

Tree Survey
Land west of Backgate
Cowbit
Lincolnshire



Issued to:

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TREE SURVEY

LAND WEST OF BACKGATE, COWBIT, LINCOLNSHIRE

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1 INTRODUCTION

Inspired Ecology Ltd has been commissioned by Simon Liquorish of Broadgate Homes Ltd to undertake a tree survey of an area of land west of Backgate, Cowbit in Lincolnshire. The survey is required in connection with plans to develop the site.

The site was surveyed on 29th November 2019, in cold and sunny conditions, by Ian Nixon (registered to use Natural England Class Licences WML-CL08 to survey great crested newts, WML-CL19 and WML-CL20 to survey bats and WML-CL29 to survey barn owls; registration numbers 2015-16823-CLS-CLS, 2015-12336-CLS-CLS, 2015-12338-CLS-CLS and CL29/00110 respectively) and Jenny Boatwright.

The site is described in detail and assessed for its potential to support certain protected species in the ecology and protected species report (McNally, 2019). The results of this survey should therefore be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying ecology and protected species survey.

2 METHODS

2.1 Hedgerows and tree species

Detailed information on hedgerows and tree species on site was recorded during the survey. Any important species or features were noted. Hedgerows were assessed against the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

2.2 Survey constraints and limitations

There are no definitive guidelines relating to the longevity of an ecology report, however we recommend that the results are updated after 12 months if the proposed work has not commenced.

3 SITE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Location and grid reference

The survey site comprises a horse-grazed grassland field, access track and stable located at west of Backgate, Cowbit in Lincolnshire - central grid reference TF264173. A full site description is provided in the accompanying ecology and protected species report (McNally, 2019).

The hedgerows and trees on site are described in the text and representative photographs are included in the text. The location of the survey site is provided in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the site, outlined in red.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Hedgerow and tree species

The locations of each of the described hedgerows and trees are given in Figure 2 below.

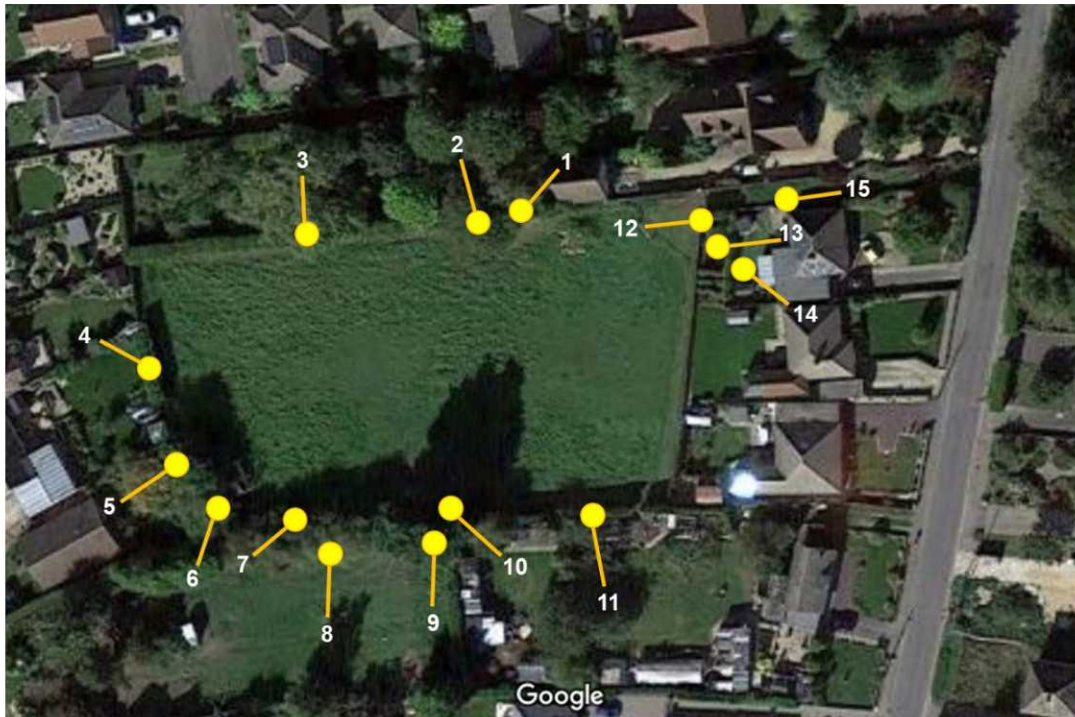


Figure 2: Locations of the hedgerows and trees on site

4.1.1 Tree 1

Short, outgrown hedgerow comprising leyland cypress *X Cupressocyparis leylandii* along the northern site boundary, with sparse elder *Sambucus nigra* at the west. The hedgerow is 4.4m tall.



Photograph 1: Tree 1 – leyland cypress hedgerow

4.1.2 Tree 2

Norway maple *Acer platanoides* tree with scarring on the trunk. Tree is 10m tall.



Photograph 2: Tree 2 – Norway maple

4.1.3 Tree 3

Managed beech *Fagus sylvatica* hedgerow, 3m tall.



Photograph 3: Tree 3 – managed beech hedgerow

4.1.4 Tree 4

Leyland cypress hedgerow with exposed trunks. Hedgerow is 3.2m tall.



Photograph 4: Tree 4 – leyland cypress hedgerow

4.1.5 Tree 5

Three adjacent leyland cypress trees. Trees are 8.2m tall.

4.1.6 Tree 6

A 5.8m tall elder behind the horse shelter.



Photograph 5: Trees 5 and 6 – leyland cypress and elder behind horse shelter

4.1.7 Tree 7

An open hedge of elder, 3.8m tall.



Photograph 6: Tree 7 - elder hedgerow

4.1.8 Tree 8

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* outside of the site boundary, behind the elder described in 7, at a height of 4.1m.

4.1.9 Tree 9

Nine leyland cypress trees, at 17.0m, by the gateway into the adjacent field.



Photograph 7: Tree 9 – leyland cypress trees

4.1.10 Tree 10

Elder in front of the leyland cypresses described in 10, 3.8m tall.

4.1.11 Tree 11

Managed leyland cypress hedgerow, 2.4m tall.



Photograph 8: Tree 11 – leyland cypress hedgerow

4.1.12 Tree 12

Short holly *Ilex aquifolium* hedgerow at the entrance of the track, 3.6m tall.



Photograph 9: Tree 12 – holly hedgerow

4.1.13 Tree 13

A 3.5m tall cherry tree *Prunus sp.* in the rear garden of the dwelling at 75 Backgate.



Photograph 10: Tree 13 – cherry species, with Tree 14 in view behind

4.1.14 Tree 14

Hedgerow within the garden of 75 Backgate, comprising leyland cypress, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* and holly. Hedge is 3.0m tall.

4.1.15 Tree 15

Holly hedgerow with bramble *Rubus fruticosus* along the track, 3.8m tall.



Photograph 11: Tree 15 – holly hedgerow with bramble

4.2 Hedgerow regulations

The hedgerows on site do not meet the required criteria of 7 woody species within a 30m length to qualify as important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Hedgerows and tree species

It is understood that the boundary hedgerows and trees will be retained within current proposals. If the removal of some of these is unavoidable however, as a precautionary measure and to ensure good practice, it is recommended that any vegetation clearance work should commence outside the active bird nesting season, which typically runs from March through to late August. If work commences during the bird breeding season, a search for nests will need to be carried out before work begins, and active nests should be protected until the young fledge.

If plans change and works require the removal of hedgerows then this should be kept to a minimum. Any removal of hedgerows should be compensated for by re-planting at least the amount that is lost using native species such as blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, common hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, midland hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*, wild cherry *Prunus avium* and bird cherry *Prunus padus*. Any new hedgerows to be planted should also comprise these native species.

Once established, hedgerows should be appropriately managed with traditional techniques where possible to maximise their benefit for wildlife using hedgelaying rather than flailing or trimming. If trimming is necessary, ensure it is carried out every 2 to 3 years and in sections so that not all parts of the hedgerow are cut at the same time.

Any new trees and shrubs planted on the site as part of a landscaping scheme should comprise native locally appropriate species. If possible, species that provide pollen, nectar and fruit should form part of the landscaping in order to provide a food source for common birds. Species which could be considered include hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana*, sweet-briar *Rosa rubiginosa*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, common buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.

6 SUMMARY

Trees on land to the west of Backgate in Cowbit was surveyed in connection with plans to develop the site.

It is understood that the trees and hedgerows will be retained on site, however any unavoidable removal should be kept to a minimum and trees/hedgerows lost should be replaced using native

species. Hedgerows and trees should be appropriately managed with native species used in the landscaping scheme for the site.

7 REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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