Formby Business Centre, 42 Duke Street, Formby, Merseyside, L37 4AT

www.facebook.com/ecologicalsurvey
www.linkedin.com/company/tyrer-ecological-consultants-ltd

Tel: 01704 875781
Email: kylee@tyrer-ecologicalconsultants.co.uk
enquiries@tyrer-ecologicalconsultants.co.uk

VAT REGISTRATION NO: 290 0603 30

Date: 11/01/2022

Re: Update site walkover to assess status-quo of structures against the findings of 2019

Site: Whitegate Nurseries, 66 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, PR4 6RT**/ National Grid Ref:** SD 44385 23381

Document Context

An updated site survey was requested at the request of the local planning authority in order to commence with the final phase of the development, which is understood to involve the demolition of the remaining glass green house to the northwest of the site followed by the erection of 3 dwellings.

This document does not seek to overwrite the more comprehensive findings of the 2019 issued Preliminary Ecological Appraisal which offers building descriptions, site, local and extending environment information, but serves to supplement that report with an update; for original or further contextual information, the PEA should be referred to and is available as Appendix I.

Update site walkover

The site was re-attended on 22nd December 2021 by Miss T. Hesketh a junior ecologist with 2 years profession survey experience holding a MSc in conservation management a course accredited by CIEEM. Weather conditions were clear, overcast conditions (4ºC) wind 0/12 (Beaufort scale), 40% cloud.

During the survey walkover, botanical assemblages were assessed, and the land was inspected for the presence of red-listed (Stroh *et al*, 2014; Hodgetts, 2011), s.41 and LBAP species alongside specially protected species as listed under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (as amended) and / or Schedule 5 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU exit) Regulations (2019). Species nomenclature follows Stace, C. (2019) – definitive English names.

Existing structures to be affected (see Figure 1) were re-assessed for bat and breeding bird suitability and evidence; where accessible interior structural features were assessed and inspected with the aid of a high powered torch for evidence of bat use which mainly includes bat droppings, oils and/or prey items, or incidental presence of live or dead animals, and investigated for evidence of breeding birds which broadly involves a search for nesting materials, presence of pellets or accumulated faeces and/or dead juveniles/hatchlings. External elevations were investigated with the aid of the high-powered torch and close focus binoculars (where necessary) for places that can be used as a roost by bats or as a means of ingress for bats and birds leading to areas of roosting/nesting potential. These features are typically referred to as potential roost features (PRF) concerning bats. All external features were able to be surveyed without constraint, only minor internal access constraints apply. The surrounding habitat was considered in terms of general suitability for bat and bird species associated with the local setting.

All aspects of the site walkover were undertaken in line with government and CIEEM (2020) standing guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results, conclusions and recommendations of this report have been assessed by Mrs. K. Wilding, the Director of Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd whom issued the previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, and her assessment is consistent with that of Miss T. Hesketh.

In accordance with Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development (CIEEM et al, 2019) and Policy EN2 of the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 Development Plan Document the site visit also aims to identify enhancement opportunities for biodiversity.

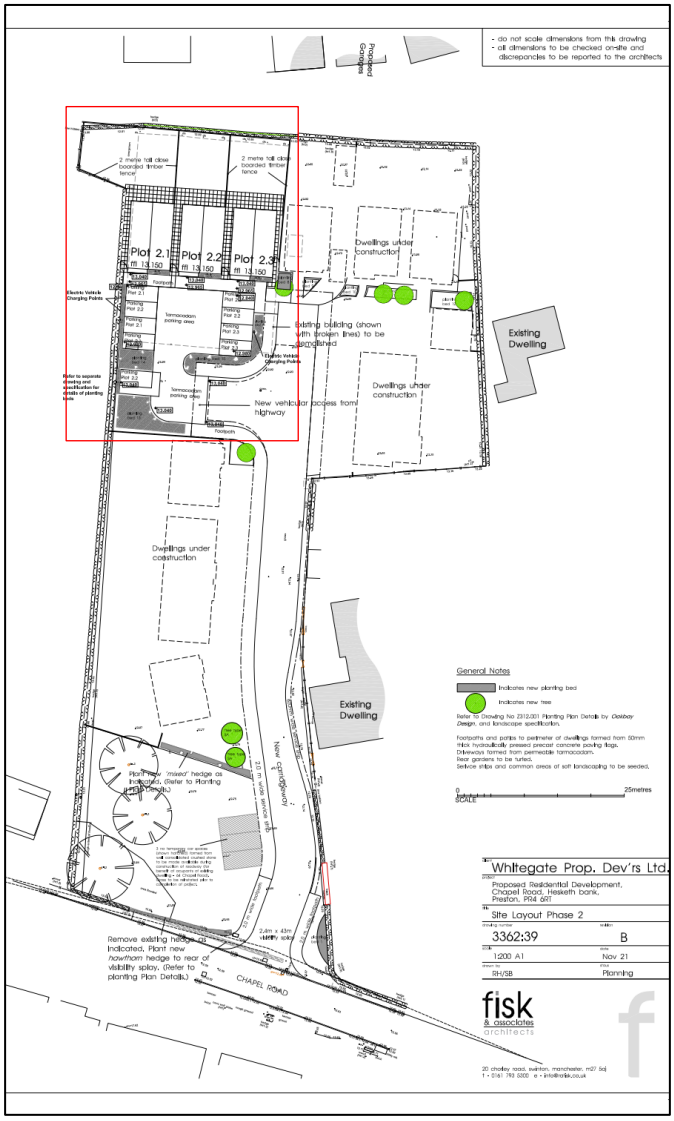


Figure 1 – proposed site plan area in red denotes

Results

During the survey it was immediately noted that the majority of the south of the site has been cleared and is ready for development; or is currently under development.

Vegetation

No species of conservation importance were identified at the former Whitegate Nurseries during the updated site visit. Previously, a Ramping-fumitory (Fumaria sp.) (non-flowering) was found across the eastern length of a greenhouse (B4) which has now been demolished. No further areas of fumitory were observed on the site.

No invasive plants were located across the full extent of the survey area.

Bats

The remaining building on site is a single storey greenhouse previously denoted as B1 in the 2019 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal; The building is open to the ridge, with no roof void and is highly illuminated, draughty and cold due to broken glass panes in the roof and sides; This survey The building provides no viable ingress/egress opportunities / crevice opportunity to support crevice dwelling bats and is there fir classified as '**Negligible'** in regard to bats. These findings are consistent with those in the previous PEA.

Birds

The site does not offer suitable nesting platforms for schedule 1 species e.g barn owl and no evidence of such species was observed on site.

The site may support common bird species such as house sparrow, which were observed utilising the western hedgerow during the site visit. The northwest corner of the site where the garden of plot 2.1 is to be situated was previously denoted as scattered trees, it appears this area has been cleared of trees however scrub encroachment and the remaining hedge row in conjunction with the northern hedgerow and associated scrub would also provide suitable nesting platforms for birds associated with garden and rural habitats

Other Terrestrial mammals

The site is suitable for commuting and foraging hedgehogs particularly the northwest corner and the hedgerows within the site. However, since the writing of the previous PEA the site is no longer considered suitable for breeding hedgehogs.

Herptiles

The site is considered broadly un-suitable for reptiles and Great Crested Newts and their presence within the site is considered highly unlikely. Given the quality of on-site habitats, the continual presence of other, more generalist amphibian species such as the common frog (Rana temporaria) or common toad (Bufo bufo) is considered to be unlikely. These findings are consistent with those in the previous PEA.

Conclusions and recommendations

Bats

Based on the site-specific guidance assessment as described, risks of impacts to bats can be considered highly unlikely and the barn is duly categorised as offering '**Negligible**' bat roost potential in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust 'Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines' (2016) (see Figure 8.1); no further surveys are required in relation to bats. Enhancement is recommended for bats in Appendix III.

Table 4.1 Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Suitability	Description Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.

Birds

As the site still offers suitable nesting platforms for rural and garden birds particular in the north of the site, though no historic/active nests were identified at the time of the survey. It is therefore recommended that works commence outside the breeding season for birds (broadly March-August inclusive), unless it can conclusively be demonstrated by a suitably qualified ecologist that nesting birds are absent 48 hours before hand.

It is recommended that enhancement for birds are incorporated into the proposed development as per Appendix III.

Other Terrestrial Mammals

The site is suitable for foraging ang commuting hedgehogs and their presence on site is considered likely.

It is therefore recommended that all excavations If and when future development transpires then provision of low angle sloping boards of approximately 300 mm wide should be placed within any excavations at the end of each working day to facilitate a means of escape for mammals such as hedgehogs.

Is it also recommended that is the scrub/hedgerows are to be removed on site is supervised by a suitably qualified ecological clerk of works (EcOW). If hedgehog is/are found during deconstruction, they are to be left in situ or alternatively moved to a like-for-like habitat nearby.

See supporting images Plates overleaf.

Plate 1 – Glass green house to be demolished

Plate 2-Interior of green house

Plate 3 – Scrub at base of northern hedge

Plate 4 – Scrub encroachment in the northwest corner

Plate 5 – General character of the rest of the site.

In the unlikely event that bats or breeding birds are found during works, the applicant is reminded that works should immediately cease, and Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd be contacted to provide further guidance.

Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd can confirm that the contents of this letter can be relied upon, and the information contained within has been presented using best practice survey methodology, benchmarked by the long standing experience of the Ecologists affiliated with the company.

Signed,
Tasha Hesketh

Junior Ecologist at Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd
11/01/2022

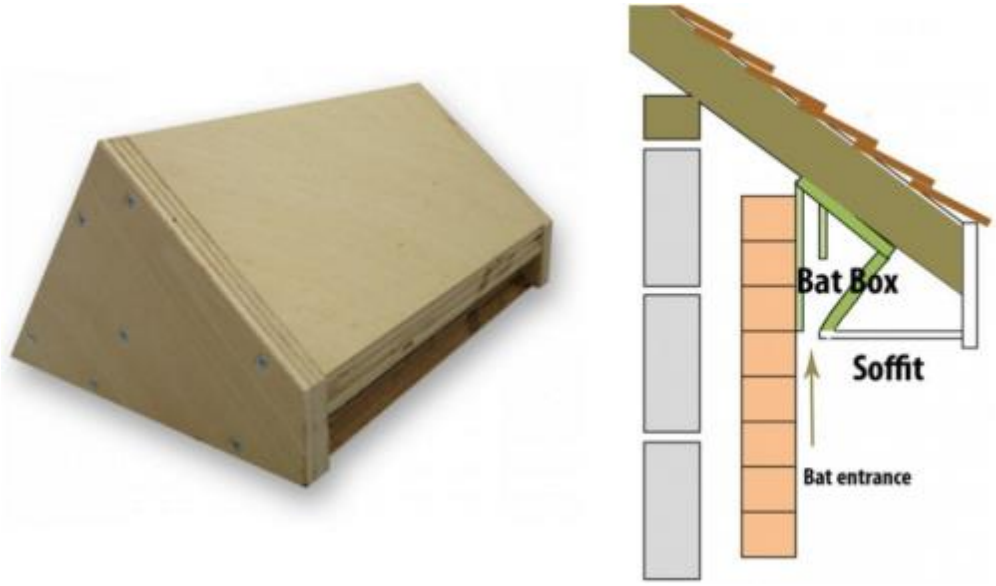
Appendix I – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal / The Tyrer Partnership / Former Whitegate Nurseries, 66 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, PR4 6RT

Appendix II – Biodiversity Enhancement – Breeding Birds at Boscobel

Bats

Soffit access

Where soffits are instated at gable elevations, roost provision may be instated in the form of a soffit bat box with internal roosting space.



Externally fitted boxes

A large number of externally fitted box models for bats exist for buildings and trees. Suitable models for both buildings and trees may include the Eco Kent Bat Box.

Nesting Birds

Enhancement for house sparrow

The Sparrow Terrace has been designed to help redress the balance of falling House Sparrow numbers. The current UK population is half what it was in 1980 and this is thought to be due to habitat destruction and lack of suitable nesting spaces. Sparrows are social birds and like to nest in company, therefore, this terrace provides ideal nesting opportunities for three families.

The terrace comes in two colours and can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas.

See - www.nhbs.com/title/174850/1sp-schwegler-sparrow-terrace

Enhancement for Common Breeding Birds

This traditional design has proved to be highly effective in attracting robins, as well as other small species such as black redstart, spotted flycatcher and wren. It is designed to be installed on the walls of houses, barns, garden sheds or other buildings and should be hung so that the entrance is to one side (at an angle of 90° to the wall). The front panel can be easily removed for cleaning. This type of box should not be made conspicuous on a tree or bush because small predators can enter through the unprotected opening. By hanging on a wall, predators won't be able to reach the box. Alternatively hide the box in ivy, honeysuckle or other climbing plants.

See - www.nhbs.com/2h-schwegler-robin-box

HedgeHog

Is it further recommended in conjunction with the previous PEA that hedgehog highways are incorporated into the fences of the properties in the final phase of construction as well.