



# **ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Severn Valley Railway  
Bridgnorth  
Shropshire**

**Final Report  
3 December 2015**

**Client:**  
Severn Valley Railway

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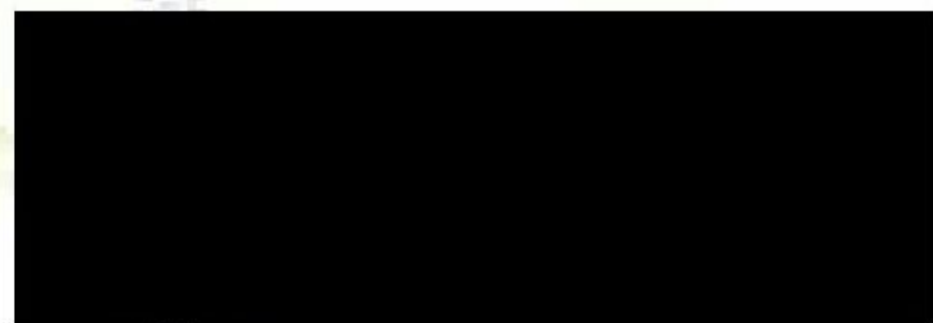
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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

DATE	VERSION	SURVEY DATES	NAME	SIGNATURE
08.05.15	Draft prepared	PEA: 02.04.15 GCN: 13.04.15 – 06.05.15  Additional tree assessment: 01.12.15	Lisa Kerslake CEcol FCIEEM  Principal Ecologist/Director	
08.05.15	Checked by		Mike Sharp BSc MCIEEM  Principal Ecologist/Director	
08.05.15	Draft issued		Lisa Kerslake	
3.12.15	Reviewed and issued		Lisa Kerslake	

The information which we have prepared and provided 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.

Every reasonable attempt has been made to comply with [BS42020 (Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development); the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2013) and the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (CIEEM, 2015), Bat Conservation Trust’s Bat Surveys: Good practice guidelines 2nd edition (Hundt, 2012), and the Amphibian and Reptile Group (ARG) UK’s Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index (ARG UK, 2010)]. If compliance has not been achieved, justification/explanation has been given.

## SUMMARY

- A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, including a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and protected species assessment, was undertaken on 2 April 2015 of a site adjacent to the Severn Valley Railway depot in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, in relation to proposals for a small development. Methodology for the appraisal followed CIEEM (2013). A further assessment of some additional trees to be removed was made on the 1 December 2015.
- The proposed development comprises the construction of a car park and some additional buildings and other structures associated with the railway operation. The works will affect only a part of the site surveyed.
- The purpose of this report is to identify and describe the ecological effects of the proposed development and to set out mitigation/enhancement measures and any further survey or monitoring required.
- The site is mainly occupied by species-poor grassland grazed by sheep, and is bounded by fences and hedges; several mature trees are present within the field boundaries and elsewhere. There are small areas of scrub and tall herb vegetation, and an abandoned garden. A small pond is located just west of the site.
- The protected species assessment revealed some limited potential for the site to support bats, badgers, amphibians, reptiles and breeding birds. Several records of protected species were provided close to the study site.
- Further surveys of the pond were conducted for great crested newts, but the species was found to be absent.
- Several mature trees have the potential to support bat roosts. If these trees are to be removed or pollarded or subject to other works, further surveys will be required prior to works.
- Otherwise, there are unlikely to be any significant impacts on important habitats or protected species. However, precautionary methods and measures for biodiversity mitigation and enhancement will be required to prevent harm to amphibians, reptiles, breeding birds, bats and badgers.