

Technical Note:

Addendum Ecological Report (Dormouse Survey Update)

Project: Land South of Barnham Station, Barnham
(Planning Reference BN/142/20/OUT)

Date: 10 December 2020

Introduction

1. Aspect Ecology have been appointed by Gleeson Strategic Land Ltd. to undertake various investigations and surveys, and to provide advice, relating to ecological matters in respect of proposed development at Land South of Barnham Station, Barnham, centred at the grid reference SU 956 040 (see Plan 5907/ECO1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'. A planning application for a residential development for approximately 200 dwellings has been submitted (Reference BN/142/20/OUT).
2. The following briefing note provides an addendum to Aspect Ecology's Ecological Appraisal report, submitted with the planning application, to bring it up to date with the results of the remaining ecological survey for Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, carried out in November 2020.
3. A range of ecological surveys have been carried out at the site between July to September 2020, with the last remaining dormouse survey completed in November 2020. The scope of surveys has been agreed with Local Planning Authority Ecologist (Chichester District Council on behalf of Arun District Council). Since the application was submitted ahead of the last Dormouse survey being completed, it is necessary to report these separately.

Ecology

4. As described in the Ecological Appraisal, the site contains a number of vegetated boundary features which are considered to provide suitable habitat for Hazel Dormouse, and have been subject to Phase 2 ecological survey.
5. The survey work followed the methodology set out within best practice guidance, whereby nesting tubes are attached to branches of trees and shrubs and checked on a regular basis for signs of use by Dormouse.
6. Accordingly, a total of 58 Dormouse nest tubes were deployed within the site between July and November 2020, all of which were positioned within hedgerows (**H1-H3, H5 and H6**) bordering the site (Plan 5709/ECO3 shows the location of these hedgerows, whilst Plan 5709/ECO4 shows the distribution of nest tubes – both plans are included at Appendix 5709/1). Nest tubes were checked monthly between July and November 2020, giving a total survey effort score of 18.7

points across the entire survey area. Whilst this is slightly below the recommended survey effort level, the amounts of habitat are small and peripheral to the main development area. Furthermore, the density of tubes exceeded the recommended spacing of 20m between tubes, with tubes being spaced at approximately 10m intervals, ensuring that the coverage was comprehensive.

7. No individual dormice nor dormouse nests have been found during the surveys carried out between July and September (including the November survey) and the nests recorded within the tubes originate from Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*. In addition, the Sussex Biological Record Centre did not return any records of Dormouse.

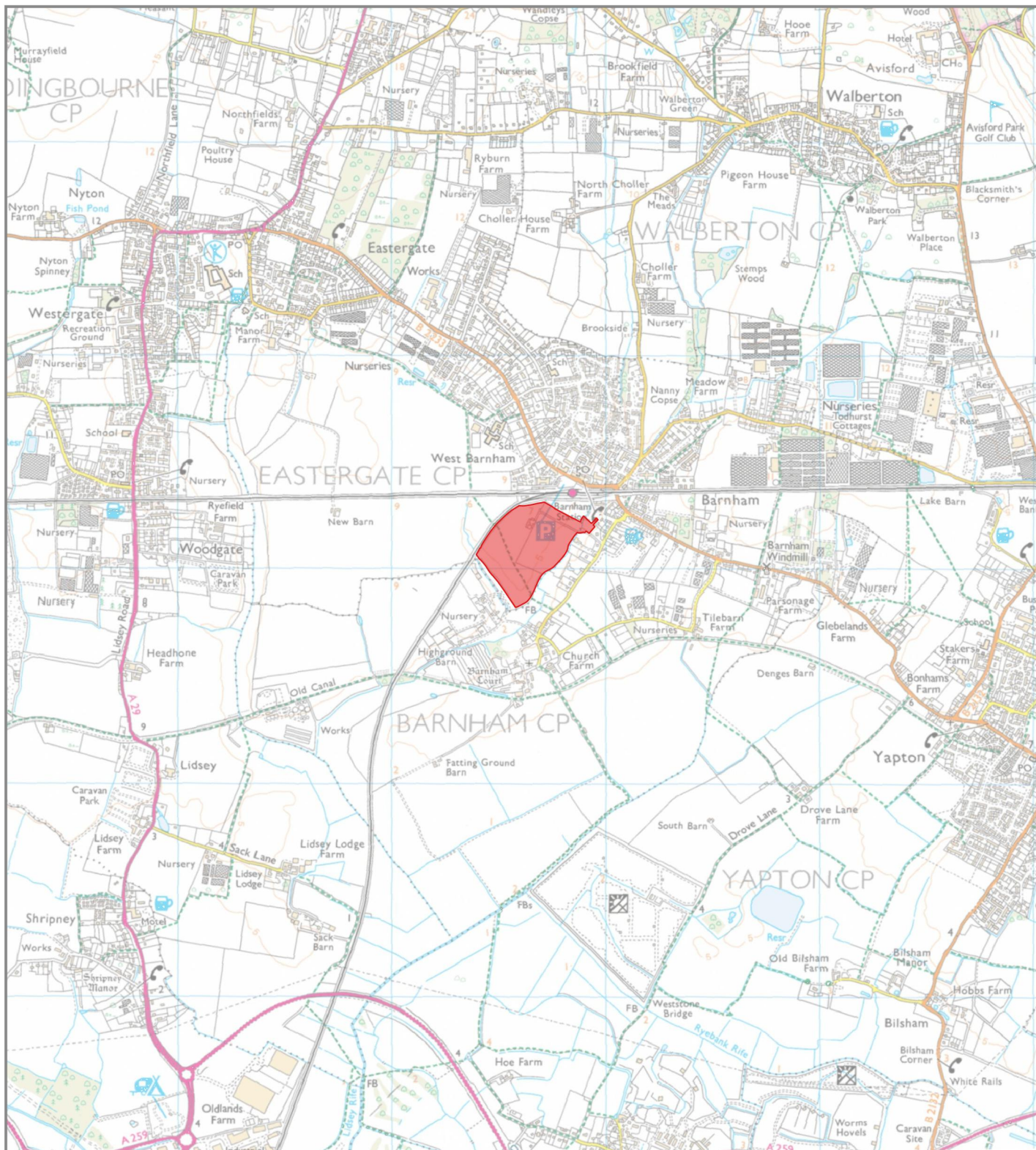
Conclusion

8. The conclusion of our assessment with regards to the presence/absence of Dormouse at the site remains unchanged from the Ecological Appraisal submitted with the planning application, which is that the species is likely to be absent. In any event, most hedgerows on site are unaffected under the scheme, except for two small sections of two hedges required to create the proposed access in the north-east corner of the site. Dormouse are therefore not considered to represent a constraint to the project.

Appendix 5907/1:

Plan 5907/ECO1:

Site Location



Key:



Site Location

aspect ecology

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Tars Farm, Barnham

PROJECT

Site Location

TITLE

5907/ECO1

DRAWING NO.

REV

November 2020

DATE



Plan 5907/ECO3:

Eco Features



- Key:
- 5907 Site Boundary
 - Semi-Improved Species-poor Grassland (Horse Paddocks)
 - Semi-Improved Poor Grassland (Hay Meadow)
 - Bare Ground
 - Tall Ruderal Vegetation
 - Spoil Heap & Manure
 - Scattered Scrub
 - Orchard Trees
 - Tree With High Bat Roosting Potential
 - Tree With High Bat Roosting Potential
 - Access Track
 - Hedgerow
 - Watercourse
 - Dry Ditch
 - Fencing
 - Hardstanding
 - Buildings



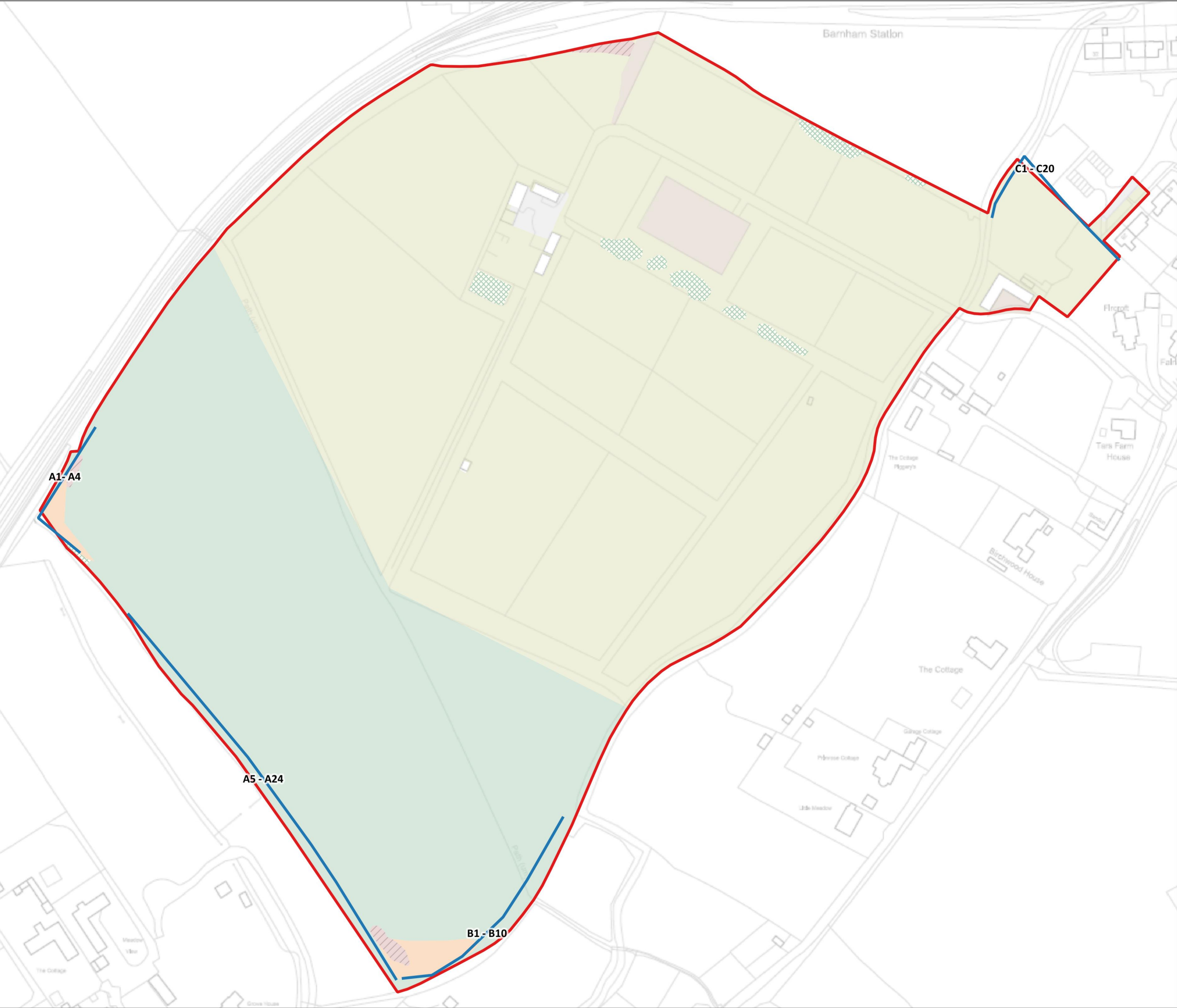
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Tars Farm, Barnham	PROJECT
Habitats and Ecological Features	TITLE
5907/ECO3	DRAWING NO.
-	REV
November 2020	DATE



Plan 5907/ECO4:

Dormouse Survey Results



Key:

Site Boundary

Hazel Dormouse Transect



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Tars Farm, Barnham	PROJECT
Hazel Dormouse Transect Plan	TITLE
5907/ECO4	DRAWING NO.
-	REV
November 2020	DATE

