

Rebecca May
Strategic Land Manager
HIMOR
Pembroke House,
Carrington Business Park,
Carrington,
Manchester
M31 4DD

29th October 2019

Our Ref: RT-MME-151146-01

Dear Rebecca,

Ecological Walkover Survey – Greenwood, Aldridge

Introduction

In October 2019 HIMOR commissioned Middlemarch Environmental Ltd to undertake an ecological walkover survey of a proposed development site located off Greenwood Road in Pelsall, West Midlands. The site measures approximately 2.6 ha in size and is centred at National Grid Reference SK 0618 0256.

In addition, Middlemarch Environmental has also been commissioned to undertake ecological walkover assessments of two additional sites in the Aldridge area of the West Midlands. These sites are Vicarage Road/Coronation Road and Bosty Lane. These sites will be reported in RT-MME-151146-01 and RT-MME-151146-03 respectively.

The purpose of the survey was to provide a preliminary view of the ecological sensitivity of the sites to inform potential future development aspirations.

Ecological Walkover Methodology

The survey comprised a site walkover assessment, during which the location and extent of all habitat types present within the site were noted. The presence, or likely presence, of protected species within the site was also noted.

Results

The ecological walkover survey was undertaken on the 24th October 2019 by Tim Hextell MCIEEM (Principal Technical Ecological Consultant). The weather conditions at the time of the survey are detailed in Table 1.

Parameter	Conditions
Temperature (°C)	13
Cloud (%)	10
Wind (Beaufort)	F1-2
Precipitation	Nil

Table 1: Weather Conditions

Constraints

The site was not subject to any constraints and all areas could be accessed for the purposes of survey.

Site Description

The Greenwood Road, Aldridge survey area comprised a small field of poor semi-improved grassland enclosed by hedgerows and wooden post and barn wire/stock-netting fencing.

The distribution of habitats across the site is shown on Drawing C151146-01-01.

Key Biodiversity Features

It is considered that the key features recorded within the Greenwood Road site are:

- Boundaries – the hedgerows along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site are of some ecological value, although it should be noted that the northern boundary is rather poor possessing frequent large gaps. The hedgerows are considered to qualify as Habitats of Principal Importance and are not only valuable habitats in their own right but are also valuable wildlife corridors.

Development Opportunities and Constraints

Habitats/features that are of importance and should be retained and protected are:

- Boundaries – the northern and eastern are considered to be of ecological value and are important green corridors.

It is considered that the area within which development will have less of an ecological impact is:

- Improved pasture grazed by horses.

Areas of greatest ecological value are highlighted on Drawing C151146-01-02.

Recommendations

Any development of the survey area should include ecological input into the design process of the development. This could include the following:

- Protection and enhancement of the northern and eastern perimeter hedgerows. This would include an appropriate management scheme to provide a varied age structure to the hedgerows, in-filling of gaps where necessary and provision of appropriately sized buffer areas of rough grassland.

In terms of additional survey works required to inform a planning application, it is considered that the following would be required:

- Bats – bat surveys to be undertaken comprising a preliminary roost assessment of trees along the northern site boundary. This may lead to the requirement for emergence surveys (up to three surveys dependent upon findings of preliminary assessment). It is considered unlikely that bat transect surveys will be required for this small area of grassland. However, appropriate recommendations to retain hedgerows and limit their illumination would be considered appropriate.
- Great Crested Newt – Habitat Suitability Surveys (HSI) and potentially full great crested newt surveys, depending upon the HSI results of all ponds for a radius of up to 500 m of site (the latter to be determined by presence of impermeable barriers to newt dispersal e.g. major roads or extensive areas of built environment).
- Hedgerows – these should be subject to assessments to determine whether they are considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

I trust that this assessment meets your requirements, however if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

For and On Behalf of Middlemarch Environmental Ltd.

Tim Hextell MCIEEM
Principal Technical Ecological Consultant

Checked and Approved By:

Tom Docker CEcol MCIEEM
Associate Director, EIA

Enclosed:

Drawing RT-MME-151146-01-01 Phase 1 Habitat Map
Drawing RT-MME-151146-01-02 Areas of Ecological Value



C151146-01-01

Legend

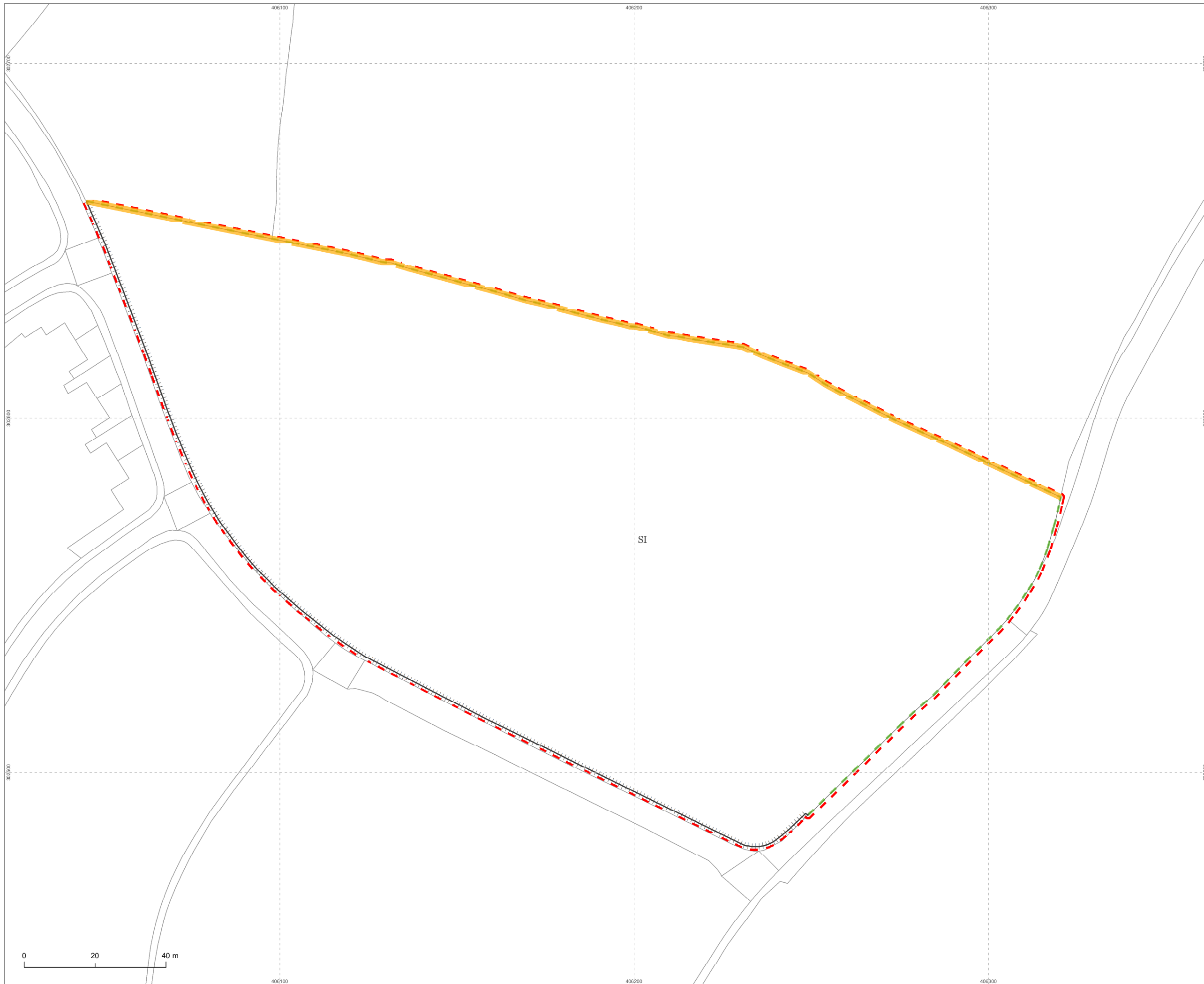
- - - Site boundary
- Fence
- - - Species-poor defunct hedgerow
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland

Project Greenwood Road, Aldridge	
Drawing Phase 1 Habitat Map	
Client HIMOR	
Drawing Number C151146-01-01	Revision 00
Scale @ A3 1:1,000	Date November 2019
Approved By TH	Drawn By RP



Triumph House, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9AZ
 T:01676 525880 F:01676 521400
 E:admin@middlemarch-environmental.com

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C151146-01-02

Legend

- Features of moderate ecological value (pending further investigation)
- Site boundary
- Phase 1 habitats**
- Species-poor defunct hedgerow
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland

Project **Greenwood Road, Aldridge**

Drawing **Areas of Ecological Value**

Client **HIMOR**

Drawing Number C151146-01-02	Revision 00
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Scale @ A3 1:1,000	Date November 2019
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Approved By TD	Drawn By RP
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