



# **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

Prepared for JMI Planning

Land at Park Lane, Cheadle, Staffordshire

April 2024

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Fauna Forest Ecology Limited on behalf of JMI Planning. It provides the results of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) on land at Park Lane, Cheadle, Staffordshire (the application site). The application site was centrally located at grid reference SK 00256 43296.
- 1.2 The PEA was undertaken following good practice<sup>1</sup> and was carried out to identify the ecological value of the application site, considering both habitats and protected species within the boundaries.
- 1.3 The evaluation and findings in this report can be used by the local planning authority (LPA) in their view of the planning application.
- 1.4 The proposals are for residential development with associated access and parking facilities.
- 1.5 The application site was in a suburban setting off Park Lane, northwest of Cheadle town centre (Figure 1). It was surrounded by grazed pasture and woodland compartments, approximately 13km east of Stoke-on-Trent and 14km northwest of Uttoxeter.

# 2 METHODOLOGY

## Desk Study

- 2.1 A search was undertaken using desktop resources including the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside<sup>2</sup> (MAGIC) website. MAGIC was used to search for records of designated sites and ecologically important habitats within a 1km radius of the application site. Google Earth<sup>3</sup> was also used to study the nearby landscape. In addition to this, records of non-statutory sites and notable wildlife species (from within 1km of the site) were provided by Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER).

## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

- 2.2 The PEA was undertaken by ecologist Frances Horsford BSc (Hons) MSc and ecological consultant David Nixon MSc MCIEEM MRSB on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. Both ecologists carried out a walking transect of the application site to initially list botanical species (see limitations) before classifying abundance using the DAFOR scale<sup>4</sup>. Key habitats present within the boundaries were mapped (Figure 2) and broad habitats were categorised in connection with the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)<sup>5</sup> published document, then subsequently valued for their ecological importance.

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<sup>1</sup> CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

<sup>2</sup> Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC). Crown Copyright and database rights [2015]. Ordnance Survey 100022861. Available at: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.google.co.uk/intl/en\\_uk/earth/](https://www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth/)

<sup>4</sup> DAFOR is used to classify abundance of botanical species: D = dominant; A = abundant; F = frequent; O =

<sup>5</sup> JNCC 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*, ISBN 0 86139 636 7

- 2.3 During the walked transect, consideration was given in regard to potential presence of protected species and where possible surveyors searched for evidence of protected species.

## 3 RESULTS

### Desk Study

- 3.1 The application site was not within a designated statutory site and none existed within 1km of it. There were also no non-statutory designated sites within 1km of it.
- 3.2 Notable fauna records returned by SER relevant to the site and this report are presented below in Table 1.

**Table 1: Notable fauna records within 1km radius**

| Animal/species            | Number of records | Latest record | Closest record to application site |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Bat (unknown sp.)         | 4                 | 2014          | 0m (assumed onsite)                |
| Pipistrelle sp. (all sp.) | 10                | 2014          | 0m (assumed onsite)                |
| Whiskered bat             | 1                 | 2010          | 599m                               |
| Grass snake               | 2                 | 1987          | 0m (assumed onsite)                |
| Hedgehog                  | 6                 | 2015          | 386m                               |
| Brown hare                | 2                 | 2018          | 746m                               |

### Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

#### Overview of the application site and surrounding habitats

- 3.3 Positioned in a suburban setting off Park Lane, northwest of Cheadle town centre, the application site was located approximately 13km east of Stoke-on-Trent and 14km northwest of Uttoxeter. It was surrounded by grazed pasture and woodland compartments with narrow streets and residential properties, many of which contained relatively large gardens. Of note was a woodland belt
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approximately 200m southwest of the application site as well as clusters and linear corridors of trees over to the north within the grounds of Cheadle Cemetery and the adjacent church.

3.4 The site was approximately 0.3ha in size, comprising a field bound by hedges and fences with exception to the southern boundary which had no definitive border. There was a well-poached horse paddock that was not within the site boundary (albeit in the field belonging to the application site) towards the northwest corner close to the access track, which was positioned between the paddock and hedge line. The paddock was defined by metal fencing to form a small square-shaped area. No buildings were present onsite although there was a small shed, set slightly back from the boundary (westerly) at approximate grid reference SK 00233 43313. This shed was open at the front and appeared to be accessible via the application site rather than the neighbouring property.

3.5 Vegetative habitats recorded within the application site boundaries included the following:

- other neutral grassland
- scrub
- hedges (H1 and H2)
- trees

#### Other neutral grassland

3.6 The grassland gradually sloped with the higher elevation towards the southern part of the field and lower elevation near Park Lane. The sward was relatively short throughout as a result of grazing by horses. It was clear the central regions were subject to higher nutrients where less herbs grew and successful species such as Yorkshire fog and perennial rye-grass were locally more common. Some patches of longer sward were noted towards the margins where in places grass had become rank over time.

3.7 None of the grass species were dominant, although abundant species included Yorkshire fog and cock's-foot. Annual meadow-grass was occasional within the sward, whereas perennial rye-grass and crested dog's-tail were rare. The ratio of herbs versus grasses was notably higher although none were considered dominant or abundant. Ribwort plantain, broad-leaved dock, common sorrel, meadow buttercup, bulbous buttercup and red clover were frequent, dandelion, germander speedwell, pignut, creeping buttercup, yarrow, common daisy and hogweed were all occasional amongst the sward and bush vetch was rare.

#### Scrub

3.8 Bramble scrub was recorded along the northwestern boundary near H1.

#### H1

3.9 This hedge marked the western boundary line. It was approximately 90m long, though much of it was defunct with gaps throughout where in places it had been replaced with fencing. The size varied, ranging

from 2-4m in height. Classic structural hedge species within it included hawthorn which was dominant, as well as bramble and elder which were occasional and crab apple which was rare. Species found growing at the base included cleavers, herb Robert and white-dead nettle which were occasional, along with garlic mustard and lesser celandine which were rare. Tree species were also recorded in the hedge, including oak, sycamore and leylandii.

## H2

- 3.10 This hedge marked the eastern boundary line. It was well-managed, approximately 60m long, 2m tall and 2m wide. The hedge was hawthorn-dominated with an abundance of bramble, along with other species, including ivy which was occasional and there were rarely encountered patches of holly. Species growing at the base included hogweed, cow parsley, cleavers and red campion, all of which were occasional.

## Trees

- 3.11 A large mature sycamore tree stood at the entrance to the application site along Park Lane.

## Fauna

### *Mammals - Bats*

- 3.12 The wider landscape comprised habitat suitable for commuting and foraging bats, especially with the presence of nearby woodlands, hedges and cemetery that were local to the application site.
- 3.13 The mature sycamore tree at the entrance to the application site on Park Lane was of an age and maturity to support roosting bats.

### *Mammals - Badger*

- 3.14 Wider landscape habitats such as grassland, hedges and woodlands represented suitable habitat for use by badger. The grassland onsite would provide the species with ample foraging opportunity where it could roam freely.
- 3.15 A sett was recorded south of the application site along the western boundary line approximately 40m from the southern edge at approximate grid reference SK 00221 43275. A single entrance was noted along the boundary with one or possibly more entrances spilling into the adjacent field to the west (the field was not entered due to restricted access). This sett was in use as evidence of bedding was noted along with loose spoil around the entrance, although based on its condition it was probably not active on a daily basis.
- 3.16 In addition to the above, an old disused sett was discovered along the western boundary at approximate grid reference SK 00228 43304. Rabbit droppings were recorded at the entrance suggesting it may have been modified at some point for use as a warren.

*Common Nesting Birds*

- 3.17 Much of the surrounding landscape provided suitable habitat for nesting birds. At site and local level, hedgerows, trees, scrub thickets and tall ruderal stands would be used for nesting between February and September (inclusive). The shed positioned west of the application site's boundary at approximate grid reference SK 00233 43313 contained disused nesting material.

*Reptiles*

- 3.18 No reptiles were observed during the survey. All semi-natural habitats nearby and onsite, including hedges and scrub thickets provided an excellent recourse for reptiles with suitable environments for commuting, foraging and sheltering activities.

*Amphibians*

- 3.19 No aquatic waterbodies suitable for use by amphibians were present within the grounds of the application site and none were noted within a 500m radius it during the desk study.

*Hedgehog*

- 3.20 The wider environment and all semi-natural habitats onsite provided suitable habitat for hedgehog. The grassland represented an excellent foraging and commuting recourse, as did the hedges. Scrub and other dense vegetation may have been used for sheltering by individuals.

*Brown hare*

- 3.21 Open fields further beyond the site were of value to brown hare, especially those with rough margins comprising longer grass and scrub habitats that could be used for mixed purposes, such as foraging, commuting and shelter. The possibility of brown hare occurring onsite should not be discounted.

Other protected species

- 3.22 Otter and water vole may have occurred locally, using riparian habitats for a variety of purposes, however the application site itself was not suitable for either species.

**Limitations**

- 3.23 The PEA was undertaken at a time of year considered suboptimal for identifying some botanical species.
- 3.24 Scrub and hedges in areas onsite were dense and not always safe to negotiate while searching for badger setts.

## 4 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Discussion

- 4.1 Most ecological data remain valid for only short periods of time due to the inherently transient nature of many protected fauna species. Where the species or group being surveyed for is present within the site, data are typically considered accurate for 12-18 months<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.2 The proposed development is relatively small-scale and is unlikely to have an ecological impact beyond the boundaries of the application site provided noise, lighting and pollution management plans are derived and adhered to.
- 4.3 Based on observations during the PEA, the grassland did not qualify as a Habitat of Principle Importance. All botanical species recorded were common in context with the local area and are generally widespread. Given the survey was completed during a suboptimal season for botanical assessments, coupled with the fact the sward was short and difficult to survey, yet, clearly diverse with presence of a variety of herbaceous species, it would be beneficial to undertake an updated walkover during spring or early summer by a competent botanist to list any species that may have been missed.
- 4.4 The hedgerows were Habitats of Principle Importance. Hedgerows are important ecological components of a landscape, they are utilised by a wealth of animals for foraging, commuting and shelter, and should therefore be afforded protection where possible. Onsite, if feasible, all hedgerows should be retained to provide continued connectivity to the wider landscape and beyond. They should also be protected from light spill during and after the construction phase.
- 4.5 Connectivity to and from the site was made available by presence of tree linear local to the application site and nearby hedges and woodland belts. The nearby church and cemetery would most probably provide bats with roosting opportunity, either in trees or the church itself, and the grounds will be used by commuting and foraging individuals.
- 4.6 Onsite, both hedges were likely to be utilised by commuting and foraging bats and the mature sycamore at the entrance to the application site on Park Lane was of an age and maturity to support roosting bats (and nesting birds). It was also likely to provide a valuable foraging recourse for bats.
- 4.7 Loss of hedges or trees would potentially cause bats to seek additional flight lines and may have an overall impact to local communities. Use of inappropriate lighting by allowing artificial light to spill over semi-natural habitats such as trees and hedges may also force bats to use different routes.
- 4.8 Badgers were provided with good use of the landscape. While the application site was situated in a suburban setting close to a town, connectivity between the application site and wider landscape was excellent, especially in a northwesterly direction where the species could roam freely into the wider

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<sup>6</sup> <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf>

landscape and beyond. The active sett was not in the application site, however careful consideration is required to ensure the proposed works do not have an adverse impact on local badger populations.

- 4.9 Evidence suggests the sett was infrequently used, largely because loose spoil and some bedding was found surrounding the entrance, however other parts of the entrance were compacted down hard which implies it was subjected to less traffic than a main sett for example.
- 4.10 Provided the sett will not be impacted by the proposed development there is no requirement for a badger mitigation licence to be granted by Natural England.
- 4.11 Confidence is given that the sett within the boundaries was disused although it may have served as a rabbit warren at the time of the PEA. Regardless, best practice would be to leave it in-situ in case it was to be used in the future.
- 4.12 Nesting birds must be considered if works are carried out between February and September (inclusive) as they could potentially utilise hedges, scrub thickets and other vegetative habitats within the application site boundaries. A lack of consideration in connection to disturbance of nests could lead to nests becoming damaged, abandoned or birds could become distressed or get injured or killed during the process.
- 4.13 Whilst only two reptile records were returned from SER, the possibility of common reptiles utilising the site should not be discounted, especially the margins where vegetation was overgrown during the time of the PEA. Any records of animals showing as being observed 0m from a site (such as grass snake in this instance) suggest the animal was recorded there, although these records may be incorrect and set as zero because the original recorder's whereabouts has not been saved. Regardless, both records are old and provided the proposed works do not involve removal of hedges, there is little risk to reptiles as a result of the proposed works, given the grassland sward was short, clearly grazed and not suited for use by reptiles.
- 4.14 The absence of great crested newt records within a 1km radius and ponds within 500m of the site significantly reduces the potential of the species (as well as other amphibians) being present onsite. Care should still be adopted during the construction phase because the hedges provided a suitable environment for newts during the terrestrial phase of their lifecycle.
- 4.15 Both hedgehog and brown hare may be present onsite and should be considered during the construction phase. Hedgehog in particular may be vulnerable to harm as this species is less able to move quickly from harm's way. Consideration regarding providing continued use of the site must be given for both species as well.
- 4.16 In England, it is now mandatory (since February 2024), under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14A of the Environment Act 2021), for developers to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10% on a proposed development site. This ensures that a development will

result in more or better quality natural habitat than was present prior to the development commencing. To allow this to occur, a calculation of the existing biodiversity value must be completed using the latest biodiversity metric. The existing biodiversity value will be compared with that of the proposed site and an assessment made as to the change in biodiversity value.

#### Recommendations

- 4.17 A detailed pollution management and lighting plan must be derived prior to works commencing to ensure local wildlife are not affected during the construction phase and after work have been completed. Outline suggestions at this stage are that any use of artificial nocturnal lighting should be carefully considered during the development phase and post-development. No lighting should be directed towards local hedges, trees or scrub, or adjacent habitats. If there is a requirement to install lighting, then a low-level lighting scheme should be implemented to avoid indirect disturbance to nocturnal animals that may utilise nearby habitats.
- 4.18 Noise must also be considered. During the construction phase, it is recommended that works are not carried out after dusk and they do not commence until after dawn. Generators and machinery that emit significant noise levels must not be left to run through the night.
- 4.19 An updated site walkover to re-assess the grassland is recommended to make note of any species that may have been missed during the PEA. The grassland's quality must then be evaluated. During this walkover a condition assessment can be carried out which will feed into Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 4.20 There is opportunity for designated grassland buffer zone creations along the peripherals and between newly built property. While grassy buffer zones may be left unmanaged to attract wildlife, the grasslands would also benefit from sensitive mowing regimes achieved by allowing grass to grow longer for much of the year, then cutting it once during spring, then allow to grow during summer with opportunity for plants to flower and seed, followed by a late August/early September cut. In both cases arisings must be removed to reduce a build-up of nutrients. The spring cut would also help prevent establishment of rank grasses.
- 4.21 If there is a requirement to remove hedges, a specific hedgerow survey should be carried out to assess whether the hedgerow(s) in question qualify under the Hedgerow Regulations Act 1997<sup>7</sup>.
- 4.22 Every attempt should be made to retain the mature sycamore tree, however, should there be a requirement to cut it back, lop branches or fell it, in the first instance a ground level tree assessment (GLTA) must be carried out by a suitably qualified bat ecologist to further assess their roosting potential. This assessment will inform the level of further survey effort required. It is likely the tree will either need to be climbed by a qualified aerial climber (CS38) who holds a Natural England bat survey licence or if

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/contents/made>

it is not considered safe to climb, a suite of nocturnal bat surveys may be required between May and August (inclusive). Surveys must follow industry guidelines<sup>8</sup>.

4.23 Bats are protected by law. It would be a criminal offence to impact the roost without a bat mitigation licence. Natural England expect three tests to be satisfied before a bat mitigation licence can be issued. These tests are as follows:

- There is no satisfactory alternative.
- The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.
- The action authorised preserved public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.

4.24 In the event works are carried out between February and September (inclusive), it is recommended that a suitably qualified ecologist is appointed to carry out an inspection for nesting activity ahead of works commencing. Works should not be initiated until the ecologist has confirmed that no nesting birds exist within the area of impact. If an active nest is discovered, an exclusion zone should be established, and works must be halted in that area until the nest is no longer active. Works should not commence without confirmation from a suitably qualified ecologist that no nesting birds exist within the area of impact. Irrespective of the time of year, if any nesting birds are discovered on site, an area around the nest site will be protected from disturbance with a suitable fence (not HERAs fencing) that would include an appropriate buffer zone, as determined by the suitably qualified supervising ecologist. Work will then be avoided in this area until the nest is no longer in use. Buffer zones in this respect will normally be 5m in diameter, and will be delineated by canes, cordon tape and signage.

4.25 On assumption the proposals do not change in such a way that the active sett will be directly impacted by the development, it is recommended an ecologist carries out a final inspection of the site for new evidence of badger soon before construction begins. During this inspection, particular attention must be focused on hedges, scrub and other overgrown vegetation, where badger setts may be easily overlooked.

4.26 Green infrastructure will be required along the site peripherals to secure commuting and foraging opportunity for the species. An option would be to leave a narrow semi-natural buffer zone between the hedges and new-build garden area acting as a funnel between the site and wider area. Like with bats, inappropriate light spill would potentially lead to badgers seeking alternative routes and potentially abandoning setts in some circumstances.

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<sup>8</sup> Collins J (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th edn. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

- 4.27 If the proposals change in such a way that the red line boundary is pushed further south (closer to the active sett) or if there is requirement to directly impact the sett, taking into account tunnels associated with badger setts can be fairly extensive underground so they may extend further towards the development than anticipated, a suite of specific badger surveys may be required and a badger mitigation licence would need to be granted by Natural England for sett closure in order for works to legally proceed.
- 4.28 There is opportunity to enhance the application site for birds. Nest boxes could be fitted to trees with a view to provide additional nesting environments. A mix of open-fronted and close-hole boxes would provide nesting options for a variety of species. It is also recommended bat boxes are fitted to the mature sycamore if it is to be retained. Three boxes could be secured approximately 4m from ground level facing north, east and west, with a view to support local bat communities. Other options would be to fit integrated bat tubes in the new-build and/or fit bat access tiles within the roof lines approximately 1m below the ridge, but only if the building is to be lined with traditional bitumen felt, as bats can become tangled and die in modern breathable membrane.
- 4.29 Taking into account that few records of reptiles exist in the area, a full suite of reptile surveys is not recommended in this instance. However, given there are habitats onsite that provide a suitable environment for reptiles, it is recommended a method statement is prepared by an ecologist with a view to safeguard reptiles.
- 4.30 With hedgehog numbers declining in recent years, biodiversity management plans are critical to aid with their conservation status. Given that foraging hedgehogs can travel through a number of gardens each night in a bid to successfully forage, it is important that provisions are made in each boundary line (if fenced or gated) with a view to allow them to successfully commute. Gaps in fences and under gates should be at least 130mm x 130mm. No impacts to hedgehog will occur provided a safe working practice is adhered to at all times during the construction phase.
- 4.31 The creation of grassy buffers along the peripherals will also provide a means of connectivity for both hedgehog and brown hare.
- 4.32 Where possible, vehicles will use existing tracks onto and within the construction zone. It is advised that only building products to be used on the day are brought and stored on the site. If building products need to be stored onsite (e.g. overnight or for more than one day), they will be stored on pallets or retained in bags on pallets to ensure that refuges are not created that may attract animals. Building products should be placed on existing hard standing if possible.
- 4.33 All holes created during the construction period (e.g. to lay a concrete pad) will be filled in and finalised on the same day so as not to leave any pitfall traps. If this is unavoidable, they should be left with a sloping end or ramp to allow animals that may fall in to escape.

- 4.34 Holes should be covered over at night. Also, any pipes over 150mm in diameter should be capped off at night to prevent other animals from entering. Any spoil resulting from excavations will either be spread and compacted within the area on the same day or be removed from the construction area on the same day. It will not be left in loose heaps overnight. All cut vegetation will be removed from the development site and immediate surroundings to avoid use by birds as nesting habitat.
- 4.35 A Biodiversity Net Gain calculation using the current Defra Metric must be completed on both the existing habitats and the proposed development to identify the biodiversity value of the site before and after the development. Ecological enhancement should be proposed to result in a net gain in biodiversity of at least 10%.

## APPENDIX A: BOTANICAL SPECIES RECORDED<sup>9</sup>

**Table 2: Botanical species recorded within application site**

| Common name             | Scientific name              | DAFOR |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Other neutral grassland |                              |       |
| Cock's-foot             | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>    | A     |
| Yorkshire fog           | <i>Holcus lanatus</i>        | A     |
| Perennial rye-grass     | <i>Lolium perenne</i>        | R     |
| Red fescue              | <i>Festuca rubra</i>         | F     |
| Bent sp.                | <i>Agrostis</i> spp.         | F     |
| Crested dog's tail      | <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>   | R     |
| Annual meadow-grass     | <i>Poa annua</i>             | O     |
| White clover            | <i>Trifolium repens</i>      | R     |
| Shining crane's-bill    | <i>Geranium lucidum</i>      | R     |
| Cat's-ear               | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>  | O     |
| Ribwort plantain        | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>   | F     |
| Hogweed                 | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> | O     |
| Nettle                  | <i>Urtica dioica</i>         | R     |
| Ragwort                 | <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>     | R     |
| Cleavers                | <i>Galium aparine</i>        | R     |
| Creeping thistle        | <i>Cirsium arvense</i>       | R     |
| Yarrow                  | <i>Achillea millefolium</i>  | O     |
| Bush vetch              | <i>Vicia sepium</i>          | F     |
| Bulbous buttercup       | <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>   | F     |
| Meadow buttercup        | <i>Ranunculus acris</i>      | F     |
| Creeping buttercup      | <i>Ranunculus repens</i>     | O     |

<sup>9</sup> Plant names according to Rose F, O'Reilly C (2006) The Wild Flower Key, Revised Edition. Penguin Books, London.

|                     |                                  |                 |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| American willowherb | <i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>        | O               |
| Pignut              | <i>Conopodium majus</i>          | O               |
| Red clover          | <i>Trifolium pratense</i>        | F               |
| Daisy               | <i>Bellis perennis</i>           | O               |
| Broad-leaved dock   | <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>        | F               |
| Common sorrel       | <i>Rumex acetosa</i>             | F               |
| Dandelion           | <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg. | O               |
| Germander speedwell | <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>       | O               |
| H1                  |                                  |                 |
| Hawthorn            | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>        | D               |
| Bramble             | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.     | O               |
| Elder               | <i>Sambucus nigra</i>            | O               |
| Crab apple          | <i>Malus sylvestris</i>          | R               |
| White-dead nettle   | <i>Lamium album</i>              | O               |
| Cleavers            | <i>Galium aparine</i>            | O               |
| Leylandii           | <i>Cupressus × leylandii</i>     | R               |
| Sycamore            | <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>       | R               |
| Oak                 | <i>Quercus robur</i>             | R               |
| Lesser celandine    | <i>Ficaria verna</i>             | R               |
| Garlic mustard      | <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>        | R               |
| Herb Robert         | <i>Geranium robertianum</i>      | O               |
| H2                  |                                  |                 |
| Hawthorn            | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>        | D               |
| Bramble             | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.     | A               |
| Ivy                 | <i>Hedera helix</i>              | O               |
| Cleavers            | <i>Galium aparine</i>            | O               |
| Hogweed             | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>     | O               |
| Cow parsley         | <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>     | O               |
| Red campion         | <i>Silene dioica</i>             | O               |
| Lesser celandine    | <i>Ficaria verna</i>             | R               |
| Sycamore            | <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>       | R               |
| Garlic mustard      | <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>        | R               |
| Herb Robert         | <i>Geranium robertianum</i>      | O               |
| Scrub               |                                  |                 |
| Bramble             | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.     | D               |
| Trees               |                                  |                 |
| Sycamore            | <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>       | One mature tree |

Note\* DAFOR where possible has been based on species frequencies at site level, however some species were locally common. As such, more than one species may be listed as dominant

## APPENDIX B: LEGISLATION SUMMARY

### Bats

In England and Wales, bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Taken together, this legislation makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a group of bats where the disturbance is likely to significantly affect the ability of the animals to survive, breed, or nurture their young or likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species whether in a roost or not
- Damage or destroy the breeding or resting place of a bat
- Possess a bat (alive or dead) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
- Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (alive or dead) or parts of bats

A roost is defined as being 'any structure or place that is used for shelter or protection' and since bats regularly move roost site throughout the year, a roost retains such designation whether or not bats are present at the time.

### Badger

Badger is protected in Britain under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* and *Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended).

The legislation affords protection to Badgers and Badger setts and makes it a criminal offence to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a Badger, or to attempt to do so;
- interfere with a sett by damaging or destroying it;
- to obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a Badger sett; or
- to disturb a Badger when it is occupying a sett.

### Birds

All common wild birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird

Certain rare breeding birds are listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). Under this legislation they are afforded the same protection as common wild birds and are

also protected against disturbance whilst building a nest or on or near a nest containing eggs/unfledged young.

### **Reptiles**

All native British species of reptile (of which there are 6) are listed in Schedule Five of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and as such are protected from deliberate killing, injury or trade. Therefore, where development is permitted and there will be a significant change in land use, a reasonable effort must be undertaken to remove reptiles off site to avoid committing an offence. The same act makes the trading of native reptile species a criminal offence without an appropriate licence.

### **Great Crested Newts**

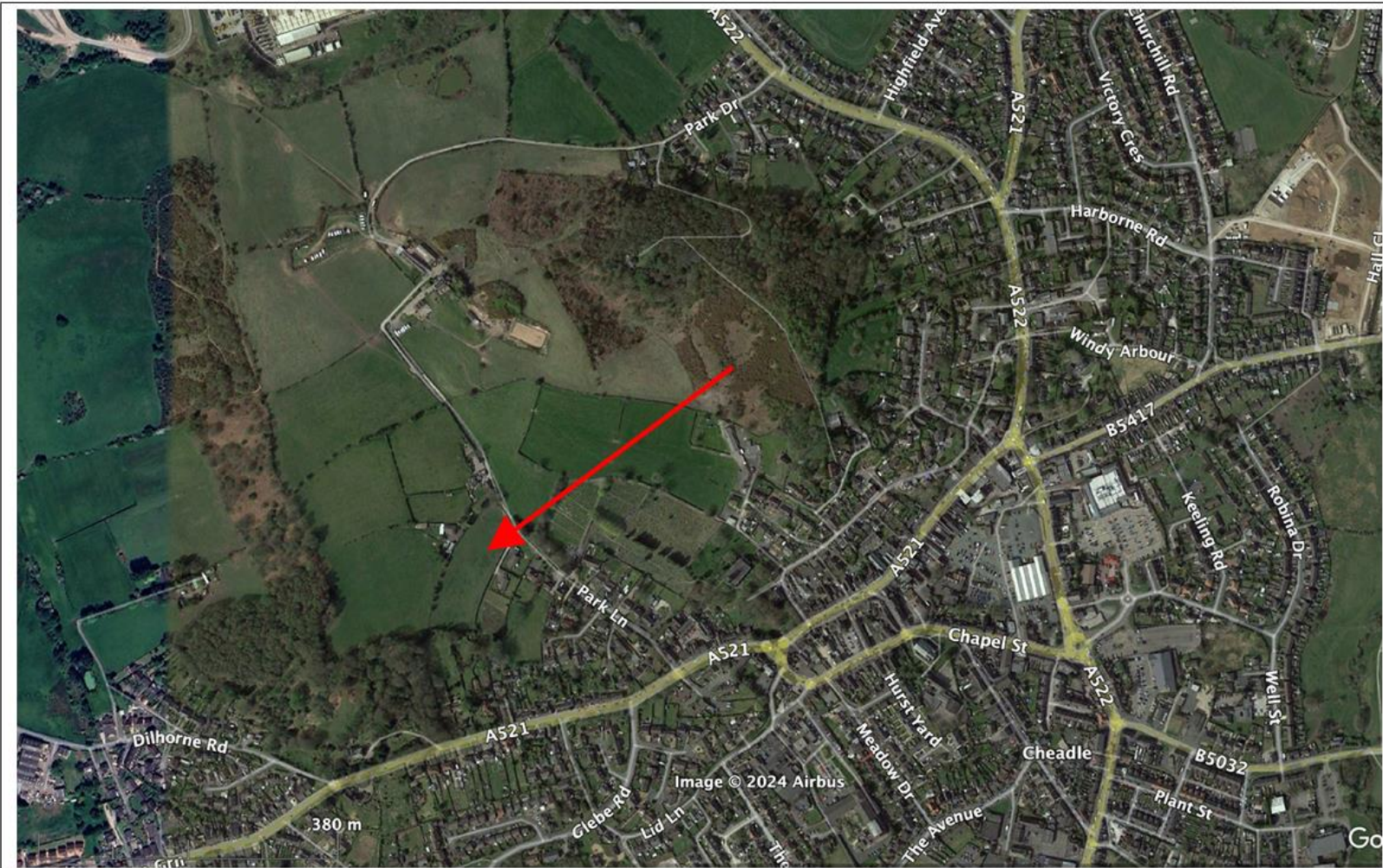
Great crested newts are a European Protected Species, listed on Annex II and IV of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, receiving protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This species is also afforded full protection under the Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 (Regulation 38). Under such legislation it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture a great crested newt;
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt;
- Intentionally or recklessly\* damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt; and
- Intentionally or recklessly\* disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place.
- Sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale great crested newts or parts of them.

\*Reckless offences were added by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which applies only to England and Wales.

## **APPENDIX C: MAPS & SITE PLANS**

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Fauna Forest Ecology Limited  
South View Bungalow, Cheadle Road, Oakamoor, ST10 3AN

© Google Earth Pro 2024

## Location Map

 Application site

April 2024

Land at Park Lane, Cheadle



**FAUNA FOREST ECOLOGY**

Figure 1: Location Map

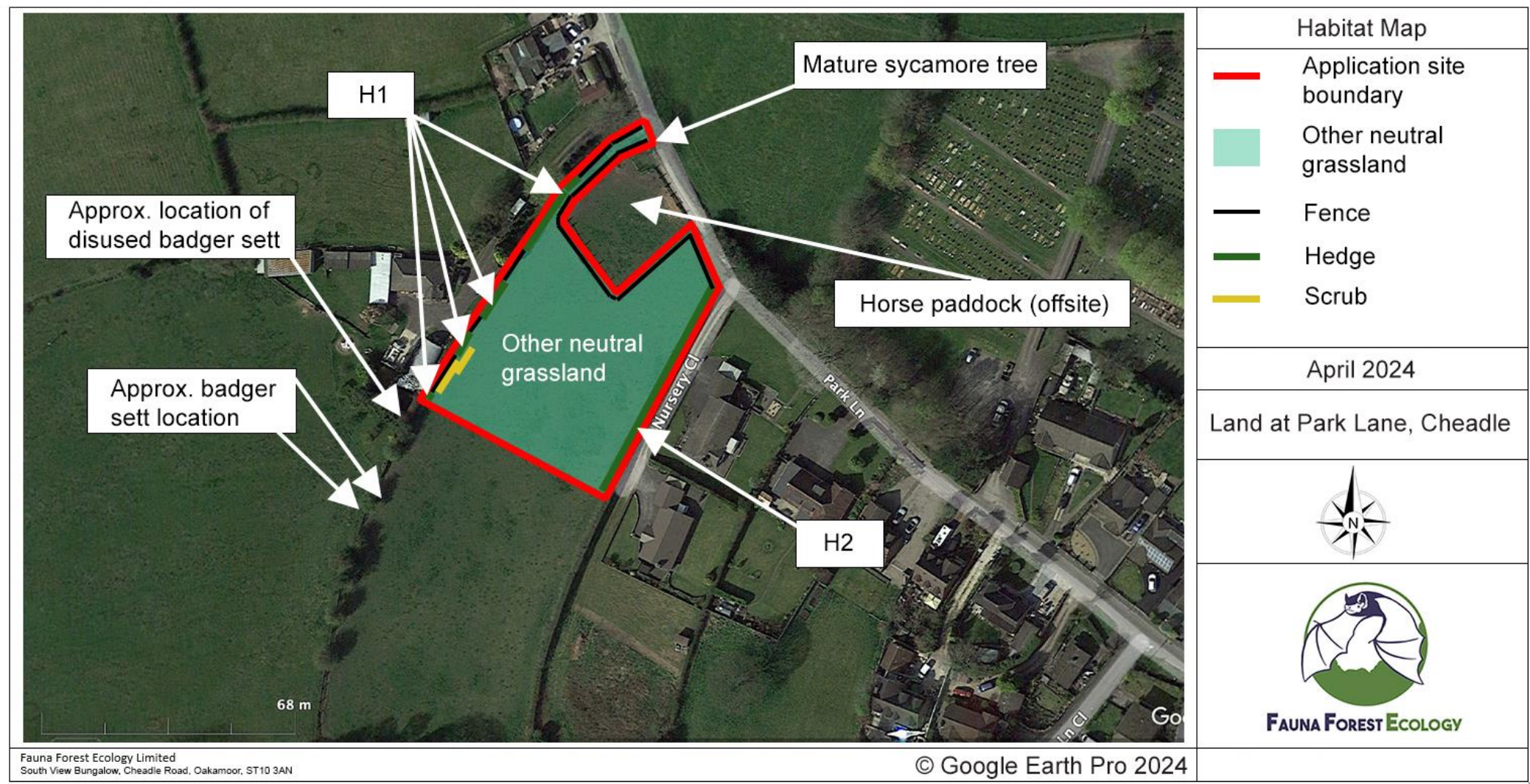


Figure 2: Habitat Map

## APPENDIX D: SITE IMAGES



**Photo 1: Northwesterly views across the application site**



**Photo 2: Westerly views across the application site**



**Photo 3: Badger sett entrance on western boundary of application site**



**Photo 4: Badger runs along western boundary of application site near sett**