Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

42 PARK AVENUE, ROYSTON.

OS REF: SE 36621 11309.

EXTENDED PHASE I HABITAT SURVEY.

Ref No:- **160519.**

Date:- **6th May 2016.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to demolish the bungalow at 42 Park Avenue, Royston and to develop the land and the land to the rear of the bungalow with eleven residential properties.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an Extended Phase I Habitat Survey of the site and daytime bat inspection survey to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. The site survey was carried out on 3rd May 2016 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I to IV of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat surveys.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society:-

* Badger setts.
* Badger latrines or dung pits.
* Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
* Badger paths.
* Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
* Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Rob Strachan, Tom Moorhouse and Merryl Gelling (2011). *Water Vole Handbook: Third Edition*:-

* Water vole burrows.
* Water vole faeces and latrines.
* Water vole feeding stations.
* Water vole runs.
* Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
* Water vole lawns.
* Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines:-*

* Otter prints in soft mud.
* Otter spraints.
* Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for mature trees and derelict buildings and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)* by looking for the following signs:-

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Ed*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels

were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.13. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.14. This survey was carried out by Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM. Since 2001 Jenny has had experience in a professional capacity as a Wildlife Consultant carrying out Ecology Surveys and Phase 1 Habitat surveys. Jenny holds Natural England Survey Licences in respect of bats, great crested newts, crayfish and barn owls, CCW and SNH Survey Licences in respect of bats and great crested newts. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Field Studies Council (FSC) in the relative protected species, plant species and in carrying out Phase 1 Habitat Surveys. As a full member of CIEEM she is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership.

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3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search request was sent to Barnsley Biological Records Centre for records of protected species and designated sites within a 2km radius of the site.

3.1.2. There are a number of records of bats within 2km of the site. Most of the records are located in Carlton Marsh to the south, Rabbit Ings to the east and Carlton to the south. There are a few records in Royston, the nearest records being at 4 Park Avenue which lies approximately 160m to the east.

3.1.3. There are a number of records of water vole, grass snake, slow worm and badger but all these records are at Carlton Marsh LWS and Rabbit Ings, all of which are over 1km from the survey area.

3.1.4. The full data search is not attached to this report as it is very large in size. This will be sent separately.

3.1.5. Two local wildlife sites are located within the search area, Carlton Marsh LWS and Barnsley Canal LWS. Barnsley Canal LWS lies approximately 360m to the east of the site and Carlton Marsh LWS lies approximately 1.5km to the south of the site. A map showing the locations of the Local Wildlife Sites can be found in Appendix VIII of this report.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is 42 Park Avenue, Royston and an area of land to the rear of the property. The aerial photograph below shows the survey area.

3.2.2. The bungalow is currently empty and the land behind the house has been cleared with bare ground and a number of piles of turf and rubbish remaining on the site.

3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix V of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats that are cross referenced to target notes in Appendix VI of this report. The habitats on and adjacent to the site are:-

- Improved grassland
- Bare ground
- Hedge, species poor, defunct
- Fence
- Wall
- Dry ditch
- Building

3.3.2. Improved grassland

3.3.2.1. At the front of the bungalow is a small area of lawn which has become overgrown as it has not been mown. This is mainly common lawn grass species including perennial rye grass *(Lolium perenne)*, annual meadow grass *(Poa annua)* and common bent *(Agrostis capillaris)*. Other species are present, including dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale)*, dock *(Rumex acetosella)* and creeping buttercup *(Ranunculus Repens)*.

3.3.3. Bare ground

3.3.3.1. The main area of the site has been cleared creating a number of piles of turf and debris and leaving the site as bare soil. There are a few species of plant growing at the edges of the cleared area, mainly dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale)*, dock *(Rumex acetosella)*, nettle *(Urtica dioica)*, thistle *(Cirsium sp(p))*and bramble *(Rubus fruticosus).*There is also an area of concrete by the bungalow, a concrete drive along the northern side of the bungalow with a concrete area at the rear of the property.

3.3.3.2. Photograph looking southwest across the site.

3.3.3.3. Photograph looking at the rear of the bungalow.

3.3.4. Hedge, species poor, defunct

3.3.4.1. There are a number of hedgerow boundaries around the site.

3.3.4.2. The southern and western boundaries are hedgerows, which are in part conifer and part hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)*. The Northern and eastern boundaries are conifer hedgerows. There are also conifer hedgerows along the north and south boundaries of the bungalow.

3.3.4.3. Photograph showing the southern hedgerow.

3.3.4.4. Photograph showing the northern hedgerow.

3.3.5. Fence

There are a number of fences within the site boundaries, along the western, northern and eastern boundaries and along the northern and southern boundaries either side of the bungalow. These are a mix of post and rail, wood panels and wooden pallets.

3.3.6. Wall

There is a brick wall at the southwest corner of the site, a partial brick wall along the eastern boundary and a low stone wall at the front, eastern side, of the bungalow.

3.3.7. Dry ditch

On the northern side of the northern site boundary there is a dry ditch on the other side of the fence and hedgerow boundary.

3.3.8. Building

3.3.8.1. There is a semi-detached bungalow present on the site. The bungalow is currently empty and has been for some time.

3.3.8.2. The bungalow is constructed of brick with white painted rendering and a pitched roof covered with pan tiles, which has a 90 degree turn. There are also two areas of flat felt roof, one on the western side extending the full length of the building and a small area on the eastern side of the building. The aerial photograph below shows the surveyed building and the layout of the roof.

3.3.8.3. The bungalow has a loft space on the western elevation and a smaller loft space on the northern elevation. The loft consists of timber supports, breeze block walls, insulation on the floor and is felt lined There is an area of the loft to the southern end of the building that has been fully plaster boarded up. The photograph below shows part of the loft space.

3.3.8.4. The building is generally in good condition with no cracks or gaps in the external walls.

3.3.8.5. The roof has no missing or slipped tiles although there are gaps under the ridge tiles on the eastern and western elevations due to missing pointing. There is also a gap next to the chimney on the western side of the building.

3.3.8.6. On the eastern section of the roof there is a dormer window on both the southern and northern elevations, both with flat roofs. There is a gap under the edge of the flat roof of the northern dormer window.

3.3.8.7. All windows and doors are in place and sealed, although sparrows were seen entering a gap under the upstairs windowsill on the eastern side of the bungalow.

3.3.8.8. Photograph showing the rear, western side, of the bungalow.

3.3.8.9. Photograph showing the front, eastern side, of the bungalow.

3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area.

3.4.2. No watercourses were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there is no habitat for water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish within the survey area.

3.4.3. No ponds were identified within 500m of the survey area whilst on site or on an Ordnance Survey Map of the area. Therefore, there is no habitat for great crested newts within the survey area.

3.4.4. The bungalow on the site has some gaps under the ridge tiles, under a windowsill on the eastern side of the building and under the flat roof of the northern dormer window. No bat field signs such as staining or droppings were identified around the interior or the exterior of the building during this survey. The bungalow is assessed as having **low** bat roost potential.

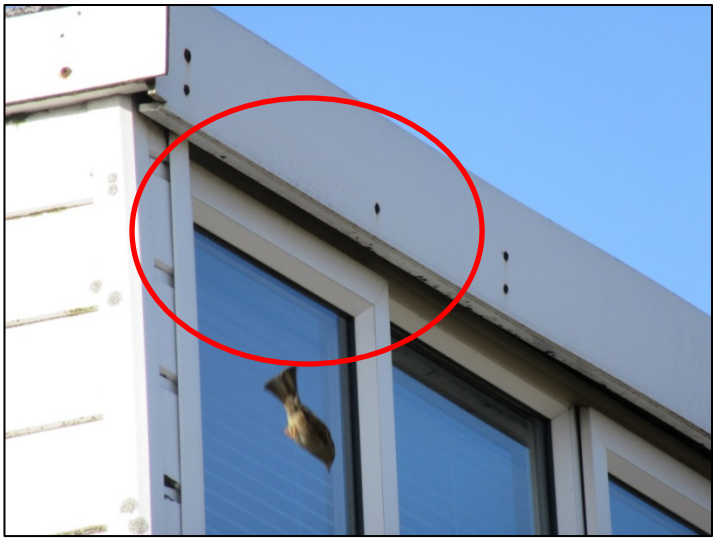
3.4.4.1. There are no mature trees that could provide bat roost potential within the survey area.

3.4.5. The survey area provides low potential for foraging bats with more suitable habitat to the north with large areas of grassland with hedgerows and trees.

3.4.6. The vegetation within the survey area provides opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year. No active nests were identified during this survey although a thorough nesting bird survey was not carried out. There were numerous birds on the site feeding on the cleared ground and birds were also seen in the hedgerows around the site.

3.4.6.1. The bungalow provides opportunities for nesting birds and during this survey two active house sparrow nests were identified. One nest was identified under the roof of the northern dormer window with sparrows seen entering and exiting the gaps. The second nest was identified under the windowsill of the upstairs window at the eastern side of the building.

3.4.6.2. Photograph showing a sparrow leaving the gap in the northern dormer window.



3.4.6.3. Photograph showing a sparrow leaving the gap under the upstairs windowsill at the eastern side of the bungalow.

3.4.7. The site provides little potential habitat for reptiles as the site has been cleared. No reptiles were identified during this survey.

3.4.8. No suitable dormouse habitat was identified during this survey.

3.4.9. No red squirrels or red squirrel field signs were identified during this survey and there is no suitable habitat within the survey area.

3.4.10. No invasive species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were identified within the survey area.

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4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. Although the hedgerows on the site are species poor hedgerows they remain a Habitat of Principal Importance and have a high ecological value.

4.2. The remaining habitats on the site are of low ecological value.

4.3. There are no designated sites within the survey area. Two local wildlife sites, Carlton Marsh LWS and Barnsley Canal LWS we identified in the data search but these sites lie over 360m from the survey area and will remain totally unaffected. Therefore, there will be no impact on designated sites.

4.4. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on badgers during the proposed works.

4.5. No watercourses were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on water voles, otters or crayfish during the proposed works.

4.6. No ponds were identified within 500m of the survey area whilst on site or on an Ordnance Survey Map of the area. Therefore, there will be no impact on great crested newts during the proposed works.

4.7. The bungalow on the site has some gaps under the ridge tiles, under a windowsill on the eastern side of the building and under the flat roof of the northern dormer window. No bat field signs such as staining or droppings were identified within the loft space or around the exterior of the building during this survey. The bungalow is assessed as having **low** bat roost potential. The demolition of the building will have a high impact on roosting bats if there is a bat roost present within the building.

4.7.1. No mature trees that could provide bat roost potential were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on roosting bats in trees during the proposed works.

4.8. The survey area provides low potential for foraging bats as it is a small area between residential properties. There is more suitable habitat to the north with large areas of grassland with hedgerows and trees. The proposed works and will not fragment any foraging habitat and will therefore have no impact on foraging or commuting bats.

4.9. The vegetation within the survey area provides opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September, inclusive, each year. There were numerous birds on the site feeding on the cleared ground and birds were also seen in the hedgerows around the site. It is highly likely that there are active nests within the vegetation. Vegetation clearance within the nesting bird season will have an impact on any birds nesting within the work site.

4.9.1. The bungalow provides opportunities for nesting birds and during this survey two active house sparrow nests were identified. One nest was identified under the roof of the northern dormer window with sparrows seen entering and exiting the gaps. The second nest was identified under the windowsill of the upstairs window at the eastern side of the building.

4.10. The site provides little potential habitat for reptiles as the site has been cleared. No reptiles were identified during this survey. The works will have a low impact on reptiles.

4.11. No suitable dormouse habitat was identified during this survey. Therefore, there will be no impact on dormice during the proposed works.

4.12. No red squirrels or red squirrel field signs were identified during this survey and there is no suitable habitat within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on red squirrels during the proposed works.

4.13. No invasive species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on the proposed works.

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. It is recommended that where possible the hedgerows, which are habitats of principal importance, remain unaffected by the proposed development. If the works will impact on the hedgerows it is recommended that the local authority is contacted prior to the works in these areas commencing.

5.2. It is recommended that a further bat survey is carried out of the bungalow in line with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines, which requires a dusk emergence bat survey. The survey should use sufficient surveyors to ensure that all areas of the building are covered during the survey.

5.3. Numerous birds were seen on the site feeding on the cleared ground and birds were also seen in the hedgerows around the site and it is highly likely that there are active nests within the vegetation. There were also two house sparrow nests identified within the bungalow during this survey.

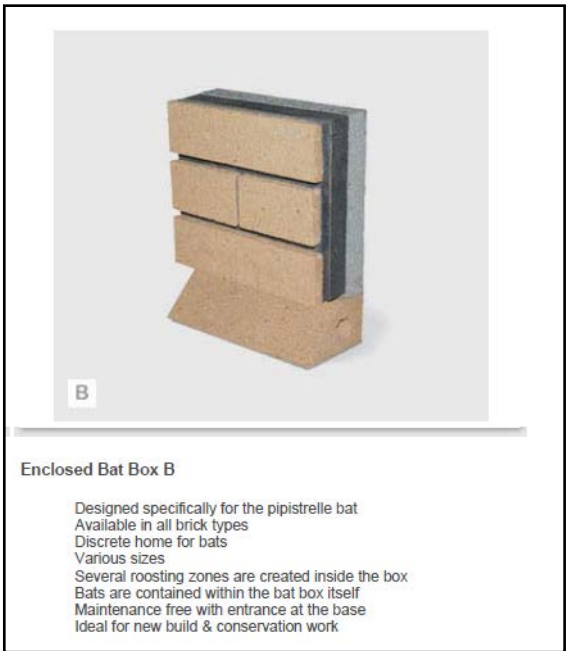
5.4. Ideally it is recommended that any work on site to clear vegetation and to demolish the bungalow commences outside the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year.

5.5. Any work that commences during the nesting season must be immediately preceded by a thorough nesting bird survey carried out by a suitably experienced person. Any nests identified must remain undisturbed until the young have fledged from the nest.

5.6. If any reptiles are found during the works they must be left to safely move away of their own accord. If large numbers of reptiles (5+) are found works must stop and Whitcher Wildlife Ltd contacted for further advice.

5.7. In order to provide biodiversity enhancements in the new buildings it is recommended that bat bricks are installed in a suitable location, high up in a gable end wall. This will enable bats to roost in the outer skin of the cavity wall while not allowing bats into the property.

5.8. The following type of bat brick or equivalent will be used and can be purchased to match the outer skin of the new buildings.



5.9. In order to provide biodiversity enhancements in the new buildings it is recommended that sparrow terrace boxes are installed in a suitable location, high up in a gable end wall or under the eaves of the buildings. This will provide opportunities for sparrows to nest as the opportunities in the existing building will be lost.

5.10. The following type of sparrow terrace nest box or equivalent will be used can be fixed to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall.

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Prepared by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MICEEM.	Date: 6th May 2016.

Checked by:	
	Date: 2016.

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Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about bats, their basic nature, ecology and legal protection in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

18 species of bat currently reside in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

All appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet, and habitat change.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to manmade structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

A breeding or resting site of any bat is known as a bat roost. A bat roost is therefore any structure a bat uses for shelter or protection. Because bats tend to use the same roosts each year, legal opinion is that the roost site is protected whether or not the bats are present at that time.

Bat roosts can be identified by looking for:-

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices.
- Bat droppings.
- Prey remains.
- By carrying out night observations using a bat detector.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

The person applying for that licence has to be suitably qualified and experienced in bat matters. That person is then responsible for ensuring that the measures contained in the licence are carried out.

Appendix II. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about the legal protection offered to nesting birds in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

Part 1.-(1) Of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

(a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
(b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
(c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

(a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
(b) disturbs dependant young of such a bird,

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees, scrub and buildings but others are ground nesting.

The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Appendix III.

REPTILES - GRASS SNAKE AND ADDER INFORMATION.

The grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and the adder (*Vipera berus*) are the two most common snakes to be found in the UK. Adders are found all over Britain while the grass snake becomes rarer towards the north and are rarely found in Scotland.

The grass snake is usually around 120cm long, live in a variety of rough habitats and lay their eggs in warm rotting vegetation. The background colour is dark green and the body is marked with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is generally a dark collar marking.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous but this is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Background colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.

Both snakes hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators. Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies, then later they may move back into the shade because they do not sweat and have to be careful not to overheat. During hot summers, adders will try to move to damper, cooler sites.

Both snakes are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

Appendix IV. REPTILES - LIZARD INFORMATION.

The common or viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) is one of three species of lizard that occur in the UK. They have a dry scaly skin and are variable in colour ranging from brown or yellow-brown to almost green with varying patterns of spots or stripes. The typical length of an adult is 150mm, including the tail.

Common lizards hibernate over the winter, emerging from February onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and the young are born in late July or August. The lizard gives birth to live young, hence the term viviparous, meaning live bearing.

The lizards draw their body warmth from the sun and consequently spend long periods basking in the sun. They are commonly seen on road and railway embankments and on walls where they sit for long periods soaking up the heat of the sun before going to find food.

They occupy a wide range of habitats including woodland, marshes, heathland, moors, sand dunes, hedgerows and bogs.

Common lizards hunt insects, spiders, snails and earthworms. They stun their prey by shaking it and then swallow it whole.

At night, and when startled, they will shelter beneath logs or stones or under other refuges that may be available.

Common lizards are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (they received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991) and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) making it a European Protected Species.

Common lizards should not be confused with the somewhat larger sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*). These are typically 190mm long and stockier than the common lizard. Their marking are distinctly different being considerably more colourful. Sand lizards are confined to moorland and coastal sand dunes where they lay their eggs in the warm sand. The range of the sand lizard in the UK is therefore very limited. Sand lizards are a European protected species.

The third species of lizard is the slow worm *(Anguis fragilis)*, which is frequently mis-identified as a snake. The firm body of the slow worm is distinctly cylindrical in shape and the tiny smooth scales result in a very smooth, shiny appearance. Colouration is typically a uniform grey to brown although there is a wide variation from straw coloured to almost black and some animals have very fine stripes or a zig-zag along the centre of the back. The typical length of an adult is 400mm.

Slow worms can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Britain and is the most likely reptile to be found in urban and suburban environments.

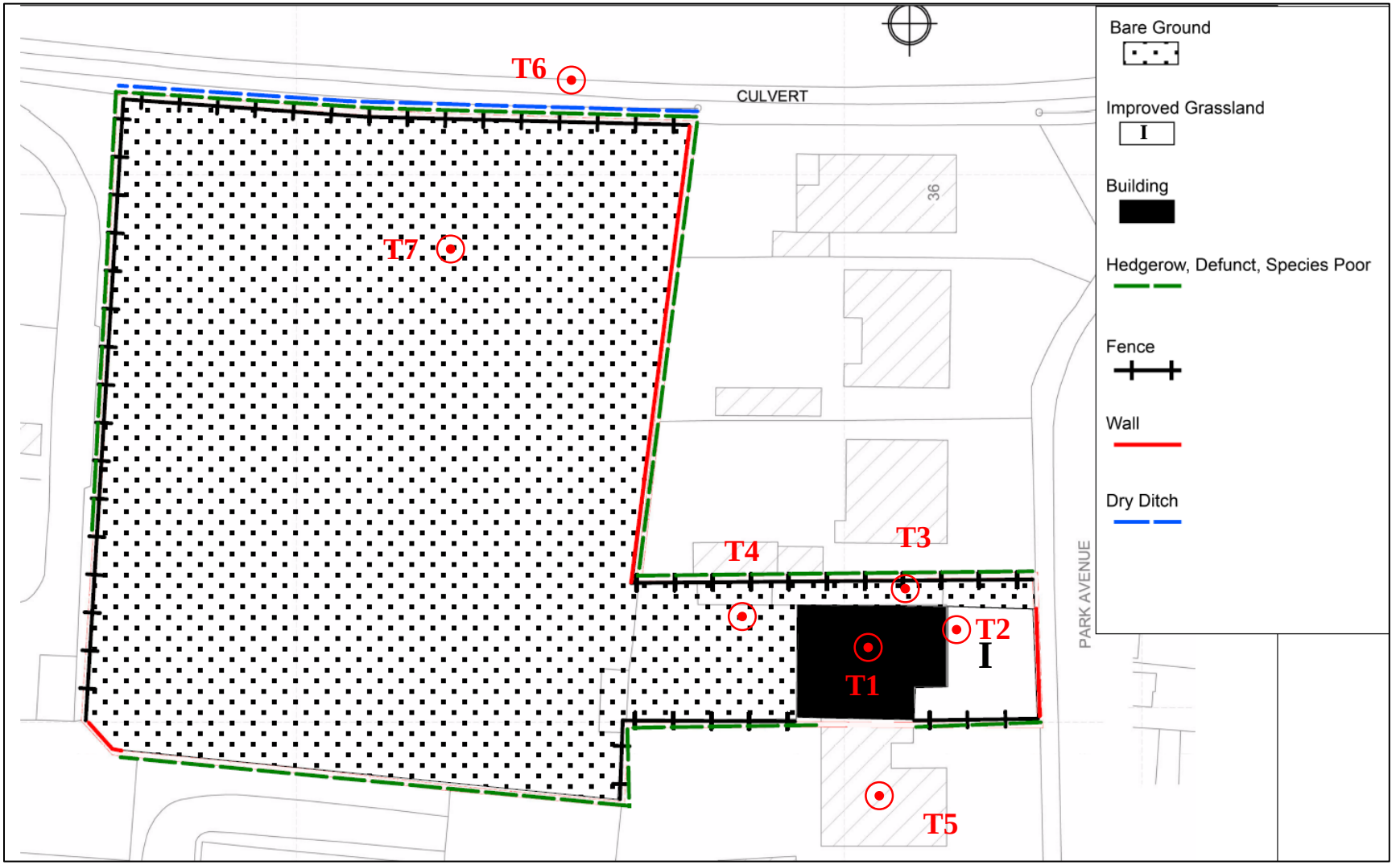
Slow worms hibernate over the winter, emerging from March onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and six to twelve young are born in August or September.

Their favourite food is slugs but they will also eat insects and spiders.

Slow worms are hard to find. They will bask in the sun but they quickly and quietly move into cover when disturbed and do not generally attract attention as they retreat from a basking spot.

Slow worms are also protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA.



Appendix VI. TARGET NOTES.

T1 – The bungalow of 42 Park Avenue.

T2 – The location of an active sparrow nest.

T3 – The location of an active sparrow nest.

T4 – The area of concrete located in the garden of the property.

T5 – The bungalow joined to 42 Park Avenue.

T6 – The dry ditch located outside the site beyond the northern hedgerow.

T7 – The area of bare ground with a number of piles of turf and debris which has been cleared from the site.

Appendix VII. SPECIES LISTS.

Improved Grassland

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
perennial rye grass *(Lolium perenne)*	A
annual meadow grass *(Poa annua)*	A
common bent *(Agrostis capillaris)*	A
dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale)*	A
dock *(Rumex acetosella)*	F
creeping buttercup *(Ranunculus Repens)*	O

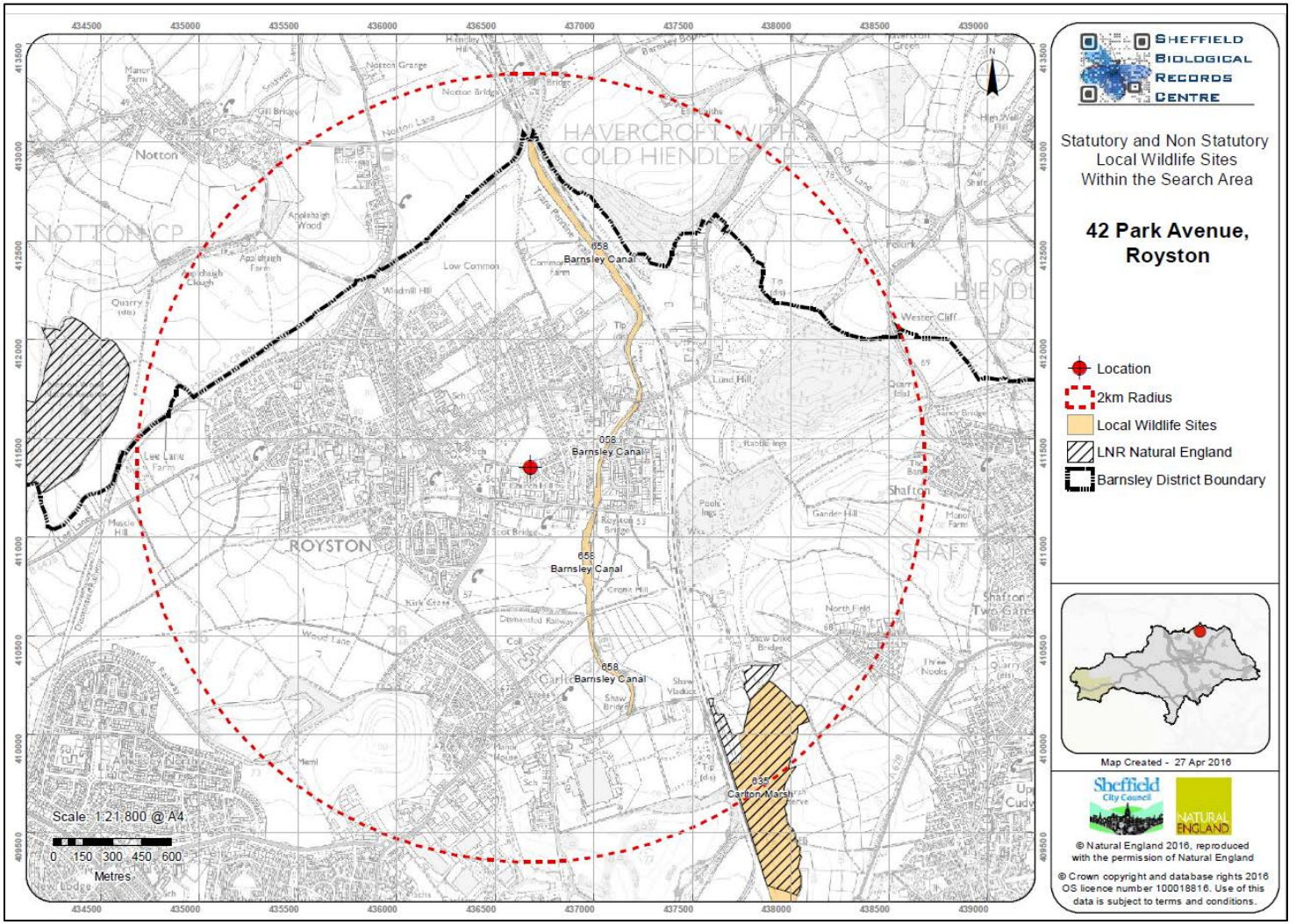
Bare Ground

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale)*	O
dock *(Rumex acetosella)*	O
nettle *(Urtica dioica)*	O
thistle *(Cirsium sp(p))*	O
bramble *(Rubus fruticosus)*	O

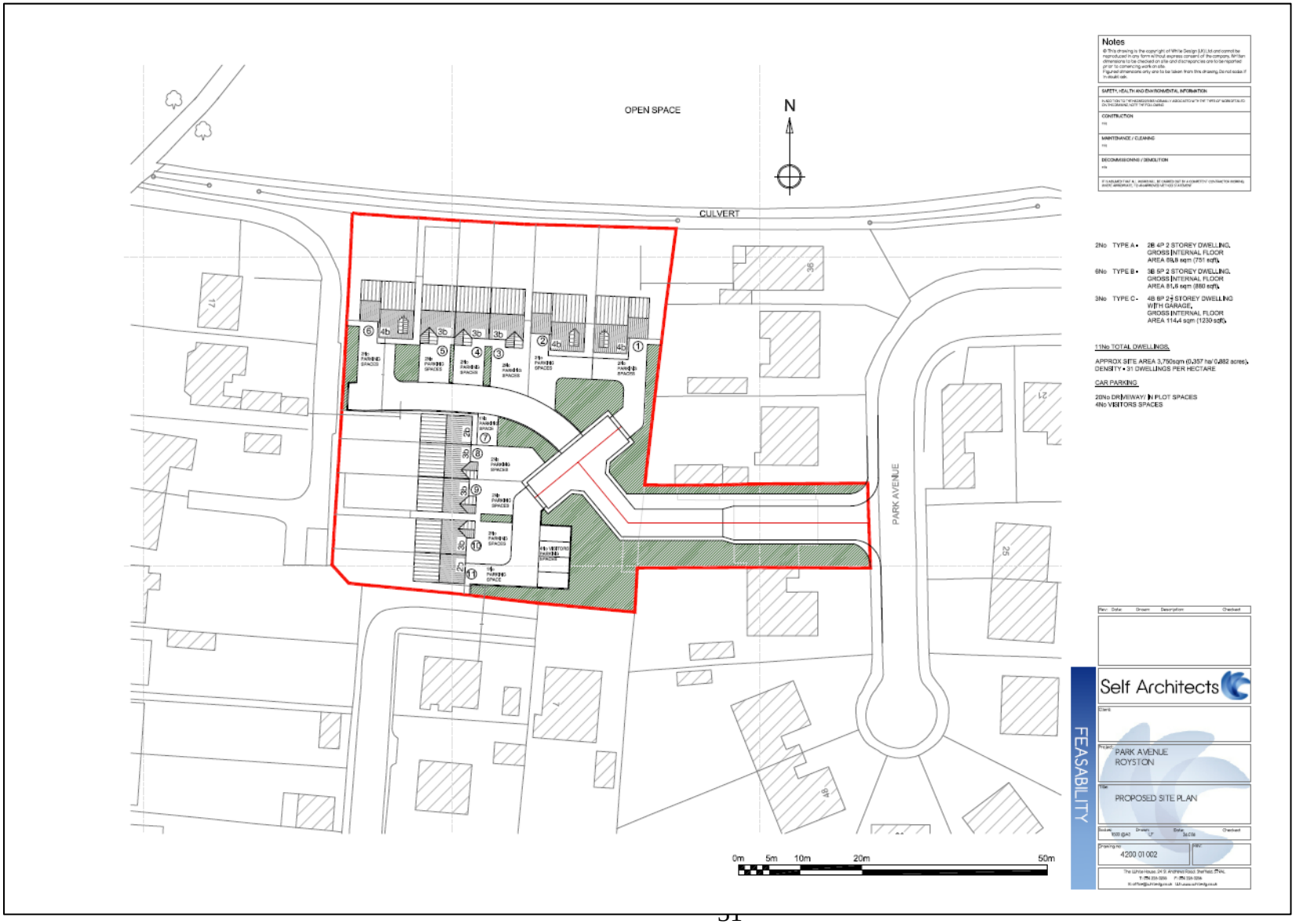
Hedge, species poor, defunct

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
Conifer	D
hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)*	F

Appendix VIII. DATA SEARCH RESULTS.



Appendix IX. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.



Toolbox Talk : Nesting Birds

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

The bird nesting season varies according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

A bird's nest is the place in which a bird lays and icubates its eggs. Some species buildin a nest strucutre while other species lay their eggs directly onto the ground or on a rocky ledge. Nests can be constructed from a variety of materials and are usually lined with feathers or fur.

Identification.

Some birds construct nests in an area where it can be seen while others construct nests that are hidden from view and are more difficult to identify.

The photograph to the right shows a Moorhen nest which can easily be seen.

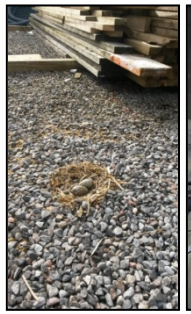
Nests can also be identified from field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself. The presence of a nest can be identified by seeing the adult birds leaving and returning to the nest regularly with food to feed the chicks.

The photograph to the left shows a Wren's nest in overhanging tree roots, which is almost impossible to see.

Care should be taken at any time during the nesting season particularly when regular bird activity is seen or birds can be heard calling.

Habitat.

Birds regularly nest in a variety of places with some species nesting in buildings or vegetation and others nesting on the ground or on water. However, birds may nest in any habitat or situation if they identify a suitable nest site.



Legislation.

Part 1.-(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Kills, injures or takes any wild bird.
- Takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, or
- Takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young, or
- Disturbs young of such a bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

If a nest or potential nesting activity is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk