

Ecological Survey

Bridge Heywood Caravan Park

2012



Author	Giles Manners MIEEM CEnv	
Status	Date	Approved by:
Draft	5-7-12	IB
Final	28-7-12	IB
Revising		

MAB Environment & Ecology Ltd
The Old Chapel, Knayton, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 4AZ
Tel. 01845 537845
Email: giles@mab.uk.com
www.mab.uk.com
Registered in the U.K. no.6504129

Ecological Survey: Bridge Heywood Caravan Site.

Site:

Bridge Heywood Caravan Park,
Burnley,
BB12 7RR

Dates:

Surveyed on 31st May 2012

Client:

Mr Richard Hanson,
Bridge Heywood Caravan Park,
Burnley,
BB12 7RR

Client's Agents:

Mr David Sweeting,
GVA Hotels & Leisure
First Floor City Point,
29 King Street,
Leeds,
LS1 2HL

Local Planning Authority:

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Our ref:

12/055

Table of Contents

1. Summary	4
2. Introduction	5
3. Methodology.....	6
4. Constraints	7
5. Site Description	7
8. Results	9
8.1 Desktop study	9
8.2 Targeted Extended Phase 1 Survey	9
9. Impact assessment.....	12
10.Recommendations	13
11. Mitigation & Compensation.....	14
11.1 Mitigation summary.....	14
11.2 Method Statement.....	14

Appendix 1: development plans

Appendix 2: results of ecological data search

1. Summary

The impact of the proposed relocation of the caravan storage area to a grass field and the establishment of a new static caravan site and dwelling on the existing storage area will have minimal impact on the ecology of the area. There are no protected species or habitat within the affected area.

The River Calder is adjacent to the development site, and recommendations have been provided within the report to protect the riparian habitat from any impacts resulting from increased disturbance.

There is a flowing ditch and woodland edge habitat around the grass field, both of which have some wildlife value. Recommendations are given within this report to protect and enhance these habitats.

No further ecological surveying is required providing the recommendations within the report can be followed, and the trees and hedges currently present can be retained in full.

2. Introduction

MAB Ecology was commissioned in May 2012 to undertake an ecological impact assessment for a proposed development at Bridge Heywood Caravan park, comprising the relocation of a mobile caravan to a grass field and the redevelopment of the existing mobile caravan storage area to further static caravan pitches. The developer is also proposing the construction of a house in the grass field.

The area is shown and described in section 5.

The report's primary objective is to provide an impact assessment for the development on protected species bats, define any necessary mitigation proposals, and to assess the requirement for a Protected Species Licence.

Development proposals are to relocate the existing touring storage area to the enclosed field to the east. This new storage area will be of a similar size. The existing touring storage area will be developed with 15 new static holiday caravans with associated landscaping and planting.

3. Methodology

3.1 The site was surveyed and report written by Giles Manners CEnv MIEEM, of MAB Environment & Ecology Ltd. Mr Manners has been a professional ecologist since 2004, and is licensed by Natural England to work with bats. He is also a zoologist of over 20 years' experience, a full member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist, bat licence number 20120228.

3.2 A Targeted Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey was carried out of the areas of the site affected by the proposed development. All signs of protected species and their habitats were included in the survey.

3.3 A desktop study was carried out using aerial photographs, species records commissioned from the Lancashire Environment Record Network, statutory conservation data from MAGIC website, and species data from NBN Gateway.

4. Constraints

The survey was not constrained in any way.

5. Site Description

The surveyed area is shown in Figure 1, and comprised the existing mobile caravan storage area (to the west) and the proposed relocation site (to the east), with some amenity grassland in between. The rest of the site is mostly static caravan pitches, with a touring caravan area (area looking like fishbones on Figure 1).

There are no permanent buildings within the survey area other than an electricity substation which is not included in the development. There is a line of mature trees running down the site entrance road, and a small section of hedge.

The site is adjacent to the River Calder. There is a disused railway line directly north of the site boundary, beyond which is a large semi-natural woodland. To the east of the site is another large woodland with fishing ponds.

Ecological Survey: Bridge Heywood Caravan Site.



Figure 1 Survey area

8. Results

8.1 Desktop study

The results of the ecological data search are appended. There are no results of any significance to the survey (nothing with the survey site, and no protected or significant species records in the vicinity). There are no records of great crested newts other than a record from 1914! Filtering results for BAP species comes up with Wood Warbler. There are no Annex 4 species, and no WCA Schedule 1 birds.

The site contains no designated areas. There is a Biological Heritage Site (Local Designation) directly to the north of the site.

8.2 Targeted Extended Phase 1 Survey

The results are shown in Figure 2. Target notes are referred to below.

General description

The two main areas affected are hard standing and improved grassland, with no botanical interest. There is no potential bat roost habitat within the area, and no signs of usage by badgers. There is no potential habitat for barn owls.

1. There is a riparian woodland strip between the existing store and the River Calder. This is made up principally of young willows and hawthorn, and will be subject to flooding and erosion. The bank is mounded at the top, to separate it from the hard standing. This is not a species rich habitat floristically, but is likely to be useful nesting ground e.g. kingfishers, and possibly lying –up ground e.g. otters.
2. The riparian strip is more mature here, with alder and ash as opposed to young willow.

3. Flowing ditch with associated vegetation. See species list. Good species rich wetland vegetation showing some impacts of agricultural improvement in species range and composition.

Juncus effusus

Holcus mollis

Epilobium palustre

Filipendula ulmaria

Cardamine flexuosa

Valeriana officinalis

Veronica beccabunga

Silene dioica

Ranunculus repens

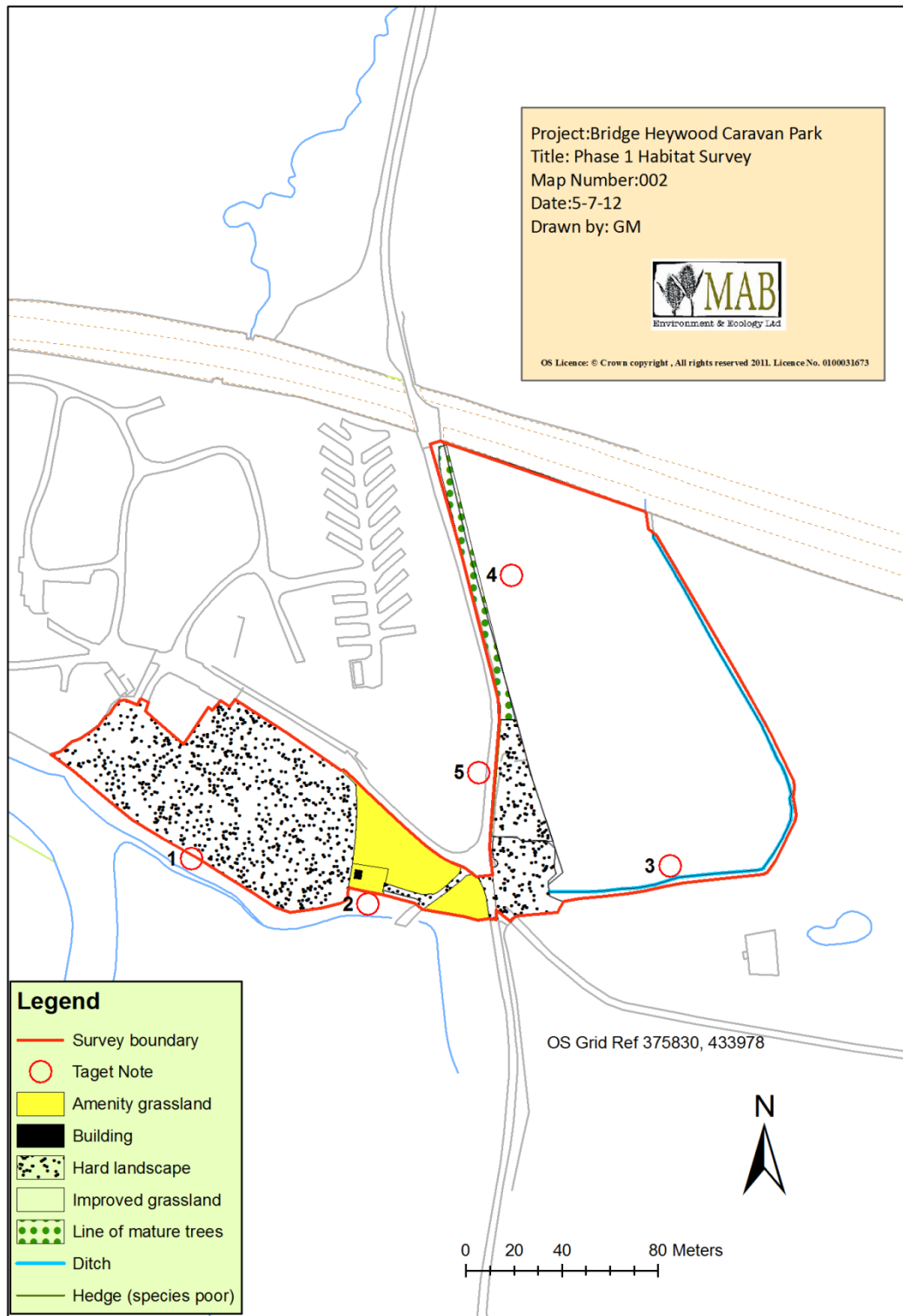
Galium aparine

Urtica dioica

4. Line of mature sessile oak, ash, and sycamore trees with occasional hawthorn bushes. One of the oak trees (the second from the southern end) has extensive rot and potential for bat roosting. To the north of the line there is a small area of bluebells under a large oak.

5. A small length of hawthorn hedge which is species-poor. Some bird-nesting value as quite thick.

Ecological Survey: Bridge Heywood Caravan Site.



9. Impact assessment

1. The establishment of the static site on the existing storage area is on an area of hard standing and so will have no direct environmental impact. The new static site may increase long-term disturbance to the adjacent riparian area, but the bulk of the riparian habitat is not in sight of the caravan site, and has in any case been subjected to disturbance from the storage area over recent years.

2. The establishment of a storage area and house in the grass field will have little ecological impact; the field is entirely improved grassland, and the only ecological value of the site is along the ditch. The woodland edge may be impacted upon by increased disturbance such as lighting, and there may be some loss of hunting habitat for owls along the woodland edge. The ditch itself is unlikely to be affected other than possibly by run-off. The three ponds in the woodland are separated from the grass field by a minimum of 33m of optimal newt habitat, so even if newts were present, they would be very unlikely to enter the poor habitat provided by the improved grass field. The field itself has been cut for silage for many years and is regularly fertilised, so does not provide good newt habitat. The ponds are all connected by undisturbed woodland habitat, and movement between ponds or other nearby water-bodies does not require any passage across the grass field. Therefore we have considered it unnecessary to carry out a great crested newt survey of the woodland ponds.

To reduce any possible impact to amphibians it is recommended that some reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) are undertaken. Up to 6 weeks before work starts the improved grassland field should be mown and kept as short as possible until the development starts.

3. The trees and hedge are not to be affected directly by the development. Impact on bats highly unlikely.

4. There are no signs that badgers cross the grass field and the surveyed area is not suitable for setts, so no impact on badgers will result.

10.Recommendations

1. Buffer the riparian woodland strip from the proposed static pitches by fencing out a 3m wide strip from the top of the bank into the existing storage area, and allowing to regenerate. The existing bank could be re-profiled to improve the visual impact the strip.
2. Buffer the woodland edge and ditch from the proposed storage area by fencing off a 6m strip around the edge and leaving to regenerate naturally. This will create owl hunting area. The strip should be mown occasionally (approx. every 1 to 3 years) to prevent scrubbing over, but should be allowed to grow tussocky grasses. Ensure run-off from hard standing does not enter the ditch directly.
3. The one tree identified as having potential for bat roosting should be subjected to a bat emergence survey or visual examination by a bat surveyor if the tree will be affected by development (felling or surgery).

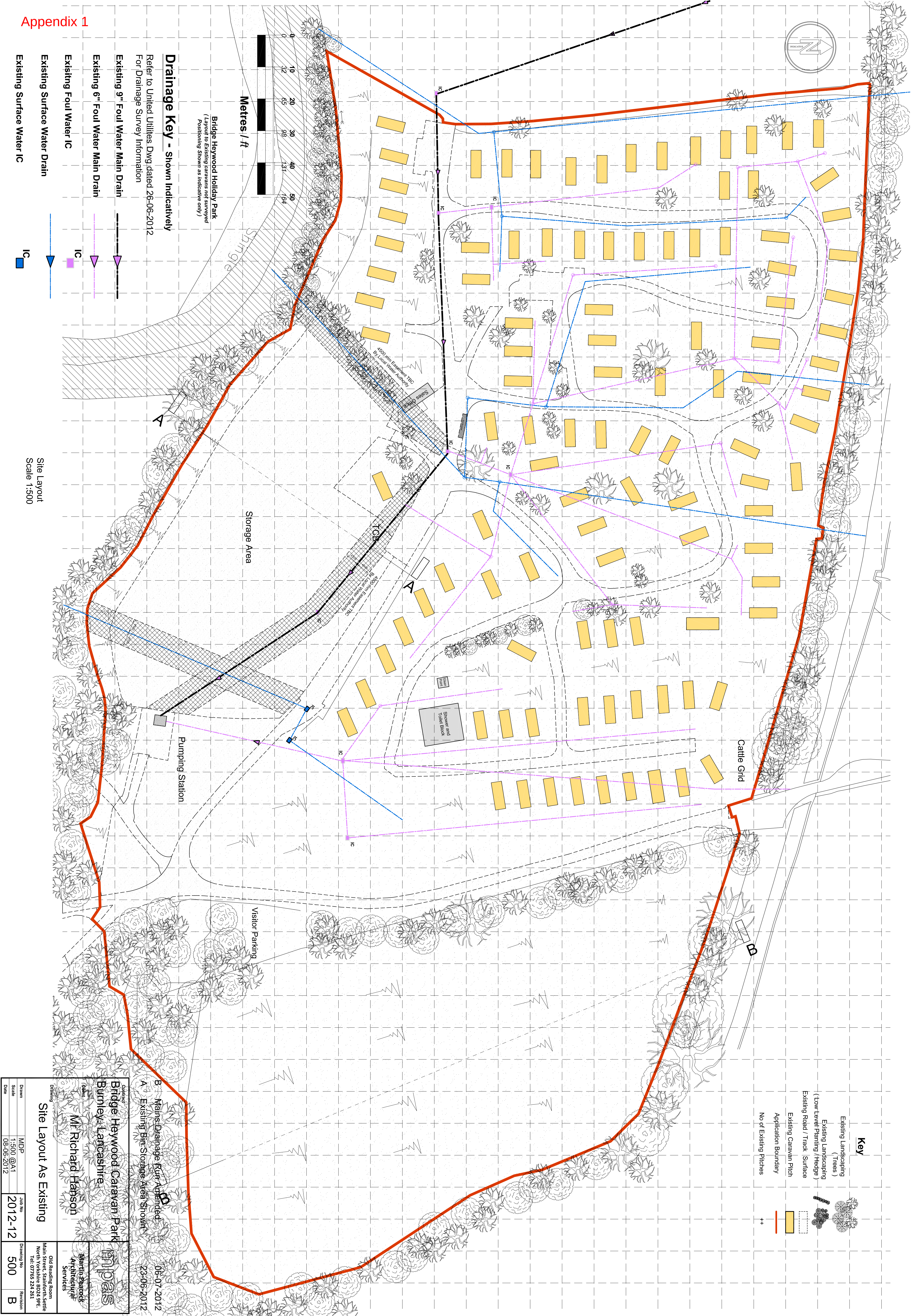
11. Mitigation & Compensation

11.1 Mitigation summary

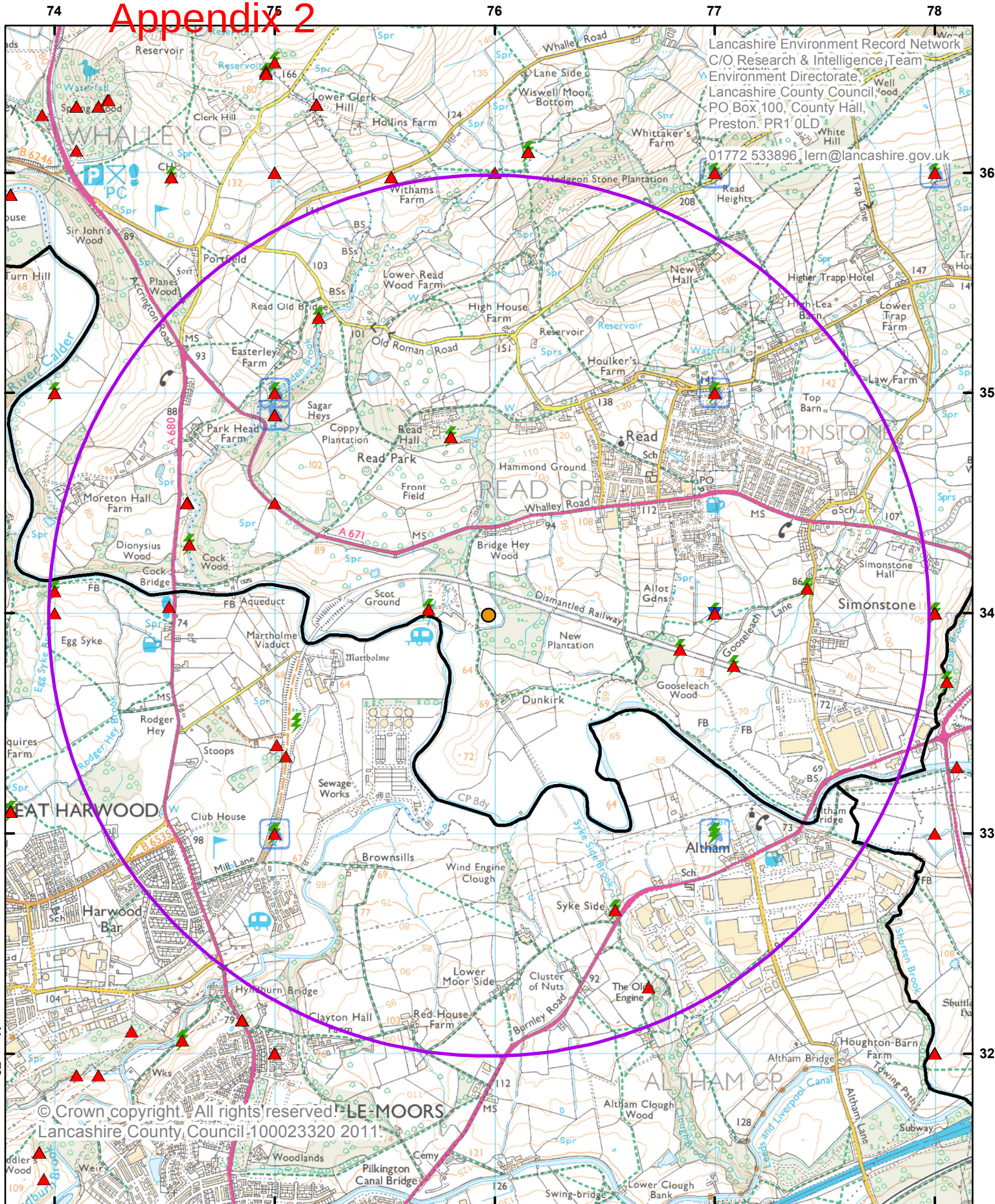
On account of minimal ecological impact, there is no requirement for mitigation beyond the recommendations made in section 10.

11.2 Method Statement

1. Any trees to be felled should be surveyed for bat roosts.
2. The riparian woodland will be fenced from the static caravan leaving a 3m buffer zone from the top of the bank.
3. The improved grassland field should be mown as short as possible six weeks before development and kept short up to the start of the development.
3. The woodland edge and ditch will be buffered from the storage and proposed house site by fencing out a 6m grass buffer strip which may be mown annually to prevent scrub establishing.



Appendix 2



Lancashire Environment Record Network
C/O Research & Intelligence Team
Environment Directorate
Lancashire County Council
PO Box 100, County Hall,
Preston, PR1 0LD
01772 533896, lern@lancashire.gov.uk

-  Bridge Heywood 2km Buffer
-  Bridge Heywood
-  Lancs BAP Species Records
-  Lancs BAP Moth Records
-  NERC_Section_41_-_R6_Dec_2011
-  Breeding_Birds_R6_April_2012



1:22,250 Date: 29/05/2012

LeRN

Appendix 2

Taxon group	Taxon Status	Short Name	Taxon Latin Name	Taxon Common Name	Sample Year	Sample Location Name	Sample Location	Sample Spatial Reference	Obs Abundances (LC)
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2005.00	South Lancashire, Heys Lane and adjoining woodland	South Lancashire	SD7432	
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Corvus frugilegus	Rook	1999.00			SD73S	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1999.00			SD73T	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch4		Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	1999.00			SD73T	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	1998.00			SD73M	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1998.00			SD73N	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	1998.00			SD73R	1 Count of proved breeding
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00			SD748333	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00			SD7536	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00	Read Hall woods		SD758348	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00			SD7634	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00	White Hill area		SD7736	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1995.00	Near Sabden Brook, Read		SD761360	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2005.00	Heys Lane and adjoining woodland	Hyndburn District	SD7432	1 Count
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch8_part2		Primula vulgaris	Primrose	1994.00		Brocklehurst Wood	SD753355	R DAFOR of present
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2004.00	South Lancashire, Martholme Railway	South Lancashire	SD747334	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2008.00		Ribble Valley (vc 59)	SD7734	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	1988.00	Target note 5539	Ribble Valley (vc 59)	SD7451834146	P DAFOR of -
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	2012.00	Read	Ribble Valley (vc 59)	SD7534	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch8_part2		Primula vulgaris	Primrose	1997.00	South Lancashire, South Lancashire	South Lancashire	SD73M	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2004.00	South Lancashire, lane by south side of river bank	South Lancashire	SD7733	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2007.00	61 - Duxbury Wood	Hyndburn District	SD7446932255	O DAFOR of -
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2011.00	St James Church graveyard/ side of River Calder		SD7721733053	
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1998.00			SD73L	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch4		Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	1998.00			SD73N	1 Count of proved breeding
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1992.00		Copy Wood BHS73SW08	SD749333	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2004.00	spur of site, to the west of the pumping station	Martholme Railway	SD747334	1 Count
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch8_part2		Primula vulgaris	Primrose	2005.00	Cock Wood	Cock Wood and Wheatcroft Wood	SD7434	1 Count
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2010.00	Norden bridge eastwards - north of Norden Brook	Norden Valley	SD74413210	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2010.00	Norden bridge eastwards - north of Norden Brook	Norden Valley	SD74343206	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2008.00	Simonstone	Ribble Valley (vc 59)	SD7734	1 Count
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2005.00	South Lancashire, Hyndburn Brook	South Lancashire	SD746322	
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	1999.00			SD73S	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Corvus frugilegus	Rook	1999.00			SD73T	1 Count of proved breeding
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2005.00		Hyndburn Brook	SD746322	1 Count
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch8_part2		Primula vulgaris	Primrose	1997.00	South Lancashire, South Lancashire	South Lancashire	SD73N	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Mustela vison	American Mink	2008.00	Simonstone Railway - wooded section just east of bridge	Ribble Valley (vc 59)	SD77933353	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00			SD7435	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00	Spring Wood		SD745358	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	1996.00	Sabden Brook		SD746342	
terrestrial mammal	W(NI)O-Sch9_part1		Sciurus carolinensis	Grey Squirrel	2012.00	Read	Ribble Valley (vc 59)	SD7535	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch8_part2		Primula vulgaris	Primrose	1996.00	south end of wood	Banks Wood	SD74753472	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	2005.00	along River Hyndburn	Brownsills Wood	SD7532	1 Count
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	1995.00	South Lancashire, Harwood Bar	South Lancashire	SD73L	
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch8_part2		Primula vulgaris	Primrose	2004.00	South Lancashire, Portfield	South Lancashire	SD7435	
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1998.00			SD73R	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Corvus frugilegus	Rook	1998.00			SD73M	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	1998.00			SD73N	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch4		Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	1998.00			SD73M	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	1999.00			SD73T	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	1998.00			SD73L	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch4		Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	1998.00			SD73L	1 Count of proved breeding
flowering plant	W(NI)O-Sch9_part2		Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	1995.00	South Lancashire, Read	South Lancashire	SD73S	
bird	W(NI)O-Sch2_part2		Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	1999.00			SD73S	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch1_part1		Buteo buteo	Buzzard	1999.00			SD73S	1 Count of possible breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch4		Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	1999.00			SD73S	1 Count of proved breeding
bird	W(NI)O-Sch4		Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	1998.00			SD73R	1 Count of proved breeding