



# Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The Crescent, The Lane, Randwick, Stroud,  
Gloucestershire

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Client: Mr & Mrs R. Wicks

Version: Final

Date: 03/09/2023

# Non-Technical Summary

The proposed development of the site, with the removal of a small extension and the building of a new one, will not impact upon any statutory designated sites or priority habitats.

No significant impacts on protected or notable species are likely if the mitigation measures provided in this report are implemented. No further survey work is considered necessary provided that mitigation measures are implemented.

## Disclaimer

This report is an independent assessment of the site's ecology as of the given report date. It is not a statement of support or otherwise to the development of the site.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct was followed in the preparation of this report. The results and suggestions made are considered judgements based on the data gathered.

I reserve the right to amend the report conclusions should additional information become apparent regarding legally protected or notable species at this property.

# Table of Contents

Non-Technical Summary.....	ii
Table of Contents.....	iii
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Site Context.....	1
1.3 Aims.....	3
2. Methodology.....	4
2.1 Desk Study.....	4
2.2 Field Survey.....	4
2.3 Bat Search Survey.....	4
2.4 Evaluation of Ecological Features.....	6
2.5 Limitations.....	6
3. Results.....	7
3.1 Desk Study.....	7
3.2 Habitats.....	7
3.3 Species.....	8
4. Surveys, Mitigation & Enhancements.....	10
4.1 Surveys.....	10
4.2 Mitigation.....	10
4.3 Enhancements.....	11
5. Conclusions.....	12
6. References.....	13
Appendix 1 – Target Notes.....	14
Appendix 2 – Plans.....	16
Appendix 3 – Data Search.....	18

# 1. Introduction

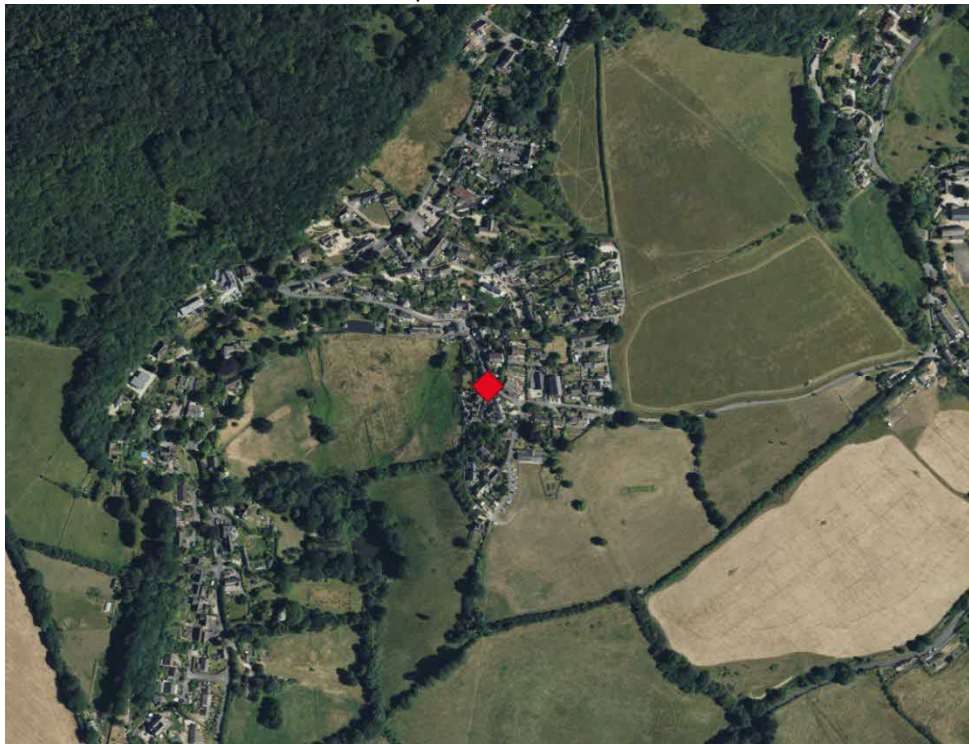
## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Mr & Mrs R. Wicks commissioned FarmEcology Ltd., to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of The Crescent, the Lane, Randwick, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 6HN. See location maps below.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this appraisal is to inform a planning application to Stroud District Council for the demolition of an existing small extension and the building of a new extension to the bungalow, See Appendix 2 for the existing and proposed plans.
- 1.1.3 This report has been prepared by Richard Spyvee, director at FarmEcology Ltd., associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), and a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). Richard has worked in the Nature Conservation sector for the past 30yrs.

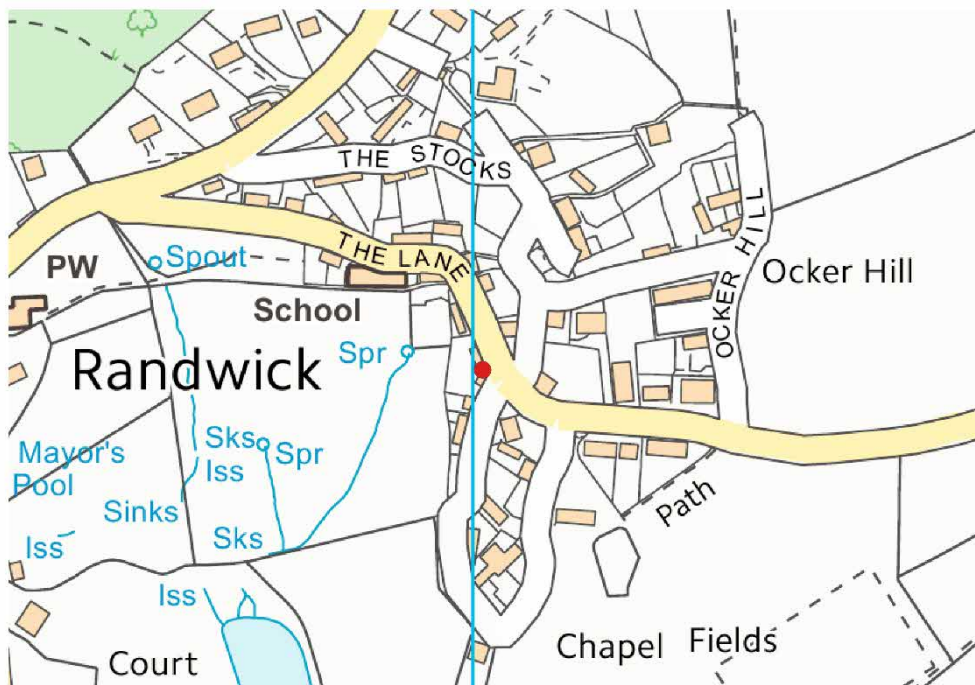
## 1.2 Site Context

- 1.2.1 The Crescent resides in a 100 m<sup>2</sup> plot (roughly) in the Randwick parish. The property includes an enclosed garden with a landscaped lawn, which over-looks open fields to the west. The site lies within the Cotswold AONB.
- 1.2.2 The Crescent lies in the centre of the village of Randwick at Grid Reference: SO 83013 06665.

Location Map 1 for The Cresnet, GL6 6HN.



Location Map 2 for The Cresnet, GL6 6HN.



## 1.3 Aims

The purpose of the survey and report is to:

- Identify any designated nature conservation sites (statutory and non-statutory) that could be affected by the project.
- Provide an ecological baseline for the site including habitat and identify the presence of, and potential for, legally protected and notable species.
- Identify any potential impacts on statutory designated sites, habitats, and species.
- Provide recommendations for further required surveys.
- Recommend mitigation, and opportunities for enhancements.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 A desk study was undertaken to determine the presence of any designated nature conservation sites and protected species that have been recorded within a 1km radius of the site. This involved contacting appropriate statutory and non-statutory organisations which hold ecological data relating to the survey area. FarmEcology Ltd. then assimilated and reviewed this information. The consultees for the Desk Study were:

MAGIC website for statutory conservation sites (DEFRA)  
Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Record  
National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas

2.1.2 The data collected is discussed in Section 3. Raw data is provided in Appendix 2.

### 2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 The UK Habitat Classification is a standard habitat survey methodology was used to describe and map the habitats (UKHab Ltd, 2023). Dominant plant species are identified, and habitats are categorised based on vegetation types.

2.2.2 Identified habitats were drawn on paper maps and then digitised using a Geographical Information System (GIS). An area of roughly 25 m<sup>2</sup> was chosen as the lowest appropriate scale to sample.

2.2.3 Target notes were made to provide information on specific features of ecological interest or habitat features too small to be mapped. These are included in Appendix D.

2.2.4 Any invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which were evident during the habitat survey were also target noted. A full survey of all invasive plant species is beyond the scope of this commission.

### 2.3 Bat Search Survey

2.3.1 The search survey was a visual inspection of the buildings, inside and outside, for bats or signs of bats (droppings, feeding remains, scratch marks, staining etc.). Inside the buildings was searched for the presence of free-hanging bats. The site was also assessed for other suitable habitats that may support bats, such as trees that have suitable holes or are covered with dense ivy, and for habitats that may provide good foraging.

2.3.2 Once the search survey of a building was conducted, the potential for bat usage was calculated as follows:

Summary of guidelines for assessing potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats. Based on the presence of habitat features in the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement. (Collins 2016)

Suitability	Description of structure or tree	Number of activity survey visits required. (To be confident of negative presence.)
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of year (i.e. A complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	None
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by bats. A small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	None or One
Low	A structure with one or more potential new sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of year. These potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats.	One
Medium	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.	Two
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, condition and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts.	Three



## 2.4 Evaluation of Ecological Features

- 2.4.1 The ecological features (designated sites within 1 km, habitats, and species) of the site and locality were assessed in accordance with CIEEM guidance (CIEEM, 2018).
- 2.4.2 Through the experience and knowledge of the ecologist, the sites ecological features are evaluated. The ecologist will interpret information, including site designations, priority species and habitats, the sites context within the wider landscape, rare and protected species and the quality of the resources (e.g. habitat diversity, species population size) to formulate an ecological evaluation. Where important ecological features may pose a constraint to the site's development, further survey work will be required to determine mitigation.

## 2.5 Limitations

- 2.5.1 Every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the Survey Area; however, the following specific limitations apply to this assessment:

Ecological survey data is typically valid for two years unless otherwise specified, for example if conditions are likely to change more quickly due to ecological processes or anticipated changes in management.

Records held by local biological record centres and local recording groups are generally collected on a voluntary basis; therefore, the absence of records does not demonstrate the absence of species, it may simply indicate a gap in recording coverage.

The Habitat survey and botanical walkover were carried out over the period of a single day, as such only a selection of all species that occur within the Survey Area will have been recorded. However, through use of desk study information to supplement site survey data, it is considered that an accurate assessment of the potential for the site to support protected species or those of conservation concern is possible.

The Habitat Map (Appendix 1) has been reproduced from field notes and plans. Whilst this provides a sufficient level of detail to fulfil the requirements of a Primary Ecological Assessment, the maps are not intended to provide exact locations of key habitats.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Although The Crescent sits within the village of Randwick, within 1 km of the site are a number of Local Wildlife Sites: Standish Wood and Randwick Grasslands, Ruscombe Wood, Cockshoot Fields, Randwick Scrub and Grassland, Ruscombe Meadows and Frome Mainstream and Tributaries. Standish Quarry RIGS is also within the search area. A map showing these designations can be found in Appendix 3, along with a map of bat records and notable and protected species. There is a large amount of species survey records for the area. Due to the scale of these records, the details are attached in a separate document as supporting evidence. However, important recordings of bats close to the site are included in Appendix 3. There are also many records of amphibians and reptiles for the area (not great crested newts) and hedgehogs.

### 3.2 Habitats

Survey Date: 21/08/2023

Temperature: 17°C

Weather: scattered cloud

3.2.1 Each on site habitat is shown on the habitat map, Appendix 1. A table with the related Target Notes, a habitat description and photographs can be found below the habitat map.

3.2.2 **Lawn**– There are two main areas of lawn covering two terraces. The lawns are regularly mown.

3.2.3 **Flower Borders and Shrubs** – The garden contains a number of mature borders containing shrubs and flowers.

3.2.4 **Buildings and Paths** –The main building (originally a number of cottages) has been converted into a single dwelling. The back of the property backs onto a lane and front looks out onto open fields.

## 3.3 Species

### 3.3.1 Bats

#### 3.3.1.1 Extension

The small extension comprises of a single utility room and a downstairs toilet. There is no loft space.

Walls:	Reconstituted stone blocks.
Roof:	Single pitch with concrete roof tiles and lead flashing, plastic gutter, and down-pipe.
Access points	No access points.
Signs of bats:	No signs of bats were found.
Bat roosting opportunities:	Very limited.
Potential for bats:	None – due to there being no sign of bats and no access into potential roost sites.
Comments:	The roof can be easily accessed by cats.

The small extension



Side of extension



Tight roof tiles and lead flashing



Inside of extension showing no loft space



### 3.3.1.2 Legislation

All bat roosts are protected under both British and European Union legislation. Bat flight lines are not specifically protected by the legislation, but local planning authorities can take them into account. Good practice is to protect them.

### 3.3.2 Other Mammals

On-site habitats provided some areas for both shelter and foraging for hedgehogs.

### 3.3.3 Birds

All birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is unlawful to intentionally kill or injure a bird, damage or destroy an occupied nest or take or destroy eggs other than in certain exceptions. Vegetation clearance should therefore, take care to avoid the risk of harm to birds and their nests. Bird nesting habitat is present on site.

### 3.3.4 Amphibians

No amphibians were recorded during the field survey, with limited shelter or feeding habitat, and no breeding habitat.

### 3.3.5 Reptiles

There is limited reptile habitat for sheltering and feeding in the flower/shrub borders and drystone walls.

### 3.3.6 Plants

No rare or notable plant species were noted during the field survey.

### 3.3.7 Non-Native Invasive Species

No non-native invasive species were noted during the field survey.

## 4. Surveys, Mitigation & Enhancements

### 4.1 Surveys

4.1.1 No further surveys are required.

4.1.2 The preliminary bat survey concluded the potential for bat presence to be none, as such no further bat surveys are required.

### 4.2 Mitigation

#### 4.2.1 Mammals

Trenches or holes need be covered overnight. All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works/infilling, or otherwise have a suitable means of escape. Any potential refugia (e.g. piles of brash) must be carefully removed by hand.

#### 4.2.2 Birds

It is recommended that suitable nesting habitat is removed outside of the nesting season (generally March until the end of August). If this is not possible then nesting features must be checked for active nests by an ecologist no more than 48 hours prior to removal. If active nests are found then these need to be left undisturbed until the young had fledged.

#### 4.2.3 Reptiles

To prevent the risk of injury or death to reptiles during site clearance and construction the following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) must be followed. All contractors must be made aware of these measures prior to the start of work.

Clearance of ground vegetation should be undertaken during the reptile active season (i.e. April to September inclusive) and in suitable weather (i.e. temperature between 10°C and 17°C, calm, and no precipitation) to ensure that animals are active and can readily move away from work area.

Any clearance of vegetation can only begin after the removal of any potential refugia, including piles of stones and wood, by hand. Clearance of vegetation can then be started in a phased approach (see table below). Vegetation cutting must be undertaken using hand tools (e.g. hand held strimmer), with all cuttings removed from the cleared area that day.

Day 1	Cut vegetation to a height of 150 mm
Day2	Cut vegetation to a height of 75 mm
Day 3	Cut vegetation to a height of 30 mm

To encourage any reptiles present to move away from the site, cutting must start from the centre of the site outwards. Once the height of 30 mm has been achieved, this must be maintained during the construction period to deter reptiles returning.

During construction, any building material must be stored on pallets or hard-standing to deter reptiles from sheltering underneath. All waste must be stored in skips or containers and not in piles on the ground. Should any trenches and excavations be required, these should be covered; if not then an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered.

## 4.3 Enhancements

### 4.3.1 Mammals

#### 4.3.1.1 Hedgehogs

To allow free movement of hedgehogs in and out of the garden, 13 cm x 13 cm holes should be created through each boundary where this is feasible. This will allow access for hedgehogs between the gardens and surrounding countryside.

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The proposed development involves the building of a new extension, which will require the demolition of the existing small extension. See Appendix 2 for the proposed site layout. The proposals will have little impact on the current land area beyond the building footprint in the long-term. However, short-term disturbance will be created, by both construction activity and spoil placement, therefore, the mitigation measures proposed in this report need adopting to reduce the impact on wildlife.
- 5.1.2 The proposed development will not impact upon any statutory designated sites or priority habitats.
- 5.1.3 No significant impacts on protected or notable species are likely if the mitigation measures provided in this report are implemented. No further survey work is considered necessary provided that mitigation measures are implemented.
- 5.1.4 Enhancement measures are also recommended.

## 6. References

Collins, J. (ed) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)

Bat Conservation Trust and the Institution of Lighting Professionals (2018) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK; Bats and the Built Environment series (Guidance Note 08/18), The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification version 2.0

Stace, C (2005) Field Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge University Press.



UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Priority Habitat Descriptions (2008, revised 2011)



## Appendix 1 – Target Notes

Map showing the location of Target Notes, given on the following page, for The Crescent, GL6 6HN. The number and arrow indicate where the photograph was taken and the direction.



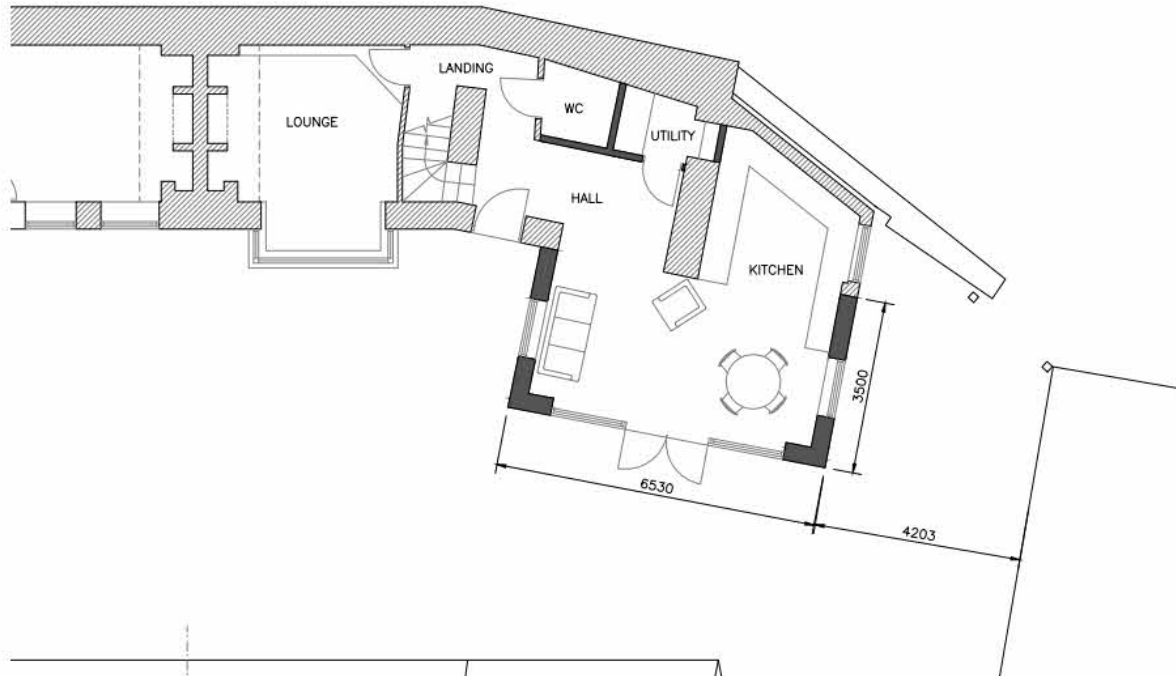
Target Note	Description	Photograph
1.	<p>Small extension that is proposed to be removed and area where proposed new extension in front of ground floor window. Extending over thin flower border (cotoneaster, rose) path and onto lawn.</p>	
2.	<p>Lawn, with fine and coarse grasses, daisy, and mouse-eared hawkweed. Gravel path.</p>	

# Appendix 2 – Plans

Existing:



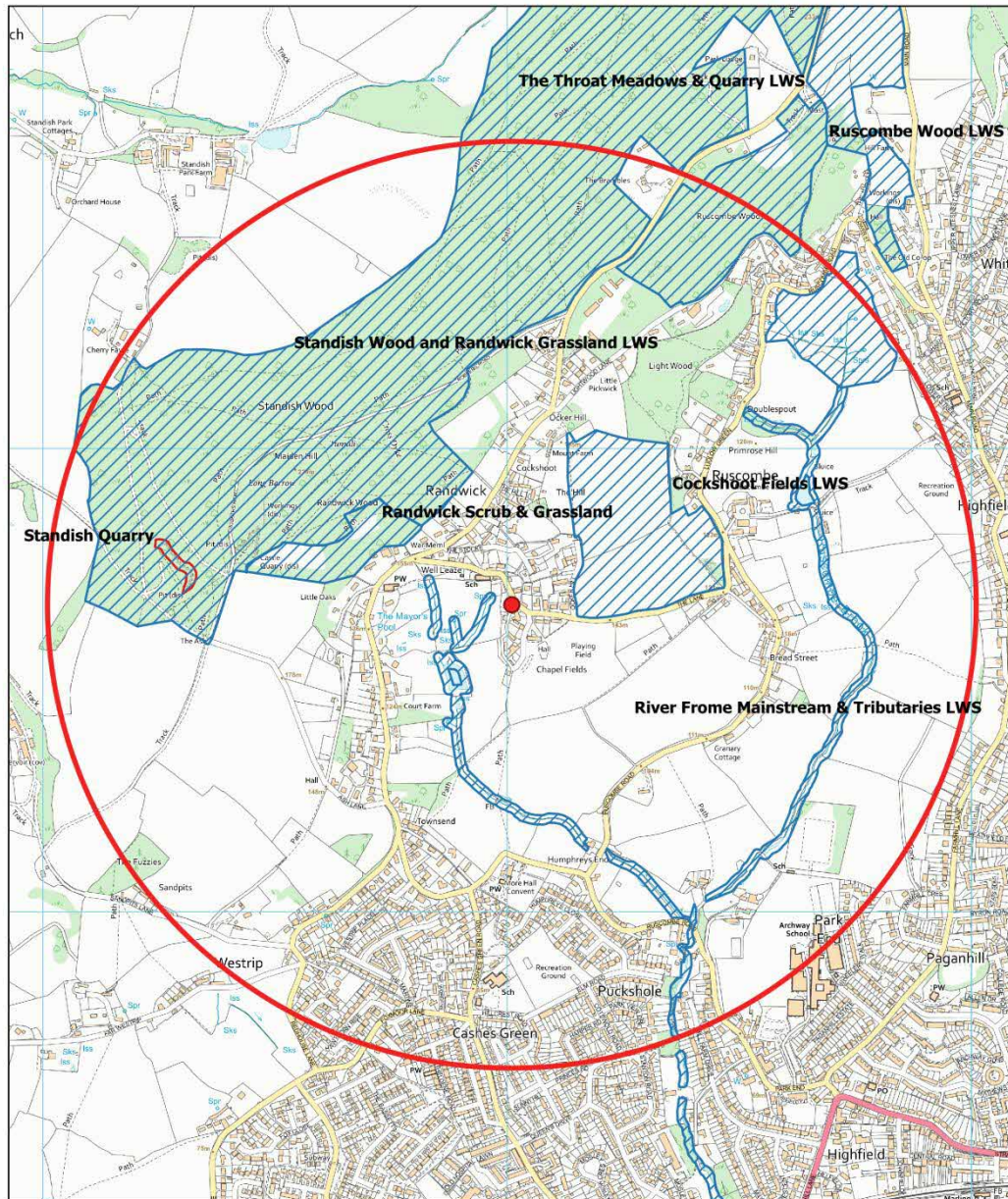
Proposed:



REAR ELEVATION

# Appendix 3 – Data Search


## Overview of Sites within 1km



All Local Sites       RIGS       Gloucestershire county boundary  
 Local Wildlife Site

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	Location Name:	The Crescent, Randwick
	Grid Ref:	SO 83012 06660
	Search Area:	1km

Sites of conservation importance recorded within, or overlapping, the area of search

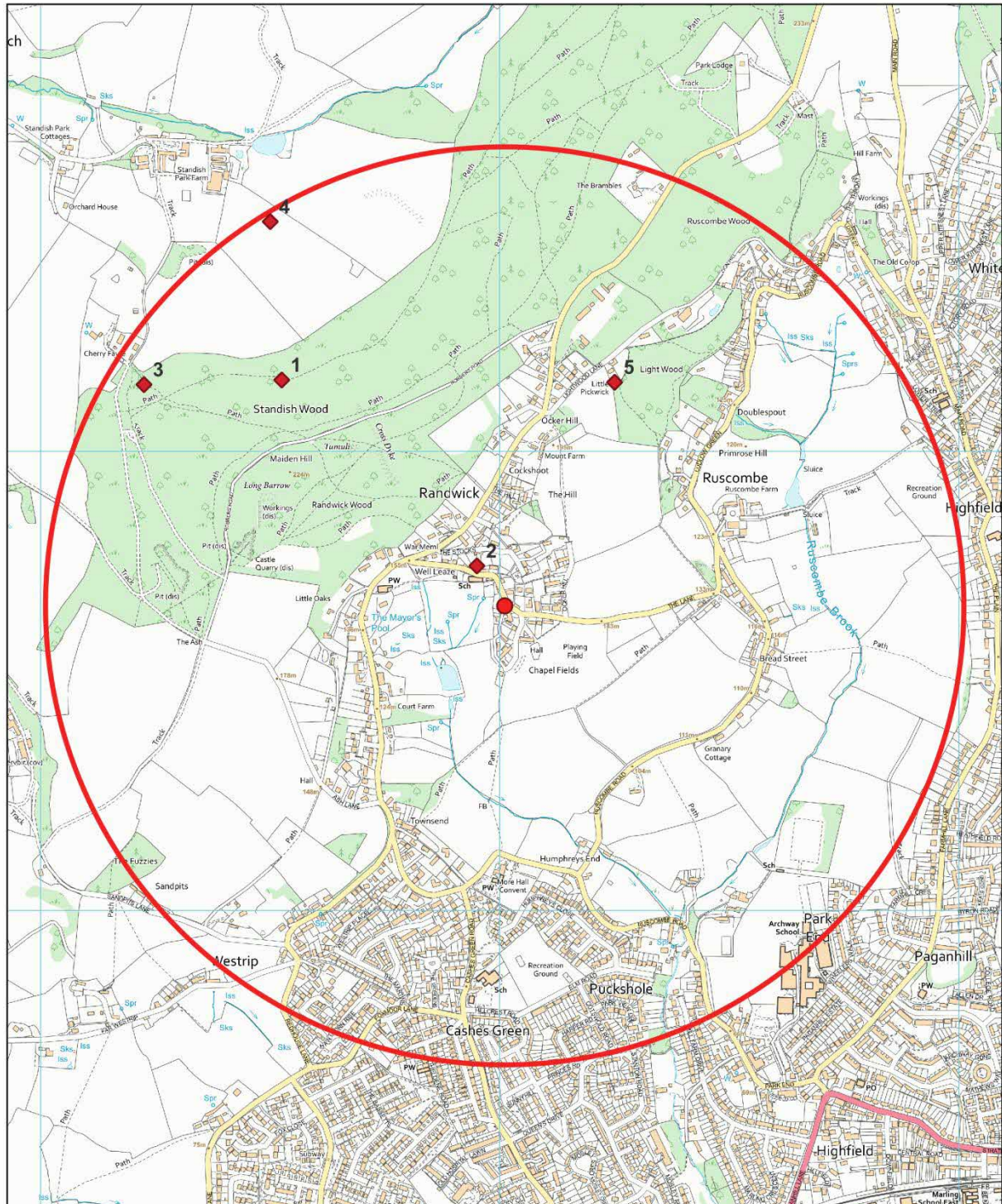
<b>SPA, Ramsar</b> None present	<b>SAC</b> None present	<b>National Nature Reserve, Local Nature Reserve</b> None present
<b>SSSIs</b> None present	<b>GWT Nature Reserve</b> None present	<b>Conservation Road Verge</b> None present

Local Wildlife Sites [LWS]

Site name	File Code	Reasons for selection	Distance from app point(m)	Status
Standish Quarry		Bioherms rarely seen elsewhere in Glos. Disused quarry at S end of Standish Woods. Exposed rocks are Crickley Oncolite Member, Crickley Limestone member and Lexkhampton Limestone Member from Jurassic Lower Inferior Oolite. Biotherm in SE corner.	681	RIGS
Ruscombe Wood LWS	SO80/026	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	731.3	Local Wildlife Site

Standish Wood and Randwick Grassland LWS	SO80/002	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha and semi-natural grassland	257.5	Local Wildlife Site
Ruscombe Farm Meadows LWS	SO80/053	Semi-natural grassland and marsh, bog, swamp, mire and tall herb fen	792.2	Local Wildlife Site
Cockshoot Fields LWS	SO80/140	Semi-improved calcareous grassland	138.6	Local Wildlife Site
Randwick Scrub & Grassland	SO80/002/01	CG5a grassland and scattered scrub	256.3	Local Wildlife Site
River Frome Mainstream & Tributaries LWS	SO80/142	Structural diversity with significant botanical and animal interest	37.8	Local Wildlife Site

## Map code for bat species mapped within 1km



Zoom in for more detail

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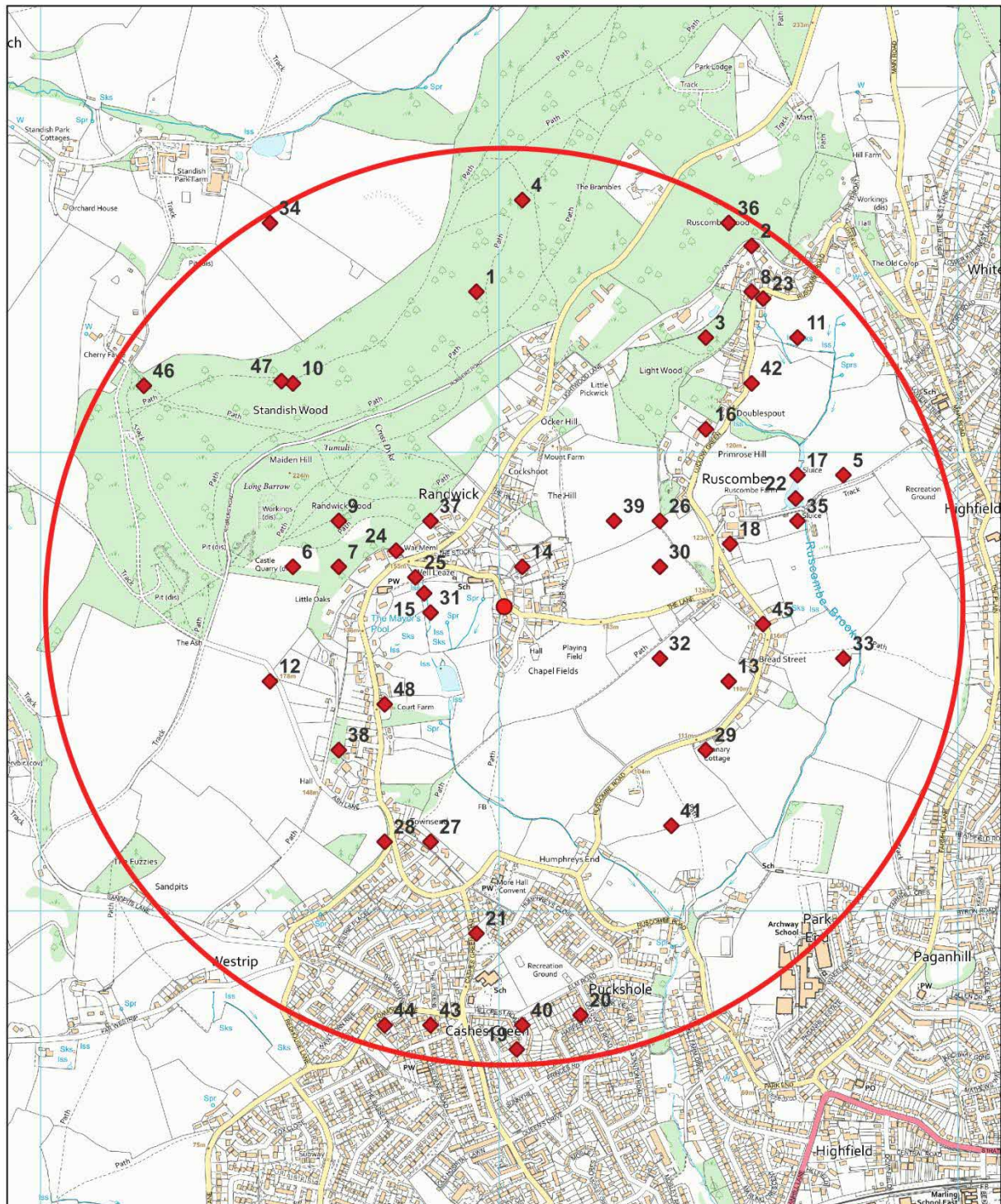


Below are the 4 records from site 2.

SR00036500 007KNX	terrestrial mammal	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat	15/06/2006	S0829067	2	Randwick School	Mr.R.Spyvee	Feeding S080 - SSR - doc 154 ; 1 Count of In flight ; field record ; Field Observation	UK Priority species-2007, Berni-A2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, England_NERC_S.41, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b, WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a, WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c
SR00036500 007KNI	terrestrial mammal	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	06/06/2006	S0829067	2	Randwick School	Mr.R.Spyvee	Feeding S080 - SSR - doc 154 ; 1 Count of In flight ; field record ; Field Observation	UK Priority species-2007, Berni-A2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, England_NERC_S.41, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b, WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a, WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c
SR00036500 007KNH	terrestrial mammal	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle	06/06/2006	S0829067	2	Randwick School	Mr.R.Spyvee	Feeding S080 - SSR - doc 154 ; 1 Count of In flight ; field record ; Field Observation	CMS_AZ, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b, WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a, WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c
SR00036500 007KO1	terrestrial mammal	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle	25/06/2006	S0829067	2	Randwick School	Mr.R.Spyvee	Feeding S080 - SSR - doc 154 ; 1 Count of In flight ; field record ; Field Observation	CMS_AZ, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b, WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a, WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c



## Map code for protected and notable species mapped within 1km



Zoom in for more detail

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