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Mathew Symons
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1 King Street
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BY Email

Dear Mathew,

UPDATED PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL BERRY HILL RD, ADDERBURY

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

E3P has been instructed to undertake an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at Land at Berry Hill Road, Adderbury, hereafter referred to as "the site". It is understood the site will be developed for residential housing.

An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken by REC Ltd (report ref: 103828EC1R1) in June 2017. No major constraints were identified within the site boundary. Potential for protected species was limited to common amphibians, bats within boundary trees and nesting birds.

METHODOLOGY

An Updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site was undertaken on 31st July 2019 by Celia Barlow BSc (Hons) MSc, GradCIEEM and Amy Dennet (BSc). Weather was cloudy, but dry at the time of the survey.

The site walkover was conducted to "JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey, 2010" methodology. During the walkover, habitats within the site were assessed for their potential to support any protected species. The assessment was undertaken in accordance with guidance set out in "Preliminary Ecological Appraisal" (CIEEM, 2018). The data search conducted within the initial 2017 report is thought to still be valid. A building inspection for bats was undertaken on the stables and trees on site following best practise guidelines (Collins, 2016). Waterbodies within 250m of the site were inspected for their potential to support notable amphibians.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal are as follows:

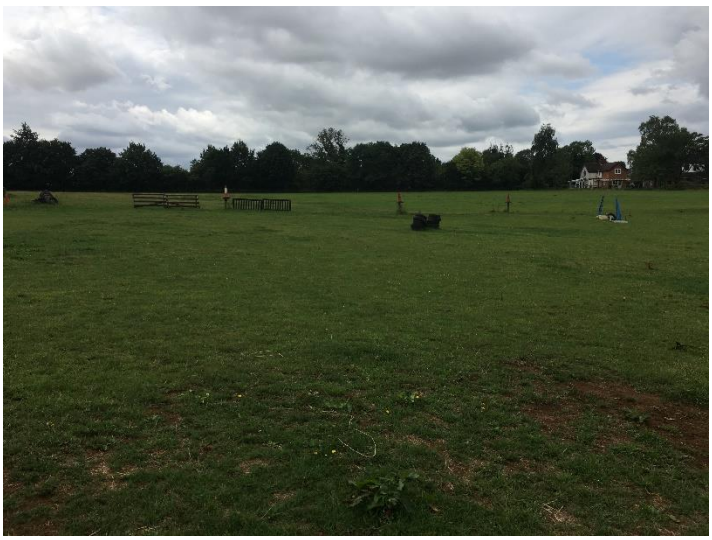
- Provide validity of the previous Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey completed at REC Ltd.
- Identify whether any legally protected species and habitats surveys require updating. Especially mobile species which could have moved on to the site, or changed its distinction within the site.
- Identify whether there have been significant changes to the habitats present since the previous surveys were undertaken, including through changes to site management.
- Identify whether local distribution of a species in the wider area around the site has changed, increasing the likelihood of protected species presence.

The Updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprises of an updated site walkover. Consultation with the relevant Local Records Centre was not completed.

RESULTS

During the site walkover, the habitats on site were broadly the same as those outlined within the initial survey. The grassland habitats had been mown for the production of silage and were grazed by horses at the time of the survey. The grassland was assessed as being improved due to the management of the site. The initial 2017 survey was undertaken prior to the cutting of the grassland on site.

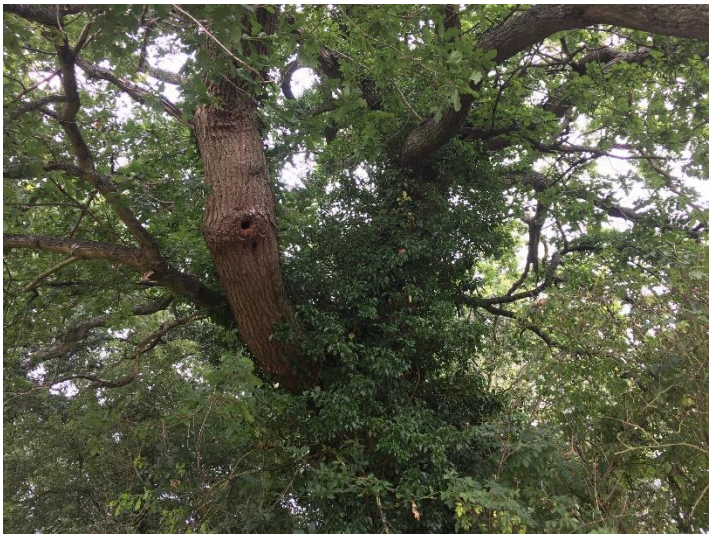
PLATE 1 SHOWING IMPROVED GRASSLAND FIELDS



The stables on site were assessed as negligible with regards roosting bats. The stables were well maintained with no roosting opportunities for the species. All wooden panels were tightly sealed with no crevices. No roof voids were present.

In addition to the initial survey, a mature pedunculate oak tree with moderate bat roosting potential was identified (E 446893, N 235022). The tree had a large knot hole which extended into the tree providing roosting features for a crevice dwelling bat species (see Plate 2). The tree was located within the boundary tree line to the north of the site and is not anticipated to be affected by development. Trees which were initially assessed as having bat roost potential in 2017 remained the same.

PLATE 2 SHOWING MODERATE BAT ROOST POTENTIAL



During the site walkover, nesting swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were identified within the stables on site. These were also identified during the initial 2017 survey. A red kite (Milvus milvus) was observed flying high over the site during the survey.

An updated assessment of the waterbodies to the north of the site was undertaken. Waterbodies WB2 and WB3 could not be accessed as they were located within residential gardens. It is likely the waterbodies remain in the same condition, having negligible potential to support great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) due to the presence of fish and wildfowl. Waterbody WB1 was still found to be dry with no evidence of aquatic vegetation. Therefore, it can be said no terrestrial great crested newts will be present on site. However common amphibians may be encountered.

An updated Phase 1 Habitat Map has been prepared to outline any changes in habitat types. Please see Appendix I (Drawing 80-195).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Updated site plans have been provided since the initial 2017 assessment. No additional impacts are anticipated other than those addressed within the further recommendations due to the large amount of open space allocated within the site plans. Impacts expected are limited to nesting bird checks, although a minimal amount of vegetation will require removal. It is not anticipated that any trees with bat potential will be removed as a result of the development. The scheme is anticipated to have a negligible/low impact on local wildlife.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As the site and surrounding habitat features remained broadly the same during the survey, recommendations outlined in the initial Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey should be adhered to (report ref: 103828EC1R2). Further surveys include the following:

- Nesting bird checks should be undertaken prior to the removal of any vegetation, if required within the nesting bird season (March to September inclusive).
- Precautionary working methods to be followed for common amphibians, including the removal by hand away from the construction zone.

- An updated badger walkover will be undertaken prior to the commencement of development.
- An invasive species walkover should be undertaken prior to the commencement of development.

The scheme will strive to achieve biodiversity net gain, as per "Biodiversity Net Gain; Good Practice Principles for Development" CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2016). Full details of this and a calculation of net gain will be completed once final site layout with associated drainage design has been finalised.

***Please note that this report should be read in conjunction with the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report prepared by REC Ltd in 2017 (report ref:103828EC1R2)**

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of E3P Ltd

[redacted]

Celia Barlow
Senior Consultant- Ecology