Persimmon Homes (SouthMidlands) Ltd

Tanyard Farm, Ross-on-Wye

PHASE 1 HABITAT APPRAISAL AND PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY

April 2003

fpcr

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report details the results of ecological surveys undertaken by experienced ecologists at FPCR on behalf of Persimmon Homes (South Midlands) Ltd. These surveys follow on from an initial survey undertaken in August 2001 by FPCR, and follow recommendations included within that report.

1.2 The survey area lies approximately 0.5 km northeast of the centre of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. The northern and western boundaries are predominantly residential, with a mixture of new and established properties. The eastern boundary is formed by the A40 Gloucester to Ross road with agricultural land adjacent and the southern boundary is formed by the Rudhall Brook and adjacent caravan park.

2.0 PLANNING POLICY BACKGROUND

2.1 National Policy

2.1.1 Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPG's) form the primary means by which the Governments policies must be taken into account when local planning authorities prepare development plans or when making decisions on individual planning applications or appeals. PPG 9 published by the Department of the Environment in 1994, sets out the Governments objectives for nature conservation. Although primarily concerned with statutorily designated sites, it also addresses development and wildlife issues outside of the statutory framework.

2.1.2 Paragraph 4 of PPG 9 recognises that local authorities should consider nature conservation as a whole and not just within designated sites:

"....protection of wildlife is not an objective which applies only to SSSI's; it depends on the wise use and management of the nations land resources as a whole".

and:

"The Government looks to local authorities to keep themselves informed of the state of the natural environment locally, and to take account of nature conservation interests wherever relevant to local decisions"

2.1.3 However, although nature conservation may be a significant material consideration when considering a planning application it in no way precludes development. Para 27. of PPG 9 recognises this:

"....local planning authorities should not refuse permission if development can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or important physical features...."

2.1.4 National policy does not therefore preclude development on sites with an identified nature conservation interest but serves to provide a means by which sensitive planning and developmental design can coexist with nature conservation to the extent that significant impacts to wildlife are greatly reduced.

UK Biodiversity Action Plans

2.1.5 Biodiversity Action Plans have been developed which set priorities for nationally important and locally important habitats and wildlife. These include Habitat, Species and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (refer to local Policy section below)

2.1.6 Priority Habitat Action Plans provide detailed descriptions for specific habitat types and detail actions that can be taken by a number of agencies in order to safeguard and enhance these habitats.

2.1.7 Species Action Plans include:

1. Biodiversity UK Long List species – includes species of conservation concern that meet one of four criteria (endemic, in rapid decline, internationally significant or listed in international legislation)
2. Priority Species – Species targeted for immediate conservation action that are typically of high conservation concern (globally threatened or declined by 50% in the past 25 yrs). All have a detailed Species Action Plan and Statement.

2.2 Regional Policy

2.2.1 The Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (Deposit Draft 2002) includes a number of policy statements relevant to the redevelopment of Tanyard Farm. It has overall aims to conserve and enhance the natural and historic heritage of the county, whilst promoting positive change. Policy S7 details these overall aims, with points 2 and 4 being of particular interest with regard to the prosed development at Tanyard Farm:

"S7 Natural and historic heritage

The following assets comprising the county's historic and natural heritage will be protected, restored or enhanced:

1. ***Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;***
2. ***areas of international, national and local nature conservation interest, species of biodiversity interest and areas of geodiversity;***
3. ***the historic heritage including archaeology, buildings and areas of historic or architectural importance, and landscapes; and***
4. ***features that contribute positively to local distinctiveness and quality of the local environment.***

2.2.2 Policy NC1 details the desired relationship between development and conservation, and outlines the basic requirements to ameliorate impacts:

"NC1 Nature conservation and development

Development will be required to take full account by means of an ecological field evaluation of existing habitat, species, features of nature conservation value and features of geological interest including those identified by policies NC2 to NC6. Proposals should:

1. ***seek to retain existing semi-natural habitat, wildlife corridors, species or geological features within their layouts and design; and***
2. ***demonstrate that the proposals will have no adverse effects on any adjacent nature conservation resource, or lead to the fragmentation, increase isolation, or damage to protected or priority habitats and/or priority or protected species"***

2.2.3 Those species protected by European or national legislation, namely the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Habitats Regulations, are considered within NC5:

"NC5 European and nationally protected species

Development proposals which would harm either directly or indirectly European or nationally protected species, and/or its habitat, will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need for the development"

2.2.3 Protection for Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats is given through NC6:

"NC6 Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species

Developments should have regard to those habitats and species listed in the UK and Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plans in order to protect, manage and enhance priority species and habitats. Proposals that might result in a threat to such priority species or habitats will not be permitted unless the reasons for the development clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the habitat or species"

2.2.4 Policy NC7 gives consideration to the retention of recognised biodiversity interests and to mitigate against any adverse impacts:

"NC7 Compensation for loss of biodiversity

Where development is permitted, appropriate measures will be required to avoid, minimise or offset the loss or damage to any biodiversity feature covered by policies NC2 to NV6. Such measures will be at least to the scale of the loss or impact."

2.2.5 The creation, retention and enhancements of habitat through development is encouraged through NC8:

"NC8 Habitat creation, restoration and enhancement

The design of new development and the restoration and reclamation of derelict and degraded sites and landscapes, should wherever possible, enhance existing wildlife habitats and provide new habitats for wildlife as opportunities arise. In bringing forward such measures proposals should:

1. ***retain and enhance existing semi-natural habitats, wildlife corridors or geological features within their layouts and design;***
2. ***demonstrate that they will have no adverse effects on any adjacent nature conservation resource;***
3. ***help to create or restore habitat networks in particular through the creation of new wildlife corridors and/or stepping stones; and***
4. ***contribute towards one or more targets in the Uk and Herefordshire biodiversity Action Plans.***

2.2.6 The management of those habitats created, restored or enhanced within NC8, or compensated for in NC7 is considered within NC9, thus:

"NC9 Management of landscape features

Development proposals which provide for the creation, restoration, enhancement or protection of biodiversity features including those provided as compensation for unavoidable loss in accordance with NC7, will also be required to provide for the management and monitoring of those features concerned. Conditions will be imposed or agreements entered into according to the nature of the management requirements needed"

2.2.7 The landscape value of trees within Herefordshire, for visual amenity, historical heritage and biodiversity is considered within LA5:

"LA5 Protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows

The enhancement and protection of individual trees, tree groups, woodlands and hedgerows will be secured by:

1. *placing Tree preservation Orders where necessary on trees, groups of trees, woodlands of amenity value, and making use of hedgerow protection legislation;*
2. *resisting proposals that would cause loss or damage to trees, hedgerows or woodlands which are worthy of retention. In particular proposals affecting protected trees will be subject to rigorous examination and only permitted where the development is in the publics interest. Where the felling of protected trees is accepted replacement trees will be sought;*
3. *requiring development proposals to include an acceptable landscaping scheme in accordance with policy LA6, the retention of those trees and hedgerows considered important to local amenity, together with measures to ensure their protection during development, and the replacement of trees and woodland lost to development with an equivalent area of planting; and*
4. *where appropriate taking into account as a material consideration the Woodland Management Guidelines produced for the Malvern Hills and Wye Valley AONBs and the Forestry Commission's England Forestry Strategy and its guidance upon Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands.*

Management agreements to enable new or increased public access to woodlands may be entered into, particularly where there is a shortage of such opportunities within the particular locality.

2.2.8 The proposals within development for landscaping schemes and thte opportunity to improve the local environment are considered within policy LA6:

"LA6 Landscaping schemes

Landscaping schemes will be required to be submitted as an integral part of any development proposal that will affect the visual amenity or character of the location. Landscaping schemes will be required to:

1. *assess the existing character and features of the particular site and its wider landscape character in accordance with policy LA2, Indicating how these have contributed to the overall design approach and which features, including trees, will be removed;*
2. *indicate and make arrangements to protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows, in accordance with policy LA5 and other landscape features worthy of retention; and*

3. *Include new landscape works to ensure development integrates appropriately into its surroundings in terms of scale, enhances any existing character and features and especially takes the opportunity to remove eyesores and improve disfigured or despoiled land.*

Landscaping works should be undertaken during development or as soon as possible thereafter. In the case of major proposals, consideration should be given to advanced landscaping works being carried out before building or enabling works are commenced."

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

2.2.9 There are 156 priority species (SEE appendix A) included within the Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan published by the Herefordshire Biodiversity Partnership (2000), and of these 59 have national action plans. There are also 17 UK BAP priority habitats within Herefordshire, plus 1 locally important habitat. These are:

- Upland mixed ash woods
- Lowland beech and yew woods
- Upland oakwood
- Wet woodlands
- Lowland wood pasture and parklands
- Traditional orchards
- Lowland hay meadows
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Upland calcareous grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Floodplain grazing marsh
- Grazing marsh
- Lowland heathland
- Upland heathland
- Ancient and/or species rich hedges
- Reedbeds
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Field margins

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Flora

3.1.1 The site was surveyed during February 2003 using the standard extended Phase 1 habitat assessment methodology, as adopted by English Nature, to identify specific habitats and features of ecological interest. Where habitats and features of ecological interest were observed more detailed species lists and notes were taken. (refer Appendix I)

Fauna

Badger (*Meles meles)*

3.1.2 Badgers, their setts and other structures of habitation are afforded statutory protection against wilful or reckless disturbance or harm under the Badger Act 1992 and under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), (As amended (1991)).

3.1.3 As part of the walkover survey all hedgerows, woodlands, scrub and other suitable habitats within the site and immediately adjacent, were searched for evidence of badger activity, following the standard methodology as outlined by Harris, Creswell and Jefferies (1991). Evidence sought indicating the presence of badgers included:

- Setts, including earth mounds, evidence of bedding and runways between setts;
- Latrines, often located close to setts, at territory boundaries or adjacent to favoured feeding areas;
- Prints and paths or trackways;
- Hairs caught on rough wood or fencing;
- Other evidence including snuffle holes, feeding and playing areas and scratching posts.

3.1.4 The identification of snuffle holes, scratching posts or feeding signs on their own are not necessarily conclusive evidence of the presence of badgers. A number of such signs need to be seen in conjunction before they can be said to be conclusive of badger activity.

Birds

3.1.5 A preliminary walk-over bird survey of the site was undertaken during February 2003. On the day of survey weather conditions were fine; cold, with no wind or rain. All the boundary habitats (Rudnall brook and hedgerows etc.) were walked at a slow pace, while regularly stopping to record bird activity. The boundaries were followed as birds generally migrate along such corridors, while activity in the open field can also be registered. The British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) standard coding system was used to register the birds sighted or heard on site. This involves the use of standard symbols to record bird activities such as calling, singing, alarm calls, flying etc. (See Figure 2.)

3.1.6 The significance of the birds recorded is discussed in section 3.0, Results. The evaluation is based on a set of conservation criteria compiled by governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK. (Including the Nature Conservancy Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)):

3.1.7 Red Data Birds (Batten et al. 1990) in Britain are selected on the basis of five criteria:

1. International Significance of British Populations
2. Scarcity as British Breeders
3. Declining Breeding Numbers
4. Restricted Distribution in Vulnerable Sites or Habitats
5. Species of Special Concern

3.1.8 The 'Population Status of Birds in the UK' (RSPB et al, 2002-2007) further lists birds according to the level of conservation concern they represent:

'Red List Species are those that are Globally threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose populations have declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recovery.'

'The Amber List species are those with an unfavourable population status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

'Species that fulfil none of the criteria are green listed.'

Bats (*Chiroptera)*

3.1.9 A preliminary bat survey comprising a visual assessment of any trees and buildings within the curtilage of the site was made to determine the level of likely bat activity within the site.

3.1.10 Evidence to confirm the use of trees includes:

- holes (including woodpecker and rot holes), flaking or cracked bark;
- dense ivy cover;

3.1.11 For buildings gaps in eve or soffit boards, raised or missing ridge tiles and gaps at gable ends suitable for bats to gain entry were looked for.

3.1.12 Evidence that an access point is actively used by bats includes

- staining around entry points
- bat droppings or urine staining under gaps.

3.1.13 Indicators that access points are not in use includes the presence of cobwebs and general detritus at the entrance.

Consultations

3.1.14 Consultations were also sought with local wildlife groups for additional records of protected species and sites of importance for nature conservation. Such groups included:

- Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
- Herefordshire Bat Group

4.0 RESULTS (refer to Figure 1)

Flora

Improved Grassland

4.1.1 Four field compartments exist within the site boundary. All four are improved grassland. In common with most intensively managed agricultural systems species diversity is poor with few associated species. Target note 1 represents perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* dominated grassland. Other occasional species include cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and on the field edges occasional yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and common mallow *Malva sylvestris*.

4.1.2 Within the westernmost field compartment, and adjacent to the Rudnall Brook, seasonal inundation or water-logging appears to have altered the species composition somewhat in that additional species including hairy sedge *Carex hirta*, jointed rush *Juncus articulatus* and hard rush *J. inflexus* are also present, (target note 2).

Hedgerows

4.1.3 Hedgerows were evaluated during the August 2001 survey, and the majority have not substantially changed. The Table 1 summarises the nature conservation value of each hedgerow.

Table 1

Hedgerow reference (refer Fig. 1.)	HEGS score	Nature conservation value	Notes
H1	2	Moderately high to high	Good structure and mix of species
H2	3	Moderate	Relatively poor and unmanaged
H3	2-	Moderately high	Good structure and mix of species
H4	4	Low	Defunct but old willow pollards present
H5	2-	Moderately high	Includes mature trees of high value

Hedgerow reference (refer Fig. 1.)	HEGS score	Nature conservation value	Notes
H6	3+	Moderate to Moderately high	Well managed but many alien species associated
H7	3+	Moderate to Moderately high	Almost only hawthorn but moderately good structure and more interesting ground flora at its southern end
H8	3	Moderate	Relatively poor and gappy
H9	2+	High	Excellent structure and with much standing dead-wood

4.1.4 Further hedgerows occur within the site boundary. However, these are dominated by non-native species and as such are of poor value for wildlife apart from their possible function as corridor habitat and as nesting sites for some bird species.

Rudnall Brook

4.1.5 The Rudnall Brook forms the southern boundary of the site and was generally of slow flow and shallow. The streambed was composed largely of fine sand and silt, no botanical species were observed within it. Typically this watercourse is over-shaded by scrub and mature crack willow *Salix fragilis* and alder *Alnus glutinosa* thereby reducing the diversity and density of marginal, emergent and aquatic vegetation associated with it. However, where the canopy is open or not so dense some associated species were observed these included greater willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, reed canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, branched bur reed *Sparganium erectum* and hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*.

Mature Trees

4.1.6 Few mature trees exist within the site itself. However those present are all mature examples. Within hedgerow H3 a mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and oak *Quercus robur* are present with ivy cover thereby increasing the structural diversity of the hedge-line and associated habitats. A further row of planted white poplar *Populus alba* exists adjacent to hedge H8.

4.1.7 A further mature **black poplar** *Populus nigra* exists just outside of the site boundary on the bank of the **Rudnall Brook** on the south western corner of the site. This example of a black **poplar** is over-mature with an estimated bole diameter of 4m. Several groupings of **mistletoe** *Vicum album* are present within the canopy.

Tall Ruderal

4.1.8 Two distinct areas of tall ruderal vegetation exist within the site boundary. Target note 3 represents an area of well rotted manure/organic waste on which tall ruderal vegetation has developed. Those species include wild carrot *Daucus carota*, burdock *Arctium minus* and broad-leaved willowherb.

4.1.9 A second area of tall ruderal vegetation is denoted by target note 4. Principally dominated by nettle *Urtica dioica*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* is also present.

Fauna

Badger

4.1.10 The whole site area was surveyed for field signs indicating the presence of badgers. No evidence was observed during the survey. A hole, which was observed during the original survey within H3, did not show signs of recent use by any species, although H3 and the surrounding area are used heavily by rabbit.

Birds

4.1.11 The results of the survey are depicted on Figure 2, 'Winter Bird Survey'. Twenty-three different species were recorded on the site and in the immediate area. The greatest proportion of birds were found along the Rudnall Brook and its vicinity. Predominantly passerines were recorded, including redpoll *Carduelis flammea* and siskin *Carduelis spinus* which were feeding on the alder *Alnus gluitinosa* trees.

4.1.12 Flocks of gold finches *Carduelis carduelis* were present along the brook, with individuals singing/calling in other areas of the site. A number of birds including black birds T*urdus merula* were observed drinking from the brook. Roving flocks of tits were feeding, calling and singing along the water course and the hedgerows on the site. The species recorded were blue tit *Parus caeruleus* coal tit *Parus ater*, great tit *Parus major* and long tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus.*

4.1.13 Two wader species were recorded on the site; snipe Gallinago gallinago and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. A pair of snipe were flushed from a marshy area to the north of Rudnall brook, before returning to the area to feed. Small flocks of lapwing were viewed flying over the site.

Water vole

4.1.14 The length of the Rudnall Brook was searched for evidence of water vole. No evidence was observed.

Bats

4.1.15 An initial survey of built structures and trees was made to determine the presence of suitable conditions and features often used by bat species.

4.1.16 There are several trees across the site that may provide suitable conditions for roosting bats. The two trees within the southern sections of H5, and several of the mature trees along the Rudnall Brook have a variety of features including rot holes, cracks and fissures within the bark and dense ivy. However, no evidence of occupation, such as staining around the holes and fissures was observed.

4.1.17 The buildings within the site generally do not offer suitable features for roosting bat species, being of modern design and construction. Tanyard Cottage may offer a potential roosting space within its roof space. Also, the structure marked as B1 (Figure 1) offers limited potential due to the timber cladding on the building exterior.

Consultations

4.1.18 The Herefordshire Wildlife Trust reported that there were no records of non-statutory sites or protected species in the local area and suggested that Tanyard Farm "holds little value to wildlife".

4.1.19 Information provided by the Herefordshire Bat Group suggested that pipistrelle bat roosts are present in the local area but no roosts have been reported within the site itself.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 Throughout the survey area no statutory constraints to development were observed and in general habitats within the site were of low or moderate nature conservation value. Habitats and features of greatest value include the Rudhall Brook, hedgerows and occasional mature trees.

5.1.2 No evidence of the site, or the immediately surrounding area, being utilised by badger was observed. Similarly, no evidence of water vole along the Rudnall Brook was recorded during survey.

5.1.3 Tanyard Cottage, B1 and a number of trees adjacent to Rudnall Brook and to the south of H5, were considered to be suitable as bat roost habitat and it is possible that the Rudnall Brook and some hedgerows act as corridors and foraging habitat for members of this group. Should any of these features require removal a bat survey will be required to determine the presence/absence of bats. All British bat species are fully protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and as such any damage or disturbance to a bat roost would require a license from English Nature. Failure to obtain a license could result in a fine of £5000 for each bat.

5.1.4 None of the birds recorded on the site are Red Data Book species (Batten (et al. (eds), 1990). A number of the species are however highlighted as being of conservation concern by the RSPB (et al. 2002.) Song thrushes *Turdus philomelos,* house sparrows *Passer domesticus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and linnet *Carduelis cannabina* were observed on the site. All the species are on the Red List of conservation concern due to declines in populations in the UK.

5.1.5 Further species of note included lapwing, lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, green woodpecker Picus viridis, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, grey wagtail *Moticilla cinerea* and goldcrest *Regulus ignicapillus*, which are feature on the amber list of conservation concern. The Amber List pertains to birds which have experienced a decline in population size/ range in the UK/EU, but not to the extent of the Red List species.

5.1.6 The Rudnall Brook and corridor attracts a richer assemblage of birds than the remainder of the site. The trees, particularly alder provide foraging habitat for a range of finches, while the over-mature layering crack willows *Salix fragilis* provide both foraging and nesting habitat for further species. Sandy bars present within the brook (areas of sand exposed within the channel) are used by wagtails particularly. It appears to represent a important habitat for the species noted.

5.1.7 Although largely over shaded at present the Rudnall Brook has nature conservation value and where the canopy is more open a more diverse flora is present. Consideration should be given to improvement of this area in the form of opening the canopy in places to allow a more diverse community to develop. The provision of a buffer strip along its length could easily be incorporated into public open space provision and if sympathetically managed would significantly enhance the nature conservation value of the site post-development.

5.1.8 The hedgerows radiating from the Brook also provide cover for a smaller number of birds, while the buildings on the site appear attractive to house sparrows and starlings. The open fields appear to provide little habitat of use, save to loan linnets and to the snipe, which frequent the marshy ground to the north of the brook (to the south west of the site).

5.1.9 Hedgerows are also of nature conservation value particularly H1, H3, H5, H8 and H9. Where feasible, retention of these hedges should be sought due to the general importance of these features to wildlife. Should any length require removal, replacement, on a like for like basis, elsewhere should be considered but taking into consideration linkages with other retained habitats within the site.

5.1.10 Two floral species recorded during survey are listed as Herefordshire BAP Priority Species, black poplar and mistletoe. Both species are situated in the extreme south-western corner of the site, immediately adjacent to the Rudhall Brook.

5.1.11 There are also two bird species which are included within the Herefordshire BAP as Priority Species. These are lapwing and song thrush. The area may also offer suitable foraging and roosting opportunities for other Herefordshire BAP priority species, including barn owl and bat species.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 As discussed in the previous report, the site holds little conservation value due to its history of intensive management. The areas of most interest on site are the Rudnall Brook and a wet strip of approximately 20m to the north within the western field compartment.

6.1.2 The bulk of bird activity on the site is restricted to the Rudnall Brook and the approx. 20m corridor to the north. The areas supports 4 of the species listed as of conservation concern by the RSPB. The Brook and it surrounds appears to provide foraging and potential nesting sites for a number of species. The buildings on the site are also of value to starling and house sparrow, while the hedgerows are frequented by song thrush.

6.1.3 It is recommended that at least a 20m strip of land to the north of the Rudnall Brook should be preserved and its conservation value enhanced. This could include creating scrapes and sandy banks, increasing the marsh cover and planting small groups of UK sourced native trees (e.g. goat willow *Salix caprea*). The area should be safeguarded as far as possible from public access and pets. The area immediately surrounding the black poplar should be surrounded by a 20m conservation area.

6.1.4 The hedgerows, as foraging, nesting and dispersal areas and corridors for species such as bats, should be maintained and enhanced through further native planting. Should it become necessary to remove sections, additional hedgerows/planting should replace that lost. Additional tree planting will provide new habitat, as well as screening the development. Existing gaps within the hedgerow should be utilised wherever possible within development proposals.

6.1.5 All nesting birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Any removal of vegetation (particularly woody vegetation) during the development should proceed outside of the main breeding season (most suitable months for operations: September- February).

6.1.6 A bat survey to determine the presence or absence of this species within any built structures would be necessary if development calls for their removal. Ideally this survey should be undertaken within the recommended survey period of April to October (inclusive). These surveys should incorporate roost/emergence surveys, and internal inspections of all buildings to be removed. Similarly, any trees that are to be removed should be surveyed prior to removal. The presence of barn owl could also be investigated at this time.

Target Note	Report Section
1	3.1
2	3.2
3	3.8
4	3.9

Persimmon Homes Ltd

Tanyard Farm, Ross-on-Wye.

PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

Figure 1

Not to scale February 2003

Bird registrations

GO	Gold finch singing	LT ? LT	Long tailed tit: probably the same bird	D.	Dunnock
SK	Siskin pair	SN	Snipe	GL	Grey wagtail
GR	Green finch flying away	L.	Lapwing	PW	Pied wagtail
CH	Chaffinch calling	MA	Mallard	G	Green woodpecker
Btmat	Blue tit with nesting material	LB	Lesser black-backed gull	HS	House sparrow
GT	Great tit flying to perch	ST	Song thrush	BZ	Buzzard
CT	Coal tit flying over	B	Black bird	WR	Wren
GC	Gold crest	LI	Linnet	LR	Red pole

OVERPOSS

Rudnall brook

- Improved grassland
- Hardstanding
- Buildings/barns
- Outbuildings/kennels
- Garden
- Tall ruderal
- Domestic hedge
- Hedge
- Mature trees and scrub
- Rudhall brook
- Fenceline

Persimmon Homes Ltd

Tanyard Farm, Ross-on-Wye.

WINTER BIRD SURVEY

Figure 2

Not to scale February 2003

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