Woodbine Cottage, Billingley

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

18th March 2019

Prepared by:

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Purpose and Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Date
For Planning	R Bell MCIEEM	P Middleton MCIEEM	R Bell MCIEEM	18/03/19

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Site Name Woodbine Cottage	**Location** Doncaster Road, Billingley, S72 0JE
Document ref: MBE/ECO/2019/07/02	
Local Authority Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	**Grid Reference** SE 44038 04079
Surveyor Robert Bell MCIEEM	**Date of Survey** 08/03/19
Soilscape Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils	**Designation of Site** None

Phase 1 Habitat Types on Site A3.1 Scattered trees, J1.2 Amenity grassland, J1.4 Introduced shrub, J2.1.2 Species poor intact hedge, J3.6 Buildings, J5 Hardstanding
Protected/Notable Species, Constraints on Site Nesting birds, hedgehog rose (invasive species), possible bats, possible Great Crested Newt (GCN)
HPIs and SPIs under NERC Act 2006 Hedgerows, various bat species, GCN, yellowhammer, tree sparrow, house sparrow
Barnsley BAP Hedgerows, bats, GCN, tree sparrow

Contents

1. Summary

1.1.1 A preliminary ecological appraisal of the Woodbine Cottage site was commissioned by the client Stephen Selway on 5th March 2019. This survey was undertaken to inform proposals to construct additional dwellings within the grounds of the existing dwelling.

1.1.2 The application area is not considered to be of greater than site level importance to any habitat or species group. Consequently no proposed impacts of greater than site level importance to nature conservation are envisaged.

1.1.3 The following recommendations to avoid/mitigate/compensate for potential impacts have been identified.

- **Hedgerow retention and protection** – it is recommended the existing hedgerows are retained in the proposed scheme. In order to protect retained hedgerows and any retained trees during development, 'British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction', should be followed.
- **Tree planting** - Replacement tree planting using native tree species is encouraged within the proposed scheme.
- **Bats** – The existing dwelling displays moderate bat roost potential. If this dwelling is to be retained, as anticipated, then no further survey is recommended. If this dwelling is to be demolished then it should be subject to two further nocturnal surveys in order to confidently determine presence/absence.
- **GCN** – Two ponds are present within 100m of the site, however, GCN presence is considered unlikely. Given the conservation status of this species and their strong legal protection it is recommended that either an eDNA survey is undertaken to confirm absence or precautionary working practices are adopted during works.
- **Birds** – Tree and scrub clearance should take place at a time when it will not affect nesting birds (outside March to August). If works are to be undertaken during this time, then they should be preceded by a nesting bird check.
- **Invasive species –** Hedgehog rose comprises an invasive species included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. This species is present on the eastern site boundary. Prior to works commencing all hedgehog rose plants should be removed from site and disposed of.

1.1.4 In addition to mitigation recommendations outlined above, enhancement recommendations have been provided as detailed below:

- Inclusion of two integrated bat boxes within the walls of new dwellings.
- Inclusion of two integrated or externally mounted sparrow boxes within new dwellings.
- An ecological sensitive soft landscaping regime should be designed to include native or ecologically beneficial non-native species.

2. Introduction

2.1.1 A preliminary ecological appraisal of the Woodbine Cottage site was commissioned by the client Stephen Selway on 5th March 2019. This survey was undertaken to inform proposals to construct additional dwellings within the grounds of the existing dwelling.

2.1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey which includes determining the potential for, or presence of, protected and notable species, plus an appended map of the site showing the Phase 1 habitats present. Where impacts can be confidently determined then recommendations in relation to avoiding, mitigating and compensating for these impacts are included in this report, together with biodiversity enhancement recommendations.

2.1.3 Key legislation relating to designated sites and protected species and habitats is detailed in Appendix 3. The implications of legislation are detailed in the body of the report where necessary.

2.1.4 Woodbine Cottage comprises a 0.3ha plot of land, located immediately south of the A635 Doncaster Road, close to the junction with Billingley Green Lane. The surveyed dwelling is situated approximately 680m south of the centre of Billingley.

3. Site Description

3.1.1 The survey area comprises a dwelling and garden, bordered by hedgerows on the southwest and southeast boundaries. The site is located adjacent to a layby of the A635 Doncaster Road to the north, a dwelling with an associated horse paddock and pond to the west, a recently planted conifer plantation to the south and arable land to the east.

3.1.2 The wider area comprises mainly arable land surrounding former mining villages with the River Dearne and the RSPB Old Moor Wetlands Nature Reserve approximately 1.7km to the south.

Figure 1. The site location, as indicated by red circle

4. Methodology

4.1 Data Consultation

4.1.1 Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) were contacted to request the following information for locations within a 1.5km radius of the site:

- Protected and notable species records
- The boundaries of non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest

4.1.2 A search of the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was undertaken to determine the following:

- The boundaries of statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest
- The locations of historic European Protected Species (EPS) licences granted by Natural England

4.1.3 Natural England have recently made available Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* presence records collected through survey class licences between 2013 and 2018. This data set was reviewed for records collected within 2km of the site.

4.2 Field Survey

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

4.2.1 The site was surveyed on 8th March 2019 using extended Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) by the following personnel:

- Robert Bell (MCIEEM; Class license WML-A34-Level 4, 2016-25236-CLS-CLS)

4.2.2 Notable, rare or scarce plant species were highlighted if present. Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance was recorded where present at the time of survey. Species recorded are included within the report as appropriate. Information is presented on the Phase 1 plan, using Target Notes (TN) to identify particular features of interest, where appropriate. Additionally, and where possible, habitats were classified using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC), as described in the JNCC National Vegetation Classification – Users Handbook (Rodwell, 2006).

4.2.3 Ariel photographs (Google Earth) were studied to place the site in its wider context and to look for ecological features that would not be evident on the ground during the walkover survey. This is particularly useful for identifying wildlife corridors and ponds but because the latter are often not apparent on aerial photographs, OS 1:25 000 scale maps are also used.

4.2.4 Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) and Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) included on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 were noted, together with priority species and habitats as included on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

4.2.5 The value and sensitivity of ecological features present on site were determined based on the guidance given in 'Guidelines on Ecological Impact Assessment' (CIEEM, 2018). Individual ecological receptors (habitats and species that could be affected by

the development) for the scheme were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The highest level is international, then decreasing in order of importance through national, regional, county, local and lastly site.

4.3 Survey Limitations

4.3.1 Whilst the survey was undertaken outside the appropriate period for detailed botanical survey the habitats present are relatively species poor and could be confidently characterised during the survey.

5. Ecological Baseline

5.1 Data Consultation

5.1.1 No statutory designated sites or non-statutory designated sites are present within 1km of the application area.

5.1.2 No EPS licences have been issued for locations within 2km of the site.

5.2 Field Survey

5.2.1 The arrangement of site habitats is shown on the Phase 1 plan in Appendix 1, whilst a field survey botanical species list is provided in Appendix 2.

5.2.2 The application area is not considered to be of greater than site level importance to any habitat or species group.

5.2.3 A detailed description of the site habitats and the site's potential to support protected and notable species is provided below.

Plate 1. Site viewed from north east corner

Habitats

A3.1 Scattered trees

5.2.4 Scattered trees are present in a number of locations across the site. The most significant grouping of trees comprise two semi-mature sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* in the southeast corner of the site (Plate 1) and a grouping of semi-mature plum *Prunus domestica* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* trees at TN3 (Appendix 1).

5.2.5 Other scattered trees present across the site comprise apple *Malus* spp., ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and birch *Betula* spp. trees, with an English oak *Quercus robur* present to the east of the dwelling.

5.2.6 The tree grouping at TN3 is growing on land used to store building materials including a large stone pile. Species present include daffodils *Narcissus* spp., nettle *Urtica dioica* and hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*.

Plate 2. Grouping of plum and hawthorn trees (TN3) on right of image

J1.2 Amenity grassland

5.2.7 Amenity grassland comprises the main habitat on site, with areas of lawn present to the north, east, south and west of the dwelling. The lawns were close cropped at the time of survey and all areas are apparently subject to regular mowing throughout the growing season.

5.2.8 Grass species present within the lawn comprise frequently occurring Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and red fescue *Festuca rubra,* with herb species present comprising frequent creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and occasional cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*. Rarely occurring ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* was also noted from one location.

5.2.9 An area used for burning garden waste is present at the southern corner of the site (TN2, Appendix 1). Nettles *Urtica dioica* comprise the dominant vegetation cover in

this area.

J1.4 Introduced shrub

5.2.10 A strip of introduced shrub planting is present along the west and south elevation of the dwelling, with a second 1m wide strip of shrub planting adjacent to the eastern boundary.

5.2.11 Shrub planting adjacent to the dwelling includes buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, Wilson's honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*, dogwood *Cornus* spp., flowering currant *Ribes sanguineum*, spotted laurel *Aucuba japonica*., lavender *Lavandula* spp., sage *Salvia officinalis*, rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis* and an olive tree *Olea europaea* (in a pot). A variety of perennials including primrose *Primula vulgaris* are also present in places.

5.2.12 The strip of shrub planting on the eastern boundary comprises mainly hedgehog rose *Rosa rugosa*.

Plate 3. Introduced shrub growing adjacent to eastern boundary

J2.1.2 Species poor intact hedge

5.2.13 Two lengths of hedgerow are present on site. The hedgerow along the southwest boundary (H1, Appendix 1) comprises a 5m tall by 3m wide intact native hedge which includes hawthorn, elder *Sambucus nigra* and ivy *Hedera helix*. The hedgerow along most of the southeast boundary comprises a 5m tall by 3m wide intact hedgerow which includes hawthorn, elder, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and dog rose *Rosa canina*.

5.2.14 Whilst native hedgerows are included as a Habitat of Principal Importance on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. None of the site hedgerows classify as Important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

Plate 4. Native hedgerow (H1) shown on right of photo

J3.6 Buildings

5.2.15 The dwelling comprises 19th Century two storey stone built dwelling with a more recently constructed extension. A steel framed greenhouse is also present at TN4 (Appendix 1), whilst a 1.25m high stone wall, overgrown with ivy in places, is present along the northern site boundary.

5.2.16 The potential of the dwelling to support birds and bats is discussed in more detail in the species section of this report.

Plate 5. Rear elevation of dwelling

J5 Hardstanding

5.2.17 A hardstanding drive leads to a garage and a path leads to the main entrance, with small sections of path around the perimeter of the house. This habitat is of negligible

conservation interest.

Species

Amphibians

5.2.18 No GCN records were provided by BBRC and no EPS licences relating to GCN have been issued for locations within 2km of the site.

5.2.19 In addition, no GCN presence records are included in the NE class licence returns dataset, for any location within 2km of the site. The closest presence record within this dataset relates to a location 7km south of the site.

5.2.20 No amphibian records collected in the last 30 years were supplied by BBRC.

5.2.21 No ponds are present on the site however two ponds are located within 500m of the site. These ponds are shown on Figure 2. Pond 1 is located 50m from the site, with Pond 2 located 57m from the site. An inspection of historic aerial imagery shows that Pond 1 was constructed between 2008-2009, with Pond 2 constructed at some point between 2009-2016.

Figure 2. Ponds located within 500m of site with site shown in blue

5.2.22 Neither waterbody could be fully accessed in order to undertake a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment however a short visual inspection of Pond 1 was possible from an adjacent path (Plate 6). It was not possible to request formal access to either pond at the time of survey due to the need to maintain commercial confidentiality regarding the development at this stage.

5.2.23 Whilst it was not possible to determine fish presence or aquatic macrophyte cover in relation to Pond 1, other HSI variables could be determined. The HSI assessment for Pond 1 showed this waterbody displays 'good' suitability (HSI score: 0.77) for breeding GCN. Pond 2 could not be accessed however due to its small size it is considered unlikely to display higher potential to support GCN than Pond 1.

5.2.24 Whilst two ponds are present within 100m of the site, these ponds are recently created and isolated from other waterbodies in the area. It is therefore unlikely that GCN could have colonised these recently created ponds, given the lack of local ponds with connective links. Furthermore there is a lack of GCN records for the local area, with an eDNA survey undertaken at RSPB Old Moor in 2018 also showing a negative result (David Waddington, RSPB Site Warden, personal communication). Taking these factors into account it is considered unlikely that GCN are present on site.

Plate 6. Adjacent pond

5.2.25 Terrestrial habitats present on site lack much potential for use by foraging amphibians with amenity grassland considered to be a relatively low quality foraging habitat. It is however noted that piled building materials present at TN3, offers potential resting habitat suitable for use by any amphibians present in the local area.

Badger

5.2.26 No badger *Meles meles* records were provided by BBRC.

5.2.27 No signs of badger presence were recorded from the site during the survey, however it is considered possible that badger may occasionally visit the site as part of an extended foraging and commuting area.

Bats

5.2.28 Two bat records were received from BBRC, these related to either common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or an unidentified pipistrelle *Pipistrellus* spp. with the closest record collected from a location 650m northwest of the site in 2004. No bat EPS licences have been issued for locations within 2km of the site.

5.2.29 The dwelling on site comprises a two storey stone built 19th Century dwelling with a more recently constructed eastern wing. The building has a multi-pitched Yorkshire stone slate covered roof with stone ridge tiles and brick chimneys. Lead flashing is present at the junction of the roof and chimneys, whilst the dwelling has uPVC double glazed windows and a plastic fascia. Large up lighting units illuminate all sides of the dwelling, however, these are apparently used quite infrequently.

Plate 7. North elevation of dwelling

5.2.30 Potential bat roosting features on the exterior of the dwelling are limited to the roof and fascia boards. In common with most Yorkshire stone slate covered roofs, there is an abundance of potential bat access points between uneven sized stone slates, allowing bats access to the void between tiles and underfelt. In addition a ~10mm crevice is present between the fascia and wall. No bats were seen during the inspection and no evidence of bat usage was recorded.

5.2.31 The original roof-space of the dwelling has been modified with the roof-void now 1m high from ceiling to ridge beam. There is Type 1F felt beneath the slates and 100mm of glass fibre insulation at ceiling height. The roof is supported on a queen post truss, with purlins, rafters and battens. No evidence of bats was recorded and no potential bat access points into the void were noted. Taking all survey observations into account the dwelling is considered to offer moderate bat roost potential, with all potential bat roosting features comprising external crevice features most suitable for use by pipistrelle bats.

Plate 8. Roof void of dwelling

5.2.32 The greenhouse at TN4 offers negligible bat roost potential. A single fruit tree within the tree group at TN3 has a downward facing knot hole at 1.5m leading into a rot column. This feature was subject to close examination with an endoscope, with no evidence of current or historic bat usage recorded. This tree was considered to display low bat roost potential.

5.2.33 The survey area has some potential for use by foraging bats, however, given the site's location in a largely arable landscape, it comprises sub-optimal habitat, with the trees and hedgerows comprising slighted higher value areas. Similar habitat is however present within the surrounding area and given the site's small size it is unlikely to be of any particular importance to resident bat species.

Birds

5.2.34 Bird species recorded on site during the survey included blackbird *Turdus merula* and robin *Erithacus rubecula*. All bird species recorded during the field survey are included on the Green List of the Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al*., 2015). However, hedgerows on the site's boundaries have potential to support red listed yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* whilst the building and adjacent habitats could potentially support house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, which are known to breed in the locality.

5.2.35 Trees, introduced shrub and ivy cover on the stone wall along the northern boundary (TN1) may be used by birds for nesting. The garden may also be used by foraging birds of common and widespread species, which currently benefit from bird feeders positioned south of the dwelling.

Invasive species

5.2.36 Hedgehog rose was recorded from the introduced shrub habitat on the eastern boundary. This species is included as an invasive species on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

Invertebrates

5.2.37 The mix of habitats present on site is likely to support a range of common invertebrates, however, habitats present are common in the local area and very limited in extent. Consequently, rarely occurring invertebrate species are unlikely to be present.

Plants

5.2.38 Habitats present are common in the local area and heavily managed for amenity purposes. Consequently these habitats are unlikely to support any rarely occurring plant species.

Reptiles

5.2.39 No reptile records were provided by BBRC for locations within 1km of the site.

5.2.40 Site habitats offer very limited suitability for reptiles and have very little connectivity with suitable habitats elsewhere. It is considered highly unlikely reptiles will be present and this group of species is not considered a receptor to the proposed development.

Other animals

5.2.41 Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* burrows were recorded beneath scattered trees at TN3 and beneath the hedge along the western boundary.

6. Assessment

6.1 Proposals

6.1.1 Whilst firm development proposals are yet to be drawn up it is understood that the existing dwelling will be retained.

6.1.2 Retention of site hedgerows is expected with the sycamore trees located in the southeast corner of the site also likely to be retained.

6.2 Assessment of Impacts

6.2.1 The proposed development will not impact designated sites, as none are present within 1.5km of the site.

6.2.2 The site is not considered to be of greater than site level importance to any habitat or species group and consequently no significant ecological impacts are anticipated as a result of the scheme.

6.2.3 Boundary hedgerows comprise the most important ecological features present on site, with this habitat having potential for use by birds including yellowhammer. It is recommended site hedgerows are retained within the proposed scheme. In addition retention of existing trees is encouraged where possible.

6.2.4 The existing site dwelling displays moderate bat roost potential although no evidence of current bat use was recorded during the survey. Assuming the dwelling is to be retained then impacts on any bats potentially roosting would be minimal given that all elevations are already subject to occasional uplighting. If this dwelling were to be demolished then it is possible that bat roosting locations may be lost with bats subject to strong legal protections as detailed in Appendix 3.

6.2.5 It is not considered that GCN are likely to be present in the local area. The piles of stone and other building materials located at TN3 would however be suitable for use by resting GCN or other amphibian species. GCN are subject to strong legal protections as detailed in Appendix 3.

6.2.6 Hedgehog rose is present in introduced shrub planting along the eastern site boundary. This species is included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. Consequnetly it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this plant species to grow in the wild.

6.2.7 Trees, introduced shrub and ivy cover on the stone wall have potential for use by nesting birds. As a result the removal or direct disturbance of this vegetation has the potential to result in damage to or destruction of active bird nests, if undertaken during the bird nesting period (March-August inclusive). It is an offence to damage or destroy active bird nests (see Appendix 3).

6.2.8 Methods to avoid or mitigate for the impacts detailed above is discussed in Section 6.3.

6.3 Mitigation

6.3.1 Where hedgerows and trees are to be retained within the development, it is recommended that 'British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction', should be followed. Root Protection Zones (RPZ's) should be calculated and implemented to prevent harm to these features. Replacement tree planting using native tree species is encouraged within the proposed scheme.

6.3.2 If the existing dwelling is retained then no further bat survey is recommended. If this dwelling is subsequently proposed for demolition then it would be necessary to undertake two nocturnal surveys to confidently determine the presence/absence of roosting bats. These nocturnal surveys would need to comprise dusk emergence or dawn return surveys, separated by a period of at least 14 days and undertaken by suitably experienced and equipped surveyors during the bat activity period (peak period: mid-May to August).

6.3.3 It is considered unlikely that GCN are present in the local area given the nearby ponds (Ponds 1 & 2, Figure 2) were dug recently, there is a lack of connectivity to other ponds and there are no local GCN records. It is however noted that GCN are subject to strong legal protections. Consequently it is recommended that either GCN absence from local ponds is confirmed through a eDNA survey of Pond 1 or 2, by a licensed GCN surveyor between 15th April to the 30th June, or precautionary working practices should be undertaken. Precautionary working practices would include the delivery of GCN Toolbox Talk to site staff and the supervised deconstruction of all piles of building materials at TN3 by a licensed GCN surveyor. In the unlikely event this approach were adopted and GCN were found, then construction works would need to be suspended and the requirement for further surveys and/or an European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence would need to be determined.

6.3.4 Prior to works commencing all hedgehog rose plants should be removed from site and disposed of. Care should be taken to ensure all roots are removed and plants are bagged prior to disposal to prevent the spread of any viable rose hips during transport from site.

6.3.5 Removal of trees, introduced shrub cover or ivy form the northern boundary wall should either be undertaken outside the bird nesting period (March-August inclusive), or works should be preceded by a nesting bird check. If required, the nesting bird check should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist within 48 hours of vegetation removal works taking place.

6.4 Recommended Enhancements

6.4.1 In accordance with the aims of National Planning Policy Framework, it is recommended that the opportunity is taken to enhance the site's ecological value through the development. The below measures comprise recommended enhancement measures informed by the results and findings of the field survey.

- The new development should include two cavity bat boxes, to be integrated into the fabric of one or more new dwellings. These boxes should be situated high on south or west facing elevations, away from artificial light spill. Boxes should not be located directly above windows or doors.
- Two integrated or externally mounted sparrow boxes should be fitted to new dwellings. These units should be fitted at wall top height on north, east or west elevations of new dwellings.

- An ecological sensitive planting plan should be developed for soft landscaping the scheme, to include native or ecologically beneficial non-native species.

6.5 Conclusion

6.5.1 No scheme impacts of significance at greater than the site level are envisaged. It is however recommended that mitigation and compensation measures detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 are adopted in order to minimise ecological impacts and deliver ecological benefits, where possible.

7. References

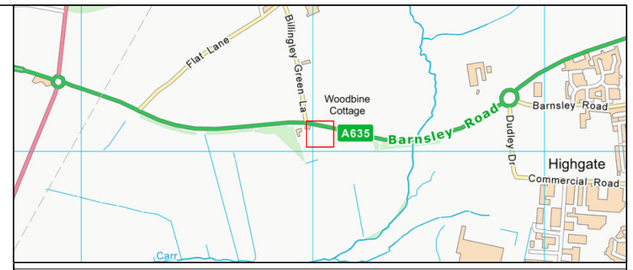
Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. The Bat Conservation Trust.

CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108, 708–746.

Appendix 1. Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan



Survey Information

	Site boundary

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

	Introduced shrub
	Amenity grassland
	Building
	Hardstanding
	Intact species poor hedgerow
	Scattered tree
x	Target note

Additional Information:
Please see associated report for further information relating to target notes and hedgerow information.

Source:
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N

0 2.5 5 10
Metres

PROJECT TITLE

WOODBINE COTTAGE, BILLINGLEY

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 1. Phase 1 Habitat Plan

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.1	13/03/19	Phase 1	MP	RB

DRAWING NUMBER:
MIDDLETONBELLECOLOGY/WoodbineCottage/Phase 1

SCALE	1:400	PLOT SIZE	A3	DATUM	OSGB	PROJECTION	BNG

Middleton Bell Ecology
33 Wilthorpe Road, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 1JA
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Appendix 2. Plant Species Recorded On Site

Full Species List		
English Name	**Scientific Name**	**DAFOR Rating**
A3.1 Scattered trees		
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplantanus*	F
Plum	*Prunus domestica*	F
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	F
Apple	*Malus* spp.	F
Birch	*Betula* spp.	F
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	O
English oak	*Quercus robur*	O
J1.2 Amenity grassland		
Yorkshire fog	*Holcus lanatus*	F
Cocksfoot	*Dactylis glomerata*	F
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	F
Perennial rye grass	*Lolium perenne*	F
Creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	F
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	F
White clover	*Trifolium repens*	F
Cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	O
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*	O
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	O
Broad-leaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*	O
Ox-eye daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	R
J1.4 Introduced shrub		
Buddleia	*Buddleja davidii*	O
Wilson's honeysuckle	*Lonicera nitida*	O
Dogwood	*Cornus* spp.	O
Flowering currant	*Ribes sanguineum*	O
Aucuba	*Aucuba* spp.	O
Lavender	*Lavandula* spp.	O
Sage	*Salvia officinalis*	O
Rosemary	*Rosmarinus officinalis*	O
Olive tree	*Olea europaea*	O
Primrose	*Primula vulgaris*	O
Species poor intact hedge		
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	F
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	F
Ivy	*Hedera helix*	O
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	O
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	R

Appendix 3. Relevant Legislation

Wildlife legislation relating to statutory designated sites and species is summarised in Table A1 and A2 below. This legal information is intended for summary only, and the original legal documents should be consulted if a detailed understanding is required.

Table A1. Legislation relating to designated sites and habitats

Designated Site	Legal Status
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	While they have no direct legal status, Local Wildlife Sites are considered important enough to receive recognition within the planning system. National planning policy requires local authorities to identify Local Wildlife Sites and provide for their protection through local policy.

Table A2. Legislation relating to species

Species	Legal Status
European protection	
European Protected Species (EPS) (including bats, Great Crested Newt (GCN), otter and hazel dormouse)	These animal species and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which makes it illegal to: • Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs; • Deliberately disturb such an animal; • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. European Protected Species (EPS) licences can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed: • The development is for reasons of overriding public interest; • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced. Under Regulation 9(5) of the Conservation Regulations, Planning Authorities have a legal duty to 'have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions'. This means that they must consider the above 3 tests when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations. As a consequence, Planning Applications for such developments must demonstrate that the 3 tests will be passed. Natural England also allow sites to be registered on the Bat Low Impact Class Licence to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations where the 3 tests can be passed and the bat roosts to be impacted are of low conservation status.
National protection	

Species	Legal Status
European Protected Species and other species including: water vole and white clawed crayfish	These animals receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal; • Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal; and • Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
Common amphibians and reptile species	These animals receive limited protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure any such animal.
Badger	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to wilfully kill or injure a Badger, or attempt to do so and also make it illegal to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a Badger sett. This includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett and disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett. Licences can be granted by Natural England to permit sett closure and/or disturbance between July and November inclusive.
Schedule 1 birds	Special penalties relate to offences concerning birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any Schedule 1 bird or their dependent young while nesting.
All bird species	All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; • Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.
Invasive species	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 of the Act. In relation to Schedule 9 plants it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these plant species to grow in the wild.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Planning authorities have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to have regard to priority species and habitats in exercising their functions including development control and planning. In compliance with Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State has published a list of species and habitats considered to be of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. This is known as the list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (HPI/SPI). The HPI/SPI list is used to guide planning authorities in implementing their duty under the NERC Act.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework for England was revised in 2018. This document states that plans should 'promote the conservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'. It also puts an emphasis on refusing development which would result in the 'loss or deterioration of

irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland)' unless there are 'wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable mitigation strategy exists'.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The HPI/SPI list included on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 is supported by a series of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), usually set up on a local authority local authority administrative boundary basis. Each LBAP identifies those habitats and species considered to be most important in that area (usually referred to as priority habitats and species). Commonly, an LBAP will identify a number of habitats and species for which "action plans" have been prepared.