



Water vole & Otter Survey Report



**Woodhead Hall Estate,
Cherry Lane, Nr. Cheadle,
Staffordshire, ST10 4QS.**

OCTOBER 2022



- **Notice to readers**

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Client Details:
Woodhead Hall Estate. Cherry Lane, Nr. Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 4QS.
Application area:
Land at Woodhead Hall Estate, Cherry Lane, Nr. Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 4QS.
Issue No:
Final Issue (1)
Date Issued:
October 2022
Author:
Mark Weston BSc (Hons), MRSB  Principal Ecologist

- **Surveyor capability**

Ecological assessment and report preparation have been conducted by a qualified ecologist who holds a First-Class Honours degree, and a Vice Chancellors award for academic excellence in Conservation Biology. He is an associate lecturer at the University of Derby in Ecology and a higher member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB), having undertaken protected species surveys and Natural England licence applications with regard to planning and the law for over ten years.



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1. Following on from recommendations made in a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report by Absolute Ecology (July 2022), Charnia Ecology was commissioned to carry out extended Water vole and Otter surveys in relation to a proposed development on land at Woodhead Hall Estate, Cherry Lane, ST10 4QS. Grid reference: SK02574485.
 2. Water vole and Otter surveys were carried out in conjunction with day time Reptile surveys over a total period of seven days during September 2022 by a qualified ecologist following standard methodology as described in the 'Water Vole Conservation Handbook' (Strachan & Moorhouse, 2006 revised 3rd Ed. 2011) and 'The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook' (Dean et.al., 2016); in adherence to current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and UK Legislation.
- **Site description**
 - 3. The site is located within a rural location, approx. 2km north east of the town of Cheadle. The proposed application area is located on the south-western edge of the Woodhead Hall Estate. The habitats within the site boundary include a fishing pool (P1), a dry waterbody on the eastern boundary (P2), amenity grassland, semi-improved grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, scrub, woodland, scattered trees and hedgerows.
 - **Proposed works**
 - 4. The proposed application considers a small-scale, reversible development resulting in a number of 'camping pod' / holiday lodges on land around an existing fishing pond. The lodges will be split over the two fields, with eight (8no.) on the top field north of the pond and seven (7no.) below. The existing car park will remain the same, and an additional overflow car park is to be created to the north of the pond for members of the angling club only.
 - **Desk study results**
 - 5. SER returned thirty-six records of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) dating 1997- 2019 including two records dating 2002 for sightings of water vole within the onsite fishing pool (P1). Cecilly Brook Local Nature Reserve ca.1km SW of the site in Cheadle is known to be one of the most important breeding sites for water voles in Staffordshire, whilst breeding colonies are also confirmed a little of 3km west at Blakehall Fisheries. Three records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) were also returned dating 1990-2009.
 - **Habitat assessment**
 - 6. In their current form water body 'P1' equates to ca. 2,900m² (0.24ha) in coverage and has been subjected to a degree of landscape reprofiling with relatively abrupt / hard interface banks lacking any notable riparian habitat around much of its perimeter. The grass is closely mown to the edge of the pond margins with fishing peg platforms present around its circumference, reducing the extent of embankments or resting places for either water vole or otter around these structures. The water body is open with a small vegetated internal island on its eastern elevation, and an overflow area shrouded by a circular stand of small trees.
 - 7. In contrast the dry pond on the upper north grassland compartment east of the 'P1' was found to be terrestrialized with a dense covering of reeds providing suitable riparian habitat but lacking any notable body of water. As 'P1' is heavily stocked with coarse fish, this water body provides suitable foraging habitat for Otter, although it lacks connectivity to watercourse and bodies in the wider landscape making it less desirable this species overall.
 - **Field survey results**
 - 8. No evidence of water vole or Otter was recorded during the extended seven-day survey period. Local anglers were consulted when on site in the event that either species had been seen by any of the general public whilst fishing. All enquiries confirmed an absence of both water vole or otter around site since historic records dating back in 2002 and 2009. Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) and possibly American Mink (*Neovison vison*) had however been sighted in recent times across site.

IMPACTS & MITIGATION

9. Based on findings, no adverse impact to any notable populations of water vole and or Otter plus associated habitat is predicted under the proposed scheme. The site is subject to frequent disturbance by human interactions and also dog walkers on a daily basis, resulting in increased pressure and micro-habitat degradation for both species.
10. Conversely, as individual historic records of Water vole have been recorded in the immediate area, and given that Water voles are able to rapidly colonize suitable habitat where the source population is strong (Strachan & Moorhouse, 2011); in-order to avoid, reduce and offset any long-term effects to water vole populations and Otter in the surrounding catchment area, care and vigilance during works for either species have been outlined within this report which should be made a condition of any planning consent granted by the LPA.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Following on from recommendations made in a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report by Absolute Ecology (July 2022), Charnia Ecology was commissioned to carry out extended Water vole and Otter surveys in relation to a proposed development on land at Woodhead Hall Estate, Cherry Lane, ST10 4QS. Grid reference: SK02574485.
2. The aims and objectives of this report, are to assess whether the proposed development has the potential to have an adverse impact on both water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and their respective habitats, and to outline the need for any mitigation scheme and/or precautionary method statement, in-order that the development can proceed in a legal and ecologically sensitive manner. All surveys were carried out by an experienced ecologist in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Practice.

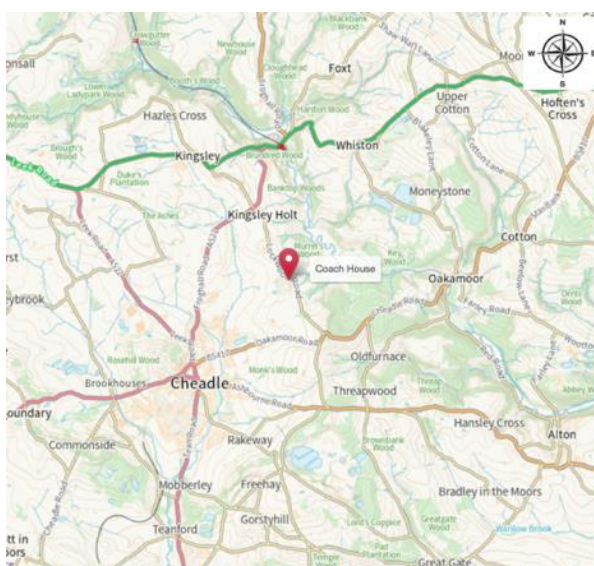


Figure 1. Location of proposed application (red) in context to the surrounding landscape (source: www.gridreferencefinder.com).

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

3. The site is located within a rural location, approx. 2km north east of the town of Cheadle. The proposed application area is located on the south-western edge of the Woodhead Hall Estate. The habitats within the site boundary include a fishing pool (P1), a dry waterbody on the eastern boundary (P2), amenity grassland, semi-improved grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, scrub, woodland, scattered trees and hedgerows.
4. The application area occurs in a region known to support important breeding sites for water voles in North Staffordshire, with a number of standing water bodies, woodland blocks (ancient & semi natural, deciduous, conifer), the River Churnet (1km north east), orchards and good quality semi improved grassland present in the wider landscape with good connectivity to the site considered.

- **Proposed works**

5. The proposed application considers a small-scale, reversible development resulting in a number of 'camping pod' / holiday lodges on land around an existing fishing pond. The lodges will be split over the two fields, with eight (8no.) on the top field north of the pond and seven (7no.) below. The existing car park will remain the same, and an additional overflow car park is to be created to the north of the pond for members of the angling club only.



Figure 2. Proposed design of intended development of fifteen holiday lodges and associated infrastructure around existing fishing lake.

3. LEGISLATION

6. Water vole and Eurasian otter are both listed in Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and as such receive protection under Section 9 making it a criminal offence to:
 - ***intentionally kill, injure or take a wild water vole or otter***
 - ***be in possession of, or control, any live or dead wild Water Vole or Otter or part of, or anything derived from a wild water vole or otter***
 - ***intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild water vole or otter uses for shelter or protection***
 - ***intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild water vole or otter whilst it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection***
 - ***transport for sale or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, alive or dead, or any part of a water vole or otter.***
7. Water vole is also the subject of a Priority Species Action Plan under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), due to significant declines in recent decades largely as a result from habitat loss and degradation, population fragmentation (See Appendix).

4. METHODOLOGY

• Desktop survey

8. A formal data search was obtained from Staffordshire Ecological Records (SER) within a 2km radius of the application area, to identify any historical records of Water vole and Otter in the immediate area.
9. The aims of the surveys were as follows:
 - *To establish presence/absence of water vole and /or Otter*
 - *Presence/absence of water vole and otter*
 - *Status of burrows and holts, if present*
 - *Whether additional surveys are required*
 - *Whether a European Protected Species (EPS) licence is required to ensure legal compliance*
 - *Which type of mitigation measures would need to be employed.*

• Field study

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Otter	Limited by vegetation cover and weather conditions rather than seasons											
Water vole	Low activity Initial habitat		Habitat and field signs / activity surveys May be limited by vegetation cover and weather								Initial habitat Low activity	

10. Water vole field survey criteria followed the standard methodology as described in the 'Water Vole Conservation Handbook' (Strachan & Moorhouse, 2006 revised 3rd Ed. 2011) and 'The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook' (Dean et.al., 2016).
11. In conjunction with extended reptile surveys, a total of seven daytime surveys were carried out around the standing water body 'P1' and dry water body 'P2' by an experienced ecologist in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Practice. All surveys were carried out by Mark Weston BSc (Hons), MRSB.

Survey no.	Date	Start time	Finish time	Temp start (°C)	Temp Finish (°C)	Weather Conditions
1	02/09/2022	16:00hrs	17:00hrs	16.0	16.0	Dry, sunny with light breeze / 10% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 66.5%
2	03/09/2022	10:00hrs	11:00hrs	13.5	13.0	Dry, sunny with light breeze / 60% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 65%
3	07/09/2022	16:00hrs	17:00hrs	14.5	14.5	Dry, sunny with light breeze / 50% cloud cover /Mean Relative humidity 62.1%
4	11/09/2022	10:00hrs	11:00hrs	15.0	15.0	Dry, sunny with light breeze /20% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 59%
5	15/09/2022	16:00hrs	17:00hrs	16.0	16.5	Dry, sunny with light breeze 70% cloud cover / Mean Relative humidity 65.3%
6	20/09/2022	10:00hrs	11:00hrs	14.0	14.0	Dry sunny with light breeze / 30% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 65.3%
7	23/09/2022	16:00hrs	17:00hrs	13.0	13.0	Dry sunny with light breeze /70% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 62.8%

Table 1. Survey dates and weather conditions.

12. Water vole and otter survey criteria identified any of the following field signs:

- **Latrine sites** – distinct piles of water vole droppings found near nest sites, at the ranges of territorial boundaries and where the animals enter and leave the water;
- **Feeding stations** – areas with distinct neat piles of chewed lengths of vegetation along pathways or haul out platforms along the water's edge;
- **Burrows** – burrow entrances are typically wider than high with a diameter between 4-8cm. Generally, these burrow entrances are located at the water's edge;
- **Lawns** – short grazed areas at the entrances to burrows;
- **Runways** – low tunnels that are pushed through the vegetation and often leading to burrows or feeding stations;
- **Prints** – identifiable prints in soft margins of the watercourse;

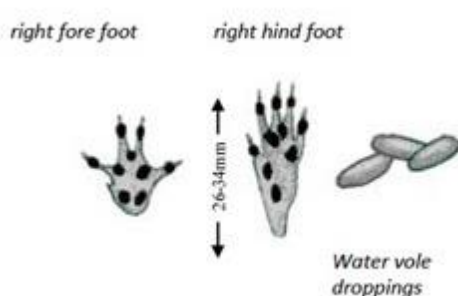


Figure 3. Water vole prints and droppings.

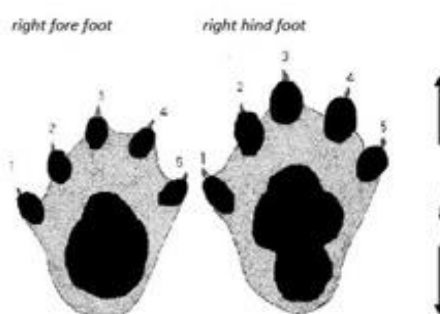


Figure 4. Otter footprints.

13. Otter survey criteria followed the standard methodology as described and adapted from Chanin (2003), which require the identification of the following field signs:

- **Spraints** – characteristic sweet-smelling, black tar-like (where fresh/relatively recent i.e. within a few weeks) or grey crumbly (when old) faecal deposits usually containing fish scales, bones and occasionally invertebrate exoskeleton and bird feathers.
- **Footprints** – In good substrate typically asymmetrical and showing five toes arched around a large pad and, depending on substrate, webbing and claw marks. Poorer, generally coarser substrates do not often enable the identification of otter footprints;
- **Feeding remains** – feeding remains may include partially eaten fish, frogs, piles of mussel shells or crayfish remains;
- **Slides/haul-outs** – Routes into and out of the water, which are usually associated with terrestrial routes such as short cuts around meanders or along traditionally, used otter paths/routes;
- **Couches/hovers** – above ground resting place. Usually associated with cover such as dense scrub, rushes or reed, flood debris or fallen trees. Many couches are rarely used whilst other more so. Difficult to prove use without radio tracking;
- **Holts** – below ground resting site usually associated with sprainting. Sometimes used with greater frequency than couches and can be important for breeding (natal holts) where other signs are usually absent. Notoriously difficult to find or prove without radio tracking.

14. Where water voles and/or otter are present, additional information may be required to assess the significance of the effects on the population, and to design appropriate mitigation.

Invasive species

15. Field surveys also looked for any evidence of invasive non-native American mink (*Neovison vison*), which are known to predate on water vole and considered to be the second most important reason for the decline in the species, with agricultural land use being the first (Rushton et al. 2000). Research shows that in areas where otter is present, mink generally decline because of inter-specific competition, which results in mink having to find new territories to find sufficient prey.

5. RESULTS

• Desk study

16. SER returned thirty-six records of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) dating 1997- 2019 including two records dating 2002 for sightings of water vole within the onsite fishing pool (P1). Cecilly Brook Local Nature Reserve ca.1km SW of the site in Cheadle is known to be one of the most important breeding sites for water voles in Staffordshire, whilst breeding colonies are also confirmed a little of 3km west at Blakehall Fisheries. Three records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) were also returned dating 1990-2009.

• Habitat survey

17. In their current form water body 'P1' equates to ca. 2,900m² (0.24ha) in coverage and has been subjected to a degree of landscape reprofiling with relatively abrupt / hard interface banks lacking any notable riparian habitat around much of its perimeter. The grass is closely mown to the edge of the pond margins with fishing peg platforms present around its circumference, reducing the amount of embankments or resting places for either water vole or otter around these structures. The water body is open with a small vegetated internal island on its eastern elevation, and an overflow area shrouded by a circular stand of small trees.



Figure 5. Looking North from SW bank of P1



Figure 6. Looking west from SE bank of P1.

18. In contrast the dry pond on the upper north grassland compartment east of the 'P1' was found to be terrestrialized with a dense covering of *Phragmites australis* providing suitable riparian habitat but lacking any notable body of water. As 'P1' is heavily stocked with coarse fish, this water body provides suitable foraging habitat for Otter, although it lacks connectivity to watercourse and bodies in the wider landscape making it less desirable this species overall.



Figure 7. Looking west from NW bank of P1.



Figure 8. Dry pond P2.

- **Field survey results**

19. No evidence of water vole or Otter was recorded during the extended seven-day survey period. Local anglers were consulted when on site in the event that either species had been seen by any of the general public whilst fishing. All enquiries confirmed an absence of both water vole or otter around site since historic records dating back in 2002 and 2009. Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) and possibly American Mink had however been detected in recent times across site. No survey constraints were encountered.

6. IMPACTS & MITIGATION

20. Based on findings, no adverse impact to any notable populations of water vole and or Otter plus associated habitat is predicted under the proposed scheme. The site is subject to frequent disturbance by human interactions and also dog walkers on a daily basis, resulting in increased pressure and micro-habitat degradation for both species.
21. Conversely, as individual historic records of Water vole have been recorded in the immediate area, and given that Water voles are able to rapidly colonize suitable habitat where the source population is strong (Strachan & Moorhouse, 2011); in-order to avoid, reduce and offset any long-term effects to water vole populations in the surrounding catchment area, care and vigilance during works should be adopted and made a condition of any planning consent granted by the LPA:
 - ***Where low clearance of vegetation is intended – it is advisable to carry out maintenance tasks during winter months to reduce the impact on water vole populations.***
 - ***Where extensive clearance of vegetation is intended – it is advisable to carry out maintenance tasks during spring to allow for regrowth and reduce predation impact on water vole populations over an extended period of time.***
 - ***If necessary, reprofile existing revetments (by hand only) to allow potential access for voles into substrate behind;***

- **Plant machinery.**

22. Care should be taken that all works, plant and materials remain on existing open areas of hard-standing; avoiding the surrounding boundaries and woodland margins.

- **Building / waste materials**

23. Any building materials, rubble, bricks and soil should be stored only within existing areas of hard-standing to prevent any wildlife seeking refuge under them, and should be raised above ground level using either pallets, skips, or other suitable containers. Waste materials should be removed from site immediately or contained within skips.

- **Excavations**

24. Where possible, trenches should be excavated and closed in the same day to prevent any wildlife becoming trapped. If it is necessary to leave a trench open overnight then it should be sealed with a close-fitting plywood cover; or a means of escape should be provided in the form of a shallow sloping earth ramp, sloped board or plank.
25. Any open trenches and pipe work should be inspected at the start of each working day to ensure no animal is trapped.

- **Pollution and Surface Water Quality**

26. No alteration or re-routing of any water courses is intended under the proposed scheme. Appropriate measures should however be taken to avoid any issues relating to contaminated soils, concrete and fuel spillage entering into adjacent ponds and/or drainage ditches around site. Storage of any materials and chemicals should be kept well away from nearby watercourses

- ***No fuel / concrete to be released into water systems;***
- ***Any chemical and/or fuels on site should be stored within a locked, sealed and bunded container away from drainage channels and water-bodies;***
- ***Fugitive dust levels should be kept to an absolute minimum, by-way-of spraying of water during construction to mitigate the escape of dust particles to the atmosphere, especially if construction work is carried out during the dry season;***
- ***Haulage trucks should be covered and/or aggregates sprayed with water before loading.***

27. Location of any additional drainage and soakaways will need to be fully determined, and ideally contained within the proposed development area boundary where possible. Soakaways should be designed in accordance with the BRE Digest 365 whilst ensuring the suitability of the sub strata and porosity.

- **Accumulative effects**

28. Indirect impacts borne through accumulative effects (e.g. Increased artificial lighting / disturbance), has potential to impact on the character of the surrounding habitats which can be considered as being Valued Ecological Receptors for a number of wildlife species (i.e. bats, birds and small mammals).

29. Incorporation of a sensitive artificial post development lighting scheme is critical given that proposed application area falls intrinsically under ILP Environmental Zone E2 – Rural setting [see Appendix: Table 3 & 4]. Any artificial lighting should follow protocols outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document “Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting” (2005) [GN01:2011] and also the Bat Conservation Trust’s “Artificial Lighting and Wildlife Interim Guidance: Recommendations to Help Minimise the Impact of Artificial Lighting” (2014) [GN8/18].
- **Biodiversity Net Gain**
30. After identified potential impacts have been avoided, mitigated and compensated for in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy – “Biodiversity Net Gains” is an additional requirement, of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019 [paragraph 109 and 175]), whereby sustainable developments should aim to increase overall biodiversity and net gains onsite for nature.
31. The proposed scheme should promote the following aims and objectives:
- **Objective 1:**
To achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity on the ground with respect to species composition, habitat structure, ecosystem function and people’s use and cultural values associated with biodiversity (Defra website, 2012).
 - **Objective 2:**
To maintain, protect and enhance the existing nature conservation value of retained features and associated species.
 - **Objective 3:**
To create new habitats to compensate for loss of, and impacts to, existing habitats, to maximise the site’s biodiversity potential through appropriate management practices.
 - **Objective 4:**
To outline any other additional mitigation requirements / Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for protected species where necessary.
32. At this juncture, the proposed development will result in minor land up-take and alteration of two parcels of semi-improved grassland equating to ca.0.4ha in coverage each, to accommodate a number of camping lodges with associated access paths and additional car parking allotments. This will also result in some selective tree removal.
33. In its current form, the grassland is considered as being of relatively low distinctiveness being mown frequently and used as amenity grassland for anglers, whilst being regularly maintained as part of the Woodhead Hall Estate.
34. In addition to any mitigation for protected species, any approved design should ensure an appropriate landscape design to protect existing habitats is attained to a reasonable standard in the interests of visual amenities; through the provision, establishment, enhancement and maintenance of an appropriate landscaping scheme, and to ensure a net gain in biodiversity is secured.
35. Should the LPA require more information regarding specific units quantifying to biodiversity net loss / net gain, then it may be necessary to undertake an additional Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) of the site [using DEFRA Biodiversity Metric calculator (V3.0 or above)].

36. At this preliminary stage, it is recommended that any soft landscaping of the scheme attempts to enhance terrestrial habitat for local wildlife assemblages including herpetofauna:

- ***Increase connectivity for all terrestrial based wildlife assemblages in the wider landscape through hedge/tree plantation and offset scrub mosaic creation around boundaries;***
- ***Retention and inclusion of dead wood habitats /log piles will be integrated around the perimeter ecotone where possible to provide additional refugia for wildlife assemblages (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates). Leave dead trees or shrubs / standing and retain small stacks of cut wood in dappled shade to rot slowly;***
- ***Creation of sunny, sheltered edges, with exposures of bare ground, to provide a range of thermoregulation substrates for ectothermic species (e.g. basking reptiles, invertebrates) on south facing elevations;***
- ***A specified number of external bat and bird nesting boxes should also be encompassed into the proposed scheme, being erected at suitable orientation and height onto mature trees, and sited away from disturbance and any artificial lighting.***
- ***No plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 should be planted during the landscaping of this development. For further details of Schedule 9 plants visit the Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/non-native.***

7. REFERENCES

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) SI 2010/490
- Chanin, P. (2003a) Ecology of the European Otter. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers, Ecology Series No. 10. English Nature, Peterborough.
- CCW (2009) Otters. A Guide for Developers. CCW Species Series. CCW. www.ccw.gov.uk
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- National Rivers Authority (1993). *Otters and River Habitat Management. Conservation*. Technical Handbook Number 3.
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- Strachan, R., Moorhouse, T. and Gelling, M. (2011). *Water Vole Conservation Handbook 3rd Ed*. Environment Agency, English Nature, WildCRU. Oxford, UK.
- Natural England. Otter surveys - When do I need a licence? www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/wmlg02_tcm6-3750.pdf
- Ward D, Holmes N and Jose P (1994) *The New Rivers and Wildlife Handbook* . RSPB, Bedfordshire.

8. APPENDIX

- **Maps & forms**



- **Legislation & Policy guidelines for Water vole**

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 required the Secretary of State to publish lists of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Wales, under Sections 41 and 42 of the Act, respectively. These lists are used to guide decision makers (such as planning authorities) in implementing their duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions (under Section 40 of the NERC Act). Water voles are listed as species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Wales, under Sections 41 and 42 of the NERC Act 2006, respectively.

Similar to Section 40 of the NERC Act, Section 1 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 states that all public bodies and office holders have a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising its/their functions. Water voles are listed as a species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland under Section 2 of the Act.

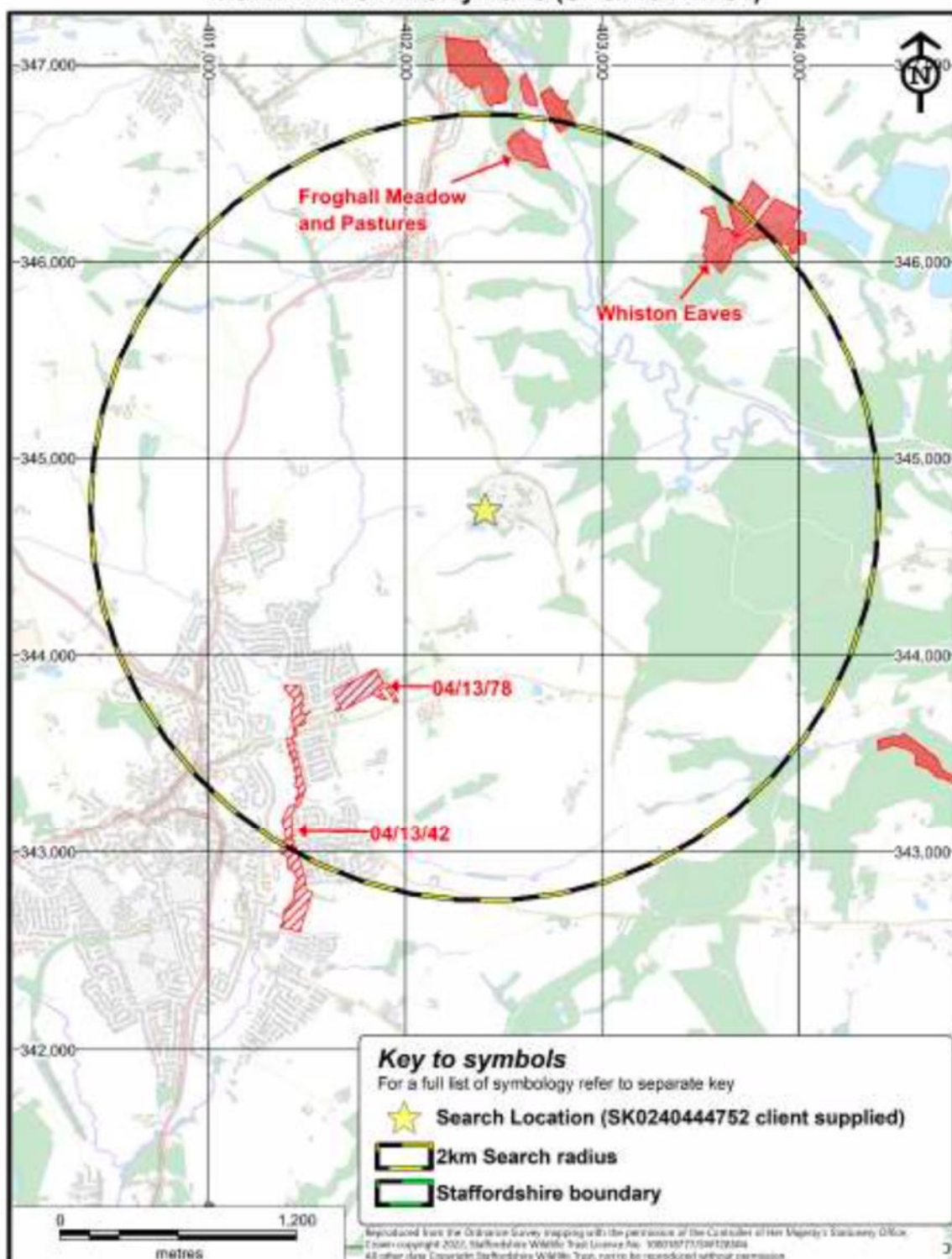
Planning policy – England, Wales and Scotland

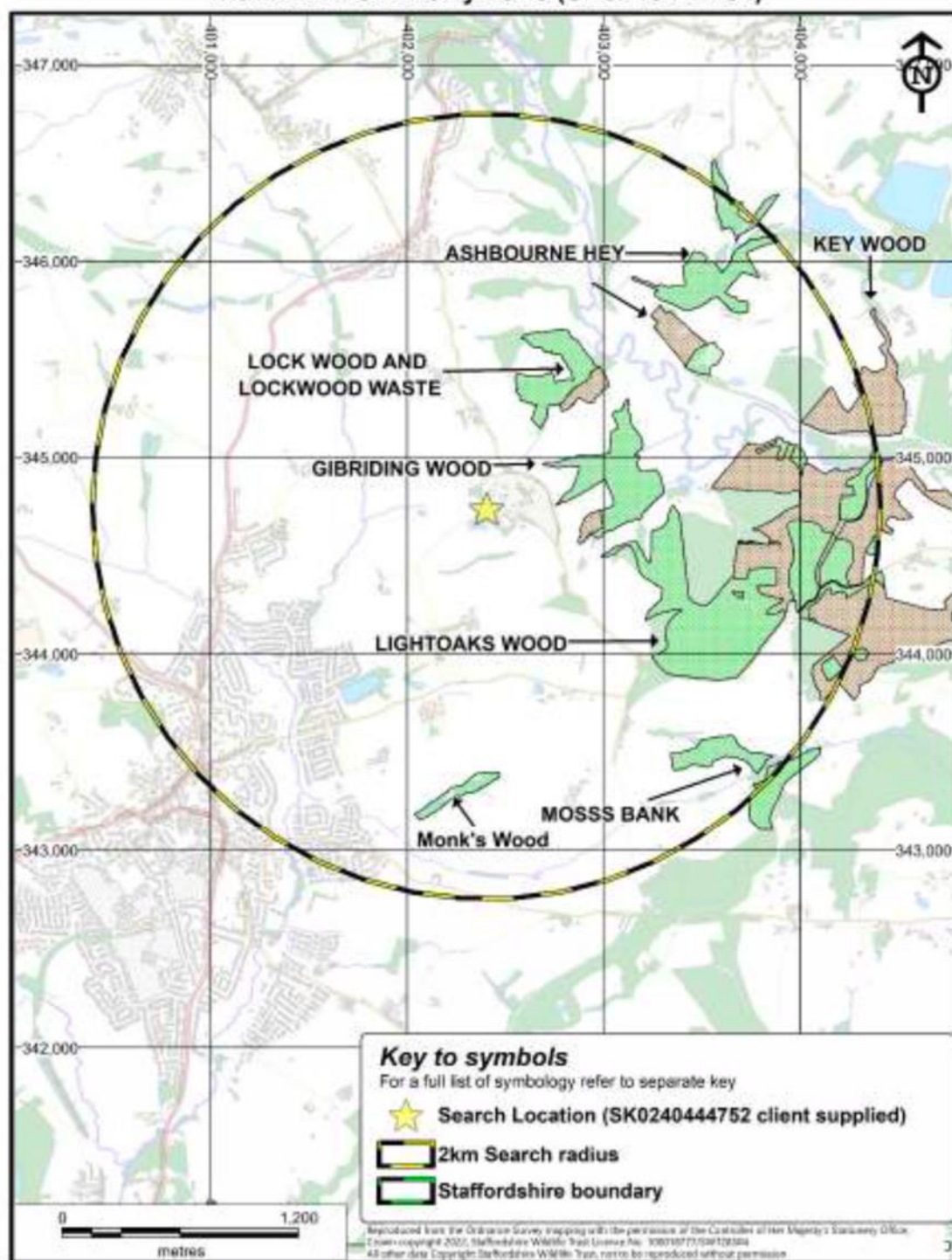
In England, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 includes policies relating to conserving and enhancing the natural environment. This requires local planning authorities to aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by refusing planning permission for developments that would cause significant harm, unless it can be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for. Water voles are therefore a material consideration in determining a planning application. The Government Circular on Biodiversity and Geodiversity (06/2005) sets out that it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent to which they may be affected by a proposed development, is established before planning permission is granted. The NPPF also states that the planning system should deliver net gains for biodiversity where possible, and requires local planning authorities to encourage opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments.

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and the Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework – UK

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 1994, and included water voles as a 'Priority Species'. The UK BAP has now been succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (July 2012) and biodiversity conservation work is now generally focussed on the individual countries and their species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity (see Section 2.3). Water voles are therefore considered a national priority for conservation in England, Scotland and Wales. They are also identified as regional or local priorities for conservation in BAPs produced at relevant geographical levels.

Water voles are also included as priority species for conservation in BAPs produced by water companies and government departments, such as Highways England.

Staffordshire Ecological RecordThe Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, ST17 0NT Tel: 01889 880100 Fax: 01880 880101
Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk**SER/22/346****Nature Conservation Sites
within 2km of Cherry Lane (SK0240444752)**

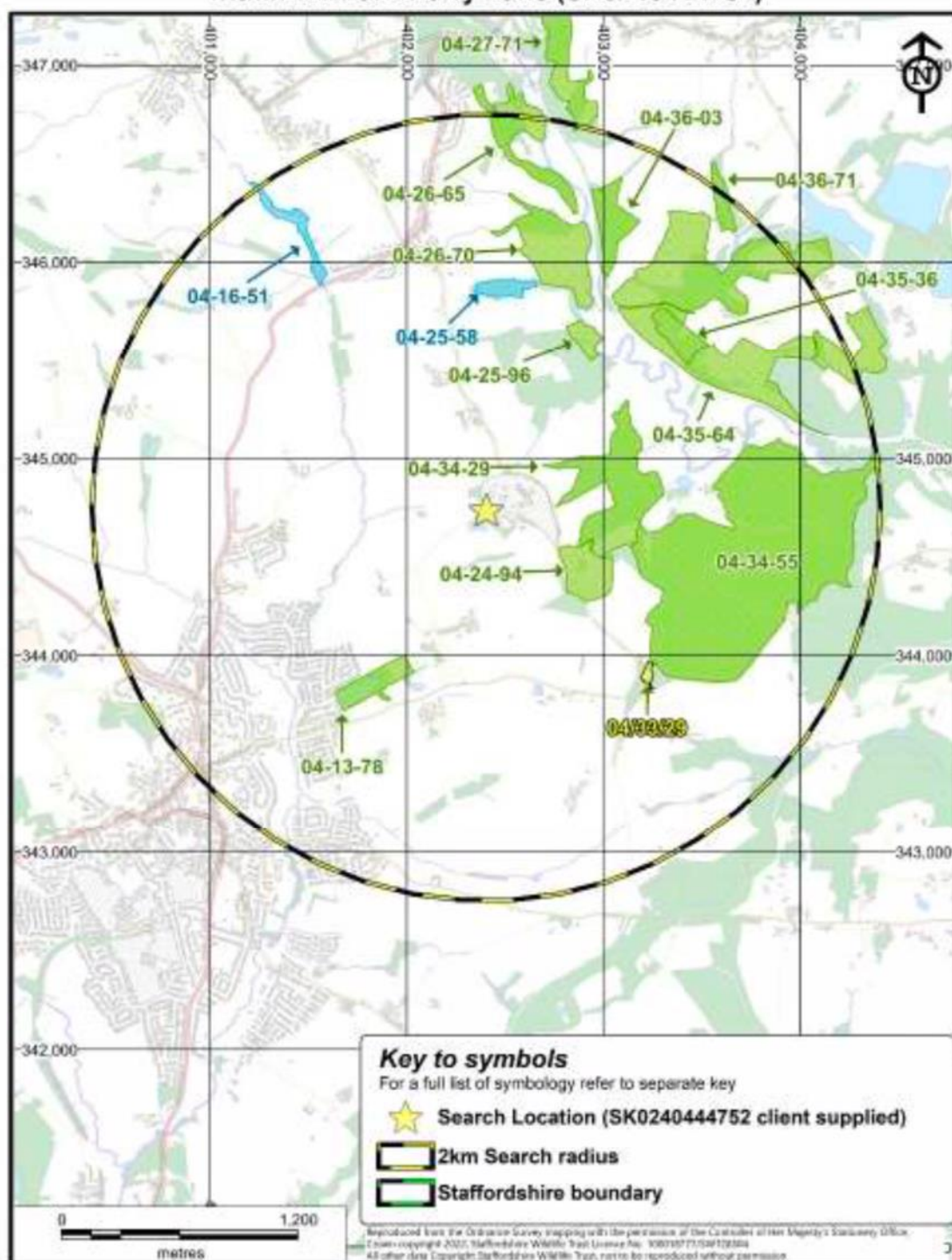
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Nature Conservation Sites within 2km of Cherry Lane (SK0240444752)



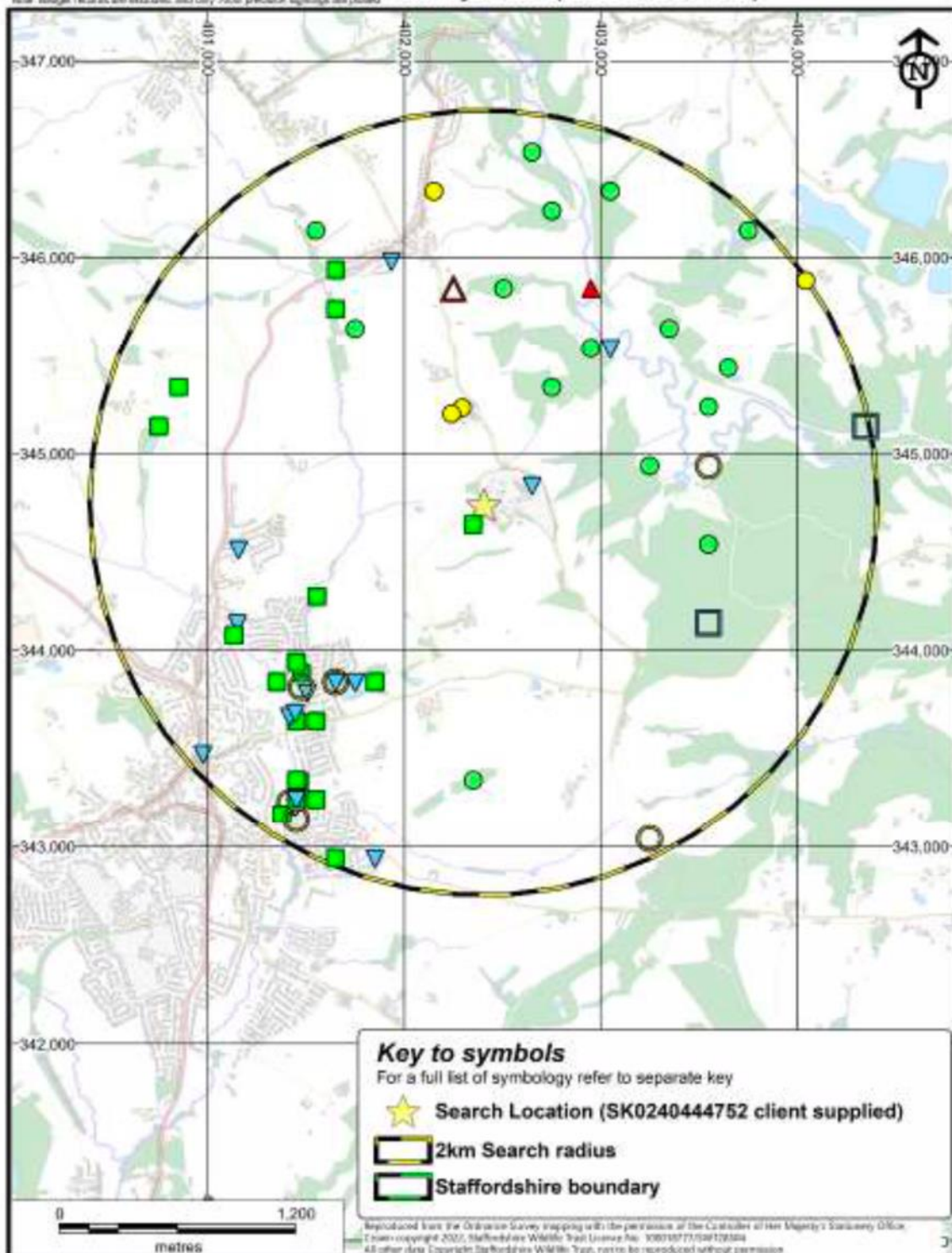
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 Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk

SER/22/346

Protected Species within 2km of Cherry Lane (SK0240444752)

Note: Sighting records are excluded and only 700m precision sightings are plotted



Staffordshire Ecological Record

The Wolsley Centre, Wolsley 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 |  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

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9. CONDITIONS AND DISCLAIMERS



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o **Services**

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