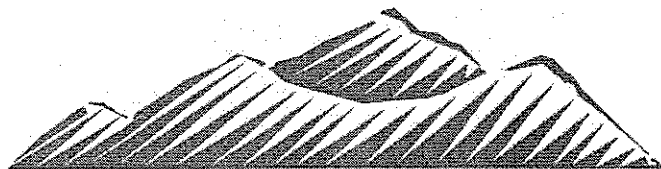


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320120179P

BASELINE ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Accrington Road, Whalley

December 2011

NB. Information on legally protected, rare or vulnerable species may appear in ecological reports. In such cases it is recommended that appropriate caution be used when circulating copies.

Envirotech NW Ltd

GEN/11/291
Rev 2

Envirotech NW Ltd
Director: A Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEEM, MRICS, CEnv Dip NDEA
Registered Office: Stone Lea, Sedgwick, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 0JP
Registered in England and Wales Company Registration Number 5028111



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Professional responsibility

This report has been commissioned and the actions of the surveyor have been made in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (www.ieem.org.uk) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (www.rics.org.uk)

Accuracy of report

This report has been compiled based on the methodology as detailed and the professional experience of the surveyor. Whilst the report reflects the situation found as accurately as possible, all of the protected species this survey covers are wild and can move freely from site to site. Their presence or absence detailed in this report does not entirely preclude the possibility of a different past, current or future use of the site surveyed.

We would ask all clients acting upon the contents of this report to show due diligence when undertaking work on their site and/or in their interaction with protected species. If protected species are found during a work programme, and continuing the work programme could result in their disturbance, injury or death, either directly or indirectly an offence may be committed.

If in doubt, stop work and seek further professional advice.

Quality and Environmental Assurance

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COMMENTS ON CURRENT STATUS AND ANY IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE ACTIONS NEEDED:

THE SITE SUPPORTS AN UNREMARKABLE ASSEMBLAGE OF COMMONLY OCCURRING PLANT SPECIES AS WELL AS LIMITED SCOPE FOR PROTECTED SPECIES.

THE POTENTIAL FOR DISTURBANCE OF OTTERS AND BATS ALONG THE RIVER CORRIDOR IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE MINOR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE LOCAL AREA AND CAN BE EASILY COMPENSATED FOR IN ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

320120179P

REPORT CONTROL SHEET

General Report Information	
Date of site risk assessment	14 th November 2011
Project lead signature	Andrew Gardner - Director
Date report issued	1 st February 2012
Report approved by	Andrew Gardner - Director

RESULTS SUMMARY AND ACTIONS REQUIRED

Results

1. The main site supports habitat of limited value to wildlife.
2. The principal ecological constraint to development would be the potential for a minor impact on bats, otters and Watervoles along the river corridor.

Actions Required

These actions are to meet compliance with current legislation, planning policy and best practice as recognised by the various statutory authorities. They are intended to fulfil ecological planning formalities and facilitate the implementation of the project.

1. The landscaping plan should incorporate wildlife friendly species.
2. Light spill onto the nearby river should be minimised to preserve the foraging potential of these areas for bats and otters.
3. Contractors should be observant for nesting birds during construction work affecting hedges.
4. A buffer should be established along the river corridor to enhance its functionality due to the existing banks, on both sides, being open prone to disturbance.
5. New tree lines should be planted along the edge and within the site to create habitat linkage over and around the site.

1.0 Background

1.1 Extended Phase 1 Survey

1.1.1 The Extended Phase 1 survey was undertaken by Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons) MSc, MRICS, MIEEM, CEnv. The survey followed the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (NCC, 1990) which is a standard technique for recording and mapping habitats. The survey involved walking the whole site, mapping and describing different habitats (for example: woodland, grassland, scrub).

1.2 Timing and Constraints

1.2.1 The Phase 1 survey was carried out on 29th November 2011, the weather was dry, bright and warm throughout, the survey timing was during early winter. In this case the time of year did not pose any constraint. Similarly, the timing posed no problems for the baseline protected species assessment, and no constraints were encountered in respect of achieving the survey objectives.

2.0 Phase 1 Survey Results

2.1 Habitat Results

2.1.1 The site is known as land off Accrington Road, Whalley and comprises an open area of improved pasture bounded by species poor hedges and the River Calder. Other habitats on and adjacent to the site comprise emergent vegetation, tall ruderals, marshy grassland, scattered scrub and bare grounds. See figure 1 for the Phase 1 Habitat Plan and descriptive botanical and faunal target notes, hereafter referred to as BTN and FTN.

2.1.2 The habitats encountered on and adjacent to the site were (in no particular order):

- Improved Pasture
- Marshy Grassland
- Species poor hedges
- Wet Ditches
- Tall Ruderals
- Trees
- Emergent/ Bankside vegetation

2.2 Improved Pasture

2.2.1 The majority of the development site comprises improved pasture (BTN1). This appears to have been mown in the past for silage but there is little indication of agricultural improvement/ management in recent years. The sward is becoming long and dominated by coarse grass species. Species typical of improved pasture, not subject recent grazing or mowing, include Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Annual Meadow Grass (*Poa annua*), Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-Tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Fescue Sp. (*Festuca* Sp.) (See Plate 1 and 2)

2.2.2 Non grass species include Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Red

clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Broad-leaved Willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*) and Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*).

- 2.2.3 Small patches of Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*) and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) also occur along the hedgesides (Plate 3). Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) was noted (in flower) along the North and East side of the site (plate 4).

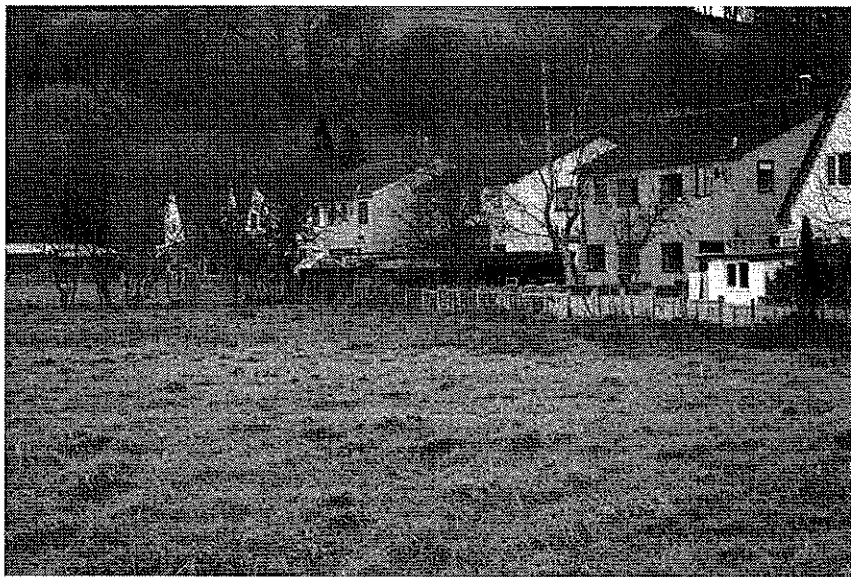


Plate 1 and 2- Improved pasture

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Plate 3- Common Nettle, Bramble and Hogweed along hedge side



Plate 4- Lesser celandine in flower

2.3 Marshy Grassland

- 2.3.1 At the North side of the site a small wet flush in the field is dominated by Hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) along with Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and occasional Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*). Interspersed with these are grasses found within the adjacent pasture. (Plate 5 and BTN2)



Plate 5- Small area of marshy grassland to right dominated by *Juncus Sp.* giving way to grass species in surrounding field

2.4 Species poor hedges

- 2.4.1 Along the Northern boundary a hedge sits atop a bank to Accrington Road. A post and rail fence within the hedge has degraded. The hedge has been cut back from the roadside but Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) has been allowed to form spindly bushes within it. Along the Eastern boundary is a second species poor hedge, separating the site from agricultural buildings. Through the centre of the site a remnant hedge has been allowed to grow, there is no structure or density to it at ground level. (Plate 6 and BTN 3). This base of this hedge (to be lost) is grazed.
- 2.4.2 Tree species within the hedges include Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). None of the hedges meet Hedgerow Regulations criteria for protection.

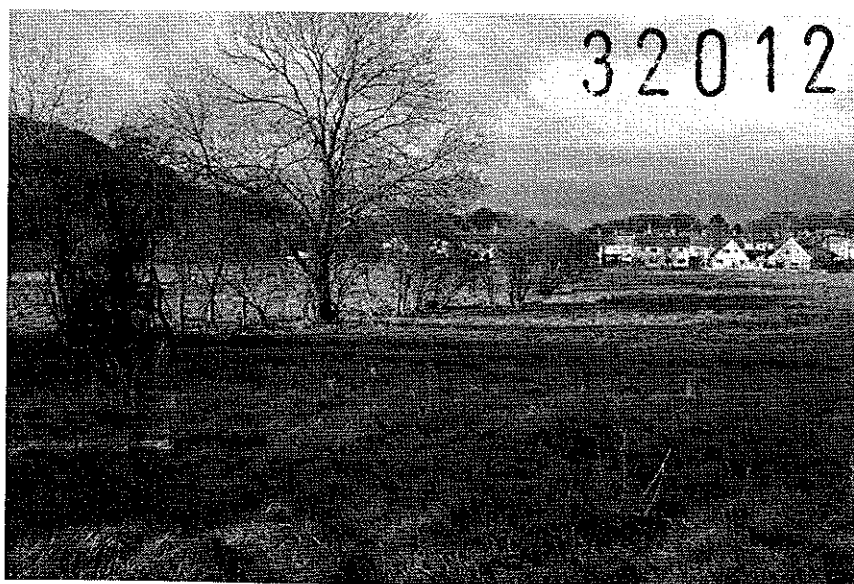


Plate 6- Hedge through centre of the site which has grown up, no density or structure at ground level

2.5 Wet Ditches

- 2.5.1 A wet ditch runs down the East side of the site. The ditch is unfenced from the field and has an open shallow profile across its bottom with steep artificial banks. Flote-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) is present within the channel. There is little cover or other aquatic vegetation associated with it. The ditch would be subject to grazing from livestock in the field and appears to be the sole water source for drinking (BTN 4 and Plate 7).



Plate 7- Open ditch with small flow open to field

- 2.5.2 The lack of bankside vegetation, flow and cover would render this channel low quality for Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) (FTN1)

2.6 Tall Ruderals

- 2.6.1 Along the bank leading to Accrington Road to the North and a narrow strip along the river bank tall ruderals dominate. A fence runs parallel with the river on the river bank and isolates a footpath from the site. The footpath has a bare gravel/ mud surface. Dog faeces was noted along its length indicating this is a popular dog walking area (BTN5 and Plate 8).
- 2.6.2 Species are typical of such areas and include Cocksfoot, Hogweed, Dandelion, Annual Meadow Grass, Common nettle, Yorkshire Fog, Cocksfoot, False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).



Plate 8 -Footpath along river bank with tall ruderals on either side.

2.7 Deciduous Trees

- 2.7.1 Along the waters edge semi-mature trees include Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash and Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) (BTN6 and Plate 9). Within the site, along the remnant hedgerow and in the centre of the field are small Ash and Hawthorn. None of these trees have significant bat roosting potential.

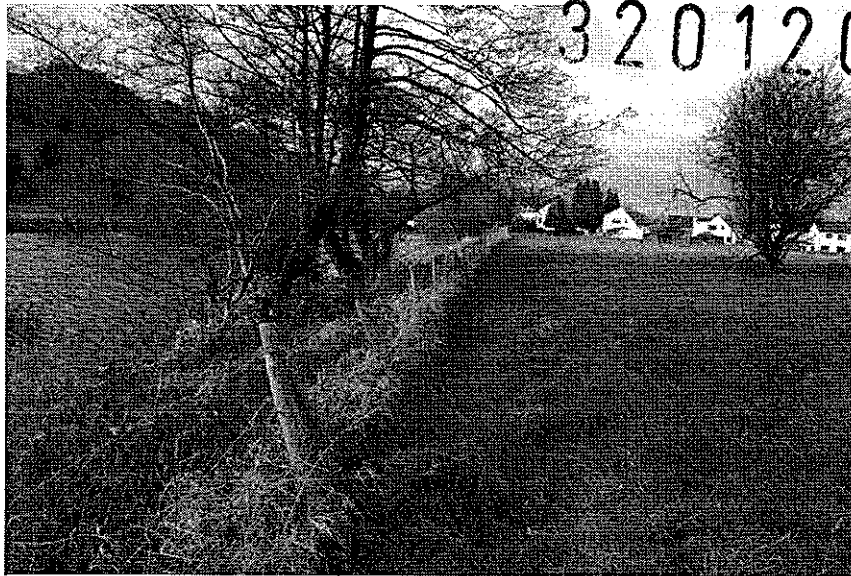


Plate 9- Trees along river bank and Hawthorn bush in field with negligible roosting potential

2.8 Emergent/ Bankside vegetation

- 2.8.1 Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) grows along the river bank (BTN7). Water levels are stable along this part of the river due to a weir downstream. The bankside was inspected for indications of Otter (*Lutra lutra*). No spraints, tracks or runs were located, even at ideal sprainting sites at the side of the weir (FTN2)

Key

- Site Boundary
- Financial Target Note
- Financial Target Note
- Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- Building Roadside Gardens
- Meadow grassland
- Improved grassland
- Tall herbland
- Shrubland
- Arable grassland
- Weir
- Detached hedge - species-poor
- Fence
- Marginal vegetation
- Running water
- Broadleaved scattered trees
- Scrub - wetland



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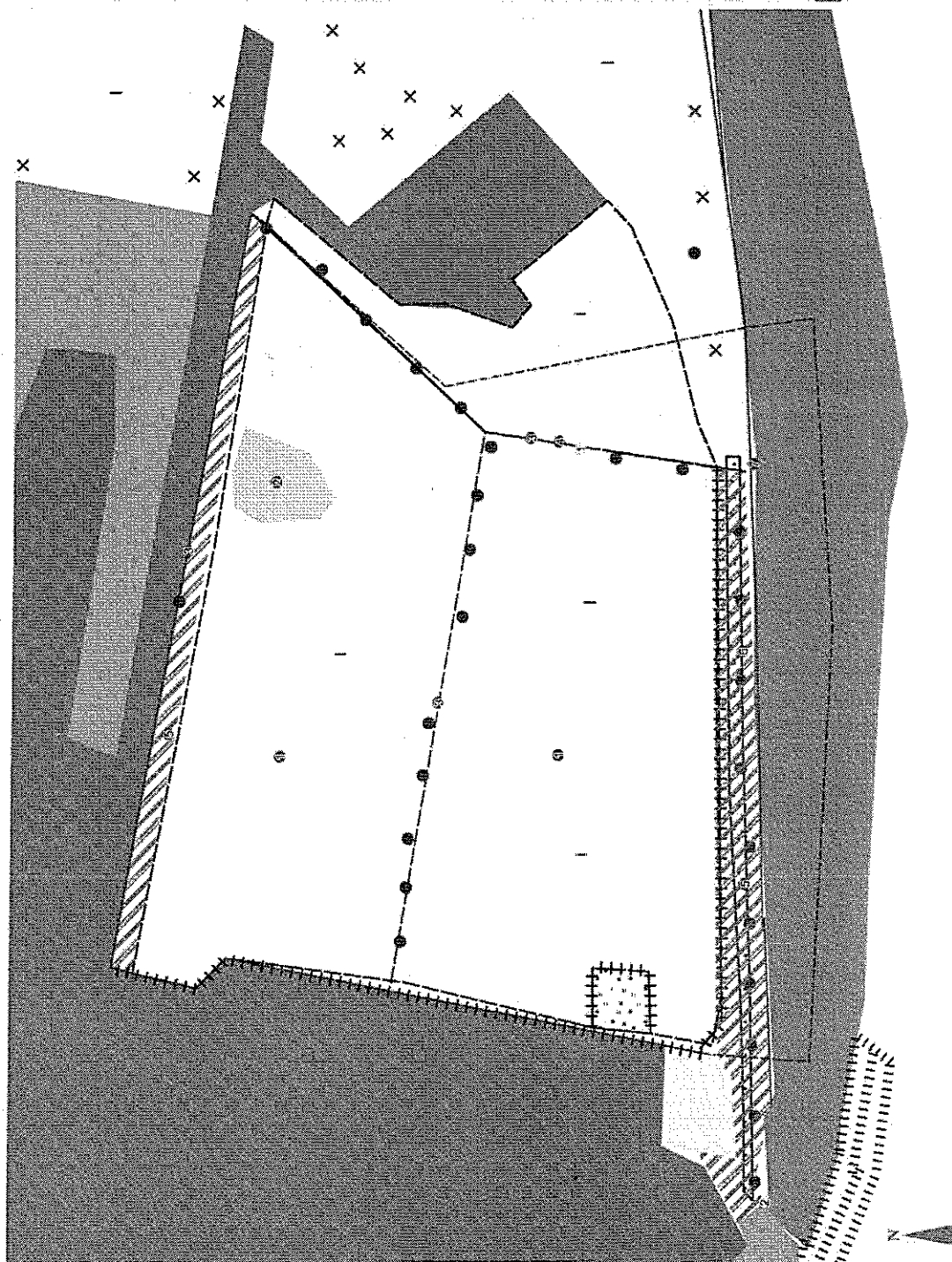
Figure 1

Land of Acreington Road
Whalley

Results* of Extended
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

SCALE: 1:100

*Habitats outside the site boundary are indicative only
and have been mapped from within the site boundary or from publicly accessible land



3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Scope and objectives

This report was commissioned in respect of the proposed future development of a fields off Accrington Road, Whalley. The objectives of this survey are:

1. To carry out an ecological assessment of the site to identify any habitats, species or features of nature conservation significance.
2. To undertake more in-depth surveys to assess the extent of any ecological risk identified.
3. To provide a concise written report of the results, making any appropriate recommendations to ensure compliance with wildlife law and recognised best practice.

3.2 General site description and methods

The site comprises two improved pasture fields bounded by roads, houses, improved pasture and the River Calder.

A plan and photographs are provided earlier in this report.

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3.3 Methodology

A consultation with the site agents was made on the 1st November 2011 following which the general site layout and adjacent environs were appraised. A search of the ecological records held by the NBN and Lancashire County Council was also made. A map showing the results of the search is shown at figure 2.

There are several records of protected or notable species within 500m of the site on the datasets searched but no records for the site. No additional records searches were considered necessary based on our initial appraisal of the habitats associated with the site. The 500m buffer is sufficient to capture likely use of the site based on habitat fragmentation and availability.

The level of survey effort used for each species was derived from our assessment of the likely presence and susceptibility of each species to disturbance from the proposed development as well as its local abundance and level of protection/importance.



3.3.1 Bats

The survey was carried out in full accordance with the recommendations in NCC (1987), Mitchell-Jones (2004) and BCT (2007).

This comprised a close inspection of all trees and buildings adjacent to or on the site. Trees were assessed for the suitability of bat roosting according to the number of niches present such as deep cavities, flaky or deeply fissured bark, hollow stems and location in relation to potential foraging or commuting habitat. The orientation of the tree and level of shade or nearby obstruction to free flight were also considered as part of the evaluation process.

Buildings were assessed in relation to their ability to support roosting or foraging by bats.

The general habitat at the site was evaluated in terms of its suitability to bats for foraging or commuting.

A bat activity survey was not conducted as in accordance with BCT (2007) the site could be sufficiently well assessed from a daytime walkover survey to be reasonably confident in the absence of roosting bats and to make an assessment of possible impacts.

All typical (Council Directive 92/43/EEC, 1992) species of bat in the UK are protected under both UK and EU legislation. They are protected from deliberate disturbance, injury or killing. Any place they use for shelter is protected from alteration, obstruction or destruction, whether bats are present at the time or not.

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3.3.2 Badger

The survey method was a scaled down version of the standard badger survey methodology as described in Harris et al (1989). In practice this comprised a generalized search of the whole site where suitable habitat was found, to a distance of 30m from the site boundaries, where this was possible, for feeding signs, habitual runs and footprints, hairs, droppings and latrines, scratching posts and actual setts.

Badgers are protected from deliberate disturbance when in an active sett and intentional killing or injury. The badger is the only UK species to be specifically covered by its own legislation the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act.

3.3.3 Birds

All nesting birds, other than pest species covered by specific exemptions where they are causing damage to livestock or crops, are protected from disturbance when actively nesting or rearing dependant young. An assessment of the sites potential to support nesting birds would reveal the level of past use of the site and likely impact of the development on nesting/ foraging opportunities for birds. The trees, buildings and river bank were all inspected as an incidental part of the other surveys which were undertaken.

3.3.4 Invertebrates

The survey for these species was based on assessing the habitat type and suitability of the site.

It is our opinion that the above methodology was sufficient to make a risk assessment of site works and determine the likely effect on these species. As such we consider the above methodology constitutes reasonable effort in this case.

3.3.5 Plants

The vegetation composition of the site was assessed with key plant and tree species being identified.

3.3.6 Water vole

A detailed inspection of all suitable water courses occurring within a distance of 15m of each site boundary, where this was possible, following the methodology described in Strachan (1998) was carried out.

In practice, the edge of the ditches were examined for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) usage including field signs such as latrines (piles of droppings used to mark territories), feeding remains, footprints, burrows, 'vole lawns' and actual sightings or the characteristic sound of animals diving into the water.

The survey was undertaken at a time of year when watervole activity is much reduced and or would have ceased. It should however be noted that Lesser celandine was in flower at the time of the survey and the autumn had been exceptionally warm. Watervoles are likely to have been at least partially active at or immediately prior to the survey.

3.3.7 Otters

A search for habitual use of the site by otters such as spraints, haul out points, feeding remains, holts, runs and slides was undertaken. Otters are active all year round and suitable sprainting sites were located along the River Calder and could be checked.

3.3.8 Great Crested Newt

There is no suitable habitat at or in proximity to the site. No additional assessment was considered necessary.

3.4 Limitations

None significant

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Protected sites

Three Local Wildlife sites were found within or close to the buffer zone. These are Calder Bank, Sir Johns Wood and Park and Spring Wood.

Spring wood is isolated from the site by two busy roads. St Johns Wood and Park and Calder Bank are adjacent to but do not connect with the site. There is separation between the two sites by an improved pasture field (not in the same ownership as the site). These sites are also upstream, so there is no hydrological connection to the site.

These sites are designated for woodland and scrub and flowering plants and ferns. The ability for these sites species assemblages to be dependant upon or affected by the proposal is therefore minimal.

No significant impacts are predicted upon these sites and no specific mitigation in respect of their presence is required.

Citations for these LWS are included in Appendix 1

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4.2 Bats

There are no buildings on the site which will be lost and or partially modified by the proposal. All of the buildings adjacent to the site are of modern construction and or portal frame construction. They are considered to offer some roosting potential. It is considered bat roosting sites are likely to occur within the housing estate to the West. There were however no bat records returned during the data search.

Bats are likely to forage along the tree lines on the river bank and over the still water above the weir on the boundary of the development site. Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*) in particular prefer still water with tree lined river banks. The core development area is not however considered to offer significant bat roosting or foraging potential.

Trees on and within the site boundaries were all assessed in accordance with BCT (2007). All were found to be category 3 (negligible) roosting potential. No significant impacts on potential bat roosts are predicted by the proposal.

Based on habitat and daytime inspections, additional survey work is considered unlikely to provide additional information about the status of the site for bats. In accordance with BCT (2007) no additional survey work is therefore required.

Mitigation to provide and retain new tree lines down the edge of and through the site and the river and minimise light spill will be required to maintain and enhance the foraging potential of the site.

If the river corridor can be enhanced, with new bankside planting, it is considered there would be significant ecological gain from the proposal. Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*) and other bat species would be able to commute and forage along the river bank. There would also be enhanced linkage with the LWS woodland to the East.

4.3 Badger

A detailed inspection of all suitable habitat at the site and to a distance of at least 30m from the site boundaries, where this was possible, revealed no active badger setts. No habitual runs, hair or scratch posts were found on or near suitable features on the site.

A search for snuffle holes (badger feeding signs) was made across the entire site. No indication of badger feeding was found.

Whilst badgers are believed to occur within 2km of the site, it is reasonable to assume that they do not have an active sett within 30m of the site boundary.

The proposed development will not impact on any existing badger runs or setts. The porosity of the surrounding fields to the passage of badgers will not be affected. There is currently poor connectivity across the site with adjacent potential foraging areas.

4.4 Birds

Few potential nest sites were located on the site. A risk assessment of the site in respect of its future potential for and value to nesting birds could be adequately made.

There are habitats along the river bank which offer nesting potential for ground nesting birds but they would be subject to high levels of disturbance and predation from dogs.

The open grassland would also not offer optimal nesting sites for ground nesting birds. Trees around the edge of the site would provide hunting perches for raptors which would increase the risk of predation.

The impact on nesting birds is therefore considered likely to be minor. A check for nesting birds should be undertaken prior to the removal of any trees or hedges if this is in the period March-September inclusive. The potential for use of the gappy hedges is however considered to be negligible.

The creation of a densely planted corridor along the river corridor and trees on the edge of the site may provide shelter for nesting birds and would enhance the potential for use of the site.

4.5 Invertebrates

A survey for invertebrates including, but not limited to solitary and mining bees and wasps and certain butterflies was triggered as a result of this site lying in proximity to semi-natural vegetation. The method of survey for these species was to assess the habitat type affected by development and therefore its likely importance at the local level to any of these species.

Trees on the site boundaries contain comparatively little rotten wood in their canopies.

Improved pasture and marshy grassland has some value to species such as common butterflies but this is not considered to be locally significant.

The significance of the site to invertebrates is likely to be limited in the local context although the habitat on site will support invertebrate species. Mitigation can be incorporated into the design and landscaping scheme with the careful selection of plant species and substrates for the garden areas.

4.6 Plants

Details of the plant species found on site are included in the target notes. Only common plant species were located. The species found within the site are largely generalists or associated with agricultural improvement. **No invasive or Schedule 9 weed species were identified on the site.**

The landscaping scheme should utilise native or wildlife friendly species. Mature trees on the site boundaries should be retained where it is possible and safe to do so on reflection of increased public access to the site.

4.7 Water voles

There were no indications of this species found along the river bank but the habitat here is suitable for the species and it may occur. A ditch down the East side of the site is considered to have negligible potential for use by the species.

No habitat potentially used by the species will be detrimentally affected by the proposal. The river bank is not subject to significant alteration. No significant negative impacts on the species are predicted.

The planting of willow along the river bank/ corridor would provide an additional food source for this species (particularly in winter) and provide more structural diversity at ground level than already occurs on the open and exposed river banks. The wildlife pond will also provide a far better ecological resource than the heavily trampled riverbank.

4.8 Otter

There were no indications of this species found along the river bank but the habitat here is suitable for the species and it may occur.

No habitat potentially used by the species for resting (holt and couch sites) will be detrimentally affected by the proposal. The river bank is not subject to significant alteration. There is a high level of bankside disturbance from dog walkers.

The planting of willow along the river bank/ corridor would provide additional structural diversity at ground level than already occurs on the open and exposed river banks. Additional planting to form a buffer along the river and wildlife pond will also provide above ground holt/ couch sites. There is little that can be done to reduce disturbance impacts from walkers as the river bank is a public footpath. The pond should however remain undisturbed.

5.0 Significance of Survey Results

No conclusive signs of protected or otherwise important species were recorded on the development site and or are reasonably expected to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

Bats are likely to use the surrounding landscape for foraging. The focus of this activity will likely be correlated with the trees along the river bank. These may be slightly affected as a result of artificial lighting.

No indications of current use of the site by badgers, water voles or otters could be found. These species is however known to occur in the local area. Precautionary mitigation for the species is considered to be appropriate.

We consider the site has a low potential for use by nesting and foraging birds. Mitigation through a check for nesting birds prior to site clearance will adequately mitigate for bird species. The site is unsuitable for notable ground nesting birds.

We judge the ecological significance of the vegetation at the site to be low in respect of its vegetative composition and importance to invertebrates.

Overall, it is considered there are likely to be no significant ecological constraints to development of the site. More than adequate provision for the slight degradation in habitat can be made thorough the use of wildlife friendly plant species in the landscaping plan and the creation of a riparian buffer zone.

7.0 Mitigation Proposals

Taking the survey results and impacts above into consideration and the implications for the proposed site works mitigation measures are summarized as standalone methods statements in Annex 2.

8.0 Conclusion

Ecological surveys, site appraisals and impact assessments were carried out with respect to land off Accrington Road, Whalley.

Bats are known to occur in the local area and are likely to use the site boundaries for foraging. No indications of Otters or Watervoles was found. Use of the site by this species would also be confined to the river bank.

Badgers are considered to be absent at the site. There is some, albeit a low potential for use of the site for nesting by birds.

There was however no conclusive evidence of any specifically protected species regularly occurring on the site or the surrounding areas which will be negatively affected by the proposed site development following the mitigation scheme outlined herein.

Enhancement of the site through landscaping, tree planting a riparian buffer zone and new pond will result in significant ecological improvement of the site.

I certify this report has been compiled in accordance with the code of professional conduct for the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and reflects my objective opinion of the facts found in relation to the instruction received and information available based upon the methodology, assumptions and constraints detailed within this report.

Signed



Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEEM, MRICS, CEnv, Dip NDEA

Director Envirotech NW Ltd

Wednesday, 01 February 2012

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Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Calder Bank, Broken Brow



Site Boundary

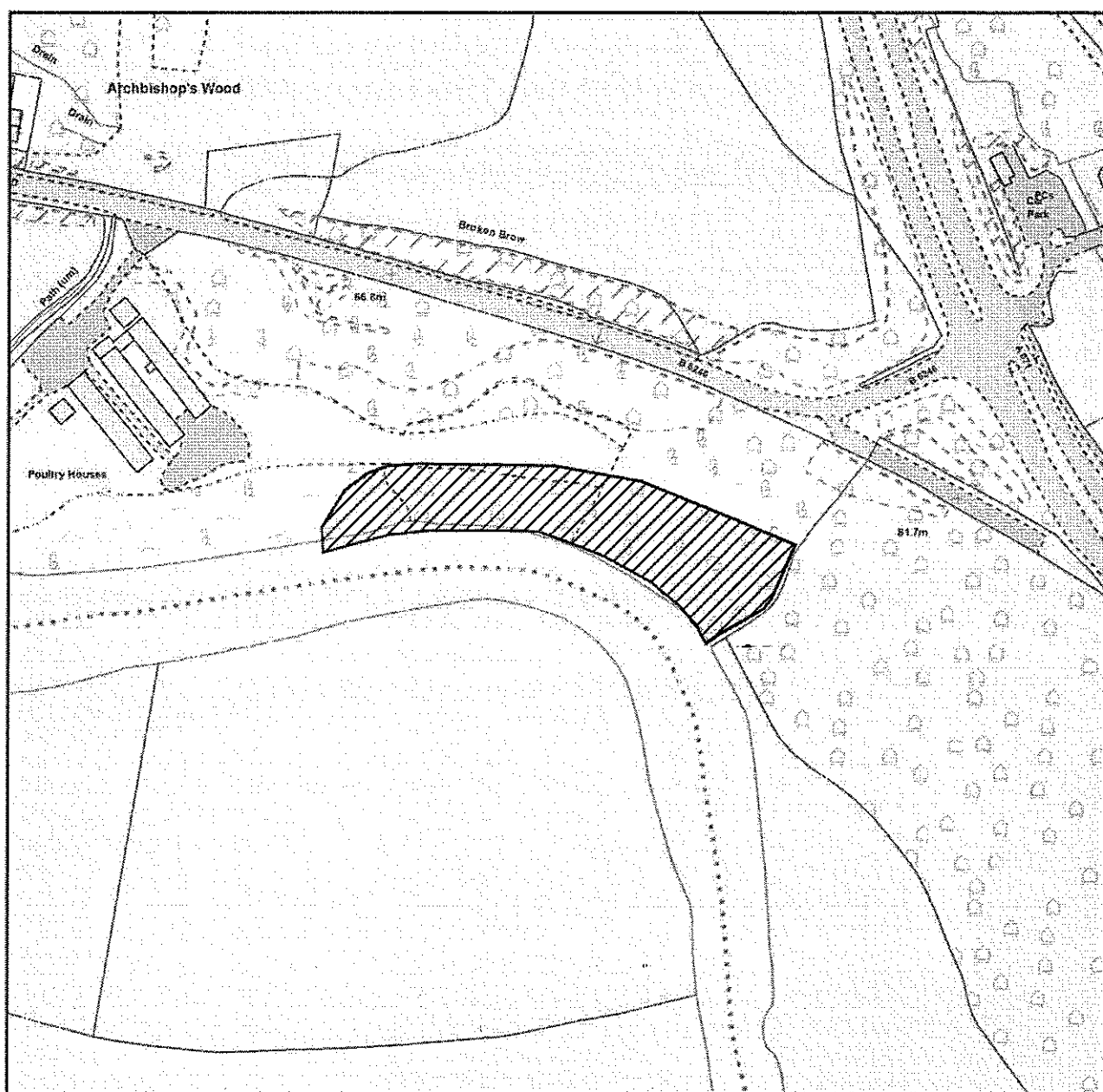
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Natural England



Grid ref. SD738359

Scale 1:2,360

Site approved

Map 1 of 1

Boundary revised

Date of Map 14/11/11



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Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Sir John's Wood and Lords Park Wood



Site Boundary

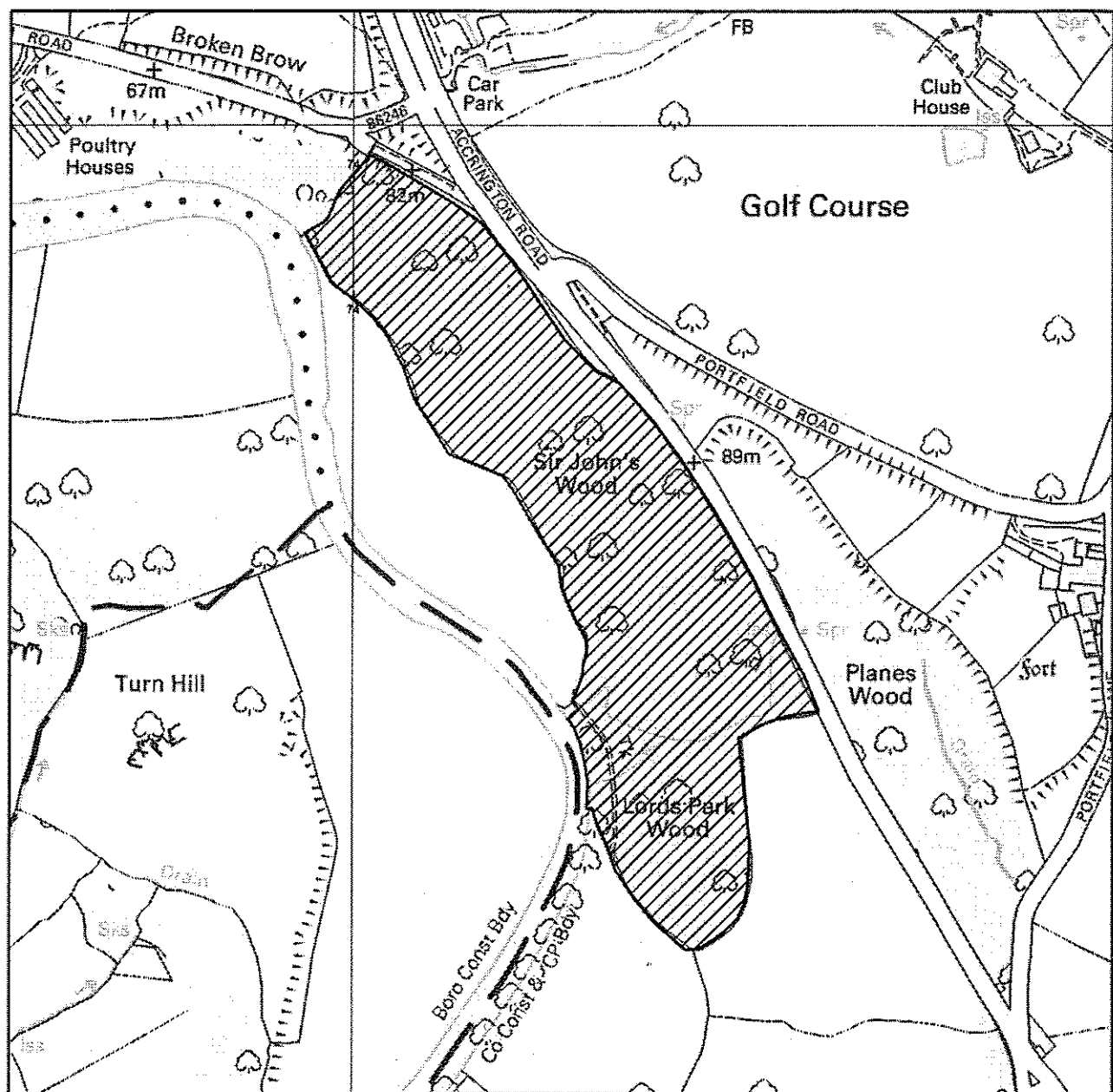
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Site approved

Map 1 of 1

Boundary revised

Date of Map 14/11/11



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County
Council



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Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Spring Wood



Site Boundary

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Map 1 of 1

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Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

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Site Name: Calder Bank, Broken Brow

Site Ref: 73NW10

Approved: 01 September 2003

Area (ha): 0.58

Date written/last updated: 01 December 2005

Grid Ref: SD738359

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts:

Ribble Valley

Parishes:

Whalley

Description:

The site comprises a steep banking situated along the north side of the River Calder, approximately 0.5 km east of Whalley. It is notable for the occurrence of Rough Horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*), a species listed as vulnerable in the *Provisional Lancashire Red Data List of Vascular Plants*. This is currently the only known location for Rough Horsetail in Vice County 59.

The site is a scrubby continuation of St John's Wood with abundant/frequent Ash, Alder, Hawthorn, Elder and Bramble. Other species present include Ivy, Dog's Mercury, Herb-robert, Primrose, Bush Vetch, Red Campion, Wood Aven, Lords-and-Ladies, Hemp-agrimony, Common Nettle, Meadowsweet, Great Horsetail, Pendulous Sedge, Remote Sedge, Wood-sedge, Tufted Hair-grass and False Brome.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4)

Other Information/Comments:

The site adjoins Sir John's Wood and Lords Park Wood Biological Heritage Site (BHS 73NW12).

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Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

**Biological Heritage Sites
Partnership:**

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Site Name: Sir John's Wood and Lords Park Wood

Site Ref: 73NW12

Approved:

Area (ha): 10.38

Date written/last updated:

Grid Ref: SD742356

Owner/Occupier:

Districts:

Ribble Valley

Parishes:

Whalley

Description:

To be completed

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Woodland and Scrub (Wd1)

Other Information/Comments:



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Site Name: Spring Wood

Site Ref: 73NW14

Approved: 08 September 1993

Area (ha): 15.96

Date written/last updated:

Grid Ref: SD741363

Owner/Occupier: Public

Districts:
Ribbles Valley

Parishes:
Whalley

Description:
To be completed

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Woodland and Scrub (Wd1)

Other Information/Comments:

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Method Statement for Works

at

Land Off Accrington Road, Whalley

1. Bats

The following table details each part of the site and works required to protect bats during the construction phase.

AREA OF SITE	POTENTIAL FOR USE BY BATS	RISK TO BATS FROM PROPOSED WORK	RECOMMENDATIONS
Open ground	No suitable roost sites. Low potential for foraging over open ground	Low risk	If bats are seen stop work and seek further advice
Semi-mature trees over 10cm BDH	No highly suitable fissures or cracks for roosting. Low potential for use	Low risk	Re-inspect any trees prior to felling. Be observant for bats during any felling operations in this area. If bats are seen stop work and seek further advice

Commuting and foraging routes

The trees lines and scrub on the site boundaries provide habitat of local value to bats for foraging and should be retained.

Light spill onto the trees along the river should be minimised. Mitigation for other species outlined later in this report is also considered more than sufficient to mitigate for any slight degradation in habitat quality and enhance the sites ecological functionality for bats. Minimisation of lighting impacts can be undertaken by directing lighting on the rear of the buildings along the South side of the site downwards only and planting a screen along the river bank.

2. Nesting Birds

The construction does not require the removal of dense trees or hedges suitable for nesting birds. When the gappy hedge through the centre of the site is removed, it should ideally be removed outside of the bird breeding season (i.e. not between end-February and mid-August inclusive) wherever possible. As nesting birds are easy to detect, hedges to be cleared within this time period should be searched for nesting birds prior to clearance by a suitably qualified individual.

If a nest is found, the feature containing the nest and its immediate surroundings will be left undisturbed until nesting is complete and any young have fledged.

3. Landscaping

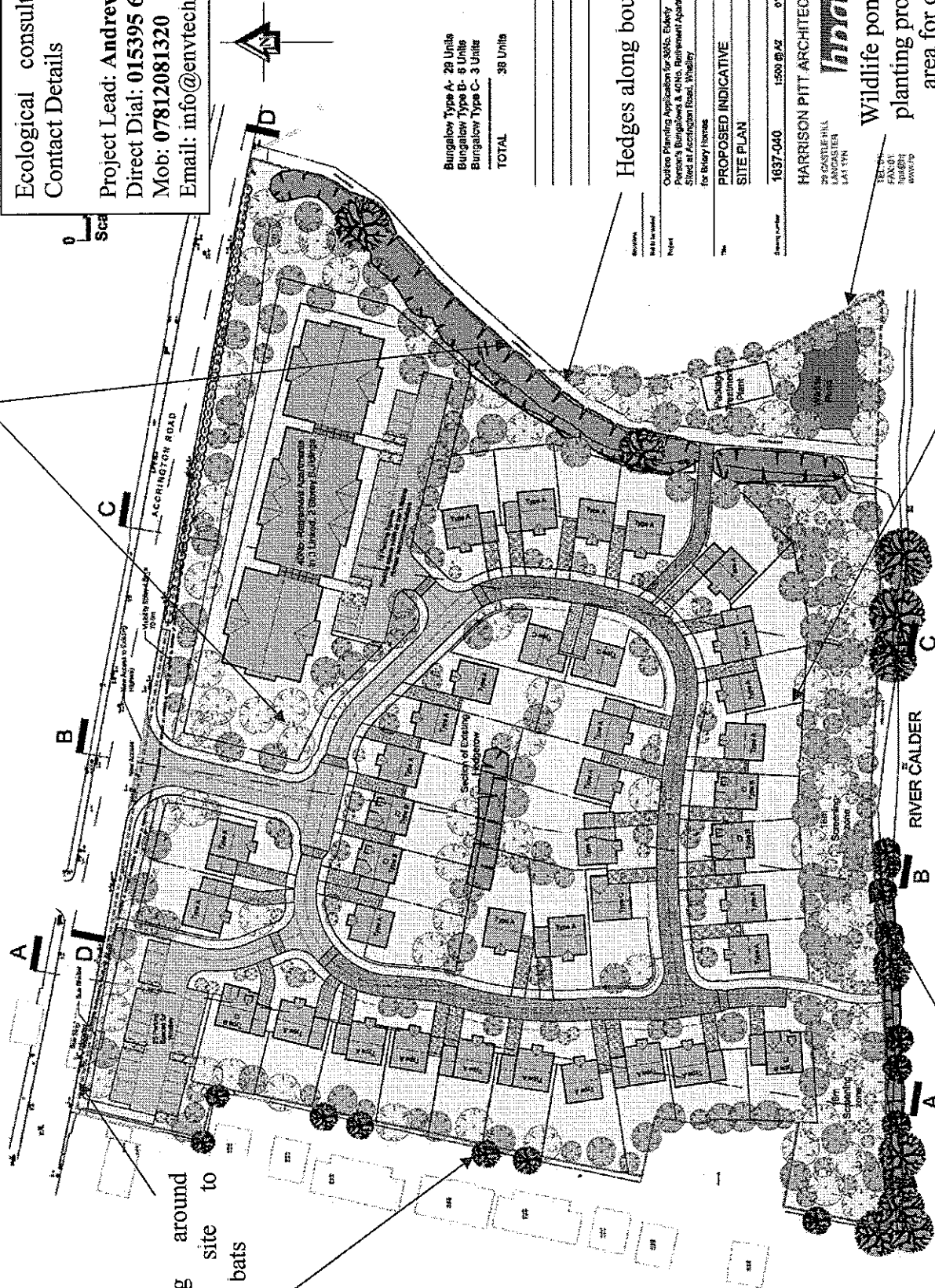
The use of native plant species in the landscaping plan as well as mixed substrates will vastly enhance the structural diversity of the site which will in turn benefit invertebrates.

We would also recommend that the trees and shrubs are planted along the edge of the site adjacent to the river to form a high quality riparian corridor.

New planting along and within the site boundary will also create new habitat linkage.

Linear commuting routes for bats enhanced through new planting

Ecological consultants Primary Contact Details
 Project Lead: Andrew Gardner
 Direct Dial: 015395 61894
 Mob: 07812081320
 Email: info@envtech.co.uk



New planting around perimeter of site to promote use by bats

Bungalow Type A- 28 Units
 Bungalow Type B- 9 Units
 Bungalow Type C- 3 Units
 TOTAL 38 Units

Hedges along boundary retained

Outline Planning Application for 38 No. Elderly Persons' Bungalows & 40 No. Retirement Apartments Sited at Accrington Road, Whalley for Elderly Homes	1637-040	1500 60 AZ	0172
PROPOSED INDICATIVE SITE PLAN			
Drawing Number	1637-040	1500 60 AZ	0172

HARRISON PITT ARCHITECTS
 29 CASTLE HILL
 1000 CASTLE HILL
 LAYTON

Wildlife pond and dense planting provides quiet area for otter and watervole

Buffer along riparian corridor 16m wide

Lighting to be directed downwards on South side of buildings here

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