

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report

Land accessed from private lane between 25a & 25c
Frognal

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Signature of project supervisor



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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to activity / development

1.1.1 Ecoconsult Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an extended phase 1 habitat survey of an area of land accessed from private lane between 25a & 25c Frognal.

1.1.2 There is a proposal to build two new houses on the site.

1.2 Summary of survey work

1.2.1 Ecoconsult is not aware of any other ecological reports relating to the site.

1.2.2 The following work has been undertaken to inform the report.

- phase 1 habitat survey
- desk study

1.3 Summary of findings

1.3.1 Common habitats were recorded on site.

1.3.2 The site does not provide suitable habitat to support protected species.

1.3.3 Ordnance Survey maps do not show any ponds within 500m. It is highly unlikely that great crested newts will be present on site.

1.3.4 Habitats on site have potential to support nesting birds including trees, shrubs and hedgerow.

1.4 Summary of conclusions

1.4.1 The habitats affected by the proposed work are common and have low ecological value.

1.4.2 Nesting birds will use hedgerows, scrub and trees on site. Nesting birds and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

2 Survey and site assessment

2.1 Objectives of survey

2.1.1 The objectives of the survey were:

- to determine if there are any habitats of ecological value on site
- to locate any evidence of protected species being present on site

2.2 Surrounding landscape

2.2.1 The site is located in a built up residential area. Frequent mature broadleaved trees are present within the residential gardens. Hampstead Park is located c.975m to the northeast which connects to Hampstead Heath Woods SSSI 1.8km from site. A sports field is located 300m west of site.

2.2.2 The site is located at TQ 26201 85142.



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Figure 1 Site location (scale 1:50,000)

3 Methodology

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 The MAGIC website was searched to provide information regarding international statutory nature conservation sites within 5km from the site boundary.

3.1.2 The site was assessed in relation to Natural England's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones (IRZs).

3.1.3 Aerial photographs and 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey maps were used to search for ponds within 500m of the site.

3.2 Field surveys

Phase 1 habitat survey

3.2.1 The extended phase 1 habitat survey was carried out on 26th January 2017 and followed the methodology in *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey* (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2003) and *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment* (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 1995).

Table 1 Timings and conditions of surveys

Date	Timings	Survey work	Weather
25/01/17	Start: 10:30 Finish: 12:00	Phase 1 survey of the site	10 °C No rain Calm (Beaufort 0) 100% cloud

3.3 Personnel

3.3.1 The survey of the site was carried out by the following surveyor:

Maia Corbyn is an Ecologist at Ecoconsult with a BSc (Hons) degree in Biological Sciences. She has carried out ecological surveys since 2007 and holds the following Natural England licences:

- Natural England Licence to disturb and take bats for the purposes of science and education or conservation (no. 2015-19296-SCI-SCI)

- Natural England Level 1 Licence to survey great crested newts for scientific (including research) or educational purposes (no. 2015-18637-CLS-CLS)

3.4 Constraints

3.4.1 No constraints.

4 Survey results

4.1 Designated Sites

Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

4.1.1 Hampstead Heath Woods Site of SSI located 1.8km northeast of site. Hampstead Heath Woods support long-established high forest woodlands and a small valley with an acidic flush. Hampstead Heath Woods will not be affected by the development.

4.1.2 The site does not lie within a Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone for planning applications.

Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

4.1.3 Belsize Wood Local Nature Reserve is located 1.3km east of site.

4.2 Habitats present on site

4.2.1 The site comprises an area of recently cleared scrub with scattered tall ruderal and young planted broadleaved trees. The following habitat types are present on site.

- introduced shrub/ planted bed
- amenity grassland
- intact species poor hedgerow
- individual tree
- building/ structure
- hard-standing
- brick wall/ close-boarded fence

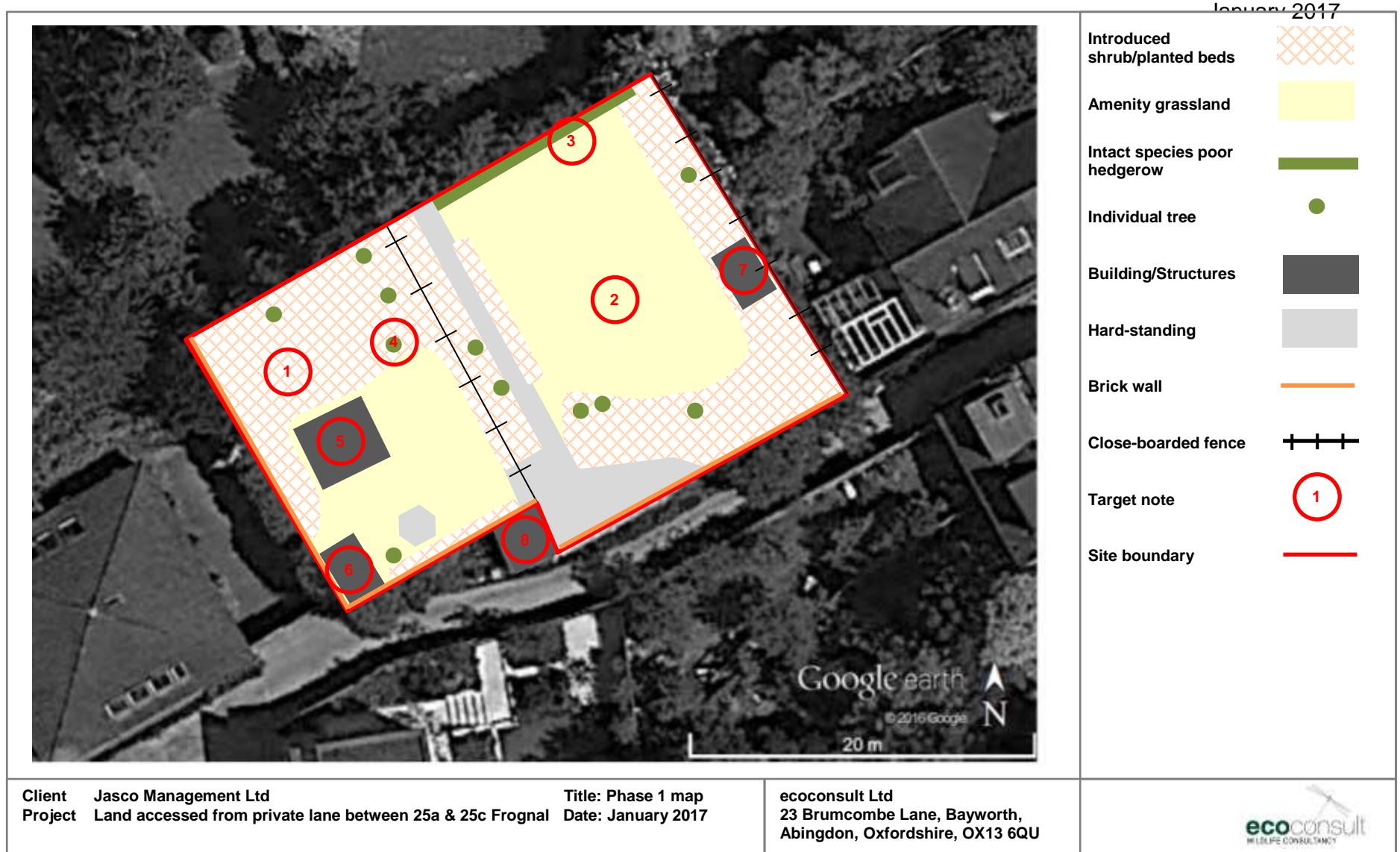


Figure 2: Phase 1 map

4.3 Introduced shrub/planted beds

4.3.1 The well maintained beds contain mature shrubs with species including occasional butterfly bush *Buddleja sp.* and *Fatsia japonica*, and infrequent spotted laurel *Aucuba japonica*, *Euonymus sp.*, garden privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium* and box *Buxus sempervirens* (please see figure 2, target note 1). The ground is predominantly bare earth. Small areas have locally frequent periwinkle *Vinca sp.* and common ivy *Hedera helix*.

4.3.2 The introduced shrub/planted beds have negligible ecological value.

4.4 Amenity grassland

4.4.1 Two areas of amenity grassland are present on site which are regularly mown and well maintained. The flora is dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* with frequent creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and a moss sp *Brachythecium rutabulum*. Creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* is locally frequent with occasional daisy *Bellis perennis* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinale agg.* (please see figure 2, target note 2).

4.4.2 The grassland has negligible ecological value.

4.5 Intact species poor hedgerow

4.5.1 An intact hedgerow runs along the northern boundary of the site (please see figure 2, target note 3) and contains abundant hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*. The ground flora is sparse with occasional common ivy.

4.5.2 The hedgerow has some ecological value albeit low. It is easily re-creatable.

4.6 Individual trees

4.6.1 Mid-aged and mature trees including sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, pear *Pyrus communis*, plum sp. *Prunus sp.* and holly *Ilex aquifolium* are present on site. A pear tree has occasional shallow gaps but these were unsuitable for roosting bats (please see figure 2, target note 4). Small-stemmed ivy present on several trees was unsuitable to support roosting bats.

4.6.2 The trees have some ecological value and should be retained where possible.

4.7 Buildings/Structures

4.7.1 Buildings/structures on site include the following:

- A well-sealed metal container was unsuitable to support bats (please see figure 2, target note 5).
- A well-sealed brick built shed with a metal roof is currently used for storage (please see figure 2, target note 6). The shed was shrouded in common ivy. No evidence of bats was recorded.
- A metal shed with an entrance providing access into the interior (please see figure 2, target note 7). No evidence of bats was recorded.
- A wood store is located just off site (please see figure 2, target note 8). The wood store has an open entrance and was cluttered with timber. No evidence of bats was recorded.

4.7.2 The buildings have negligible ecological value.

4.8 Brick wall / close-boarded fence

4.8.1 There are brick walls and close-boarded fences present around the site.



Image 1: Introduced shrubberies/planted beds



Image 2: Amenity grassland



Image 3: Intact species poor hedgerow



Image 4: Individual trees



Image 5: Brick built shed with metal roof



Image 6: Metal shed

Figure 3 Photographs of habitats present on site

Species**4.9 Badger**

4.9.1 No evidence of badgers utilising the site was recorded.

4.10 Bats

4.10.1 The trees and buildings on site were assessed as being unsuitable for bats.

4.10.2 Bats will use the site for foraging.

4.11 Great crested newt

4.11.1 Ordnance Surveys maps do not show any ponds located within 500m. It is highly unlikely that great crested newts will be present on the site.

4.12 Reptiles

4.12.1 The site does not provide suitable habitat to support reptiles.

4.13 Nesting birds

4.13.1 The site provides suitable habitat for nesting birds, particularly within hedgerows, shrubs, trees and ivy covering the brick shed.

4.13.2 No Birds of Conservation Concern were recorded on or adjacent to the site during the survey. Bird species recorded include robin, great tit, jay, blue tit, greater spotted woodpecker and goldcrest.

4.14 Invertebrates

4.14.1 The habitats within the site are common and widespread, and therefore are only likely to support common and widespread species of invertebrates.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

5.1.1 An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey has been undertaken on land accessed from private lane between 25a & 25c Frognal.

5.2 Nature conservation sites

5.2.1 There are no likely impacts to any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation sites.

5.3 Habitats

5.3.1 The site supports habitats that are common and widespread in the local area. No UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) Priority habitats are present within the site.

5.3.2 Most habitats are of negligible ecological value. The trees and hedge have some ecological value and should be retained as far as possible.

5.4 Legally protected species

Nesting birds

5.4.1 The site provides suitable habitat for nesting birds, particularly within hedgerows, shrubs, trees and ivy covering the brick shed.

5.4.2 Nesting birds and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Disturbance to nesting birds can be avoided by carrying out works and/or by excluding birds from suitable nest sites outside the main nesting season. The main nesting season is generally March to August inclusive. However, birds may nest outside the main nesting period, in which case, works that would result in nest disturbance will cease until birds have fledged. Alternatively a suitably qualified ecologist could be employed to determine presence/absence of nesting birds and advise as necessary.

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