



Ecological Appraisal

Land rear of Ivy's Cottage
Smiths End Lane
Barley
SG8 8LH

December 2024

For and on behalf of:
Mr Andy Noades
Ivy's Cottage
Smiths End Lane
Barley
SG8 8LH



ELMAW Consulting
*Consultant Ecologists &
Wildlife Managers*

Author

Keith Seaman BSc, DipHE, CertHE, CBiol, MRSB, MCIEEM
Chartered Biologist & Principal Consultant

Date of Report

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Declaration

This report has been produced endeavouring to follow the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct and ecological information has been provided in accordance with British Standards BS 42020 2013-Biodiversity-Code of practice for planning and development.

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure this report accurately identifies potential ecological constraints to development or the likely presence or absence of species and the spatial and temporal use of the site by such species, it must only be viewed as a snapshot in time and reflects the ecological status of the site at the time of survey.

No liability can be assumed for ecological changes that may or may not occur on the surveyed site after the production of this report. The author of this report must be consulted as to the current applicability of the report if there are any seasonal delays in the use of this report.

This report can only be used for the purposes for which it was instructed and agreed at the time of commission.

Quality Assurance

Author	Keith Seaman
Checked and approved by	Emma Seaman Director of Ecology

Report produced by:



ELMAW Consulting

Consultant Ecologists
& Wildlife Managers



Greys Farm, Therfield Road, Royston, Herts SG8 9NW

Phone: 01763 245900

E mail: info@elmaw.co.uk

Website: www.elmaw.co.uk

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Executive Summary

A small parcel of land within the existing garden of Ivy's Cottage, Smith's End Lane, Barley is the subject of an Ecological Appraisal (EA), in support of a planning application for a single residential dwelling.

Following industry standard guidelines, the application site's habitats have been classified following UKHAB methodology and assessed as to their ecological value and importance, with the aim of identifying potential development constraints, particularly with regard to protected and Priority Species and Habitats.

The site appraisal found that the application site is dominated by vegetated garden with several individual trees and scattered areas of introduced shrubs. The application site was not found to support significantly important habitats but was found to potentially support some minor bird nesting habitat. One of the ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees had open crevices with the potential for roosting bats and/or nesting birds although it is understood that none of the trees are currently subject to be impacted by the proposed development. It is therefore unlikely that the development will cause any significant adverse effect to important habitats or species.

Should the trees and introduced shrub be included to be impacted by potential changes to the development proposals, further surveys would be required to establish the potential impacts on protected and Priority Species, followed by appropriate mitigation measures.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An outline planning application (with all matters reserved) is being prepared for the construction of a new residential dwelling within the garden of an existing property known as Ivy's Cottage, Smiths End Lane, Barley.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this EA is to detail the results of an initial ecological appraisal of the application site with the aim of identifying potential biodiversity constraints that may affect the development, inform mitigation measures and establish the potential need for further species surveys considered necessary under UK legislation and both national and local planning policies. Specifically, these constraints typically involve the provision of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the protection and enhancement of protected Priority Species and Habitats.
- 1.1.3 This ecological study has been commissioned by the applicant, Mr Andy Noades. The site with which this study is concerned is referred to throughout the report as the application site. The aerial photo below indicates the indicative extent of the application site and shows it in its geographical context, within its landscape surroundings.



Plate 1: Aerial photo with indicative application site boundary

- 1.1.4 The report's author is Keith Seaman who holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies; Agri-Ecosystem Management, a Diploma and Certificate of Higher Education in Ecology and Conservation. His professional qualifications include membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB), registered as a Chartered Biologist and professional grade membership of The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Mr Seaman also holds Natural England Survey, Research and Development licences for all species of bat, badger (*Meles meles*), great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*) and dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*).
- 1.1.5 Keith Seaman has been an academically qualified Ecologist since 1995 and a professionally qualified Ecologist since 2004 and since then has gained considerable experience working in both the public and private sectors carrying out Ecological Impact Assessments as well as protected species appraisals and developing mitigation strategies.

2.0 Planning Policy and Legislation

2.1 Relevant National and Local Planning Policies

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) superseded Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) in March 2012. The NPPF 2023 states that 'planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by', in part;

- *Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.*

It also states that 'when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles';

- *If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused*
- *Development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
- *Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
- *Development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.'*

2.2 Local Plan Policies

2.2.1 The North Herts Local Plan for the period of 2011 – 2031, adopted November 2022, is the current local level planning policy guidance for the district and the following policy is deemed, in part, to be potentially pertinent to this application.

2.2.2 Policy SP12: Green infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity

We will accommodate significant growth during the plan period whilst ensuring the natural environment is protected and enhanced. We will:

c) Protect, enhance and manage designated sites in accordance with the following hierarchy of designations and features:

- Internationally designated sites*
- Nationally designated sites*
- Locally designated sites;*
- Non-designated sites that include important habitats and species*

d) Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity networks including wildlife corridors, ancient woodlands and hedgerows, wetland and riverine habitats, Local Geological Sites, protected species, priority species and habitats, and non-designated sites of ecological value and ensure measurable net gains for biodiversity;

2.3 Legislation

The Conservation of Habitats & Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

2.3.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 in the UK implement the EC Habitats Directive in the UK. These regulations mainly deal with the protection of sites that are important for nature conservation in a European context (eg Special Areas of Protection [SACs] and Special Protection Areas [SPAs]). The legislation also gives protection to certain species of flora and fauna.

2.3.2 The 2019 Regulations makes it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb wild animals and it is also an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal (even if the animal is not present at the time).

Wildlife & Countryside Act (WCA)

2.3.3 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European

Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive).

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (NERC)

- 2.3.4 The NERC Act of 2006 places a duty on authorities to have due regard for biodiversity and nature conservation during the course of their operations. Section 41 of the Act lists Priority species and habitats for conservation.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Field Survey

- 3.1.1 This report has been produced following the *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal* 2017 (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management). Habitats have been described based on the methodology from the UK Habitat Classification (Ref. 4). In some circumstances habitat descriptions and mapping may have been adapted to suit non-standard site-specific conditions.

3.2 Scoping for Protected & Important Species

- 3.2.1 The habitat survey has been extended to include a scope of the application site's habitats as to their likely importance or potential to support protected or Priority Species and Habitats, as identified under the following legislation; the Habitat Regulations 2019, the Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended) 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red and Amber Lists and the Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- 3.2.2 Some species and species groups have been scoped out of this EA because of the lack of biological records, limitations in geographical distribution and the absence of species-specific suitable habitat and connectivity within or adjacent to the application site. Only those important and protected species and species groups deemed likely to be present on site or affected by the proposals have been included in this EA.
- 3.2.3 The EA was carried out on the 25th of October 2024, by Ms Jasmine Stephenson, Assistant Ecologist, and reviewed and approved by Principal Ecologist Keith Seaman BSc. of ELMAW Consulting Ltd. Weather conditions on the day were suitable for surveying with no access restrictions.

3.3 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric

- 3.3.1 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses habitat as a proxy for wider biodiversity with different habitat types scored according to their relative biodiversity value. This value is then adjusted, depending on the condition and location of the habitat, to calculate 'biodiversity units' for the specific project or development.

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric incorporates separate calculations for linear habitats that require a different method of measurement such as hedgerows and lines of trees, rivers and streams, if present.

3.3.2 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric can be used to measure both on-site and off-site biodiversity changes for a development and can be used to measure the change in biodiversity achieved by different land management interventions. The Metric also accounts for some of the risks associated whenever new habitat is created or existing habitat is enhanced. The Metric calculates the change in biodiversity resulting from a development by subtracting the number of pre-intervention or 'baseline' biodiversity units (i.e. those originally existing on-site) from the number of post-intervention units (i.e. those projected to be provided after the development or change in land management).

3.3.3 Baseline habitat conditions are classified in a robust and consistent manner. Where appropriate, the classification and condition assessment of baseline habitats are based on the data available at the time of assessment. However, if the preliminary survey is carried out outside the active growing season, in the case of some habitats such as grasslands, it is necessary to carry out a Phase 2 botanical assessment during the growing season (May to August inclusive) in order to accurately classify and condition-assess the habitat parcel(s). The classification and condition of grasslands are assessed by (among other things) counting the number of species present at an appropriate time of year. Therefore, further botanical surveys will be required in this case, in late May/June.

The Statutory Small Sites Biodiversity Metric

3.3.4 There is a separate Metric for small sites – the *Statutory Small Sites Metric (SSM)*. This Metric provides a way to measure biodiversity and the impact that small development projects may have upon it in a consistent way. The SSM can only be used for 'small sites' – small sites are defined as not major developments under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. This means:

- residential development where the number of dwellings is between 1 and 9 on a site of an area 1 hectare or less, or if the number of dwellings is unknown, the site area is less than 0.5 hectares, or
- commercial development where floor space created is less than 1,000 square metres or total site area is less than 1 hectare, or

- development that is not the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits, or
- development that is not waste development

3.3.5 Whilst the baseline habitats calculations for the application site have been calculated, the post-development calculations and Biodiversity Net Gain have not been calculated. Once finalised proposals drawings to the site are available, these calculations can be made.

3.4 Limitations

3.4.1 Plant species lists in this report are recorded to provide a snapshot of the site and are not exhaustive. It is possible that certain plant species may not have been recorded during the survey due to seasonal constraints such as flowering time or other limitations. It is however considered that the species characteristic to the habitats on site were recorded, unless otherwise advised in this report. This report is not designed to, or required to, present a complete inventory of flora/fauna.

3.4.2 It is acknowledged that the EA has been carried out at a sub-optimal time of the year regarding the recording of some of the ground flora. This seasonal limitation has been considered when assessing the relative species diversity across the application site. It was considered that enough was known about the history of the site and sufficient species could be viewed to make an informed judgement as to the habitats' relative ecological value.

3.4.3 As to the reliability of the assessment for protected species, it must be further acknowledged that this EA is based on the presence of suitable habitat, local biological records, geographical distribution and habitat connectivity to support such important species and not on qualitative species-specific surveys. Where the potential for important species has been identified, further species-specific surveys are considered necessary to be confident of either a positive or negative conclusion as to the presence of protected species on site. Where a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence is required, species survey data of the current season and year of the application is required by Natural England.

- 3.4.4 The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) advises that where mobile species such as reptiles and bats are concerned, this report is likely to be out of date within 12-18 months and will need updating.
- 3.4.5 The study specifically addresses the issues of potential redevelopment constraints affecting protected and/or Priority Species and Habitats. This report provides generic, not project-specific, recommendations in the absence of any detailed redevelopment plans for the site.
- 3.4.6 Recommendations for mitigation and compensation of impacts on ecology may need to be re-addressed and/or re-assessed once detailed site development plans are available.

3.5 Desk Study

- 3.5.1 Biological records of protected and Priority Species and Habitats from a radius of 2km around the application site, or the Zone of Influence (Zol), have been sourced from the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC) on the 21st November 2024. The results of the data search request were received on the 21st of November 2024. In addition, all international sites of nature conservation importance within a 10km radius, nationally important sites within a 5km radius and local sites within a 2km radius of the application site have been sourced.
- 3.5.2 Only species records from the last ten years have been included as it is considered that records older than this are not sufficiently recent to be relevant to this study.
- 3.5.3 Google earth aerial photographs and DEFRA's Magic Map Application images have been examined of the application site and surrounding landscape as have the relevant Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps at a 1:25,000 scale.

3.6 Determining Biodiversity Significance

- 3.6.1 The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management in 2016 identified various ecological features and resources which are likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These are likely to include habitats, species and species groups and ecological communities and are determined on the basis of a number of factors which includes size, rarity, conservation status and geographical distribution. Assigning a biodiversity value on a geographical scale is based on the above principles and geographical value is assigned to

international, national/regional, county, district, parish/neighbourhood and site level only.

3.6.2 Geographical Range of Reference

Value Category	Site or Ecological Feature
International	All internationally important Sites or candidate/proposed Sites. Regularly occurring, nationally significant population of protected or internationally important species. A viable area of habitat type listed in Annex 1 of The Habitats Directive or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole
National/ Regional	SSSIs and other nationally designated Sites. A viable area of a priority habitat identified in the UKBAP or an area of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger area Regularly occurring, regionally or nationally significant population of European Protected Species or habitats Regularly occurring, locally significant population of a regionally or nationally important species.
County	County designated Sites (CWS) Other Sites with BAP priority habitats or species of appreciable value not included in the above. Regularly occurring, locally significant population of a County important species. Local Nature Reserves and other viable areas of key habitat identified in the County or LBAP.
District	Area of habitat identified in a District/Borough BAP and other natural or semi-natural Sites of significant biodiversity. Regularly occurring, locally significant population of a District/Borough important species during a critical stage of its life cycle.
Parish/Neighbourhood	Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the local habitat resource within approximately 2km of the application site, parish or neighbourhood.
Site level only	Sites with limited biodiversity, providing some biodiversity enrichment at project site only.

3.6.3 The valuation, levels of geographical importance and significance have been determined following the guidance of the CIEEM in the *Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK 2018* (updated 2019) and the *Handbook of Biodiversity Methods. Survey, Evaluation and Monitoring 2005* and have been tabulated and appended to this report.

3.6.4 The baseline conditions of the application site have been determined for the year 2024.

4.0 Resulting Baseline Ecological Conditions & Preliminary Evaluation

4.1 Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

- 4.1.1 The data search found there are no statutory international sites within a 10km Zol of the application site, nor are there any statutory national sites within a 5km Zol.
- 4.1.2 There are 11 non-statutory sites within a 2km Zol around the application site, all of which are Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs). The closest of these is Bogmoor Road Verge LWS (ref. 08/024), located approximately 0.3km to the south of the site, which is approximately 1.4km in length. This is designated for its species-rich calcareous flora, including species such as common calamint (*Clinopodium ascendens*), marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) and small scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*).

4.2 Habitats

- 4.2.1 The site is comprised primarily of;

- 828 Vegetated garden,
- 847 Introduced shrubs
- Individual trees – Urban

Vegetated Garden

- 4.2.2 The majority of the habitat within the application site boundary is comprised of vegetated garden (in the form of managed amenity lawn), which is regularly mown and kept very short. Whilst acknowledging the limitations from constant management, the lawn appeared typically species-poor. Species that were evident included rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echinoides*), dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*), ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), broad-leaved plantain (*Plantago major*) and spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).
- 4.2.3 Due to the typical use and management of vegetated gardens (lawns), they typically support stress-tolerant plant species characteristic of these conditions, which are very common habitats throughout the UK. As such, these habitat

types are not considered protected or listed as NERC Act Sect. 41 Priority Habitats. Considering the lack of a heterogeneous grass sward and its short height, the lawn's value to wildlife is considered very low and, as such, is only considered to be of Site value.



Plate 2: Photo of the well-managed vegetated garden, showing the homogenous sward height of the lawn

Individual Trees - Urban

- 4.2.4 There are eight trees within the application site, comprising seven ash and a single field maple (*Acer campestre*) in the south-eastern corner of the application site. Five of these ash trees have been heavily managed and felled to stumps of approximately 2.5m in height, no longer retaining any canopies (although signs of regrowth were evident). The BNG Condition Assessment scores for each tree, including the criteria passed, are tabulated below:

Tree number and species	Size	Condition	Criteria passed
T1 - Ash	Large	Poor	A, C
T2 - Ash	Medium	Poor	A
T3 - Ash	Small	Poor	A, B
T4 - Ash	Small	Poor	A, B
T5 - Ash	Small	Poor	A, B
T6 - Field maple	Medium	Moderate	A, B, D, F
T7 - Ash	X Large	Good	A, B, C, E, F
T8 - Ash	Medium	Good	A, B, C, D, E, F

- 4.2.1 Trees T1 to T5 offer very limited value to wildlife based on their condition, despite some regrowth. They have no canopies for potential nesting birds, nor do they offer much potential value to vertebrate or invertebrate species through saprophytic habitat or ecological niches. Therefore, they are considered to be of Site value only.



Plates 3 & 4: Two views of trees T1 to T5, showing their current condition and structure

- 4.2.2 Trees T6, T7 and T8, which lie close to the application site's eastern boundary, are in better condition – each of these offer some potential wildlife value to nesting birds and/or roosting bats, albeit minimal. The ash (T7) has noticeable Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for bats, with open knot holes within the trunk, created as a result of previous management, which may also offer potential opportunities for hole-nesting birds. However, these trees are not geographically isolated – they are surrounded by other large trees that potentially offer both bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities adjacent to the application site. Therefore these trees are considered potentially to also be of Site value only.



Plates 5 & 6: Shots of the extra-large ash tree (T7), including shots of one of the PRFs.

847 Introduced Shrubs

- 4.2.3 The application site supports a number of very small parcels of introduced shrubs comprised of cultivated hazel (*Corylus avellana*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). Introduced shrubs are not subject to a BNG Metric Condition Assessment.
- 4.2.4 The cherry laurel, located in the south-western corner of the application site, has a typical growth structure associated with planted amenity shrubberies. It is a non-native shrub of artificial origin and is only found covering a very small

area of the application site. Conversely, the hazel and blackthorn shrubs are scattered throughout the site. These are cultivated shrubs, found growing in a well-managed form, which lack any dense structure often valued by wildlife. Although the introduced shrubs on site may provide some limited feeding resources to invertebrates and/or minimal nesting bird habitat, the coverage of this habitat across the site is considered too small to be of any significant wildlife value. As such, these habitats only offer intrinsic wildlife value and, as such, are considered to be of Site value only.



Plates 7 & 8: Introduced shrubs in the south-western corner of the application site (left) and cultivated hazel shrubs and single blackthorn shrub (right)

4.3 Protected and Priority Species

- 4.3.1 Based on the availability of biological records for the locality, the geographical restriction of certain species and species groups and the presence of suitable habitat both within and adjacent to the application site, the following species and species groups have been scoped into this assessment, for evaluation.

Plants

- 4.3.2 There are no recorded protected or Priority Species of plant within the 2km Zol around the application site. The application site itself is dominated by garden (lawn which is mown short) and very little semi-natural vegetation. The application site's potential value to protected and Priority Species of plant is therefore considered to be negligible.

Invertebrates

- 4.3.3 There are three Priority Species of moth recorded within the 2km Zol and a single Priority Species of butterfly, although none are recorded from the application site itself. The application site supports no suitable habitat for these Priority Species. Whilst the site's trees and shrubs may provide some limited value to

common species of invertebrate, the site is dominated by close-mown lawn, providing little wildlife value. Overall, the application site's potential value to important assemblages of invertebrate is considered to be negligible.

Amphibians

- 4.3.4 There are no records of protected amphibian species within the 2km Zol, within the last ten years. The application site itself supports no open water and limited potential terrestrial habitat for amphibians due to constant garden maintenance and mowing. There are two ponds approximately 100m to the north of the site within residential gardens which are not recorded as supporting great crested newts and these are separated from the application site by roads and built linear features. Additionally, the western boundary of the site adjoins arable fields, with the rest of the site's boundaries abutting residential areas and roadways. Due to these factors, the application site's value to amphibians is considered to be negligible at this time.

Reptiles

- 4.3.5 There are no reptile species recorded locally within the last ten years. The application site's lawn is consistently maintained short through mowing and the site is devoid of suitable reptile habitat. Therefore, the presence of reptiles is considered unlikely and the site is deemed likely to be of negligible value to this species group at this time.

Birds

- 4.3.6 There are several records of specially protected or Priority Species of bird recorded within the 2km Zol in the last ten years however none are from the application site itself. The application site supports limited bird nesting habitat, confined to the few unmanaged trees and the shrubs. The ash tree (T7) has several knot holes that may provide some nesting habitat for hole-nesting birds however the remaining trees and introduced shrubs offer only minimal bird nesting habitat, likely precluding their use by specially protected species of bird. The value of the application site to nesting birds is therefore described as of Site value only, given the large amounts of alternative bird nesting habitat available locally.

Bats

- 4.3.7 There are three bat species recorded within the 2km Zol in the last ten years; common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*). None of these records are from the application site itself. Whilst there are no buildings within the application site for roosting, there is a single ash tree with PRFs that could potentially be used by roosting bats. The current proposals do not include the removal of this tree, negating the possibility of adverse effects on roosting bats and, as such, it is not considered that the proposed development will have a significant impact on the local bat population at this time.

Other Important Mammals

- 4.3.8 Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), badger and polecat (*Mustela putorius*) are all recorded within the 2km Zol of the application site in the last ten years. However, due to the habitats present on site and the lack of habitat connectivity allowing mobility through the site, they are not considered likely present within application site.

4.4 Results of Biodiversity Metric On-Site Baseline Calculations

Site Habitat Baseline

Habitat	Area (m ²)	Habitat Condition	Habitat Units
Vegetated garden	631	N/A	0.13
Introduced shrub	20	N/A	0.00
Total	651		0.13
Individual trees - urban	1,741	Automatically moderate	1.601
Total			1.731

5.0 Ecological Evaluation & Development Constraints

- 5.1.1 The application site is not a designated site of nature conservation importance, neither are there any such important sites adjacent to or in close proximity. Therefore, there are no predicted significant adverse impacts on significant ecology at these designated sites as a result of the redevelopment of the application site.
- 5.1.2 The application site is located within the existing garden of the residential property - Ivy's Cottage, which is dominated by close-mown lawn (vegetated garden). This parcel of vegetation is considered to be of Site value only which is neither protected or listed as NERC Sect 41 Priority Habitat for Conservation. Whilst the lawn provides very limited wildlife value, it is deemed to have insignificant wildlife importance. The proposed new dwelling will result in the loss of some of this lawn however this loss is not predicted to have a significant adverse impact on important ecology.
- 5.1.3 The remainder of the site's semi-natural habitats comprise introduced shrubs and individual trees all of which are deemed to be of site value only, being very common habitats found locally in abundance. The majority of the habitats on site are considered ecologically insignificant, with no realistic potential to be important to protected or Priority Species. Any potential bird nesting or bat roosting habitat identified on site, within the trees and shrubs, is proposed to be retained, with no developmental impacts predicted.

5.2 Further Surveys

- 5.2.1 There are no further surveys recommended at this time. The current proposals suggest there are no plans to impact the trees with both nesting bird and/or roosting bat potential. However, should this change, subsequent surveys must be undertaken to ensure no protected or Priority Species are impacted or disturbed.

5.3 Biodiversity Net Gain

- 5.3.1 As discussed above, the NPPF requires that impacts on biodiversity are minimised and the development should result in a biodiversity net gain. The mitigation and compensatory measures discussed above will in part help minimise the impacts on biodiversity. To further minimise impacts on biodiversity,

an avoidance strategy has been proposed to limit light spillage, general construction disturbance and avoid tree root damage.

- 5.3.2 As soon as detailed proposal drawings and plans are available, the Statutory Biodiversity Metric will be completed and biodiversity net gains or losses calculated.

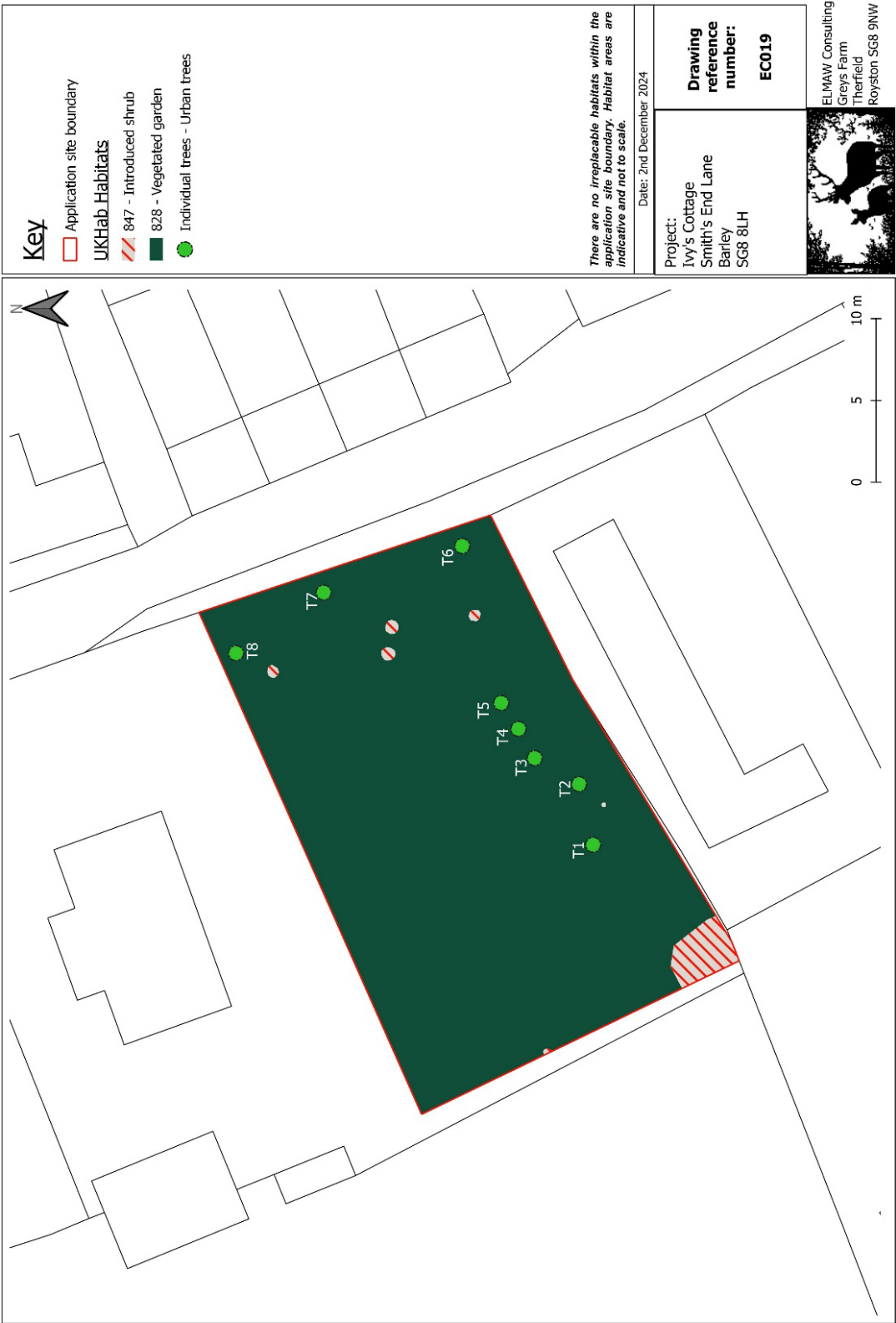
6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 The results of the EA for the application site at Ivy's Cottage has determined that the proposed construction of a single new residential dwelling is unlikely to affect protected and/or Priority Species and Habitats, at this time.
- 6.1.2 The application site contains three semi-natural habitats - vegetated garden, introduced shrubs and individual trees all of which are deemed to be of Site value only. The cultivated introduced shrub and individual trees have some intrinsic potential to support protected and Priority Species, specifically birds, with the ash tree (T7) exhibiting open knot holes which have the potential for both nesting birds and roosting bats.
- 6.1.3 The current proposals indicate the trees are being retained and, as such, the construction of a new dwelling is considered unlikely to adversely impact these habitats or cause disturbance or destruction to protected and Priority Species. Should these plans change to include any impactful works upon these habitats, further surveys will be needed to establish the likely presence of protected and/or Priority Species.

7.0 References

- Ref. 1 Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017 *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*
- Ref. 2 Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017 *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*
- Ref. 3 Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey* Revised re-print
- Ref. 4 UK Habitat Working Group (2018). *UK Habitat Classification*
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- Ref. 6 Sewell D, Griffiths RA, Beebee TJC, Foster J and Wilkinson JW 2013 *Survey Protocols for the British Herpetofauna Version 1.0*
- Ref. 7 Rose F 2006 *The Wildflower Key* Fredrick Warne & Co.
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8.0 Appendix 1 – Habitat Map



9.0 Appendix 2

9.1 Botanical Species List

Common Name	Latin Name
Trees and shrubs	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Herbs	
Bristly oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Grasses/Sedges	
Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>