Salopian Consultancy

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

(Incorporating an Extended Phase 1 Survey and Preliminary Roost Assessment)

Project: The Sun Inn Winforton, Herefordshire, HR3 6EA

Prepared by D. Williams MArborA, MRSB, MSc, BSc, RFS Cert Arb

On Behalf of: Mr Evans

Foreword

Salopian Consultancy Ltd is an Arboricultural/Ecological consultancy which provides inputs to guide developers and architects during the planning process. Constraints information is presented during the design stage and liaison undertaken with local planning authorities to provide assistance with technical queries pre, during and post construction phases.

Core services include BS5837:2012 tree surveys, condition assessments, mortgage applications and woodland management. In addition, Salopian Consultancy Ltd have in house ecological expertise enabling them to perform a range of Phase 1 and Phase 2 ecological surveys.

Report revision record

	Draft	Final Version
Report Reference	SC:502	SC:502
Project	Sun Inn	Sun Inn
Author	D.Williams	
Proof Read	R.Parry	
Issue Date	18.10.2021	20.10.2021

Contents

Executive summary

Brief of the study and context of development

This report has been prepared to identify the key ecological constraints to inform a planning application for two residential dwellings within the curtilage of the Sun Inn. The focus of the study has been to highlight those ecological constraints to ensure that they have been given due consideration during the design and planning process, whilst identifying opportunity for biodiversity enhancements.

Survey methods

A desk study of historic ecological records and a Phase 1 habitat survey were performed to assess the site's potential to support protected species. This study was extended to include a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of those trees and buildings on site by a licensed Ecologist.

Findings and recommendations

The site largely comprises of amenity grassland, with established boundary hedgerows and trees which provide suitable opportunities for nesting birds. Several ponds were identified during the desk study all of which are located in excess of 100m from the site. The primary habitat on site comprises of shortly mown amenity grassland which is not considered suitable amphibians such as Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*). This species is not deemed a constraint to the proposal taking into account the barriers to dispersal and distances between those local ponds identified and the site, as well as the absence of historical records of this species within 2km.

The proposal will require the demolition of the existing garage. The PRA classified this structure as providing a low level of bat roost potential. Those features identified are restricted to crevices associated with the ridge tiles of the structure, such that the likely mitigation if bats were to be present would be the use of integrated bat box/bat bricks upon the new build. Such measures would secure replacement roosting opportunities for crevice dwelling species of bat. The exact specification of the mitigation would need to be informed by further Phase 2 studies and demolition works performed under license where bat(s) are present.

Further surveys and ecological enhancements

Further Phase two emergence/re-entry surveys are required to comply with statutory legislation before any works commence upon the garage to determine either the presence or likely absence of roosting bats. Surveys must be undertaken in accordance with current best practice guidelines to inform licensing measures, where required. Such surveys are time critical and need to be performed between May and September during optimal weather conditions to meet current survey guidelines.

The removal of trees/vegetation must be timed to fall between September and February outside of the bird nesting season to avoid contravening protective legislation in connection with nesting birds or immediately after a pre-commencement check by suitably qualified personnel.

No evidence of other protected species or notable habitats were identified during the survey. The proposal has the opportunity to provide enhancements for protected species through the installation bat boxes upon the buildings as well as new tree planting to provide a net gain in canopy cover and biodiversity. Such provisions could be secured through a suitably worded planning condition.

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 This report, it`s plans and associated appendices have been prepared on behalf of Mr Evans to meet those requirements of an Extended Phase 1 Survey at `Sun Inn', hereafter referred to as 'The Site'. The Site is centred on approximate Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SO2980 4707 illustrated in Plan 1.

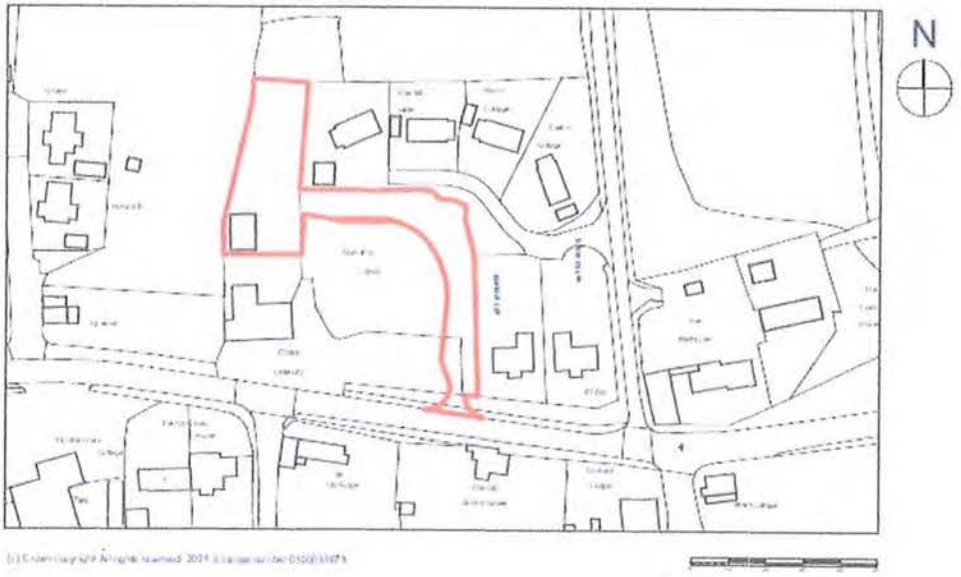
1.2 The Phase 1 survey was extended to include an assessment of the site's suitability for protected species including a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of trees and structures within the site. The data obtained from this survey is presented in a Phase 1 habitat map (Plan 2) illustrating habitats recorded with targets notes used to highlight features of interest. Further details on the methodology adopted during the Extended Phase 1 survey and desk study are included in Appendix 1.

1.3 The survey was performed on the 27th September 2021 by Douglas Williams, Salopian Consultancy Ltd.'s Principal Ecologist. Doug is an experienced Ecologist/Arboriculturist who holds an MSc in Biological Recording, protected species licences for both bats and great crested newts, and memberships with the Royal Society of Biology, the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and the Arboricultural Association.

Site location and context of development

1.4 The site is located within the settlement of Windforton, situated to the north of the A438 and includes the northern part of the curtilage of the Sun Inn. The site is bound partly by a species poor hedgerow and broad leaved trees. An initial assessment of the proposal identifies that planning permission is sought for two residential dwellings and means of highway access.

Figure 1: Site location plan



Scope of the study

1.5 The primary focus of the study is to;

- Meet the validation requirements of Hereford Council by presenting the findings of an Extended Phase 1 Survey in a clear and concise manner.
- Include the content set by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines[1], for ecological appraisals.
- Classify and map those habitat types within and immediately adjacent to the application area.
- Identify both habitats and species constraints pertinent to the development proposal.
- Detail European Protected Species Mitigation licensing (EPSML) requirements, Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) and mitigation measures where required.
- Identify opportunities for the proposal to provide enhancements to the ecological resource on site.

Limitations

1.6 The survey was not considered to be limited by seasonal or climatic factors and was undertaken within a suitable time of the year given the habitats and species likely to be present.

1.7 The Extended Phase 1 survey provides a snap shot of the potential of habitats to support protected species. It should be noted that the absence of field signs does not necessarily confirm the absence of a species due to the dynamic and seasonal nature of many protected species. The suitability of a site may also increase with succession over time or with changes in land management practices. Further advice should be sought from Salopian Consultancy Ltd In the event that a protected species or field signs of such species are discovered during works.

[1] Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management., *(2015). Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing* Appendix A.

Section 2 Planning policy & statutory controls

Statutory legislation

2.1 A range of EU and UK legislation offers statutory protection to species and habitats which Local Planning Authorities have a duty to consider whilst determining planning applications. The following EU directives are relevant to protected species, habitats, and designated sites;

- The EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
- The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

2.2 Much of the EU legislation is transposed into domestic legislation with respect to protected species and habitats, including;

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)
- The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

2.3 The Association of Local Government Ecologist (ALGE) provides a summary of the criteria and thresholds[2] to determine when an Ecological survey should be performed. Many Local Planning Authorities have adopted this guidance to ensure that the correct information is presented when considering the impacts upon biodiversity during the planning process.

National and local planning policy

2.4 Natural habitats and the species they support provide a range of ecosystem services that have considerable financial, cultural, and recreational benefits. The National Planning Policy Framework (2021) (NPPF)[3] highlights the importance of natural habitats, the species they supports and the requirements of development to maintain, promote and enhance the natural environment. The requirements of new development to provide a net gain in biodiversity and establishing ecological networks are clearly set out in para 174, 179 and 180.

2.5 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. A key purpose of this duty is to embed consideration of biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision making throughout the public sector.

2.6 At a local level Hereford Council's Core Strategy LD2 & LD3 encourages development 'which conserves, enhances, connects, restores, or recreates natural assets. These policies require new development to contribute to the delivery of new green in structure as well as protecting and existing assets.

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[2] Association of Local Government Ecologist., *(2007). Template for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.* Table 1.

[3] Department for Communities and Local Government., *(2021). National Planning Policy Framework.* Para175 d.

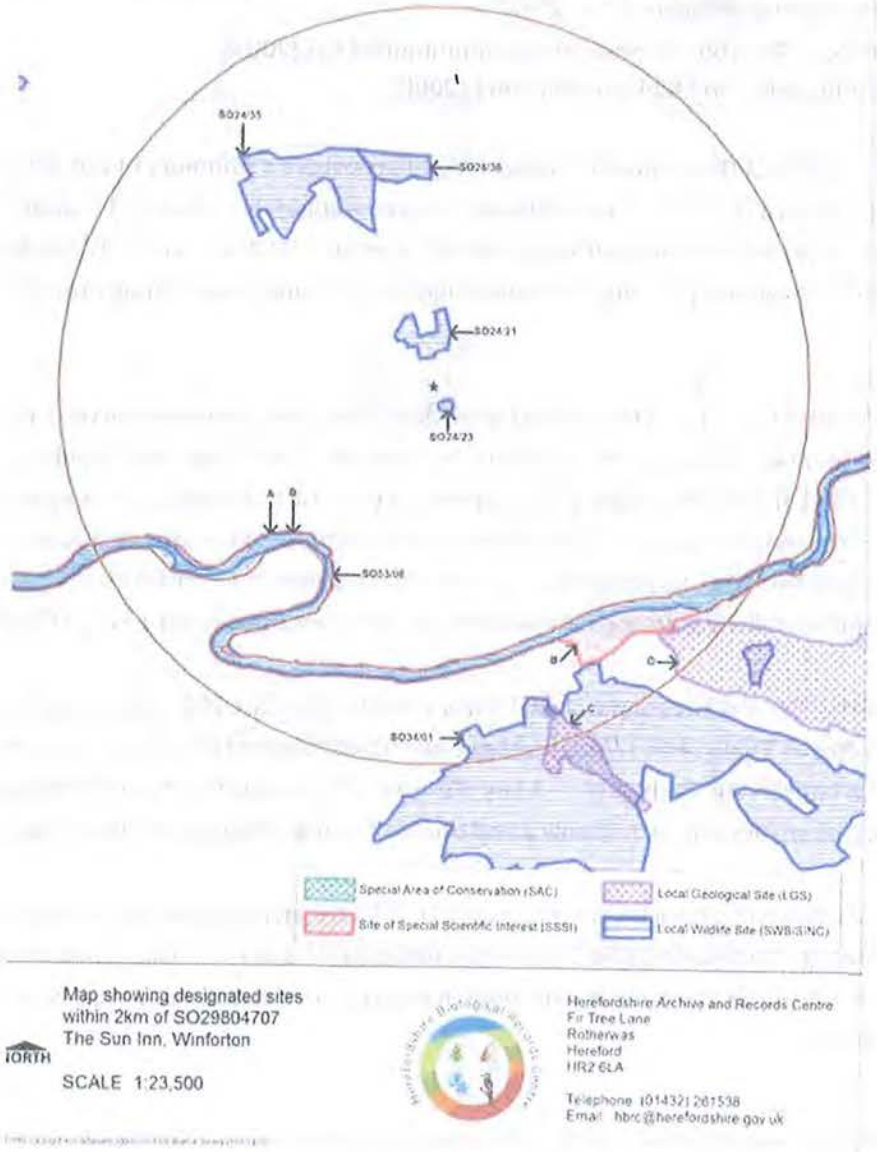
Section 3: Survey findings

Desk study

3.1 The desk study summarised in Appendix 1 forms an important part of the ecological assessment. It provides contextual information, such as the site's proximity to designated sites and the location of historical protected species records. This information is used to support those recommendations and evaluate the information gathered during the Extended Phase 1 survey when assessing the site's suitability for protected species.

3.2 A review of OS maps and online mapping resources was undertaken to identify designations of conservation concern within 1km of the site. Historic species records held by Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) have been reviewed and those pertinent to the study are discussed overleaf.

Figure 2: Local wildlife sites within 1km of the applications area



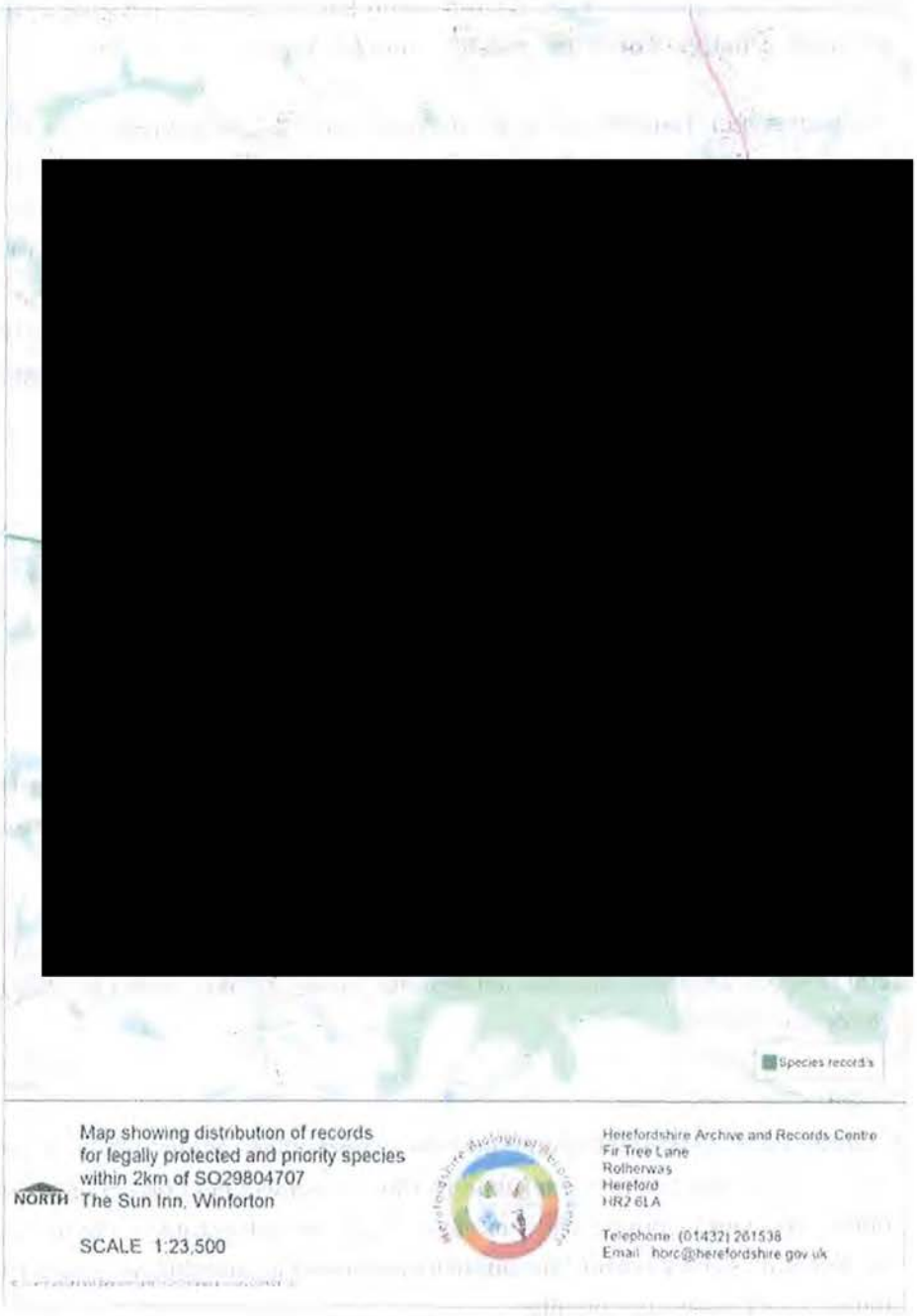
Map showing designated sites within 2km of SO29804707
The Sun Inn, Winforton

SCALE 1:23,500

Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre
Fir Tree Lane
Rotherwas
Hereford
HR2 6LA

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

Figure 3: Protected species records held by HBRC within 1km of the site



Statutory/ non-Statutory Designation within 1km

3.3 The River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) falls approximately 1km of the site at it`s nearest point.

3.4 The nearest non statutory site is 'Winforton Church' a Special Wildlife Site (SWS), located 70m south west of the site, with 'Nicholas Common' SWS located 110m to the north recognised for the unimproved common land which supports a diverse flora. Within the wider landscape 'Winforton Wood' and the 'Meadow adjacent to Winforton Wood, Lady Arbour Farm' SWSs were noted, both of which are located approximately 800m north of the site, designated for ancient woodland and unimproved damp grassland respectively. 'Merbach Hill, Benfield Park and Westonhill Wood' SWS is located 1.5km south east of the site which contains ancient semi natural woodland.

Species records

3.5 During the desk study, a total of 991 species records were obtained within a 2km search radius of the site. Pertinent records to the study include those records of Smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris)* and Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) recorded approximately 150m south west of the site, Common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) were also recorded within the local area.

3.6 Records of Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctule*) and Brown long eared bat (*Plecotus auratus*) have been recorded within the wider landscape.

3.7 Historical records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [redacted] were returned in 2008 – 2009 beyond 1km from the site, and a single record of Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) is held at Winforton Church'.

Habitat Suitability Index

3.8 A desk-based assessment identified five waterbodies within 250m of site illustrated in Figure 2. A written request was made to the respective land owners gain access to view the ponds two weeks prior to the survey. Access was not granted at the time of the survey therefore an assessment for the suitability for breeding amphibians using a Habitat Suitability Index HSI score was not possible.

Figure 4: waterbodies within 250m from the site

Preliminary roost assessment – structures/trees

3.9 A ground-based assessment of those trees located on and immediately off site to the east did not identify any features capable of supporting roosting bats.

3.10 The site supports a single man made structure, a garage used as a workshop. The building is formed using a breezeblock construction supporting pre-fabricated roofing trusses and is lined with a membrane internally. The internal space is used regularly as a workshop to store tools and materials. No historical evidence of roosting bats such as droppings or feeding remains were identified internally during the PRA.

3.11 Externally the building is overall in a good condition however two small crevices were noted from missing cement at the southern gable and where a ridge tile is missing. Such features are known to be suitable for species within the Pipistrelles genus, providing a source of refuge from the elements and most likely to be used as a summer day roost. This building has been classified as providing as low level of bat roost potential in line with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines, due to low number of external crevice features which have the potential to support single to small number of bats.

Figure 5: Garage proposed for demolition

Figure 6: Potential roost features

Phase 1 survey

3.12 The application area comprises of shortly mown amenity grassland which supports common flowering species such as Broad leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium),* Dandelion (Taraxacum sp), Spear thistle *(Cirsium vulgare*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Nettle (*Urtica dioica).*

3.13 A linear group of Leyland cypress (*Cupressus × leylandii*) were noted close to the proposed access point and a boundary hedgerow comprising predominately of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) along the eastern boundary of the site. Along the north eastern boundary this hedgerow differs comprising predominately of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinos*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) which is well maintained and was noted to have Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus)* beneath. A group of mature Ash trees are located adjacent to the northern boundary.

Figure 7: Main body of the site looking toward the rear of the Sun Inn

Section 4: Evaluation of ecological constraints and opportunities

Designations

4.1 The site does not fall within directly adjacent to any statutory or non-statutory sites of conservation concern.

4.2 Given the context/scale of the proposal and the current land use no impacts are envisaged upon the functionality of neighbouring designated sites or the species they support.

Habitats

4.3 Those habitats on site are restricted to shortly mown amenity grassland and species poor hedgerows with occasional coniferous trees. These habitats are considered to be of limited ecological merit such that their loss and modification is not considered to be a major constraint to development.

Protected species

4.4 The boundary hedgerows and trees provide nesting opportunities for a range of common passerine. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), this makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- Take, damage or destroy the egg of any wild bird; or
- To have in one's possession, or control, any wild bird (dead or alive) or egg or any part of a wild bird or egg.

4.5 Vegetation removal should therefore be timed to fall between September and February outside of the bird nesting season, to avoid contravening the legislation above or immediately after a pre-commencement check by suitably qualified personnel.

4.6 The PRA confirmed that the garage provides features capable of supporting roosting bats. This structure is not considered suitable as a maternity roost given the structures day to day use and without any historic evidence such as droppings within garage. Such evidence would be expected where bats have utilised the temperature gradient of voids even in low numbers for maternity purposes. Those features which were identified as having the potential to support roosting bats are associated with crevices provided by the roof structure (lifted roof and ridge tiles).

4.7 Such features are well documented as being used by crevice dwelling species such as the Pipistrellus genus as day/night roosts, often without any visible field signs due to the nature of the crevice feature. At this stage the building is considered to provide a low level of bat roost potential categorised in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines due the low number of crevice features which have the potential to support single to small number of bats.

4.8 All species of UK bats are listed as an EPS on Schedule 2 of the Conservation Regulations (Annex IV(a) to the Habitats Directive), affording it protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, It is an offence to;

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of an EPS;
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS wherever they are occurring, in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or in the case of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a wild animal of an EPS; or
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a wild animal of an EPS.

4.9 In the event the building is being used by bats the likely mitigation to compensate for the loss of such a roost type may involve an integrated bat box/bat bricks upon the new build or a bat boxes upon one of the remaining trees on site. Such measures would secure replacement roosting opportunities for crevice dwelling species of bat. The exact specification of the mitigation would need to be informed by further Phase 2 studies and works performed under license where bats are present.

4.10 The main body of the site which is restricted to shortly mown amenity grassland is not considered suitable for protected species.

4.11 Five water bodies were identified within 250m, access was not permitted at the time of the Phase 1 survey to undertake an assessment of their suitability for protected species of amphibians, notably Great crested newt.

4.12 Great crested newt are listed as an EPS on Schedule 2 of the Conservation Regulations (Annex IV(a) to the Habitats Directive), affording it protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, It is an offence to;

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of an EPS;
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS wherever they are occurring, in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or in the case of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a wild animal of an EPS; or
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a wild animal of an EPS.

4.13 No historic records of Great crested newts are held by HBRC or within the 2017 – 2019 pond survey data and Great crested newt class survey licence returns held by Magic.gov.uk. The nearest ponds are located 105m – 130m south of the site, the A438 provide a significant barrier to dispersal between the site and these ponds. A further pond referred to as Pond 1 is located to 120m north east of the site.

4.14 Studies involving capture-mark-recapture and radio tracking of great crested newt populations have shown that the large majority of a population remain within the first 50m of the breeding pond. Presence drops significantly as distances increase up to 100m from the breeding pond (Mullner 2001, Jehle 2000)[4] hence the likelihood of encountering newt beyond 100m from their breeding ponds is significantly reduced.

4.15 English Nature Research Report 576 published the findings of research into mitigation schemes (Cresswell and Whitworth, 2004)[5] which mirrors the findings of the studies above *"The most comprehensive mitigation, in relation to avoiding disturbance, killing or injury is appropriate within 50m of a breeding pond. It will also almost always be necessary to actively capture newts 50-100m away. However, at distances greater than 100m, there should be careful consideration as to whether attempts to capture newts are necessary or the most effective option to avoid incidental mortality. At distances greater than 200-250m, capture operations will hardly ever be appropriate".*

4.16 The site is therefore considered beyond the distance where the majority of Great crested newts within a breeding population would be expected to be found. Furthermore, the habitats the site supports (restricted to amenity grassland), are not considered suitable for amphibians during their terrestrial phase, given the absence of suitable refugia. In addition, a major A road and residential development restricts connectivity to and from the site for such species.

4.17 The presence of Great crested newts is not deemed a constraint to the proposal based on the rationale above and acknowledging that no records of this species have been historically recorded within 2km of the site.

4.18 No evidence or fields signs of Badger (such as setts or scraps) were identified within 30m of the site boundaries. Given the mobile and dynamic nature of badgers, if any excavation is discovered prior or during works an update survey should be completed by a competent ecologist should to confirm the cause of the excavation before works continue.

4.19 No field signs or habitats considered suitable to support other protected species such as dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) were identified on the site or highlighted during the desk study.

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[4]Müllner, A. (2001) *Spatial patterns of migrating Great Crested Newts and Smooth Newts: The importance of the terrestrial habitat surrounding the breeding pond*). Rana

[5]Cresswell, W. & Whitworth, R.(2004)) *An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt Triturus cristatus*. Report no 576.English Nature

Artificial Lighting

4.20 All new Artificial lighting will need take into account those measures recommended in the 'Bat Conservation Trusts Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and artificial lighting in the Uk to ensure dark corridors remain for nocturnal commuting/foraging wildlife.

4.21 Lighting should be directed to where it is needed to avoid unnecessary light spillage. All proposed new lighting should be directed away from any vegetated boundary features to retain dark corridors for commuting bats across the site.

4.22 Artificial lighting should lack UV element the use of LEDs is advised due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability. Metal halide, fluorescent sources should not be used.

4.23 Lighting should adopt a warm white spectrum, ideally below 2700 kelvin with a peak wavelength higher than 550nm, thus avoiding emitting those wavelengths of light most disturbing to bats[6] (Stone 2012). Security lighting should be activated by movement sensors to reduce the amount of time the lights are activated, set on a short timer (maximum of 1 minute), and orientated towards the ground. The use of accessories such as hoods/cowls or shields is advised to help direct light to the required area only.

4.24 New planting can be used to provide an effective barrier to light spillage off site, this would be well placed upon the western boundary.

Biodiversity enhancements

4.25 It is recommended that enhancements to the site for bats are provided through the incorporation of a 2FR Schwegler bat tube upon the south facing aspect of the proposed dwellings southern gable at a minimum height of 4m. The erection of a 2F Schwegler bat boxes upon one of the remaining trees on site would also be a suitable alternative.

4.26 Enhancement of the site for nesting birds could be provided through the erection of Schwegler 1B Nest Boxs with a 32mm entrance hole upon those remaining trees on site. This bird box is designed to attract Great tit (*Parus major*), Blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), Marsh tit (*Poecile palustris*), Coal tit (*Periparus ater*), Crested Tit (*Lophophanes cristatus*), Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea)*, Collared flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*) Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca),* Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

4.27 In addition to roosting provisions for bat and birds there is the opportunity to incorporate new hedgerow and tree planting to increase the level of biodiversity across the site. New planting such should include a minimum 60% of native species with a focus of those known to be beneficial to pollinators as described in RHS plant for pollinators guidance.

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[6] Stone, E.L., Jones, G., Harris, S. (2012). Conserving energy at a cost to biodiversity? Impacts of LED lighting on bats. Glob. Change Biol. 18, 2458–2465

4.28 An EL1 – Flowering lawn mix would be advantageous for areas of open space which includes slow growing grass species and a variety of wild flower which respond well to regular short mowing.

4.29 All Tree and hedgerow planting should meet the requirements of BS8545: 2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations with specific reference to the procurement of new trees, species selection, aftercare and maintenance. This could be achieved via planning condition through a formal Tree Planting Scheme.

Section 5 Conclusion

5.1 The application area comprises of a compartment of amenity grassland with species poor hedgerows denoting the eastern boundary with occasional coniferous trees within the application area and mature deciduous trees denoting the northern boundary.

5.2 A number of ponds were identified within 250m of the site during the desk study, access was not avalaible to carry out a HSI during the extended Phase 1 survey. The site itself supports limited opportunities for species of amphibians given the lack of refuge within the main body of the site.

5.3 The likelihood of encountering Great crested newts on site is considered very low given the distance from the ponds, poor suitability of terrestrial habitat and barriers to dispersal. Furthermore, with no known records of this species in the local area Great crested newts are not deemed a constraint to the proposal.

5.4 The PRA identified that the garage proposed for removal has been classified as providing a low degree of bat roost potential by virtue of the crevices associated with the roof tiles. Given the statutory protection afforded to bats (and their resting places), further presence/absence surveys are required prior to any works associated this building. These surveys are time critical and need to be undertaken between May and September to meet current survey guidelines.

5.5 No evidence of other protected species were identified during the course of the study, therefore the proposal is not considered to be limited by any other ecological constraints.

5.6 The proposal has the potential to provide enhancements to the site as an ecological asset through the incorporation of both bird and bat boxes upon mature trees as well and new tree and hedgerow planting.

5.7 The site should be maintained in its current context to ensure its suitability for protected species does not inadvertently increase prior to development.

5.8 Subject to the implementation of those recommendations set out within Section 4 of this report, no significant impacts upon protected species are considered likely to arise. In the

event of a protected species being encountered during works; all works will halt, and further advice shall be sought from Salopian Consultancy Ltd.

5.9 The findings of this report are valid for up to two years from its date. In the event the development proposals/application area alters significantly a re-assessment of the likely impacts by a suitably experienced Ecologist will be required.

Appendix 1 Summary of Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Desk Study

The desk study is an integral role in the ecological assessment. This desk-based study provides contextual information, such as the sites' proximity to designated sites and known records of protected species. This information is used to supplement the findings of the Extended Phase 1 Survey, and used to inform the recommendations and conclusions in Section 2 & 3.

Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC)

- Protected/UK BAP species records (2km)
- Statutory and non statutory designation with (2km)

MAGIC website[7]

- International statutory designations (1km)
- National statutory designations (1km)
- Waterbodies within 250m radius

Extended Phase 1 Survey

The aim of the survey is to record and map the main habitat types and dominant plant species present in accordance with those classifications detailed in Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey, JNCC, 20104[8]. The survey was extended to include an assessment of the suitability of those habitats for protected species undertaken by an experienced ecologist holding appropriate protected species licences, and membership with Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and the Royal Society of Biology.

The survey does not aim to provide a complete floral and faunal inventory but seeks to identify field signs and/or habitats with the potential to support protected species. The need for further detailed Phase 2 Survey(s) were determined on this basis.

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[7] Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website (www.magic.gov.uk/)

[8] Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) Handbook for Phase I Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit. JNCC Peterborough.

Bat Roosting Assessment: Trees

An assessment of all suitable trees located on site was undertaken by a Natural England licensed bat worker to determine their potential to support roosting bats. This assessment was undertaken from ground level using binoculars and/or endoscopes.

All trees examined were categorised based on the number and types of features known to be suitable to support roosting bats, summarised in 6.2.4 of "Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines [9]". These features include but are not limited to;

- Cracks and splits in limbs,
- Cavities,
- Woodpecker holes,
- Loose bark thick-stemmed ivy.

Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment: Buildings

A daytime external assessment of all structures on site was undertaken to determine their potential to support roosting bats, including but not limited to;

- Cracks and crevices in brick work, timber joist/purlins.
- Slipped or missing roof and ridge tiles.
- Gaps between soffits and barge boards.

An internal assessment of all accessible loft voids was undertaken by a Natural England licensed bat worker for evidence of roosting bats such as droppings, feeding remains and urine staining within accessible areas.

Potential suitability of the structures are assessed by assigning a rating of low to high based on the number and type of external features considered suitable for roosting bats. The need for Phase 2 Emergence Surveys is decided on this basis.

Reptiles

Terrestrial searches were undertaken during the Extended Phase 1 Survey for reptiles seeking refuge beneath debris, including log piles and brick/rubble where present.

Nesting Birds

An assessment from the ground of all trees and boundary vegetation located on or immediately adjacent to the site boundary was undertaken by an experienced ecologist, to determine the suitability of habitats for nesting birds.

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[9] Collins,J. (ed) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)* The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Badgers

An experienced ecologist undertook a thorough site walkover to identify any evidence/field signs of badgers including setts, scrapings produced during foraging behaviour, latrines, paths and prints.

Where present, an assessment of excavations was made taking into account the shape of the entrance, quantity of spoil and presence of badger hair/claw marks. A classification of sett type are made (Main Sett, Annex, Subsidiary, Outlier) based on the level of activity, number of entrances and proximity to other Setts in accordance with Harris et al (1989) [10].

[10] Harris, S., Cresswell, P., and Jefferies, D. (1989). Surveying Badgers. Occasional publication of the Mammals Society.

Appendix 2 Target notes

TN1 Bonfire

TN2 Garage proposed for demolition

Appendix 3 Access letter to off site ponds

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07/09/2021

[redacted]

[redacted]

Salopian Consultancy are undertaking a series of wildlife surveys in the local area and are seeking access to those ponds illustrated in the plan overleaf, which we believe one or more may fall within your land ownership.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether you would be willing to permit access by way of replying to this letter using the pre-paid envelope enclosed. If I do not receive a reply I shall assume that access is not permitted.

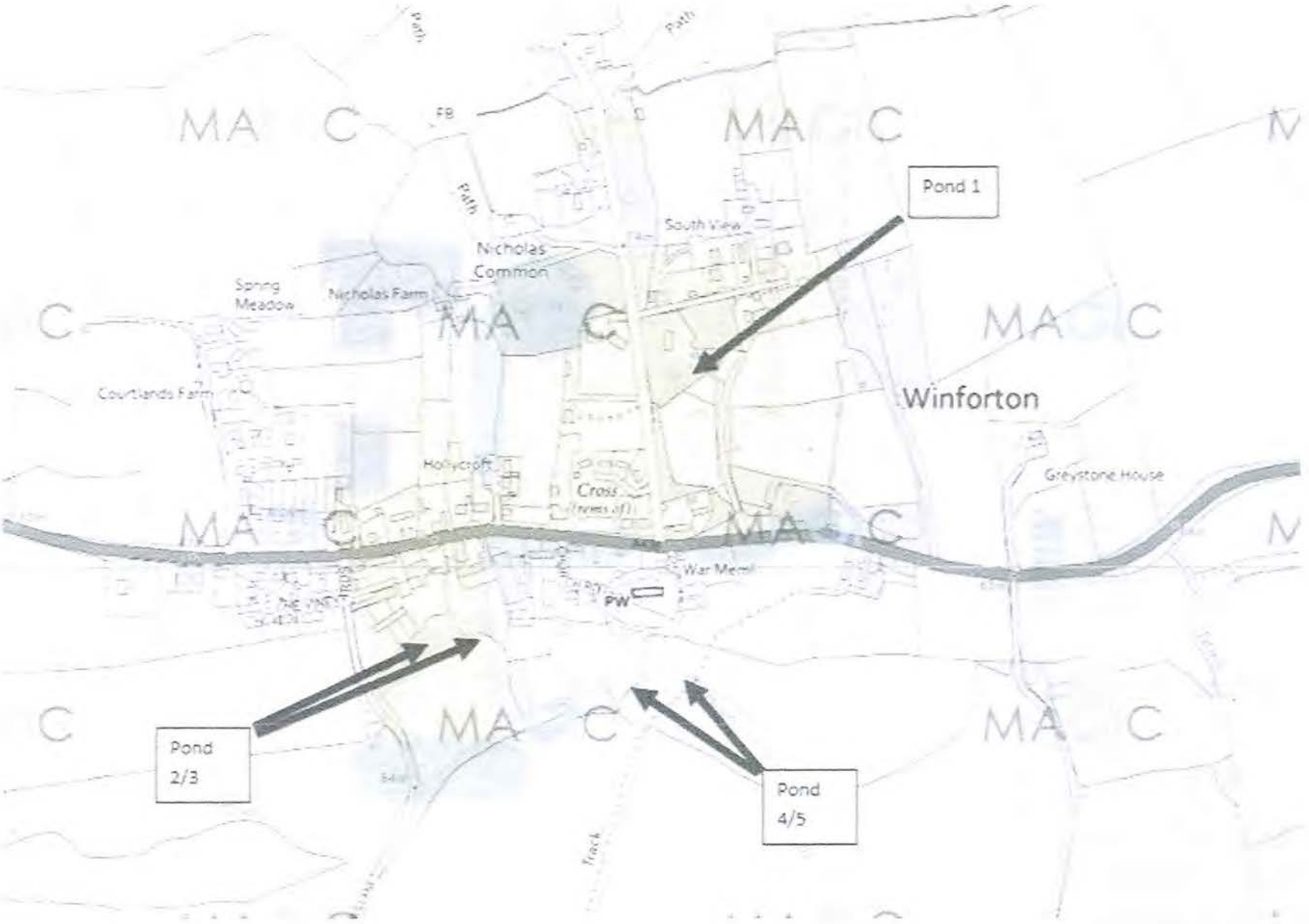
Should you have any quires please do get in touch using the contact information above.

Kind regards

Douglas Williams

I grant permission for access .....

I reject permission for access.....


Pond 1
Winforton
Pond
2/3
Pond
4/5
Nicholas
Common
Spring
Meadow
Nicholas Farm
Courtlands Farm
Hollycroft
Cross
(remains of)
South View
Greystone House
War Memil
PW
Path
Track

Salopian Consultancy

doug@salopianconsultancy.co.uk
M:07939947631 T:01743243225

Plan 1:Phase 1 Habitat map

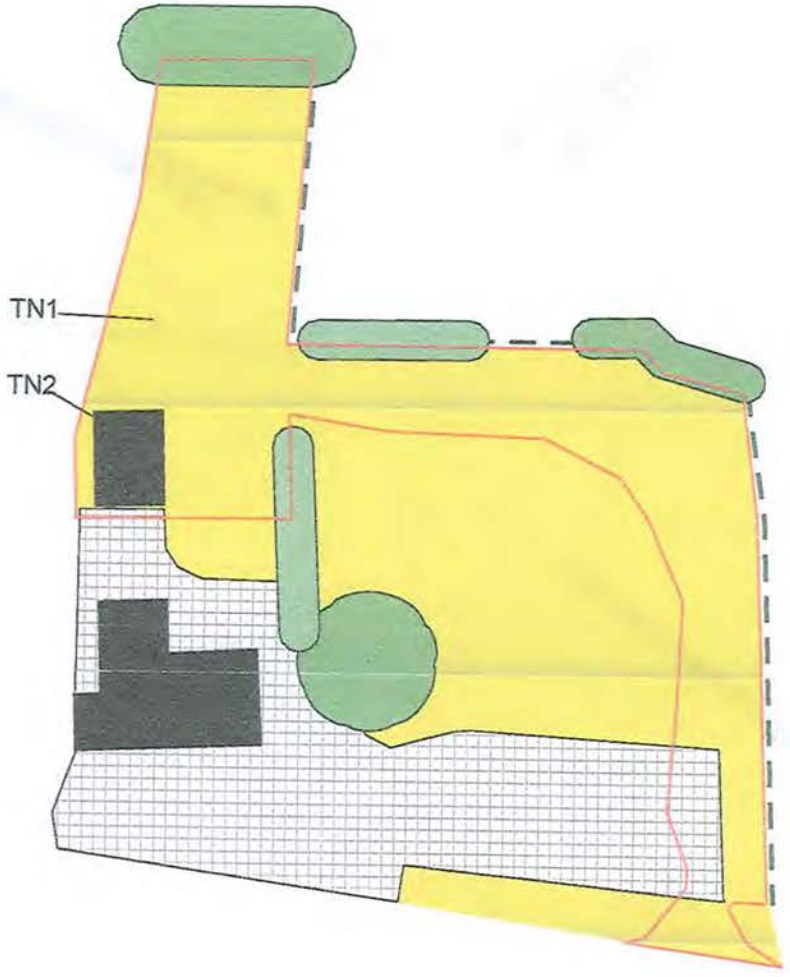
SCALE : 1 : 750 @ A4

DATE : 20/10/2021

MAP FILENAME : Sun Inn

N

0 40m



Key

- Amenity grassland
- Hard standing
- Broad-leaved trees
- Coniferous trees
- Buildings
- Species poor hedgerow
- Survey area
- TN Target note