

Addendum to:

*“Preliminary Ecological Appraisal  
Land at Farrington Golf Club, Farrington Gurney in Somerset  
June 2016”*

April 2018

## Report details

Site name: Farrington Golf Club  
Grid reference: ST 629 547  
Survey date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Report date: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Report author: Colin Hicks BSc (Hons), MCIEEM

## Declaration of compliance

### BS 42020:2013

This study has been undertaken in accordance with British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity, Code of practice for planning and development.

### Code of Professional Conduct

The information which we have prepared is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

## Validity of survey data and report

The findings within this report are valid for 24 months from the date of survey. If work has not commenced within this period an updated survey by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required.

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# 1. Introduction

This addendum provides an update to the June 2016 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of an area of Land at Farrington Golf Club, Farrington Gurney in Somerset.

This addendum is provided to ensure that survey data which identified features of conservation importance in 2016 is still current. Potential impacts on any features of conservation importance, that could constitute a constraint to the proposals for this site, are then considered in light of the nature of the current application.

This addendum should be read in conjunction with the 2016 report which was commissioned by the current developer. For ease of comparison, section numbering within this addendum matches the 2016 report.

## 2. Methods

### 2.2. Field survey

A walk-over survey to inform this addendum was undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Habitats were re-classified where necessary and mapped using the standard Phase 1 Habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) and compared to those described in 2016.

An update to the biological records search was deemed inappropriate due to the limited impact of the proposed development, whilst the update would be unlikely to provide additional material evidence.

### 2.3. Survey constraints

All areas of the site were readily accessible, although at the time of the survey, some species would not have been evident or identifiable due to seasonality, and would have been overlooked. However, given the nature of the habitats present, this was not considered to be a significant constraint to a robust initial site assessment.

### 2.4. Study area

The study area of addendum update was the footprint of the development, hereafter referred to as the 'Site', and its immediate boundaries. This is the area included within the line described as "Survey area" within the legend of Map 1.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Site description

In 2016, the habitats within the site were described as:

*"Area A is at the western boundary of the golf club and comprised a mosaic of low woody scrub with ruderal weeds and grasses. Within this area were two ponds, and it is enclosed by woodland and further scrub. Area B is part of the golf course and comprised close-managed grassland enclosed by taller grassland and woody scrub. A hedgerow, isolated in the landscape, was present at its western boundary. Area C*

*is the existing driving range with covered bays and close-managed grassland, enclosed by high fences with a hedgerow at its eastern and southern boundaries.”*

Since this 2016 survey, the site largely remains unchanged. Small areas of scrub have been disturbed in Area A, whilst grassland in the north of that area has been encroached by Bramble. This is not considered significant and has no effect on the assessment or recommendations within this addendum.

A map is included within the addendum that shows the current habitats (Map 1).

## 5. Recommendations for mitigation and further surveys

### 5.1. Habitats of nature conservation importance

No new recommendations are made with regards to habitats to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and planning policy.

### 5.2. Species of nature conservation importance

No new recommendations are made with regards to species to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and planning policy.

### 5.4. Summary of net gains and losses

Table 3 provides a summary of net gains and losses to biodiversity resulting from the proposed development with mitigation, but without biodiversity enhancement.

This is unchanged from the 2016 survey report.

Table 3. Summary of net gains and losses to biodiversity

| Nature conservation feature | Potential impact  | Proposed mitigation   | Outcome/Comments   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Hedgerows and woodland      | Accidental damage during construction phase   | Boundary features should be protected during the construction phase by a suitable temporary fence placed at least 2 metres from the feature.  | Impact avoided   |
| Bats                        | Loss of foraging habitat in Area A<br><br>Loss of roosting habitat in a single Common Ash in area A | Improved pond habitat and native plantings in retained areas<br><br>To be determined by further survey, if proposals include the management or felling of this tree   | Possible small net gain due to improved foraging habitat |
| Birds                       | Direct harm or injury<br><br>Increased food items during construction                               | Vegetation removal should be completed during the period September to February inclusive, outside the accepted bird nesting season. If this is not practicable, habitats should be thoroughly inspected by a suitably qualified person prior to disturbance or removal. If nesting birds are found, all activities likely to damage the immediate area should be delayed until chicks have fledged. | Direct harm avoided<br><br>Short term gain               |
| Reptiles                    | Direct harm or injury   | Reasonable avoidance measures will be applied in Area A and adjacent habitats enhanced  | Direct harm avoided and no net loss in foraging habitat  |

|                   |                        |   |          |
|-------------------|------------------------|---|----------|
|                   |                        |   |          |
| Japanese Knotweed | Spread within the Site | This plant should be controlled by mechanical and chemical means. | Net gain |


## 6. Further survey work

This remains unchanged from the 2016 survey report.

## 7. Biodiversity enhancement

This remains unchanged from the 2016 survey report.

Legend

-  Target note
-  Broadleaved tree
-  Intact hedge, native species rich
-  Fence
-  Survey area (Approximate)
-  Semi-improved neutral grassland
-  Amenity grassland
-  Tall ruderal
-  Scrub
-  Standing water
-  Bare ground
-  Semi-natural broadleaved woodland
-  Building
-  Japanese Knotweed

Title: Map 1. Phase 1 Habitat Survey, April 2018

Project: Land at Farrington Golf Club, Farrington Gurney in Somerset

Checked by: CDH    Version: 02  
Date: 25 April 2018

