

## Ecological Walkover for the Land Northfield, Somerton

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## Introduction

A site walkover was required to update the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report completed in 2020.

The site walkover aims to check for any changes in the habitats present which may result in a greater loss of biodiversity than when the ecological assessment was carried out, and to identify if any additional potential impacts on any protected species are now present.

## Site visit

Site Address: Land off Northfield, Somerton, TA11 6ST

Site Walkover completed by: Simon Rayburn Bsc

The site walkover was carried out on 13/03/25 in calm, dry weather conditions.

## Habitats

There were no changes to the boundary habitats present on site however the field was developing into a grassland habitat from the use for arable cultivation present in 2020.

## Reptiles

Given the development of a grassland habitat, it is possible that populations of common reptiles could have colonised the site since the change from arable cultivation. The road verges along Northfield and Bradly Hill Lane and the field adjacent to the northwest both had suitable grassland habitats from which reptiles could colonise the site.

A reptile survey must therefore be carried out prior to development of the site should the land use still provide supporting habitat.

## Bats

The guidance for lighting at night and bats has been updated since the 2020 report and should therefore use the following: BCT & ILP Guidance Note 08/23 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night'<sup>(1)</sup>.

There were no other new or changed protected species issues identified.



Simon Rayburn

Ecologist

## References

1. Bat Conservation Trust (London) & Institution of Lighting Professionals (Rugby) (2023). Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night.

## Photographs



Photo 1. The view across the site looking south towards Northfield showing the developing grassland now present.



Photo 2. The verge and hedgerow along Northfield.