

BASELINE ECOLOGICAL SITE AUDIT¹

114 LONDON ROAD
COWPLAIN
PO8 3HB
for
STYLE FRONT LONDON LTD

RESULT INDICATOR OF THIS SURVEY

● **GREEN.** On present information, the proposals are expected to have no or only minor adverse impacts on ecology & biodiversity, and some gains. In terms of ecology, the project can proceed providing all the recommendations are met, enforced and monitored.

September 2016
6555-J000687/HAUD

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N.B. Information on legally protected, rare or vulnerable species may appear in ecological reports. In such cases it is recommended that appropriate caution be used when circulating copies.

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¹ Incorporates "Phase 1" habitat plan, walkover survey for protected and notable species and habitats, constraints and opportunities and appraisal in context of biodiversity and planning policies.

NB. THIS REPORT FORMAT IS DESIGNED TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITY (e.g. Natural England) RELEVANT STANDING ADVICE. FURTHER STUDIES MAY BE REQUIRED WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE OF PROTECTED SPECIES OR IF OTHER NOTABLE ECOLOGICAL FACTORS ARE FOUND.

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REPORT TITLES — AN EXPLANATORY NOTE.

Baseline ecological audits of a site are exactly that: an examination of a defined area that includes a careful and expert walk-over, often supplemented by local knowledge, landscape & planning data and published ecological records, all of which combine to provide a reliable essential reference for clients. The terminology for such reports varies between practitioners and they may be called “Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys”, “Preliminary Ecological Appraisals”, “Walk-Over Wildlife Surveys”, “Ecological Impact Assessments” or several variations on this scheme. We feel that Baseline Ecological Audit is the best descriptor as it indicates that the site in question has been examined and described in a formal and organised manner to provide a general description and identify any matters that may require further specialist examination.

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

PROJECT DATA – BASELINE ECOLOGICAL SITE AUDIT	
Surveyor	Sean McMinn
Date of site risk assessment	28 September 2106
Site address	114 London Road, Cowplain, Waterloooville PO8 8HB
Project proposed	Construction of new dwelling to the rear of the existing house.
Boundary as specified by client	YES
Site area (ha) & central OS Grid Ref.	Approximate area 0.06ha. Grid Ref: 69471 11793
Survey date	28 September 2016

REPORT CONTROL	
General Report Information	
Ecologist	
Sean McMinn	
Date report issued	10 October 2016
Contract manager	
Natalie Loben	

Report Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Description Draft
1.0	4 October 2016	Sean McMinn	Document created
2.0	10 October 2016	Gemma Cone	Document completed

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INTRODUCTION

As almost all baseline ecological surveys relate to a planning application, it is useful to consider our work in this context. British Standard 42020: 2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development* is helpful in this respect (www.bsigroup.com) as it makes recommendations in the five typical stages of a planning application:

- Stage 1 (pre-application) – biodiversity in project design, the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, adequate mitigation, or as last resort compensation), the impacts with constraints and opportunities, proportionality, surveys and reports;
- Stage 2 (validation, registration) – ensuring submitted information is sufficient;
- Stage 3 (decision making) – consultation, further information if needed, resolving issues;
- Stage 4 (determination) – setting deliverable Conditions, obligations if not covered by Conditions, additional consents that may be needed;
- Stage 5 (implementation) – protecting wildlife/biodiversity during construction, long term management and monitoring.

We are often only contacted after a project has been designed, which can be costly and problematic if biodiversity has not been sufficiently considered. We always ask clients to contact us at the very earliest stage of a project, preferably when options for alternative sites are available. This can save significant costs and delays. We can and do assist with all five stages. Although the Baseline Ecological Audit is primarily confined to Stages 1 and 2, we include text suitable for incorporation as Conditions where relevant and we can offer assistance in negotiating, writing and discharging them. When appropriate, as is commonly the case to ensure the overarching aim of No Net Loss but rather Net Gains to Biodiversity, we can take full responsibility for all long term ecological management and monitoring as an exclusive service through our Estates division.

WORK NEEDED FOR COMPLIANCE AS REVEALED BY THE SURVEY

RESULT INDICATOR OF THIS SURVEY

- **GREEN.** On present information, the proposals are expected to have no or only minor adverse impacts on ecology & biodiversity, and some gains. In terms of ecology, the project can proceed providing all the recommendations are met, enforced and monitored.

Please note that, in determining the requirements listed below, Betts adopt an objective and independent view, taking account of current legislation and the official guidance published by, or used by, Local Planning Authorities and the Statutory Agencies whom they consult². The aim is always to inform the project's proponents within a framework of the published policies of international, national and local governments on ecology and biodiversity, as may be relevant to the circumstances of the case, but always proportionately and based in science.

IMPORTANT

In the two Tables below, ecological requirements listed should be contained as formal Conditions within any permission the Planning Authority may be minded to issue. It is essential to include a suitable mechanism for verification, monitoring and enforcement. We will be pleased to assist with suggested wording if needed.

REQUIRED FURTHER WORK (PROTECTED SPECIES & HABITATS)

Is further work needed to eliminate doubt regarding presence of notable/protected habitats or notable, protected or invasive species, or impacts on ecosystem services?	YES
<u>Work required if "yes":</u>	<u>Reason</u>
To avoid the risk of infringement of regulations, conduct a pre-clearance search of all areas of the site using suitably qualified ecological scientists under a Betts Method Statement or one formally pre-agreed by us immediately prior to site stripping to move any vulnerable taxa to safety or allow other necessary precautions to be taken prior to the commencement of development activity.	Legal compliance, especially laws protecting mammals, birds and herpetofauna.
Undertake site clearance outside the bird nesting season (usually taken as March to mid-August inclusive in this part of Britain). If this is unavoidable, pre-clearance inspection by a	Compliance with law protecting active birds' nests.

² The regulatory context includes the Wildlife & Countryside Act, Berne Convention, Bonn Convention, Countryside & Rights of Way Act, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, Nagoya/Aichi/Paris, etc. – UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework), British Standards 42020: 2013 and 8583: 2015, Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management ecological impact assessment guidance, etc.

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

REQUIRED FURTHER WORK (PROTECTED SPECIES & HABITATS)	
suitably experienced ornithologist will be required to identify whether any nests are present, and ensure appropriate action is taken.	
If there are any steep-sided excavations created during construction, please ensure they are covered overnight or provided with ramps to prevent any mammals becoming trapped. Re-fill such excavations as soon as feasible.	Prevention of cruelty.
Avoid unnecessary negative impacts of new lighting at night, e.g. on bats, invertebrates, plants, night sky. Minimise the hours when lighting is used, avoid "spillage" by using directional down-lighting, reduce brightness of necessary illumination and keep light from shining on bat roost entries, mammal holes, etc.	Reducing ecological impact and compliance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 125.
Generally retain habitats and features of manifest ecological interest and wildlife value such as existing hedges (seeking further advice from us if uncertain) within the development proposals. Create new wildlife habitats appropriate to the site's context, e.g. through the use of log piles, "wild" corners and native planting; install 6 bird nesting boxes to include 2 swift bricks, 4 bat boxes, and 2 invertebrate boxes (including "bee bricks") of mixed designs, and incorporate these into the project's landscape/building design scheme. (We can provide specific recommendations for models and siting on request but they must be of good quality and durable.) Bat and bird boxes must be inspected annually and replaced when needed (usually after ten years).	Best practice and compliance with government policy on biodiversity protection and enhancement

REQUIRED FURTHER WORK FOR GENERAL REGULATORY & GOOD PRACTICE COMPLIANCE	
<u>Work required if "yes":</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Use native planting (preferably of local origin and reflecting local botany) wherever feasible in all landscaping. Where exotic species are planted, always avoid invasive species and choose those with wildlife value such as for nectar or shelter. (A selection of species is available from us.)	Biodiversity enhancement and helping to assure "no net loss".
Embody Green Infrastructure protocols in landscaping and ensure ecological linkage out from and into the site. (Please ask us if you require further details.)	Ecological connectivity and biodiversity protection/enhancement.
Provide information to new residents/occupiers to encourage wildlife, for example in gardens ³ , and an interest in natural history. Assure that residents are aware of the need for responsible control of pets that may hunt or disturb fauna or damage flora. (Please ask if further assistance is required.)	Improving public awareness.
Retain mature trees and established native hedgerows on site	Tree and biodiversity protection;

³ We publish a book on wildlife gardening which may be helpful to new residents. Please ask for details.

REQUIRED FURTHER WORK FOR GENERAL REGULATORY & GOOD PRACTICE COMPLIANCE	
and at the periphery by designing around them. Protect trees in line with BS5837 and do not remove ivy, mistletoe, standing dead wood, snags or rot unless there is a clear and material safety risk or presence of a serious pathogen. (Ask for advice on pathogens from a qualified silvicultural ecologist if in doubt.)	BS5837: 2012 <i>Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction</i> .
Design and incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as balancing ponds and swales (not underground tanks) in agreement with the Environment Agency or other relevant authority and incorporating wildlife habitat (wildflower grassland in wet ↔ dry gradient).	Sustainability and biodiversity best practice.
Ensure that the "carbon footprint" of all aspects of the project and its future operation is compliant with current best practice. This may include taking appropriate steps to avoid or reduce the use of fossil fuels, employing scientifically sound carbon offset/CO ₂ sequestration and instating renewable energy technologies. Ensure the measures agreed are quantified, independently verified and monitored.	To follow government and international policy on climate change.

RESULTS – WHAT WE FOUND

Objectives

To conduct a baseline ecological survey and appraisal of the site and identify any notable ecological features. Prepare a phase 1 habitat map with target notes to recognised standards and produce a summary report of the results. In addition, provide recommendations for any protected species, biodiversity, protection and enhancement where appropriate.

Methods and Limitations

The site was surveyed using appropriate methods generally following NCC (1990)⁴ for Phase 1 habitat survey, with procedures appropriately selected from Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995)⁵ and Jermy *et al.* (1995)⁶ for species and any specialist habitat appraisal as required, and/or the current guidance on survey methods and Ecological Impact Assessment from the (Chartered) Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (e.g. CIEEM 2013, IEEM 2007 and updates⁷) with further reference to British Standards such as 42020⁸ and 8583 as appropriate.

It should be noted that, whilst the investigation of the site was appropriately intensive within the intended framework of the commission, and we feel it is unlikely that significant matters have been overlooked, a single visit will inevitably miss species not apparent on the date of survey by reason of seasonality, mobility, habits or chance. The month of September is within the sub-optimal survey period for many taxa of nature conservation interest in this part of the United Kingdom, however this is unlikely to have had any significant impact on the overall results of the site survey.

It should always be recalled that wildlife surveys of the kind required for planning and development or similar project purposes are seldom granted sufficient time or resources to examine non-vascular plants, invertebrates or fungi in great detail, yet these are the fundamental elements of ecosystems that provide the niches and habitats for larger fauna to exploit. In an ideal world, all surveys would include

⁴ Nature Conservancy Council (1990). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough, UK.

⁵ Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995). *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. E & FN Spon, London, UK.

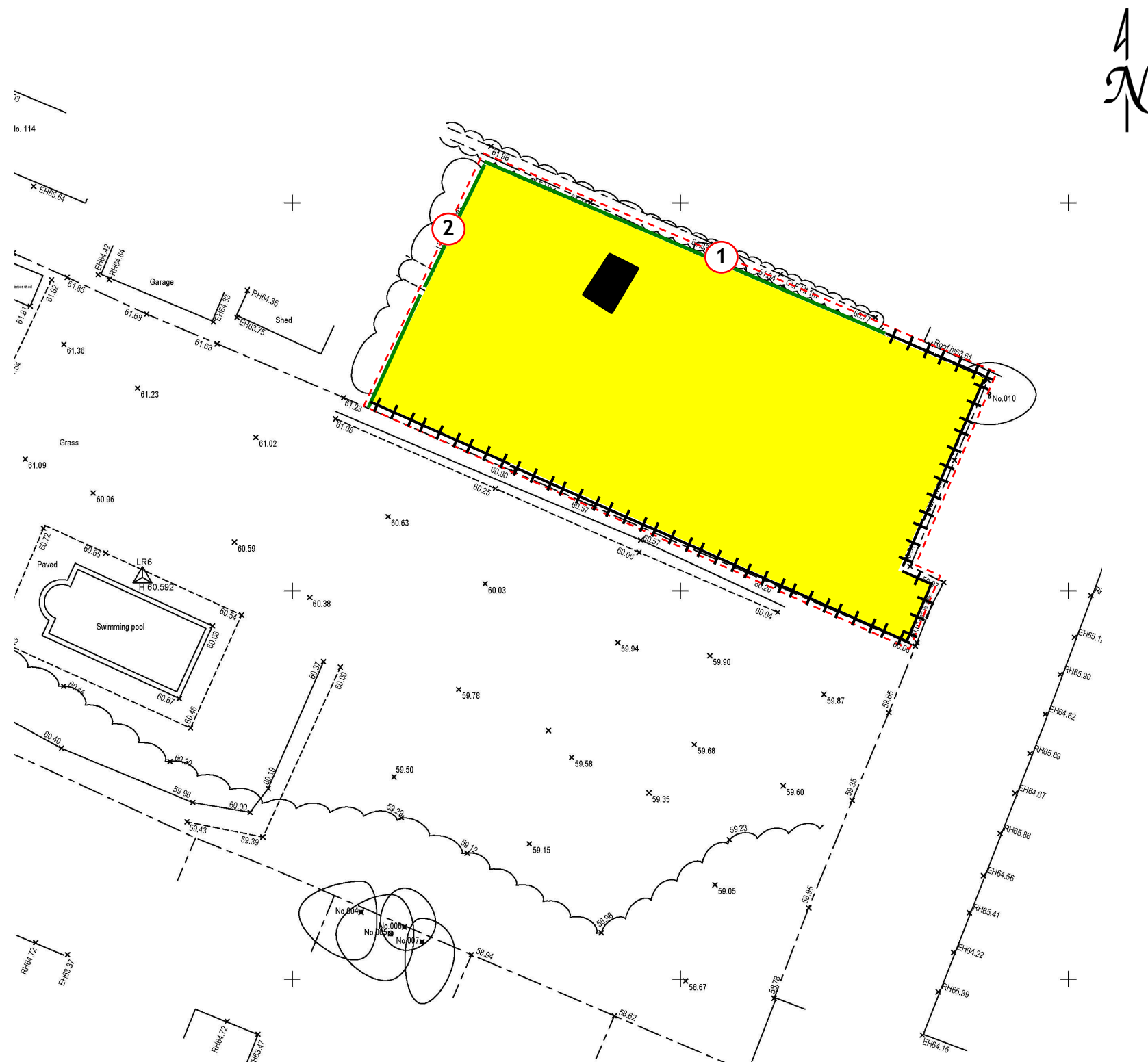
⁶ Jermy, A.C., Long, D., Sands, M.J.S., Stork, N.E. and Winser, S. (Eds) (1995). *Biodiversity assessment: a guide to good practice*. Department of the Environment/HMSO, London, UK.

⁷ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2013). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. CIEEM, Winchester, UK. Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2007). *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom*. IEEM, Winchester, UK.

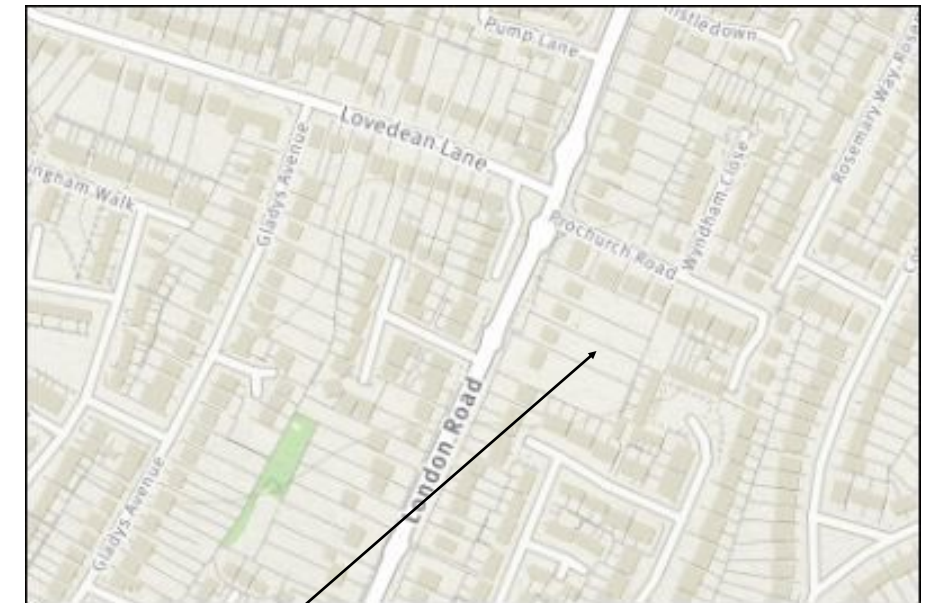
⁸ British Standards Institute (2013). *British Standard 42020: 2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development*. British Standards Institute, London, UK.

results of full sampling of vascular and non-vascular plants, micro- and macro-invertebrates and mycological status at individual, population and community levels. As that involves skills, time and expense well beyond what is available, we ask readers of our general survey reports to understand that we do consider the larger species we record in their wider ecosystem context and take and take into account the impacts of proposals at an ecosystem level when prescribing avoidance, mitigation, enhancement and/or compensation.

Figure 1: Site plan



- Key:**
- Survey boundary
 - A Amenity grassland J1.2
 - Hedge (intact, species-poor) J2.1.2
 - Fence J2.4
 - Buildings J3.6
 - 1 Target notes



Location of site

Client: McManus Design
Site: 114 London Road, Cowplain PO8 8HB
Title: Baseline Ecological Site Audit
Ref: S:6555
Date: September 2016

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Please note: this plan is intended only to indicate the approximate location of features and should therefore, not be treated as an accurate scale plan.

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

Results Table

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Habitats & Vegetation (NB. Please be aware that several designated habitat types and many plants enjoy legal protection in Britain.)	
General description	114 London Road is located to the north of the city of Portsmouth in Waterlooville and is set in an urban landscape, surrounded on all sides by housing. The area surveyed is approximately 0.06ha and consists mostly of grassland (maintained as lawn), with beech hedgerow along the northern boundary and a line of leylandii separating the main house and garden from the rear garden (Plates 1-3). The only building in this section is a small timber shed.
Target Note (TN) 1 (for location of TNs please see plan below)	TN1 Species poor hedge (beech) that has some potential for breeding birds. See photos.
TN 2	TN2 Leyland hedge that has some potential for breeding birds. See photos.
Statutory designations (on/near)	The nearest Statutory designated area is Chichester and Langstone harbour RAMSAR and SSSI approximately 7.4km south at the nearest point.
Non-statutory designations (on/near)	There are two Non -Statutory sites within <1.5km from the site, these are Hazelton Common LNR and Yeoll's Copse LNR.
Notable hedgerows, woodland or scrub	None.
Ecologically notable trees (e.g. veteran, wildlife significant) ⁹	None present on site
Ponds/water courses	No ponds present on site
Notable communities	None.
Notable vascular plants	None.
Notable bryophytes/algae	None.
Notable lichens	None.
Notable fungi	None.

⁹ Please note that we do not check TPO status as this is a landscape/amenity planning classification.

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Other notable habitats/vegetation	None.
Features that should be retained	Boundary hedgerow.
Mammals (NB. Several species and their habitats have strict protection in British law.)	
Badger	None present on site, considered unlikely.
Otter	None. No suitable habitat
Other mustelids	None.
Bats	No trees or buildings on site with the potential to support bats. Incidental movements of bats may occur in the general area.
Water vole	No suitable habitat
Common or hazel dormouse	No suitable habitat
Deer	None.
Hedgehog	May occur where movement between gardens is possible.
Shrews	None.
Others	Rats and foxes are likely to occur in the general area.
Birds (NB. With the exception of eleven derogated pest or very common species, the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 and amendments) gives protection to all wild birds in Britain from killing, injuring or taking as well as taking, damaging or destroying nests in use or being built, and taking or destroying eggs. Many species are also protected by international statutes to which Britain is a signatory. ¹⁰)	
Red list	Starling was recorded on the existing house.
Amber list	Dunnock was recorded along the beech hedge.
Active nests	None found during the survey.
Other	Robin and blackbird recorded.

¹⁰ Please also see www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/status_explained.aspx and www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u38/downloads/home-news/2011-11/SUKB%202011%20final.pdf for red and amber lists etc., and explanations.

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Comments on ornithology	Very limited on site, the beech and leyland hedge offer some breeding bird potential but the diversity of species is likely to be low. There are no trees on site.
<u>Herpetofauna</u> (NB. The grass snake, slow-worm, viviparous (common) lizard and adder (viper) are all protected from intentional killing and injury under Schedule 5, Section 9(1), of the Wildlife and Countryside Act as amended/reinforced by the CROW Act 2000. They are also protected under Schedule 5, Section 9(5) which prohibits selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale, or advertising for sale, any live or dead animal, or any part of, or anything derived from the species. Other rarer species and their habitats have stricter protection.)	
Adder	None. No suitable habitat.
Grass snake	None. No suitable habitat.
Slow-worm	None. No suitable habitat.
Common lizard	None. No suitable habitat.
Rarer reptiles	None. No suitable habitat.
Great crested newt	None. No suitable habitat.
Natterjack toad	No (not found in this area).
Other amphibia	Considered unlikely due to lack of suitable habitats in the immediate and surrounding area.
<u>Fish</u> (NB. Various levels of legal protection.)	
Significant fishery	None present on site.
Bullhead	None.
Shad	None.
Lampreys	None.
Salmonids	None.
Other notable fish	None.
<u>Macro-invertebrates</u> (NB. Several species enjoy legal protection.)	
Notable assemblage (terrestrial)	None present or indicated on site.

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Notable assemblage (aquatic)	None.
Crayfish	None present as there are no suitable aquatic habitats.
Roman snail	None observed.
Other molluscs	None.
Lesser silver water-beetle	None.
Stag beetle	None.
Other notable beetles	None.
Butterflies/moths	None present on site.
Bees, wasps, flies, <i>etc.</i>	None present on site.
Dragonflies/damselflies	None.
Other notable entomological spp or groups	None.
Notable invertebrate habitat	None observed.
<u>Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and pathogens</u> (There are an increasing number of these being listed by authorities. More and more are becoming subject to regulatory control within criminal law that carries significant sanctions.)	
IAS (plants) (Wildlife & Countryside Act Article14, Schedule 9.)	None.
Weeds Act natives (common ragwort, creeping and spear thistles, curled and broad-leaved docks)	None.
Other exotic plants that may cause problems.	None

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Invasive animals (signal crayfish, killer shrimp, oak processionary moth, harlequin ladybird, zebra mussel, grey squirrel, etc.)	None.
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and other serious plant diseases/pathogens (ash dieback, sudden oak death, etc.)	None.
<u>Policy¹¹</u>	
Are there any known conflicts with local planning biodiversity policy (if so, please describe)?	No.
Are there any known conflicts with national planning biodiversity policy (if so, please describe)?	No.
Are there any known conflicts with international biodiversity policy (if so, please describe)?	No.

Geological Conservation

GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION (Geodiversity is a material planning consideration)	YES/NO	ACTION REQUIRED IF "YES"
Are there any features of geological importance on the development site?	No	N/A
Are there any features of geological importance adjacent to the development site or that might be affected by the	No	N/A

¹¹ It is important that projects incorporate relevant elements of Green Infrastructure Planning (please see www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/greeninfrastructure/default.aspx)
 "Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens."

Baseline Site Ecological Audit

GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION (Geodiversity is a material planning consideration)	YES/NO	ACTION REQUIRED IF "YES"
development (during or post construction)?		

CONCLUSION

Providing the requirements noted herein are fully implemented and followed through, subject to the results of the necessary further work and satisfactory execution of specified avoidance, enhancements, mitigation and/or compensation, there are no obvious ecological counter indications to the proposed project at this stage. Indeed, the recommended ecological protection and enhancements may be expected to deliver planning & biodiversity gains, assuring there is No Net Loss to Biodiversity and no unacceptable adverse impact on Ecosystem Services.

Notes

Please note that there is complex and strict legislation protecting many species and habitats. Full details are available on the web sites of Defra and the various statutory authorities, some of which now have direct powers of enforcement. If you are in any doubt about the status of species or habitats on your site, please be sure to contact us before undertaking any site work. You should also make sure that you are aware of, and have allowed for, all national and local planning policies relating to wildlife and nature conservation before proceeding.

This baseline audit may not be sufficient on its own for planning application purposes where notable habitats/species are present or potentially present, particularly where necessary further studies have been indicated in the text.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken on 28 September 2016



Plate 1: View of garden west



Plate 2: View of garden east

Baseline Site Ecological Audit



Plate 3: View of garden and hedgerow north

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IMPORTANT

Please be aware that, because the natural environment is dynamic, ecological reports generally have a limited period of currency. Many statutory authorities now regard one year as the maximum time that should elapse before a report will need to be updated: occasionally it may be longer but it may also be less. Where a statutory wildlife licence is to be applied for, a walk-over of the site should be carried out **within three months** of an application being submitted to check that the habitats have not changed significantly since the survey was carried out.

Betts are a scientific practice. Any information relating to legal matters in this report is provided in good faith but does not purport in any way to give any advice on or interpretation of the law whatsoever. Professional legal advice should always be sought. Any designs, specifications, advice, suggestions, or comments written or verbal relating to construction or supervision of building-related work of any kind are provided for consideration only and under no circumstances are to be interpreted as provision of design, management or supervision *sensu* the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.

CAPABILITY and QUALITY ASSURANCE

*Founded in 1985 to provide high quality professional services to meet an increasing market demand in applied environmental sciences, the Practice stems from the original **Betts** family business which was established in 1760 for the refining and recycling of high value industrial wastes and mineral ores. **Betts** thus offer an unusual blend of technological and practical expertise in a range of environmental disciplines, allied particularly to the biological conservation legislation and biodiversity policies of recent years. Contracts undertaken cover a wide spectrum of projects at local, national and international levels in the construction, extractive, agricultural, leisure, energy and general industrial sectors. Scientific staff belong to appropriate professional institutes by whose codes of practice they abide. Due consideration of the British Standards on Biodiversity is included in relevant work and applied where appropriate.*

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Please note that this report is a baseline ecological site audit of factors and features that may be significant for regulatory compliance and biodiversity policies relating to change of use or other disturbance. Such reports may not, on their own, contain sufficient information for a planning application and may require further more detailed study to assure compliance.

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