Blakehall Fisheries

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report – 5th March 2018



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Description and Scope of Works
This report relates to land at Blakehall Fisheries, New Close Fields, Adderley, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 2NJ (OS Grid Reference: SJ 98675 43282). The work, commissioned by Mr. John Heath (proprietor) was to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site. To fulfil this brief, both a desk-based study and site survey were carried out. The site of interest is situated adjacent to Blakehall Fisheries, Cheadle and it is located within a rural environment. The site occupies a total area of approximately 1.2ha, and it currently consists of a mixture of hedgerows, semi-mature trees, buildings, hard standing ground, **neutral** semi-improved grassland and marshy ground. The site is surrounded by pastureland, arable land and a variety of fishing lakes and drainage ditches. Within the wider landscape, woodland, residential/industrial units (and their associated gardens/yards) and further waterbodies are all evident. Under the current proposals, the land (field) will be developed into a caravan/camping site, and the impact of these works upon the habitats located onsite (and subsequently, the impact upon any local fauna) will be discussed further in turn, please refer to Appendix Two.

Potential Constrains and Recommendations	Yes	No
Badgers		
Has the site been assessed for badgers?	☑	
Are badgers a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: None		
Bats		
Has the site been assessed for bats?	☑	
Are roosting bats a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Are foraging/commuting bats a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: With the proposed soft landscaping (trees) proposed for the site, it will only be enhanced for any local bat populations.		
Breeding birds (including barn owls)		
Has the site been assessed for breeding birds (including barn owls)?	☑	
Are nesting birds (including barn owls) a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: As all the habitats with birds nesting potential are not to be affected by the proposed works, no further action is required.		
Great crested newts		
Has the site been assessed for great crested newts?	☑	
Are great crested newts a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: None		

Reptiles		
Has the site been assessed for reptiles?	☑	
Are reptiles a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: None		
Other protected species		
Has the site been assessed for other protected species?	☑	
Are other protected species a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: None		
Notable species		
Has the site been assessed for notable species?	☑	
Are notable species a potential constraint to the development?		☑
Recommendations: None		
Other features of nature conservation interest		
Does the application site support Habitats of Principal Importance or Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats?		☑
If so, which?		
Recommendations: None		
Planting Recommendations		
Recommendations: The proposed tree planting (woodland) is recommended to be reduced in size, to allow some of the marshy grassland to be retained. For this woodland, a mixture of broadleaf species are recommended. The recommended species for the broadleaf trees are alder, silver birch and willow as these species are better adapted to the wetter conditions.		
Management Recommendations		
Recommendations: For the proposed development site, it is recommended that the site is continued to be cut to keep the sward height low. This is required to prevent the vegetation succeeding into scrubland. If the habitat did turn into scrubland, then it will be enhanced ecologically. This would then prompt further ecological assessments and surveys.		

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report relates to land at Blakehall Fisheries, New Close Fields, Adderley, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 2NJ (OS Grid Reference: SJ 98675 43282). The work, commissioned by Mr. John Heath (proprietor) was to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site. To fulfil this brief, both a desk-based study and site survey were carried out.

1.2.2 The site visit took place on 5th March 2018 by Mr. Paul Keeling BSc (Hons) MCIEEM [Senior Ecologist) and Mr. Richard Millington BSc (Hons) ACIEEM [Assistant Ecologist]. Mr. Paul Keeling has more than 10 years' experience in undertaking Preliminary Ecological Appraisals.

1.2.3 Animals frequently move around and change the places they use for shelter. Therefore, this report is generally considered to be **valid for 2 years** from the date that the survey was carried out. This figure may be different for some species or habitats, but this should be confirmed by a professional ecologist. If you have ecological data that is considered 'out-of-date', you may require an updated 'walkover survey' in certain circumstances.

1.3 Scope and Brief

1.3.1 The main purpose of this assessment was to identify the habitats and flora species present onsite and any evidence of protected species usage and/or features of potential ecological interest.

1.3.2 This report outlines the survey methodologies undertaken and assesses the survey results so that appropriate recommendations (including whether further surveys are required) can be devised.

1.4 Site Description

1.4.1 The site of interest is situated adjacent to Blakehall Fisheries, Cheadle and it is located within a rural environment. The site occupies a total area of approximately 1.2ha, and it currently consists of a mixture of hedgerows, semi-mature trees, buildings, hard standing ground, neutral semi-improved grassland and marshy ground. The site is surrounded by pastureland, arable land and a variety of fishing lakes and drainage ditches. Within the wider landscape, woodland, residential/industrial units (and their associated gardens/yards) and further waterbodies are all evident.

1.4.2 Photographs of the site are presented in Appendix Three.

1.5 Proposed Works

1.5.1 Under the current proposals the land (field) will be developed into a caravan/camping site, and the impact of these works upon the habitats located onsite (and subsequently, the impact upon any local fauna) will be discussed further in turn, please refer to Appendix Two.

1.6 Biodiversity Legislation

1.6.1 The activities for the proposed works should comply with International, European and UK nature conservation legislation, and with national and local biodiversity policies. The following legislation is relevant to this assessment:

- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006; and
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);

1.6.2 The key policy documents which influence ecology and nature conservation assessments are the:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Biodiversity 2020;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP).

1.6.3 In addition, there is usually a local BAP document which lists habitats and species of local significance. In this case, the 'Staffordshire BAP' applies to the area. Further details on the aforementioned policy/legislation can be found in Appendix Four.

2.1 METHODOLOGY

2.2 Desktop Study (Ecological Data Search)

2.2.1 Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER) was commissioned to carry out an ecological data search of all protected species and sites recorded within a 2km radius of the site.

2.2.2 A desktop study of the area using online resources was undertaken independently, to corroborate the current overview of the site and its importance in the landscape. Websites/applications used for this study include; www.naturalengland.org.uk, www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk and Google Earth. A search for other relevant nature conservation information was made using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC). MAGIC also features aerial imagery that can be studied for connecting habitats (or likewise Google Maps can be viewed).

2.3 Field Survey

2.3.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (also known as an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey) was carried out using the method outlined in the JNCC Handbook for *Phase 1 Habitat Survey: a technique for environmental audit (2010)*. This method broadly maps and describes the habitats and features present on the site. The presence or potential presence of protected species is also noted during the survey along with any other features of interest.

2.3.2 As the JNCC handbook aids with the classification of natural habitats, some of the classification codes and colours have been modified slightly, to make them relevant to this project.

2.3.3 Habitat surveys can be carried out all year round, but the optimal time period is between the months of April and September. This survey was carried out in March 2018, which is outside of the optimal time period for flora surveys. However, it is anticipated that the majority of the flora species located on site were identified and Evolution Ecology Ltd feels confident that this survey report presents an accurate representation of the sites suitability for protected species.

2.4 Nomenclature

For this report, the common English name only for fauna and flora species is given in the text. However, scientific names may be used if no English name is available.

3.1 DESKTOP STUDY RESULTS

3.2 Statutory Sites

3.2.1 The information received from Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER) confirmed that no statutory protected sites (e.g. SSSI, SPA, SAC, LNR or Ramsar) are present within the 2km search radius.

3.3 Non-Statutory Sites

3.3.1 The desktop study has confirmed that six non-statutory protected sites are present within a 2km radius of the proposed development site.

3.3.2 The known non-statutory sites are a mixture of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and retained Biodiversity Alert Sites (retained BAS), which are as follows:

- Commonside Quarry (retained BAS)
- Draycott Common Wood (retained BAS)
- Fair View [north of] (retained BAS)
- Foxfield & Pearcroft Woods (LWS)
- Huntley Wood (LWS)
- St Thomas' Trees (retained BAS)

The nearest of these to the proposed development site is Fair View [north of] that is situated approximately 565m to the west of the nearest site boundary. This site does not lie on or nearby to the proposed development site.

3.4 Ancient, Ancient Semi-natural, and Ancient Replanted Woodland

3.4.1 According to the information obtained from SER, two Ancient & Semi-natural Woodland sites have been identified within the 2km search radius. These come in the form of Foxfield Wood and Huntley Wood. The nearest of these to the proposed development site is Huntley Wood that is situated approximately 1350m to the south-east of the nearest site boundary.

3.5 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)

3.5.1 No RIGS have been identified within the 2km search radius provided by SER.

3.6 Protected Species

3.6.1 A few records of protected species have been detected within a 2km radius of the site were provided by SER, and some of these include (see Appendix Three for further details):

Common Name	Latin Binomial	Category
Badger	*Meles meles*	Mammal
Barn owl	*Tyto alba*	Bird
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scrypta*	Flowering Plant
Brown long-eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*	Mammal
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	Mammal
Firecrest	*Regulus ignicapilla*	Bird
Greylag goose	*Anser anser*	Bird
Water vole	*Arvicola amphibius*	Mammal

3.6.2 The desktop study data also shows a number of species that are listed as priority on the UK and/or the Staffordshire BAP, some of which can be seen below (Appendix Three):

Common Name	Latin Binomial
Barn owl	*Tyto alba*
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
Common toad	*Bufo bufo*
Dingy skipper	*Erynnis tages*
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*
Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*
Wall	*Lasiommata megera*
Wild pansy	*Viola tricolor*
Water vole	*Arvicola amphibius*

4.1 PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL SURVEY

4.2 Introduction

4.2.1 The Phase 1 habitat map (and the relevant habitat codes and target notes) associated with this Preliminary Ecological Appraisal can be observed in Appendix Six.

4.3 Habitats

4.3.1 The following habitats were recorded within the areas of interest during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal:

- A3 Scattered Trees
- B2.2 Neutral Semi-Improved Grassland
- B5 Marshy Grassland
- G2 Running Water
- J2.1.2 Intact, species-poor hedgerow
- J4 Buildings
- J5 Other Habitat (hard standing ground)

4.3.2 A3.2 – Mixed Scattered Trees

Around the site, some newly planted trees were apparent. These comprised of oak, silver birch. None of the newly planted specimens identified were of an age or structure that is of ecological value. One oak tree was identified as having bat roosting potential, although this will remain in situ post-development.

4.3.3 B2.2 – Neutral semi-improved grassland

The majority of the site comprised of neutral semi-improved grassland habitat. This habitat is mown regularly to keep the sward close to the ground. Evidence of rabbit and livestock (two cow pats) also attributed to the short sward height, but their sporadic presence is less of an impact on the field. There were not many species present here, with those identified including one species of grass, ribwort plantain, spear thistle, red clover, daisy. This habitat has been deemed to be of negligible ecological value and thus will not bare any negative impact to any fauna and flora.

4.3.4 B5 – Marshy Grassland

To the east of the site, a section of marshy grassland is present, with many rushes evident. At the time of the survey, the ground was very damp and could be of benefit to local herpetile and mammal populations.

4.3.5 G2 – Running Water

This area of habitat was situated within the marshy grassland, where a ditch transported water to the fishing ponds located on site. In very wet conditions, it is anticipated that this ditch will overflow and contribute to the marshy grassland habitat identified.

4.3.6 J2.1.2 – Intact, species-poor hedgerow

This is a small section of habitat located to the west of the existing clubhouse. This was comprised entirely of leylandii that have grown to a mature level. This habitat does have the potential to support nesting birds, although all of these are due to remain in situ post-development.

4.3.7 J4 – Buildings

Five buildings were situated across the development site. One of these is the existing clubhouse that is of timber construction, with a felt roof (made to imitate the appearance of tiles). Two of these buildings were to do with water management of the fishing lakes. The final two were steel portacabins that were not laid into the ground. All of the buildings were assessed for roosting bat and nesting bird potential, with a negligible classification being chosen for these structures. Therefore, no further survey effort is required for this habitat.

4.3.8 J5 – Other Habitat (hard standing ground)

The current hard standing ground is situated around the current vehicular access to Blakehall Fisheries. These are made of gravel and crushed tarmac, with regular vehicular usage ensuring no vegetation is able to establish on this site.

4.4 Species

Amphibians

4.4.1 The ecological data search provided by SER has revealed four records of amphibians within 2km of the proposed development site. These are all of common toad, although none of these record fall within 500m of the development site. Despite this, the absence of amphibians cannot be assumed due to the abundance of water-bodies (mainly fishing ponds) scattered throughout the landscape. Based upon the field survey, it is deemed that the site due to be affected by the proposed works will not be in use by any local commuting amphibians, with more optimal habitat situated nearby.

Birds

4.4.2 The ecological data set provided by SER revealed numerous protected and rare species. Multiple species were detected at the Blakehall Fisheries site, although the majority of habitats to be affected by the proposed works did not contain the potential to support nesting birds. However, the leylandii hedgerow located on site was identified as potential bird nesting habitat, although this will not be impacted by the proposed works. Therefore, no nesting birds will affect the proposed development of the site, with no further survey effort required.

Mammals

4.4.3 Bats

Multiple bat species were revealed in the ecological data search provided by SER. No features were present on the proposed development site for bats to roost. The site does offer potential for foraging and commuting bats, although the proposed works will not impact upon any of the local bat populations. The proposed soft landscaping of the site will only enhance the value of the site for the local bat specimens.

4.4.4 Badgers:

The ecological data set provided by SER identified multiple badger records within the 2km search radius. The site and nearby area was inspected for the presence of badger setts, with none being present. Despite this, there was evidence of badger tracks running through the site to the south. This will not impact upon the proposed works for the site.

4.4.5 Water Vole:

The ecological data search identified water voles that have been present within the pond network at Blakehall Fisheries. During the site survey, some potential water vole footprints were identified within the mud, around some of the ponds. However, the presence of water voles within the ponds (including the one directly adjacent to the site) will not be an issue with regards to the proposed works. This is because no works will occur on the bank-side of the ponds, with all works being located over 5m from the pond edge.

Reptiles

4.4.6 Within the ecological data set received from SER, no records of reptiles have been recorded within the search area. However, some of the habitats on the site do have the potential to support populations of grass snakes, with particular reference to the marshy grassland. However, these will not impact upon the portion of the site that is due to be affected by the works.

5.1 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2 Designated Sites

5.2.1 The designated sites revealed by the Ecological Data-set, provided by SER, do not lie on the site. Therefore, no designated site will be impacted by the proposed re-development works.

5.3 Species

No further presence/absence surveys are required for the proposed development site as it has been deemed to be of little value to protected and rare species.

The proposed woodland (tree planting) is recommended to be reduced in size, to allow some of the marshy grassland to be retained. For this woodland, a mixture of broadleaf species are recommended. The recommended species for the broadleaf trees are alder, silver birch and willow as these species are better adapted to the wetter conditions.

5.4 Management

For the proposed development site, it is recommended that the site is continued to be cut to keep the sward height low. This is required to prevent the vegetation succeeding into scrubland. If the habitat did turn into scrubland, then it will be enhanced ecologically. This would then prompt further ecological assessments and surveys.

6.1 REFERENCES

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Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005).

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The natural choice: securing the value of nature (2011) (Natural Environment White Paper).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

RSPB (2002). The Population Status of Birds in the UK.

RSBP (2009). Birds of Conservation Concern 3.

Rydell J & Racey, P A (1993) Street lamps and the feeding ecology of insectivorous bats. Recent Advances in Bat Biology, Zool Soc Lond Symposium abstracts.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2007). UK List of Priority Species. Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments) (c.69). London: HMSO.

Appendix One -

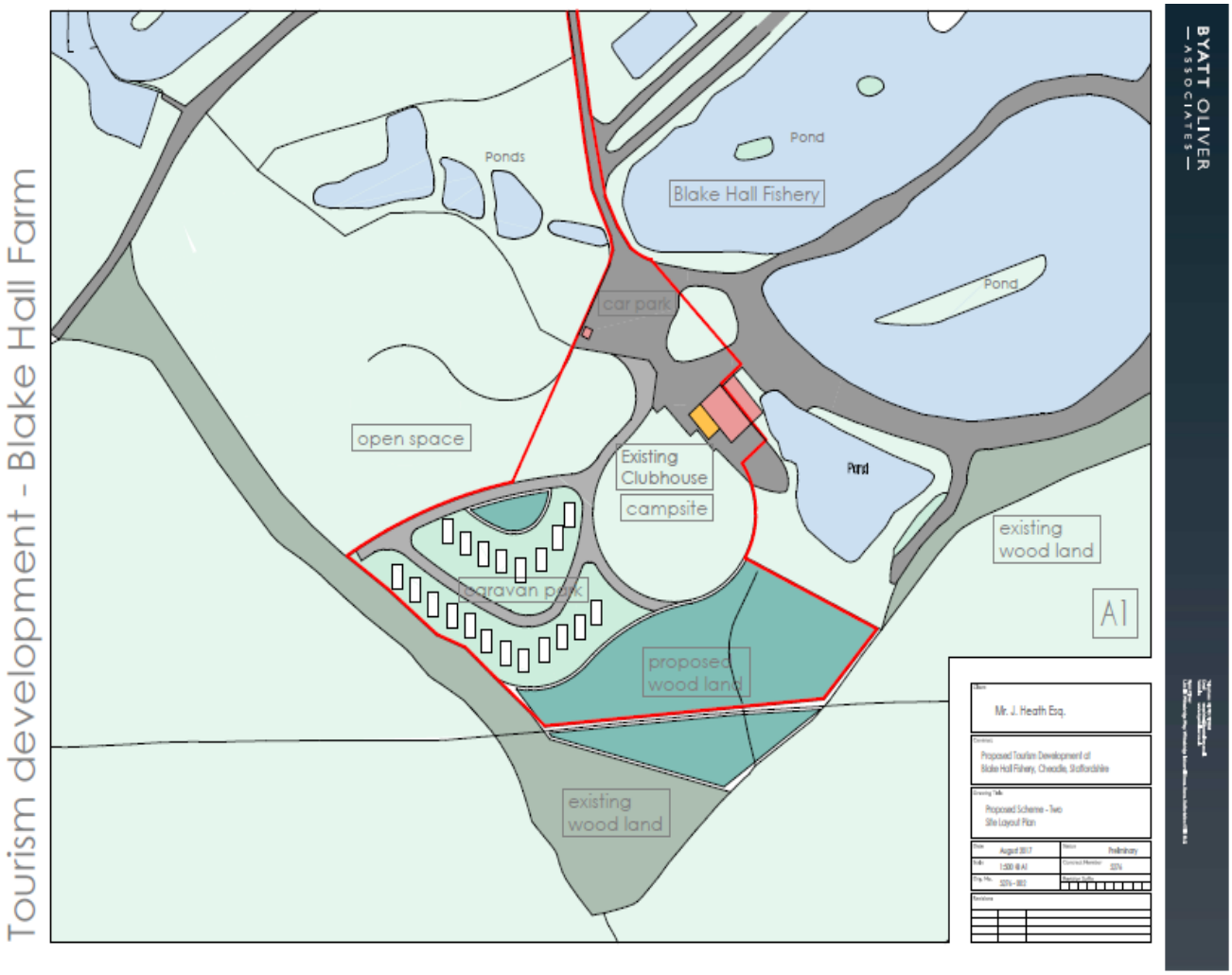
Location Plan & Aerial Image


N
A521
A522
B5417
B5032
Godley Ln
Dilhorne
New Rd
Delphouse Rd
The Green
Cheadle
Boundary
Draycott Cross Rd
Dilhorne Rd
Cheadle Rd
Forsbrook


N

Appendix Two -
Proposed plan

These plans are for illustration purposes only. For a larger and clearer images, please contact Mr. David Byatt (Architect – Byatt Oliver Associates) on david@byattoliver.co.uk



Appendix Three -
Site Photographs

Plate 1: An overview photograph of the proposed development site.



Plate 2: An image of the southern section of the site.



Plate 3: A photograph of the ditch, which divides the proposed caravan/camping site and the proposed new woodland.



Plate 4: An image of the marshy grassland located next to the proposed caravan/camping site.



Plate 5: An image of the marshy grassland and existing clubhouse located at the site.



Plate 6: A picture of the existing clubhouse and old tackle shop located on the site.



Plate 7: Another photograph of the existing clubhouse located on the development site.



Plate 8: A photograph of the existing clubhouse building, illustrating no gaps underneath the fascia/soffit baords for bats to roost.



Plate 9: An image of the leylandii hedgerow, hard standing ground and remaining 'buildings' located on the development site.



Plate 10: An image of some potential water vole footprints (inside the red outline) within the mud of the pond located just to the north of the proposed development site.



Appendix Four -

Biodiversity Legislation and Policy

GENERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The framework of legislation and policy which underpins nature conservation in England. This is a material consideration in the planning process in England.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations 2010 as amended)

The Habitats Regulations 2010 consolidate and update the Conservation Regulations 1994 and all its various amendments. The Habitats Regulations 2010 are the principal means by which the EEC Council Directive 92/43 (The Habitats Directive) as amended is transposed into English and Welsh law.

The Habitats Regulations 2010 place duty upon the relevant authority of government to identify sites which are of importance to the habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive. Those sites which meet the criteria are, in conjunction with the European Commission, designated as Sites of Community Importance, which are subsequently identified as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) by the European Union member states. The regulations also place a duty upon the government to maintain a register of European protected sites designated as a result of EC Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (The Birds Directive). These sites are termed Special Protection Areas (SPA) and, in conjunction with SACs, form a network of sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive introduces for the first time for protected areas, the precautionary principle; that is that projects can only be permitted having ascertained no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives, and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

The Habitats Regulations 2010 also provide for the protection of individual species of fauna and flora of European conservation concern listed in Schedules 2 and 5 respectively. Schedule 2 includes species such as otter and great crested newt for which the UK population represents a significant proportion of the total European population. It is an offence to deliberately kill, injure, disturb or trade these species. Schedule 5 plant species are protected from unlawful destruction, uprooting or trade under the regulations.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (As amended)

The WCA, as amended, consolidates and amends pre-existing national wildlife legislation in order to implement the Bern Convention and the Birds Directive. It complements the Conservation (Natural Habitats. & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), offering protection to a wider range of species. The Act also provides for the designation and protection of national conservation sites of value for their floral, faunal or geological features, termed Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Schedules of the act provide lists of protected species, both flora and fauna, and detail the possible offences that apply to these species.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

The CROW Act, introduced in England and Wales in 2000, amends and strengthens existing wildlife legislation detailed in the WCA. It places a duty on government departments and the National Assembly for Wales to have regard for biodiversity, and provides increased powers for the protection and maintenance of SSSIs.

The Act also contains lists of habitats and species (Section 74) for which conservation measures should be promoted, in accordance with the recommendations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio Earth Summit) 1992.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a duty upon all local authorities and public bodies in England and Wales to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. Sections 41 (England) and 42 (Wales) list habitats and species of principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity. These lists supersede Section 74 of the CRoW Act 2000. These species and habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations make provision for the identification of important hedgerows which may not be removed without permission from the Local Planning Authority.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), first published in 1994 and updated in 2007, is a government initiative designed to implement the requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity to conserve and enhance species and habitats. The UKBAP contains a list of priority habitats and species of conservation concern in the UK, and outlines biodiversity initiatives designed to enhance their conservation status. Lists of Broad and Local habitats are also included. The priority habitats and species correlate with those listed on Section 41 and 42 of the NERC Act.

The UKBAP requires that conservation of biodiversity is addressed at a County level through the production of Local BAPs. These are complementary to the UKBAP, however are targeted towards species of conservation concern characteristic of each area. In addition, a number of local authorities and large organisations have produced their own BAPs. UKBAP and Local BAP targets with regard to species and habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.

Planning Policy (England) and National Planning Policy Framework

In early 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaced much previous planning policy guidance, including Planning Policy Statement 9: Biological and Geological Conservation. The government circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System, which accompanied PPS9, still remains valid. A presumption towards sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF. This presumption does not apply however where developments require appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives.

Chapter 11, on conserving and enhancing the natural environment, sets out how the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and, where possible, provide net gains in biodiversity. Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity gains into a development should be encouraged.

If a proposed development would result in significant harm to the natural environment which cannot be avoided (through the use of an alternative site with less harmful impacts), mitigated or compensated for (as a last resort) then planning permission should be refused.

SPECIES SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

This section contains a summary of legislation with relation to the species present or potentially present in the survey area. The reader should refer to the original legislation for definitive interpretation.

Nesting and Nest Building Birds

Nesting and nest building birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act WCA 1981 (as amended). Some species (listed in Schedule 1 of the WCA) are protected by special penalties.

Subject to the provisions of the act, if any person intentionally:

- kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
- takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
- takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

'Reckless' offences with regard to the disturbance of nesting wild birds included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were added by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on Government Departments to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintains lists of species and habitats which are of principal importance for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England and Wales. These lists include a number of bird species.

The reader is referred to the original legislation for the definitive interpretation.

Badger

The main legislation protecting badgers in England and Wales is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (the 1992 Act). Under the 1992 Act it is an offence to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger;
- possess a dead badger or any part of a badger;
- cruelly ill-treat a badger;
- use badger tongs in the course of killing, taking or attempting to kill a badger;
- dig for a badger;
- sell or offer for sale or control any live badger;
- mark, tag or ring a badger; and
- interfere with a badger sett by:
- damaging a sett or any part thereof;
- destroying a sett;
- obstructing access to a sett;
- causing a dog to enter a sett; and
- disturbing a badger while occupying a sett.

The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as: "any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger".

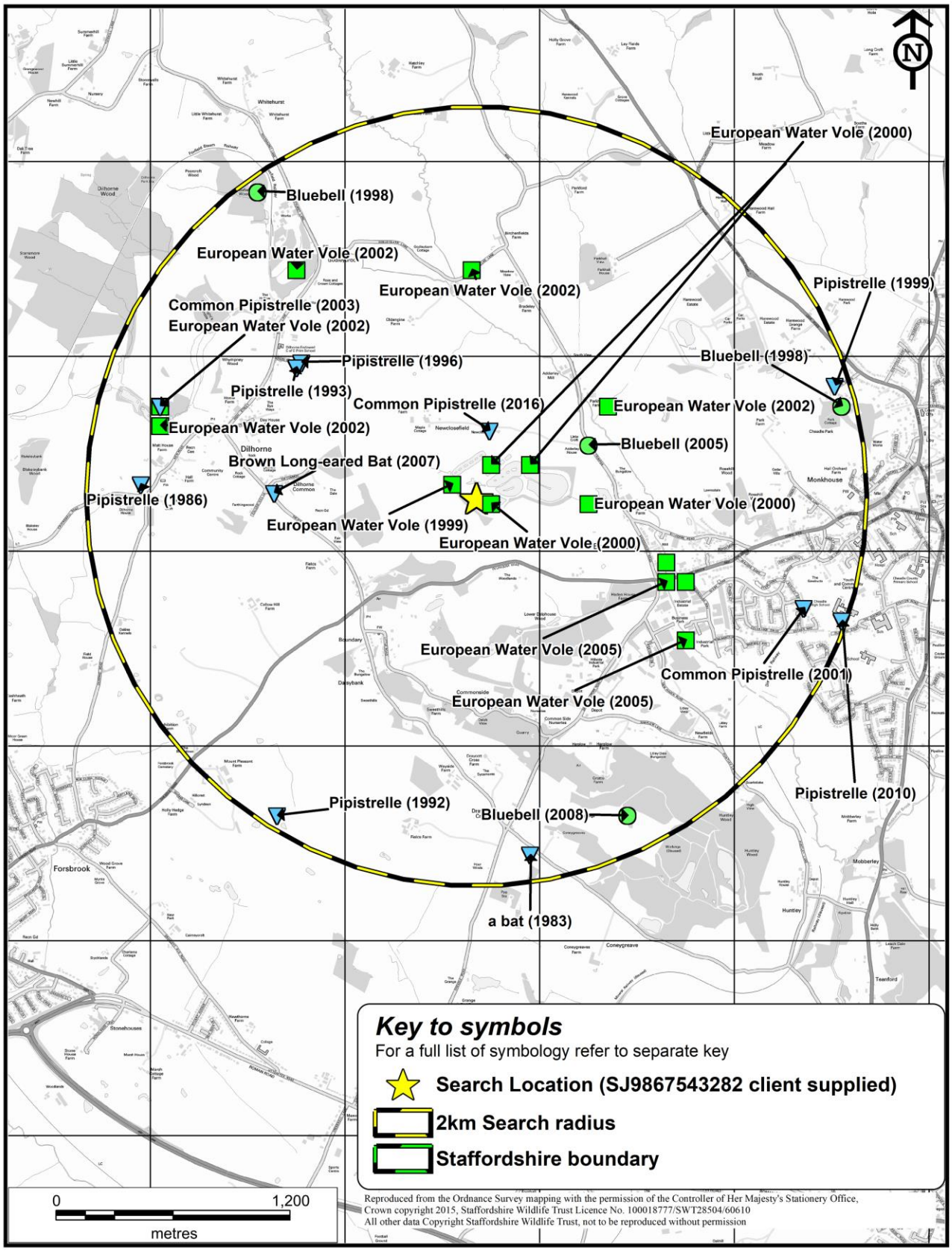
Appendix Five -
Desktop Study Data

Staffordshire Ecological Record The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford. ST17 0WT Tel: 01889 880100 Fax: 01880 880101
Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk

SER/18/078

Protected Species
within 2km of Blakehall Fisheries, New Close Fields (SJ9867543282)

Note: Badger records are excluded, and only 100m precision sightings are plotted. Due to number of records in search area speciesslabels have been excluded



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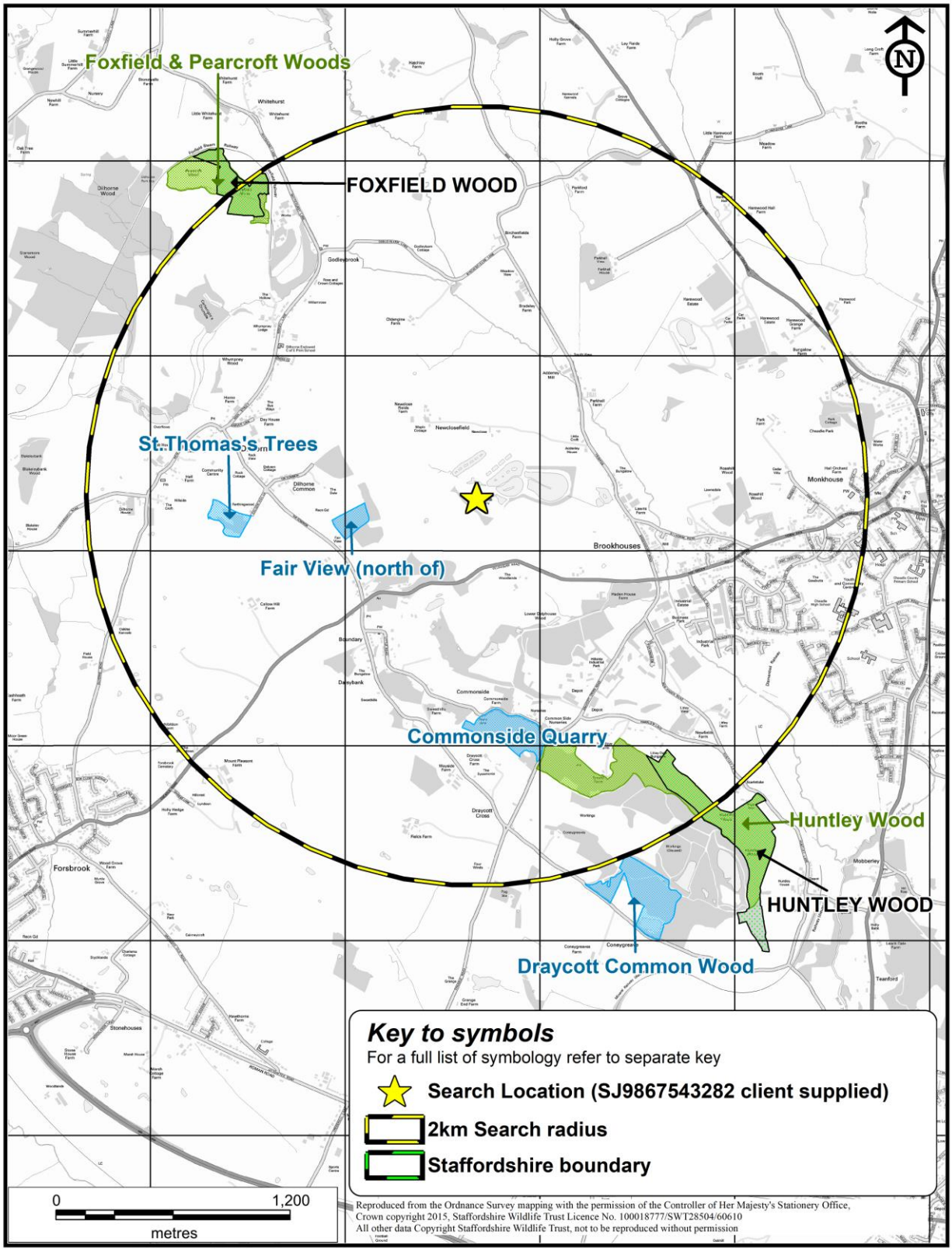
Staffordshire Ecological Record The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford. ST17 0WT Tel: 01889 880100 Fax: 01880 880101
Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk

Nature Conservation Sites
within 2km of Blakehall Fisheries, New Close Fields (SJ9867543282)



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The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge,
Stafford. ST17 0WT
Tel: 01889 880100 Fax: 01889 880101
Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk

A legend to the map showing Nature Conservation Sites and Species

Introduction

These colours are used on the site alert mapping within the SWT GIS, but SER cannot guarantee the same colours are used in any other mapping system, particularly those based on ArcView.

Statutory Designations from Natural England's web-site

- National Nature Reserves
- NNR (boundary not available owing to OS restrictions)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- SSSI (boundary not available owing to OS restrictions)
- Local Nature Reserves
- LNR (boundary not available owing to OS restrictions)

Non-statutory Designations from the Staffordshire Grading System (1995 onwards)

- Site of Biological Importance (ex Grade 1 SBI) equivalent to "Local Wildlife Site"
- Biodiversity Alert Site (ex Grade 2 SBI)
- Proposed/potential Site of Biological Importance

Geological Sites

- Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Site (= Local Geological Site)

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Sites

- SWT Nature Reserves

Other Nature Reserves

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Ancient Woodland Inventory

- Ancient & Semi-natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland

Species Information

- Mammals excluding those listed below
- Otter (Lutra lutra)
- Badger (Meles meles) - not normally supplied
- Water Vole (Arvicola terrestris)
- All bat species
- All bird species
- Any other protected species (precise to 100m)
- All Protected Species Records (precise to 1km)
- Amphibians and reptiles excluding those below
- Great Crested Newt (Triturus cristatus)
- Native Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)
- Flowering plants except those below
- Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta)
- Butterflies and Moths
- BAP Species Records (precise to 100m)
- BAP Species Records (precise to 1km)

Notes:

The Local Nature Reserve and other nature reserve boundaries can overlay the current grading when both layers are actively visible

Where there are multiple species records for the same grid reference the dot for one species may obscure the dots for other species - all species records will be displayed in the accompanying spreadsheet

Not all the above categories may be present on the accompanying map

Version 2.0 July 2011

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Appendix Six -
Habitat Map



Key	
	Site Boundary
	A3 – Scattered Trees
	B2.2 – Neutral Semi-Improved Grassland
	B5 – Marshy Grassland
	G2 – Running Water
	J2.1.2 – Intact, Species-Poor Hedgerow
	J4 – Buildings
	J5 – Other Habitat (Hard Standing Ground)

LIMITING CONDITIONS/DISCLAIMERS (Unless stated otherwise)

The Service

1.1 Evolution Ecology Ltd agrees to supply Ecological consulting services of a preliminary nature or a more thorough service as advised or as commissioned.

2. **Fees**

2.1 The client(s) will settle the agreed fee in full, within 30 days of receiving the invoice. Reports will remain the property of Evolution Ecology Ltd until full payment has been received. No liability is accepted for the contents of a report that is not paid in full. Any queries should be notified to Evolution Ecology Ltd within 7 days of the invoice date.
2.2 If the client(s) fails to pay within the time specified in 2.1 then Evolution Ecology Ltd shall charge the client(s) interest on the outstanding fee, both before and after any judgment, at the rate of 4% per annum above the HSBC Bank base rate, until payment is made in full (A part of a month being treated as a full month for the purposes of calculating interest).
2.3 In the event that it is necessary to recover any outstanding fees from the client(s), the client(s) will fully reimburse any costs and expenses incurred during the recovery period, including court costs. Evolution Ecology Ltd reserves the right to make a charge for every letter sent and telephone/fax call made, in connection with the recovery.

3. **The Report**

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4. **Insurance Cover**

4.1 All work carried out by Evolution Ecology Ltd is covered by a £1,000,000 professional indemnity insurance.

5. **Quality of Craftsmanship**

5.1 When appointing an Ecologist, please use only suitably qualified and experienced companies (The Local Authority and the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management may be able to provide a select list of such companies).
5.2 Evolution Ecology Ltd will not accept liability for any works undertaken by any other companies, or contractors.