Green
Environmental
Consultants

LAND OPPOSITE 15 SUNSET VIEW
BARNET
EN5 4LB

WOODLAND SURVEY

March 2026

for:

Barnet Recreational Trust

Report number: 1656/1

Green Environmental Consultants Ltd

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WOODLAND SURVEY

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LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

Limitations of Surveys

This report records wildlife found during the survey and anecdotal evidence of some species. Access, seasonality and weather conditions may affect survey results. Habitats outside the site boundary were only visited where considered appropriate and where access was available.

The behaviour of animals can be unpredictable and may not conform to standard patterns recorded in current scientific literature. Many species are highly mobile and can occupy a site which might be considered far from suitable. This report therefore cannot predict with absolute certainty that animal species will occur in apparently suitable locations or that they will not occur in locations or habitats which appear to be unsuitable.

Limitations of Report

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Where the data available from previous reports, or for other subject matter supplied by the Client, have been used, it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by us for inaccuracies within the data supplied.

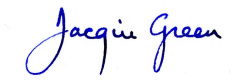
This report is prepared and written in the context of the proposals stated in the introduction to this report and should not be used in a differing context. Furthermore, new information, improved practices and legislation may necessitate an alteration to the report in whole or in part after its submission. Therefore, with any change in circumstances or after the expiry of two years from the date of the report, the report should be referred to us for re-assessment and, if necessary, reappraisal.

Scientific survey data will be shared with local biological records centre in accordance with the CIEEM professional code of conduct.

Please note that Green Environmental Consultants Ltd is an ecological consultancy. Any information relating to legal matters in this report is provided in good faith but does not purport in any way to give any advice on or interpretation of the law whatsoever. Professional legal advice should always be sought.

The data, advice and opinion which we have prepared and provided is true, and have been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional *bona fide* opinions.

This ecological information is supplied in accordance with BS 42020 2013.



Jacqui Green BSc(Hons), MSc, CEcol, FCIEEM

1 INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Introduction

This report has been prepared by Green Environmental Consultants Ltd on behalf of Barnet Recreational Trust and refers to the proposed development for a single dwelling, of land to the east of 15 Sunset View, Barnet, EN5 4LB (the 'Site'), at grid reference TQ 2440 9721; ///tuned.deal.prime. The report is described in detail in Brown & Co document BCEnv.25.0032.AP062755 December 2025, Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment.

Green Environmental Consultants have been commissioned to review and supplement the woodland survey, for classification for the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

1.2 Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE)

Best practice guidelines require that this report be completed by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist. BS42020:2013 defines a suitably qualified ecologist as someone who:

1. holds a degree (or equivalent qualification) in an ecology related subject.
2. has been a practising ecologist with a minimum of 3 years relevant experience within the last 5 years.
3. clearly demonstrates a practical understanding of factors affecting ecology in relation to construction and the built environment; including acting in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations for ecological protection, enhancement and mitigation measures.
4. is bound by a professional code of conduct.
5. is subject to peer review.
6. is not acting or advising outside their professional competencies.

This report has been completed by Jacqui Green BSc(Hons), MSc, CEcol, FCIEEM, who meets the criteria for a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE). Jacqui Green's further experience includes contributing to early drafts of the CIEEM guidance on Phase 1 habitat surveying (and therefore also the CIEEM competency skills), extensive experience of NVC surveying of grasslands and woodlands, and has also taught NVC woodland surveying as part of the CIEEM training programme, alongside Natural England's Chief woodland specialist Keith Kirby (now retired).

2 METHODS

2.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken to gather mapping and aerial photography records for the site. This is helpful in looking at past land-use and management of sites to put them into a local context.

2.2 Woodland Survey

2.2.1 Method

The woodland was surveyed using the National Vegetation Classification methodology for woodlands (Rodwell et al 1991).

The NVC method for woodland requires recording of quadrats at different scales: 50 x 50 m for canopy; 10 x 10 m for understorey; and 4 x 4 m squares for ground flora. It is usual, where possible

to record five 4 x 4 m squares per 50 x 50 m quadrat. Cover is scored using the Domin scale.

The survey was undertaken on 19 March 2026, when it was sunny and bright.

2.2.2 Limitations

Early seasonal surveys are best for woodland surveys as it provides the opportunity to assess the ground flora, many plants of which flower early before trees leaf, before dying back. March is therefore a good time of year to undertake such visits. Very few of the trees and shrubs were in full leaf but a competent botanist should be able to identify trees vegetatively. The presence of many evergreens in the understorey and canopy clearly reduced the limitations to a March survey.

The area of woodland as measured by Brown & Co is 0.3885 ha. NVC survey quadrat selection requires the elimination of boundaries from a survey area to avoid edge effects, and separation of dissimilar areas into different quadrat samples. Figure 1656/1/1 Habitat Map (Appendix I) shows where some dissimilar areas exist. The western boundary strip was excluded as it is a line of oak trees. A southern compartment was also excluded as it was more open and dominated by non-native tree species with more scrub than found elsewhere; this was clearly a different compartment of the woodland. The eastern side had trees planted to mark the boundary with different species and a number of non-natives both on the boundary and just outside.

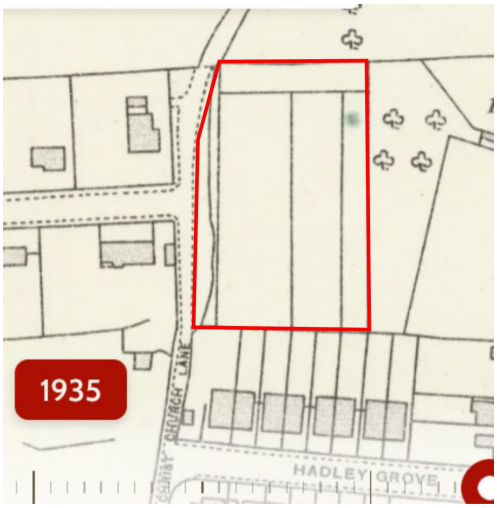
When the western and southern sides are removed from the survey area, there is barely enough woodland block remaining to complete a 2,500 sqm quadrat. For this reason all the woodland excluding those areas mentioned above, was treated as one unit, although there were clearly differences. Two 10 x 10 m quadrats were recorded within this, one each side of the central transverse path, and five 4 x 4m quadrats. For the latter it was not possible to avoid disturbed ground areas in all five locations.

3 RESULTS

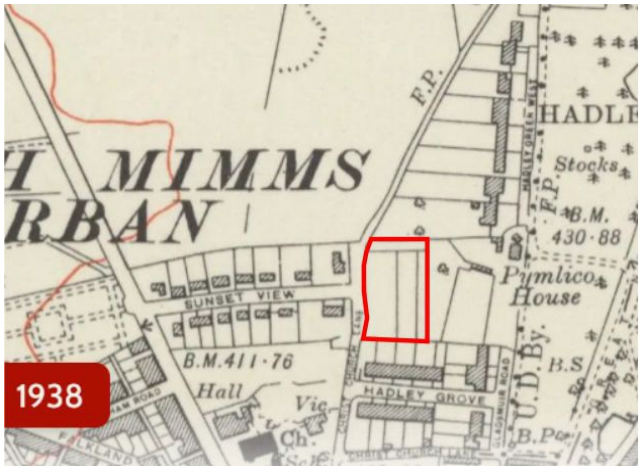
3.1 Desk Study

Examination of historic maps and aerial photographs clearly demonstrates that the area has not been woodland until very recent times. The following maps and photographs demonstrate this. On each, the site boundary has been approximately drawn for ease of locating the site, but is not intended to be accurate. Maps © Crown Copyright. Licence Number 100055927.

1863 map with the area clearly marked as nursery. Much of the adjacent land was also nursery or open fields.



1935 map, land clearly demarcated into long plots to the rear of houses. The western boundary also identified as a separate linear area.



1938 map showing similar, with more of the adjacent land visible.

1947 RAF aerial photograph showing how the plots have been used, presumably for wartime cultivation, with later gardening. North-south woody boundaries to plots clearly planted and some evidence of horizontal division, approximately where the track off Christ Church Lane is today (Figure 1656/1/1). Tree line visible long the western boundary.

2010 aerial photograph showing growth of woody planting along the plot boundaries, especially in a north-south line. Western boundary tree line clearly visible.

2013 aerial photograph with western line of oak trees very clear. Further growth of plot boundary planting, beginning to create a canopy cover over the site, but linear features still visible.

It is clear from these that the land has been cultivated for a long time, having been nursery in 1863. At some point, the nursery was converted into linear plots to the rear of houses on Hadley Grove. It is not known whether they were used as part of the Hadley Grove houses or by separate entities. By the post-WWII period the western boundary tree line was a clear feature and woody expansion of plot delimiting planting was occurring; the cultivated plots are still clear at this point.

In the wider area, apart from small stands of trees around what was probably a manor house, no woodland was present in this area from the mid-nineteenth century and probably a lot earlier.

3.2 Site Survey

3.2.1 Habitat Description

See Figure 1656/5/1 Habitat Map in Appendix I.

The woodland block is small and mixed. Along with native broad-leaved trees (Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Field Maple *Acer campestre* with rare Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*), there is senescent Silver Birch *Betula pendula*. Sycamore is mostly found along the northern edge either side of the access track. Yew *Taxus baccata* is present but unlikely to be naturally present in this area. Scattered amongst these are non-native broad-leaves such as a variety of maples (Acer spp.), walnut (*Juglans* sp) and cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and conifers. Dead elm and elm suckers are present but not in high numbers. The mid-storey has some Holly *Ilex aquifolium* along with the Yew.

The most significant feature is the density of Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). This was dominating the mid-storey and was also evident in the canopy layer with large mature specimens present.

Ground level in the main body of the wood was dominated by leaf litter. Patches of Ivy *Hedera helix* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* were also present. Forbs were mainly present on boundaries where more light filtered through and possibly the soil was less impacted by evergreen leaf litter.

Along the western boundary was a line of Pedunculate Oak trees. As they are growing in a line, and as oak does not normally successfully seed under its own canopy, it is certainly planted. Oak is rarely present in the remainder of the wood and these younger trees may have seeded from the boundary. On the eastern side are other examples of boundary tree planting of mixed species including fruit.

Non-native species planted include cypress, pine and maples *Acer* sp. Small clusters of scrub (other than Cherry Laurel) include Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) but these are nearly all on or near boundaries rather than in the interior.

	
Photograph 1 - interior showing Bramble and Cherry Laurel scrub.	Photograph 2 - interior with leaf litter and Ivy ground flora.
	
Photograph 3 - Dense Cherry Laurel.	Photograph 4 - evidence of lines within the woodland. This scrub lines the southern side of the unofficial path through the middle of the site. Indicative of past use in plots.
	
Photograph 5 - a view of scrub in the southern part, more open, with a greater diversity of ground flora along the road edge.	Photograph 6 - Christ Church Lane looking north, with the boundary line of oak trees to the right.

3.2.2 National Vegetation Classification

The quadrat records could not be aligned to any NVC classification community due to the mixed species, clear elements of planting and number of non-native species. Whilst Cherry Laurel can invade semi-natural woodlands, in this case there is evidence that it has invaded from plot boundary hedging or former nursery land.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The site woodland does not fit into any recognised NVC woodland community. It has value for local biodiversity both resident and occasional use. However, the high density of Cherry Laurel in both the under-storey and canopy is an issue as this non-native evergreen species is known to have negative localised impacts on soils and vegetation.

Its history shows that it is of recent development, with evidence of planting in lines (possibly overgrown hedging) and boundary tree lines. Non-native species have been included in the planting and even native species such as Hornbeam (of which there is possibly only one tree) and Yew are questionably natural colonisation.

This mixed and quasi-artificial woodland is categorised under the UK Hab classification as 'Other Woodland - Broadleaved' and therefore is not S41 Priority Habitat.

This conclusion is supported by detailed survey, and examination of historical records which demonstrate the land use as non-woodland as recently as the 1940s, with the woodland developing as a result of maturing and spreading plot boundary planting.

Nevertheless, any woodland cover is valuable wildlife habitat. Retention and enhancement of some will be beneficial. The loss of part to a dwelling and access, and enhancement of the remainder, would be unlikely to alter this assessment. Removal, or at least control of, the Cherry Laurel, would be highly beneficial.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rodwell J S, (Edit.) (1991). *British Plant Communities Volume 1. Woodlands and Scrub*. CUP.

APPENDIX

1656/1/1 Habitat Map


Access track
Oak
Derelict garage
T8 Norway Maple
T9 Pine
CL
Bramble
Oak
G8 Lawson Cypress (& 1 x oak)
Informal path
CL
Cypress & fruit
Informal path
G11 Ash & Yew
Mixed scrub
Cypress
T19 Silver Maple
Silver Maple
G12 Cypress
w1g other woodland - broadleaved
H3 Dense scrub
Tree line (oak) outlined in white
Non-native tree species
Building
Bare ground/track
Note: High density stands of Cherry Laurel shown separately, but it is also prevalent throughout.
Project: Land opp 15 SUNSET VIEW, BARNET
Client: Barnet Recreational Trust
Scale: nts
Drawn by: JG
Date: 23/03/2026
Rev: A
Drawing: 1656/1/1 HABITAT MAP
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