absolute ecology LLP wildlife surveys

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Land behind All Car Exhausts Garage, Leek

May 2018

Notice to readers

This report has been prepared by Absolute Ecology with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the contract with the client. The actions of the surveyor on site, and during the production of the report were undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (www.cieem.org.uk).

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The results of the survey and assessment work undertaken by Absolute Ecology are representative at the time of surveying.

Every endeavour has been made to identify the presence of protected species on site, where this falls within the agreed scope of works.

The flora and fauna detailed within this report are those noted during the field survey and from anecdotal evidence. It should not be viewed as a complete list of flora and fauna species that may frequent or exist on site at other times of the year.

Up to date standard methodologies have been used, which are accepted by Natural England and other statutory conservation bodies. No responsibility will be accepted where these methodologies fail to identify all species on-site.

Absolute Ecology cannot take responsibility where Government, national bodies or industry subsequently modify standards.

Absolute Ecology cannot accept responsibility for data collected from third parties.

Reference to sections or particular paragraphs of this document taken out of context may lead to misrepresentation.

Non-technical summary

Absolute Ecology LLP was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of a site known as Land behind All Car Exhausts Garage, Leek, ST13 5NS, Staffordshire, Grid Reference: SJ 98220 56300. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken on 16th May 2018 by Laura Kershaw BSc (Hons) an experienced and licensed ecologist who is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (ACIEEM).

The survey area is situated in a predominantly urban location, within the town of Leek. The site is immediately bounded by residential and commercial properties.

The site itself is dominated by hard standing and partially redundant garages with areas of scrub and tall ruderal present. A fence line runs along the boundary with a species poor hedgerow on the western side.

There is one statutory site located within 1km of the site boundary, and five non-statutory sites. All sites are well removed and isolated from the proposed development site by areas of residential housing, roads (minor and major) and watercourses, no adverse impacts, direct or indirect are envisaged as a result of the sites development.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal confirmed the presence or potential presence of the following (see section 5 for further details):

- **Bats** – The four buildings on site were identified to be of low bat roosting potential, buildings 1-3 (three rows of garages) and building 4 (a small two-storey garage). This assessment was based on the presence of a number of suitable bat roosting features which were identified within the buildings. In order to confirm the presence/absence of roosting bats, one presence/absence bat survey will need to be undertaken. The bat survey should be conducted during the optimum survey period which runs from May-September; and

- **Nesting birds** – With regards for nesting birds, the hedgerows, scrub and trees hold a high potential for nesting birds. Therefore, any pre construction de-vegetation and site clearance should be carried out avoiding the bird breeding season which runs March-August inclusive;

No other ecological constraints were identified.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

1.1 Absolute Ecology LLP was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Assessment of a site known as Land behind All Car Exhausts Garage, Leek, ST13 5NS, Staffordshire, Grid Reference: SJ 98220 56300.

1.2 The Assessment was undertaken on the 16th May 2018 by Laura Kershaw BSc (Hons) an experienced ecologist who is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM). Helen holds a Natural England Class 1 Bat Licence and Class 1 Great Crested Newt Licence.

1.3 The scope of this appraisal has been determined in line with the proportional approach to ecological survey, assessment and subsequent recommendations for avoidance and mitigation of impacts, which is encouraged in the emerging 'BS 42020: Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development'. This report has been prepared with du consideration for various best-practice guidance and methodologies including those of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM (2012)1 and the emerging BS 42020.

1.4 The objective of this report is to provide the client with information on any known or potential protected or rare species that may be using the site, and to outline recommendations on how to proceed with the works in a legal and ecologically sensitive manner.

1.5 Unless the client indicates to the contrary, information on the species found to be present on the site will be passed to the county biological records centre to update records held for the area.

1.6 It is proposed that the site will be used for residential development.

Site Description

1.7 The survey area is situated in a predominantly urban location, within the town of Leek. The site is immediately bounded by, residential and commercial properties.

1.8 The site itself is dominated by hard standing and partially redundant garages with a fence line running along the boundary.

2.0 Methodology

Desk Study

2.1 In order to compile background information on the site and immediate surroundings Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER) was contacted.

2.2 Information requested was as follows:-

- Records of protected species within the 1 km of the site.
- Records of rare or notable species within the 1 km of the site.
- Non-statutory site designations on or within 1 km of the site.

2.3 Additionally, MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside, 2010) was used to establish whether any of the following were present:-

- Statutory site designations on or within 1 km of the site.
- Statutory sites designated for bats within 5 km of the site.

Habitat Survey

2.4 The site was visited on the 16th May 2018 and was surveyed in accordance with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Phase I Habitat Survey methodology (JNCC, 2007). This technique provides an inventory of the basic habitat types present and allows identification of areas of greater potential that might warrant further study.

2.5 Target notes (TN) were used to illustrate key features of interest (i.e. over mature trees / hedgerows) or to draw attention to areas considered too small to map or for the purpose of highlighting the location of an invasive plant species. Photographic plates have also been taken to help illustrate key site features.

2.6 The observable higher plant species in each habitat type within the site, and their abundance, were recorded using the DAFOR scale:

D Dominant

A Abundant

F Frequent

O Occasional

R Rare

Fauna

2.7 Habitats present on the site were searched for obvious signs of faunal activity, *e.g.* presence of badger setts, mammal tracks or herpetofauna under refugia. Any buildings and mature trees on site were visually examined from the ground to identify features with the potential to support roosting bats.

Valuation of Ecological Features

2.8 The value of areas of habitat and plant communities has been measured against published criteria where available. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been searched to identify whether action has been taken to protect all areas of a particular habitat and to identify current factors causing loss and decline of particular habitats. The presence of injurious and legally controlled weeds has also been taken into account.

2.9 When assigning a level of value to a species, its distribution and status (including a consideration of trends based on available historic records) has been taken into account. Other factors influencing the value of a species are: legal protection, rarity and Species Action Plans (SAPs). Guidance, where it is available, for the identification of populations of sufficient size for them to be considered of national or international importance has also been taken into account.

Survey Constraints

Data Search

2.10 Desk study data provides information on recorded species in the area and can be helpful for targeting survey. However, it is possible that protected species that have not been identified within the data search may occur on or adjacent to the site.

Field survey

2.11 Habitats within 50 m of the site boundary were inspected as far as access allowed. Ponds up to 500m from the site were viewed where there was public/land owner access.

2.12 Fauna species present may not always leave field signs and in addition, species may take up residence on site subsequent to the survey. If no development takes place within 12 months of this survey report, the findings should be reviewed and may need updating, and a full survey should be repeated within three years

Nomenclature

2.13 The English name only of flora and fauna species is given in the main text of this report; however, scientific names are used for invertebrates where no English name is available. Vascular plants and charophytes follow the nomenclature of The Botanical Society for the British Isles (BSBI) 2007 database (BSBI, 2011) with all other flora and fauna following the Nameserver facility of the National Biodiversity Network Species Dictionary (http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nbn/), which is managed by the Natural History Museum.

3.0 Legislation

3.1 The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 1994 sets out a strategy for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was signed by the United Kingdom at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992. The published report contains action plans for the United Kingdom's most threatened species and habitat plans for the most vulnerable areas.

3.2 The Local BAP sets out the county's part in the UK biodiversity planning process, in the form of local habitat and species action plans. Local BAPs are intended to focus resources, to conserve and enhance biodiversity, by taking account of national and local priorities.

3.3 Schedule 1 Part 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments) – this lists birds protected by special penalties at all times. It prohibits intentional killing/injuring, taking, possessing, disturbing and selling (including parts and derivatives, eggs, nests, *etc.* as applicable) as well as damaging, destroying or disturbing nests in current use or dependent young, *etc.*

3.4 Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments) – this prohibits deliberate killing, injuring, taking, possessing, disturbing and selling (including parts and derivatives) as well as damaging, destroying or obstructing any structure or place of refuge of listed fauna, such as Dormouse, Otter and bat species.

3.5 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, consolidate all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, in respect of England and Wales. It is illegal to kill, disturb, destroy eggs, breeding sites or resting places, to pick, collect, take cuttings, uproot or destroy in the wild as well as keep, transport, sell/exchange and offer for sale/exchange species listed.

3.6 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – this increases protection given by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments). The offence to intentionally damage any structure or place that a wild animal listed in Schedule 5 of the Act uses for shelter or protection or deliberately disturbing any such animal while in such a structure or place is extended so that the offence also covers reckless damage or disturbance. The CRoW Act also places a duty on Ministers and Government Departments to have regard for the purpose of conserving biological diversity in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3.7 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 - this Act makes it illegal to wilfully kill, injure or take any Badger, or attempt to do so and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any part of a Badger sett.

3.8 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 - as well as creating Natural England, this act gives all public authorities the duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity within the commission of their duties. This includes a duty to restore and enhance as well as maintain biodiversity. The act also strengthens protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and makes authorities liable for allowing damage to such sites or their features.

4.0 Results

Desk Study – Map of sites and species shown within Appendix 1

Sites

4.1 There is one statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site;

SiteID	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Status
95/87/32	SJ983572	Brough Park Fields	Local Nature Reserve

4.2 There are five non-statutory sites within 2 km of the site, as shown within Table 1.

Table 1: Non-Statutory sites within 1km (Please see Appendix 1 location map)

SiteID	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Status
95/85/13	SJ981553	Birchall Meadow	Biodiversity Alert Site
95/85/89	SJ988559	Ladydale Wood Pasture	Local Wildlife Site
95/85/96	SJ989556	Ballington Wood	Local Wildlife Site
95/87/32	SJ983572	Brough Park Fields Country Park	Local Wildlife Site
95/95/18	SJ991558	Ladydale	Local Wildlife Site

4.3 *Birchall Meadow Biodiversity Alert Site:* Approximately one hectare of species-rich semi-improved neutral grassland. There is a small area of bare ground situated along the entire eastern border with another small area along the north-east border of the site.

4.4 *Ladydale Wood Pasture Local Wildlife Site:* A hillside of semi-improved neutral grassland rising towards the north-east, with a scattering of broad-leaved trees. The southern and eastern areas of the site contain marshy grassland, and there are several marshy areas further up the hillside.

4.5 *Ballington Wood Local Wildlife Site:* Ballington Wood is cited in the woodland inventory as ancient semi-natural woodland. This is relevant to some sections of the wood however, some areas, predominantly the northern section, has been replanted with coniferous and mixed stands.

4.6 *Brough Park Fields Country Park Local Wildlife Site:* The site covers an area of approximately 8.27 hectares, and comprises mainly of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, with a large area of poor semi-improved grassland located to the east of the site.

4.7 *Ladydale Local Wildlife Site:* An area of poor semi-improved grassland with a large proportion of semi-improved neutral grassland. The Lady o' th' Dale Well runs through the north and northwestern woodland area, and flows along the entire southern border of the site.

Species

4.8 SER provided the following records for protected and notable species within 2 km of the site boundary (individual records discussed in detail within the Fauna section of the report):

Bats – Three species of bat recorded within the search area. All bat species are European and UK protected.

Amphibian – One European and UK protected species of amphibian recorded, Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus)*

Birds – Five species of bird recorded all either European or UK protected and 41 UKBAP species.

Mammal – One EU and/or UK protected species of mammal and two UKBAP species of mammal.

Reptiles – One species of reptile recorded within the search area Slow-Worm *(Anguis fragilis)*

Flowering plants – one UK protected plant species, bluebell *(Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Invertebrates – no UK or European protected invertebrate species have been recorded and no UKBAP species recorded within the search area.

Habitats

4.9 The following habitats or vegetation types were identified on or immediately offsite during the course of the habitat survey;

- Hard Standing
- Buildings
- Scrub
- Tall Ruderal
- Hedgerows
- Scattered trees

4.10 Supporting photographic plates are shown in Section 8.0.

Hard Standing (plate 1)

4.11 The site is dominated by areas of hard standing which lack vegetative cover. The site is located off a busy road and bound by commercial and residential properties. An access track leads from the road to the space surrounding the garage buildings.

Buildings (plate 2-10)

4.12 The buildings were subject to an external inspection, and internally inspected where possible. The buildings within the provided site boundary consisted of partially redundant garages (Plates 4-10). Three rows of single skin brick build structures with an asbestos roof located central to the survey area (buildings 1-3). Some of the garages have retained their doors and some have doors missing. The wooden lintels above the door are frequently in a poor condition with gaps at the joining brick work. Some of the pointing has eroded from the brick work. Gaps are present above the joining wall at the asbestos roof.

4.13 Other buildings on site include building 1, a small two storey adjoining brick building on access track (Plates 2 and 3). Only the building closest to the access track has been identified as being within the site boundary. The building was locked during the time of survey, so an internal inspection was not undertaken. The lower levels access was blocked with breeze blocks. The upper level windows are blocked with wooded boards, but the far window is smashed. Gaps identified in the asbestos roof. Crevices identified in the adjoining brick wall. Access track side garage door partially open at first floor. Gaps are present beneath the asbestos roof where it overhangs on the exterior walls.

Scrub (plate 11 and 12)

4.14 Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) dominated dense scrub located along the eastern and northern boundaries.

Tall ruderal (plate 13)

4.15 Areas dominated by tall ruderal species were identified on site. Species predominantly included nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*).

Hedgerow (14)

4.16 Species poor hedgerow bounding site at north west boundary line. Immature elder (*Sambucus nigra*) along hedgerow.

Scattered trees (plate 6)

4.17 Along the internal boundary of the site, a semi mature sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) was identified. External to the east of the boundary a semi mature Lime (*Tilia cordata*).

Fauna

Bats

4.18 SER provided twenty two records of bat within 1 km of the site ranging in dates from 1986 – 2016. Of the records two relate to bat roosts; common pipistrelle (2013) at a site located 870m away. The remainder of the records are for field observations with the following species recorded; whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*) and brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*).

4.19 There are four buildings located onsite, all identified as being of low bat roosting potential. The overhanging roof lip and crevice at the internal brick wall and asbestos roof could provide suitable crevices for bats. The trees on site are immature and have no suitable features for bat roosting potential and so are of negligible value.

4.20 The site as a whole offers moderate bat foraging opportunities, especially the bounding hedgerows which also offer potential commuting routes.

Mammals

4.21 SER returned records of badger and hedgehogs. No evidence of badger was observed during the survey.

4.22 The habitats present onsite are very derisible for hedgehogs, providing foraging, commuting and hibernation opportunities. Hedgehogs are a UK species of principle concern and hedgerows should be retained where possible.

Birds

4.23 A number of bird species were returned during the data search by SER. The hedgerow, scrub and hedgerows bounding the site are of particular high value for nesting and foraging birds with a number of bird species either observed or heard on site during the survey. A disused swallow's (*Hirundo rustica*) nest was located on one of the open garage buildings. The nest appeared abandoned at time of survey.

Reptiles

4.24 SER provided one record of slow worm within the area. The habitat on site has some suitable habitat features, but the location is isolated and lacks suitable connective structures for reptiles.

Amphibians

4.25 SER returned a single record of great crested newts (2014 field observation) south east of the surveyed site. Other amphibians have also been recorded close to the great crested newt record. No ponds have

been identified within immediate area or within 250m. The dominant terrestrial habitats present on site are unsuitable for amphibians and the site is isolated within an urban environment. Therefore, no constraints relating to the sites redevelopment and amphibians are envisaged.

Nesting Birds

4.26 The scrub, scattered trees and hedgerow on site provide suitable habitat for nesting birds. A disused nest was also found during the building inspection.

5.0 Development Constraints and Recommendations

5.1 The site is the subject of a possible planning application for a residential development. Ecological constraints and recommendations with regard to any development are discussed below.

Designated Sites

5.2 There is one statutory sites present within 1km of the site.

5.3 There are five non-statutory sites within 1km of the site, no impacts are envisaged, as they are well removed and isolated from the proposed development.

Habitats

5.4 Botanically, the site itself does not appear to have any rare species and it is not particularly diverse.

Potential Impacts of Works without Mitigation

5.5 The proposed site works are currently in the design phase, therefore there is no development plan for the site; however, if residential development is undertaken in the future, potential impacts are likely to include the following;

Bats

5.6 Loss of foraging/commuting and potential loss of a roost.

Nesting Birds

5.7 Loss of nesting and foraging opportunities. Site clearance may directly harm nesting birds if carried out during the breeding season (March to August inclusive).

Recommendations

5.8 The following are general recommendations that are likely to be a minimum requirement for any future development of the site. To prevent potential delays, it would be prudent to undertake the recommended surveys well in advance of any master-planning and certainly before any planning application is made.

Bats

5.9 The four onsite buildings (B1 – B4) have been assessed to be of potential for supporting roosting bats. The sites redevelopment will see the demolition of all buildings onsite. In order to confirm the presence/absence of roosting bats, one activity surveys comprising a single dusk will need to be carried out, with additional surveys completed should bats be discovered to be roosting within any of the buildings.

5.10 The activity survey should be undertaken during the optimum survey period which runs from May-September and during suitable weather conditions.

5.11 Should no bats be recorded during the activity survey, their current absence can be assumed and the proposed demolition can proceed without any mitigation requirements.

5.12 If during the activity survey, bats are recorded to be roosting within any of the buildings, and once the roost has been characterised (e.g occasional, summer, maternity roost), a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) will need to be applied for and granted to allow for the destruction of the roost(s). As part of this licence a mitigation strategy will need to be devised detailing the preservation of the roost or construction of a replacement roost. This is to maintain the onsite bat population(s). Likely mitigation would involve creation of new roosting features and/or the installation of bat boxes/roosting features. The level and type of mitigation requirements are dependent on the species and the number of bats roosting.

Birds

5.13 With regards for nesting birds, the habitats onsite (scrub, hedgerows, trees) are of high value for nesting and foraging birds. Therefore, any pre construction de-vegetation/site clearance works should be done outside of the bird breeding season which runs March-August inclusive. Where this is not possible and works are to be scheduled during the bird breeding season, a nesting bird check should be carried out by a competent surveyor. Should active nests be present, an exclusion zone will need to be established around the nest(s) and works within this area will need to be avoided until the young have fledged.

5.14 With regards for the swallow's nest, as it was inactive at the time of the survey, and thought to have been inactive for a while, it is unlikely that it has been used this year/or will be. However, as swallows do tend to nest within the same sites each year, it is recommended that artificial swallow nests are incorporated into the sites redevelopment,

5.15 It would be of conservation benefit to install a variety of nesting boxes for different bird species within the site in future (buildings and trees where suitable) to enhance the site for nesting birds and encourage bird diversity. Information on bird nesting boxes can be found at http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/nestboxes/.

6.0 References

Anon (1995) *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. Institute of Environmental Assessment. Chapman & Hall.

Anon (1995) *The UK Biodiversity Action Plan*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Anon (1999) *Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey*. Froglife, Peterborough.

Anon (2002) *Badgers and Development*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Anon (2003) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit* (Revised reprint). Joint Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

Anon (2004) *Reptiles: Guidelines for Developers*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Foster, J. (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Gent, T. & Gibson, S. (1998) *Herpetofauna Workers Manual*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Hundt L (2012) Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines, 2nd edition, Bat Conservation Trust.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004). *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. [Eds.] (2004). *The Bat Workers Manual* (3rd edition). Joint Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

Rose, F. (1991). *The Wild Flower Key*. Frederick Warne, London.

Websites used:

Protected Sites: www.magic.gov.uk

Protected Species: http://data.nbn.org.uk/

Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan:
http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/1009/wildlife/946/biodiversity_action_plan/1

UKBAP: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155

www.rspb.org.uk

www.streetmap.co.uk

www.maps.google.co.uk

www.bing.com/maps

Web addresses for access to full UK legislation and policy text:

Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi_19942716_en_1

Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi_20071843_en_1

Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2009:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/6/pdfs/uksi_20090006_en.pdf

Habitats Directive:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents

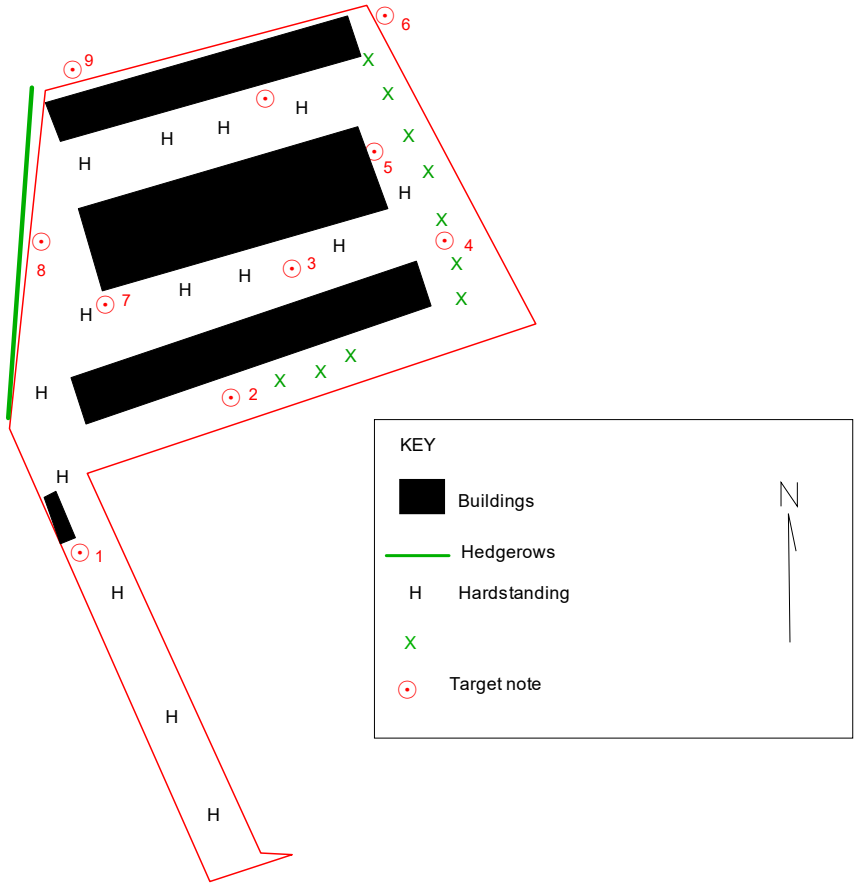
Protection of Badgers Act 1992:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts1992/ukpga_19920051_en_1

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents

National Planning Policy Framework 2012:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf

7.0 Plans

Phase I Habitat Survey Map



8.0 Target Notes

Number	Description
1	Two Storey double garage. Single skin brick building with flat asbestos roof. Only roadside garage within provided red line boundary but garages joint. Lower level front facing aspect, far garage blocked and sealed with breeze blocks and garage near boundary locked. Upper level, farside window smashed and the other is cover with wooden board with some gaps above board. Gaps in asbestos roof. Gaps between brick joining wall inside at roof. Over hanging roof lip has gaps. No access for internal inspection at time of survey.
2	Triangle of scrub, dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). Other species include dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), common dock (*Rubus obtusifolius*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and rosebay willow herb. Piles of debris/waste within areas of the scrub.
3	Row of garages. Some occupied and some open at time of survey. Single skin brick joining garages with a flat asbestos roof. Wooden lintels in poor condition. Damaged pointing in brickwork. Gaps where adjoining wall meets roof.
4	Bund running along internal eastern side of boundary. Scrub and tall ruderal species dominant. Species present include bramble, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and nettle. Area overgrown with wood debris and rubble piles throughout.
5	Small area of tall ruderal dominated by nettle, with dock, dandelion, herb Robert (*Geranium roberianum*) and forget me not (*Myosotis arvensis*).
6	Small are of scrub dominated by bramble and nettle.
7	Dandelion dominated area of rank grassland with tall ruderal species present, nettle, rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*).
8	Stip of vegetation internal to redline boundary along boundary to residential preoperties. Species present include hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), bramble, immature sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and nettle. Species poor hedgerow along residential boundary dominated by privet with an immature elder tree (*Sambucus nigra*).
9	Over grown scrub behind garages. Inaccessable. Rubble mounds noted.

9.0 Photographic Plates

Plate 1:



Plate 2:



Plate 3:



Plate 4:



Plate 5:



Plate 6:



Plate 7:



Plate 8:



Plate 9:



Plate 10:



Plate 11:



Plate 12:



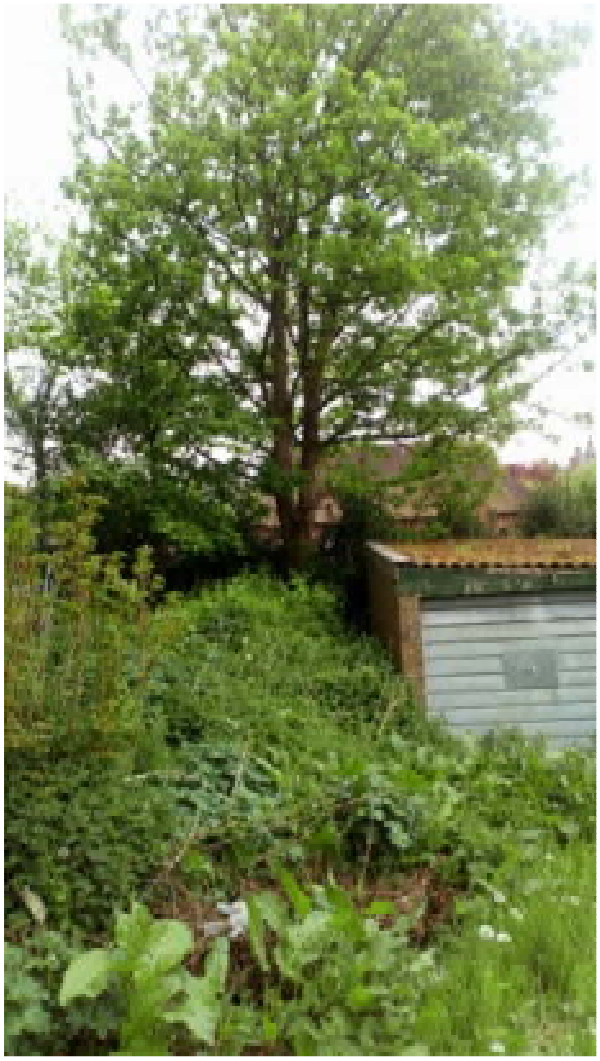
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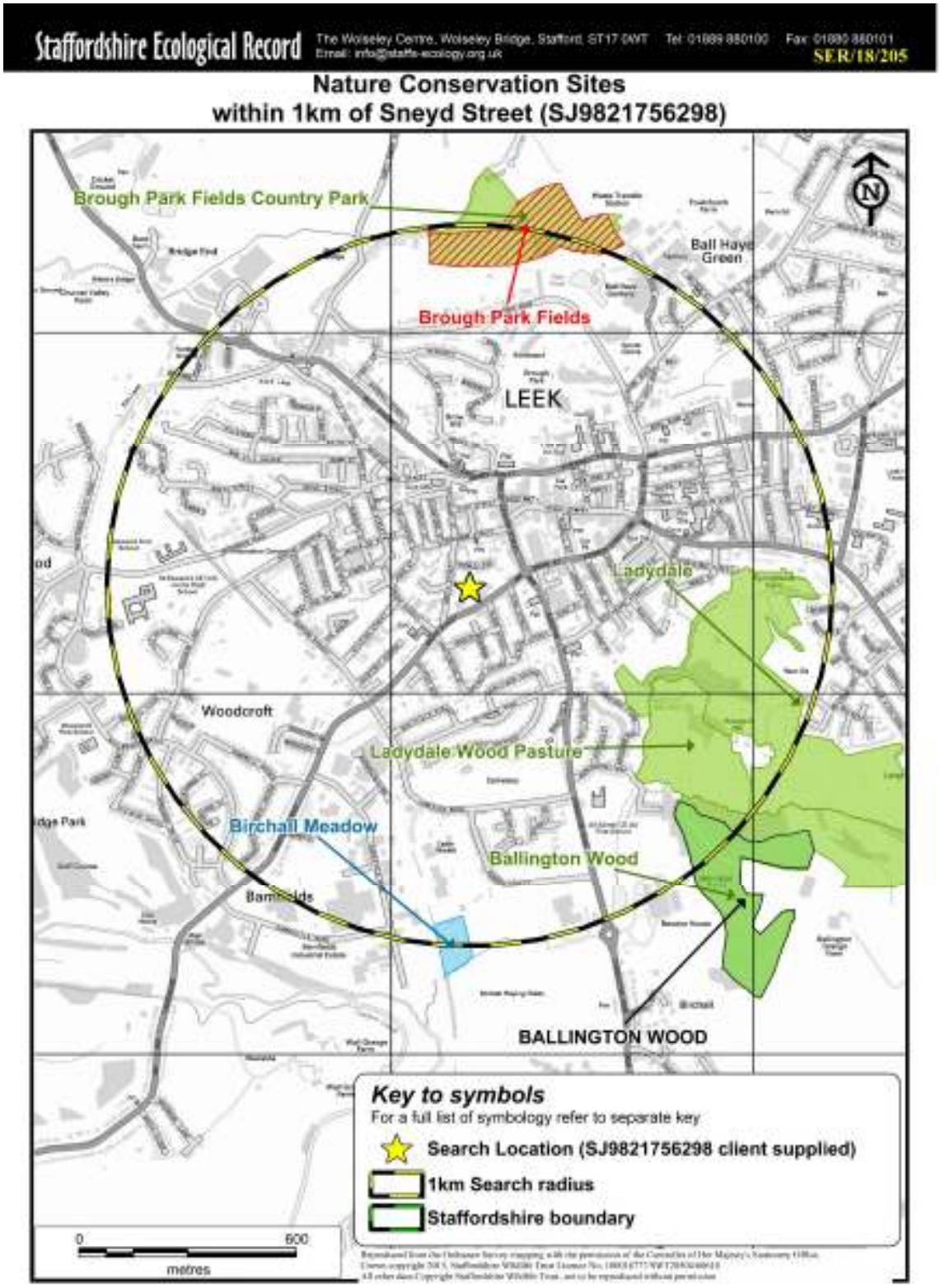
Plate 14:

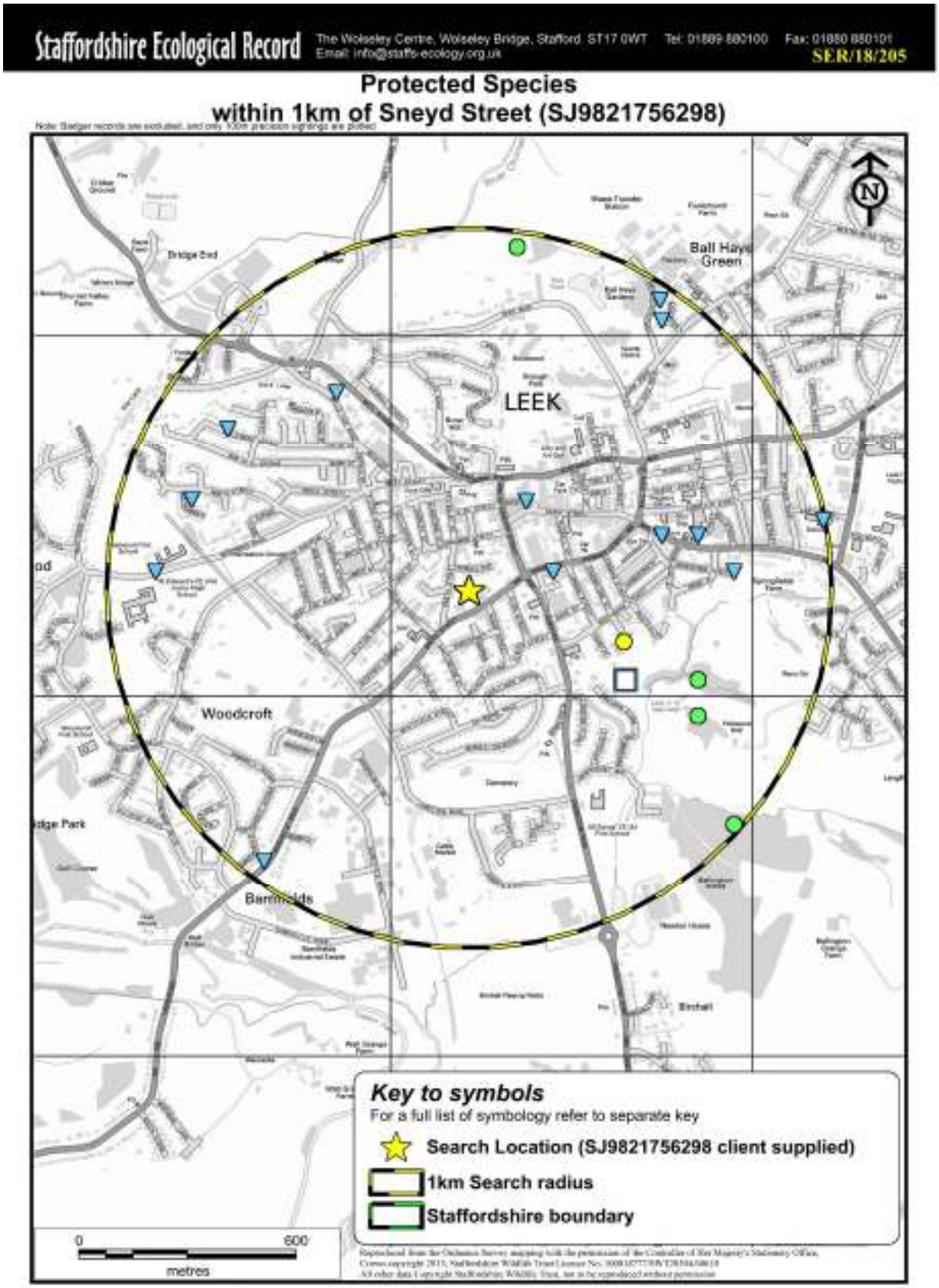


Plate 15:



10.0 Appendix 1: Desk Study




Staffordshire Ecological Record
The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford. ST17 0WT Tel: 01889 880100 Fax: 01889 880101
Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk
SER/18/205
Protected Species
within 1km of Sneyd Street (SJ9821756298)
Note: Badger records are excluded, and only 100m precision sightings are plotted
Bridge End
Ball Haye Green
LEEK
Woodcroft
Barnfields
Birchall
N
Key to symbols
For a full list of symbology refer to separate key
Search Location (SJ9821756298 client supplied)
1km Search radius
Staffordshire boundary
0
600
metres



Staffordshire Ecological Record

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

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