

■ PRELIMINARY DESKTOP SCREENING · DRAFT

Species-at-Risk & Habitat Screening

A preliminary desktop review of potential species-at-risk and sensitive habitats for the site below, based on the details provided and publicly available data. Not a field assessment or regulatory approval.

SITE / PROJECT	Maple Ridge Solar Site	PREPARED FOR	Ridgeview Renewables Inc.
LOCATION	Twp. of Cavan Monaghan, Peterborough Co., ON	COORDINATES	44.2031, -78.5642
PARCEL SIZE	12 ha (≈30 acres)	PROPOSED ACTIVITY	Ground-mounted solar array
PREPARED BY	Quadrat Studio	REPORT DATE	July 6, 2026

1 High flag — grassland breeding birds across the parcel	2 Moderate flags — boundary creek & adjacent bat woodlot	5 Potential species / habitats identified for follow-up
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1. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is an approximately **12-hectare (≈30-acre)** parcel in the Township of Cavan Monaghan, Peterborough County, Ontario. It comprises a former pasture that has lain fallow for several years and reverted to open grassland and meadow. Active cropland adjoins to the north, a rural road bounds the south, a mixed woodlot lies to the west, and a treed hedgerow with an intermittent creek runs along the eastern edge.

Visible habitat features noted at intake: open grassland / meadow across the parcel; an intermittent watercourse (creek) and treed hedgerow on the eastern boundary; and a mature woodlot immediately adjacent to the west.

2. DESKTOP REVIEW METHOD

This screening is a desktop-based review only. No field visit, species survey or ground-truthing was conducted. Findings rely on the site details supplied at intake and publicly available information current as of the report date, including:

 **SAR registries & range data.** Provincial and federal species-at-risk records and occurrence ranges (Ontario NHIC; federal Species at Risk Public Registry).

 **Natural-heritage mapping.** Publicly available mapping of wetlands, watercourses, woodlands and land cover.

 **Aerial & satellite imagery.** Used to interpret on-site and adjacent habitat features.

 **Client intake.** The habitat features and land-use context reported by the client.

Because these sources vary in age, resolution and completeness, results describe **potential — not confirmed — presence**. Absence of a record does not confirm absence on site.

3. POTENTIAL SPECIES-AT-RISK & HABITATS OF CONCERN

Indicative, not exhaustive. Listing does not confirm presence on the site. Status: END = Endangered · THR = Threatened · SC = Special Concern (SARA / ESA).

SPECIES / HABITAT	STATUS	ASSOCIATED HABITAT	RELEVANCE TO SITE
 Bobolink	THR	Open grassland, hayfields, fallow pasture	Grassland covers the parcel — potential breeding habitat
 Eastern Meadowlark	THR	Grassland, meadow, pasture	Same grassland habitat as above
 Barn Swallow	THR	Open foraging areas; nests on structures	May forage over the field; check nearby barns
 Little Brown Myotis	END	Forest, treed edges, roost trees	Adjacent woodlot / hedgerow may provide roosting
 Creek & riparian hedgerow	Sensitive habitat	Watercourse, treed edge	Eastern boundary feature; supports connectivity

4. PRELIMINARY RISK FLAGS

Each flag reflects the likelihood that the proposed activity — construction of a ground-mounted solar array — could interact with a protected species or sensitive habitat, based on this desktop review. Flags are precautionary screening indicators, not determinations.

FEATURE / CONCERN	BASIS / RATIONALE	FLAG
Grassland breeding birds (Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark)	Whole-parcel grassland is suitable breeding habitat for two threatened species; site works and vegetation removal could disturb active nests in the breeding season (approx. May–Aug).	HIGH
Intermittent creek & riparian hedgerow (east edge)	Sensitive watercourse on the boundary; impacts avoidable if setbacks are maintained, but grading/runoff could affect it.	MODERATE
Adjacent woodlot / bat roosting	Endangered bat roosting is possible in adjacent trees; the project footprint appears to avoid the woodlot, so direct impact is less likely.	MODERATE
Active cropland portion (north edge)	Regularly cultivated ground offers limited SAR habitat; low-impact interaction expected.	LOW

LOW	little indication of interaction	MODERATE	possible; warrants closer review	HIGH	likely; field assessment recommended
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5. RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

-  **Commission a qualified field assessment** by a certified biologist before any site works begin — in particular a breeding-bird survey within the appropriate window (approx. May–August) to confirm grassland species use.
-  **Consult MECP & the local conservation authority** regarding grassland SAR, the watercourse, and any Endangered Species Act permitting or registration that may apply.
-  **Time ground-disturbing work outside the breeding season** where feasible, or subject to a biologist's nest-clearance protocol.
-  **Maintain a vegetated buffer / setback** from the eastern creek and hedgerow; plan grading and stormwater to avoid sediment or runoff into the watercourse.
-  **Retain the adjacent woodlot intact** and avoid removing mature edge trees that could serve as bat roosts.

■ BOTTOM LINE

Because grassland breeding birds carry a **HIGH** flag and two features carry **MODERATE** flags, Quadrat Studio recommends a **qualified field assessment by a certified biologist before proceeding**. This desktop screening identifies where to look — it does not replace that assessment.

■ DISCLAIMER — READ BEFORE RELYING ON THIS REPORT

This document is a **preliminary desktop screening** prepared by Quadrat Studio for planning purposes only. It is based on information supplied by the client and publicly available data current as of the report date. It is **NOT a field assessment, species survey, environmental impact study, or regulatory approval**, and it does not satisfy any statutory requirement under the federal Species at Risk Act, the Ontario Endangered Species Act, or municipal/provincial planning processes. Potential species and habitats are identified on a precautionary basis; their listing here does not confirm presence, and their absence here does not confirm absence. SAR data, ranges and legal listings change over time. Any development, land-use or permitting decision should be supported by a **qualified field assessment conducted by a certified professional**. Quadrat Studio accepts no liability for reliance on this preliminary screening in the absence of such assessment.

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