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Leigh Ecology Ltd

Protected Species and Habitat Surveys



Land Adjacent to 20 CAVERSWALL ROAD, BLYTHE BRIDGE.

Biodiversity Scoping Survey - 20/05/2015

Introduction

A survey was undertaken at the proposal site on land located adjacent to 20 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire, on the 20th May 2015, in order to assess the biodiversity value of the site and the presence of any protected species.

The survey was undertaken by Roy Leigh ACIEEM, an ecologist experienced in undertaking Phase 1 habitat and protected species surveys.

Site Description

The site is a rectangular parcel of land, previously used as a garden. The land is bordered to the west and south by a wooden fence, the boundaries to the north and east are open.

The southern half of the plot is a grassed lawn; the northern section is bare earth and wood chippings. A number of tree stumps occur in the northern boundary.

The only vegetation occurring on site appeared within the southern boundary and a flowerbed rockery area in the center of the site.

The trees occurring on site, were confined to the boundary, they were all in a healthy condition containing no visible cavities or fissures.

The adjacent area and wider area are mixed woodland and mature sub urban garden habitats.



Plate 1 Vista of the plot looking south along the western boundary.



Plate 2 The trees on site were in a good condition without any rot holes of fissures.



Plate 3 The eastern boundary between the proposal site and the garden of 20 Caverswall Road.



Plate 4 The flowerbed containing daffodil species



Plate 5 The southern boundary contains Rhododendron scrub, spruce tree, and chestnut trees.

Results

The plot of land identified for the proposed development comprises sub optimal habitat, the open areas are bare ground and amenity grassland, which has been managed as a lawned area.

The bare ground has a covering of wood chips and some tree stumps. The boundaries are wooden panel fences and shrub based borders.

No signs of bats or badgers were found on site or within a 30m search buffer there was, however some potential for nesting birds, particularly in the southern boundary area see plate 5 above.

Recommendations

No constraints on the design of the development is suggested. The landscaping design should contain allowances for nesting birds and foraging bats.

However, if the sites scrub clearance is undertaken in the bird-nesting period, April-August inclusive, the areas should be checked for bird nests, any active nests will be monitored and works delayed until the young have fledged.