

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Church View Farm,
Dale Bank Road,
Cheadle,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST10 1RE**

September 2021

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 Church View Farm, Dale Bank Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 1RE. Grid Reference: SK02324131. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken on 17th August 2021 by Helen Staton an experienced and licensed ecologist who is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (ACIEEM).

The survey area is situated in a rural location, 2km southeast of the town of Cheadle. The immediate landscape consists of farmland, scattered residential and farm properties. The habitat within the site boundary is poor semi-improved grassland. Proposals have been made to create an access track and horse menage.

There is one statutory site located within 2km of the site boundary, and four non-statutory sites. All sites are well removed and isolated from the proposed development. 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** – any future site lighting should be designed sensitively as to avoid light spill onto nearby foraging/commuting features.
- **Nesting birds** – With regards for nesting birds, the onsite poor semi-improved grassland is not considered to be suitable for supporting nesting birds, therefore no issues relating to its loss. Bounding the proposed access track are a number of scattered trees, offsite to the north is an area of overgrown scrub and to the west an area of woodland. While these habitats won't be directly impacted, should any minor vegetation clearance be required to facilitate the works, it should be done outside of the bird breeding season which runs March-August inclusive.
- **Great crested newts** – records of great crested newts were returned during the data search. P1 located 90m to the southeast of the application site was assessed to be of 'excellent' value for supporting great crested newts. Construction works should take place following Reasonable Avoidance Measure's (RAM's) to minimise impact.

No other ecological constraints were identified. There are no anticipated constraints relating to badgers, riparian mammals or reptiles.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 Absolute Ecology LLP was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of a site known as Church View Farm, Dale Bank Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 1RE. Grid Reference: SK02324131.
- 1.2 The Assessment was undertaken on the 17th August 2021 by Helen Staton an experienced and licensed ecologist who is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (ACIEEM). 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 due consideration for various best-practice guidance and methodologies including those of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM (2012)) 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.

Site Description

- 1.6 The survey area is situated in a rural location, 2km southeast of the town of Cheadle. The immediate landscape consists of farmland, scattered residential and farm properties. The habitat within the site boundary is poor semi-improved grassland.
- 1.7 The wider landscape consists of residential properties, hedgerows, a quarry with water bodies, woodlands (including conifer, ancient and semi natural, deciduous), watercourses and ponds.

Figure 1: Showing site location.



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 2 km of the site.
 - Records of rare or notable species within the 2 km of the site.
 - Non-statutory site designations on or within 2 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 2 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 17th August 2021 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 2 years 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 site within 2 km of the site;

Table 1: Statutory site within 2km (Please see Appendix 1 location map)

Grid Ref.	Site Name	Status
SK014432	Cecilly Brook LNR	Local Nature Reserve

Cecilly Brook LNR – located 1.6km northwest

- 4.2 The site follows a 1.25 km stretch of Cecilly Brook through Cheadle and is one of the most important sites for water voles in Staffordshire. Ancient flower rich meadows occur at Thorley Drive adjacent to Cecilly Brook and are of county importance for their flora. Mature hawthorn-blackthorn hedges surround the fields with dog rose, elder and hazel. Ivy and honeysuckle provide rich nectar sources for invertebrates.
- 4.3 The statutory site is well removed and isolated from the proposed development site, as such the construction of a horse menage within the application boundary are not envisaged to have any impact.
- 4.4 There are four non-statutory sites within 2 km of the site, as shown within Table 2.

Table 2: Non-statutory sites within 2km

SiteID	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Status
04-11-86	SK018416	Freehay	Local Wildlife Site
04-21-08	SK020418	Rakeway House Farm (south of)	Local Wildlife Site
04-30-82	SK038402	Ferneyhill	Retained BAS
04-42-21	SK042421	Brownbank Wood	Retained BAS

- 4.5 All non-statutory sites are well removed and isolated from the proposed development site, as such the construction of a horse menage within the application boundary are not envisaged to have any impact on them.

Species

- 4.6 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 – four species of bat recorded within the search area. All bat species are UK/EU protected.

Amphibian –one UK/EU protected species of amphibian recorded, Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

Birds – thirty-two UK protected species of bird and ninety-two UKBAP species recorded.

Mammal – one UK/EU protected species returned; Otter (*Lutra lutra*), three UK protected species and two UKBAP species.

Reptiles –one UK protected reptiles species recorded; grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*)

Invertebrates – No UK or European protected invertebrate species have been recorded and twenty UKBAP species.

Habitats

- 4.7 Church View Farm comprises a residential property with a number of outbuildings/stables. The proposed menage will be located within a poor semi-improved grassland field with the access track traversing west from an existing stable block.
- 4.8 The following habitats or vegetation types were identified onsite during the course of the habitat survey;
- B6 – poor semi-improved grassland

B6 – poor semi-improved grassland

- 4.9 The site comprises poor semi-improved grassland which is heavily horse grazed/mown and is of a short sward. Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) is abundant with frequent Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). White clover (*Trifolium repens*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) noted occasionally.

Fauna

Bats

- 4.10 SER returned forty records of bats within the search area, relating to four confirmed species; Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*). Of the records eight relate to roosting bats/possible roosts. The closest bat record to the site is 400m north for a possible brown long-eared roosts dating 1999.

Buildings

- 4.11 There are no buildings within the application boundary

Trees

- 4.12 There are no trees within the application boundary. Several trees bound the access track on the eastern edge of the site, although these will not be impacted by the proposed works and will remain unaffected.

Foraging

- 4.13 The site edges are of high foraging value with the woodland edge which bounds the western side of the site being of particular interest. While this habitat will not be directly impacted, care should be taken to avoid indirect impacts i.e. lighting.

Badgers

- 4.14 SER provided records of badger within 2 km of the site (locations confidential).
- 4.15 No badger setts were recorded onsite or within a 30m radius. A badger latrine (comprising three dung pits of which two had fresh dung) was recorded within the woodland strip approx. 10m west of the application boundary. Within the wooded area, evidence of foraging was noted. Within the poor semi-improved grassland area, suspected badger paths were noted traversing across the grassland.

- 4.16 The presence of badger evidence is to be expected given the sites rural location. However, as no badger setts were recorded on or offsite (within 30m radius) there will be no implications associated with badgers and the proposed works.

Dormice

- 4.17 There are no records of Dormice occurring within 2 km of the site and given the dominant habitats present onsite, it is considered that dormice are likely to be absent from the site.

Water Voles and Otters

- 4.18 SER returned four otter (*Lutra lutra*) records and thirty water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) records. The otter records date 2002 and are all located 1.6km plus away from the site. The water vole records range in date from 1997-2014 with the closest of the records relating to a water body 240m away, the record dates 1999.
- 4.19 Within the application boundary there are no water features. The closest feature is a large pond located 90m to the southeast (P1). The proposed menage and access track will not impact the water body and therefore no impacts associated with the proposed works and riparian mammals are envisaged.

Other mammals

- 4.20 SER returned one record of polecat (*Mustela putorius*), nine records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and three records of brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*).
- 4.21 The polecat record dates 2014 and is located over 2km away. The habitats onsite, which are considered suitable for foraging and commuting of this species are not suitable for shelter/rest. Therefore there are no envisaged impacts associated with this species and the proposed works.
- 4.22 The hedgehog records range in date from 2000-2016 and are all for sites located over 1.6km away. Again as with the polecat, the onsite habitats are considered suitable for foraging and commuting of this species although are not suitable for shelter/rest. Therefore there are no envisaged impacts associated with this species and the proposed works.
- 4.23 The brown hare records range in date 2000-2015 and are all for sites over 1.6km away. The grazed/mown grassland offers no shelter and is unlikely to support this species and therefore no impacts envisaged.

Birds

- 4.24 A number of bird species were returned during the data search. The habitats onsite (mown/grazed semi-improved grassland) are considered unsuitable for nesting birds and therefore no impacts envisaged. Surrounding habitats are of value (woodland strip, scattered trees, hedgerows, scrub) with the following bird species observed/heard during the survey; robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), magpie (*Pica pica*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Reptiles

- 4.25 SER returned one historic record of grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) located over 2km away.

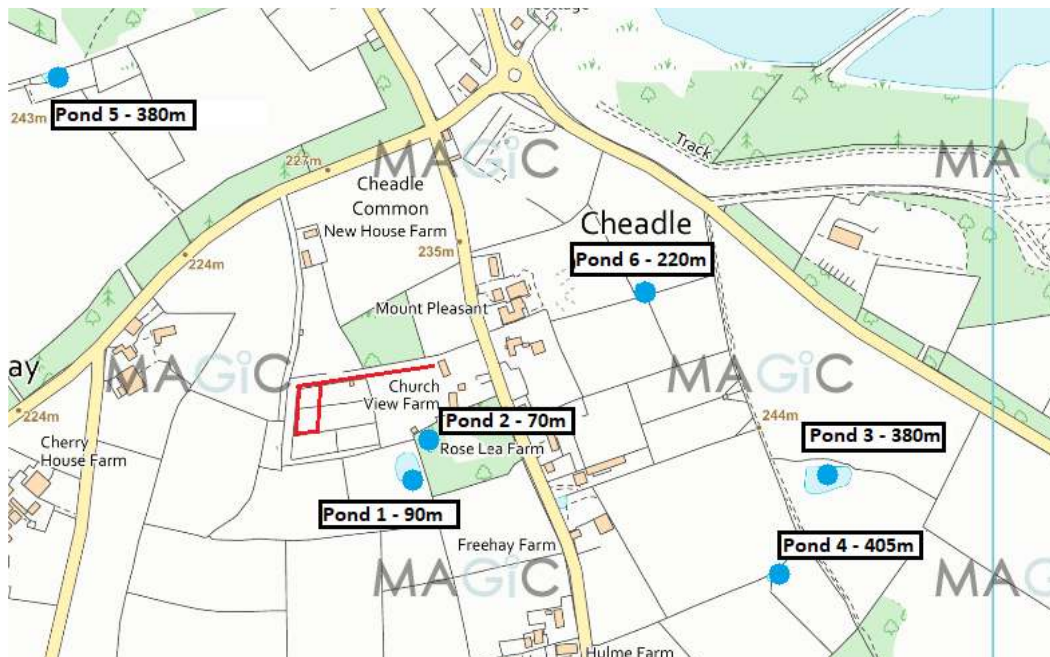
4.26 The onsite habitats are of suboptimal value for reptiles comprising mown/grazed poor semi-improved grassland. The grassland offers no shelter/cover. Therefore no impacts relating to reptiles envisaged.

Amphibians

4.27 SER returned eleven records of great crested newts, dating 2002-2013 with the closest of the records located 137m away, for a 2005 field observation of one adult. One other record was returned within 500m which relates to Freehay Quarry, dating 2018 and located 396m away.

4.28 Located within a 500m of the site are six ponds (Figure 2).

Figure 2 – ponds within 500m and approx. distance away from application boundary



4.29 P1 and P2 are located within the applicant's land and were subject to a Habitat Suitability Index assessment (Table 3). P1 was shown as 'excellent' value for supporting great crested newts and P2 'poor' value.

4.30 The presence of newts within the area cannot be ruled out. Based on the data search records and HSI of the P1, great crested newts are considered likely to be within the area.

4.31 However, the terrestrial habitats within the application boundary are of sub optimal value for great crested newts. The mown/grazed poor semi-improved grassland offers foraging/commuting habitat only. Due to its short sward, it is considered unsuitable for shelter/hibernation. Therefore its loss, through the construction of a menage, is not expected to have any impact on any local great crested newt populations. Therefore further surveys are not deemed necessary. Works should however take place under Reasonable Avoidance Measures to ensure no indirect impacts on this protected species.

Table 3: Habitat Suitability Index Assessment

Date HSI assessment undertaken	17/08/21	17/08/21
Pond ref	P1	P2
SI1 - Location	1	1
SI2 - Pond area	1	0.1

SI3 - Pond drying	0.9	0.1
SI4 - Water quality	1	0.33
SI4 - Shade	1	0.3
SI6 - Fowl	0.67	1
SI7 - Fish	0.33	1
SI8 - Ponds	1	1
SI9 - Terr'I habitat	1	1
SI10 - Macrophytes	0.8	0.3
HSI	0.83 Excellent	0.44 Poor

Invertebrates

- 4.32 SER did not provide any records of protected invertebrate species and twenty records of UKBAP species. The habitats on site are generally common and do not provide much potential for rare invertebrate species although they are expected to support a number of more common species.

5.0 Development Constraints and Recommendations

- 5.1 The site is the subject of a planning application for the construction of a horse menage and access track. Ecological constraints and recommendations with regard to any development are discussed below.

Designated Sites

- 5.2 There is one statutory site present within 2km of the site and four non-statutory sites within 2km of the site, no impacts are envisaged, as they are well removed and isolated from the proposed development.

Habitats

- 5.3 The ground flora (Botanical) does not appear to have any rare species and it is not particularly diverse.

Potential Impacts of Works without Mitigation

- 5.4 The proposed site works involve the construction of residential properties. Potential impacts are likely to include the following;

Bats

- 5.5 No lighting is proposed with the menage, therefore no impacts envisaged. Should this however change, and lighting installed without a sensitive design, the foraging and commuting of local bats may be negatively impacted.

Nesting Birds

- 5.6 Vegetation clearance carried out during the nesting season has the potential to destroy nests and kill/injure wild birds.

Great crested newts

- 5.7 Construction works/storage of materials has the potential to negatively impact great crested newts though killing/injuring.

Recommendations

Bats

Lighting

- 5.8 No lighting is proposed with the menage, therefore no impacts envisaged. Should this however change, and lighting installed, particular consideration should be given to potential light spill that can affect the foraging and commuting strategy of many species and should be avoided onto nearby trees, hedgerows and should not exceed 200 lumens (150 watts).
- 5.9 Where possible, any security lighting should be on a timer setting and faced down to prevent spillage onto nearby habitats. Height of any lighting columns around the development should not exceed eight meters to further reduce any ecological impact of light pollution. Low-pressure sodium lamps (SOX) fitted with hoods are recommended to direct light below the horizontal plane to minimize upward light spill.

Birds

- 5.10 With regards for nesting birds, the onsite poor semi-improved grassland is not considered valuable for birds. Offsite habitats of scattered trees, scrub, hedgerow etc are suitable and while no direct impacts offsite habitats envisaged, should any minor vegetation clearance be required, it 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.

Great crested newts

- 5.11 The results of the data search have demonstrated the presence of great crested newts within the area (most recent record dating 2018). P1 which is located 90m to the southwest of the application boundary was shown to be of 'excellent' value for supporting this species.
- 5.12 The habitat within the application boundary comprises of poor semi-improved grassland which is regularly mown/grazed and kept to a short sward. This habitat type is considered unsuitable as shelter/hibernation for great crested newts, leaving them prone to predation. It is however of some, although limited, value for commuting/foraging. The loss of the grassland is not expected to have any negative implications for great crested newts.
- 5.13 However, as great crested newts are likely to be within the area, measures should be in place during works to minimise any impacts during the construction period. The following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAM's) should be incorporated into the works;

Reasonable Avoidance Measures: Great Crested Newts

Site Induction

As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site will be made aware of the potential presence of GCN within the immediate landscape, and their status as a UK and European Protected Species. Great Crested Newts are protected in the UK under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and under Regulation 40 of the Habitats Regulations 2010. Legal legislation and an illustration of this species will be displayed in the

site office for immediate reference.

Great Crested Newts are protected in the UK under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and under Regulation 40 of the Habitats Regulations 2010. It is an offence to handle these animals without either a survey licence or a development licence obtained from Natural England.

Avoidance Measures: Protecting Amphibians

Timing and Duration

- The project is of short-term in nature, and the duration of groundworks will be kept as short as possible.
- External and ground works will be undertaken during daylight hours only as GCN are most active at night.

Construction Methods and Special Precautions

Pre construction

- Onsite habitat degradation - The vegetation/grassland within the development area should be maintained at a height of 10-15cm or below and kept short prior to and throughout the development period by strimming. This will discourage wildlife from entering this area of the site and to discourage amphibians/reptiles taking refuge within the development site.

Hand search and destructive searches

The following methodology will be followed immediately prior to any groundworks/ excavations:

- The topsoil within the application boundary will be stripped by careful use of an excavator and will be undertaken under the supervision of a licenced ecologist.
- When the licensed ecologist is completely satisfied that there remains no risk to amphibians may plant/machine continue to excavate and level the menage area.

During Construction

- Trenches and other excavations should be backfilled before nightfall. If this is not possible, ramps must be left to allow all wildlife to easily exit.
- All debris, rubble etc. collected during site clearance should be placed directly into skips or removed from the site immediately to avoid it becoming used as refugia by amphibians.
- All new construction materials should be stored on pallets or in bags to prevent them becoming used by terrestrial newts, amphibians. Keep the site tidy.
- Site Vigilance and Sympathetic Working - Site staff must be made aware that if great crested newts are found onsite there is a correct procedure in place to follow, and failure to halt works may result in committing an offence under the Habitats Regulations 2010.
- If a newt is found: If it is suspected that a Great Crested Newt has been found, work must be suspended and the advice of a suitably licensed GCN ecologist sought. Natural England will be consulted for advice.

- At no point should any worker handle a Great Crested Newt or suspected Great Crested Newt. Unlicensed handling is illegal and untrained handling may cause the newt unnecessary stress and injury.
- If, using a supplied hand out at the end of this document, the site operatives can CONFIDENTLY (100% certainty) identify that the newt found is NOT a Great Crested Newt, the newt can be carefully moved out of the area of works and placed in nearby habitat similar to that in which it was found. A newt found on land should not be placed into a pond or other water body.
- If amphibians (other than GCN) are found - If any amphibians (other than Great Crested Newt) are found within the working area they should be removed to an area outside of the working zone, preferably in dense vegetation, a rubble pile, or under lying wood (taking care not to squash them).
- Amphibians should be picked up by placing the fingers under the body and lifting, not by grasping any part of them. They can be held still by placing a thumb gently on top of them, if necessary.
- Handling should be kept to a minimum and latex gloves should be avoided. Vinyl, Nitrile and other non-latex gloves are ok and should be used where possible.
- If the amphibians found are hibernating then they should be collected up and placed in a covered box or bucket while a suitable shelter / hibernaculum is prepared for them under the advice of an ecologist.

6.0 References

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

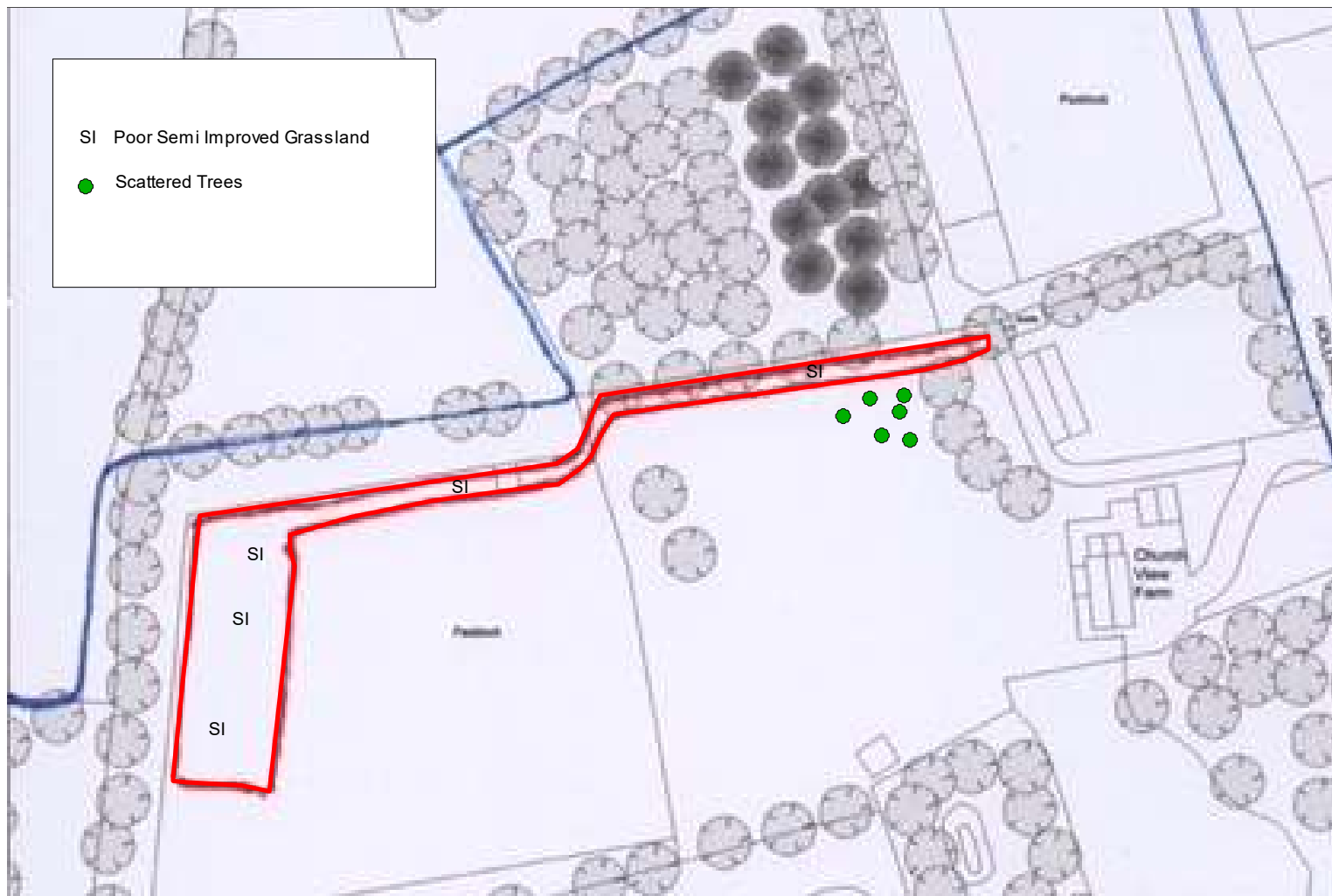
Protection of Badgers Act 1992:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts1992/ukpga_19920051_en_1

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

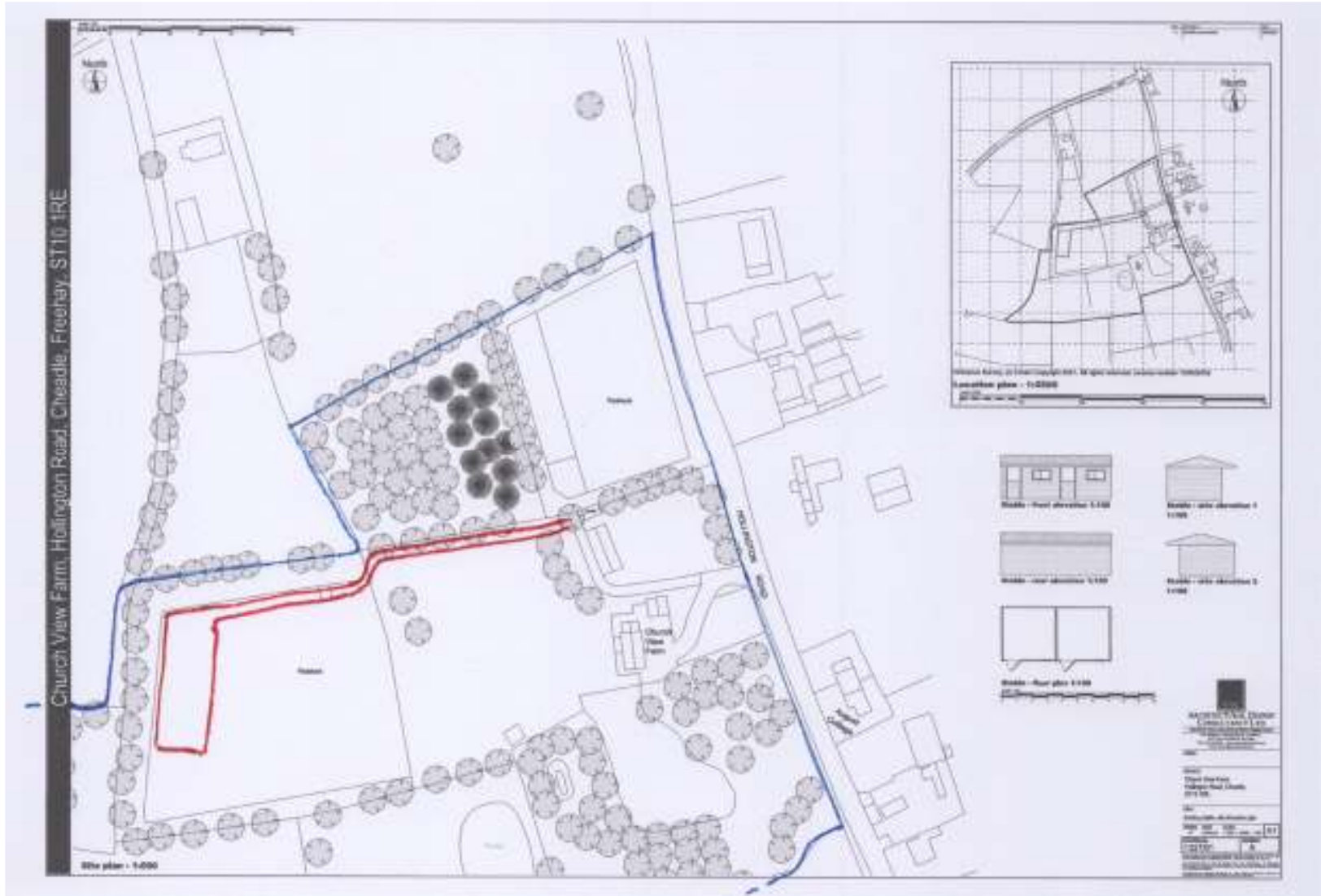
National Planning Policy Framework 2012:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>

7.0 Plans

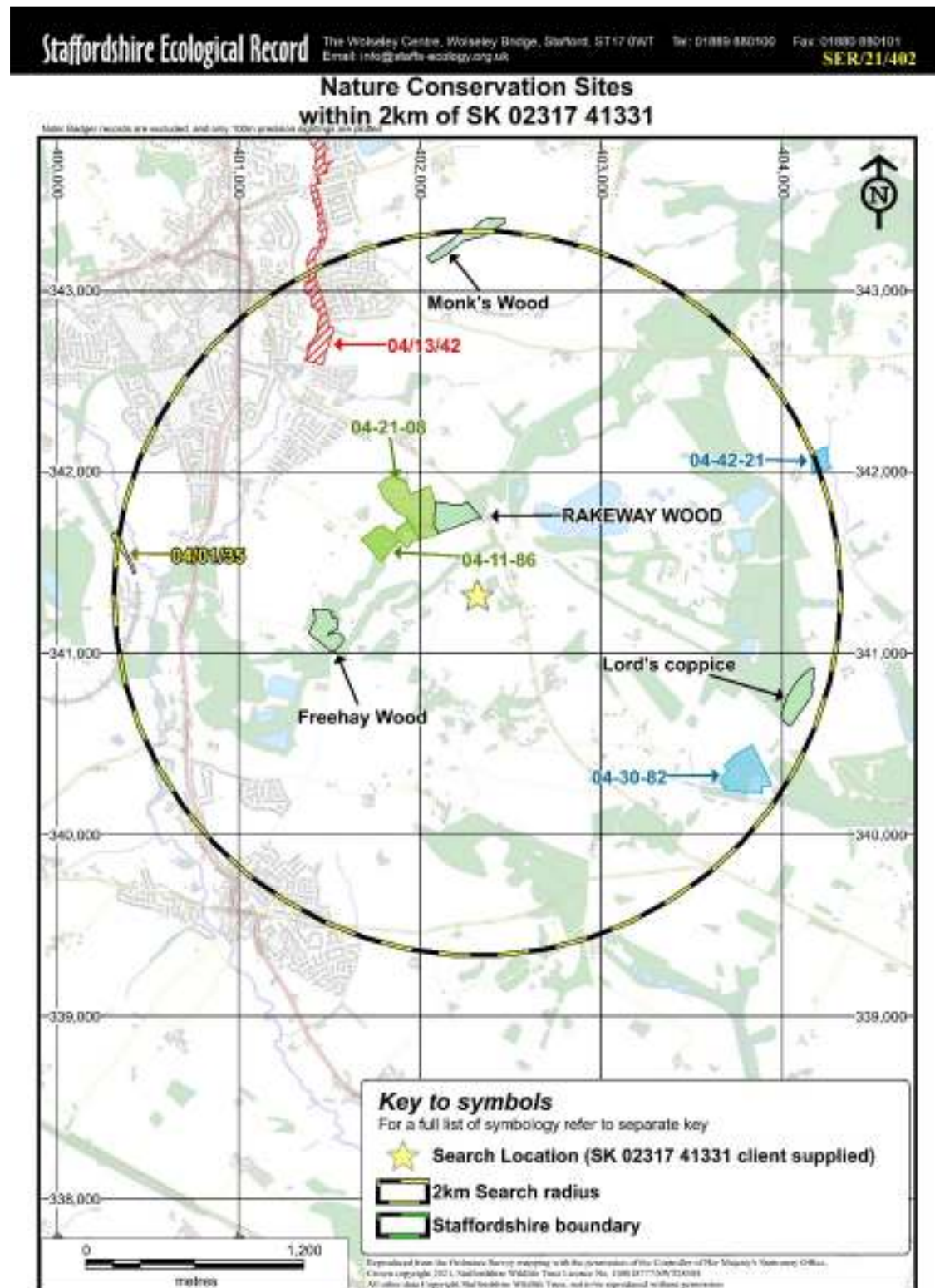
Phase I Habitat Survey Map



Site Proposal Plans

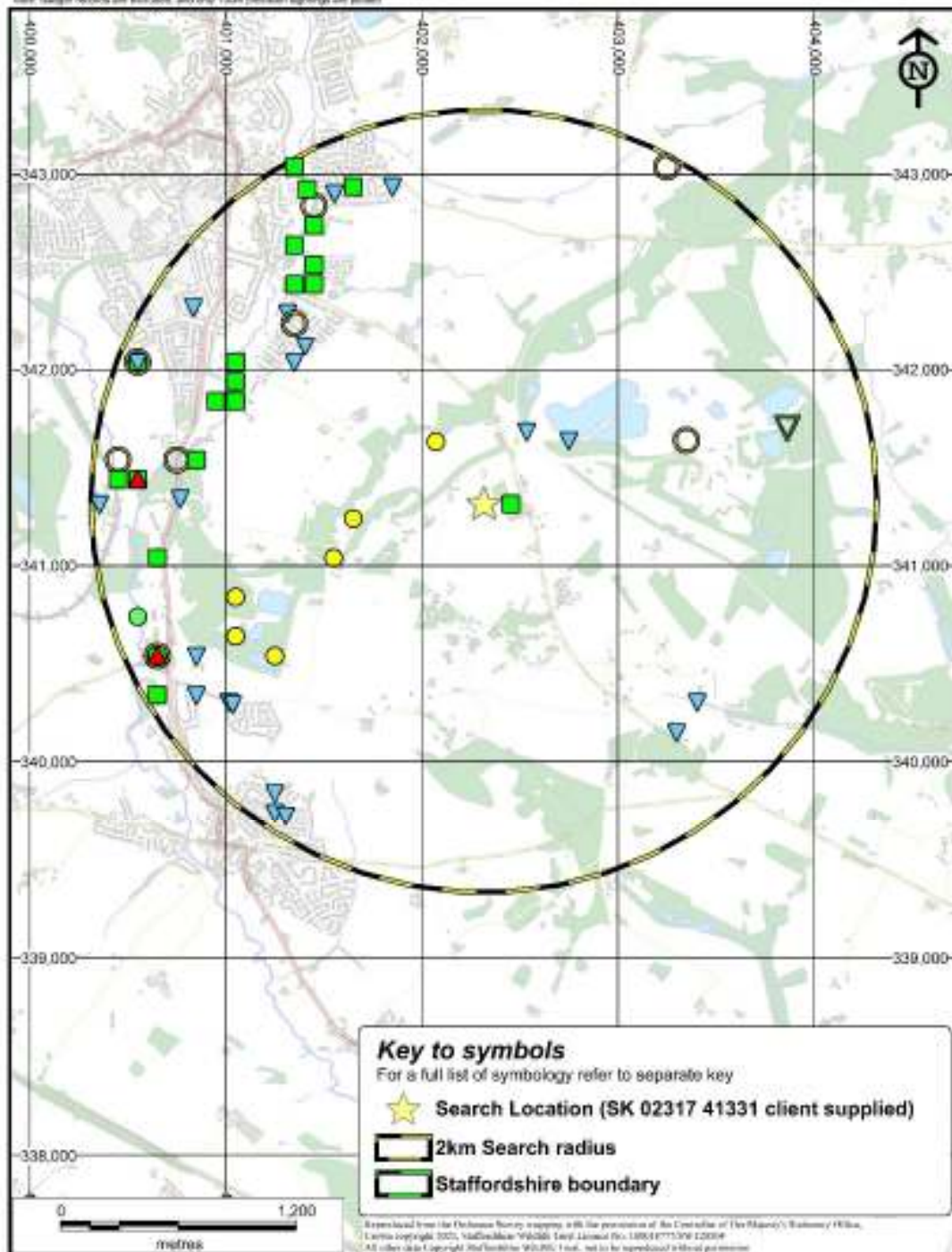


8.0 Appendix 1: Desk Study



Protected Species within 2km of SK 02317 41331

Note: Badger records are excluded, and only 100m precision sightings are plotted



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

9.0 Photographic Plates

Plate 1: View looking west along the proposed access route (to the right of the trees)



Plate 2: View of the site from the northwest corner looking south



Plate 3: View along the western boundary, looking north



Plate 4: Badger latrine within the woodland strip to the west of the application site



Plate 5: Pond 1 of 'excellent' great crested newt potential



Plate 6: Pond 2 of 'poor' great crested newt potential

