



PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Land To The Rear Of 5 The Green
Uley. FEBRUARY 2024

Ecological Matters Environmental Consultancy

*Sent to client
02/02/24*



Summary

Ecological Matters Environmental Consultancy was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) on Land at 5 The Green, Uley, to inform a planning application. The aim of the PEA was to determine whether works associated with the proposal to construct a new vehicular access and off-street parking with associated landscaping are likely to have an adverse impact on protected and/or priority species and habitats within and adjacent to the proposed development footprint.

No adverse impacts on sites designated for nature conservation or priority habitats are anticipated in relation to the development proposal.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal highlighted the potential of habitats within the site (including within the development footprint) to support the following protected and/or priority species:

- Common reptiles,
- Common amphibians,
- Breeding birds,
- Bats,
- Hedgehogs,

In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development has the potential to adversely affect the species listed above. To ensure that protected and/or priority species are safeguarded in accordance with nature conservation legislation and policy, the mitigation measures outlined below should be implemented.

Mitigation measures include:

- Delivery of wildlife toolbox talks to ensure operatives are aware of the potential of protected and/or priority species being present within the development footprint and what to do if they are encountered.
- Timing of the work outside the hibernation period for common reptiles to reduce the likelihood of causing injury. Site clearance activities should take place between **April and October**.
- Fingertip search of vegetation prior to clearance to check for protected and/or priority species. This will include brash piles, tree stumps and any loose material to be removed. The search should be undertaken by a suitably

qualified ecologist. If protected and/or priority species are encountered, they will be moved carefully by hand to a suitable area of cover within the site. If nesting birds are encountered a suitable buffer zone should remain in place until the young have fledged.

- Ecological supervision during soil stripping to safeguard protected and/or priority species. This should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist; if protected and/or priority species are encountered, they will be moved carefully by hand to a suitable area of cover within the site.
- Maintenance of a short grass sward within the development footprint and the parcel of land behind the Rectory to reduce its attractiveness to wildlife.
- To prevent nocturnal species such as hedgehogs and [REDACTED] from becoming trapped, any excavations left overnight must be covered or ramps provided to enable wildlife to escape.
- Piles of vegetation and soil arising from site clearance should be stored well away from the development footprint so that they do not offer habitat to protected and/or priority species.
- Nighttime working and artificial lighting must be avoided to prevent disturbance to nocturnal wildlife, including foraging and commuting bats. If artificial lighting is required in relation to the development proposal, a bat-sensitive lighting plan will be required.

Biodiversity enhancements suggested within this report include:


- Creation of brash and log piles to provide shelter for hedgehogs, common reptiles, and common amphibians.
- Erection of bird boxes on trees within the garden of number 5 The Green,
- Provision of a hedgehog house within the garden of number 5 The Green
- Planting a stretch of hedgerow using native species of local provenance along the vehicle access track.

Providing the mitigation measures outlined in this report are implemented, the proposed work is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts on protected and/or priority species and will comply with nature conservation legislation and policy.

This report remains valid for a period of 12 months, until February 2025. Should this timespan be exceeded, an update survey will be required to reassess the site and its suitability to support protected and/or priority species.

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction	5
Development Proposal.....	6
Planning Policy	7
National Policy	7
Local Policy.....	8
Site Description	8
Methods.....	10
Desk Study.....	10
Walkover Survey.....	11
Results	12
Desk Study.....	12
Designated Sites.....	12
Priority Habitats	13
Protected and Priority Species.....	13
Walkover Survey.....	14
Common Reptiles	16
Amphibians	17
Bats.....	17
Breeding birds.....	18
Hedgehogs	18
.....	
Non-native invasive species	19
Legislation	19
Common Reptiles.....	19
Common Amphibians.....	19
Bats.....	19
Breeding Birds	19
Hedgehogs	20
.....	
Assessment and Mitigation	20
Designated Sites.....	20
Priority Habitats	20

Protected and Priority Species.....	20
Common Reptiles.....	20
Common Amphibians.....	21
Breeding Birds.....	22
Bats.....	22
Hedgehogs.....	22
	
Ecological Enhancements.....	23
Conclusion.....	23
Appendix 1 Designated sites within a 2km search area.....	24
Appendix 2 Rare and protected species within 2km search area.....	26
Appendix 3 Photographs.....	27

Introduction

1. Ecological Matters Environmental Consultancy was commissioned by Stephen Lewis (hereafter referred to as the client) to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) on Land at 5 The Green, Uley, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 5SN. The site is centred at grid reference ST 79156 98647.
2. The aim of the survey was to determine whether the development proposal is likely to have an adverse impact on protected and/or priority species and habitats within and adjacent to the proposed development site.
3. Protected habitats and species are those that receive international and/or national legal protection.
4. Priority habitats and species are listed in Schedule 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and are defined as those of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity.
5. This report describes the methods employed and the results obtained during the PEA , which consisted of a Desk Study and a Walkover Survey. Recommendations are made to ensure that protected and/or priority species and habitats are safeguarded in accordance with legislation and policy.
6. The key objectives of the PEA were to:
 - identify potential ecological constraints associated with the development proposal,
 - identify any additional surveys that may be required,
 - identify any mitigation measures that may be needed to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and policy,
 - outline opportunities for ecological enhancement.
7. The survey was undertaken in accordance with published good practice guidelines (CIEEM., 2017¹) by [REDACTED] full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

¹ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management 2017. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd Ed.

Development Proposal

8. Planning permission is being sought for a new vehicular access, off-street parking area, and associated landscaping works (Figure 1).

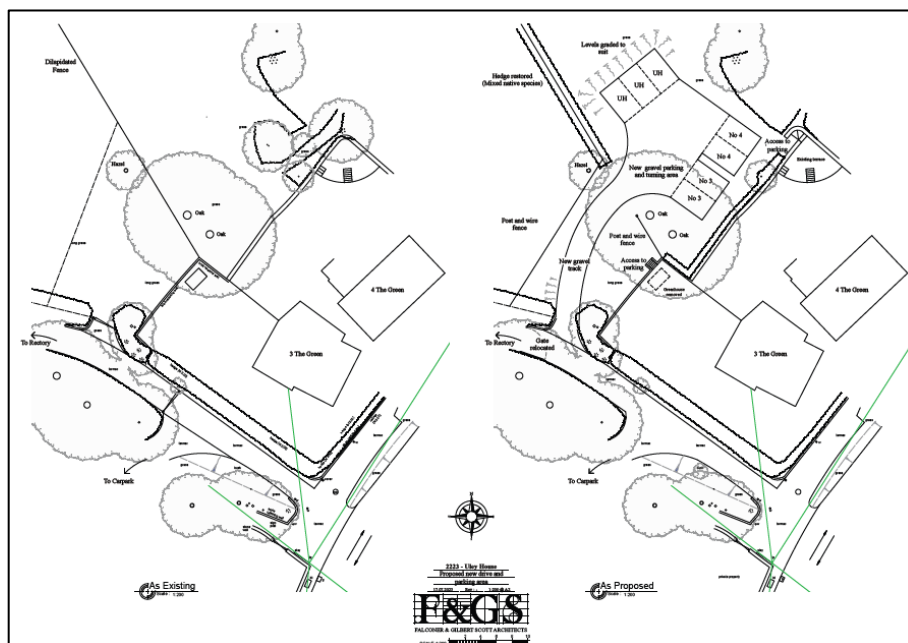


Figure 1 Existing (left-hand side) & Proposed (right-hand side) Site and Block Plan © FALCONER & GILBERT SCOTT ARCHITECTS

9. The proposed development site is within the grounds of number 5 The Green, illustrated by the blue line (Figure 2), but also includes the lower section of the driveway to The Rectory and a small area of land that is within the curtilage of The Rectory. The red line illustrates the boundary of the proposed development footprint (Figure 2). The survey area, which includes the land within the clients' ownership and the parcel of land belonging to the Rectory is shown in Figure 5 and referred to collectively as the site.

10. Work during the construction phase will include removal of:

- 1m of native hedge (bramble and hawthorn),
- 1m of non-native hedge (cherry laurel and mahonia),
- A small amount of scrub (forsythia, young holly and bramble),
- Soil to a depth of 0.5m,
- Large tree stump, small brush pile and wood chippings,
- A strip of grassland vegetation (c. 9m x 26m),
- A short stretch of dry stone wall.

11. The total area that will be affected by development activities is approximately 400m².
12. No trees are to be removed in association with the planning proposal. Protection of tree roots is addressed in the Arboricultural Report (2024).²

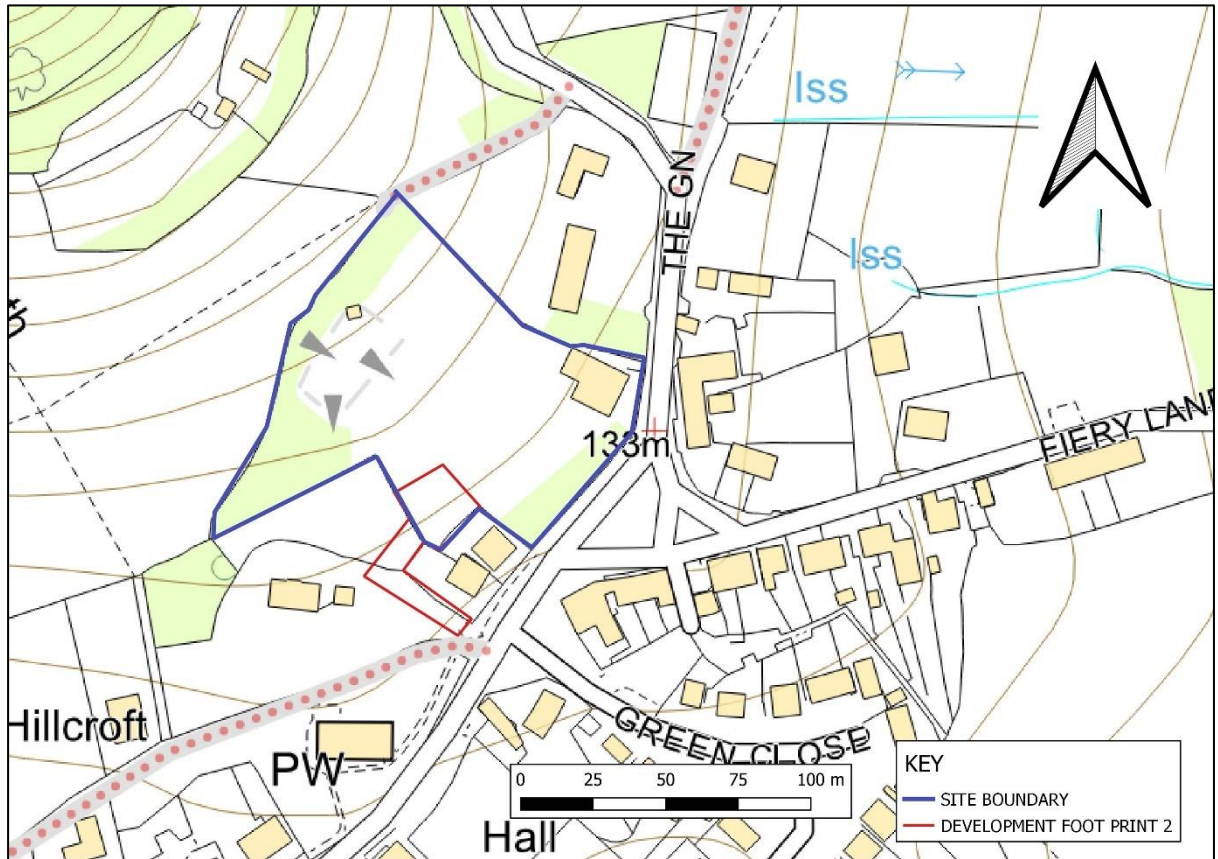


Figure 2 Plan - red line delineates development footprint, blue line delineates land in the client's ownership

Planning Policy

National Policy

13. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's requirements for the planning system in England. A number of sections of the NPPF are relevant when taking into account development proposals and the environment.
14. The general impetus of the NPPF in relation to ecology and biodiversity is for development proposals to not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement. Paragraph 109 states that the planning system

² Arboricultural Report Impact assessment and method statement. 5 The Green Uley GL11 5SN. 2024 Wooten Tree Consultancy

should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by '*minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible.*'

15. Paragraph 118 states, '*When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity.*' A number of principles are set out in Paragraph 118, including the principle that where harm cannot be adequately avoided it should be mitigated for, or, as a last resort, compensated for.
16. Where impacts occur on nationally designated sites, the benefit must clearly outweigh any adverse impact, and incorporating biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged. Protection of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodlands and those sites proposed as Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Ramsar Sites or acting as compensation for SPAs, SACs, and Ramsar sites, should receive the same protection as European sites.
17. In addition to the NPPF, Circular 06/05 provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Paragraph 98 states, '*The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat*', while Paragraph 99 states, '*It is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development is established before planning permission is granted*'.

Local Policy

18. A number of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) have been identified within Gloucestershire for the protection of habitats and species. This includes ancient woodlands and species-rich hedgerows, arable farmland, which includes farmland birds reliant on arable crops, and unimproved grasslands.
19. Gloucestershire is also a stronghold for bats, of which there are now 18 species in the UK.

Site Description

20. The site is located within the village of Uley which lies behind the steep Cotswold escarpment in a wooded valley. The immediate surroundings include old residential and non-residential listed buildings with mature grounds

containing well-established trees. The site is next to St. Giles Church, a Grade II listed building constructed in the 19th century. Large improved grassland fields lie to the west of the site beyond which is Uley Bury, a 2500 year old Iron Age hillfort surrounded by deciduous woodland (Figure 3).



Figure 3 Aerial photo of the site (the red dot marks the site) © Google Earth

21. The wider landscape is comprised of arable and pasture fields, which contain a well-established network of hedgerows, scattered trees, mature treelines, and linear blocks of deciduous woodland (Figure 4). The River Ewelme flows through the valley to the east of the site. The site is located within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



Figure 4 Aerial photo showing the wider landscape (the red dot marks the site) © Google Earth

Methods

Desk Study

22. A desk study was carried out using Natural England's nature on the map website³ to search for internationally designated sites within 5km of the site these included; Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar Sites. Nationally designated sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR), together with Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and priority habitats, were searched for within 2km of the site.
23. The website was also consulted to determine whether European Protected Species (EPS) derogation licences had been granted within a 5km radius of the proposed development site. Any sites within 10km designated specifically for their bat populations were also recorded.

³ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>

24. In addition, a request was made to Gloucester Centre for Environmental Records (GCER)⁴ for information on Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and rare and protected species within a 2km radius of the site.
25. These search buffers were considered appropriate when assessing the potential zone of influence in relation to the proposed development. The zone of influence refers to the area(s) over which ecological features may be affected by the biophysical changes caused by the proposed project and associated activities (CIEEM, 2018)⁵.
26. The information collated during the Desk Study provides contextual information and gives an indication of what species and habitats are likely to be present on site and within the surrounding area.

Walkover Survey

27. A Walkover Survey was undertaken on the 15th January 2024 to assess the suitability of the habitats present on site to support protected and/or priority species. In addition, characteristic field signs that might indicate the presence of protected and/or priority species at a UK and European level were noted.
28. The Walkover Survey included a Phase 1 habitat survey which identified habitats and features of ecological interest within the site. The survey was carried out in accordance with standard methodology (JNCC, 2010)⁶ and habitat types were mapped in QGIS to provide a visual representation of the area surveyed.
29. Non-native invasive species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 were recorded when encountered within the survey area.
30. The survey area covered during the Walkover Survey is illustrated by the green line in Figure 5.

⁴ <https://www.gcer.co.uk>

⁵ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management 2018. Guidelines for Ecological Impact assessment in the UK and Ireland.

⁶ <https://hub.jncc.uk>

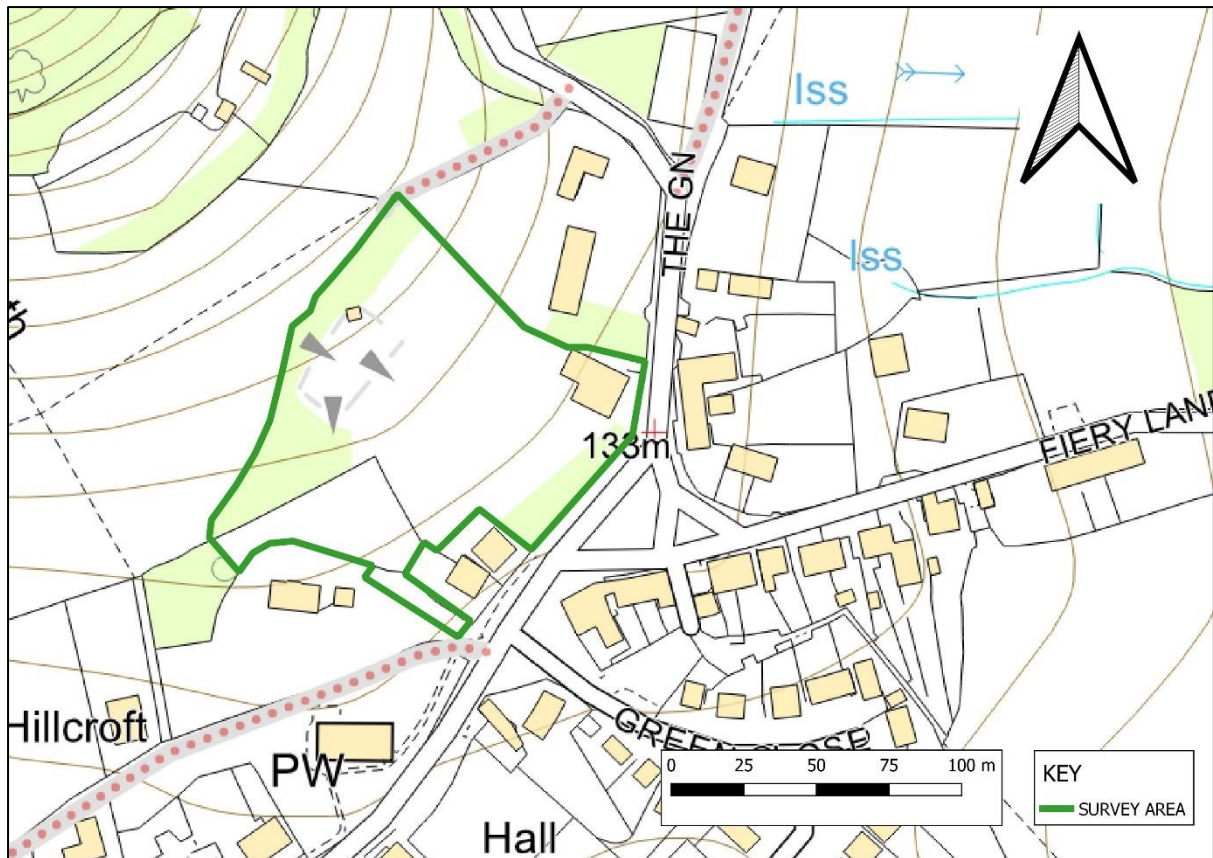


Figure 5 Survey area (green line)

Results

Desk Study

Designated Sites

31. The site lies within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designated for its geological and ecological value; the Cotswolds are nationally important for their rare limestone grassland habitat and for their ancient beech woods and associated rich flora⁷.
32. There are no internationally designated sites within 5km of the site. The closest internationally designated conservation site is Rodborough Common Special Area of Conservation (also a SSSI) which lies approximately 6km north-east of the site and is designated for its semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates⁸.

⁷ www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/viist-aonbs/cotswold-aonb

⁸ <https://jncc.gov.uk>

33. There is one nationally designated site within a 2km radius of the site. Coaley Wood Quarries SSSI⁹ lies 0.8km north-west of the site. The SSSI is designated for its geological interest.
34. There is one site designated for its bat interest within 10km of the site, Woodchester Park SSSI lies 3.5km north-east of the site, its designation relates in part to the existence of a nationally important breeding colony of greater horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) centred on the Mansion near the western end of the site.
35. The mansion also supports a nationally important breeding colony of lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). Both species of bat are listed as endangered and are known to have been at Woodchester Mansion since at least the early 1950s¹⁰.
36. The valley is known to support at least 12 and probably 14 of the UK's 18 species of bat.
37. There are fourteen locally designated sites (LWS) within 2km of the site. Reasons for their selection relate to the presence of semi-natural grassland and ancient-semi-natural broadleaved woodland sites larger than 2km. One site is designated for its geological interest. Details of Local Wildlife Sites are given in Appendix 1.

Priority Habitats

38. There are four priority habitats within 2km of the site, these are: wood pasture/parkland, deciduous woodland, ancient woodland (ancient and semi natural and ancient replanted), and lowland calcareous grassland¹¹.

Protected and Priority Species

39. Six bat mitigation licences have been granted by Natural England within a 5km radius of the site¹². These relate to the following species: common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) and Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*). None of these mitigation licences were issued in relation to impacts on a breeding site.
40. No mitigation licences for European protected species other than bats have been issued by Natural England within a 5km radius of the site.

⁹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>

¹⁰ <https://www.woodchestermansion.org.uk>

¹¹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>

¹² <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>

41. Over 500 records of rare or protected species within a 2km search area were obtained from GCER. The majority of these records related to birds and invertebrates. The following species were also recorded:

- Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*
- Greater horseshoe bat
- Lesser horseshoe bat
- Brown long-eared bat
- *Myotis* sp. bat
- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*
- Common toad *Bufo bufo*
- Common frog *Rana temporaria*
- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*
- Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*
- Common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*
- Grass snake *Natrix helvetica*

Walkover Survey

42. The Walkover Survey was undertaken on 15th January 2024. The survey area included land within the client's ownership and a small parcel of land within the curtilage of the Rectory. The proposed development is to be constructed on both parcels of land. The survey area contains a large detached 18th century dwelling surrounded by three acres of grounds. The large garden contains a small orchard, well-manicured lawns, large vegetable patches, two small ponds, mature well-established trees, ornamental and native shrubs, treelines, and an ornamental hedge. The house is Grade II listed. The gate piers and boundary wall are also Grade II listed. The land behind the Rectory consists of a small, rough, neutral grassland field, a native hedge, and two mature beech trees.

43. Phase 1 habitat maps with target notes are provided below (Figure 6). Descriptions of the target notes are tabulated in Table 1. Photographs are provided in Appendix 3.

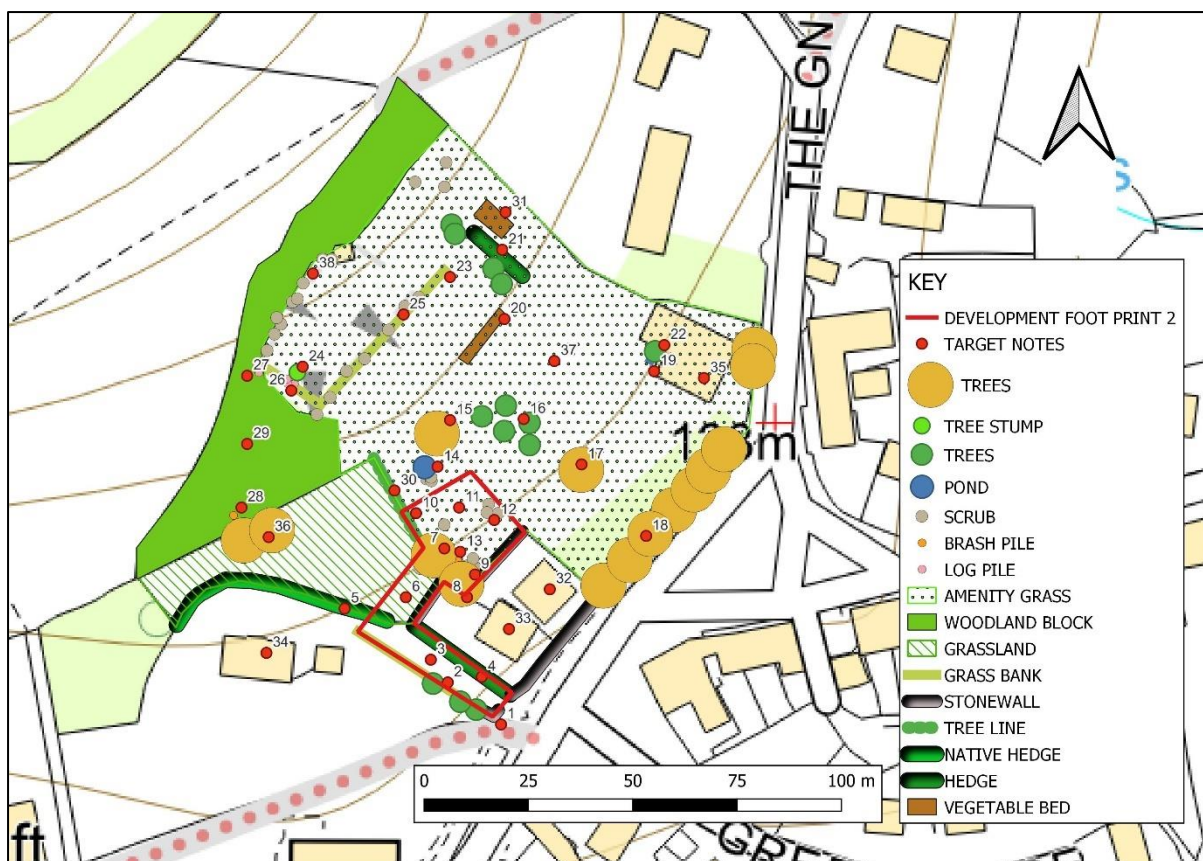


Figure 6 Phase 1 Habitat Map with Target Notes

Target note	Habitat description
1	Dry stone wall
2	Grass bank with holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> trees
3	Tarmac driveway
4	Cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> and <i>Mahonia</i> sp.hedge
5	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> hedge with bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
6	Rough grassland field - improved neutral grassland; perennial rye grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> dock <i>Rumex acetosa</i> dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i> cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
7	Large oak <i>Quercus robur</i> tree with cut thick-stemmed ivy <i>Hedra helix</i> on trunk
8	Large oak tree
9	Tree stump
10	Development footprint boundary
11	Amenity grassland – perennial rye grass
12	Scattered scrub – immature holly and hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , bramble, forsythia <i>Forsythia suspensa</i>
13	Brash pile and wood chips
14	Small circular pond
15	Mature walnut <i>Juglans regia</i> tree

16	Orchard – apple <i>Malus domestica</i> , plum and greengage <i>Prunus domestica</i>
17	Mature mulberry <i>Morus nigra</i>
18	Mature tree line – yew <i>Taxus baccata</i> , holly, horse chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
19	Small square pond
20	Vegetable bed
21	Hedge – box <i>Buxus</i>
22	Mature fig <i>Ficus carica</i>
23	Grass bank
24	Large tree stump
25	Scattered hazel with rose <i>Rosa rugosa</i>
26	Log pile
27	Log pile
28	Brash and wood chipping pile
29	Block deciduous woodland
30	Treeline – holly, ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Leylandii</i>
31	Vegetable patch
32	Number 4 The Green
33	Number 3 The Green
34	The Rectory
35	Number 5 The Green
36	Two mature beech trees <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
37	Amenity grassland
38	Scattered hazel

Table 1 Target notes and habitat descriptions

44. The Walkover Survey identified habitats within the area surveyed that had the potential to support the following protected and/or priority species:

- Common reptiles
- Amphibians
- Bats
- Breeding birds
- Hedgehog



Common Reptiles

45. Optimum foraging, basking, and refuging habitat is offered to common reptiles within the survey area in the form of woodland edges, sunny banks, vegetable beds, logs and brash piles, scattered scrub, rough grassland, and dry stone walls.

46. Within the development footprint, the rough grassland offers potential foraging and basking habitat for common reptiles. Scattered scrub, treeline, and shrub edges offer suitable foraging and basking sites for reptiles. Potential sheltering sites are offered in cavities in the dry stone wall, brash piles, and in association with the roots of the large ivy-covered tree stump. The well-manicured lawn surrounding these habitats offers limited foraging habitat and no sheltering sites. Common reptiles are likely to be present within the development footprint.

Amphibians

47. There are two small ponds within the survey area that have the potential to provide breeding habitat for common amphibians. The larger circular pond is approximately 5m from the development footprint and surrounded by a well-manicured lawn. A small patch of bramble provides some limited cover for common amphibians. The pond is heavily shaded with no submerged, emerged, or floating (excluding duckweed) aquatic vegetation and contains an oily residue. The second pond is a small square pond with vertical sides surrounded by hardstanding and shaded entirely by a mature fig tree.

48. Both ponds are likely to provide breeding habitat to frogs, toads and common newts. Common amphibians are therefore likely to be present within the development footprint.

49. Uley village occurs within the NatureSpace Partnership's Green Risk Zone¹³ for great crested newts, indicating that this species may be present in the area. A habitat suitability assessment was undertaken on both ponds and the adjacent terrestrial habitat. This followed the methodology outlined in ARG UK Advice Note 5¹⁴. The assessment revealed that both ponds had poor suitability to support great crested newts. The Habitat Suitability Index scores for the circular pond and the square pond were 0.44 and 0.31, respectively; ponds with scores under 0.5 are unlikely to support great crested newts. In addition, consultation with Defra's MagicMap revealed no historical records of great crested newts and no additional ponds within 1km of the site that are not separated from the site by a major barrier. The two records for great crested newts obtained from GCER were recorded over 1km from the site. Great crested newts are not anticipated to be present within the survey area.

Bats

¹³ <https://naturespaceuk.com>

¹⁴ <https://www.arguk.org.advice-notes>

50. The landscape surrounding the site offers optimum foraging habitat to bats in the form of woodland, pasture grasslands, large, well-established gardens, mature trees, and the river. Ecological connectivity within the surrounding landscape is excellent, with acoustic guidelines provided to commuting bats by linear landscape features such as woodland edges, treelines, hedgerows, and the nearby river and associated riparian treeline. In addition, numerous roosting opportunities are likely to be present within nearby buildings, many of which are listed, and within mature trees.

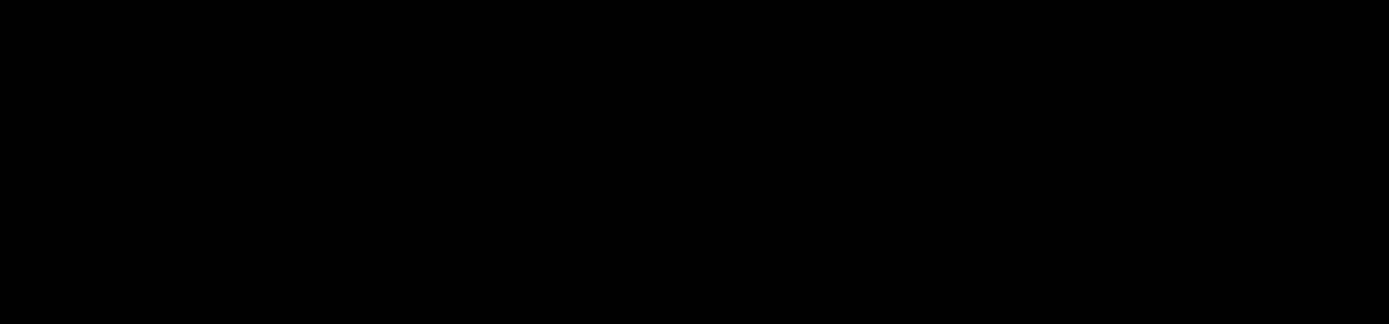
51. Potential roosting habitat for crevice-dwelling bats was observed in the mature mulberry tree in the centre of the garden, beneath the stone tiles covering the extensive roof of the house, and beneath the thick ivy stems associated with one of the mature oak trees within the development footprint. The gap between the thick-stemmed ivy and the tree trunk of the large oak within the development footprint was investigated with an endoscope, and no evidence of roosting bats was encountered. Foraging and commuting habitat for bats is present within the site in the form of trees, shrubs, hedges, and rough grassland. Bats are anticipated to forage and commute within the development footprint.

Breeding birds

52. The shrubs and trees within the site provide optimum nesting opportunities for breeding birds, and the dwelling has the potential to offer nest sites to synanthropic avian species. The development footprint contains nesting habitat suitable for breeding birds in the form of shrubs and trees. Nesting birds are likely to be present during the bird breeding season (March- August inclusive).

Hedgehogs

53. Hedgehogs can occur in a wide variety of habitats and the hedges, shrubs, scrub, log and brash piles within the survey area offer suitable foraging and sheltering habitat. Hedgehogs are likely to be present.



Non-native invasive species

55. No non-native invasive species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 were recorded within the survey area.

Legislation

Common Reptiles

56. Wide spread reptiles are offered protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

57. Their inclusion in Schedule 5 gives them protection from intentional killing and injuring.

Common Amphibians

58. Widespread amphibians only receive partial protection (from sale only) under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Common toads are, however, listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as a species of principle concern for the conservation of biodiversity, and a duty is placed on local planning authorities to halt their decline.

Bats

59. In Britain all bats are fully protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. In addition, all bats are included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (Mitchell-Jones & McLeish, 2004).

60. Taken in combination the legislation makes it illegal *inter alia* to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injury or capture (or take) bats,
- Deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not),
- Recklessly disturb bats or obstruct access to their roosts,
- Damage or destroy bat roosts.

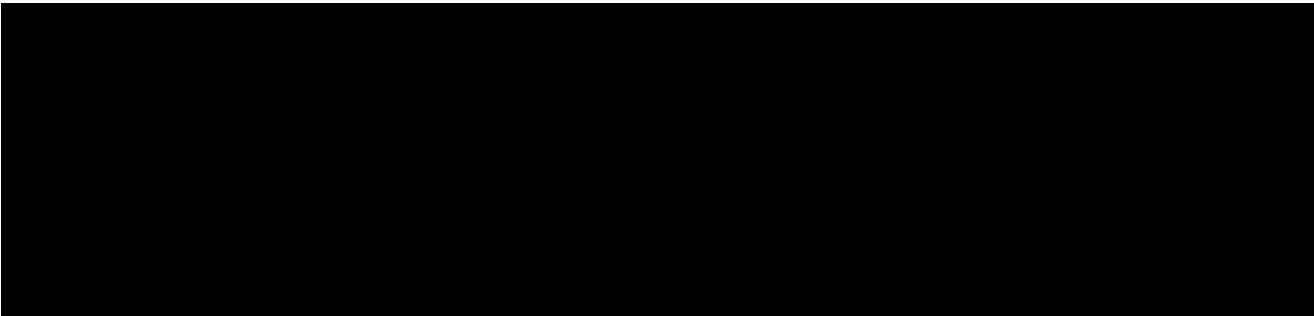
Breeding Birds

61. All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Under the provisions of this legislation it is an offense to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird,
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built,
- Take or destroy an egg of any wild bird

Hedgehogs

62. Hedgehogs are listed in Section 41 of the NERC Act as a species of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity, this places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to have regard for their protection when determining planning applications.



Assessment and Mitigation

Designated Sites

64. The proposed works are of a small enough scale and sufficiently distanced from designated nature conservation sites for the works not to have an impact upon the features for which these sites are designated.

Priority Habitats

65. There are no priority habitats on site and due of the scale and distance of the proposed development no adverse impacts on priority habitats within 2km are anticipated.

Protected and Priority Species

Common Reptiles

66. Suitable foraging, basking and sheltering habitat for common reptiles is present within the development footprint. In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, there is a risk that common reptiles could be harmed during site clearance .

67. To ensure common reptiles are safeguarded during construction the mitigation measures outlined below should be implemented:

- Timing: Vegetation clearance and removal of soil should be undertaken during the active season for reptiles (April – October). This avoids the time of year when reptiles are hibernating and vulnerable to injury.
- Toolbox Talk: Prior to work commencing on site an ecologist will deliver a 'toolbox' talk to ensure operatives are aware of their legal obligations under wildlife law in respect to the potential presence of common reptiles.
- Fingertip search: A thorough search of the vegetation must be undertaken before any site clearance activities commence to check for common reptiles. This will include brash piles, tree stumps, scrub, and any loose material to be removed. The search should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist. If common reptiles are encountered, they will be moved carefully by hand to a suitable area of cover within the site.
- Ecological Supervision: Clearance of vegetation, removal of soil, and dismantling of brash piles and the stone wall should take place under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist to reduce the likelihood of harming reptiles. If common reptiles are encountered during site clearance, they will be carefully captured and removed to a place of safety within the site.

68. The grass in the field behind the Rectory has recently been cut; consequently, it currently offers no cover to common reptiles; the current height therefore should be retained to maintain its reduced attractiveness to reptiles.

69. The mitigation measures are considered proportionate to the level of risk posed to common reptiles when taking into account the size of the development footprint, the small number of suitable habitats within it, and the presence of more optimal habitat within the wider survey area.

Common Amphibians

70. Suitable foraging and sheltering habitat for common amphibians is present within the development footprint. In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, there is a risk that common amphibians could be harmed during site clearance activities.

71. The proposed mitigation measures that relate to safeguarding common reptiles during site clearance will ensure that common amphibians are also

protected. There are no timing restrictions in relation to safeguarding common amphibians.

Breeding Birds

72. The proposed development involves the removal of vegetation that offers potential nesting habitat to birds; consequently, there is a risk that site clearance could have an adverse impact on breeding birds.

73. A nesting bird check must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist before the removal of any vegetation takes place. Active nests must be protected by an appropriate buffer until the young have fledged.

Bats

74. The mature trees within the development footprint are to be retained; consequentially, there will be no loss of potential bat roost sites. The site contains suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats; to prevent disturbance to bats during the construction activities, the work must only be undertaken during daylight hours and the site must not be illuminated at night.

75. If the installation of artificial lighting is required in relation to the new vehicular access and off-street parking a bat-sensitive lighting plan will be required.

Hedgehogs

76. To protect hedgehogs from harm during the construction phase any excavations left overnight must be covered to prevent them from falling in, or ramps must be provided to prevent them from becoming trapped.

77. In addition, any piles resulting from vegetation clearance must be removed from the development footprint to prevent them from becoming attractive to hedgehogs and other wildlife.

78. Operatives should be made aware of the potential presence of hedgehogs and brush piles should be dismantled carefully by hand. If hedgehogs are encountered they should be moved to a suitable area of cover within the site.

79. Night working and the use of artificial lighting must be avoided to prevent disturbance to nocturnal wildlife.



Ecological Enhancements

82. Local Planning Authorities have a duty when exercising their functions to enhance biodiversity; therefore, the following biodiversity enhancements are recommended in relation to the proposed development:

- Creation of brash and log piles to provide shelter for hedgehogs, common reptiles, and common amphibians.
- Installation of a hedgehog house.
- Erection of bird and bat boxes on mature trees within the garden.
- Planting of a boundary hedge comprised of native species of local provenance along the vehicular access track.

83. Bat and bird boxes and hedgehog houses can be obtained from NHBS www.nhbs.com.

Conclusion

84. Providing the mitigation measures outlined in this report are implemented the proposed works should not result in adverse impacts on protected and/or priority species. The mitigation measures and suggested biodiversity enhancements ensure that the proposed development is in accordance with nature conservation legislative requirements and planning policy.

85. This report remains valid for a period of 12 months until February 2025. Should this timespan be exceeded an update survey will be required to reassess the site and its suitability to support protected and/or priority species.

Appendix 1 Designated sites within a 2km search area

	Location Name:	5 The Green
	Grid Ref:	ST 79156 98647
	Search Area:	2km

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

SPA, Ramsar
None present

SAC
None present

National Nature Reserve, Local Nature Reserve
None present

GWT Nature Reserve
None present

Conservation Road Verge
None present

SSSIs

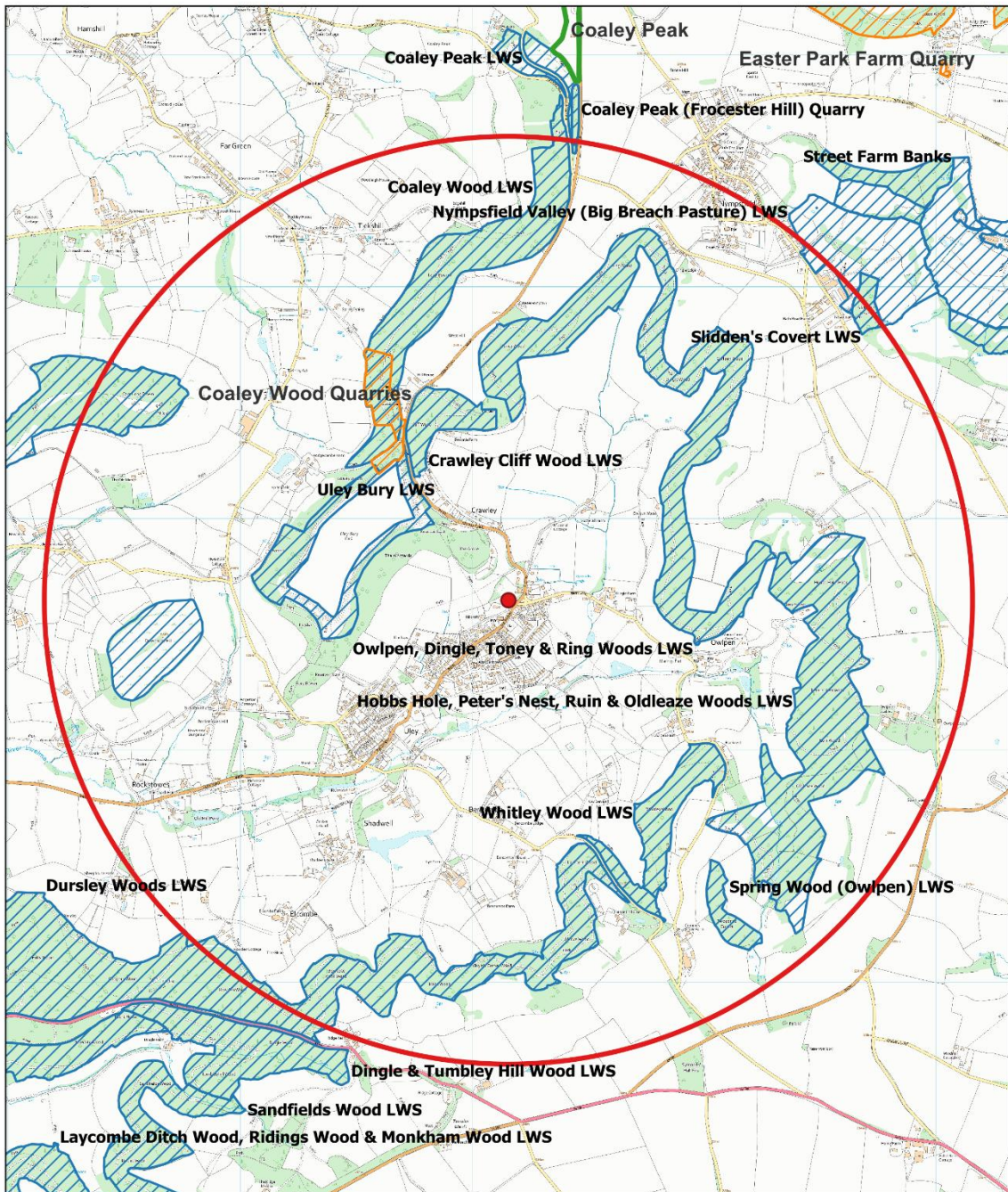
Site name	Distance from app point(m)
Coaley Wood Quarries	779.9

Local Wildlife Sites [LWS]

Site name	File Code	Reasons for selection	Distance from app point(m)	Status
Coaley Peak (Procester Hill) Quarry		95 Sedimentation of the quarry makes it of local importance. Quarry face shows almost complete section of Lower Inferior Oolite and illustrates many of the key features of carbonate	1998.4	Local Wildlife Site and RIGS

Crawley Cliff Wood LWS	ST79/005/01	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	671.2	Local Wildlife Site
Hobbs Hole, Peter's Nest, Ruin & Oldleaze Woods LWS	ST89/022	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	1122	Local Wildlife Site
Coaley Wood LWS	ST79/003	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	844.7	Local Wildlife Site
Uley Bury LWS	ST79/004	Semi-natural grassland	471.3	Local Wildlife Site
Owlpen, Dingle, Toney & Ring Woods LWS	ST79/005/02	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	625	Local Wildlife Site
Dursley Woods LWS	ST79/025	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	1042.3	Local Wildlife Site
Whitley Wood LWS	ST79/026	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	983.1	Local Wildlife Site
Coaley Peak LWS	SO70/008	Semi-natural grassland	1961.8	Local Wildlife Site
Spring Wood (Owlpen) LWS	ST89/011	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	1405.3	Local Wildlife Site
Slidden's Covert LWS	ST89/014	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha	1913.8	Local Wildlife Site
Cam Peak and Long Down LWS	ST79/019	Semi-natural grassland	1650.7	Local Wildlife Site
Downham Hill LWS	ST79/045	Semi-natural grassland	1324.2	Local Wildlife Site
Nymphsfield Valley (Big Breach Pasture) LWS	SO80/024	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland site larger than 2 ha and semi-natural grassland	1919.1	Local Wildlife Site

Overview of sites within 2km



Zoom in for detail

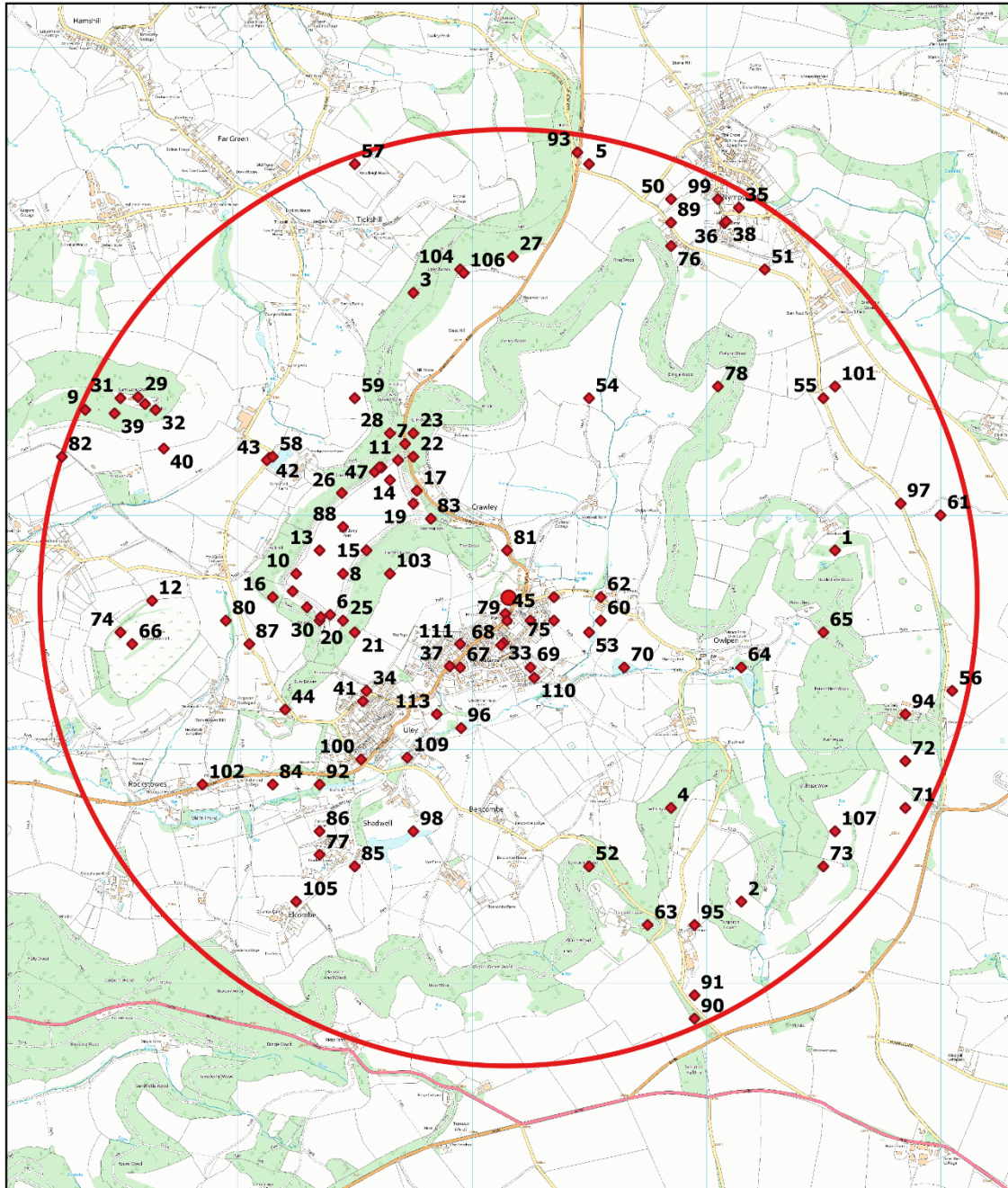
- SSSI All Local Sites
- Local Wildlife Site and RIGS
- Local Wildlife Site
- GWT Nature Reserve

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Appendix 2 Rare and protected species within 2km search area

Map code for notable and protected species mapped within 2km





Zoom in for detail

Zoom in for more detail

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Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records January 2024



Appendix 3 Photographs

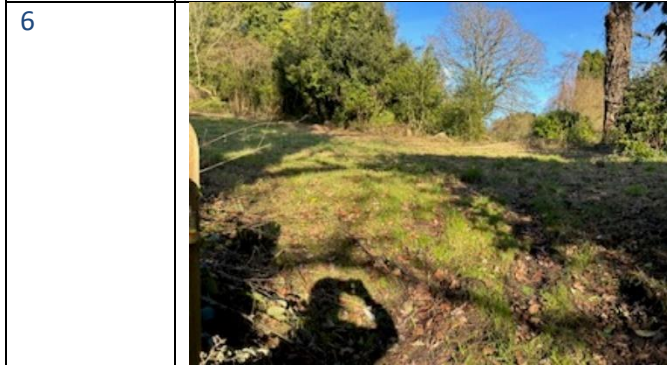
Target note	Photo
1	 A photograph showing a paved driveway leading towards a house. The driveway is flanked by trees and a stone wall on the left, and a hedge on the right. The sky is clear and blue.
2	 A photograph showing a driveway that is heavily overgrown with weeds and grass. A blue object, possibly a wheelbarrow or a container, is visible in the foreground. The driveway leads towards a house in the background.

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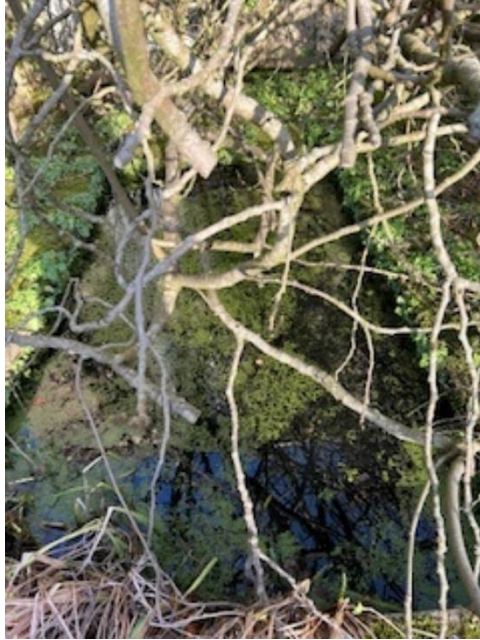
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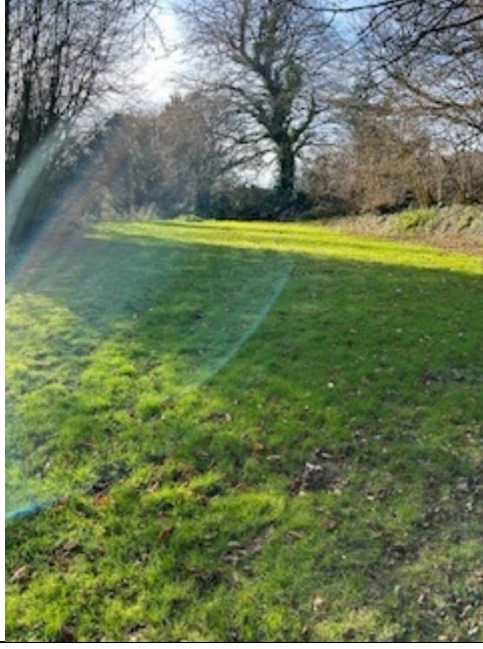
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