



**The Bus, The Avenue, Hayling Island, Hampshire,
PO11 0LX**

Phase 2 Ecological Assessment

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1.0 Summary

The proposal is to construct five new dwellings on the site. A Phase 1 Ecology Survey was undertaken by Arbtech in March 2020, this highlighted the potential of the site for reptiles and for roosting bats in a tree which could be impacted by the proposals. Peach Ecology undertook the Phase 2 surveys for bats and reptiles. A low reptile population consisting of slow worms was recorded on site – a suitable reptile mitigation strategy has been set out in this report. A common pipistrelle was recorded roosting in the oak tree on the eastern boundary – the tree is being retained and will be protected from lighting impacts due to the proposals. Bats were recorded commuting past the site along the boundaries and feeding along the same routes to the north and east – these routes will be retained and protected during construction and then enhanced with new landscaping post construction. Hedgehogs were recorded in the vicinity of the site and therefore hedgehog hibernation features will be installed on site. Additional measures have been set out to provide net gain for wildlife.

2.0 Introduction

Background

- 2.1 Peach Ecology was commissioned in March 2020 to carry out Phase 2 bat and Reptile surveys of the site at The Bus, The Avenue, Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 0LX (Grid Reference: SU 7208 0315), as shown in **Appendix A** and laid out as shown in **Appendix B**. This report will support the application to Test Valley Borough Council for permission to demolish the existing house and replace this with 5 residential dwellings as shown in **Appendix C**. This report describes the existing ecology on site based on the findings of a phase 1 ecological survey, a series of ecological surveys for reptiles and bats, and a desk-top review of other ecology issues.

Brief

- 2.2 To carry out an Ecological Assessment of the site and inform the clients of any ecological implications associated with the proposals. Phase 2 Reptile surveys took place after the initial site assessment in order to determine the impact on different protected species.

3.0 Methodology

Bats

- 3.1 Buildings and trees within the footprint of the site and any areas potentially impacted by the proposals were inspected in accordance with 2016 survey guidance (Bat Conservation Trust) for potential access points and roosting features that could support bats. Trees were checked for ivy cover, crevices and rotten sections from ground level and from a ladder and with binoculars where necessary. Buildings were checked internally and externally for any signs of roosting bats or bat activity including droppings, insect feeding remains, worn entrances and staining.
- 3.2 Three bat emergence surveys took place, two dusk emergence surveys and one dawn re-entry survey. The dusk survey started at least 15 minutes before sunset and continued until 1.5 hours after sunset, the dawn survey started approximately 1.5 hours before sunrise and finished just after. Two or three surveyors were present during each survey positioned giving good coverage of the areas that will be impacted by the proposals. Equipment used included hand-held Elekon Bat Logger M bat detector/recorders and a Canon XA40 infra-red camera with lights. Sounds were analysed on Elekon Bat Explorer Software. Details on the environmental conditions were taken at the time of survey. Surveyors included Davog McCloskey, Lauren Annetts, Jack Hargreaves and Rob Neal.

Reptiles

- 3.3 Habitat features suitable as hibernacula, foraging or basking areas were noted. Extant refugia were all carefully examined to look for reptiles or for evidence of reptiles, including shed skins. A series of presence/absence surveys were conducted within the site boundaries, targeting areas of habitat highlighted by the initial ecological survey as having potential to support reptiles. 20 Artificial refugia were laid out on the 23rd March 2020 within the site boundaries and left for at least two weeks to settle and bed in before any surveys were carried out. A total of seven separate survey visits were then conducted under good weather conditions. All field surveys were undertaken by an experienced reptile surveyors Davog McCloskey or Jack Hargreaves.
- 3.4 The surveys consisted of the following three methods, in accordance with current guidance (Griffiths and Inns, 1998; Froglife, 1999):
 - Visual Search – The site was searched visually during each visit. Details of reptiles encountered basking in the open were recorded. Recorded data included; species, sex, age and location.
 - Extant Refugia – Any existing potential refugia present within the site boundaries were carefully searched by hand for reptiles, these included log and compost piles and the large stones and paving on site.
 - Artificial Refugia – 20 artificial refugia, consisting of thirty 500mmX500mm squares of bitumen roofing felt were sited in areas of reptile habitat as shown in **Figure 1** below. All refugia were lifted during each survey visit and all reptiles present on, under or next to each refugia were recorded.



Figure 1: Artificial reptile refugia layout

4.0 Results and Analysis

Bats

Site Assessment

- 4.1 The habitat on site had not changed significantly from when the Phase 1 ecological assessment was undertaken in March 2020 although during the growing season more species were in flower including fox gloves, bluebells, lesser celandine, oxeye daisy, cow parsley, re clover, bramble, thistles, daffodils and some ornamental garden escapes at the boundaries. These species would attract insects and add to bat foraging habitat locally.

Phase 2 bat emergence surveys

- 4.2 Table 1 shows the environmental conditions during the surveys.

Survey Date	Survey type	Surveyors	Equipment used	Duration	Weather	Sunset /sunrise time
5 th May 2020	Dusk	DM & JH	Elekon x2	2017 - 2202	0 – 3% cloud cover, wind force 2-3, no rain, 13°C at start of survey, 9°C at end of survey	2032
20 th May 2020	Dusk	DM, JH & LA	Elekon x2, Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro, infrared camera with lights	2039 - 2224	0% cloud cover, wind force 0, no rain, 18°C at start of survey, 14 °C at end of survey	2054
30 th June 2020	Dawn	DM & RN	Elekon x2	0340 - 0510	90% cloud cover, wind force 2-3, no rain, 18°C at start of survey, 24 °C at end of survey	0454

Table 2: Phase 2 bat survey details

- 4.3 During the first survey activity was recorded by common pipistrelle: along the northern boundary and along the road at this point; around the mature oak tree along the eastern boundary; and along the eastern boundary, along the track. The activity was mostly by a single bat although at 2118 two common pipistrelles were thought to be present. Some brief foraging was recorded more centrally in the site at 2105 by a common pipistrelle. Towards the end of the survey at 2154 - 2156 some recordings were made of what is likely to have been a serotine bat, the bat was heard and not seen. No bats were recorded roosting during the survey.
- 4.4 During the second survey a common pipistrelle came from the direction of the tree at 2117 and flew south-east out of the site, this was the only bat seen emerging (See Appendix D) – it is thought the bat emerged from a knot hole (Photo 1) on a horizontal branch although the exact location was not confirmed. Soprano pipistrelle were recorded during the survey towards the start along the track to the east, along the road to the north and around the tree, however common pipistrelle were also present so it could not be determined which bat species was present at each of these locations. Common pipistrelle made up all the recordings after 2122 until the end of the survey at 2224 – it was recorded around the mature trees to the north and east

foraging, in gardens adjacent to the site and along the eastern and northern boundaries. The infra-red camera was set up during the survey but did not record any emerging bats.



Photo 3: Knot hole where bat is thought to have emerged from

- 4.5 During the dawn survey no bats were recorded roosting. Common pipistrelle were the only bat recorded during the survey. Activity was mostly around the mature trees to the north and east boundaries and bats were recorded passing between the two canopies although only single bats were recorded at any one time. Common pipistrelle activity was also noted along the northern boundary – a bat was recorded on a feeding loop at the start of the survey and then later at 0426 a bat was recorded over the houses on the other side of the road to the north of the site. A single recording was made of a common pipistrelle on site to the south-east corner once at 0405.
- 4.6 The mature oak tree to the eastern boundary has a bat roost and therefore it is protected by the law (Appendix H) and no disturbance to this roost will take place, this includes any disturbance from external lighting associated with the proposals. The roost is likely to be a short term day roost as roosting was only recorded once. Bats do move around between roosts depending on food availability and environmental factors so it is possible that the tree is one of several roosts for serotine bats and soprano pipistrelle.
- 4.7 Bats were recorded around the northern and eastern site boundaries, commuting and foraging (especially at canopy level for the trees), and were only recorded occasionally on site during the emergence surveys for brief passes. The habitat on site will add to bat foraging habitat locally therefore new landscaping will need to compensate for this ensuring structure and diversity so there is a net gain for biodiversity. The important wildlife corridors along the northern and eastern boundary will need to be retained, protected during construction and enhanced with new planting. Lighting will also need to be pointed away from these corridors. New roosts for bats in the new houses will be an enhancement.

Reptiles

- 4.8 The initial phase 1 site visit found that the site is suitable for reptiles due to the areas of habitat present, these are mostly along the boundaries, as noted by the Phase 1 assessment, however by the time the reptile surveys were undertaken there were ruderals growing on site and the whole site had the potential for the population to disperse into it. A large fallen tree is located to the north-east boundary of the site, this has potential to be used by hibernating reptiles, as does the mound along the northern boundary.
- 4.9 A phase 2 presence/absence reptile survey took place to determine if a reptile population was present at the site, and if so where at in order that a suitable mitigation plan could be prepared if necessary. The reptile survey was set up on 23rd March 2020 and took place over April and May during periods of suitable weather. The results of the survey including the environmental conditions are shown below in Table 2.

Survey number	Survey date	Weather	Method	Location/Refugia ID	Species	Sex	Age	Quantity	Peak Adult Count
Survey set up	23.3.20		Visual search	-	-	-	-	-	0
1	6.4.20	Start time: 1100 Finish time: 1115 Start temp °C: 16 Finish temp °C: 16 Wind speed (beaufort): 1 Cloud cover %: 5 Rain: none Ground conditions: dry Observations: rained previous day	Artificial refugia - felt	-	-	-	-	-	0
2	8.4.20	Start time: 1445 Finish time: 1511 Start temp °C: 17 Finish temp °C: 17 Wind speed (beaufort): 1 Cloud cover %: 50 Rain: None Ground conditions: Dry Observations: -	AR - felt	Mid south	SW	J	Sub	1	1
			AR – under bin lid	North border	SW	M	Ad	1	
			AR - felt	Mid north	SW	J	Juv	1	
3	10.4.20	Start time: 1417 Finish time: 1430 Start temp °C: 20 Finish temp °C: 20 Wind speed (beaufort): 3 Cloud cover%: 0 Rain: None Ground conditions: Dry Observations: -	AR – under sink	North border	SW	M	Ad	1	1
			AR – under sink	North border	SW	J	Juv	1	
			AR - felt	North	SW	J	Juv	1	
4	12.4.20	Start time: 1513 Finish time: 1530 Start temp °C: 17 Finish temp °C: 17 Wind speed (beaufort): 3 Cloud cover %: 5 Rain: None Ground conditions: Dry Observations: -	AR – felt	South east	SW	J	Juv	1	4
			AR – under bin lid	North	SW	M	Ad	1	
			AR – under red gate	North west	SW	M	Ad	1	
			AR – under red gate	North west	SW	F	Ad	2	

5	15.4.20	Start time: 1430 Finish time: 1500 Start temp °C: 16 Finish temp °C: 16 Wind speed (beaufort): 2 Cloud cover %: 0 – 2 Rain: None Ground conditions: Dry Observations: -	AR – under board	North west corner	SW	M	Ad	2	5
			AR – under board	North west corner	SW	F	Ad	1	
			AR - felt	South west corner	SW	M	Ad	1	
			AR – under sink	North east corner	SW	F	Ad	1	
6	30.4.20	Start time: 1024 Finish time: 1040 Start temp °C: 10 Finish temp °C: 10 Wind speed (beaufort): 4 Cloud cover %: 75 Rain: None Ground conditions: Wet Observations: -	AR – under red gate	North west	SW	F	Ad	1	3
			AR – felt	South east corner	SW	J	Sub	1	
			AR – under sink	North east corner	SW	M	Ad	1	
			AR - felt	North	SW	F	Ad	1	
7	4.5.20	Start time: 1211 Finish time: 1223 Start temp °C: 14 Finish temp °C: 14 Wind speed (beaufort): 2 Cloud cover %: 75 Rain: None Ground conditions: Wet Observations: -	AR – under fallen gate	North west	SW	F	Ad	1	2
			AR – felt	South east	SW	J	Sub	1	
			AR – felt	East border	SW	J	Juv	1	
			AR – felt	North	SW	F	Ad	1	

Table 2: Summary of reptile survey results

- 4.10 A good population of slow worms was recorded on the site, these were all confined to the boundary habitat, the northern, southern and eastern. The population is likely to be part of larger population from the wider area as there is connectivity to the wider landscape in the countryside and to back gardens in the vicinity.
- 4.11 A high density of refugia were laid out and a peak count of 5 adults would indicate that there is a good population in the local area, as noted by Froglife Advice Sheet 10. It is likely that the peak count of 5 slow worms would represent between 10-20% of the total population as there were very few places where reptiles could remain hidden in the garden, as it is relatively exposed. Therefore a population of between 25-50 may be present on site and any mitigation scheme should accommodate this.
- 4.12 The proposals will result in a high degree of disturbance on site and the loss of the boundary areas of vegetation would be a net loss of reptile habitat and if undertaken in a destructive manner could harm and kill reptiles. It is estimated that approximately 500 square metres of managed habitat would be needed to sustain the reptile population on site and this could be difficult with the current design and therefore the reptiles will need to be translocated off site to an agreed area of habitat, enhanced to maintain the local population.
- 4.13 The reptile translocation will require a reptile fence and at least 30 translocation visits will need to be undertaken to move reptiles to the agreed receptor area, during the active reptile season from March – October inclusive. Once the translocation is complete and the site destructively searched, the construction work can commence.

Hedgehogs and stag beetles

- 4.14 Hedgehogs hibernate and build their nests in areas of denser scrub and vegetation, at the bases of hedgerows and amongst piles of composting vegetation, all of which are present on site. Hedgehogs were recorded during several of the bat surveys and their droppings were also noted. It is advised that the site is cleared under ecological supervision to ensure no animals are harmed. Any new fencing on site should allow passage of hedgehogs into and out of the garden areas and into and out of the site by avoiding gravel boards or creating gaps at suitable locations in each new garden. A new hedgehog shelter at a suitable location would benefit hedgehogs locally.
- 4.15 The large tree stump to the north of the site could be suitable habitat for stag beetles. Stag beetles are legally protected from sale in the UK. They are also classed as a 'priority species', listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The tree stump should be retained and incorporated into the landscaping on site, however if this is not possible then it will be dug out as part of the reptile translocation and any stag beetles will be moved to a new log pile suitable for the species either on site or at the reptile receptor site.

5.0 Requirements and Recommendations

- 5.1 Please see the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment Survey (Arbtech, 2020) for further recommendations.

Reptiles

- 5.2 An outline reptile mitigation plan is set out below:
- I. A suitable receptor site to move the slow worms to prior to construction will be agreed with the local authority.
 - II. Reptile fencing will be erected around the construction site close to the boundary excluding any retained trees and hedgerow. Fencing is not required along the northern boundary as this will act as a boundary itself. Erection of the reptile fence will be done under ecological supervision to ensure reptiles are not harmed. Additional shrub and tree removal may need to take place under ecological supervision to aid fence erection.
 - III. The reptile fencing will be constructed from polythene or similar suitable material dug 150mm into the ground and extending at least 600mm above ground, and supported by posts. No gaps will be present that would allow the movement of reptiles through it.
 - IV. The reptile fence will be folded over away from the development site and stapled to hold the fold in place as a further measure to restrict reptile passage into the site.
 - V. The fence is to remain in place during the entire construction period.
 - VI. At least 100 refugia will be laid out over the site within the reptile fence to assist in the reptile translocation and the translocation trapping exercise will take place over 30 days until there are at least 5 consecutive days with no trapping results or until the numbers are sufficiently low to indicate that the majority of animals have been moved. All reptiles will be moved to the receptor site.
 - VII. Any species of note can be moved to the exterior of the reptile fence where a new long/pile hibernaculum will be constructed under ecological supervision.
 - VIII. The reptile translocation can only take place in March – October/early November in suitable weather.
 - IX. After the translocation is complete a 'destructive search' will take place using a digger with toothed bucket to check through all remaining vegetation and material on site, including the removal of paving slabs, log piles, earth mounds and slabs of concrete and the compost heap, areas where reptiles may be concealed. Grass, shrubs and other vegetation may need to be cut to manageable levels prior to the destructive search (a finger tip search where necessary) to make finding reptiles easier – the ecologist will decide on when this can take place and the removal will be done over different phases (cut to approximately 100mm on the first cut then to ground level after where necessary). The digger driver will be under close supervision and guidance by the ecologist. Results of the reptile translocation will be sent to the local authority.
 - X. New native hedgerow and other landscaping suitable for reptiles will be undertaken to create suitable corridors and habitat for foraging and dispersal (Appendix F). Fencing between gardens will not exclude movement of reptiles and amphibians at ground level so gravel boards will be removed, avoided or adapted to allow movement of small animals at ground level.

Bats

- 5.3 New wildlife friendly landscaping will be used on site to maintain bat habitat – see landscaping for further details. This will include:
- At least 100m of new native hedgerow planting at the boundaries of the site and between gardens.
 - A native hedgerow will be planted along the eastern and southern boundary prior to construction of any buildings.
 - The northern boundary vegetation below the two retained mature trees (The sycamore and the lime) will be retained and new infill planting with native hedgerow species will take place here – no external lighting will impact the hedgerow.
 - Hedgerow planting and/or infill planting will take place along the southern boundary.
 - The western hedgerow will be retained and enhanced with new native species planting.
 - The hedgerows will be managed by cutting them at a height of no less than 3m.
- 5.4 Lighting design will also need to be considered to avoid new roosting features, landscaped hedgerow and trees areas and potential roosts outside the site boundary. Lighting will be maintained at below 2lux at the boundaries. LED downlighters will be used if external lighting is necessary on site along with down pointing bollard lighting (less than 1m high) if essential.
- 5.5 Four integrated bat boxes (Schwegler 1FR or similar) will be used on buildings on site, facing different aspects, two north, two south, two east and two west.

Pollution prevention and drainage

- 5.6 It is important that the proposals follow appropriate pollution prevention guidelines (PPG 6) and drainage guidelines (Defra guidelines for Sustainable Urban Drainage) to protect watercourses, ponds, groundwater and other habitats connected hydrologically to the site.

Landscaping

- 5.7 Retain the dead tree stump to the front of the site along with the dead tree which has collapsed – this can be retained to become a feature on site as the stump and tree have potential to be used by stage beetles.
- 5.8 It is important that new landscaping is diverse and structured to ensure there is no loss in biodiversity – a landscape plan will need to be reviewed by an ecologist.
- 5.9 Native hedgerow and native bulb planting will be used at the boundaries of the site at the base of the hedge. A range of native bulbs (daffodils, bluebells, snowdrops etc) will be planted at a density of 10-20 per m² at the base of all new and retained hedgerow.
- 5.10 At least 100m of new hedgerow will be planted. This will consist of native hedgerow with woody species including hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, hazel, guelder rose and trees within the hedgerow can consist of edible fruit bearing species like apple, cherry and plum.

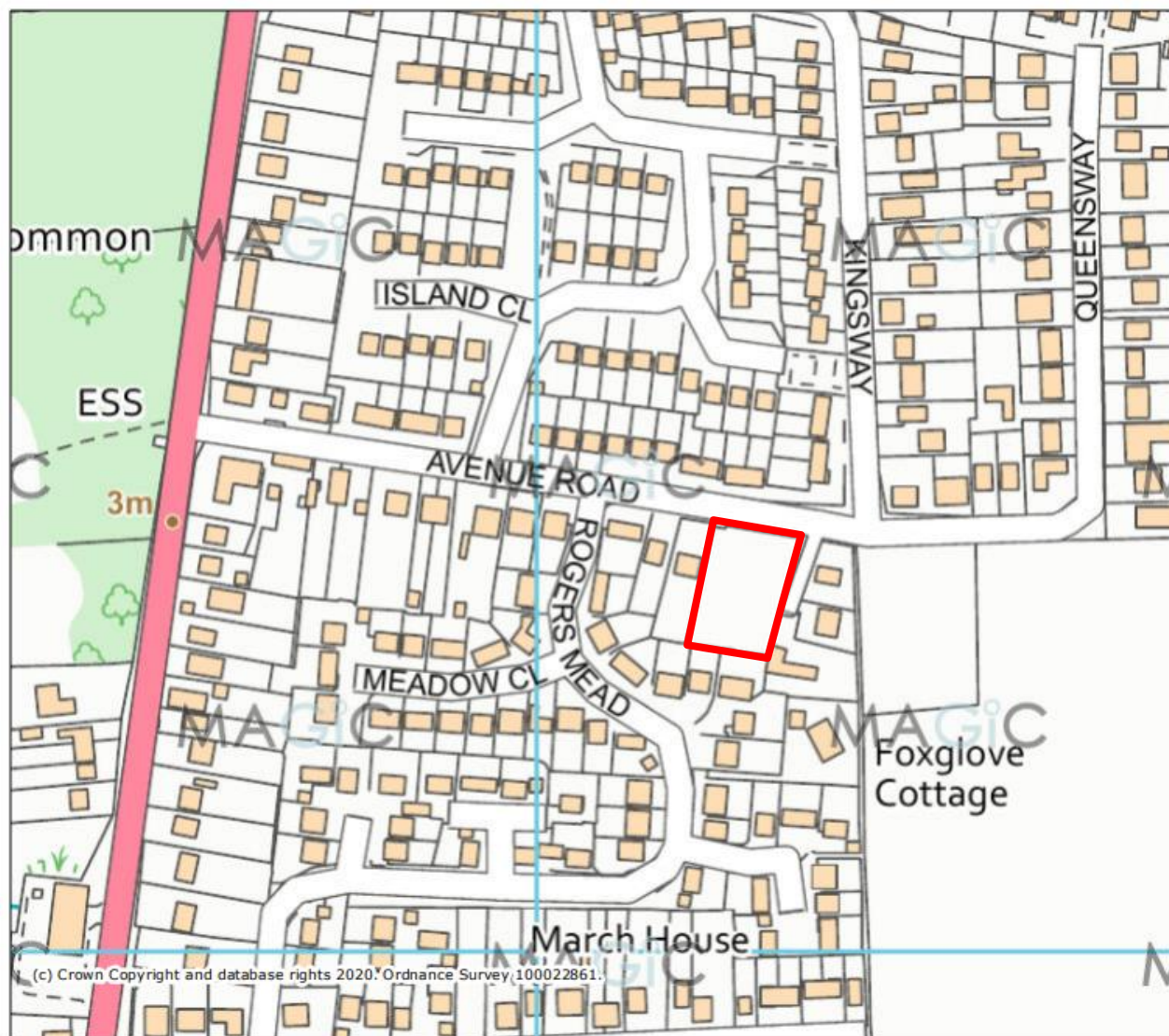
- 5.11 The existing hedge along the northern and western boundary will need to be maintained and included into the landscape plan, although some cutting back and removal of some shrubs may be necessary. Gaps can be infill planted.
- 5.12 Rear garden lawns will be sown with wildflower seed – emorsgate EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mixture (or similar)
- 5.13 At least 10 new trees including five new apple trees will be planted on site in gardens.
- 5.14 Any new garden or boundary fencing will need to allow the movement of hedgehogs and reptiles at ground level by leaving out barge boards or leaving gaps at least 100mm wide by 100mm high between any neighbouring gardens and between each garden and the outside of the site– See Appendix G for details on how access can be achieved.
- 5.15 Appropriate tree fencing will need to be erected prior to construction to protect any retained trees during construction. All construction works taking place in the vicinity of retained vegetation, and particularly those close to existing buildings, should conform to British Standard 5837:2005 Trees In Relation to Construction. A construction management plan will need to be set out with these protected areas and features clearly identified.

Hedgehogs

- 5.16 Four hedgehog hibernation features will be installed on site at the base of hedgerows.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Site location



Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 471400

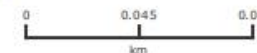
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xmax = 472600

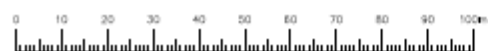
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Map produced by MAGIC on 23 September, 2020.

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Appendix B: Existing plan

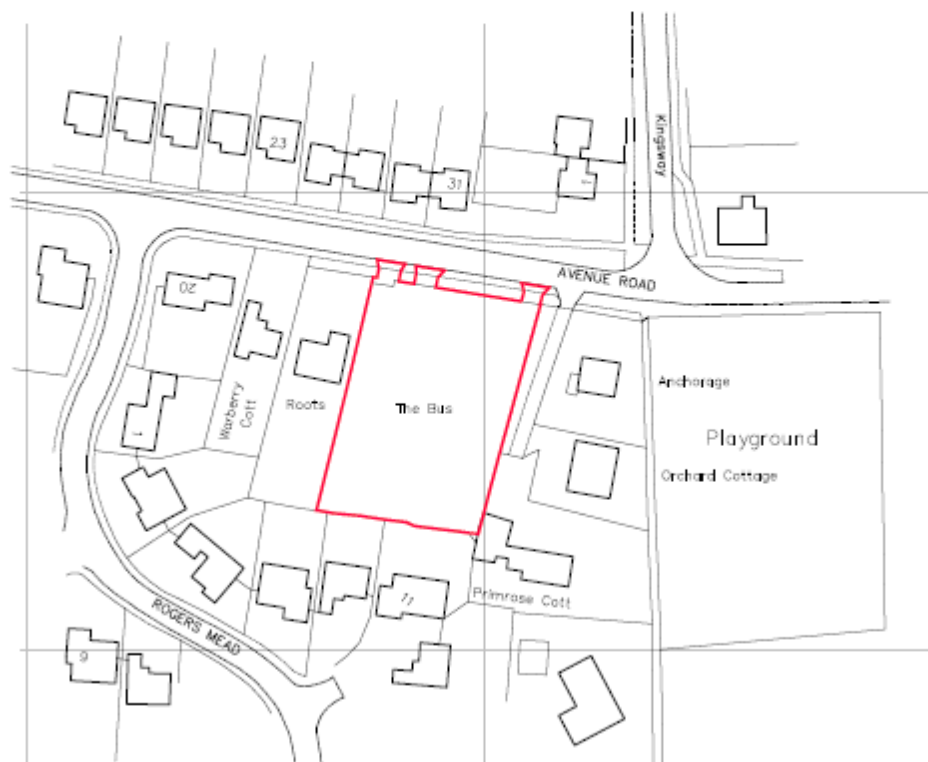


LINEAR SCALE 1:1250

A4@1:1250



Indicative

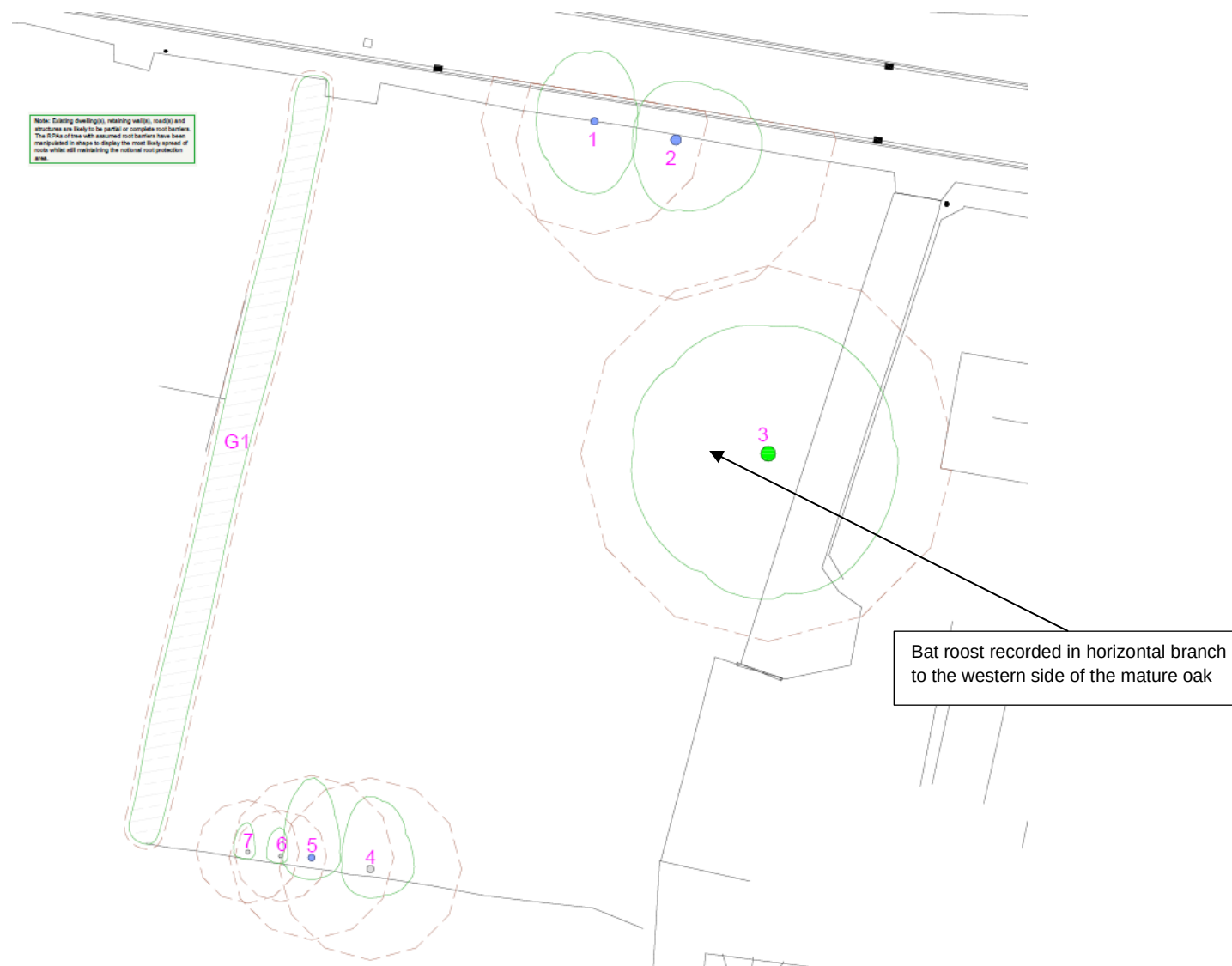


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Appendix C: Proposed site plan



Appendix D: Tree plan and bat roost



Appendix E: Bat and bird features



Location of four 1FR Bat Tubes (or similar integrated box). These can be rendered over or can have a brick front as long as access is possible to the cavity.



2 x Swift boxes



2 x House Sparrow Boxes

Appendix F: Landscaping mitigation and enhancement



Appendix G: Hedgehog access



Cut a gap out of the gravel board



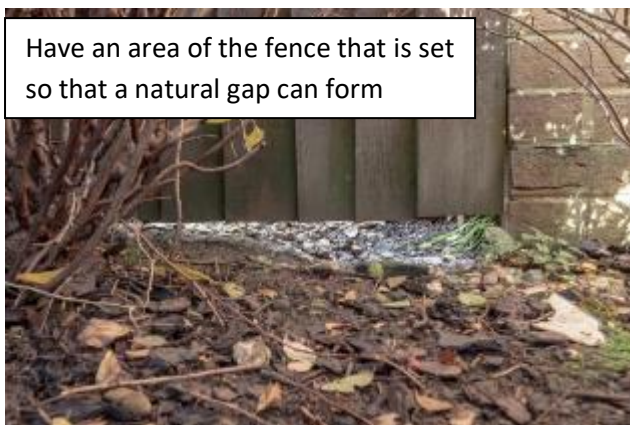
Concrete gravelboards can have a section cut out



Raise the boards up



Modify your own way



Have an area of the fence that is set so that a natural gap can form

Appendix H: Protected species legislation

European Protected Species

Bats

These species are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 41 of the Regulations. These make it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:
 - to impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young;
 - to impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
 - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species; or
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any of these animals uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, five British bat species are listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. These are:

- Greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*);
- Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*);
- Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*);
- Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*);
- Greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*).

In certain circumstances where these species are found the Directive requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) by EC member states to ensure that their populations are maintained at a favorable conservation status. Outside SACs, the level of legal protection that these species receive is the same as for other bat species.

Nationally Protected Species

Reptiles

The four widespread¹ species of reptile that are native to Britain, namely common or viviparous lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and grass snake (*Natrix natrix helvetica*), are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and are afforded limited protection under Section 9 of this Act. This makes it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- intentionally kill or injure any of these species.

¹ The other native species of British reptile (sand lizard and smooth snake) receive a higher level of protection under the *Habitats Regulations 1994* and (in England and Wales only) the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). However, the distribution of these species are restricted to only a very few sites. All marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae) are also protected.