# Stanmore Village, Bridgnorth

# Ecology Technical Note

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
**Stanmore Consortium**

September 2020
Report Reference
**edp5653_r005c**

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## Plan

**Plan EDP 1** Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan
(edp5653_d011d 08 September 2020 GY/ZH)

*This version is intended for electronic viewing only*

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| | **Author** | **Formatted** | **Peer Review** | **Proofed by/Date** |
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| 005a | ZH | - | - | JM 170320 |
| 005b | JG | | VF | SC 040920 |
| 005c | JG | - | - | JM 080920 |

# Section 1
# Introduction and Methodology

1.1 This Ecology Technical Note has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Stanmore Consortium (hereafter referred to as the 'Client') to inform the proposed allocation of an area of land known as Stanmore Village, Bridgnorth for residential and commercial development (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The proposed redline boundary for the Site is shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

1.2 The Site comprises three separate parcels of land (west, central and east) as shown on **Plan EDP 1** and is located approximately 940m east of Bridgnorth town centre. It is within the Local Planning Authority of Shropshire Council. The Site as a whole is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SO 744 929.

1.3 The western parcel comprises predominantly arable farmland with a woodland belt (Hermitage Hill Coppice) running north to south adjacent to the western boundary. The central parcel comprises an area of scrub, scattered trees and grassland. The eastern parcel is located to the north-east of Stanmore Industrial Park and is an area of plantation woodland and an area of amenity grassland linked by hard standing.

1.4 This Ecology Technical Note addresses the ecology issues pertaining to the Site's potential to accommodate future development, and in doing so identifies the main (significant) constraints and opportunities that influence its design, deliverability and/or capacity in this respect.

1.5 A wider site (hereafter referred to as the 'previous site boundary'), encompassing the three land parcels described above as well as land to the west of Hermitage Hill Coppice and Stanmore Country Park (which lies to the south of the central and western parcels) was initially proposed by the Client for allocation (this is the extent that is mapped in **Plan EDP 1**). Baseline survey work for this previous site boundary was undertaken in 2019, comprising an ecological desk study and an Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey[1]. The baseline data gathered for the previous site boundary has been used to inform this current report written for the three parcels within the previous site boundary. The three parcels will be hereafter referred to as the Site. This report relates solely to the revise site area as depicted on **Plan EDP 1**.

1.6 The level of survey involved identifying and mapping the principal habitat types and dominant plant species present therein. Additionally, any actual or potential protected species or priority species[2] are identified and scoped. This level of survey does not aim to compile a complete floral and faunal inventory for the Site. It should be noted that the

[1] Joint Nature Conservation Council (2004) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit* (reprinted with minor corrections for original Nature Conservancy Council publication)
[2] Species of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, as listed under Sections 41 (England) and 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006)

reservoir and fields F2–14 (as shown on **Plan EDP 1**) could not be fully accessed as permission was not granted, therefore an assessment of the habitats was approximated from aerial images and views from public footpaths and roads only. Given that this survey work was undertaken to inform the promotion of the Site, it is not considered that the lack of access to these fields present a significant limitation to the assessment.

1.7 When assessing potential constraints and opportunities reference has been made to the Concept Masterplan (Drawing Number 36045-0009 Rev C) provided as **Appendix EDP 1**, although it is anticipated that this plan will change subject to inputs from other disciplines.

# Section 2
# Preliminary Ecological Baseline

## Designated Sites

### *Statutory Designations*

2.1 Statutory designations represent the most significant ecological receptors, being of recognised importance at an international and/or national level. Statutory designations of International/European value include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. Statutory designations of national value include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs). Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are also statutory, with their level of value typically at County level or less.

2.2 The Site is not covered by any statutory designations but two SSSIs occur within the Site's potential zone of influence[3]: Thatchers Wood and Westwood Covert and Claverley Road Cutting. Further details on each of these sites is provided below.

2.3 Thatchers Wood and Westwood Covert SSSI is located approximately 3km south-west of the western parcel. It is designated for its four types of woodland as a result of its unique geological strata. This has led to the development of several uncommon flora species at a variety of storey levels. The SSSI has 100% unfavourable, recovering condition status[4]. Rationale for the unfavourable condition is not stated but refers to the 'broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland' unit and a medium threat risk.

2.4 There is no direct hydrological or terrestrial connectivity between the Site and Thatchers Wood and Westwood Covert SSSI, with both areas separated by roads and agricultural land. Public access is limited to a footpath within the SSSI which avoids the most sensitive areas of the SSSI; there is no public parking within the immediate vicinity.

2.5 Claverley Road Cutting SSSI is designated for geological reasons and is therefore not considered further within this report.

2.6 Further details on these statutory designated sites are provided in **Appendix EDP 2**.

### *Non-statutory Designations*

2.7 Non-statutory designations in Shropshire are known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) and are of County-level value. In addition, there are other non-statutory designations which may be pertinent in the locality and those of potential value which may be included in Local Plans. This includes Candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS). These areas have lesser significance

[3] Zone of Influence - the areas and resources that may be affected by the proposed development
[4] Natural England. Designated Sites View. [Online]. Available from: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ Accessed 31 May 2019

on a County level and may have lower intrinsic value due to size or damage but provide a valuable conservation resource. Additional designations which should be considered at this level include Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) where this is not covered by other designations.

2.8 Stanmore Country Park LWS and Hermitage Hill Coppice ancient woodland are located directly adjacent to the boundaries of the western and central parcels. There are four additional non-statutory sites situated within 2km. A summary of those sites which may either directly or indirectly be affected by any proposed development of the Site is provided below. Further details on each site provided are in **Appendix EDP 2**.

2.9 Stanmore Country Park measures approximately 40 hectares (ha) and occupies a former RAF base. It is managed by Shropshire County Council. The Site consists of broad-leaved woodland with areas of grassland and ponds.

2.10 The section of Hermitage Hill Coppice which borders the western boundary measures approximately 8 ha with further areas of woodland extending north and south beyond the Site. The woodland Predominantly, comprises of mature oak (*Quercus robur*) with a bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) understorey. The woodland contains public footpaths which link to Hermitage Farm House and Stanmore Country Park.

2.11 Bridgnorth Cemetery Heath LWS is an area of heathland with associated meadow and heathland plant species. It is situated 125m west of the Site. The LWS has public access during visiting hours of the cemetery, which is encouraged. The LWS is not ecologically connected to the Site.

2.12 River Severn (Bailey's Rough to Quatford) LWS consists of the River Severn itself and its associated species-rich riparian habitats. It is located approximately 700m north-west of the Site at its closest point. The Site is not ecologically connected to the LWS due to distance and road barriers and there is no obvious direct hydrological connectivity.

2.13 Cliff Coppice cLWS, an ancient woodland is located approximately 1.3km south of the Site.

***Policy Areas and Priority Habitats***

2.14 Priority Habitats and biodiversity policy areas do not receive direct statutory protection nor automatic planning policy protection, but nonetheless, if present, they are useful context for designing biodiversity gain into any development scheme.

2.15 The Site is not situated within or near to any of the national Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs). These are extensive landscape-scale areas comprising many land uses within which multi-stakeholder action can be prioritised and focused for enhancing biodiversity.

***Habitats***

2.16 The main habitats present within the Site and Wider Site are shown on **Plan EDP 1** and comprise broad-leaved woodland, scrub, arable fields, semi-improved grassland,

hedgerows and scattered scrub. As the survey work was undertaken on the Wider Site, the fields were labelled F1–16. For consistency, this numbering system has been kept but it is acknowledged that some of these fields are now outside the redline boundary.

2.17 Further details on each habitat recorded within the Site is provided below.

*Woodland*

2.18 The eastern parcel comprises an area of plantation woodland of birch trees with a cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) understorey (**Image EDP 2.1**).

2.19 Although, qualifying as a LBAP habitat[5], the plantation woodland does not meet the criteria of lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat[6] due to its small extent and species poor composition.

**Image EDP 2.1**: Semi-Natural Broad-leaved Woodland in the Eastern Parcel.

*Scattered scrub/ grassland mosaic*

2.20 The central parcel comprises an area of bramble scrub and scattered birch trees forming a mosaic with semi-improved grassland.

[5] https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/1837/sbap-semi-natural-broadleaved-woodland-2009.pdf
[6] UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland From: UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions. BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2008.

*Arable Fields with Margins*

2.21 The arable fields within the Site were (at the time of the survey) planted with cereal crop (with the exception of F9). The majority of the fields were bound by grass margins, between 0.5 and 1m wide, supporting semi-improved grassland as illustrated in **Image EDP 2.2**. Species such as cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), creeping soft grass (*Holcus mollis*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) were recorded.

2.22 The grassland margins likely qualify as a priority habitat due to their permanence and species composition but are limited in extent[7].

**Image EDP 2.2**: Field Margin and Crop at Field F16.

*Semi-improved neutral Grassland*

2.23 Field F9 (**Image EDP 2.3**) is an area of semi-improved neutral grassland with species including: common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), rough stalked meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), meadow fox tail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), speedwell (*Veronica persica*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), cow parsley

[7] Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2011) UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions. [online] Available from http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2011.pdf [Accessed 18 June 2019]

(*Anthriscus sylvestris*), stitch wort (*Stellaria* sp), greater plantain (*Plantago major*) and hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*).

**Image EDP 2.3**: Semi-improved grassland at Field F9.

2.24 The areas of grassland do not meet the criteria as a priority habitat[8] due to their botanical composition.

*Hedgerows and Boundary Features*

2.25 Fields F2–9 and F16 are bounded by intact, species-poor hedgerows with hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) being the dominant species. The majority of hedgerows are approximately 1m high and 1m wide, with the exception of that bounding F16, which is a double hedgerow alongside the field and the adjacent public footpath. This is approximately 2m high and 1m wide.

2.26 Within these hedgerows are occasional mature trees which include oak (*Quercus* sp.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).

2.27 To the south-west of the A454, the hedgerows at Fields F10–14 are species-poor, (comprising only hawthorn), and are defunct with multiple gaps.

[8] UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions Lowland Meadows From: UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions. BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2008

2.28 The hedgerows are all likely to qualify as a priority habitat[9] as they all support native species for more than 80% of their total length. None are considered to qualify as 'Important' under the ecology criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997

*Scrub*

2.29 Areas of scrub are also located along the road verge of the A454 and consists of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), nettle and bramble as shown on **Image EDP 2.4**. Other species included fumitory (*Fumaria* sp), comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*), poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) and lupin (*Lupinus* sp).

2.30 An additional area of bramble scrub (<400m$^2$) is adjacent to Field F16.

**Image EDP 2.4**: Scrub Along the A454.

*Standing Water*

2.31 A single pond (P1) is located within the Site, with a further two ponds (P2 and P3), a small raised reservoir and a ditch (D1) located within the Wider Site. Pond P1 is adjacent to a public footpath at Hermitage Farm House at Field F8. At the time of the survey, the pond was dry (**Image EDP 5**), although it contains flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), which suggests the ponds does hold water occasionally.

[9] UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions Hedgerows From: UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions. BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2008.

**Image EDP 2.5**: Pond P1 Adjacent to Public Footpath near Hermitage Farm House.

2.32 Pond P2 is located in the memorial meadow at Stanmore Country Park. This was also dry (**Image EDP 2.6**). Ditch D1 is also within the Country Park and was dry at the time of survey.

**Image EDP 2.6**: Dry Pond (P2) Within the Memorial Meadow at Stanmore Country Park.

2.33 Pond P3 is an ornamental pond within the industrial estate, bordering hard-standing road and pavement.

2.34 The reservoir is located adjacent to Hermitage Hill Coppice to the west of the Site. It is enclosed by metal fencing and hardstanding (**Image EDP 2.7**).

**Image EDP 2.7**: Reservoir in the Western Parcel.

*Hardstanding and Buildings*

2.35 A series of roads run through the Site, including the A454, Brook Lane and those within the industrial estate. A hardstanding public footpath runs from Hermitage Hill Coppice to Hermitage Farm House. Hermitage Farm is situated 150m north of Hermitage Farm House.

*Adjacent to the Site*

2.36 The Wider Site is largely agriculture with arable crops including oil seed rape with associated farm properties and barns. Within 500m of the Site, there are nine additional waterbodies.

***Protected and Notable Species***

2.37 The Site and immediate surroundings have potential to support the following assemblages of protected and notable species (species considered to be locally rare or listed as being of conservation concern at a local or national level).

*Birds*

2.38 Breeding, wintering and ground nesting birds associated with farmland habitats, including barn owl (*Tyto alba*), linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) have been recorded within 2km.

2.39 The arable fields, hedgerows, scrub, mature trees and woodlands within the Site are likely to support such species as well as other bird species associated with these habitats

*Bats*

2.40 The Annex II bat species, lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), has been recorded 1.1km west of the Site. Other bat species including common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) Daubenton's (*Myotis daubenonii*) noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) have been recorded within 2km.

2.41 There are multiple trees across the Site which have the potential to provide roosting habitat for bats. The buildings within and adjacent to the Site, including Hermitage Farm and Hermitage Farm House in the west, the Holborn and Swancote Farm and Hoccum Cottages to the east, may also provide roosting opportunities

2.42 Habitats within the Site are likely to support both foraging and roosting bats with ecological connections to the wider landscape through hedgerow and woodland networks.

*Amphibians*

2.43 Although, no records of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) were received within the desk study, the Site contains suitable aquatic and terrestrial habitat. In addition to the on-site habitats, there are nine waterbodies within 500m of the site which have the potential to support great crested newt.

*Reptiles*

2.44 A single record for slow worm (*Anguis fragilis)* was returned from the desk study, approximately 420m west of the Site. There are several habitats within the Site which are considered likely to support reptiles including the areas of scrub, the hedgerows and field margins, the semi-improved grassland in F9 and adjacent to the Site within Stanmore Country Park.

*Badgers*

2.45 The desk study returned records of badger casualties along the A458 and adjoining fields within the south of the Site. The, hedgerow and scrub habitats within the Site provide suitable sett building and foraging habitats for badgers. During the Phase 1 survey, latrines and potential badger pathways were noted within Hermitage Hill Coppice.

*Otter*

2.46 Records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) were returned along the River Severn (nearest record at 430m west) and its tributaries. Given the lack of suitable habitat within the Site and lack of connectivity to the River Severn, the species is likely absent from the Site.

*Notable Mammal Species*

2.47 Mammal priority species returned during the desk study include harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*) within the north of the Site at Field F7, polecat (*Mustela putorius*) at 1.2km north-west, and multiple observations of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) within 2km of the Site. The Site is likely to support such species within arable margins, hedgerows, woodland and scrub.

*Invertebrates*

2.48 Records of 22 invertebrates including priority species have been recorded within 2km of the Site. Five species were returned within the Site, including: a mining bee (*Andrena bimaculate*), three nationally scarce hoverflies (including *Brachyopa pilosa*) and fly (*Gnophomyia viridipennis*) within the woodland at Stanmore Country Park. The remainder of the species were recorded outside of the Site. Hermitage Hill Coppice is also likely to support a diverse invertebrate population associated with the mature tree, with the remainder of the Site unlikely to support such a diverse assemblage of species given the lack of suitable habitat.

*Notable Flora*

2.49 The following locally rare species have been recorded from within Hermitage Hill Coppice and adjacent areas of grassland: early hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), spring sedge (*Carex caryophyllea*), buck's-horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), Smith's pepperwort (*Lepidium heterophyllum*) and common calamint (*Clinopodium ascendens*). The site itself is unlikely to support such species owing to a lack of suitable habitat.

2.50 In the wider area, 64 additional notable flora species were returned in the desk study. Largely, these species occur within non-statutory designated sites including Bridgnorth Cemetery, Mill Valley, Quatford Church and along the River Severn and included bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and slender tufted sedge (*Carex acuta*).

# Section 3
# Key Constraints and Opportunities – Masterplanning Principles

3.1 On the basis of the initial survey work described within this report it is considered that there are no 'in principle' constraints to the promotion of the Site. However, development of the Site may result in some limited impacts on locally valuable habitats and protected species which will need further consideration and possible mitigation as discussed below.

3.2 The key constraints associated with the Site are as follows:

- The presence of the off-site (although immediately adjacent) area of ancient woodland (Hermitage Hill Coppice) with potential for a number of impacts in increase in recreational pressures;
- Potential recreational pressure at the adjacent Stanmore Country Park;
- Ecologically valuable habitats (semi-improved grassland, hedgerows and mature trees); and
- Protected species whose presence will need to be confirmed through specific survey works but are likely to include breeding birds, bats (foraging and roosting), badgers, reptiles and great crested newt.

3.3 Hermitage Hill Coppice and Stanmore Country Park are key ecological features adjacent to the Site. The proposed development provides an opportunity to secure the long-term management of these areas as well as providing a number of enhancements. However, it is also important to recognise that any proposed development could result in a negative impact on these features. Measures to avoid or mitigate for these impacts as well as enhancement measures are summarised below.

3.4 As part of the development proposals, a footpath is to be created through the woodland, linking the proposed development to existing development to the west. This may result in some limited fragmentation of the woodland and it is considered that such impacts can be offset by additional woodland planting on the edges, and either having no lighting of the pathway or the implementation of a sensitive lighting strategy.

3.5 Any increases in recreational pressure on the woodland can be mitigated for through continued management of the existing footpath network and sympathetic management of the woodland to maintain and enhance its ecological value.

3.6 All development will be offset from the woodland by 15m, as per Natural England's standing advice[10].This buffer will be planted with native tree species.

[10] Natural England and Forestry Commission (2018) Standing advice: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: protecting them from development. [online] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences [Accessed 18 June 2019]

3.7 The development of the Site provides an opportunity to improve the connectivity of the Stanmore Country Park to the wider landscape through the creation of green corridors and other areas of public open space.

3.8 The majority of impacts on the remaining habitats and protected species (if present) within the Site can be avoided/mitigated/compensated for through the retention and enhancement of key features within the Site as per the following:

- Retention and buffering, where possible, of ecologically valuable habitats such as hedgerows and mature trees;
- Enhancement of existing hedgerow network, where retained, through selective 'gap' planting with native hedgerow species of local provenance and long-term management for the benefit of wildlife;
- Provision and enhancement of good-quality informal green space to provide health and environmental education benefits for new residents;
- Creation of areas of species-rich wildflower grassland within any areas of public open space;
- Incorporation of a range of bat and bird boxes on retained trees to provide new roosting and nesting opportunities within the proposed development;
- Wildlife-sensitive lighting scheme to minimise the effects of artificial lighting on commuting and foraging bats and other nocturnal wildlife; and
- Provision of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) features designed to benefit biodiversity through appropriate design, planting and management of surrounding green open spaces.

3.9 It is considered that these habitat creation and enhancement recommendations would provide a net gain in biodiversity in line with the objectives of local and national planning policy.

**Protected Species**

3.10 Given the opportunities to retain and create areas of ecological valuable habitat, it is considered that any potential impacts on protected species such as badger, bats and nesting birds can be avoided through the retention of habitat with any medium to long-term impacts mitigated for through the creation of areas of higher ecological value within areas of public open space.

3.11 There are some water features within the Site and the presence of great crested newt cannot be ruled out at this stage. It is considered that the potential presence of great crested newt does not represent a significant constraint to the promotion of the Site

but may have a bearing on the extent of the developable area. If the presence of great crested newt is confirmed, appropriate mitigation could be achieved through habitat retention, creation and enhancement within the Site and translocation of newts to these areas.

**Conclusions**

3.12 This briefing note provides an initial high-level assessment of the Site with respect to identifying key ecological constraints and opportunities to inform a wider assessment of its potential to support future residential development. The desk study and Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey has identified the following valuable ecological features within the Site:

- Directly adjacent area of ancient woodland (Hermitage Hill Coppice);
- Stanmore Country Park which lies directly adjacent to the Site;
- Plantation/broad-leaved woodland, scrub and semi-improved grassland, hedgerows and mature trees within the Site;
- Potential for foraging badgers within and adjacent to the Site;
- Potential for bats foraging and roosting within and adjacent to the Site; and
- Potential for breeding birds, reptiles and great crested newt to be present (presence to be confirmed by further survey work).

3.13 There are no obvious 'in principle' (significant) ecological constraints that would preclude development, and which cannot be avoided by good design. Moreover, EDP considers that the Site presents an opportunity to deliver a net gain to local biodiversity, ensuring local and national policy compliance.

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# Appendix EDP 1
# Concept Masterplan (Drawing Number: 36045-0009 rev C)

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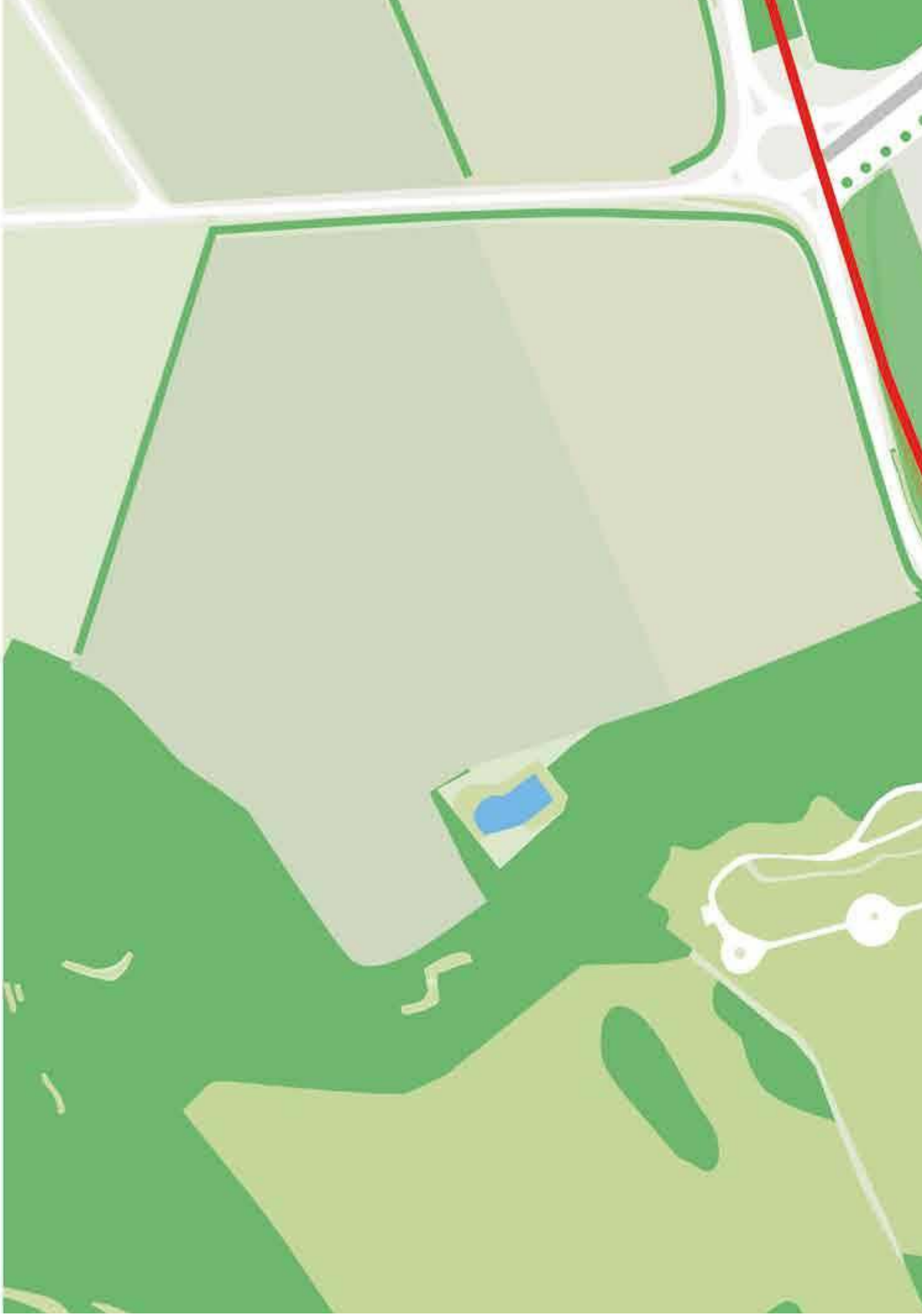

# Appendix EDP 2
# Desk Study

## Methodology

A2.1 The desk study is an important element of undertaking an ecological appraisal of a site proposed for development, since it enables the initial collation and review of contextual information such as designated sites together with known records of protected and priority species.

A2.2 EDP undertook an ecological desk study for the Site in May 2019 to check information on designated sites and protected species within the site's potential zone of influence[11]. The Site has an approximate central location of SO 744 929. The following sources were contacted for desk study information:

- Shropshire Wildlife Trust (on behalf of Shropshire Ecological Data Network); and
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC[12]).

A2.3 Biodiversity information was requested for the following search areas, measured approximately from the site boundary:

- 10km radius for sites of European importance;
- 5km radius for sites of National importance;
- 2km radius for sites of Local importance;
- 2km radius for other protected/notable species records; and
- 500m radius for priority habitats.

A2.4 Any pertinent information received as a result of the updated desk study has been included and specifically referenced within the results section.

[11] Zone of Influence - the areas and resources that may be affected by the proposed development
[12] MAGIC Partners. Interactive Map. [Online]. Available from: http://www.magic.gov.uk. Accessed 20 May 2019

**Results**

***Statutory Designations***

A2.5 The Site itself is not covered by any statutory designations but two SSSIs occur within 5km. Further details including condition status[13] are given in **Table EDP A2.1**.

**Table EDP A2.1**: Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Importance within 2km of the Site

| Site Name | Size (ha) | Grid Ref. | Approx. Distance from the Site | Interest Feature(s)[14] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thatchers Wood and Westwood Covert | 36 | SO703904 | 3km south-west | 100% unfavourable, recovering condition status.<br>Four types of woodland dominated by differing species due to geological strata. Several uncommon flora species at a variety of storey levels. |
| Claverley Road Cutting | <1 | SO794939 | 4.5km east | 100% favourable condition status. Noted for geological reasons. |

***Non-statutory Designations***

A2.6 Adjacent to the Site is a Country Park and an area of ancient woodland. Additionally, there are four non-statutory sites within 2km. Further detail (as supplied by Shropshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of Shropshire Ecological Data Network) is given in **Table EDP A2.2**.

**Table EDP A2.2**: Non-statutory Sites within 2km of the Site

| Site Name | Size (Ha) | Grid Ref. | Approx. Distance from Site | Interest Feature(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Local Wildlife Site (LWS)** | | | | |
| Bridgnorth Cemetery Heath | 4 | SO725935 | 125m W | Heathland site, lots of meadow and heathland species. |
| River Severn (Bailey's Rough to Quatford) | 62 | SO721946 | 700m NW | Riparian habitats with rich variety of species. |
| Mill Valley, Oldbury | 2 | SO715917 | 1.9km SW | Scrub and unimproved grassland. |
| **Candidate Local Wildlife Site (cLWS)** | | | | |
| Cliff Coppice | 7 | SO726912 | 1.3km SW | Ancient woodland site on bluff overlooking River Severn. |
| **Country Park** | | | | |
| Stanmore Country Park | 40 | SO739929 | Adjacent - S | 22ha of priority habitat deciduous woodland with open areas of grassland and waterbodies. |

[13] Natural England. Designated Sites View. [Online]. Available from: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/. Accessed 31 May 2019

| Site Name | Size (Ha) | Grid Ref. | Approx. Distance from Site | Interest Feature(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ancient Woodland** | | | | |
| Hermitage Hill Coppice | 8 | SO728931 | Adjacent W | Ancient woodland. |
| Hermitage Hill Coppice | 12 | SO731923 | 20m south | Ancient replanted woodland which connects to the above ancient woodland. |

***Priority Habitats***

A2.7 One priority habitat occurs within the Site. Four priority habitats occur adjacent to the Site including ancient woodland and five further priority habitats are situated within the wider 500m. These are discussed in detail within **Table EDP A2.3**.

**Table EDP A2.3**: Priority Habitats Within 500m of the Site

| Priority Habitat | Size (ha) | Approx. Distance from Site | Locality |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Adjacent** | | | |
| Wood-pasture and Parkland | 15 | South | Spring Valley. |
| Deciduous woodland | 3 | East | South of Swancote Farm. |
| Deciduous woodland | 3 | East | North of Stanmore Industrial Estate. |
| **Within the Wider 500m** | | | |
| Deciduous woodland | <1 | 110m south | South of A458. |
| Deciduous woodland | 1 | 180m east | Hoccult Pool. |
| Deciduous woodland | 1 | 350m west | West of cemetery. |
| Deciduous woodland | <1 | 440m west | West of school. |

***Protected and Notable Species***

A2.8 Records of badger have been returned in the north of the Site and notable flora have been recorded adjacent to the Site. Results are summarised in **Table EDP A2.4**.

**Table EDP A2.4:** Notable species records within 2km of the Site

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Grid Ref | Approx. Distance from the Site | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | | | | | |
| *Tyto Alba* Barn Owl, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Bullfinch, *Cuculus canorus* Cuckoo, *Numenius arquata* Curlew, *Prunella modularis* Dunnock, *Perdix perdix* Grey Partridge, *Larus argentatus* Herring Gull, *Passer domesticus* House Sparrow, *Alcedo atthis* Kingfisher, *Vanellus vanellus* Lapwing, *Acanthis cabaret* Lesser Redpoll, *Linaria cannabina* Linnet, *Charadrius* | | Multiple locations within 2km as recorded by the Shropshire Ornithological Society | | 2013 | Ranging from WCA Sch 1, NERC S.41 and BoCC |

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Grid Ref | Approx. Distance from the Site | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *dubius* Little Ringed Plover, *Poecile palustris* Marsh Tit, *Falco peregrinus* Peregrine, *Emberiza schoeniclus* Reed Bunting, *Alauda Arvensis* Skylark, *Turdus philomelos* Song Thrush, *Muscicapa striata* Spotted Flycatcher, *Sturnus vulgaris* Starling, *Passer montanus* Tree Sparrow, *Poecile montanus* Willow Tit, *Motacilla flava* Yellow Wagtail, *Emberiza citronella* Yellowhammer | | | | | |
| **Reptiles and amphibians** | | | | | |
| *Anguis fragilis* | Slow worm | SO725928 | 420mW | 2013 | NERC S.41 |
| **Mammals** | | | | | |
| *Mustela putorius* | Polecat | SO713926<br>SO720945 | 1.7km W<br>1.2km NE | 2017–2013<br>2013 | NERC S.41 |
| *Meles meles* | Badger | Multiple locations within 2km, including the south of the Site | | 2017–2013 | PBA |
| *Erinaceus europaeus* | Hedgehog | Multiple locations within 2km | | 2017–2014 | NERC S.41 |
| *Lutra lutra* | Otter | Multiple locations along the River Severn and its tributaries | | 2017–2014 | NERC S.41 |
| *Micromys minutus* | Harvest mouse | SO738938 | Within – N | 2013 | NERC S.41 |
| **Bats** | | | | | |
| *Rhinolophus hipposideros* | Lesser horseshoe bat | SO717933<br>SO7390 | 1.1km west<br>Within 2km | 2016<br>2011 | Annex II<br>EPS |
| *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* | Common pipistrelle | Multiple observations and locations within 2km | | 2011 | EPS |
| *Myotis daubentonii* | Daubenton's Bat | SO720930 | 820m W | 2011 | |
| *Nyctalus noctula* | Noctule | SO720930<br>SO724944<br>SO733953 | 820m W<br>910m N<br>1.5km N | 2011<br>2011<br>2010 | |
| *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* | Soprano pipistrelle | SO726929<br>SO720930<br>SO733953 | 270m W<br>820m W<br>1.5km N | 2011<br>2011<br>2010 | |
| *Plecotus auritus* | Brown long-eared | SO717932 | 1.1km W | 2009 | |
| **Invertebrates** | | | | | |
| 22 species of invertebrates, including two Coleoptera, 11 Diptera, one Hymenoptera, four Lepidoptera and three Odonata | | Multiple locations within 2km. Predominantly at Stanmore Country Park, River Severn, Dudmaston and Rindleford | | 2017–2009 | NERC S.41, national scarce and local importance |
| **Flora** | | | | | |

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Grid Ref | Approx. Distance from the Site | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 69 vascular plant species including grassland, wetland and woodland indicators.<br><br>Including: Lady's mantle, kidney vetch, moschatel, navelwort, wood millet, yellow-wort and a variety of sedges & orchids. | | Multiple locations within 2km. Predominantly at Apley Terrace, Bridgnorth Cemetery, Burcote Rocks, Cantern Dingle, Dudmaston, the Hermitage and Rindleford. | | 2016–2009 | Axiophyte |

Abbreviations used within the table: BoCC Birds of Conservation Concern, EPS European Protected Species, NERC Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, WCA Wildlife and Country Side Act 1981.

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# Plan

| | |
|---|---|
| **Plan EDP 1** | Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan<br>(edp5653_d011d 08 September 2020 GY/ZH) |

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Reservoir (cov)
Path
Peewit Cottages
A454
Swancote Farm
A
Track
Ppg Sta
F7
F6
The Hermitage
The Hermitage
F2
B4363
Cerne
F5
F9
SI
The Hobbins
BROOK LANE
Stanmore Business Park
W
Queen's Parlor
F1
F4
F3
F8
Hermitage Farm House
P1
Reservoir (cov)
ELMHURST
BIRCHLANDS
PINEWAY
HAZEL VW
OAKLANDS
FIR TREES
P2
P3
F15
D1
F12
F13
F11
F10
Stanmore Country Park
Stanm

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