



Waddow View, Clitheroe, Lancashire

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

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October 2011

Control sheet

Project No & Title: BOW0017/293, Waddow View, Clitheroe, Lancashire – Extended Phase 1 *Report*.

Client: Huntroyde Estate

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Date of Issue: October 2011

Status: Final

Version No: 2

Revisions: 0

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bowland Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Huntroyde Estate to undertake an Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey and desk study of land at Waddow View, Clitheroe, Lancashire (SD 741 421). The survey is in support of an outline planning application for a proposed housing development encompassing an area of approximately 1.23ha, including 50 units.
- 1.2 The Phase 1 Habitat survey methodology followed that of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. A targeted desk study to search for relevant notable species records within 1.5km of the site was also undertaken.
- 1.3 The aim of the surveys and desk study was to make an assessment of wildlife interests at the site with particular reference to legal requirements and potential development constraints.
- 1.4 This report includes a description of survey methods; a summary description of habitats and fauna; and outlines recommendations to provide protection and enhancements for biodiversity and protected species.

2. Methodology

Desk Study and Data Search

- 2.1 A targeted desk study was undertaken of the site and a 1.5km buffer zone to search for records of statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites, legally protected and notable species involving an online search of the National Biodiversity Network (www.nbn.org.uk) and Natural England's Nature on the Map (<http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/>). The UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans were also consulted.
- 2.2 Further information relating to ecological interests was sought from Lancashire County Council Records Centre.
- 2.3 The aim of the desk study was to identify the presence of any notable site and/or species records for the area.

Extended Phase 1 Survey

- 2.4 The extended Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken on the 5th April 2011 by Emma Kilduff, BSc (Hons), MIEEM.
- 2.5 The survey followed Phase 1 Habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 1993) and involves walking the whole site, mapping and describing different habitats (for example: woodland, grassland, scrub). A colour coded map of the habitats on site is produced, with corresponding target notes of ecologically interesting features.
- 2.6 The survey was extended such that evidence of fauna and faunal habitat is also recorded (for example droppings, tracks or specialist habitat such as ponds for breeding amphibians). The Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey is a modified version of the Phase 1 Habitat survey and follows the approach recommended by the Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (IEA, 1995).

3. Results

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Desk Study

3.1 A search of the National Biodiversity Network revealed the following relevant BAP species within the 10km OS grid square SD74;

- Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), 4 records recorded in 2005 (2), and 2006 (2).
- Common grasshopper warbler (*Locustella naevia*), 3 records between 2003 and 2009.
- Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) 78 records between 2001 and 2009.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), 9 records between 2002 and 2009.
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), over 100 records between 2008 and 2009.
- Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) 29 records most between 2002 and 2009.
- Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*) 14 records between 2002 and 2009.
- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) 74 records between 2001 and 2009.
- Reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) 2 records in 2009.
- Ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) recorded between 2004 and 2009.
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) 47 records between 2001 and 2009.
- Tree pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) 16 records between 2002 and 2009.
- Also recorded were; damel (*Lolium temulentum*), field gentian (*Gentianella campestris*) wall butterfly (*Lasiommata megera*), small heath butterfly (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), Duke of Burgundy (*Hamaeris lucina*), cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*), Latticed Heath (*Chiasmia clathrata*) and Shaded Broad-bar (*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*).

3.2 There are two statutory wildlife sites within the 1.5km search area as follows;

- Coplow Quarry SSSI (SD 751 432) – designated for it's geological interest, notably exposures of Coplow Knoll or Chadian age and it's associated exposures and echinoderm fauna.
- Salthill and Bellmanpark Quarries SSSI (SD 758 427) – designated for its geological interest, notably Carboniferous limestone, fossiliferous Salthill Bank Beds (Chadian) and Salthill Cap Beds (Arundian)

3.3 There are nine non statutory wildlife sites within the 1.5km search area as follows;

- Dog House Wood BHS
- Primrose Lodge BHS
- River Ribble, London Road to County Boundary BHS
- Salthill Quarry BHS
- Coplow Quarry and Pimlico Road Grasslands BHS
- Cross Hill Quarry BHS
- Sherburn Wood BHS
- Boy Bank BHS
- Clitheroe Castle Knoll BHS

- 3.4 The nearest BHS to the site is Castle Knoll, at approximately 500m in a south westerly direction. Due to the distance from the site it is not felt that any of the BHS sites will be adversely affected by the development.
- 3.5 Consultation with Lancashire County Council highlighted the presence of numerous BAP records within 1.5km of the site including; pochard, teal, swallow, curlew, starling, song thrush, bullfinch, lapwing, redshank, water vole, hedgehog, bat (species not identified), and numerous flowering plants and ferns. None of the above were recorded within 500m of the site; however bird and mammal species are likely to be present within the local area.

Extended Phase 1 Survey

- 3.6 Target notes summarising key interest features recorded during the Extended Phase 1 survey are included as Appendix 1. The Phase 1 Habitat plan for the site is presented in Appendix 2, which also includes the locations of the target notes.
- 3.7 The site comprises improved pasture and hedgerows and is bounded by residential properties on two sides, a car park and railway to the south east and further pasture to the west. Areas of interest include potential breeding bird habitat in hedgerows and trees.

Habitat descriptions from field survey

- 3.8 The following Phase 1 habitats are present on or adjacent to the site;

Hard standing

- 3.9 An area of hard standing (car park) is directly adjacent to the site on the eastern boundary. Additional areas of hard standing are found to the north and south and are mainly access roads and car parking for the residential areas.

Improved pasture

- 3.10 Species poor grazed pasture is present at Target Note 1 and is the main habitat type within the site. Species include perennial rye grass, cocksfoot, broad leaved dock, cow parsley, and creeping buttercup. Towards the boundary of the field additional species included bramble, cleavers and marsh marigold.

Buildings

- 3.11 A disused farm building is present at target note 5 outside the western boundary of the site. The main building is constructed of stone, with a pitched slate roof and ridge tiles. A smaller brick building, with pebble dashing is attached to the main stone building. The roof is constructed of corrugated metal sheeting. Several open doorways and windows are also present.
- 3.12 Several gaps and crevices are present within the mortar and stone/brick work. Gaps and crevices are also present underneath the roof and ridge tiles of the stone section of the building providing suitable habitat for roosting bats.

Hedgerow, scattered scrub and trees

- 3.13 The hedgerows bordering the site to the west, south and east are generally species poor. Target Note 2 denotes a mixed species hedgerow with semi mature trees bordering the eastern edge of the field. Species included; hawthorn, bramble, blackthorn, sycamore, ash, alder and hazel. It is fenced in parts. Ground flora included; cocksfoot, cow parsley, marsh marigold, dog's mercury, cleavers, dandelion, creeping buttercup, ivy, common nettle and lords and ladies.

- 3.14 Target Note 3 is a hedgerow bordering the western field boundary, species composition comprising hawthorn, ash blackthorn and bramble. Ground flora is similar to that of Target Note 2 with patches of meadowsweet.
- 3.15 The hedgerow at target note 4 bordering the site to the north includes the species; hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, ash and bramble. The groundflora species includes; dog's mercury, common nettle, cleavers, localised patches of meadowsweet, ivy, marsh marigold and cow parsley.

Watercourse

- 3.16 A shallow field drain is situated approximately 50m to the west of the proposed site boundary at Target note 6 and was observed to be largely dry at the time of survey. The dry section of the drain was observed to be heavily vegetated with the following species; greater willow herb, false oat grass, creeping thistle, rosebay willowherb and creeping buttercup. A further section of the drain, adjacent to an area of residential houses is shaded by a section of hawthorn dominated hedgerow with scattered trees and was observed to be of moderate flow at the time of survey.

Faunal description from field survey

- 3.17 The proposed application site is dominated by improved pasture, hedgerow and trees and hardstanding considered to be of relatively low value for fauna.
- 3.18 Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) were noted during the survey.
- 3.19 Areas of hedgerow and trees are not of high ecological value but are likely to support breeding birds.
- 3.20 The existing stone farm building situated outside the north-western boundary of the site provides suitable habitat for roosting bats. The trees within the site boundary or in adjacent plantings and scrub were considered to be of low potential value for roosting bats. Bats will potentially forage over the site however, no trees were found to be mature, or showing suitable features for bat roosting.
- 3.21 The field drain at Target note 6, situated to the west of the proposed site boundary is considered to be unsuitable for water vole, due to its small, shallow and largely dry nature. The watercourse provides habitat for a range of other small mammal species such as; bank vole, mice and shrews.

4. Impact Assessment

- 4.1 This section provides a summary of features of ecological interest as identified by the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and mitigation measures.
- 4.2 The key ecological impacts of the proposed development will include:
- potential impacts to nesting birds within trees and hedgerows if works are not undertaken outside the bird breeding season;
 - potential impacts to bats within the existing stone farm building, situated outside of the development boundary.
- 4.3 Any vegetation clearance work should occur outside the bird breeding season, which runs from late February to September. If vegetation is cleared during the nesting season it should be preceded by a pre-clearance nesting bird survey by an experienced ecologist. If nesting birds are found an exclusion zone should be maintained around any occupied nest and these areas should not be cleared until declared free of nesting birds by the ecologist.
- 4.4 Mitigation for the loss of breeding bird habitat should include the planting of native species of local provenance and the provision of alternative nesting opportunities in the form of nest boxes.
- 4.5 The existing stone farm building situated outside of the north-western boundary of the site provides suitable habitat for roosting bats. It is not thought the building is to be affected by the proposed development. However if this is not the case an initial bat inspection survey of the building will be required, along with possible emergence survey (s), depending on the findings of the initial inspection. Activity surveys can be carried out between May and September inclusive.
- 4.6 Although no impacts are anticipated with regards to water vole and the field drain situated approximately 50m to the west of the site, it is recommended that measures are put in place to ensure that the watercourse is protected from any pollution or siltation during the works. This should be in accordance with the Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG5)

5. Legal Status

Birds

- 5.1 All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and it is thus an offence, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built;
 - Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
 - Use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds;
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.
-
- the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young; or
 - the local distribution or abundance of that species

Bats

- 5.2 All bats in the UK are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981, as amended), updated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). It is therefore subject to provision 9 of the WCA which makes it an offence to;

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bat,
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by any wild bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

- 5.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 make provision implementing Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (the Habitats Directive). These give additional protection to bats. Under Regulation 39 a person commits an offence if he;

- Deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species.
- Deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect;
 - the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young;Or
 - in the case of a hibernating or migratory species; to hibernate or migrate
- Deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal or;
- Damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal

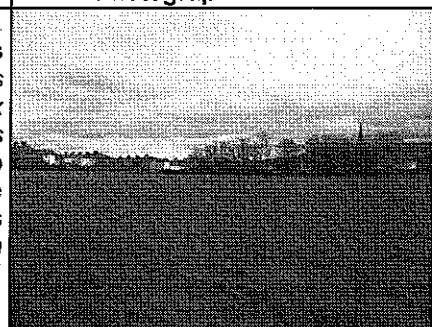
- 5.4 A bat roost has been interpreted to mean any structure or place which is used for shelter or protection whether or not bats are present at the time.

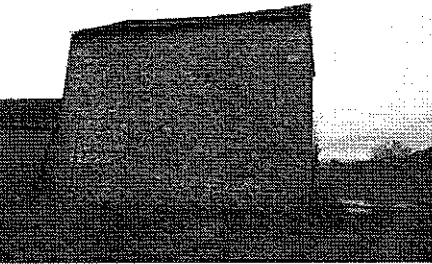
References

- English Nature (2001). *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. Natural England
IEA. 1995 *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment* Chapman and Hall.
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (1993). *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit*. JNCC.

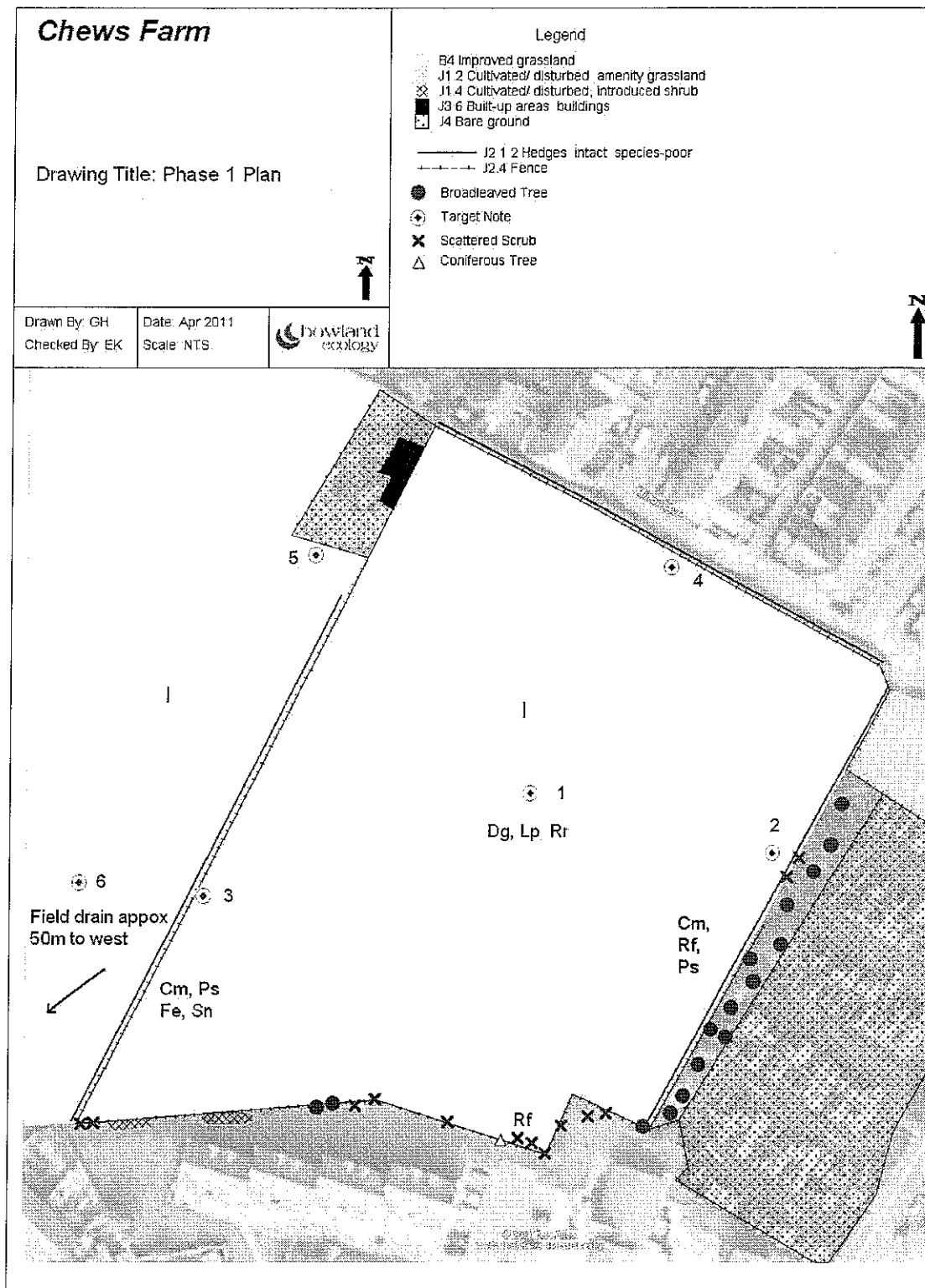
Appendix 1 - Extended Phase 1 Target Notes and Species List

Target Notes (TN) should be read in combination with and with reference to the extended Phase 1 habitat plans (Appendix 2)

TN	Description	Photograph
1	Improved pasture. Species poor. Species included; perennial rye grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), broad leaved dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), cow parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>), and creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>). Towards the boundary of the field additional species included bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and marsh marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>).	
2	Hedgerow with semi mature trees bordering the field. Species included; hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), bramble, blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>). Fenced in parts. Ground flora included; cocksfoot, cow parsley, marsh marigold, dogs mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>), cleavers, dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>), creeping buttercup, ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>), common nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) and lords and ladies (<i>Arum maculatum</i>).	
3	Hedgerow bordering the western field boundary, species composition comprising hawthorn, ash blackthorn and bramble. Ground flora includes broad leaved dock, marsh marigold, lords and ladies, common nettle, cleavers, cocks foot, ivy with patches of meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>).	
4	Multi-species hedgerow bordering the field at TN1 to the north of the site. Species present include; hawthorn, blackthorn, elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and bramble. The groundflora species includes; dog's mercury, common nettle, cleavers, localised patches of meadowsweet, ivy, marsh marigold and cow parsley.	

5	An old unused farm building, just outside of the western boundary of the site. The building is constructed of stone with a pitched slate roof with ridge tiles. A smaller brick building, with pebble dashing is attached to the main stone building. A corrugated metal roof is present, along with several open doorways and windows. Several gaps and crevices are present within the mortar and stone/brick work. Gaps and crevices are also present underneath the roof and ridge tiles of the stone section of the building. The building is considered to provide suitable habitat for roosting bats.	
6	A field drain is situated approximately 50m to the west of the proposed site boundary. The majority of the watercourse was observed to be dry at the time of survey and heavily vegetated with greater willow herb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>), false oat grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), rosebay willowherb (<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>) and creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>). A section of the drain, adjacent to an area of residential houses is shaded by a section of hedge and was observed to be of moderate flow and approximately 1m in width and 0.3m in depth. The watercourse is considered to be unsuitable for water vole, due to its small, shallow and in the main dry nature.	No photo available

Appendix 2 – Extended Phase 1 Plan



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26th September 2012

Ecology Survey Addendum

A multi-species hedgerow is situated along the eastern boundary of the proposed development site, adjacent to Milton Avenue. The hedgerow will be partially affected by the proposed works in order to allow access upon completion of the development. A targeted survey of the hedgerow was undertaken in September 2012 in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. An assessment using the criteria set out was made and as a result the hedgerow is not considered to be 'Important' in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Mitigation for hedgerow loss will be mitigated for as part of the landscape proposals. Habitat linkages will be retained across the site and will be supplemented with additional planting.

No protected species were noted to be occupying the hedgerow at the time of survey. However the hedgerow is considered to offer suitable nesting habitat for a range of bird species. All birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside (1981) as amended whilst they are actively nesting or roosting. In order to avoid impacts to nesting birds any hedgerow removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season (February to September).

