# LAND AT THE ROSIE COLDWELLS ROAD MUNSTONE HEREFORDSHIRE

# ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT & ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

**FOR** 

# **COLLINS DESIGN & BUILD LTD**

#### **ECOLOGY SERVICES**

Castle Courtyard, 6b Broad Street, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3DT Tel: 01982 448103

Email: info@eco-serv.com

Web: www.eco-serv.com

VAT No: 790 7971 78

#### CONTENTS

1	IN	lΤ	R	О	D	U	C.	ГΙ	О	Ν
---	----	----	---	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

- 2 SURVEY METHODOLOGY
- 3 ECOLOGICAL FEATURES
- 4 WILDLIFE USE OF THE SITE
- 5 ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT & ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS
- 6 CONCLUSIONS

#### **PLANS**

PLAN 2 Development proposals plan

PLAN 3 Development plans and elevations

#### **FIGURES**

#### FIGURE 1

The site comprises an amenity lawn that was recently re-seeded and is mown on a regular basis.

There is no significant herb element and the lawn is of no ecological interest.

The northern boundary is marked by a wooden fence.

#### FIGURE 2

The site's eastern boundary supports an unmanaged and overgrown hedgerow that is dominated by hawthorn.

This boundary feature would not be impacted on by the development proposals.

#### FIGURE 3

The site's western boundary is marked by a wooden fence that runs alongside a public footpath. On the other side of the footpath there is an overgrown hedgerow.

These boundary features would not be impacted on by the development proposals.

#### FIGURE 4

The southern boundary of the site is marked by a wooden fence and adjoins amenity grassland.

The existing poplar tree will be retained as part of the development proposals.

#### FIGURE 5

Access into the site will be via an existing entrance off Coldwells Road and will cross a tarmac car park.

There will be no impacts on the boundary hedgerow located to the east.

#### FIGURE 6

A large housing estate is located approximately 220 metres beyond the site's southern boundary. Much of this site is still under development.

Two ponds that were created as mitigation for great crested newts are located in this area and are approximately 110 metres from the site's southern boundary.

Both ponds are now overgrown with rank grasses and rushes and support little standing water. They are now unsuitable breeding habitat great crested newts.

#### **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 1	Data search letter received from Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.					
APPENDIX 2	Map showing designated sites within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.					
APPENDIX 3	Map showing Phase 1 Habitat within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.					
APPENDIX 4	Map showing BAP Priority Habitats within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.					
APPENDIX 5	Map showing all protected and priority species recorded within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.					
APPENDIX 6	All protected and priority species recorded within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.					

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. Ecology Services was commissioned by Collins Design & Build Ltd to undertake an ecological assessment of approximately 0.17 hectares of land located at The Rosie, Coldwells Road, Munstone, Herefordshire. Grid Ref: SO 5131 4261 (Plan 1). The site is located on the western side of Munstone and forms part of the gardens associated with the adjoining Rosie Public House.
- 1.1.2. The site comprises a small plot of land that supports an amenity lawn. Unmanaged hedgerows are located along the site's eastern and western boundaries. Wooden fencing marks the site's northern and southern boundaries (Figures 1-5).
- 1.1.3. A planning application has been submitted seeking to develop the site with one residential property (Plans 2-3).
- 1.1.4. The site was surveyed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.
- 1.1.5. The site does not support or adjoin any statutory ecological designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and there are no statutory ecological designations within 1km of the site (Appendix 2).
- 1.1.6. The site does not support or adjoin any non-statutory ecological designations such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Special Wildlife Sites (SWS).
- 1.1.7. The closest non-statutory ecological designation is 'Site at Inco Alloys' SINC. At its closest point 'Site at Inco Alloys' SINC is located 0.7km to the south west and beyond existing residential development and as such is significantly removed from the site boundary (Appendix 1 & 2).
- 1.1.8. With the exception of two boundary hedgerows the site does not support or adjoin any Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats (BAP Priority Habitats). The closest BAP Priority Habitat is 'traditional orchard'. This comprises a small block of land located to the north on the other side of Coldwells Road. This traditional orchard would not be impacted on by the development proposals. The site supports boundary hedgerows along its eastern and western boundaries. Hedgerows are a BAP habitat. The hedgerows will not be impacted on by the development proposals.
- 1.1.9. This report details the results of ecological survey work undertaken at the site on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The report also sets out ecological enhancement proposals that have been incorporated into the development master plan.

#### 1.2. Summary

- 1.2.1. The site is of extremely limited ecological interest supporting no habitats or species of special note.
- 1.2.2. All existing boundary vegetation will be retained as part of the development proposals.
- 1.2.3. No negative impacts are anticipated on the BAP habitats or ecological designations that are located beyond the site's boundaries.
- 1.2.4. Great crested newts have been recorded from beyond the site's southern boundary. The site itself supports no suitable terrestrial cover or breeding opportunities for great crested newts and as such mitigation for great crested newts is not required. The ponds located beyond the sites southern boundary that were created as mitigation for great crested newts as part of an ongoing housing development are no longer suitable for breeding amphibians (Plan 1 & Figure 6).

#### 2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1. Habitat survey methodology

- 2.1.1. An ecological survey was carried out to ascertain the general ecological value of the land contained within the boundaries of the site and to identify the main habitats and associated plant species. The site was surveyed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.
- 2.1.2. Using Extended Phase 1 survey methodology, the site was classified into areas of similar botanical community types with a representative sample of those species present being described. This standard technique provides an inventory of the habitat types present and allows identification of areas that may require more detailed survey work.

#### 2.2. Faunal survey methodology

2.2.1. Faunal activity was recorded during the Phase 1 survey and the site was assessed in terms of its suitability to support protected species including badgers, bats, great crested newts and reptiles. Survey methodology for individual species/groups is set out below in section 4 - Wildlife Use of the Site.

#### 2.3. Data Search Exercise

- 2.3.1. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre was contacted for records of protected species recorded within one kilometre of the site and for the location of statutory and non-statutory ecological designations located within one kilometre of the site.
- 2.3.2. The results of the data search exercise are reproduced in Appendices 1-

#### 3. ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

- 3.1. The site was surveyed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. Although undertaken early in the season the nature of the habitat types present enabled an accurate assessment of the habitats within the site to be undertaken.
- 3.2. The following habitat/features were identified within the site:
  - Amenity grassland
  - Boundary vegetation
  - 3.2.1. These are discussed in more detail below and are illustrated in Figures 1-

#### 3.2.2. Amenity grassland

- 3.2.3. The site is dominated entirely by a small amenity lawn. There is no significant herb element and the lawn appears to have been recently created (Figure 1).
- 3.2.4. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre held no records of notable plant species from the site or local area (Appendix 6).
- 3.2.5. The Phase 1 habitat map received from Herefordshire Biological Records Centre identifies the site as amenity grassland (Appendix 3).
- 3.2.6. Boundary vegetation
- 3.2.7. The site's northern boundary is marked by a wooden fence (Figure 1 & 5).
- 3.2.8. The site's eastern boundary supports an unmanaged and overgrown hedgerow that is dominated by hawthorn that lacks a significant ground flora (Figure 2).
- 3.2.9. The site's western boundary is marked by a wooden fence that runs alongside a public footpath. On the other side of the footpath there is an overgrown hedgerow that is dominated by hawthorn (Figure 3).
- 3.2.10. The southern boundary of the site is marked by a wooden fence and adjoins amenity grassland (Figure 4).
- 3.2.11. The proposed access into the site will be via an existing entrance off Coldwells Road and will cross a tarmac car park (Figure 5).

#### 4. WILDLIFE USE OF THE SITE

#### 4.1. Badgers

#### **Legislation**

- 4.1.1. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 consolidates the previous Badgers Acts of 1973 and 1991. The legislation aims to protect the species from persecution, rather than being a response to an unfavourable conservation status.
- 4.1.2. As well as protecting the animal itself, the 1992 Act also makes the intentional or reckless destruction, damage or obstruction of a badger sett an offence. A sett is defined as "any structure or place that displays signs indicating current use by a badger".

#### **Survey Methods**

4.1.3. The site and adjoining fields/boundary vegetation were surveyed for evidence of badger activity. Typical badger field signs were searched for such as well worn pathways, latrines, foraging areas, snagged badger hair and badger setts.

#### **Results**

- 4.1.4. No evidence of badger activity was found within the site. A number of small rabbit warrens are present in the local area and along the site's eastern boundary.
- 4.1.5.

#### Conclusion

4.1.6. No evidence of regularly used pathways, setts or foraging activity was found, thus indicating that the site is not an important habitat for badgers.

#### 4.2. Bats

#### **Legislation**

- 4.2.1. All bats are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This legislation makes it an offence to:
  - Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats.
  - Deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not).
  - Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts even if bats are not in residence.

#### **Survey Methods**

4.2.2. The site was assessed in terms of roosting and foraging opportunities it offers bats.

#### **Results**

- 4.2.3. The site and adjoining boundary vegetation does not support roosting opportunities for bats. The poplar tree located on the site's southern boundary does not support rot holes, split branches etc. that could be used by roosting bats. Being dominated by amenity grassland the site is unlikely to be an important foraging area for bats, especially given its small size.
- 4.2.4. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre held approximately 100 records of bats within one kilometre of the site (Appendix 5 & 6). None of these records are from within the site or its immediate surroundings. The majority of the records refer to pipistrelle *pipistrellus* sp. bats and or bats in flight.

#### Conclusion

- 4.2.5. The site does not support roosting opportunities for bats and no evidence of bat roosts was found.
- 4.2.6. It is likely that common species of bats forage in the local area. However, the small size of the site and the poor quality grassland that is present ensures that the site is most unlikely to be an important foraging habitat or commuting route for bats. In any event all existing boundary vegetation will be retained as part of the development proposals.

#### 4.3. Great crested newts

#### Legislation

- 4.3.1. The great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* is protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 4.3.2. This means that great crested newts are protected from deliberate killing, injury or capture with their habitat, including a breeding site, resting place or any structure or place used for 'shelter or protection' also protected against damage or destruction. It is also illegal to disturb great crested newts and their eggs are protected from taking or destroying.
- 4.3.3. Great crested newts may use terrestrial habitats within 250 metres of their breeding ponds. Ideal terrestrial habitat will contain a high proportion of semi-natural habitats such as woodland, scrub and unimproved pasture. A range of different standing water bodies are used for breeding.

#### **Survey Methods**

4.3.4. An assessment of the site's potential to support breeding and terrestrial great crested newts was undertaken during the Phase 1 habitat survey.

#### Results

- 4.3.5. The development site and adjoining habitats do not support potential great crested newt breeding ponds. Being dominated by amenity grassland the site does not support terrestrial cover opportunities for great crested newts. The two ponds located approximately 110m to the south of the site boundary were created as mitigation for great crested newts prior to the development of a large housing estate (part of which is still under construction). These ponds have now reverted to damp grassland that is dominated by rank grasses and rushes and are unsuitable for breeding great crested newts (Plan 1 & Figure 6). Two other ponds that are located in the wider area are both over 250m from the development site boundary and as such are outside the normal home range of a great crested newt.
- 4.3.6. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre held eight records of great crested newts within one kilometre of the site boundary (Appendix 5 & 6). All these records are from the same grid reference and were made in 2003 and 2007 and are located 528m to the south of the site.

#### Conclusion

4.3.7. The development site does not support breeding opportunities or terrestrial cover opportunities for great crested newts. Whilst great crested newts may still be present in the wider area (despite no apparent suitable breeding pond in the immediate vicinity) it is extremely unlikely that they will utilise the proposed development site and as such mitigation measures are not required.

#### 4.4. Reptiles

#### **Legislation**

- 4.4.1. The common reptile species slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, viviparous lizard *Lacerta vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus* are 'partially protected' under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and as such receive protection from:
  - Deliberate killing and injuring.
  - Being sold or other forms of trading.
- 4.4.2. The habitat of these reptiles is not directly protected. However, because of their partial protection, disturbing or destroying their habitat while they are present may lead to an offence

#### **Survey Methods**

4.4.3. An assessment of the sites potential to support reptiles was undertaken during the Phase 1 habitat survey.

#### Results

- 4.4.4. Being dominated entirely by closely mown amenity grassland the site offers no suitable habitat for reptiles.
- 4.4.5. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre one record of slow-worm from the 1km search area. This record is 0.8km to the south east and is well removed from the site boundary (Appendix 5 & 6). No other reptile species are recorded from the search area.

#### Conclusion

4.4.6. The site comprises bare closely mown amenity grassland that lacks opportunities for reptiles. There are no reptile populations recorded in the local area.

#### 4.5. Birds

#### **Legislation**

- 4.5.1. Sections 1-8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act are concerned with the protection of wild birds. With certain exceptions all wild birds and their eggs are protected from intentional killing, injuring and taking; and their nests, whilst being built or in use, cannot be taken, damaged or destroyed.
- 4.5.2. Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 is a list of the nationally rare and uncommon breeding birds for which all offences carry greater penalties. These species also enjoy additional protection whilst breeding as it is also an offence to disturb adults or their dependant young when at the nest.

#### Survey Methods

4.5.3. Birds within the proposed development site were recorded on a casual basis during the course of the site visits.

#### **Results**

- 4.5.4. The following species were recorded within the site during the survey period; Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Blackbird, *Turdus merula*.
- 4.5.5. The majority of these are only casual users of the site and indeed most were only recorded as flyovers. A very small number of common species are likely to breed along the boundary vegetation.
- 4.5.6. Being small and enclosed and dominated by amenity grassland the site does not favour ground-nesting species such as lapwing *Vanellus* vanellus and skylark *Alauda arvensis*.
- 4.5.7. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre held no records of notable bird species (such as Schedule 1 species) for the site.
- 4.5.8. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre held a large number of bird records from within the 3km search area, the vast majority refer to extremely common species (Appendix 6).

#### Conclusion

4.5.9. Overall the proposed development site is of extremely limited omithological interest, supporting no Schedule 1 species and a very limited assemblage of common species. Although more detailed survey work undertaken throughout the year would add considerably to the list of species recorded this would not significantly elevate the sites omithological interest.

#### 4.6. General observations of wildlife on the site

#### 4.6.1. **Mammals**

4.6.2. The site comprises amenity grassland and is unsuitable habitat for small mammals such as short-tailed field-voles *Microtus agrestis*. Small rabbit warrens are present along parts of the site's eastern boundary.

#### 4.6.3. Invertebrates

4.6.4. The site is likely to be very limited in its invertebrate diversity owing to the limited interest of the habitat types that are present on the site. It is unlikely that any notable species or populations are present. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre held no records of notable invertebrate species from within the site or local area (Appendix 6).

#### 4.7. Data search results

4.7.1. In addition to the records set out above, the data search exercise generated a considerable number of species records (Appendix 6). The majority of records refer to common and widespread species (mainly birds).

#### 5. ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT & ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

5.1. The following assessment and ecological enhancement proposals follow advice and recommendations set out in *Biodiversity: Supplementary Planning Guidance* published by Herefordshire Council in 2004. This document has been used to identify the proposed development site as having **limited ecological constraints** as well as having **significant potential for ecological enhancement**. In addition *Building Biodiversity into Herefordshire's Local Development Framework* published by Herefordshire Council in 2009 has also been consulted.

#### 5.2. Habitat Evaluation

#### Designated areas

- 5.2.1. There are **no statutory designated nature conservation** sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) **within 1km of the site**.
- 5.2.2. The nearest non-statutory designated site is 'Site at Inco Alloys' SINC. At its closest point 'Site at Inco Alloys' SINC is located 0.7km to the south west and beyond existing residential development and as such is significantly removed from the site boundary and would not be impacted on by the development proposals.

**BAP Habitats** 

- 5.2.3. The site supports hedgerows along its eastern and western boundaries. There will be **no loss of hedgerows** as all boundary vegetation will be retained within the development masterplan.
- 5.2.4. The site does not support or adjoin any other BAP habitats. Traditional orchards located in the wider area would not be impacted on by the development proposals.

Amenity grassland

5.2.5. The site is dominated entirely by closely mown amenity grassland that lacks a herb element. It is a common and widespread habitat type in the local area and it is of very limited ecological interest. Loss of this habitat is not considered as ecologically significant. Impacts are at the site level and are not significant.

Boundary vegetation

5.2.6. The site supports hedgerows along its eastern and western boundaries. These areas are of **local value**, there will be **no impacts** as all boundary vegetation will be **retained** within the site master plan. **A new hedgerow comprising native species of trees and shrubs will be planted** along the site's southern boundary (currently marked by a wooden fence).

#### 5.3. Faunal Evaluation

#### Badgers

5.3.1. No badger setts were found during the survey period.

The site is classed as having a no

significant value to badgers.

#### Bats

- 5.3.2. The site does not support bat roosting sites. Bats are likely to forage in the local area but overall the site is extremely limited in foraging opportunities. The site is classed as having a **no significant value** to bats.
- 5.3.3. Bat roosting opportunities will be incorporated into the new buildings. This would represent a **net gain in bat roosting opportunities** at the site. A minimum of one Schwegler Bat Box (or similar approved design) will be incorporated into the fabric of the new building.

#### Great crested newts

5.3.4. There are no ponds or potential breeding opportunities for great crested newts within 250m of the site boundary. Two ponds that were apparently created as mitigation for great crested newts are located 110m to the south of the site. These ponds are no longer suitable for breeding amphibians. Whilst great crested newts may still be present in the wider area (despite no apparent suitable breeding pond in the immediate vicinity) it is extremely unlikely that they will utilise the proposed development site and as such mitigation measures for great crested newts are not required and no impacts on great crested newts are anticipated. The site is classed as having no value to great crested newts.

#### Reptiles

5.3.5. The site does not support suitable habitat for reptiles and there are no records of reptiles from the local area. The site is classed as having **no value** to reptiles.

#### Birds

- 5.3.6. The current survey period recorded a small number of common birds from the site. The majority of these do not rely on the site for breeding and were recorded as casual users or as flyovers. A very limited number of common species would be expected to nest within the boundary vegetation. These species are common and widespread throughout the British Isles. The site is classed as having local value to birds.
- 5.3.7. Bird nesting opportunities will be incorporated into the new buildings. This would represent a **net gain in nesting opportunities** at the site. A minimum of one Schwegler bird box (or similar approved design) will be incorporated into the fabric of the new building.

#### 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 1km of the site.
- 6.2. The nearest non-statutory designated site is 'Site at Inco Alloys' SINC. At its closest point 'Site at Inco Alloys' SINC is located 0.7km to the south west and as such is significantly removed from the site boundary and would not be impacted on by the development proposals.
- 6.3. All existing boundary hedgerow vegetation will be retained as part of the development proposals. A new hedgerow comprising native species of trees and shrubs will be planted along the site's southern boundary.
- 6.4. There will be no impacts on BAP habitats (traditional orchards) located in the wider area.
- 6.5. The site is dominated entirely by amenity grassland. This is a common and widespread habitat type that is of low ecological interest. Loss of this habitat is not considered as ecologically significant.
- 6.6. The site has no significant faunal interest. No evidence of badgers, bats, reptiles or great crested newts was found during survey work or through a background data search exercise. The site supports a limited assemblage of common bird species. A bat box and bird box will be incorporated into the fabric of the new building.
- 6.7. On current evidence there are no reasons to suggest that the proposed development would lead to any significant impact on any known protected species or ecological feature of value at the national, county or local level. As such there are no reasons for refusing planning permission on the grounds of nature conservation.

#### PLAN 1

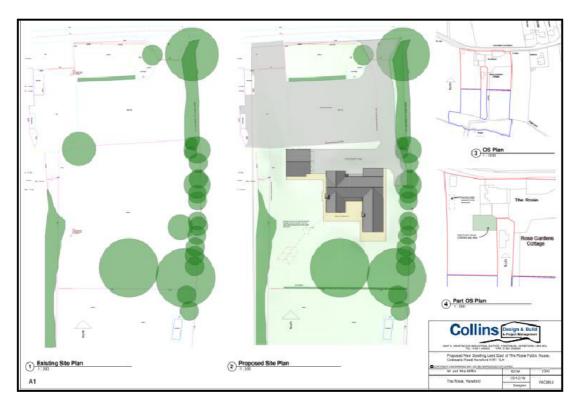
#### Site Location





#### PLAN 2

#### Development proposals plan



#### PLAN 3

#### Development plans & elevations

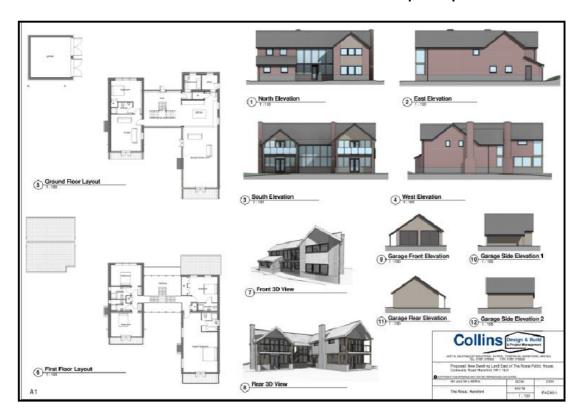




Figure 1

The site comprises an amenity lawn that was recently re-seeded and is mown on a regular basis.

There is no significant herb element and the lawn is of no ecological interest.

The northern boundary is marked by a wooden fence.



#### Figure 2

The site's eastern boundary supports an unmanaged and overgrown hedgerow that is dominated by hawthorn.

This boundary feature would not be impacted on by the development proposals.



Figure 3

The site's western boundary is marked by a wooden fence that runs alongside a public footpath. On the other side of the footpath there is an overgrown hedgerow.

These boundary features would not be impacted on by the development proposals.



Figure 4

The southern boundary of the site is marked by a wooden fence and adjoins amenity grassland.

The existing poplar tree will be retained as part of the development proposals.



Figure 5

Access into the site will be via an existing entrance off Coldwells Road and will cross a tarmac car park.

There will be no impacts on the boundary hedgerow located to the east.



Figure 6

A large housing estate is located approximately 220 metres beyond the site's southern boundary. Much of this site is still under development.

Two ponds that were created as mitigation for great crested newts are located in this area and are approximately 110 metres from the site's southern boundary.

Both ponds are now overgrown with rank grasses and rushes and support little standing water. They are now unsuitable breeding habitat great crested newts.

#### Data search letter from Herefordshire Biological Records Centre

PO Box 230, Hereford, HR1 2ZB.

Telephone: (01432) 261538, Email enquiries: hbrc@herefordshire.gov.uk

Ecology Services Castle Courtyard 6b Broad Street Builth Wells Powys LD2 3DT

16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Our reference: 2608

Dear Sir

#### MUNSTONE - SO513426

#### SPECIES RECORDS

Further to your request, I have conducted a search of the database for the area you identified. These records are attached along with a map indicating their distribution.

Grid references containing a combination of letters and numbers, for example 'SO54E' are formulated according to the **DINTY** system. Such records are often from botanical recording, whereby a 10km square is divided into twenty-five equal 2km x 2km squares, each alpha-coded, thus:

17	т	Р	TT	7
E	J	P	U	Z
D	Ι	Ζ	T	Y
С	Н	M	S	X
В	G	L	R	W
A	F	K	Q	$\mathbf{V}$

Therefore the correct full grid references for SO54E are as follows: SO5048, SO5049, SO5148 and SO5149 i.e. four 1km squares.

Please keep location details of any bat, badger or newt records confidential.

#### **DESIGNATED SITES**

In addition, I have produced a map indicating designated sites and have provided register details for the relevant sites:

#### SINC\_10 Disused Railway

The Register states "Several areas of scrub on the Moorfields building site which used to be railway sidings. Plants such as nodding bur-marigold, creeping toadflax and wild mignonette were recorded on this site in 1978."

Date 1995 - 1996

#### SINC\_11 Site at Inco Alloys

The Register states "The grassland at the top of the banks, which have been planted with very extensive ornamental ground cover (cotoneaster, rose-of-sharon) support a species-rich grassland under scattered scrub and trees, some ornamental and some the remnants of an old orchard. Grassland species include fairy flax (which is locally abundant), meadow vetchling, lesser bird's-foot-trefoil, creeping cinquefoil, common centaury, black medick, self-heal, wild strawberry, creeping jenny (rare) and the hawkbits. Trees include sycamore, ash, oak, beech, rowan, yew and birch as well as some of the old fruit trees.

Ash, birch and sycamore are regenerated through the ground cover on the slopes amongst which there is a massive patch of mouse-ear hawkweed. There is quite a lot of hemp agrimony scattered over the site. A very large grey poplar stool - a form of the tree uncommon in the city - is in 511418."

Date 1995 - 1996

#### SINC\_12 Active Railway North of Wye

The Register states "Between housing and railway. Species-rich rank grassland characteristic of much of the more open lengths of track, with typically calcicolous species like wild carrot, St John's-wort, burnet-saxifrage, bird's-foot-trefoil, black medick, mouse-ear Hawkweed. Also yarrow, purple toadflax and abundant creeping cinquefoil. Patches of tall ruderal with rosebay willow-herb and mugwort; scrub mainly of blackberry with scattered elder and broom.

Railway cuttings on each side of this stretch have very good blackberry scrub with rose and hawthorn, some buddleja. At the top of the north bank is a line of sycamores along the factory grounds. To the west of bridge on Old School Lane are two good patches of male and broad buckler fern."

Date 1995 - 1996

SINC\_14 Land west of Staniers Way (No description verified)

#### SINC\_15 Hereford-Gloucester Canal Pond

The Register states "The remains of an old Hereford-Gloucester canal by the Roman road industrial estate. This now acts as a drainage channel for surface water from developments nearby. It is an excellent wildlife habitat with trees, water plants, shrubs and ground flora. It needs to be carefully managed to ensure none of the diversity is lost." Date 1995 - 1996

#### HABITAT INFORMATION

Finally, please find attached maps showing Phase 1 Habitats and BAP Priority Habitats within your search area. Please be aware that where Natural England National Inventory BAP Priority Habitats data and HBRC BAP Priority Habitats data overlap in the BAP habitats map that you have been sent HBRC data has been supplied. This is because HBRC data is considered to be more reliable.

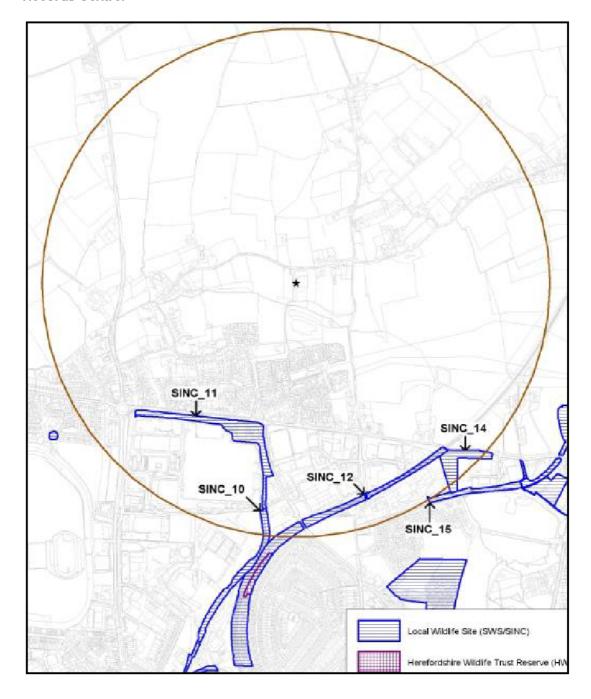
Please get in touch if you have any queries. I can confirm that the charge for the retrieval and analysis of your requests is £150 exclusive of VAT. You will receive an invoice from Herefordshire Council shortly: the Council handle all financial accounting on behalf of HBRC.

I hope that this information proves to be useful. I look forward to receiving new findings and biological records which any survey you undertake yields: this will help us to improve the information available for natural heritage conservation, research, advice, education and public information.

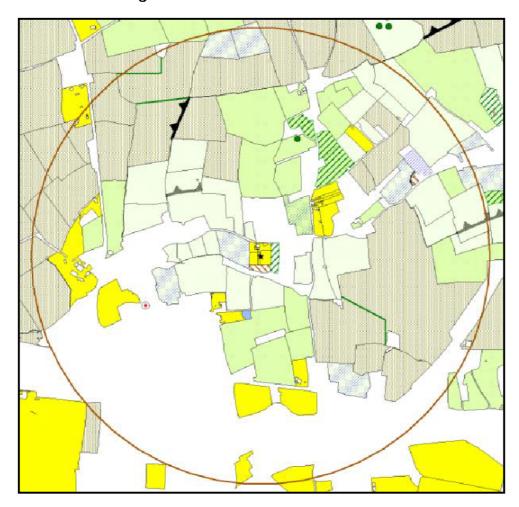
Yours sincerely,

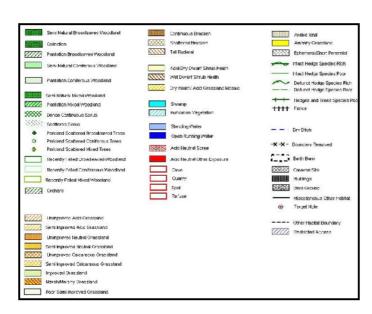
Emma Wall Ecologist (HBRC) Encs.

Map showing designated sites within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.

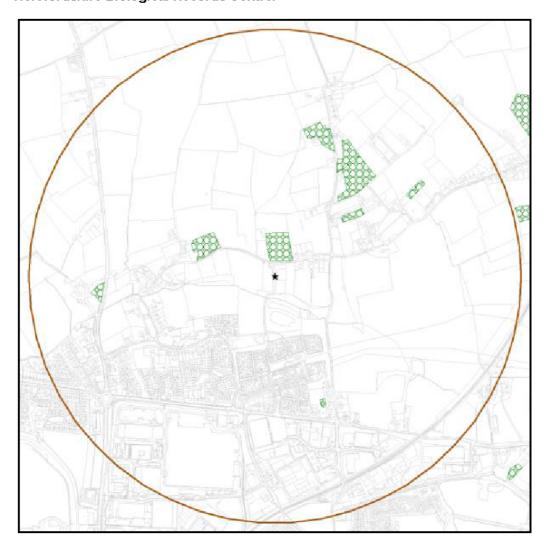


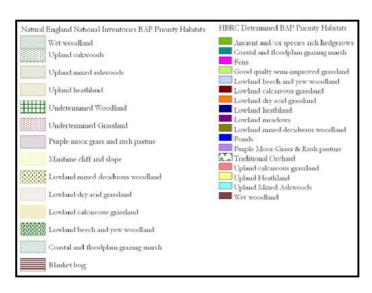
# Map showing Phase 1 Habitat within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.



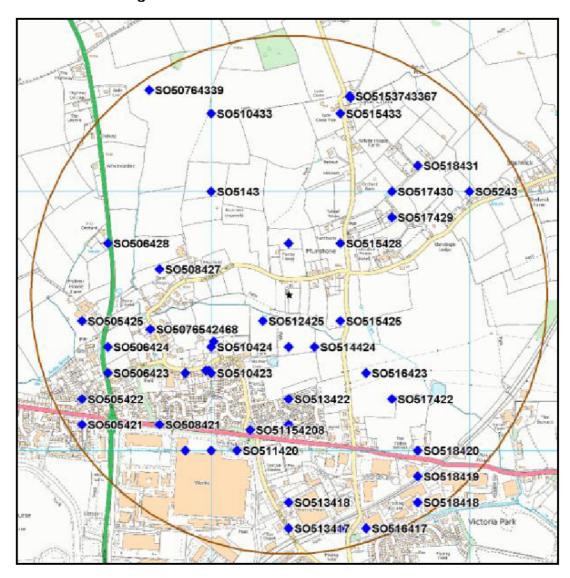


# Map showing BAP Priority Habitats within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.





Map showing all protected and priority species recorded within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.



All protected and priority species recorded within 1km of study area. Herefordshire Biological Records Centre

**BOUND SEPARATELY**