PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Land at The Old Vicarage, Dimble Lane
Alton, Staffordshire

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Eyebright Ecology was commissioned by Montague Architects to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at The Old Vicarage, Dimble Lane, Alton, Staffordshire.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken on 25 June 2016 by an experienced and licensed ecologist.

The site comprised a fenced field containing a small brick pig shed, patchy bare ground becoming vegetated with tall ruderal herbs, scattered broadleaf and conifer trees, a short section of hedgerow and introduced shrubs.

There was a small brick pig shed in the site which was assessed to have low potential for bats. No evidence of bats was found. Due to the nature of the building, it is recommended that an endoscope check of crevices is undertaken prior to careful dismantling by hand.

There were four trees which are due to be removed which were assessed to be of low potential for roosting bats. No further bat surveys of these trees is required. The remainder of the retained trees on site were assessed to range from negligible to moderate potential for roosting bats. No further bat surveys of these trees is required unless they require removal in future.

The site is likely to support foraging and commuting bats, and therefore external lighting on the new dwelling should be minimal and of sensitive design.

No evidence of badger was found, but as badger activity can change in a short space of time, it is recommended that a check for badger setts on site and in the immediate surrounds is undertaken prior to construction.

The habitats on site are considered unlikely to support dormouse.

Birds may nest in the pig shed, trees and hedgerows during the breeding season of March to August inclusive. Any demolition of the building or vegetation removal undertaken during these months should be subject to a prior check for nesting birds. Any active nests that are found must not be moved until fledglings have dispersed. It is recommended that a variety of bird boxes on trees or buildings could be installed to enhance the site for birds in future.

The habitats on site were of limited value to common reptiles, although grass snake has been recorded in the locality. As reptiles are considered unlikely to regularly occur on site, no further survey is required.

There were no existing ponds identified within 500 m of the site. It is therefore unlikely that great crested newts are present on site, despite presence of potentially suitable terrestrial habitat.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background & Objectives

Eyebright Ecology was commissioned by Montague Architects to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at The Old Vicarage, Dimble Lane, Alton, Staffordshire (SK072420).

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken on 25 June 2016 by an experienced ecologist who is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and holds current Natural England licences for bats, great crested newts and dormouse.

The objective of this report is to provide the client with information on any known or potential protected or rare species that may be using the site, and to outline recommendations on how to proceed with any future works in a legal and ecologically sensitive manner.

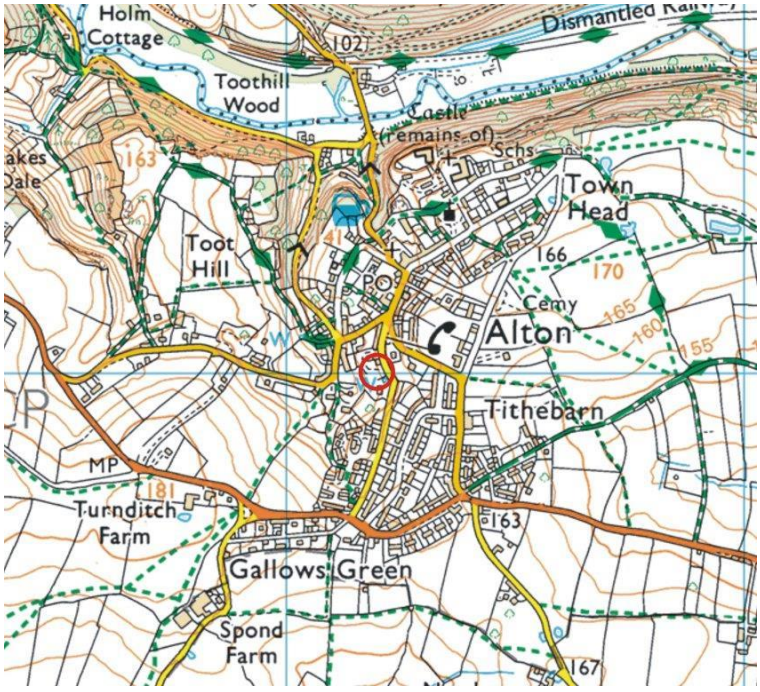
Unless the client indicates to the contrary, information on the species found to be present on the site will be passed to the county biological records centre to update records held for the area.

2.2 Site Description

The site comprised a fenced field containing a small brick pig shed, patchy bare ground becoming vegetated with tall ruderals, scattered broadleaf and conifer trees, a short section of hedgerow and introduced shrubs. The site is bordered by Dimble Lane to the east, and residential gardens and mature trees to the south, west and north. The site is within the village of Alton, which is surrounded by farmland and extensive areas of woodland to the north.

2.3 Site Location

Figure 1: Location of site



OS Licence 100056180

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Search

Statutory internationally, nationally and locally designated sites within 2 km of the site were identified using Natural England's web-based database (http://www.magic.gov.uk/).

A request for records of protected sites and species within 2 km of the site was made to Staffordshire Ecological Records Ltd (SER).

Ordnance survey maps (1:25,000) and aerial images of the site (www.streetmap.co.uk and www.maps.google.co.uk) were examined online.

3.2 Habitats

An 'Extended' Phase I Habitat Survey was undertaken following standard methodology (JNCC 2010)[1]. The habitat types within the site were identified and mapped, and evidence or potential for protected species was noted. Plant species in each habitat were recorded using the DAFOR scheme to assess frequency of occurrence:

D - Dominant, A - Abundant, F - Frequent, O - Occasional, R - Rare.

The Extended Phase I Habitat survey was undertaken on 25 June 2016. Weather conditions during the survey were sunny and dry.

3.3 Species

During the 'Extended' Phase I survey, the site was inspected for any field signs of protected species or species of conservation concern (see Table 1 – Legislation is detailed in Appendix 3). In addition, the habitats on, and immediately adjacent to the site were assessed for their potential to support such species. Non-native invasive species were also recorded.

*Table 1: Protected fauna species **relevant** to site habitats and field signs*

Species	Habitats / Features	Field signs (in addition to sightings of individual animals)
Bats	Roost sites: Trees, buildings and other structures (e.g. mines, caves, bridges etc) Foraging areas: Waterbodies and wetland areas, river and stream corridors, grassland, parkland, woodland/edges, hedgerows and gardens Commuting routes: Hedgerows, water courses and other linear features	At potential roost sites – droppings, staining from urine, feeding remains, individual bats
Badger	Setts can occur in most urban and rural	Sett entrances, day couches, well-worn

[1] *Handbook for Phase I Habitat Survey – A technique for environmental audit.* Joint Nature Conservancy Council, 2010 (revised reprint).

Species	Habitats / Features	Field signs (in addition to sightings of individual animals)
	habitats, often found in woodland, along hedgerows and fields	pathways, latrines, snuffle holes, hairs, prints.
Dormouse	Hedgerows, scrub and woodland	Characteristically chewed hazelnuts, nests
Birds	Trees, scrub, grassland, hedgerows, buildings	Nests, droppings below nest sites, pellets
Reptiles	Rough grassland, logpiles, rubble, hedgebanks, wetland	Sloughed skins
Great crested newt	Ponds within 500 metres of site. Terrestrial habitat includes rough grassland, scrub, woodland, hedgerows, log and rubble piles, stone walls, animal burrows.	No field signs – presence is only confirmed by individual animals and eggs within pond.
Invertebrates	Although all habitats will support an assemblage of invertebrates, certain sites may support particularly diverse invertebrate fauna, or rare species. Sites with a mosaic of habitats, wetland habitats and semi-natural ancient habitat types may be particularly important. Brownfield sites such as old industrial workings and quarries may also support diverse or rare invertebrates.	Few field signs although certain species (e.g. ground-nesting wasps) may have burrows.

3.4 Survey Constraints

Data Search

Desk study data provides information on recorded species in the area and can be helpful for targeting survey. However, it is possible that protected species that have not been identified within the data search may occur on or adjacent to the site.

Field Survey

It was not possible to gain access to check for badgers within 30 m of the south and west boundaries due to fencing of neighbouring gardens and dense vegetation. The perimeter of the site was inspected for any badger paths into the site and the site was searched for signs of badger activity such as latrines and snuffle holes.

Fauna species present may not always leave field signs and in addition, species may take up residence on site subsequent to the survey.

If no development takes place within 12 months of this survey report, the findings should be reviewed and may need updating, and a full survey should be repeated within three years.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Data Search – Protected Sites

International Designations

There are no internationally designated sites within 2 km of the site.

National Designations

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2 km of the site. Saltersford Lane Meadows lies 0.9 kms to the east of the site, and comprises two species-rich traditionally managed hay meadows with a diverse range of flowering plants. Dimmings Dale and The Ranger lies 1.4 km to the north-west of the site and comprises a wooded valley enclosing a small area ('The Ranger') of wet and dry heath, mire and acidic grassland. The habitats are associated with diverse invertebrate communities including some scarce species.

Local Designations

There are no Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within 2 km of the site.

Non-statutory sites

There are sixteen non-statutory sites within 2 km of the site. These include 15 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and 1 Biological Alert Sites (BAS). There are also ten areas of woodland listed under the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

The closest LWS is Castle Wood, 309 m to the north of the site. This is an area of birch and oak woodland on a steep slope. The next nearest LWS is 630 m to the east of the site: Saltersford Lane, a wide green lane with diverse hedgerows. The other LWS and BAS within 2 km of the proposed development site are mainly areas of woodland and grassland.

4.2 Data Search – Protected Species

SER returned the following protected species records within 2 km of the site.

SER provided numerous records of bats within 2 km, including common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri,* Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* and Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leislerii*. The closest records were common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat roosts 100 m away on Shirley Drive, although these records were nearly 30 years old.

There were records of badger *Meles meles* within 2 km of the site, although none related to the site or immediate locality (within 500 m).

SER returned 24 records of grass snake *Natrix natrix* and 1 recent (2012) record of slow worm *Anguilis fragilis*. The closest record of grass snake was from 2003, 141 m from the site in a nearby garden. The slow worm was recorded 1.8 km from the site.

There were two records of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* from 2007, but they were 1.9 km away from the site.

SER returned a large number of bird records. Species which may be relevant to the habitats present on site are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Records of relevant bird species within 2 km.

Species	**Scientific name**	**Special protection (see Appendix 3)**	**Status in UK[2]**	**Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species**
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula		Amber List	Staffordshire BAP UKBAP
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus		Amber List	
Dunnock	Prunella modularis		Amber List	UKBAP
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Schedule 1	Red List	
House sparrow	Passer domesticus		Red List	Staffordshire BAP UKBAP
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	Schedule 1	Red List	
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos		Red List	Shropshire BAP UKBAP
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		Red List	

4.3 Field survey

Habitat Descriptions

Tall ruderal herbs

The fenced area of the site comprised disturbed bare ground which may be associated with pig keeping (Target Note 5, Plate 1 & 2). The bare ground was becoming vegetated with rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, common hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium* which was more prevalent in the west of the site.

There was a stand of common nettle along the eastern stone wall boundary of the site.

Scattered broad-leaf tree

The site was relatively shaded by mature sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* trees along the southern boundary of the site and mature willow *Salix* species and cherry *Prunus* species scattered within the site. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elder *Sambucus nigra* also occurred. Further details on the mature trees including those to be removed is included below under section 'Bats'.

[2] BTO Birds of Conservation Concern 3: Red List species have suffered severe recent population declines, Amber List species are in moderate population decline.

Scattered conifer tree

A mature cypress species of tree was present within the site. A small yew *Taxus baccata* was located on the boundary of the site.

Species-poor hedgerow

A small section of hedgerow containing yew and holly *Ilex aquifolium* was present along the northern boundary of the site.

Building

There was a small brick-built pig shed within the site (Target Note 3), which had an unglazed window, open doorway and a pitched roof which was unlined clay tiles. Further details are provided below in Section 'Bats'.

Species

Bats

The pig shed (Target Note 3, Plate 1) was the only building within the proposed development site. The building was in a poor state of repair, comprising brick walls with an unlined clay tile pitched roof. There were some small holes in the roof where tiles were missing. There was an unglazed window and open doorway allowing access into the building. Inside the pig shed there were some crevices above the window frame, and in the brickwork where bricks were missing and roof beams entered the wall (Plate 4).

No evidence of bats was found. Despite the presence of several features which could be used by individual or opportunistically roosting bats at any time of year, the building was assessed to be of low potential due to the small size of building, shaded aspect and draughty nature of the building.

There were several trees within the site which were assessed for potential to support roosting bats (Collins, 2016). These are detailed in Table 3 below and shown in Plate 1 & 3.

Tree Number	**Species**	**Description**	**Potential for roosting bats**	**Proposals**
1	Cherry species	Mature tree with several stems, each 0.3 m DBH. Light ivy cover.	Low potential	Due to be removed.
2	Willow species	Mature tree with gnarled trunk, 0.7 m DBH. Some peeling bark at lower levels but no deep crevices found.	Low potential	Due to be removed.
3	Willow species	Mature tree, 0.4 m DBH. Two shallow hollows noted but do	Low potential	Due to be removed.

Tree Number	Species	Description	Potential for roosting bats	Proposals
		not appear to extend deeply.		
4	Cypress species	Mature conifer, two stems each 0.5 DBH. Minor bark peeling at lower level but all crevices under bark were shallow.	Low potential	Due to be removed.
5	Ash	Mature tree with dense ivy cover with thick stems which may provide cavities behind.	Moderate potential	Due to be retained.
6	Yew	Small specimen on boundary, too small/young to have developed any features suitable for roosting bats.	Negligible potential	Due to be retained.
7	Sycamore	Mature tree on boundary, 1 m DBH with dense ivy cover. Thick ivy stems could provide cavities behind which are suitable for roosting bats.	Moderate potential	Due to be retained.
8	Sycamore	Mature tree on boundary, dense ivy cover but fewer thick stems noted.	Low potential	Due to be retained
9	Sycamore	Mature tree on boundary, dense ivy cover but fewer thick stems noted.	Low potential	Due to be retained.

The habitats within the site are likely to be used by foraging bats as part of their wider territory. Bats may commute through the site to reach other foraging areas.

Badger

There was no evidence of badger activity on site, or within the areas which could be accessed within 30 metres of the site (See Constraints).

Dormouse

The short isolated section of hedgerow and scattered trees were unlikely to be suitable for dormouse due to lack of food diversity and connectivity. The habitats on site had little connection to the wider countryside as the site is largely enclosed by residential properties. In addition, the species is

uncommon in Staffordshire, and it is therefore considered unlikely that dormouse would be present on site.

Birds

Woodland and garden bird species may use the site for foraging and breeding. An old bird's nest (probably blackbird *Turdus merula*) was observed in the pig shed. Trees and hedgerows may also be used by nesting birds.

Reptiles

The patchy bare ground which was becoming vegetated is likely to currently be of limited value to foraging grass snake or slow worm, although this may change in future if there is no vegetation management. There was a small compost heap present in the site (Target Note 4) but it was not considered large enough to be of particular value to breeding grass snakes. Overall, the small size of the site and lack of continuous cover or foraging habitat is likely to limit regular visits by common reptile species such as grass snake.

Great crested newt

The habitats within the site provide potential terrestrial habitat for great crested newt if populations occur in the locality. Features such as the piles of roof tiles (Target Note 1) can provide potential shelter to amphibians including great crested newts. However, there were no ponds identified within 500 metres of the site, and it is therefore considered unlikely that this species would be present on site.

Invertebrates

Due to the lack of vegetative diversity, the site is likely to support a limited range of common and widespread invertebrates.

Invasive species

A small stand of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* was present within the site (Target Note 2, Plate 5).

4. 4 Photographs

Plate 1: Looking west across site to pig shed and Tree 2.

Plate 2: Looking east across site showing patchy bare ground and tall ruderal seedlings

Plate 3: Trees with low potential for roosting bats and due to be removed from left to right: Cherry (Tree 1), Willow (Tree 3), Cypress (Tree 4).

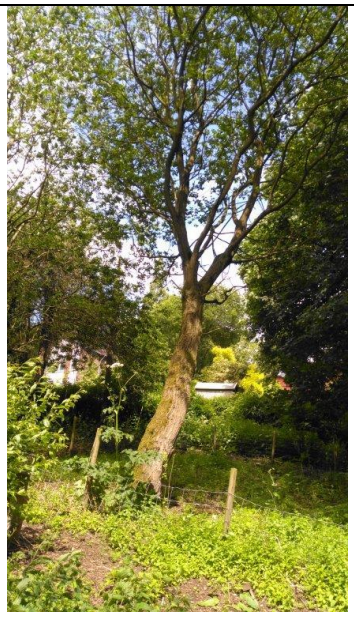
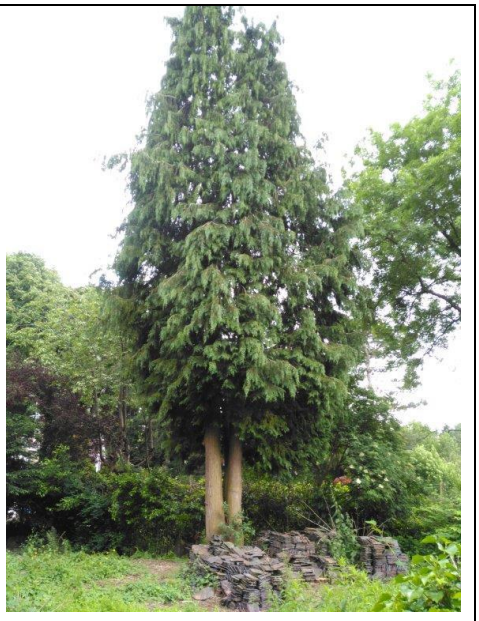




Plate 4: Crevice in brickwork where beam enters wall in pig shed

Plate 5: Small stand of Japanese knotweed.

5. DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

There were two SSSI's, as well as sixteen non-statutory sites within 2 km of the proposed development. These protected sites are unlikely to be affected by any development proposals on the site due to their distance from the site.

There was a small brick pig shed within the site which was assessed to be of low potential to support roosting bats. There were four mature trees within the site which are due to be removed, and were assessed to be of low potential for roosting bats. Several other mature trees were present on the site boundaries, which ranged from negligible to moderate potential for bat roosts. These trees are due to be retained in the proposals.

The site may be used by foraging and commuting bats.

No badger setts or evidence of badger activity was found on the site.

Nesting and foraging birds may use the trees, hedgerow and building on the site.

Although grass snakes have been recorded near to the site, it is considered that the habitats on site are likely to be of low potential to support common reptiles on a regular basis.

There were no existing ponds identified within 500 m of the site. It is therefore unlikely that great crested newts would be present on site, despite the presence of potentially suitable terrestrial habitat.

The habitats on site are likely to support a limited range of common and widespread invertebrates.

A small stand of Japanese knotweed was noted on site.

5.2 Potential Impacts of Works

It is proposed that the pig shed building and trees 1 – 4 are removed as part of proposals to build a single dwelling on the site.

Removal of the building and trees could harm roosting bats if present, or cause loss of roost sites.

Removal of trees may cause loss of bat foraging habitat, although this may be compensated for by creation of the new garden. Use of external lighting (e.g. street lamps, floodlighting, security lights etc) may disturb bat flight patterns and foraging.

Badger does not currently appear to use the site, although this may change in future. If badger setts did appear in future on the site, work within 30 m of the sett may disturb badgers or damage tunnels.

Any work affecting the building, trees or hedgerow habitats could potentially harm nesting birds if carried out during the breeding season (March to August inclusive).

As there is low potential for dormouse, reptiles or great crested newts to be present, works are unlikely to impact these species.

If Japanese knotweed is not treated or disposed of properly, it is possible that the proposed development could cause spread of this invasive species.

5.3 Recommendations

Bats

The pig shed was assessed to have low potential for supporting a bat roost, as the small, shaded and draughty nature of the building reduces likelihood for bats being present. Nevertheless, there were several crevices in brickwork which could be used by individual roosting bats throughout the year. The current bat survey guidelines (Collins, 2016) recommends a single emergence or dawn survey for low potential structures. However, in this case, due to the nature of the building, it is considered that if a bat did roost in the building, it is more likely to be on an opportunistic basis at any time of year rather than a regular summer day roost.

It is therefore recommended that an endoscope check of crevices prior to careful dismantling would be a more reliable survey method than a standard emergence or dawn survey. Due to the small size of the building, it should be possible to reach all of the features for a detailed inspection of the cavities.

If any evidence of bats or confirmation of roosting bats was found during the endoscope survey, work to dismantle / demolish the building would need to be delayed until a licence was obtained from Natural England. *However, it should be noted that if this is the case, bat activity surveys between May and September are likely to be required to gain information for a licence application.*

The four trees which are proposed for removal were all assessed to have low potential for roosting bats, as there were no features which provided deep enough cavities to be of value to bats. As per the current survey guidelines, no further survey work is required on low potential trees. However, if there is a significant delay before the trees are removed, it may be advisable for an ecologist to re-check them for any new features which may have developed in the meantime.

Lighting levels within the proposed development should not significantly exceed current levels of lighting in the area. External security lighting should be low level, downward pointing and motion-timed. If there is due to be a significant increase in lighting on site, bat activity surveys between May and September would be recommended, as some species of bat are more sensitive to light than others.

Badger

No evidence of badger was found on site. As badger activity can change in a short space of time, it is recommended that a check for badger setts on site or immediate surrounds is undertaken prior to construction.

Birds

The pig shed, trees and hedgerows could be used by nesting birds during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). If any tree or hedgerow removal is planned to commence during these

months, a prior check for nesting birds should be undertaken. Any active nests that are found must not be moved until fledglings have dispersed.

It is recommended that the site is enhanced for foraging and nesting birds in future.

Enhancements could include;

- provision of a variety of nest boxes / nest sites on trees or buildings
- new planting / landscaping using a wide range of fruiting native shrubs and plants

Japanese knotweed

Approved measures to control and treat the stand of Japanese knotweed should proceed as soon as possible. Eradication of this invasive species can sometimes take several years and must be undertaken according to The Knotweed Code of Practice to ensure an offence is not committed by allowing the plant to spread in the wild.

Further government advice including the link to The Knotweed Code of Practice can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading

6. REFERENCES

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UKBAP: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155

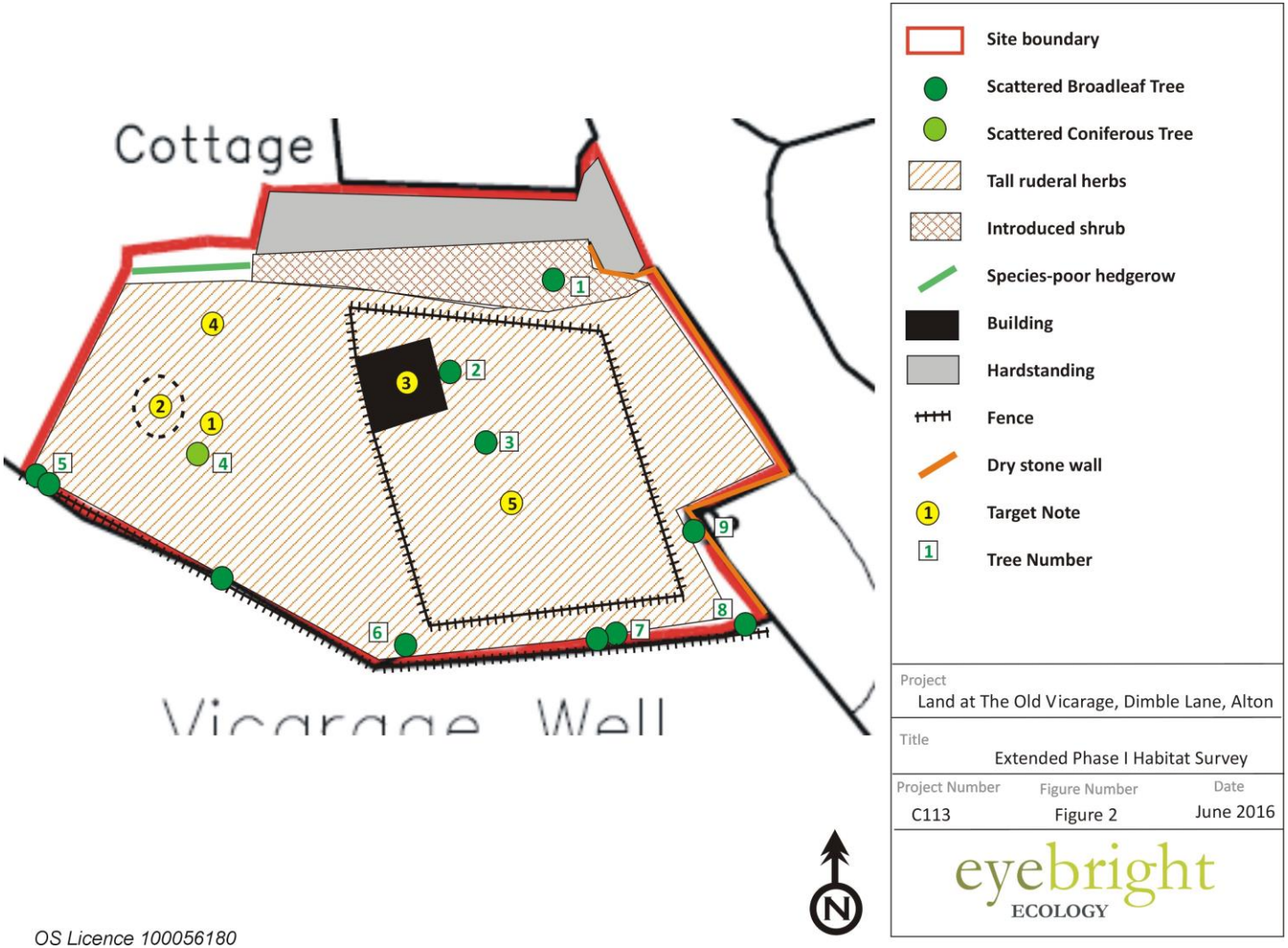
www.rspb.org.uk

www.streetmap.co.uk

www.maps.google.co.uk

APPENDIX 1

Figure 2: Extended Phase I Habitat Map



APPENDIX 2: Target Notes

Table 4: Target Notes (shown on Figure 2)

Number	Target Note
1	Piles of roof tiles stacked on pallets or directly on ground. Could be used by sheltering amphibians.
2	Small stand of Japanese knotweed.
3	Disused pig shed. Brick built with pitched roof covered in unlined clay tiles. Small hole in roof where tiles missing. Open doorway and unglazed window. Several cavities in brickwork internally, above window frame and where beam goes into wall.
4	Small compost heap of grass and garden waste
5	Tall ruderals over much of the site are dominated by rosebay willowherb seedlings with frequent common nettle, common hogweed and broad-leaved dock. Many patches of bare ground, and mostly young plants suggest recently disturbed ground. Possibly used for rearing pigs until recently.

APPENDIX 3: Relevant wildlife legislation and policy

Habitat Regulations

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb any wild animal listed in Schedule 2. It is also an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal, even if the animal is not present at the time. In UK, these European Protected Species include (in addition to other animals and plants not relevant to this site):

- All species of bats
- Great crested newt

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas are also designated under the Habitats Regulations, due to the presence of habitats and/or species which are important for conservation at a European level.

Wildlife & Countryside Act

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 in addition to the separate Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive), making it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (with certain exceptions) and disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 to the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting;
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly disturb certain Schedule 5 animal species while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection;
- Pick or uproot any wild plant listed under Schedule 8 of the Act.
- Plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any invasive plant listed under Schedule 9 of the Act.
- Release or allow to escape any animal not usually resident in UK or any animal listed under Schedule 9 of the Act.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are also designated under this Act.

In respect to this site, the widespread reptile species (adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm) have partial protection under Schedule 5, against intentional killing, injuring and trade.

Japanese knotweed is an invasive non-native plant listed under Schedule 9 of the Act.

Protection of Badgers Act

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to kill, injure or take a badger or to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a badger sett. Sett interference includes disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett or obstructing access to it.

Hedgerow Regulations

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (as amended) makes it illegal to remove or destroy 'important' hedgerows without Local Planning Authority permission (either through planning or a Hedgerow Removal Notice). Hedgerows that are at least 20 metres long, more than 30 years old and contain certain botanical species need to be assessed for 'importance' using a number of criteria set out in the Regulations.

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act

The NERC 2006 places a duty on public bodies to have due regard for biodiversity and nature conservation during the course of their operations.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF replaces Planning Policy Statements (e.g. PPS9) and sets out current government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation. Planners are required to set criteria based policies against which proposals for development which may affect legally protected species will be assessed. The NPPF promotes sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity with emphasis on maintaining ecological networks at a landscape level.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services is the current government strategy for maintaining and increasing biodiversity in UK. As a response to this, Local Biodiversity Action Plans set targets which aim to conserve priority species and habitats relevant to each county.