

Ecological Assessment

Llanwern Village, Cot Hill, Llanwern, Newport Hollies 5 & 6 – Ecology

TG Report No. 11395_R33a_AH_RR_6th June 2024



Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1. Llanwern Village, Cot Hill, Llanwern, Newport is in receipt of outline planning permission (Ref: 16/0864). Subsequent Reserved Matters and Condition Discharge Applications have been undertaken in respect of individual Phases of the approved development.
- 1.2. A Reserved Matters application is now to be made for the Phased application known as Hollies 5 & 6, which is hereafter referred to as the 'site' (see Plans 11395/P44a and 11395/P45a).
- 1.3. Tyler Grange Ltd was originally instructed by Redrow Homes Ltd (South Wales) in November 2018 to review the ecological survey work completed in support of the outline application and to update the ecology assessment in support of the Reserved Matters applications for the wider development, including Hollies 5 & 6.

Section 2: Methodology

- 2.1. A full range of ecological surveys have been undertaken across the entire site, which included the site, since 2004, by various specialist ecological consultancies including Capita Symonds, Halcrow and Wardell Armstrong. These surveys followed the relevant standard guidelines and a summary of these surveys is provided below:
 - Phase 1 habitat survey 2004.
 - Updated walk-over – 2005, 2012, 2013, and 2016.
 - Background data search – 2005 and 2016.
 - Badger *Meles meles* surveys in 2005, 2013 and 2016.
 - Bat tree assessment for roosting potential in 2005, 2013 and 2016.
 - Bat survey of buildings 2005 and 2013.
 - Bat dusk emergence of trees and buildings in 2005 and 2013.
 - Bat activity surveys 2005 and 2013.
 - Breeding bird surveys (five visits) in 2005 and 2013.

Tyler Grange Group Limited.

Registered in England No. 11435090 | VAT Reg No. 326 7564 81
Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7EX

Birmingham | Cotswolds | Exeter | London | Manchester



- Reptile survey in 2005.
- Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* nest tube survey and nut search in 2005, and nest tube survey in 2013.
- An assessment of the habitats present to support other protected species, such as great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*, was undertaken in 2014 and 2016.

- 2.2. In addition to the above surveys, Tyler Grange have undertaken a range of update surveys of the wider site including the Hollies 5 & 6. This includes detailed walk-over surveys in February, March and November 2018. These surveys were based on the Phase 1 survey methodology as set out in the 'Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey'¹ and entailed recording the main habitat types and fauna present and recording any evidence of, or potential for the presence of protected or notable flora and fauna.
- 2.3. Updated walkover surveys were also undertaken of the site and surrounding areas in February, March and October 2021, April 2022 and March 2024 to check for any significant changes from the time of the previous assessments. These surveys were completed using the same methodology as detailed above for the 2018 surveys.
- 2.4. In addition to assessing the potential of the habitats to support any protected or notable species, specific surveys were undertaken in 2018, 2021, 2022 and 2024 for badger and bats, with further detail provided below.
- 2.5. In addition, in May/June 2024 an update survey for reptiles is being undertaken (see below).

Badgers

- 2.6. In February and November 2018, February, March and October 2021, April 2022 and March 2024, updated badger surveys of the site and surrounding areas (see Plan 11395/P44a) were undertaken following a similar methodology undertaken during the previous surveys (see above). This included a thorough search for evidence of badger setts. If any setts were encountered, each sett entrance was noted and plotted even if the entrance appeared disused. The following information was recorded:
- The number and location of any well used or very active entrances; these are clear from any debris or vegetation and are obviously in regular use and may, or may not, have been excavated recently.
 - The number and location of inactive entrances; these are not in regular use and have debris such as leaves and twigs in the entrance or have plants growing in or around the edge of the entrance.
 - The number of disused entrances; these have not been in use for some time, are partly or completely blocked and cannot be used without considerable clearance. If the entrance has

¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*. JNCC, Peterborough





been disused for some time all that may be visible is a depression in the ground where the hole used to be and the remains of the spoil heap.

- 2.7. Secondly, badger activity such as well-worn paths and run-throughs, snagged hair, footprints, latrines and foraging signs was recorded to build up a picture of the use of the site, if any, by badgers.

Bats

- 2.8. A ground-level tree assessment for roosting bats was undertaken in February and November 2018, March 2021, April 2022 and March 2024 of all trees within and adjacent to the site (see Plan 11395/P45a), to determine the level of potential of these features to support roosting bats. During this survey, Potential Roost Features (PRFs) that may be used by bats, as identified within the BCT Good Practice Guidelines², were looked for. The survey guidance was updated in 2024³, and this updated guidance was used during the surveys in 2024, although the terminology below is in line with the previous guidance for consistency with previous reports.

- 2.9. These PRFs looked for include:

- Woodpecker holes;
- Rot holes;
- Hazard beams;
- Other vertical or horizontal cracks and splits (such as frost-cracks) in stems or branches;
- Partially detached platey bark;
- Knot holes arising from naturally shed branches, or branches previously pruned back to the branch collar;
- Man-made holes (e.g. cavities that have developed from flush cuts) or cavities created by branches tearing out from the parent stems;
- Cankers (caused by localised bark death) in which cavities have developed;
- Other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots;
- Double-leaders forming compression forks with included bark and potential cavities;
- Gaps between overlapping stems or branches;
- Partially detached ivy; and

² Collins, J. (ed) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

³ Collins, J. (ed) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.





- Bird, bat or dormouse boxes.

2.10. Signs of a bat roost, as identified by the BCT, besides the actual presence of bats themselves, were also looked for. These signs include:

- Bat droppings in, around or below a PRF;
- Odour emanating from a PRF;
- Audible squeaking at dusk or in warm weather; and
- Staining below the PRF.

Reptiles

2.11. During the update walkover survey in 2024, the grassland and arable habitat within the site and wider area was identified as having been subject to relaxed management since the previous surveys and a longer grassland sward with areas of ruderal vegetation was present. These areas were assessed as having potential to support reptiles and as such surveys for this faunal group are being completed in 2024.

2.12. These surveys are being conducted in line with published guidance^{4 5} and within the active season for reptiles (March to October inclusive) by experienced field ecologists competent in reptile survey.

2.13. Reptile refugia, comprising 0.5 x 1m pieces of bitumen roofing felt, were deployed in early May 2024 across all potential habitat within the site and within the wider development site.

2.14. Refugia will be left to settle in, before seven subsequent survey checks were undertaken during suitable weather conditions (dry, warm, air temperature between 9°C to 18°C, with intermittent sun and light wind. During each visit, the refugia, will be checked visually from a distance to determine whether reptiles are basking on their surface. The refugia will then be carefully approached and lifted to check for reptiles sheltering beneath. Searches of natural refugia will also be undertaken, where present.

2.15. At the time of reporting, two reptile surveys have been completed with no reptiles recorded. The findings of the surveys will be submitted as an addendum report once completed.

⁴ Froglife (1999) *Reptile Survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*. Froglife Advice sheet 10. Froglife, Halesworth.

⁵ Natural England (2022) Reptiles: advice for making planning decisions. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reptiles-advice-for-making-planning-decisions#:~:text=This%20is%20Natural%20England's%20'standing,standing%20advice%20for%20protected%20species.>





Section 3: Results

Habitats

- 3.1. The updated walkover survey in 2024 recorded some changes to the habitats present within the site since the time of the previous surveys. Whilst both fields F1 and F2 still comprise arable land, this has not been subject to recent management and is in a degraded condition being colonised by rough grass and ruderal species.
- 3.2. In addition, owing to changes in the site boundary some additional areas of habitat are also included within the site, namely arable land in Field F3 which is identical in character to Field F1 and F2, being not been subject to recent management and colonised by rough grass and ruderal species (see **Plan 11395/P45a**).
- 3.3. Within Field F3 some areas of disturbed bare ground are also present where the formerly arable habitat has been stripped as part of the wider development/construction works.
- 3.4. In addition to the above, the margins of the fields have reduced since the original surveys and a longer grassland sward and ruderal vegetation has developed in places.
- 3.5. Areas of scattered scrub that is subject to some management is present on the margins of the site and along the fence line between Fields F2 and F3.
- 3.6. The revised site boundary also includes part of an additional hedgerow (H7) which was previously included as part of the adjacent Phase (Cedars 4).
- 3.7. The hedgerow that forms the western boundary of the site (H1) comprises a species rich hedgerow with mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, together with hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, field rose *Rosa arvensis*, field maple *Acer campestre* and elder *Sambucus nigra*.
- 3.8. H2 forms the northern boundary of the site and comprises an intact species poor hedge with trees. Species present include hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.
- 3.9. H3 comprises an intact species poor hedge with trees which forms the boundary between Fields F1 and F3, comprising hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble.
- 3.10. H4 comprises an intact species poor hedge with trees separating F1 and F2 containing hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble.
- 3.11. H5 forming the northern boundary of F2, and is comprised of an intact species poor hedge with trees including hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble.
- 3.12. H6 forms the sites eastern boundary and is comprised of an intact species poor hedge with trees with hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble present.
- 3.13. Hedgerow H7 extends offsite to the south and comprises a defunct, species poor hedge. Species present include hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble.
- 3.14. Semi natural broadleaved woodland is present within the southeast of the site boundary which comprises an ancient semi-natural woodland (see Plan 11395/P45a).



Offsite habitats

- 3.15. Field F3 Extends offsite to the south and with habitats present identical to those within the site namely arable land which has not been recently managed and previous arable habitat has been stripped as part of the wider development/construction works and now comprises disturbed bare ground along with mounded spoil.
- 3.16. Existing arable fields are present to the west, with former arable land to the south. To the east and north areas of woodland, arable and grassland are present outside of the site and wider site boundary.

Protected Species

- 3.17. A summary of the protected species survey results completed since 2004 are detailed below.

Badger

- 3.18. No badger setts or evidence of badger have been recorded within the site boundary or the wider site during any of the surveys undertaken.

Bats

- 3.19. No buildings are located within the Hollies 5 and 6 boundary.
- 3.20. Trees T19, T20, T21, T22, T23, T24, T25 and T26 were all identified as having low bat roosting potential, confirmed during the update survey in March 2024 (see **Plan 11395/P45a**). The area of broadleaved woodland is also assessed as comprising trees with low bat roosting potential.
- 3.21. The hedgerows within and adjacent to the Hollies 5 and 6 site have some potential to support foraging and commuting bats and low numbers of common bat species, mainly comprising common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, were recorded foraging and commuting across the wider site, including the Hollies 5 and 6 boundary, during the specific surveys undertaken.

Breeding Birds

- 3.22. The hedgerows and adjacent woodland have potential to support bird species and a range of common birds were recorded across the wider site, including the site boundary, during the specific surveys undertaken, but no notable species were identified. Extensive opportunities for breeding birds are available in the wider area and will remain unaffected by the proposals.

Reptiles

- 3.23. The majority of the site habitats were previously assessed as not suitable for reptiles, however due to the relaxation of management within parts of the site, some potential suitable habitat for common reptiles is now present and surveys for this group are being undertaken in 2024.
- 3.24. Surveys for reptiles across the wider site did include the rough grassland present along the fenced boundary between F2 and F3, with a total of 11 reptile survey refugia placed and checked at this location. In addition, four reptile refugia were also placed and monitored within the woodland to the east of the site. No reptiles were recorded during these surveys in 2005, with only a single slow-



worm *Anguis fragilis* recorded off-site to the west of the Phase 1 boundary, within former allotments. This habitat is not directly connected to this site.

- 3.25. In addition, no reptiles have been recorded within the wider site during ecologically supervised clearance as part of the previous phased application completed in 2019 and 2021.
- 3.26. The 2024 surveys are ongoing and the results will be provided as an addendum report. To date no reptiles have been recorded.

Dormice

- 3.27. The hedgerows have some limited potential to support dormice given the presence of native species, although no evidence of dormice have been recorded across the site and the wider site, during the specific survey work undertaken and this species is considered absent. Furthermore, no evidence of dormice has been recorded during the ecologically supervised clearance and management of habitats for the previous phases completed in 2019 and 2021.

Other Species

- 3.28. No evidence of any other protected or notable species have been recorded in the site or wider site and from the surveys undertaken and the habitats present, none are considered likely to be present.

Designated Sites

- 3.29. No statutory or non-statutory designated sites are located within the site boundary.
- 3.30. The closest statutory designated site is the Langstone-Llanmartin meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is located approximately 1.5km to the northeast of the site boundary and is separated from the site by open countryside, roads and the M4 motorway.
- 3.31. No non-statutory sites are located within or immediately adjacent to the site and none will be affected by the proposals for the site.
- 3.32. The area of woodland to the west of the site comprises an area designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (see **Plan 11395/P45a**), which extends offsite to the east.





Section 4: Mitigation and Enhancements

- 4.1. The extensive amount of habitat and protected species survey work undertaken across the Hollies 5 & 6 site and wider site has enabled an accurate assessment of the habitats present and the species assemblage to be made. Specific mitigation and enhancement measures that build upon those previously agreed at planning will be implemented to ensure compliance with relevant planning policy and legislation and will provide a net gain in biodiversity post-development.
- 4.2. The Hollies 5 & 6 application has been designed following the principles agreed at the outline stage, with the habitats of most ecological importance, the hedgerows and woodland, retained, enhanced and protected where possible, and new habitats of ecological importance created in order to increase biodiversity and opportunities for wildlife (see associated soft landscape proposals).
- 4.3. To ensure no impacts occur during construction, protective measures will be implemented during construction to protect retained and offsite habitats, from accidental damage. Further detail is provided below.

Habitats

- 4.4. The majority of habitats are to be lost in their current form, although new habitats are to be provided, which will be of higher biodiversity value than that which is to be lost, creating an ecological enhancement.
- 4.5. Areas of wildflower grassland are to be provided within open space, creating new habitats not currently present, providing new opportunities for a range of wildlife including birds and invertebrates, and contributing to gains in biodiversity.
- 4.6. New attenuation features are also to be created, which will be planted with a wetland wildflower grass mix, creating new habitats not currently present, providing additional opportunities for a range of wildlife including birds and invertebrates, and contributing to gains in biodiversity.
- 4.7. A flowering lawn mix is also to be provided within rain gardens/ bioretention areas which will create additional opportunities for wildlife.
- 4.8. Amenity grassland is to be provided, which will also have some benefits to wildlife, such as invertebrates and birds.
- 4.9. The majority of existing hedgerows within site are to be retained although to facilitate the proposals some hedgerow loss is required to access. This includes small sections of H1, H3 and H7 for vehicle access, H4 for pedestrian access. In order to compensate for this loss, new native hedgerow and tree planting is to take place using a diverse range of native species (see soft landscape proposals), creating an overall gain in these habitats. This new planting will help to increase biodiversity and will benefit a range of species.
- 4.10. In addition, new native hedgerow, tree and shrub planting is to take place across the wider site resulting in a large gain in these habitats post-development helping to improve connectivity.



- 4.11. Retained hedgerows are to be enhanced through improved management (see below) and through bolster planting using native species in order to improve their structure and diversity.
- 4.12. Retained hedgerows will be buffered from the development by open space, comprising species-rich wildflower grassland and attenuation features, which will reduce any potential impacts and ensure management can be controlled.
- 4.13. The small section of woodland within the site is to be retained and the woodland as a whole is to be separated from the proposals and buffered by new habitat creation in order to minimise impacts and create an ecological enhancement. This buffer will be provided in line with the measures provided in the management plan produced for the outline application. Whilst some individual small trees would be lost from the woodland edge, new planting will include native shrubs and wildflower grassland, which will help to increase the ecological importance of the woodland edge habitat, increasing biodiversity and benefiting a variety of wildlife.
- 4.14. In addition, the new native shrub planting includes thorn producing species such as holly, blackthorn and rose, which will help create a dispersal barrier into the woodland to people and pets, preventing potential impacts.
- 4.15. New areas of native shrub planting is also provided across the site and in association with retained hedgerows which will complement and strengthen these retained habitats.
- 4.16. New native tree planting is to be undertaken creating an overall gain in trees, which will create further increases in biodiversity, improve opportunities for wildlife and enhanced connectivity.
- 4.17. In addition to the above planting, ornamental hedgerows, shrubs and trees will be provided across the site. This new planting will further assist with increasing biodiversity and provide additional benefits for wildlife including birds and invertebrates.
- 4.18. A Construction Environmental Method Statement (CEMS) will be produced for the site, in accordance with best practice guidance, to ensure that potential adverse impacts during construction are minimised to retained and adjacent habitats.
- 4.19. The CEMS will include detail on the provision of protective fencing which will be used to ensure no impacts occur to retained hedgerows and trees, including the edge of broadleaved Ancient woodland, during construction as a result of accidental damage, including root compaction. This fencing will be placed along the edge of all the retained hedgerows/trees/woodland prior to construction in accordance with best practice guidance detailed in BS 5837:2012 and will be maintained for the duration of construction activities in these locations.
- 4.20. The CEMS will also include measures to ensure any impacts from dust are mitigated by best engineering practices adhering to current guidance and legislation, with aggregates stored away from the site boundaries and dry materials sprayed to limit airborne movement.
- 4.21. Whilst no direct hydrological links are identified between the site and any sensitive habitats in the wider area, during the construction phase, best practice, such as those published by CIRIA (2015), to avoid impacts from run-off will be adopted and detailed in a CEMS. This will include:
- Plant and wheel washing carried out in a designated area of hardstanding at least 10 metres from any watercourse or surface water drain;



- Run-off collected in a sump - recycle and reuse water where possible;
- Settled solids removed regularly;
- Discharge of contained water goes to foul sewer (if possible) with prior permission from local sewerage provider or tanker off-site for authorised disposal;
- Brushing or scraping roads to reduce dust and mud deposits; and
- Placing small dams in artificial roadside ditches to retain silt.

4.22. Management of habitats within the site will be completed in line with the information detailed in an Ecological Management Plan (EMP) produced for the site which follows the principles agreed at the outline stage. These measures have been designed to maximise the biodiversity value of the habitats and opportunities for wildlife, and will include:

- Trimming all hedgerows, except formal amenity hedgerows, outside of the breeding bird season (March to August) on a three-year rotational basis, with 1/3 of the total site length trimmed in any one year;
- Trees and scrub managed annually as necessary and outside of the breeding bird season; and
- Wildflower grassland managed as per the requirements set out on the specifications detailed on the landscape proposals. Scrub encroachment managed annually as required and outside the breeding bird season.

Protected Species

- 4.23. Whilst no reptiles have previously been recorded at the site, update surveys are being completed in 2024 owing to an increase in the suitability of habitats for this faunal group. In the event any population of reptiles is recorded, appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented to ensure no reptiles are killed or injured during works at the site, ensuring compliance with legislation.
- 4.24. This scope of mitigation would be confirmed following completion of the reptile surveys in 2024, which are to be provided as an addendum to this report, although precautionary measures are detailed below to ensure no impact to reptiles will take place.
- 4.25. Areas of suitable reptile habitat are to be retained within and adjacent to the site which will remain unaffected by the proposed development. Habitat manipulation is therefore proposed to be undertaken prior to construction commencing to encourage any reptiles to move out of the working area and into adjacent retained suitable habitat to the north and east. This would involve two-stage cutting between April and early October during suitable weather conditions. The vegetation would first be cut to 150mm and then down to ground level to discourage individuals from re-entering the site. All works would be supervised by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist as necessary, and will be directional, starting in the south and moving north towards suitable off-site retained habitat.
- 4.26. All arisings will be removed between cuts from the site or placed in adjacent habitats that are to remain unaffected by the proposals.
- 4.27. Refuge areas such as logs, stones or piles of rubble would be checked by the supervising ecologist before the manipulation works commence, and where appropriate removed and placed within



the adjacent retained habitat. Any caught reptiles will also be removed to suitable off-site habitat to the north/east of the site by the supervising ecologist.

- 4.28. The site would then be kept in a cleared state to ensure no reptiles re-colonise prior to any works commencing.
- 4.29. Consideration for ground nesting birds will also be had during this grassland removal should it undertaken during the breeding bird season (March to August), with checks made by the supervising ecologist prior to commencing and appropriate buffers provided should any nests be recorded.
- 4.30. Post-development suitable habitat opportunities for reptiles will be present within the site comprising wildflower grassland, shrub planting and attenuation features located adjacent to retained hedgerows. These habitats will be connected to suitable potential reptile habitat in the wider area that are to remain unaffected by the proposals. As such opportunities for this faunal group will be maintained and enhanced and overall no impacts to reptiles would occur.
- 4.31. Any felled wood created during works at the site will be placed within these margins, to benefit reptiles, as well as saproxylic species, small mammals and other wildlife post-development.
- 4.32. The hedgerows and scattered scrub have some potential to support breeding birds. In order to avoid a breach in relevant legislation, any removal of vegetation suitable for nesting birds to be undertaken within the nesting bird season (March to August, inclusive) will first be preceded by a thorough search of the vegetation by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to removal, to check for signs of active bird nests. If an active nest is recorded, an appropriate buffer of approximately 5m will be retained around the active nest until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active, as confirmed by an ecologist.
- 4.33. All removal works will be completed in a slow and steady manner, with the supervising ecologist undertaking regular checks of the vegetation for breeding birds and nests before removal.
- 4.34. Post-development additional opportunities for breeding and foraging birds will be present within areas of new native tree, shrub and hedge planting.
- 4.35. To provide a further enhancement for birds and bats, and to be in line with the Newport Wildlife and Development SPG, new homes will include integral bird nest and bat roost 'bricks' to create an enhancement for these faunal groups. These bricks will be located adjacent to areas of suitable foraging and commuting habitats on the margins of the site as well as adjacent to green infrastructure. Boxes/bricks to be installed will include Vivarapro Segovia build-in bat box, Vivara pro Woodstone build-in swift brick, Vivara pro Woodstone build-in house sparrow nest box or similar.
- 4.36. Whilst the majority of trees with bat potential are to be retained as part of this phase, it is anticipated that tree T23 would be removed, as well as a number of individual small trees from the woodland edge which could potentially include trees with low bat roosting potential. Further surveys of these trees to be impacted will be undertaken to confirm their suitability for roosting bats prior to removal. Should the trees be confirmed with low roosting potential, then any removal will be supervised by an experienced ecologist. Should any trees be re-classified as having medium or high potential, then further surveys in the form of tree climbing and/or emergence surveys will be undertaken in line with BCT Guidance. In the event a roost is recorded an NRW



licence would be applied for, approved and appropriate mitigation provided prior to removal. If no roosts are recorded, then removal will proceed under the supervision of an experienced ecologist.

- 4.37. All of the other trees identified as having low potential to support roosting bats and are to be retained as part of the proposals. Should the proposals change and any trees additional become scheduled for removal, an updated assessment of the trees for roosting bats will be undertaken prior to any works commencing. Should any bat roosting features or evidence of roosting bats be identified during this work, further surveys and appropriate mitigation will be undertaken and confirmed with the local authority and NRW as necessary.
- 4.38. The majority of hedgerows are being retained and together with the new planting and habitat creation proposed, including native hedgerows, shrub, trees, wildflower grassland and attenuation features, will provide improved foraging and commuting opportunities for bats post-development and maintain connectivity to off-site habitats. Furthermore, extensive opportunities for bats are available in the wider area and will remain unaffected by the proposals.
- 4.39. A sensitive lighting scheme is proposed for the site, which will reduce impacts and maintain dark corridors on the retained boundary hedgerows and woodland. No lights will be directed towards the boundaries of the site and low-level lighting, with hoods and back-shields will be used where necessary to reduce light spill. In addition, the buffers provided to the retained hedgerows and woodland will ensure connectivity for bats and other wildlife is maintained in these areas.
- 4.40. Night-time work during the construction period will also be avoided to minimise adverse impacts to bats and other nocturnal species and would only be undertaken in an emergency.
- 4.41. The new planting and habitat creation proposed, such as hedgerows, trees, attenuation features and wildflower grassland, will provide some habitats not currently present, will increase foraging and nesting opportunities for a range of faunal groups, such as bats, birds and invertebrates, will help to increase biodiversity post-development and improve connectivity for wildlife across the site.
- 4.42. Although dormice are confirmed as absent, in agreement with the local authority and NRW, as a precaution, any removal of hedgerow will be supervised by a suitably experienced ecologist and will be completed following the persuasion technique method as set out in the relevant guidance. Detailed fingertip searches will be made by the supervising ecologist of both ground and above ground vegetation prior to any hedgerow removal. Only once it has been confirmed that no evidence of dormouse had been recorded, will the hedgerow be permitted for removal under ecological supervision. In the unlikely event any evidence of dormouse is recorded, all habitat clearance works will stop and would not proceed until an NRW protected species licence is applied for, approved and implemented.
- 4.43. The new native hedgerow and shrub provision includes species favoured by dormice, will create an overall gain in this habitat on site and in combination with the new native hedgerow and shrub planting across the wider site will increase the amount of potential dormouse foraging, commuting and nesting habitat post-development, as well as helping to increase biodiversity.
- 4.44. The retention and enhancement to existing hedgerows through infill planting will also provide improved habitat for dormice. In addition, the scheme has been designed to provide buffers to retained hedgerows and the woodland where possible, in order to minimise any associated



impacts and to ensure appropriate management can be implemented. The use of thorn producing species in the native shrub planting will also help to prevent disturbance to adjacent habitats, such as the woodland.

- 4.45. Gaps will be provided underneath any fences to ensure connectivity is maintained for wildlife, including hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*, throughout the site post-development.
- 4.46. Whilst no evidence of badger has been identified within the site it is possible that badger could utilise the site for foraging and/or commuting on occasion.
- 4.47. To ensure that no impacts occur to badgers during construction activities, all contractors working on the site will be briefed regarding the potential presence of badgers. Any trenches or deep pits that are to be left open overnight will be covered or provided with a means of escape should a badger enter, such as a roughened plank of wood placed in the trench as a ramp to the surface. This will also avoid impacts to any other small or medium sized mammals.
- 4.48. Any trenches or pits will be inspected each morning to ensure no badgers have become trapped overnight. Should a badger become trapped in a trench it will likely attempt to dig itself into the side of the trench, forming a temporary sett. Should a trapped badger be encountered, Tyler Grange or an appropriate expert will be contacted immediately for further advice.
- 4.49. The storage of topsoil or other 'soft' building materials on site should be given careful consideration. Badgers will readily adopt such mounds as setts, which would then be afforded the same protection as established setts. Such mounds will be regularly inspected to check for use by badgers throughout the construction period.
- 4.50. Extensive opportunities are available for badger in the wider area, and these will remain unaffected by the proposals and overall no impacts to this species should occur.
- 4.51. In the unlikely event evidence of any other protected species is recorded, works will stop in that location and further advice sought from the supervising ecologist, Newport County Council and/or NRW as necessary.

Designated Sites

- 4.52. No statutory or non-statutory designated sites are located within or adjacent to the site boundary, although an area of ancient woodland is present to the southeast and as such specific measures will be implemented to ensure that no impacts occur such as through standard construction safeguards and the provision of an appropriate buffer and fencing, as detailed above, with further detail provided in a CEMS. These measures will also ensure no impacts occur to any other designated site or off-site receptor.
- 4.53. The proposals for the site have not significantly altered since the previous planning applications were made and with the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed, no significant effects either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects will occur to any statutory or non-statutory designated site in the area.





Section 5: Conclusions

- 5.1. Overall, there are no overriding ecological constraints present and with the implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures detailed, it is considered that development within the Hollies 5 & 6 site is in line with all relevant legislation and planning policy.



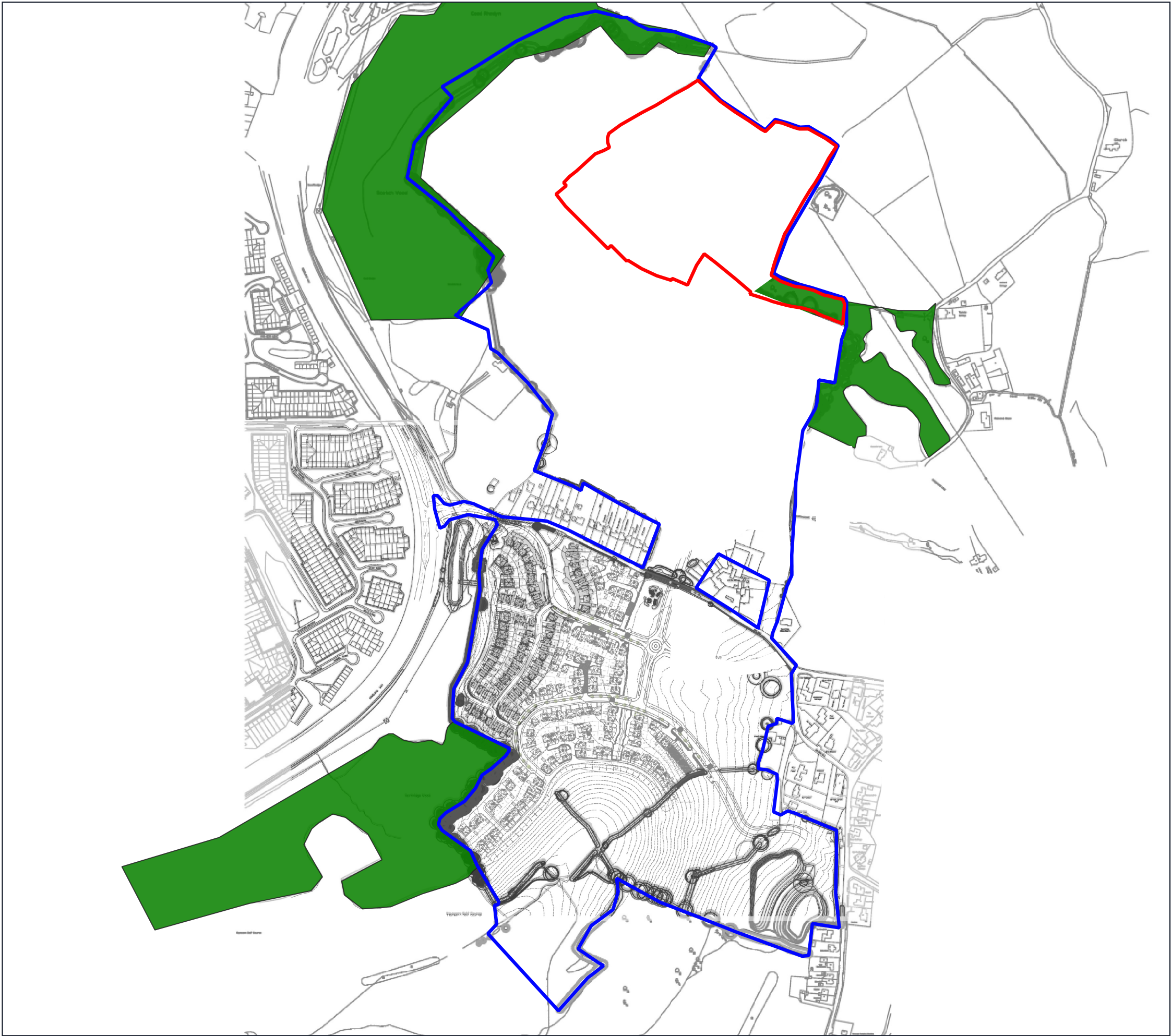


Plans

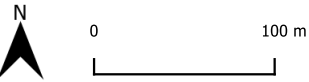
11395/P44a Site Location – Hollies 5 and 6

11395/P45a Habitat Features – Hollies 5 and 6





-  Site boundary
-  Wider development site
-  Woodland



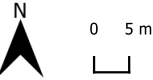
Project	Llanwern, Newport
Drawing Title	Site Location - Hollies 5 and 6
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	11395/P44a
Date	June 2024
Checked	TLR/RR



Town House, 3rd Floor, 11-15 Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA
T: 01392 447 588 E: info@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk



- Site Boundary Hollies 5 and 6
- Arable
- Ancient Woodland
- Dense Scrub
- Species Rich Hedgerow Intact
- Species Poor Hedgerow Intact
- Species Poor Hedgerow with Trees Intact
- Fence
- Scattered Scrub
- Tree with Low Bat Roost Potential



Project	Llanwern, Newport
Drawing Title	Habitat Features - Hollies 5 and 6
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	11395/P45a
Date	June 2024
Checked	TLR/RR



Town House, 3rd Floor, 11-15 Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA
T: 01392 447 588 E: info@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk