Ecological Impact Assessment at Jayfield, Chapel Lane, Bronington, Whitchurch Wrexham SY13 3HP Grid Ref. SJ 4865 3893 on 10th August 2024

Version 2: 11th October 2024
Ref: JAY100824

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1. Summary

The purpose of the report is to assess the potential ecological impacts of proposed work at Jayfield, Bronington and advise on any mitigation measures to comply with local planning policy and government legislation.

The proposed scheme involves the incorporation of a small area of land into domestic garden.

The site and adjacent land were examined to establish the presence of or evidence of use by protected species of animals. None was found, however the adjacent hedgerow provides potential for nesting birds. The site is suitable for foraging and commuting bats.

Wildflower planting and hedge reinforcements will provide Net Biodiversity Benefit.

2. Introduction

Susan Worsfold BSc (Hons) ACIEEM is an experienced wildlife surveyor, licensed bat worker and voluntary bat roost visitor. Registration number CLS0895 2015-12555-CLS-CLS (CL15 Bat Roost Visitor Level 1) and registration number CLS 0895 2015-12556-CLS-CLS (CL18 Bat Survey Level 2) (Natural England) and S086005/1 (Natural Resources Wales);
Licensed great crested newt worker, registration number 2016-19947-CLS-CLS (NE)
and S086057/1 (NRW)
The site comprises an area of redundant pasture.
The proposed scheme involves the incorporation of the land into domestic garden.
The purpose of the report is to identify and address any significant ecological effects which are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development. This is necessary to comply with local planning policy and government legislation and avoid any offence being committed. Also, to describe any compensation, mitigation and enhancement measures which should be taken.

3. Methodology

3.1. Scope of the Assessment

The report incorporates an extended phase 1 habitat survey, searching for use or potential use by any rare, threatened, endemic and non-native invasive species which might be associated with such a site in accordance with:
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and listed in:
Schedule 2. European protected species of animals
Schedule 5. European protected species of plants
The protection of Badgers Act 1992
Protected species which might be associated with such a site include bats, owls and other breeding birds. The area around the site might be used by badgers, dormice, amphibians and reptiles, and might contain protected plant species.

3.2. Desk Study

Wrexham Planning Portal was consulted for a review of previous ecological surveys carried out in the area. Magic Maps was consulted for the presence of designated sites and protected habitats. Maps of the site and surrounding environment were examined to identify any nearby waterbodies suitable for use by great crested newts within an influencing distance of the site.

3.3. Field Survey

The site was examined to establish the presence of any protected species or habitats, and for evidence of use by protected species of animals. Trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and birds. The site and surrounding habitat was examined for signs of use by badgers and dormice. Photographs were taken of all relevant areas.
The visual assessment of the site was carried out in accordance with CIEEM guidelines (CIEEM 2017) on 10th August 2024 by Susan Worsfold BSc (Hons) ACIEEM.

4. Baseline Ecological Conditions/Results

4.1 Designated Sites

The nearest designated site is Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses (NNR) and Fenn's, Whixall Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses (SSSI and SAC) and Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 2 (Ramsar) 470 m south east.

4.2 Habitats

Site: Rural location. Total area affected approximately 300 m^2. Recently seeded short vegetation dominated by grass. The west boundary is hedgerow, other boundaries are fenced. The north boundary and part of the east boundary were previously mature conifer which has been felled due to obstruction of light to the house, also concerns over root interference with drainage, leading to flooding, as well as taking space from the adjacent land which would otherwise be used for crops. Adjacent land: The nearest pond is 125 m west according to maps. The nearest significant woodland is 210 m south east. There is a good network of hedgerows surrounding the site.

4.3 Species and Species Groups

Invertebrates
The site has limited value for use by invertebrates but none were seen at the time of the survey.

Amphibians and Reptiles
None seen at the time of the survey. There were no refugia suitable for use by reptiles or amphibians on site.

Birds
The adjacent hedgerow could provide food and shelter for birds and also nesting potential.

Bats
The site is suitable for use by foraging and commuting bats.

Badgers

[redacted]

Dormice
No evidence of use by dormice was found and the site was not suitable for use by them.

Plants:
Hedge: Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), conifer (with bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*))
Ground flora: Grasses, bramble, red dead nettle (*Lamium pupureum*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*)
No species of conservation value or Schedule 9 species were seen on site. No rare or threatened species of plants were found on site or near the site.

5. Description of the Development

The proposal involves the construction of a fence at the east boundary, this is partially complete. The land will become part of the existing garden.

6. Assessment of Effects and Mitigation Measures

Designated Sites:
It is not considered that the proposal will have any significant impact on any designated sites due to the small scale of the proposal and distance from the sites.

Habitats:
No priority habitat is affected by the proposal.

Species:
Birds
Hedges should not be trimmed between March and September, to avoid disturbance to any nesting birds.

Bats
There is not considered to be any threat to the conservation status of bats or danger of harm to individuals. The site is suitable for foraging and commuting bats.

Reptiles and Amphibians
There are no ponds within 100 m. There are limited foraging opportunities or shelter on site.

Residual Effects
No significant residual effects anticipated.

7. Compensation

The west boundary hedge will be reinforced with hazel, hawthorn and elder to compensate for the loss of conifers, these will provide food and shelter for nesting birds.

8. Net Biodiversity Benefit

A wildflower area of approximately 12 m^2 will be planted with native species at the west end of the site. A crevice dwelling woodcrete bat box and a woodcrete bird box will be fitted to the existing dwelling, on the south and north gable ends respectively.

9. Ecological Constraints

None identified.

10. Monitoring

Not considered necessary.

11. Conclusions

If the recommended mitigation and enhancement measures are taken there will be a net gain in biodiversity and no net loss of roosting or nesting sites, nor any danger of harm to any species.

12. Bibliography

Bat Conservation Trust available at: http://www.bats.org.uk

BCT and ILP Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting available at: https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/

Collins J. (Ed) (2016) *Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edn)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora available at: jncc.defra.gov.uk

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines* Peterborough: English Nature

Gent A.H, Gibson S.D (eds) (1998) *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual.* Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Great crested newts: surveys and mitigation for development projects available at: https://www.gov.uk/great-crested-newts-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects

Google Maps available at: https://maps.google.com/maps

Langton, T., Beckett, C., Foster, J. (2001) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook.* Halesworth: Froglife

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Mitchell-Jones, A. J. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines,* Peterborough: English Nature

Mitchell-Jones, A. J. and McLeish, A. P. (2004) *Bat Worker's Manual,* Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000) Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt *(Triturus cristatus) Herpetological Journal* 10 (4), 143-155.

Wrexham Council Planning Portal available at: http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningSearch.page

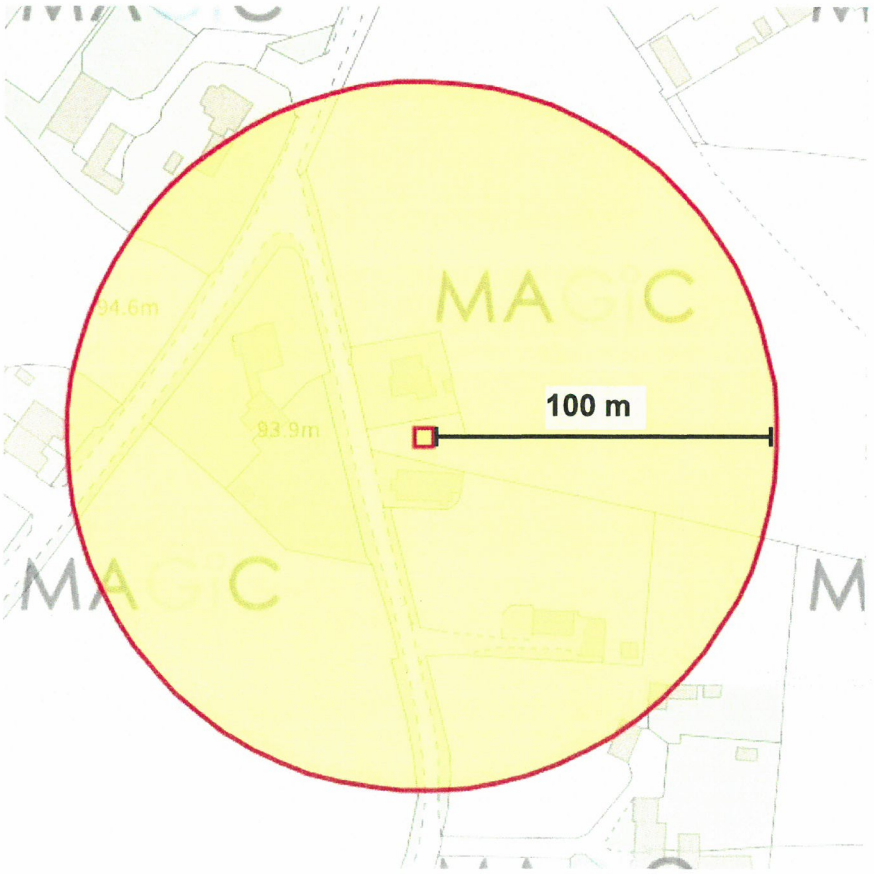
UK BAP Priority Habitats available at: jncc.defra.gov.uk

Wildlife and Habitat Conservation available at: https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/wildlife-habitat-conservation

Appendix 13.1: Aerial Photograph



Appendix 13.2: Designated Sites and Zones of Influence



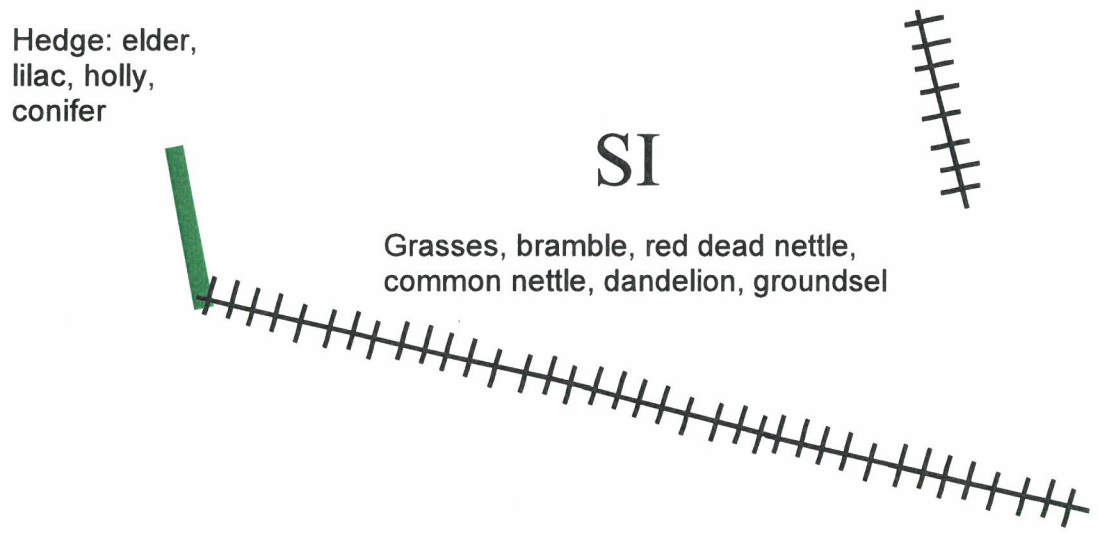
Appendix 13.3: Photographs


View from the west

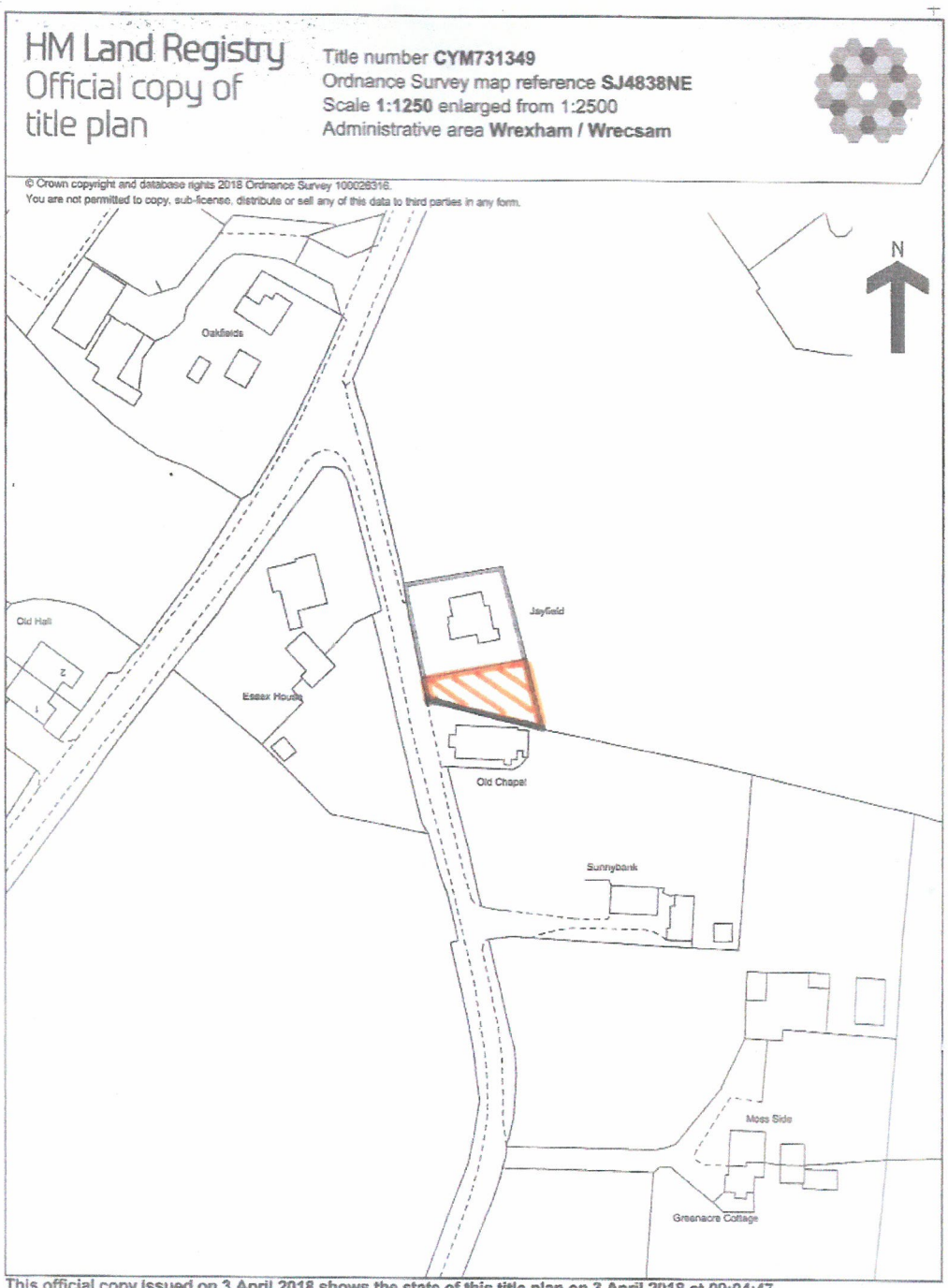

View from the east


West boundary

Appendix 13.4: Phase 1 Survey Diagram



Appendix 13.5: Site Plan as Existing



This official copy issued on 3 April 2018 shows the state of this title plan on 3 April 2018 at 09:04:47.
It is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original (s.67 Land Registration Act 2002).
This title plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale.
Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.
This title is dealt with by HM Land Registry, Wales Office.

Appendix 13.6: Legislation Relating to Birds

All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected. It is an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird,
- take, damage or destroy the nest of a Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle or Osprey (even if disused),
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built,
- take, damage or destroy an egg or any wild bird,
- possess any live or dead wild bird or the egg of any wild bird, or any derivative

Many rare birds are listed on Schedule 1, which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb a Schedule 1 bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- disturb dependent young of such a bird

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issues licences for specific purposes, so that you can undertake legitimate work without breaking the law. See 'Bird licensing' for more information.