.
- If reptiles are found to be present, measures to prevent harm to them, including potentially translocation from the development Site to a suitable receptor site. Where feasible such receptor areas should be incorporated into the new development (for example in buffer strips beside retained...
hedges, as noted above).

- Insofar as any proposed development of the Site allows, lighting design, particularly for the periphery of the Site should be minimised as far as possible. As a minimum, any lighting along Site boundaries that may potentially form important commuting corridors (e.g. hedgerows) or adjacent woodlands that may support bat roosts should make use of backboards and/or internal louvres to ensure light is directed into the Site and light spill into the adjacent areas of retained habitat is minimised.
- If dormice are found to be present the retention and appropriate buffering of hedges.
- Development should avoid construction works within at least 30m of the nearest badger sets and seek to avoid prime foraging grounds identified through the badger survey and severance of commuting corridors within territories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Enhancement Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for enhancing, restoring and/or creating new habitats as an integral part of a Site’s development that can also contribute to the District’s wider ecological /green infrastructure network are identified below:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Positively and appropriately manage retained habitats and features, including hedges and mature trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Strengthen boundary vegetation by removing non-native species and replacing with appropriate native species and planting of new hedges on boundary sections currently lacking them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Habitat creation, ideally located adjacent to retained or adjoining habitat, or to form habitat corridors or links. To include for example:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wildlife pond(s), included for example as part of a SuDS scheme;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Species-rich grassland and associated features for supporting a variety of terrestrial invertebrates;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Scrub and trees; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Creation of dead wood habitats and other habitat piles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Erection of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species, on retained trees or incorporated into buildings where they will remain unlit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Erection of bird boxes suitable for a range of bird species on retained trees or incorporated into buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Incorporate features to SuDS scheme(s), such as the use of native wetland plant species, to enhance their value.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 20/879

Herstmonceux - Site Ref 879/2090
- Phase 1 Habitat Plan

Wealden Local Plan:
Landscape & Ecological Assessment of Potential Sites
Wealden District Council

Key:
- Site Assessment Boundary
- Scattered Scrub
- Broadleaved Tree
- Coniferous Tree
- Hedge - Intact Species Rich
- Hedge - Intact Species Poor
- Hedge - Species Poor with Trees
- Dense Scrub
- Poor Semi-improved Grassland
- Tall Ruderal

October 2016
11124101_Ecology Figures_27-10-16.indd
© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 0100031673