

## Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 18.06.2024  
Prepared for: Virtu Homes  
Green striped land (existing car park area)

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<b>NAME OF SITE:</b>	<b>Car Park area</b>
<b>PROJECT No:</b>	<b>12063</b>
<b>CLIENT NAME:</b>	<b>Virtu</b>
<b>SPECIALIST:</b>	<b>Amenity Tree Care Ltd</b>
<b>DATE PREPARED:</b>	<b>23.05.2024</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SB</b>
<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	
<b>DATE REVIEWED:</b>	
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Background to the Project	3
1.2	Site Location and Context	3
1.3	Purpose of this Report	3
1.3.1	Surveyor Information	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>Desk Study</b>	<b>4-5</b>
2.1	Methodology	4
2.2	Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview	4-5
<b>3.</b>	<b>Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey</b>	<b>6-9</b>
3.1	Methodology and Survey results	6
3.1.2	Vascular plants and Habitat	6
3.1.3	Protected and Notable Species Mammals	7-8
3.1.4	Protected and Notable Species Amphibians	8
3.1.5	Protected and Notable Species Avian	8
3.1.6	Protected and Notable Species Vascular Plants	8
3.1.7	Protected and Notable Species Reptiles	9
3.2.	Constraints to the Surveys	9
<b>4.</b>	<b>Summary and Impact. Recommendations for Further Work</b>	<b>9-11</b>
4.1.	Summary and Impact. Protected Sites, habitat and species	9-10
4.2.	Recommendations for protected species. Further work	10-11
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1	Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12

**Appendix**

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background to the project**

The client is proposing the re development of site for the associated residential use of the former mill sites adjacent. The site is a existing car park in a semi urban environment and enclosed by existing residential land uses and road network.

### **1.2 Site location, context and main habitats**

The site is located within a rural environment and enclosed by existing residential and commercial land uses. The habitat on site comprises of scattered trees, tall ruderal, building including areas of hard standing access.

### **1.3 Report purpose**

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

#### **1.3.1 Surveyor information**

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS). He has over ten years experience as a practice ecologist and 30 years experience as an arborist.

## **2. Desk Study**

### **2.1 Methodology**

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

### **2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview**

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for South Pennine Moors SSSI which is located 6475m west of site. The development proposal does not appear to conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks. Gledshot Woods LNR is located 2250m east.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are no section 41 habitats listed on the inventory on the site
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (England) is located 380m east
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km
- The site is within the National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England)
- There are no important Bird Areas, Seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species.

- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license application by Natural England was for bat species approximately 1550m from site.

### **3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey**

#### **3.1 Methodology and survey results**

The site was visited on the 22.05.2024 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List.

#### **3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat**

Table 1: Site habitats

<b>Habitat Code</b>	<b>Dominant species</b>	<b>Less frequent species</b>
Scattered trees	Acer pseudoplatanus Salix caprea	Betula pendula

**Target Notes – None taken**

### 3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

#### Water Voles and Otter

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for either species. Longwood Brook is located 125m from site and separated from site by road and building. The Brook remains unaffected by development and therefore there is no conservation or planning benefit or need for further surveys.

#### Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation. Bats are largely ubiquitous there is green infrastructure linking the site to the wider landscape. The site contains foraging habitat. Trees may need to be removed for development which could contain bat roosts and a Ground Level Tree Assessment is needed for roosting bats. A single building is present on site that has potential for roosting bats. The building is however a sub station and may be unaffected by development.

#### Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks on site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 20m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. No field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist.

### **3.1.4 Amphibians**

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 500m of the site. There is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present.

### **3.1.5 Birds**

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season. Urban birds may use the site such as house sparrow and starling which are birds of conservation concern.

### **3.1.6 Vascular Plants**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wildflowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified.

### **3.1.7 Reptiles**

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists on the site for these species to be present.

## **3.2. Constraints to the Surveys**

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

## **4. Summary and Impact**

### **4.1 Summary – Protected habitats**

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. There are no priority hedgerows on the site.

#### **Summary - Protected species**

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site. No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

#### **Summary – Protected sites**

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

#### **Impact – General**

The development proposal seeks to refurbish the existing site.

#### **Impact - Species**

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. The existing trees / building may contain bat roosts.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog also has potential to be present on site.

Water vole. No impact considered likely.

Amphibians. Some loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of foraging habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact and a no non native protected plant was identified

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

## **4.2 Recommendations for protected species**

### **4.2.1 Mammals**

#### **Bat species**

A Bat Roost Assessment of the building is required if it is affected. The Bat Roost Assessment may recommend the need for a summer emergence survey/s on the identified roost features in the building. The site is not likely to hold great significance for commuting and foraging bat species. A Ground Level Tree Assessment is needed for trees.

#### **Badgers / hedgehog**

No evidence of these species was found and a pre start check shall be made to ensure no further badger activity has developed since the walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans.

### **4.2.2 Amphibians**

No other further surveys are required for these species.

### **4.2.3 Avian**

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year.

### **4.2.4 Vascular Plants**

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

#### **4.2.5 Reptiles**

No further surveys are required for these species.

### **5. Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures**

#### **5.1 Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures**

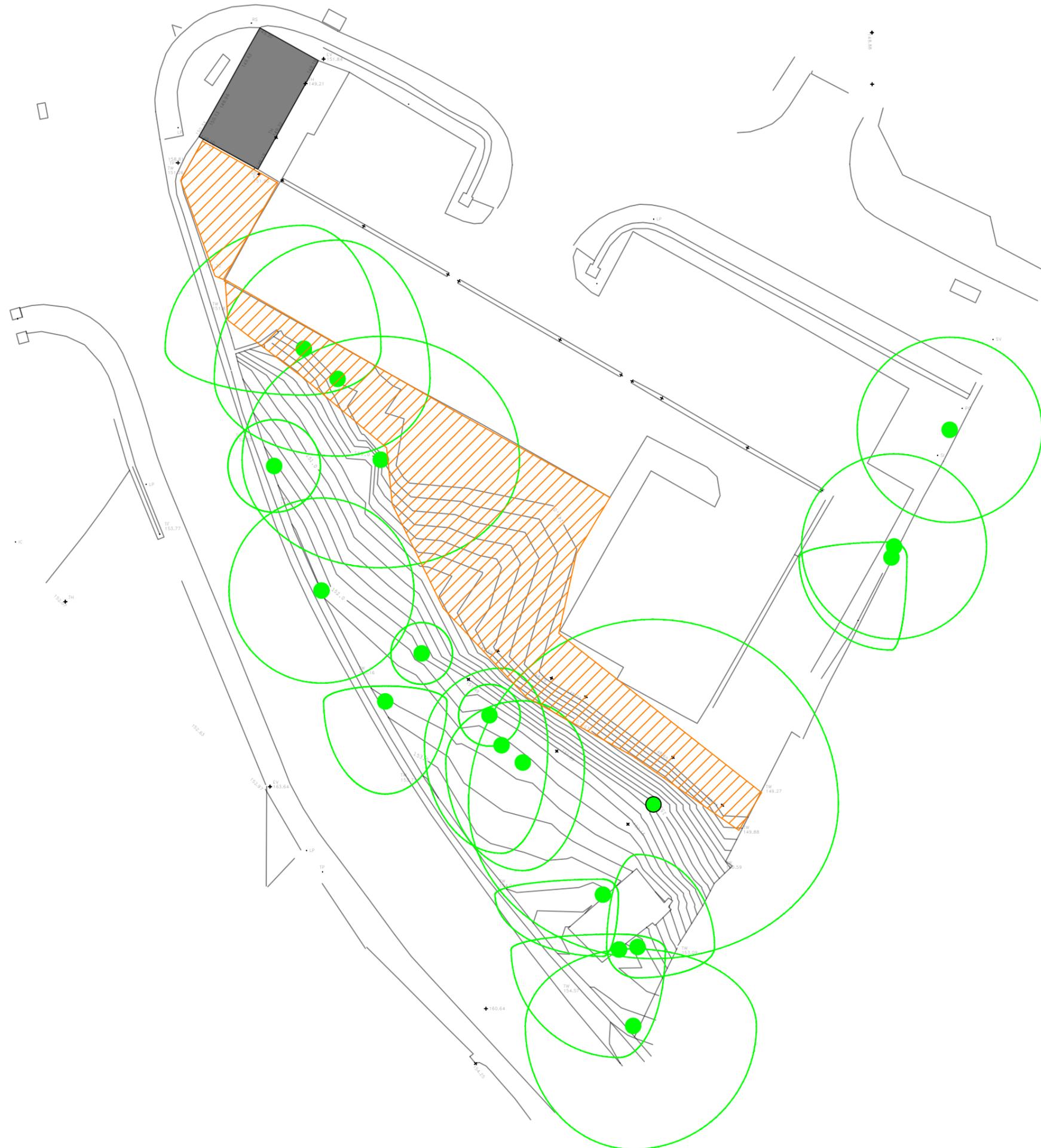
Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside, or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

At present there is no evidence of protected species on the site, which could be affected by development. Other protected species that may be present on site include bats, and hedgehog.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

The provision of a Biodiversity enhancement report and a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment is considered to apply to the site in accordance with the NPPF guidelines, current legislation and best practice.

## Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP  
KEY

- Scattered trees
- C.3.1. Tall ruderal
- Building
- Hardstanding

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Client:  
**Virtu**

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Project:  
**Green Striped land**

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Detail:  
**Phase One Habitat Map**

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Drawn By:	Date:	Scale:
SB	18.06.2024	NTS

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TR-01	V1

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