Explanatory note on the purpose of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal prepared by TACP (April 2019):

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) is a rapid assessment of the ecological features present, or potentially present, within a site and its surrounding area (i.e. the 'zone of influence' in relation to a specific project, e.g. a proposed development). A PEA normally comprises a desk study and a walkover survey. The key objectives of a PEA are to identify the likely ecological constraints associated with a project, mitigation measures and additional surveys that may be required, and opportunities for ecological enhancement.

Identifying ecological constraints and opportunities is an iterative process, particularly on large and complex development sites, as the level of detail and certainty increases over time and the ecological information can be cross-referenced with the emerging details of the proposal. A PEA is normally used to inform a more detailed Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) to identify, quantify and evaluate the potential effects of a development and incorporate detailed mitigation and compensation strategies, once the details of the proposal are known. This more detailed report would be produced by the developer for submission with a planning application.

The PEA report prepared by TACP (April 2019) on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council is a basic level assessment only, which includes information on the habitats present, an assessment of the possible presence of protected and priority species, considers the likely importance of these at the site with reference to existing records and professional judgement, and makes outline recommendations for further surveys and possible mitigation measures.

For more information, the *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal* (Second Edition, December 2017) published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) are available to download from: https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-on-preliminary-ecological-appraisal-gpea/