

**The Clatford Arms, Goodworth Clatford,
Andover, SP11 7RN**

Preliminary Ecological Assessment

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1 Executive Summary

Plan Ecology Ltd has been commissioned to provide an ecological assessment of The Clatford Arms, Clatford Goodworth, Andover, SP11 7RN.

Plans include the construction of a single dwelling in the land to the rear of the public house.

A desk study was undertaken to review records of designated sites, protected/ notable species and habitats within a defined search area from the centre of the site.

An ecological walkover was carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist in November 2021. The survey assessed the ecological value of the site and recorded any protected habitats and evidence of/ potential for any protected or notable species on site or within the relevant surrounding area.

Precautionary mitigation for breeding birds, badgers and reptiles is recommended where any vegetation or ground clearance is required.

Precautionary methodology for dormice and great crested newts has been recommended to ensure potential habitat is not affected by the works by fencing off all hedgerows.

Recommendations for ecological enhancement have been provided including:

- Minimising light and noise pollution on the site.

- The Site could be improved for reptiles by providing areas of hibernacula in the form of log piles.

- The Site could be improved for breeding birds with the addition of a variety of bird boxes integrated into the building.

- The Site could be improved for bats with the addition of bat boxes integrated into the new building.

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Plan Ecology Ltd has been commissioned to provide an ecological assessment of The Clatford Arms, Clatford Goodworth, Andover, SP11 7RN. Grid Reference: SU360419 (referred to from here on as 'the Site').
- 2.1.2 This report sets out the ecological issues associated with the site and the surrounding area and identifies how these will be addressed through scheme design and mitigation or compensation to meet with local and national planning policy and legal requirements relating to protected sites and species.

2.2 Site Location

- 2.2.1 The site is in a village location.

2.3 Approach to Ecology Assessment

- 2.3.1 This report is informed by a desk study and field survey to determine the presence of, or potential for, ecologically sensitive receptors in or near the proposed development site. This information has been used to determine the approach necessary to ensure that effects on these ecologically sensitive receptors are avoided or ameliorated such that the proposed development will be acceptable with reference to the planning and legal framework relating to ecological resources.

3 Methodology- Desk Study

3.1 Desk study

- 3.1.1 Prior to undertaking the survey, searches of databases containing information on ecological records and important sites for nature conservation were made. The following sources were included in these searches:

National Biodiversity Network (NBN) database (<http://data.nbn.org.uk/>)

MAGIC mapping service (www.magic.gov.uk)

- 3.1.2 Relevant ecological records and statutory nature conservation sites within 1km were recorded.
- 3.1.3 Information was also requested from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Field Team

- 3.1.4 The Preliminary Ecological Assessment was carried out by Lisha Price from Plan Ecology Ltd. Lisha is an experienced ecologist with over 16 years of experience in ecological consultancy.

Preliminary Ecological Assessment

- 3.1.5 An ecological walkover was carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist on 30th November 2021. The survey assessed the ecological value of the site and recorded any protected habitats and evidence of / potential for any protected or notable species on site or within the relevant surrounding area. Any incidental records or evidence of species were noted, and each habitat was assessed for its potential to support protected or notable species.
- 3.1.6 A protected species risk assessment was carried out to provide an assessment of whether the habitats present on the site and in the immediate environs are likely to support any protected species. This included a preliminary assessment of the potential presence of bats, barn owls, badgers, breeding birds, great crested newts and reptiles on or immediately adjacent to the site. With the need for any further surveys identified.
- 3.1.7 A map produced during this survey is provided in Appendix A with the relevant target notes in Appendix B.

Limitations

- 3.1.8 The survey was carried out on one visit during the month of November. As such, seasonal variations could not be observed and potentially only a selection of all species that occur within the survey area will have been noted. The survey therefore provides a general assessment of potential nature conservation value. However, it is considered that the combination of biological records from the desk study and the site visit provides an accurate representation of the various species and habitat types present or potentially present within the survey area.

4 Results and Interpretation

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section sets out the findings of the desk study and survey work and determines which of these have significance with reference to ecological planning policy and legislation and, therefore, need to be considered further in terms of mitigation and or compensation in subsequent sections of this report. Summaries of relevant legislation and planning policy are included where this is relevant to provide context to the reasoning.

4.2 Designated Sites

4.2.1 A Background Ecological Data Search carried out by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

4.2.2 Water Meadow South of Goodworth Clatford (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) is located approximately 500m south east of the Site.

4.2.3 The River Anton (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) is located 500m east of the Site. The River Anton is a chalk stream in Hampshire in south east England. It rises in Andover and flows southwards for approximately 8 miles (13 km) to meet the River Test near Chilbolton. The principal tributary of the Anton, the Pillhill Brook, joins the river at Upper Clatford. Species supported that here include Water voles *Arvicola amphibius*, Otters *Lutra lutra* and White Clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

4.3 Habitats

4.3.1 Records show no mapped priority habitats on the Site. There is flood plain and grazing habitat within 1km of the Site.

4.4 Protected Species

4.4.1 The desk study and site surveys combined have allowed determination of the species that are likely to be affected by the proposed development. A description of the suitability of the site for these ecological receptors, and any evidence of their presence, is set out below.

Bats

4.4.2 The desk study contains records for Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Noctule *Nyctalus Noctula*, Daubenton *Myotis daubentonii* and Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* bats within 1km.

Breeding Birds

- 4.4.3 There are records of Schedule 1 birds within 1 km of the Site detailed in the desktop study.
- 4.4.4 Records include those of barn owl *Tyto alba* and Swifts *Alpus alpus*.
- 4.4.5 The habitats around the site are likely to be of value to foraging and nesting birds.

Dormice

- 4.4.6 There are no records of dormice within 1km of the Site.

Reptiles

- 4.4.7 There are no records of reptiles within 1km of the Site.

Great Crested Newts

- 4.4.8 There are no records of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* within 1km of the Site.
- 4.4.9 There are no ponds known within 500m of the Site.

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Water vole

- 4.4.11 There are records of Water Voles *Arvicola amphibius* with 1 km of the Site. There is no potential habitat for water voles within the Site.

5 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Recommendations

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The presence of protected sites and species described in the preceding sections of this report and the legislation and planning policies relating to them make them a material consideration in the planning application for the proposed development. Therefore, the likely impacts of the proposed development on those protected sites and species identified as being present, or likely to be present, within the study area are discussed below, along with the appropriate mitigation and compensation that will be required to ensure that the proposed development follows National and local planning policy and legislation. Where mitigation and compensation is required to ameliorate those impacts, this is also set out below.

5.2 Designated Sites

5.2.1 Although there are designated sites within 1 km of the Site, works are only planned within the footprint of the land behind the Clatford Arms. These areas do not share the habitat traits of the designated sites and so no impacts will occur.

5.3 Habitats

5.3.1 The main habitats within the Site area are amenity grassland and hardstanding.

5.3.2 Around the margins of the Site are some areas of tall ruderals, mainly comprising of Common nettles *Urtica dioica*; and scattered scrub mainly comprising of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

5.3.3 There is a hedgerow along the Southern boundary with alder *Alnus glutinosa* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and interwoven with ivy.

5.4 Protected Species

Bats

- 5.4.1 All UK bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) as amended and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. Several bat species are also priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006), identifying them as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.
- 5.4.2 There is roosting potential for bats within the trees and potential for bats within the wider area for foraging and commuting. However, there are no plans to light the Site and the works footprint is minimal.
- 5.4.3 The Site could be improved for bats with the addition of a variety of bat boxes integrated into the design of the new buildings.

Breeding Birds

- 5.4.4 The majority of UK bird species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and a number of species are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006), identifying them as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.
- 5.4.5 Precautionary mitigation for vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (late February to August inclusive). Where vegetation cannot be removed outside of the nesting season, pre-clearance checks must be undertaken by an experienced ecologist to identify if any birds are nesting within or close to the vegetation due to be removed. An informed decision should then be made if the vegetation clearance can be undertaken. If a bird nest is found, it must be left in-situ and protected from works; no works can be undertaken in that area until the young birds have fledged from the nest site. This may take several weeks and will vary depending on the species.
- 5.4.6 Works should be restricted where possible to daylight hours to prevent any adverse impacts on roosting birds at dusk and dawn.
- 5.4.7 The Site could be improved for breeding birds with the addition of a variety of bird boxes on trees or integrated into the design of the houses to be built on the Site.

Dormice

- 5.4.1 Dormice are given full protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Protection to the species is also afforded by Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations, 1994, making the hazel dormouse a European Protected Species. These two pieces of legislation operate in parallel, although there are some small differences in scope and wording. Under the provisions of Section 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, it is an offence to:

Intentionally kill, injure or take a dormouse;

Possess or control and live or dead specimen or anything derived from a dormouse (unless it can be shown to have been legally acquired);

Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a dormouse;

Intentionally or recklessly disturb a dormouse while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

deliberately capture, injure or kill hazel dormice

- 5.4.2 The hedgerow on the southern border has potential habitat for dormice. There is suitable habitat within the hedgerow for dormice to nest and forage. All of the hedgerows are to be retained as part of the planned works. It is recommended that to ensure that the hedgerows are not affected by the planned works that fencing is erected in front of the hedgerows before works begin excluding the area for the works. The fence should have signs attached making it clear that no works are to take place outside of the fences. The fences should be kept in situ until the works are complete. As part of the Site induction the fencing and the exclusion area should be explained to anyone who is carrying out work on the Site.

The area of the Site where the construction will take place is currently amenity grassland and has no potential dormouse habitat.

Great Crested Newts

- 5.4.3 Great crested newts have a high level of statutory protection. This means that great crested newts and all the places they use for shelter (aquatic and terrestrial) are afforded full protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (Section 9, schedule 5). In addition to this protection, great crested newts are also protected under European legislation which is implemented in England via The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

5.4.4 The protection makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally/ deliberately kill, disturb, injure or capture a great crested newt.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt.
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt.
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a great crested newt.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a great crested newt.

5.4.5 No ponds are present on the Site. There is suitable habitat for great crested newts under the hedgerows on the boundaries, among the root systems and longer grass. All of these hedgerows are to be retained as part of the planned works. It is recommended that to ensure that the hedgerows and the habitat underneath is not affected by the planned works that fencing is erected in front of the hedgerows before works begin excluding the area for the works. The fence should have signs attached making it clear that no works are to take place outside of the fences. The fences should be kept in situ until the works are complete. As part of the Site induction the fencing and the exclusion area should be explained to anyone who is carrying out work on the Site.

5.4.6 The area of the Site where the construction will take place is currently amenity grassland and kept short. This area has negligible potential great crested newt habitat. It is recommended that the grass be kept short at all times before and during construction to ensure the area remains unsuitable for great crested newts. If any areas of the small patches of longer grass or bramble on the margins needs to be removed this must be done so under the watching brief of a suitably experienced and licenced ecologist. The ecologist will conduct a fingertip search of the area prior to a phased strimming approach. Once the area is strimmed low the grass should be maintained at that level. Should great crested newts be found at any point works must cease immediately and an ecologist contacted as a European Protected Species Licence may be required.

Reptiles

5.4.7 The four common native reptiles; grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), and adder (*Vipera berus*) are partially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally kill or injure these species. The widespread reptile species are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act

(2006), identifying them as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

- 5.4.8 As most of the planned works are to take place within areas of hardstanding or amenity grassland reptiles are unlikely to be affected.
- 5.4.9 It is recommended that if any areas of scrub or vegetation will be impacted then precautionary mitigation will be required and it would be recommended that the habitat be removed carefully via strimming under the watch of an ecologist.
- 5.4.10 The Site could be improved for reptiles by providing areas of hibernacula in the form of log piles.

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- 5.4.12 Although no evidence of badgers was found during the visit badgers are a highly mobile species and badger activity should be considered throughout the works. If any evidence of badgers is found within 30m of the works at any point in proceedings an ecologist should be applied to for advice.
- 5.4.13 Precautionary mitigation for badgers should be carried out, all equipment should be safely secured at night to prevent badgers becoming trapped or injured and any excavations should be covered overnight.
- 5.4.14 Works should only be conducted during the day to avoid disturbance to badger foraging activities.
- 5.4.15 If steep sided works are to be left overnight, these should have an exit route provided for badgers, such as a roughened plane at a suitable angle within the excavation, leading to ground level.

6 Ecological Enhancement Opportunities

- 6.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in August 2018, states that the planning system should contribute to "minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures". It also states that "opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged".
- 6.1.2 The master planning process should maximise opportunities for enhancement, in order to achieve a net increase in biodiversity. This is in accordance with the NERC Act (2006) which requires that "*every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.*" Recommendations for ecological enhancement are provided below.....

Minimising light and noise pollution on the site.

The Site could be improved for reptiles by providing areas of hibernacula in the form of log piles.

The Site could be improved for breeding birds with the addition of a variety of integrated bird boxes.

The Site could be improved for bats with the addition of a variety of integrated bat boxes.

Native species should be considered for any landscaping.

6.2 Incorporation of bat roosts (bat boxes, bat bricks)

A mixture of bat boxes have been recommended to enhance the potential roost and nesting on the Site. Integrated boxes in the new build garages have been recommended as this will provide a more permanent enhancement.

It is recommended that a variety of bat enhancements are implemented to encourage different bat species and types of roosts.

To be located within the new building bat boxes can be incorporated within the walls of the build, providing more permanent potential roost spaces for bats. These types of boxes can be built into the construction and the colours and materials chosen to match the design, helping them to blend into the building.

It is recommended that 1 Forticrete bat box 'B' be installed within the new garage on plot B. In addition, 2FE Schwegler wall mounted bat shelters to be positioned on external walls will provide additional bat roost potential and variety. The bat boxes should be located at the top of the building and away from any window or lighting.

Suppliers of these bat boxes included, but are not limited to:

www.nhbs.com

www.wildcareshop.com

See Design and Positioning in Appendix F

6.3 Incorporation of Bird nesting (bird boxes)

It is recommended that a variety of enhancements are implemented to encourage different bird species to nest.

It is recommended that 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace to be incorporated into the build of the garage on Plot A and a WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box A to be incorporated into the otherside of the buildings as birds can be territorial. The boxes should be away from lighting and windows to avoid disturbance.

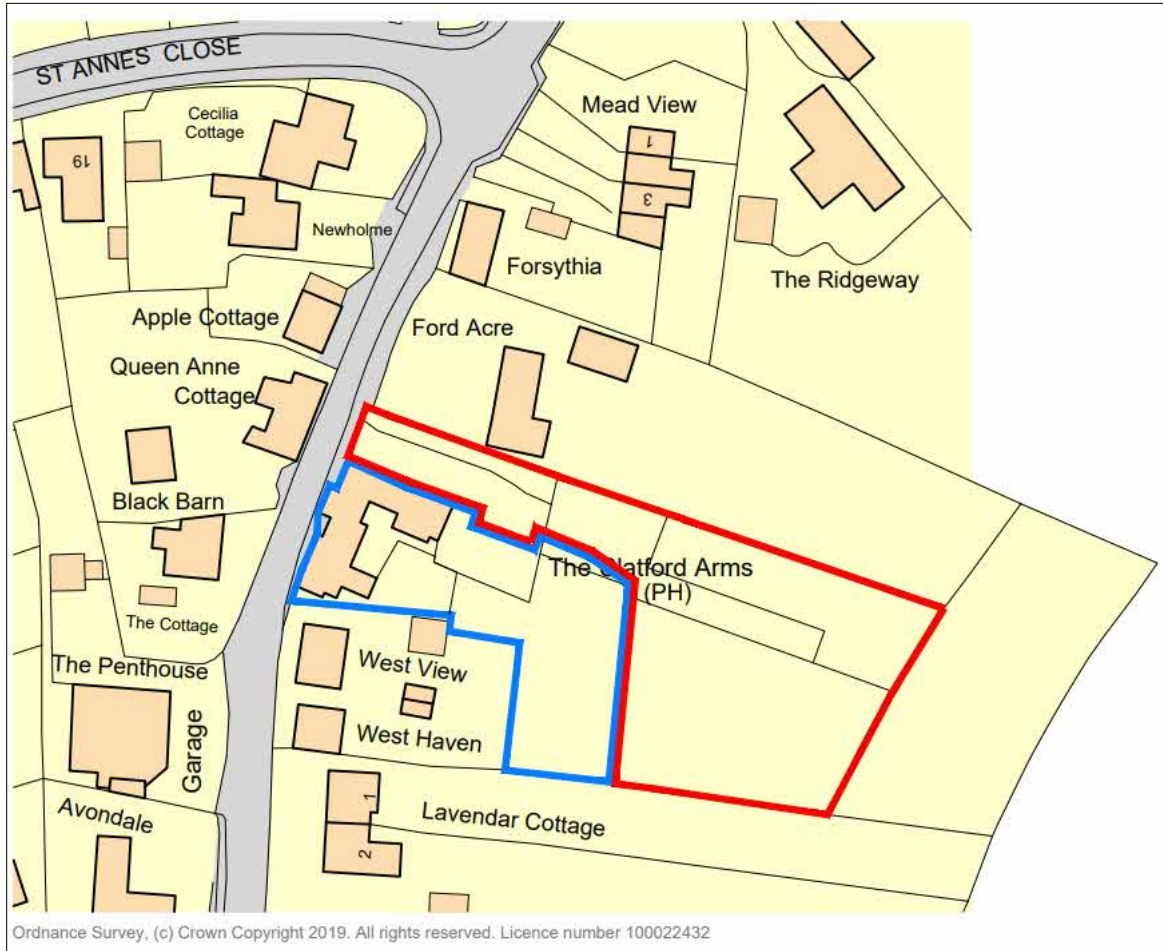
Suppliers of these nesting boxes included, but are not limited to:

www.nhbs.com

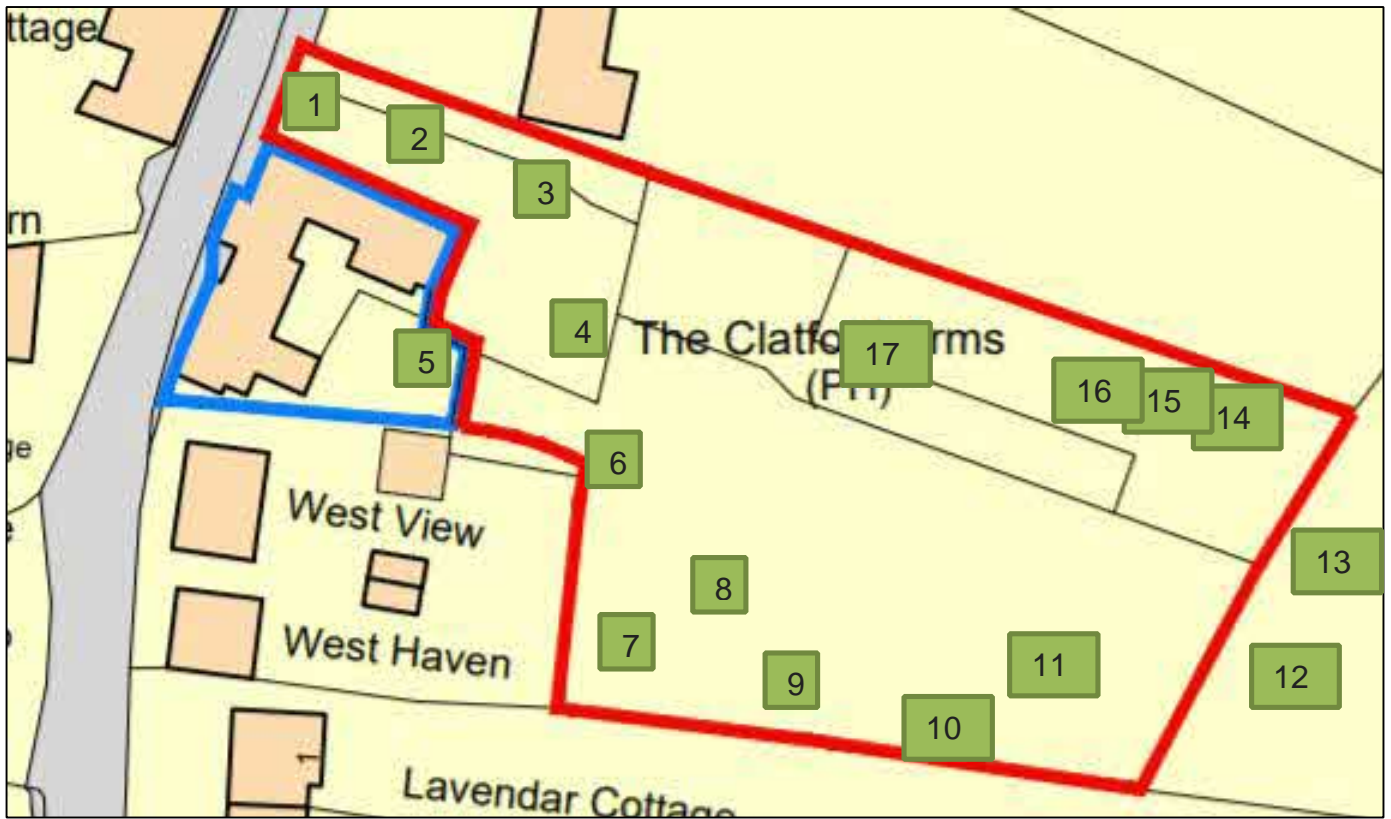
www.wildcareshop.com

See Design and Positioning in Appendix F

Appendix A Site Location



Appendix B Photo location target note numbers



Appendix C Target Notes & Photographs

	
<p>Photograph 1: Area of hardstanding beside public house (North).</p>	<p>Photograph 2: Car park and hedgerow beside building.</p>
	
<p>Photograph 3: Public house car park.</p>	<p>Photograph 4: Public house car park and eastern elevation of building.</p>

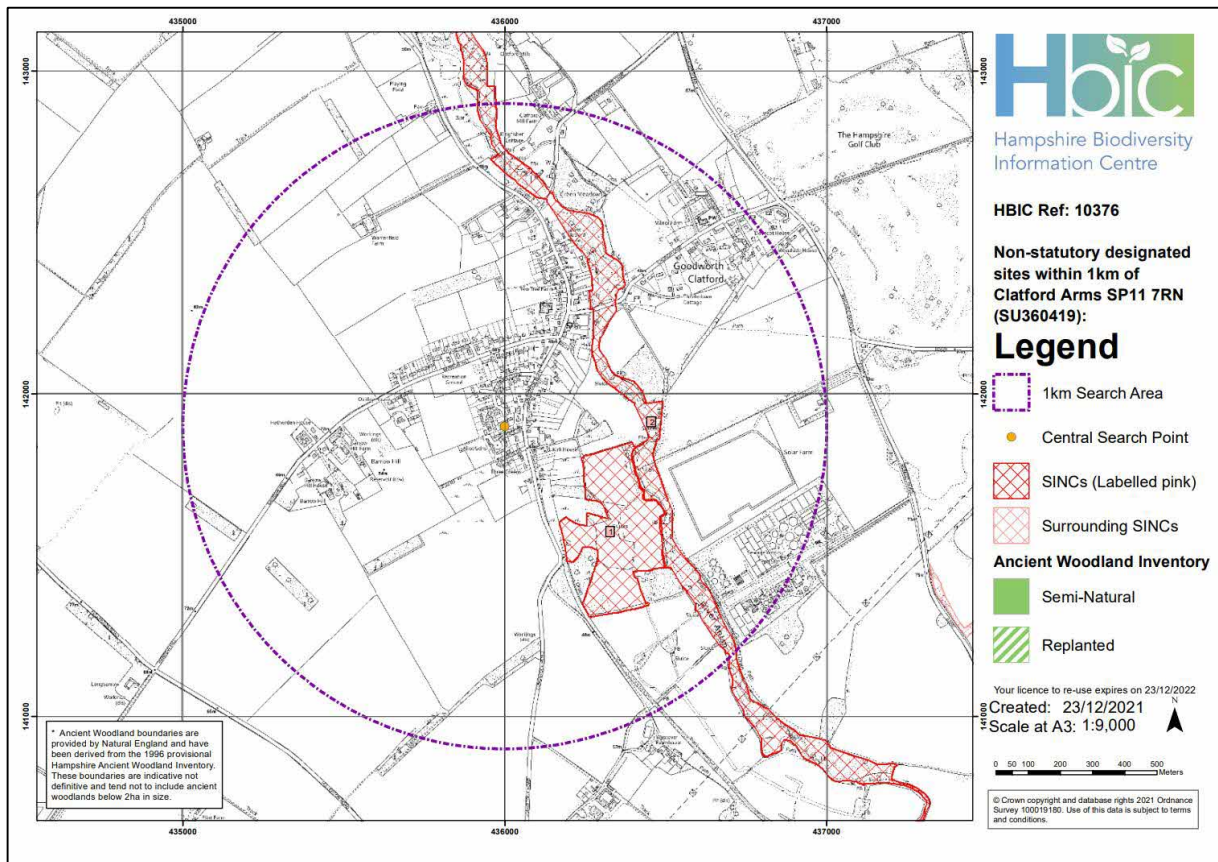
	
<p>Photograph 5: Amenity grassland beside public house.</p>	<p>Photograph 6: Amenity grassland and picnic area bordered by hedges and trees.</p>
	
<p>Photograph 7: Mature tree and container.</p>	<p>Photograph 8: Area of amenity grassland bordered by trees.</p>

	
<p>Photograph 9: Hedgerow bordering pub garden.</p>	<p>Photograph 10: Area of long grass and nettles.</p>
	
<p>Photograph 11: Nettle and bramble undergrowth.</p>	<p>Photograph 12: Small plantation woodland adjacent to the Site.</p>

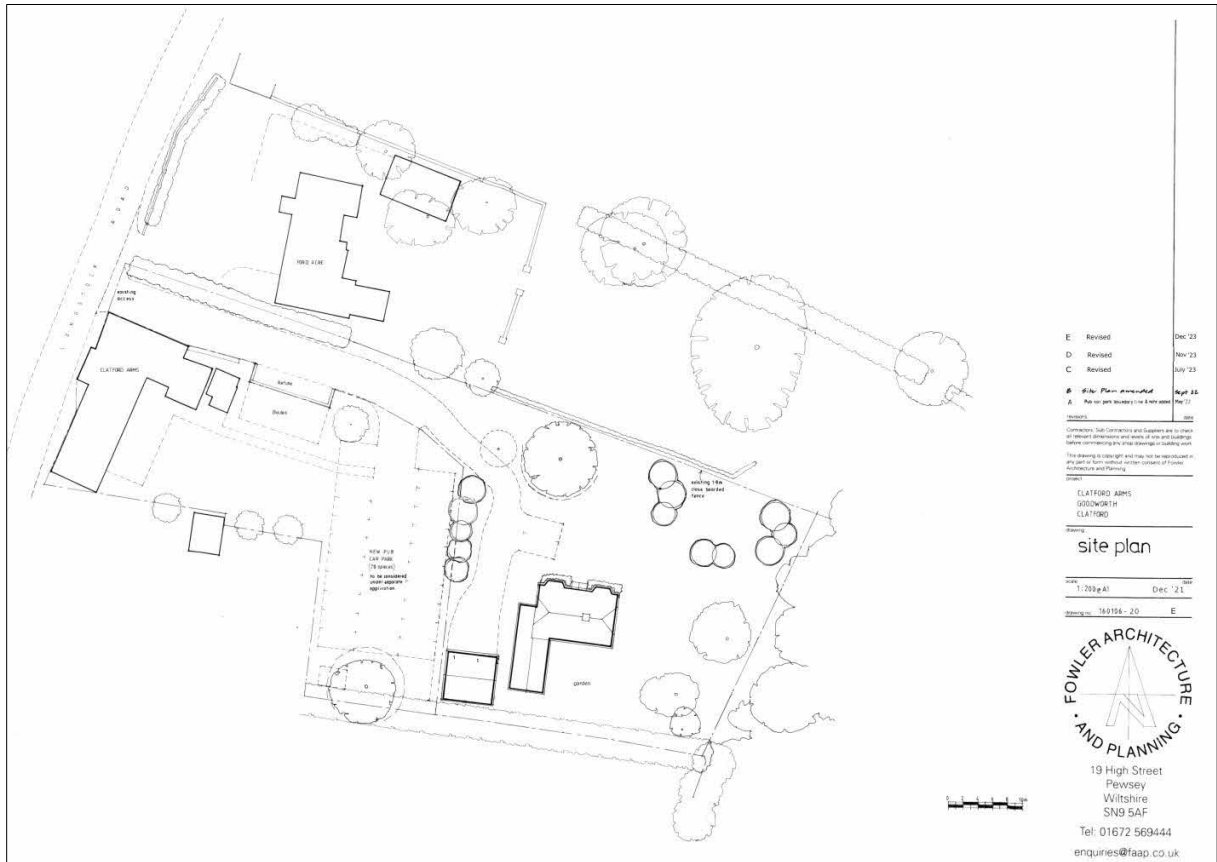
	
<p>Photograph 13: Small wooded area to the east of the Site.</p>	<p>Photograph 14: Shrubs to the east of building.</p>
	
<p>Photograph 15: Ivy covered tree.</p>	<p>Photograph 16: tree to the east of public house.</p>

	
<p>Photograph 17: Driveway.</p>	

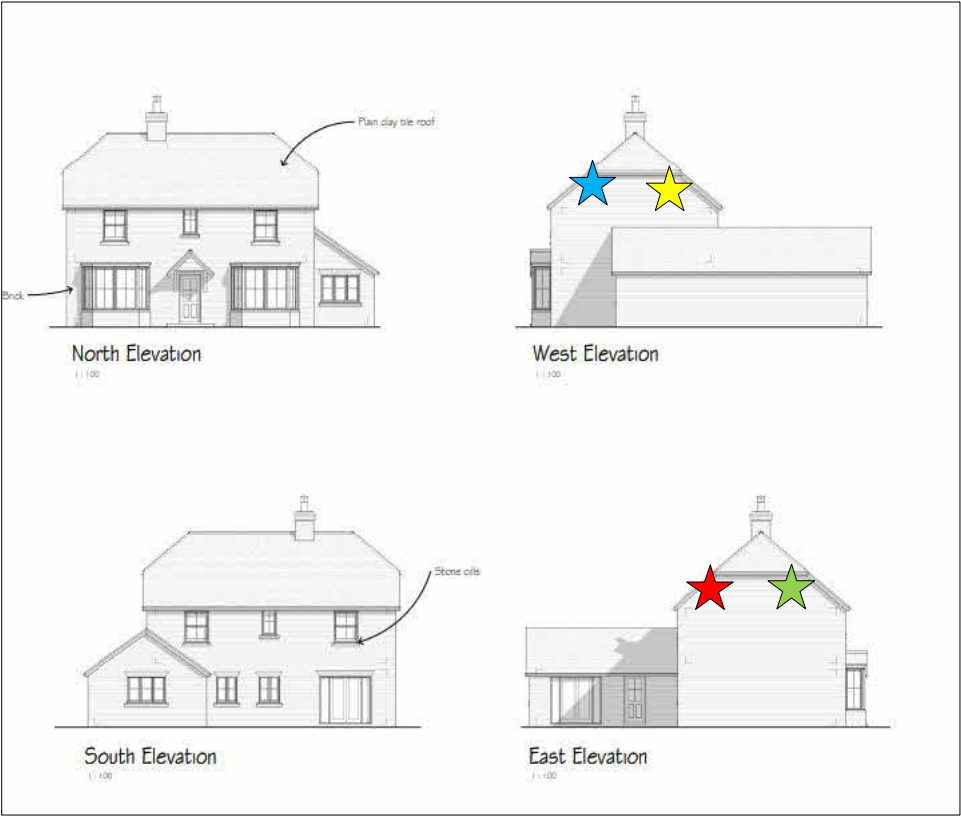
Appendix D Designated Sites



Appendix E Site Plans



Appendix F Biodiversity Enhancements



- ★ WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box A
- ★ Sparrow terrace
- ★ Forticrete bat box 'B'
- ★ 2FE Schwegler wall mounted bat shelters

Design of Forticrete Bat Box



The Forticrete Bat Box has been developed to be used in new build construction or renovation where there is a requirement to provide a habitat for pipistrelle bats.

Width 440mm x Height 215mm x Depth 100mm

Benefits

- The box is made of conventional cast stone front face but is backed with high grade plywood which is sawn and roughened internally to provide a haven for bats.
- The Bat Box is maintenance free due to bottom entrance.

WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box A

Manufacturer: [CJ Wildlife](#)

- Constructed from FSC certified WoodStone
- Designed to be incorporated into buildings



- **In stock**

£31.99

#217262 The WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box A is constructed from FSC certified WoodStone and has a plywood back. The nest box is designed to be incorporated into the side of a building making it ideal for including in new buildings or renovations. The WoodStone material gives this nest box excellent thermal properties and means that it will last for many years.

This nest box should be built in at a height of at least five metres

1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace



The Sparrow Terrace has been designed to help redress the balance of falling house sparrow numbers. The current UK population of 6 million pairs 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. This terrace provides ideal nesting opportunities for three families. Made of Schwegler's revolutionary wood-concrete mix, this terrace is durable, breathable and will last many decades. It may also occasionally attract tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers.

The terrace 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, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and factories. Due to its weight (15kg), it is not suitable for fences or garden sheds. Ideally place the terrace two metres or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided, or install directly into the wall (see the images tab for illustrations). Cleaning is advisable but not necessary. The front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.

The Sparrow Terrace is available in either Stone or Brown.