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Preliminary Ecological Assessment

**Twitter Barn,
Twitter Lane,
Waddington
Clitheroe BB7 3LG**

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**Report prepared by:
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Summary

In June 2018 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment of land at Twitter Barn, Twitter Lane, Waddington, Clitheroe BB7 3LG to assess the potential for impact on protected species.

A daytime survey was carried out on 29th June 2018 in order to support plans the residential development of the barn.

Habitats surrounding the barn are predominately improved grassland for grazing and are of low conservation value.

No evidence was recorded to suggest use of the site by protected species.

No evidence of badger was recorded within 100m of the site.

Management of areas of himalayan balsam is recommended with plants being pulled or hand cut prior to flowering.

Where unavoidable the use of artificial lighting is to be limited to the essential minimum, and any lighting to be used should avoid upward pointing lights, with the spread of light being directed to ensure the stream and field beyond are kept dark.

Lighting with a low UV component should be used to reduce invertebrate attraction, and directional lighting/shielding of lights is to be used throughout to avoid excessive light spill.

The surveyor does not consider the proposed development and change of use is likely to result in a breach of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) therefore the proposed development does not require an EPS Licence (EPSL) to proceed lawfully.

Introduction

In June 2018 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment of land at Twitter Barn, Twitter Lane, Waddington, Clitheroe BB7 3LG to assess the potential for impact on protected species.

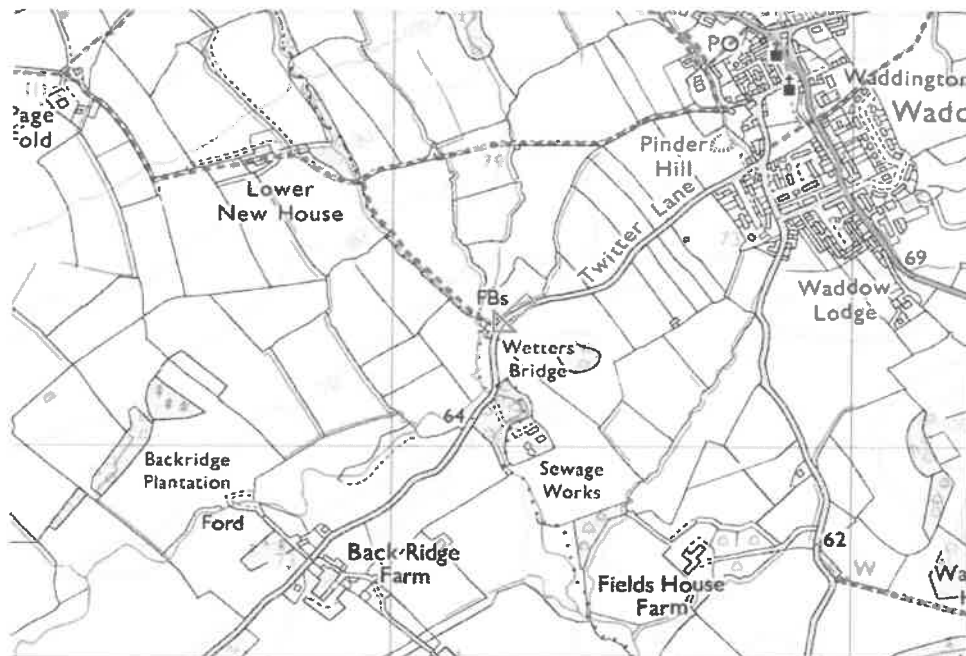
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Survey and Site Assessment

Objectives of the survey

The survey was carried out to determine current usage by protected species of the site and to establish status of those species using the site prior to development work being carried out.

Survey site location



A central grid reference for the site is SD7221643262

Site/Habitat description

The land surrounding the barn is predominately species poor semi improved and improved grassland used for sheep grazing.

A tributary of bashall brook runs directly behind the barn, but at the time of the survey was running dry. Little aquatic vegetation was present possibly due to a combination of trampling and grazing pressure.

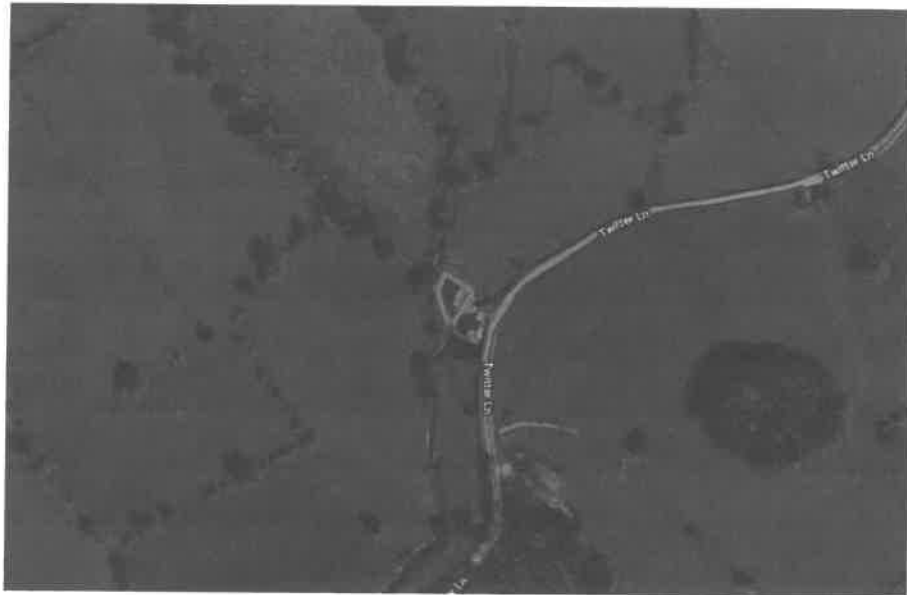
Invasive plant species in the form of himalayan balsam are present along the banks of the stream.



Remnant hegerow/treelines along the stream offer connectivity to the wider landscape.

The land can be considered to be of low conservation value.

Surrounding habitat.



The land is located in a rural area with habitat dominated by improved and semi improved grassland, some tree and scrub cover is present along streamways and bashall brook.

Pre Existing data on local species

A search of the MAGIC website revealed no EPS licence applications within a 1km radius. The East Lancashire Bat Group database held no roost records within 1km of the site.

From personal experience of surveying for and researching bats in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria, and Calderdale in particular, the following species were considered.

Common Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Soprano Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Whiskered/Brandt's – species often found roosting in buildings close to woodland.

Natterer's – a typical upland bat with foraging bats being recorded high on heather moorland. Often roosting in barns.

Daubenton's – a species commonly associated with aquatic habitats.

Long Eared bat – a woodland species which has been recorded foraging over in bye meadows and rough grassland sites. Often roosting in barns.

Field Survey Methodology

Field survey

A survey of the surrounding habitat was carried out to assess potential for other protected species – white clawed crayfish, water voles, badgers and great crested newts. This included a search for field signs, and assessment of pond habitat where applicable.

Bat Survey

Bat survey results are included in a separate method statement.

Personnel

All surveys were conducted by Dave Anderson MSc, Natural England Science, Education and Conservation bat licence holder (2015-15784-CLS-CLS) a bat surveyor and ecologist with 20 years experience.

Survey Summary

Survey	Date	Timings
Visual	29 th June 2018	2 Hours

Results

Bat Survey

Commuting and foraging activity along the stream was recorded during the survey period with myotis sp and common pipistrelle observed flying along the linear feature. Timing of recordings suggests bats emerging from nearby roosts and using the site to forage throughout the night.

Water Vole

No evidence to suggest use by water vole was recorded during the survey.

White Clawed Crayfish

A survey of the stream 100 metres in either direction found no evidence of use by white clawed crayfish.

Great Crested Newt

No water bodies suitable for use by great crested newt were recorded during the survey.

Badgers

No evidence of presence of badgers or foraging by badgers was recorded within 100m of the site.

Conclusion

Habitats surrounding the barn are predominately improved grassland for grazing and are of low conservation value.

No evidence was recorded to suggest use of the site by protected species.

No evidence of badger was recorded within 100m of the site.

Management of areas of himalayan balsam is recommended with plants being pulled or hand cut prior to flowering.

Where unavoidable the use of artificial lighting is to be limited to the essential minimum, and any lighting to be used should avoid upward pointing lights, with the spread of light being directed to ensure the stream and field beyond are kept dark.

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