

Field House Farm Summary of Ecology Works Undertaken to date:

Winter bird surveys

Surveys undertaken 2014 / 2015 and 2016 / 2017. Birds using the site during the winter months were generally garden species with small numbers of occasional waders including lapwing and snipe also recorded. No significant groups of any one species were recorded during any of the surveys. Birds of prey recorded were hunting kestrel and two buzzards recorded outside of the site. There were good numbers of blackbirds and robins and lower numbers of fieldfare and redwing. Three reed buntings were recorded near the wet areas of the farm. Finches including linnets, goldfinch and greenfinch were observed in small numbers and mainly around the boundary hedgerows.

Breeding bird surveys

Surveys undertaken 2015, 2017, 2018, inclusive of identifying potential nest box locations and for which species. Species recorded onsite are largely associated with arable farmland and woodland. Tawny Owl, little owl are recorded on site and two sightings have been made of barn owl overflying the site. Tree sparrows are recorded on the periphery of the site and the nest box scheme will target these species. Breeding of the following species was confirmed - grey partridge, swallow, dunnock, grasshopper warbler, whitethroat, linnets and yellowhammer. Probable breeders were skylark, willow warbler, starling, song thrush, possible breeders were bullfinch and reed bunting.

Bat surveys

Surveys undertaken 2015, 2018. Common pipistrelles were the most common bat recorded during the surveys. Surveys undertaken in 2015 found two tree roosts and these trees are being monitored. A survey undertaken in April / May 2018 identified further mature trees located in the site with bat roosting potential, these trees will be retained and surveyed in more detail in May and June 2018. A roost box scheme is to be implemented in 2018.

Great crested newt / amphibian species surveys

Surveys undertaken 2015 / 2017 / 2018: Great crested newt (GCN) were not recorded in or in suitable habitat next to the site in 2015, 2017 or in 2018. Surveys were undertaken in all ponds in 2017, but by the end of April 2017 ponds in the site were all dry.

GCN were not recorded in 2017, frogs and Toads were found in small numbers near to Pond 5.

GCN were not recorded in 2018 although toads and frogs were recorded later in the season in 2018.

A Risk Assessment and Method Statement was produced for GCN and all other amphibian species in 2017 and new ponds were created and other enhanced in 2018 using these approved RAMS. Surveys for common amphibian species are ongoing in 2018.

Water vole

Surveys undertaken in 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2018, this species is not recorded in the site although incidental monitoring continues as a part of other aquatic surveys.

Badger

Surveys undertaken in 2013, 2017 & 2018 this species is not recorded on site. There is a very large fox earth located centrally in the site which will be closed accordingly.

Badger has not been recorded in the site.

Pond Condition Survey

A pond condition survey was undertaken in 2017 and in advance of the implementation of the agreed ecological mitigation measures.