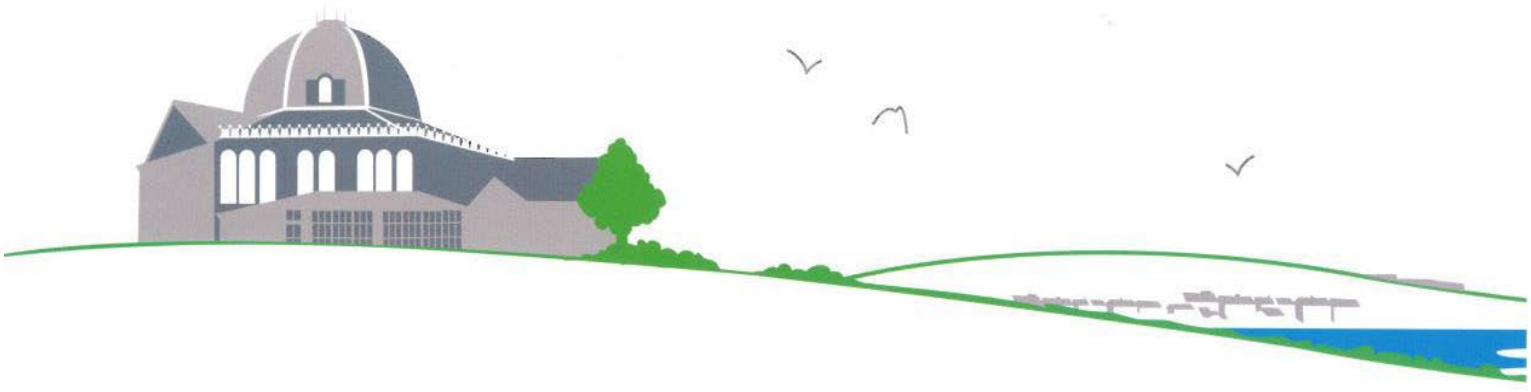
Penny Anderson Associates Ltd
CONSULTANT ECOLOGISTS

DEVONSHIRE PROPERTY GROUP

LAND OFF PARKERS LANE, DORE

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



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PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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This project has been undertaken in accordance with PAA policies and procedures on quality assurance.

Signed:[redacted]

Penny Anderson Associates Ltd
CONSULTANT ECOLOGISTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 Penny Anderson Associates Ltd (PAA) was commissioned in May 2025 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land off Parkers Lane, Dore, S17 3DX (hereafter referred to as the 'Site'). The central location of the Site is at National Grid Reference SK304819.

1.2 The aim of the survey was to provide an updated PEA, the previous assessment being undertaken in 2020 (BL-Ecology 2020). The assessment includes a desk study, habitat survey and assessment for the potential of the Site to support protected or notable species, following published guidance (CIEEM[1] 2017).

1.3 The primary purpose of this PEA report is to provide an overview understanding of the ecological constraints and opportunities across the Site, given the proposed housing site allocation on part of the Site.

The Site

1.4 The Site is a collection of grazed pastures on the edge of the settlement of Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. There are scattered scrub and trees across the Site, with an area of more densely developed scrub and rough grassland that appears ungrazed within the north-eastern parcel. In this eastern section there are also two small watercourses which join and enter Limb Brook, a tributary of the River Sheaf.

1.5 To the south, the Site is bounded by Parkers Lane along with the back gardens of residential properties off Causeway Head Road. To the east, the Site is bounded by Cross Lane. Other adjacent land is predominantly grazed pastures, and a patchwork of small fields with scattered trees and wooded areas is present within the wider area.

1.6 The Site is on the northern edge of Dore, to the south-west of Sheffield, within the county of South Yorkshire.

1.7 The Site is 5.28 ha in size. Part of the Site (2.6 ha), to the west, is a proposed additional site allocation for housing in the emerging Sheffield Local Plan. The remaining part of the Site, to the east, forms part of a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Legislation Summary

1.8 A range of international and national legislation has been established in the UK to protect important nature conservation sites and priority species. At the international level, European Union (EU) Directives require individual member states to implement their conservation provisions nationally for the benefit of Europe as a whole. These Directives have been transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended).

1.9 Other international conventions include: the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979), which requires the maintenance of populations of wild flora and fauna, giving particular protection to endangered and vulnerable species; and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979), which requires the protection of migratory species throughout their entire range. The above conventions are

[1] *The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management*

implemented in England and Wales via the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA), 1981 (as amended) and Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. This legislation also protects important habitats and sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

1.10 At the national level, Biodiversity 2020 (Defra 2011) forms England's national biodiversity strategy. Building on the Natural Environment White Paper[2] published in 2011, this provides a means of delivering the UK's commitments to maintaining and protecting biodiversity. Under Biodiversity 2020, the Priority Species and Habitats referred to are those of 'Principal Importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England as listed on Section 41 (England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (amended).

1.11 More recently, the Environment Act 2021 further supports this commitment to, and strengthens the legislation in respect of, maintaining and also enhancing biodiversity in England, and Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity includes the following key areas:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty for public authorities in England;
- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity;
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network;
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling;
- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures; and
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature.

1.12 Finally, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024) provides guidance for local authorities on the content of the Local Plans and is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Briefly, with an overall focus on sustainable development, the NPPF states that developments should aim to engender positive outcomes for habitats and biodiversity, with a particular focus on the maintenance and creation of ecological networks.

1.13 The NPPF identifies the following principals that should be applied by local planning authorities when determining planning applications:

a. if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

b. development on land within or outside a SSSI, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSI;

c. development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d. development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature

be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

1.14 The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment through a range of actions, including:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- Maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swift (*Apus apus*), bats and hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*);
- Preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

1.15 To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

1.16 Relevant protected species legislation summaries are presented in Appendix 1.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Site survey area (5.28ha) is shown on Figure 1, which covers the landownership of Devonshire Property Group. Part of this area (2.6ha) is proposed to be included as a housing allocation Site within the Local Plan (Reference SWS19, information provided in Appendix 2).

Desk Study

2.2 A request for details of protected and notable species and locally designated sites within 2km of the centre of the Site was made to the Sheffield Ecological Data Centre, with data returned in August 2025. Additionally, the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC[3]) website was consulted for details of statutory designated sites and Priority Habitats within a 1km search area from the centre of the Site.

2.3 It is important to note that the desk study results provide an indication of the species present in and around the Site, and do not confirm current presence or absence of any species. Protected species are often under-recorded in county wildlife databases.

Site Survey

2.4 The survey took place on 30th July 2025 and was completed by Senior Ecologist Victoria Burton (ACIEEM[4]). The weather was fine, dry and clear at the time of the survey.

2.5 A UKHab survey of the Site was undertaken using mobile Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software loaded onto GPS[5]-enabled rugged tablet field computers with reference to recent colour aerial photography and Ordnance Survey (OS) Mastermap vector basemapping. UKHab features were recorded on Site with Target Notes and photographs collected simultaneously.

2.6 Habitats were mapped in accordance with the UKHab methodology, as described in the UKHab 2.0 User Guide (UKHab Ltd 2023). Target Note (TN) points were created for notable features below the Minimum Mappable Unit (MMU) size (approximately 5m x 5m or 25m^2) or to describe other features of ecological interest.

2.7 QGIS QField field mapping software was used, which allows quick and simple data upload and integration with GIS systems including the Earth Systems Resource Institute (ESRI) ArcGIS platform. All data were surveyed and collected to the OS British National Grid Coordinate System.

2.8 UKHab has been designed as a hierarchical system with five nested 'Levels' of primary habitat types. In addition to these primary habitat types, there is a list of essential and additional secondary codes that can be linked to each primary habitat, which provide additional information such as the presence of Non-native Invasive Plant Species (NnIPS), scrub presence (when not dominant), etc. The UKHab 2.0 User Guide was used to select appropriate descriptive secondary codes.

[3] *https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx (last accessed 21/08/25)*

[4] *Associate member of CIEEM*

[5] *Global Positioning System*

2.9 Habitat descriptions also included a list of the main plant species in each key vegetation type with an associated DAFOR[6] abundance ratings, along with illustrative photographs and TN.

2.10 At the same time the habitats and features on Site were assessed for their potential to support protected or notable species.

Limitations

2.11 The survey was undertaken at a suitable time of year and under good weather conditions. The extended dry period of spring/summer period will likely have reduced flow in the watercourses on Site, however, a suitable assessment was still possible for the purposes of a PEA.

2.12 One area of the Site, the scrub in the north-east section of the survey area, was very dense and unable to be accessed thoroughly for assessment. This limited the scope of data collection in this area, including for protected species such as badger (*Meles meles*). This is discussed in the Results and Summary and Recommendations sections of the report.

[6] *Where D=Dominant, A=Abundant, F= Frequent, O=Occasional and R=Rare*

3. RESULTS

Desk Study

Statutory Protected Sites

National Network of Protected Sites

3.1 The national network of protected sites includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Ramsar Internationally important wetland sites, all formerly part of the European Natura 2000 Network. The following sites were identified:

- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA is located 1.4km west of the Site boundary; and
- South Pennine Moors SAC is located 1.4km west of the Site boundary.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

3.2 SSSI represent a selection of this country's best wildlife and geological sites and cover approximately 7% of the terrestrial area of the country (with over 4,000 separate sites in England). The following SSSI were identified:

- Totley Wood SSSI is located 2km east of the Site boundary; and
- Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI is located 1.3 km south-west of the Site boundary. This is approx. contiguous with the SAC/SPA designations noted above.

National and Local Nature Reserves

3.3 No National Nature Reserves (NNR) were identified within the search area.

3.4 Ecclesall Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located 700m east of the Site boundary and is a large area of ancient woodland.

Priority Habitats and Ancient Woodland

3.5 One record of 'Priority Habitat – Upland Flushes Fens and Swamps' is present and lies 1.5km west of the Site boundary.

3.6 One record of 'Priority Habitat – Upland Heath' is present and lies 1.4km west of the Site boundary.

3.7 Eleven records of 'Priority Habitat – No Main Habitat but Additional Habitats Exist' are present within the 2km search radius. The closest record lies 400m east of the Site boundary, which is associated with a public park/picnic area within Ecclesall Wood LWS, described in the section below.

3.8 One record of 'Priority Habitat – Ancient Replanted Woodland' is present and lies 730m south of the Site boundary and is part of Ecclesall Woods LNR.

3.9 Four records of 'Priority Habitat – Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland' are present within the 2km search radius. The closest of these records lies 700m east of the Site boundary and is part of Ecclesall Woods LNR.

Non-statutory Sites

Local Wildlife Sites

3.10 A number of LWS locations within 2km of the Site were provided by the local records centre. The largest of these being:

- Ecclesall Wood LWS (Site 165) - located partially within the Site as shown on Figure 1;
- Limb Valley LWS (Site 154) - located 1km to the north-west of the Site boundary;
- Oldhay Brook LWS (Site 151) - located 800m west of the Site boundary;
- Dore Moor LWS (Site 23) - located 1km north-west of the Site boundary; and
- Ladies' Spring Wood LWS - located 2km south-east of the Site boundary (associated with Totley Wood SSSI).

Protected and Notable Species

3.11 A large number of species records were returned from the local biological records centre, therefore, records within the 2005 to 2025 time period were used to inform the desk review.

Granted European Protected Species Licence Application

3.12 No granted European Protected Species (EPS) licences were returned from the 2km data search on the MAGIC website.

Pond search

3.13 Six ponds were found within 500m of the Site boundary following a review of the OS mapping datasets available online (Figure 2). Five of these ponds are separated from the Site by roads, which restrict dispersing amphibians.

Badger

3.14 A total of 34 more recent records of badger were recorded within the 2km search area. These were recorded between 2005 and 2023 and have not been provided in detail within this report due to the confidential nature of these data. The closest record was recorded within 500m of the Site boundary in 2012.

Otter

3.15 No records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) were recorded within the 2km search area (either pre-2005 or more recently).

Water Vole

3.16 A single recent record of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) was recorded within the 2km search area, located approx. 1.5km to the south-west of the Site and dated 2013 (other records pre-dated 2005).

Bats

3.17 A total of 63 recent records of named species of bats were recorded within the 2km search area (Table 1), with the closest record being of a common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus)* in 2009. A further ten records of unidentified 'bat' records were also recorded within the time period reviewed. A range of bat species are noted in the local area.

Hedgehog

3.18 A total of 41 hedgehog records were recorded within the 2km search area, with the closest record located approximately 135m south of the Site and dated 2016.

Table 1 Named Bat Species Records

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of Records	Closest Record (approximate distance and direction from Site boundary)
Brown long-eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*	4	1.10km SW
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	29	315m NE
Myotis species	*Myotis* sp.	9	1.3km S
Daubenton's bat	*Myotis daubentonii*	1	970m NE
Noctule	*Nyctalus noctula*	1	950m NE
Pipistrelle species	*Pipistrelle* sp.	9	950m NE
Soprano pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	5	800m NE
Whiskered/Brandt's bat	*Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*	5	800m NE

Birds

3.19 All nesting birds, their nests and eggs are protected from harm under the WCA, 1981 (as amended). In addition, species listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA are further protected against disturbance when breeding.

3.20 A number of bird species are listed under Section 41 in the NERC Act (2006, amended) as species '*of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity*'. These species are often known as the 'S41 species'. There is a legal requirement for a public body to 'have regard to' these species in relation to maintaining biodiversity. The S41 list overlaps somewhat with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan species, with national or local targets to maintain and enhance populations.

3.21 Furthermore, the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) report lists those bird species that are classed as being of High (Red listed) and Medium (Amber Listed) conservation concern based on population monitoring (Stanbury *et al*. 2021). This Red and Amber classification helps guide the assessment of bird species of conservation interest on or near to a site, alongside legislative and policy requirements.

3.22 Protected and notable bird species records within the 2km search area are listed in Table 2 along with their conservation status. 18 species are noted as Red list species of High Conservation Concern and the majority of these are also listed a Priority Species. No recent records of Schedule 1 species were returned from the desk review.

Table 2 Bird Species of Principal Importance

Common Name	Scientific Name	Amber[7] Listed	Red Listed	Section 41 Priority Species[8]
Blackheaded gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	✓		
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	✓		✓
Common cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*		✓	
Curlew	*Numenius arquata*		✓	✓
Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	✓		
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	✓		✓
Grasshopper warbler	*Locustella naevia*		✓	✓
Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*		✓	
Grey wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*		✓	
House martin	*Delichon urbicum*		✓	
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*		✓	✓
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	✓		
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*		✓	✓
Lesser black-backed gull	*Larus fuscus*	✓		
Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	✓		
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	✓		
Mistle thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*		✓	
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	✓		
Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	✓		✓
Pied flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca*	✓		
Pink-footed goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*	✓		
Red grouse	*Lagopus lagopus scotica*			✓
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	✓		
Reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	✓		✓
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*		✓	✓
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	✓		✓

[7] *The UK's birds can be split in to three categories of conservation importance - red, amber and green. Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action. Amber is the next most critical group, followed by green.*

[8] *Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Amber[7] Listed	Red Listed	Section 41 Priority Species[8]
Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	✓		
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*		✓	✓
Swift	*Apus apus*		✓	
Tawny owl	*Strix aluco*	✓		
Teal	*Anas crecca*	✓		
Tree pipit	*Anthus trivialis*		✓	
Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	✓		
Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*		✓	
Whitethroat	*Sylvia communis*	✓		
Willow tit	*Poecile montanus*		✓	✓
Willow warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	✓		
Wood warbler	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*		✓	✓
Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*		✓	
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*		✓	✓

Amphibians

3.23 A total of 23 records of common frog (*Rana temporaria*) were recorded within the 2km search area. These were recorded between 2011 and 2023. The closest record was recorded 315m north-east of the Site boundary in 2012.

3.24 A total of 14 records of common toad (*Bufo bufo*) were recorded within the 2km search area. These were recorded between 2005 and 2022. The closest record was recorded 700m north-east of the Site boundary in 2021.

3.25 A total of 13 records of palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) were recorded within the 2km search area. These were recorded between 2012 and 2024. The closest record was recorded 300m north-east of the Site boundary in 2012.

3.26 Six records of smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) were recorded within the 2km search area. These were recorded between 2013 and 2024. The closest record was recorded 1.05km of the Site boundary in 2017.

3.27 One unidentified newt species was recorded within the 2km search area. This was recorded in 2013 and was 1.75km north-east of the Site boundary.

Reptiles

3.28 Both common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) records were received from the desk review dataset. The nearest record for common lizard was approx. 1km north-west of the Site and dated from 1983 (this also being the most recent record for this species). The nearest record for grass snake was approx. 800m east of the Site and dated from 2025 (associated with a collection of ponds that appear to be recently created).

Notable Plant Species

3.29 The following notable plant species records we returned from the desk study (Table 3). This included records of two NNIPS, Japanese knotweed[9] (*Reynoutria japonica*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), and two protected/notable plant species.

Table 3 Protected and Notable Plant Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of records	Distance, date and direction of closest record
Japanese Knotweed	*Reynoutria japonica*	2	1.80km SE in 2013
Himalayan Balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*	9	660m NE in 2024
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	37	148m W in 2020
Pennyroyal	*Mentha pulegium*	1	2km E in 2016

Invertebrates

3.30 Nine records of notable invertebrates were returned from the 2km data search and described further in Table 4, including several species listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (NERC S41). The closest record was of a cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaea*), dated 2019.

Table 4 Notable Invertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	UK BAP (England) 2007	NERC S41
Small emerald moth	*Hemistola chrysoprasaria*	✓	✓
Grass rivulet	*Perizoma albulata*	✓	
White ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*	✓	✓
White letter hairstreak	*Satyrium w-album*	✓	✓
Cinnabar moth	*Tyria jacobaeae*	✓	✓

Crayfish

3.31 Twelve records of native white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) were found. The closest occurred 400m north-west of the Site boundary and is dated 2021.

3.32 Twenty-one records of the non-native invasive species, signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) were found. The closest occurred 620m south-west of the Site boundary and is dated 2012.

Habitat Survey

3.33 The UKHab habitats recorded within the Site are presented in Figure 1. Each habitat is described in more detail below and a botanical species list for each of the habitats is presented in Appendix 3, which details both common and scientific names as per Stace (2019); only common names are referred to in the text. A selection of photographs illustrating the Site are presented in Appendix 4.

[9] *Botanical species names follow Stace (2019).*

Habitats

Lowland Meadows – g3a (101, 16, 200)

3.34 The majority of the south-eastern field was lowland meadow grassland and was the most diverse grassland habitat of the survey area. It was grazed, although not as intensely as the western fields. Perennial rye-grass was also much less frequent within the sward than the modified grassland areas and there was greater variety and abundance of other grass species such as tufted hair-grass, red fescue and common bent. Herbs were also much more diverse and included common knapweed, bird's-foot-trefoil, sneezewort and (more rarely) meadow vetchling, eyebright and harebell. Several patches of soft-rush were present. Individual tree species occurred in places and included ash and pedunculate oak.

3.35 The previous UKHab survey recorded this area as modified grassland, but the current survey found a more species-rich assemblage present, although the thresholds for this habitat classification are only just met.

Other Neutral Grassland – g3c (128, 200)

3.36 Relatively small pockets of other neutral grassland were present within the north-western quarter of the survey area. The sward was relatively tall and tussocky with minimal grazing. The sward was dominated by grasses, in particular common bent and Yorkshire-fog. Herbs occurred mostly at low cover and were less diverse than the lowland meadow field to the south. They included common knapweed, bird's-foot-trefoil and creeping buttercup. Individual tree species also occurred in places and included pedunculate oak and rowan.

3.37 This grassland had reduced in area under natural succession to scrub since the previous UKHab survey.

Arrhenatherum Neutral Grassland – g3c5 (16, 10, 200, 521)

3.38 Towards the boundaries of the surveyed area, between a fence and drystone wall, was an unmanaged narrow strip of neutral grassland with false oat grass the most abundantly occurring grass species. Tall forbs (including common nettle, creeping thistle and hoary willowherb), bramble scrub and individual trees[10] (comprising pedunculate oak, ash and sycamore) were present within most areas of this grassland. Along the southern boundary of the south-eastern field, individual trees rooted outside of the drystone wall (but within a grass verge bordering Parker's Lane) were considered to be outside of the Site boundary and, therefore, were not plotted.

3.39 Small amounts of the invasive non-native species Himalayan balsam (listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) occurred in a couple of places within this grassland (TN1 and TN2 on Figure 1).

3.40 The previous UKHab survey classified some of this area modified grassland, but this survey found false oat-grass as the most abundantly occurring grass species.

Lolium-Cynosurus Neutral Grassland – g3c6 (101, 16, 200)

3.41 Small patches of *Lolium-Cynosurus* neutral grassland were present within the south-eastern field of the survey area. There was a similar species composition to the rest of the field (lowland meadow) but due to their smaller size they were not as species-rich. In addition, they were

[10] *Individual trees were classified as those 5m tall or greater, excluding hawthorn and hazel*

associated with stands of tall forbs (creeping thistle and common nettle). Individual ash trees were also present in one area.

3.42 The previous UKHab survey recorded this area as modified grassland, but the current survey found a slightly more diverse species assemblage.

Holcus-Juncus Neutral Grassland – g3c8 (101)

3.43 A strip of *Holcus-Juncus* neutral grassland occurred either side of a dry stream running through the south-eastern field of the survey area. Soft-rush was the dominant species. Other herb species included yellow iris, greater bird's-foot-trefoil and marsh thistle. Tufted hair-grass was the most frequently occurring grass species.

Modified Grassland – g4 (101, 14, 16, 510)

3.44 The majority of the land within the survey area was heavily-grazed modified grassland fields. Within the two fields in the western half of the survey area, perennial rye-grass was the dominant grass species, with white clover and creeping buttercup the most frequently occurring herb species.

3.45 In the southern section of south-western field, soft-rush was locally abundant. There were no other differences in the species composition to the rest of the field. Therefore, this area was recorded as scattered rushes, rather than the previous UKHab survey which indicated some of this area as *Holcus-Juncus* neutral grassland.

3.46 A small corner of the south-eastern field was also heavily-grazed modified grassland, and the species composition was similar to the larger fields to the west, apart from there was a disturbed area of ground containing locally dominant common nettle and species typical of disturbed habitats such as pineappleweed and groundsel.

Mixed Scrub – h3h (32)

3.47 The majority of the north-eastern quarter of the survey area formed dense scrub. The vegetation was so dense and extensive that access was limited, and this habitat was mostly observed from its edges. It comprised gorse, hawthorn and bramble. Semi-mature trees were scattered throughout and included rowan, sycamore, holly, elder and oak species. Himalayan balsam also appeared to be scattered throughout, although its full extent could not be determined. A stand of Himalayan balsam and bracken was observed within a small break in the dense scrub at TN3.

3.48 A small patch of hawthorn and bramble was present towards the south-eastern corner of the western modified grassland fields. In the previous UKHab survey this was recorded as scattered trees, but hawthorn is not classified as a tree within UKHab definitions.

3.49 A patch of dense hawthorn and gorse scrub occurred towards the north-eastern corner of the south-eastern field.

Woodland – w1g (10)

3.50 A patch of woodland within the north-eastern quarter of the survey area was recorded by the previous UKHab survey. As previously mentioned, this section of the Site had limited access, and the woodland was completely inaccessible. It has, therefore, been assumed that the woodland is still present, although no species list could be compiled. Previously, the woodland was found to comprise pedunculate oak, ash, field maple, rowan and holly with a scrubby understorey and minimal ground flora. It is possible that Himalayan balsam has colonised the woodland.

Other Native Hedgerow – h2a6

3.51 The northern boundary of the north-western modified grassland field was a hawthorn-dominated hedgerow, with a wooden post and wire fence running immediately adjacent to the hedge (inside the survey area). This hedge may belong to the adjacent landowner.

Built Linear Features – u1e (612, 114, 519)

3.52 The two western modified grassland fields were separated by a degraded drystone wall. The previous UKHab survey recorded scattered trees and patches of tall herb vegetation along this wall. However, the scattered trees were either dead, shorter than 5m tall or hawthorn, which are not classified as trees within UKHab definitions. In addition, this survey found the area of tall herbs to be smaller than the minimum mappable area. Therefore, no trees or tall herb patches were recorded along this boundary.

3.53 A wooden post and wire fence formed the southern boundary of the south-western modified grassland field, bordering residential properties. Here, this fence was taken as the Site boundary, beyond which were mainly residential non-native hedgerows. The previous UKHab survey classified part of this boundary as a non-native hedgerow, but this PEA found a fence line along the entirety of this boundary and, therefore, it is all defined as a fence line.

3.54 The majority of the surveyed area had a drystone wall forming the boundary and, in most places, also had a wooden post and fire fence running approximately 0.5m parallel to the wall, inside the Site boundary.

3.55 Two of the boundaries of the north-eastern quarter of the Site could not be observed due to dense vegetation.

Other Rivers and Streams – r2b (500)

3.56 Two streams occur within the survey area. Both were dry at the time of the survey, which took place during a period of drought.

3.57 One stream partly ran through the south-eastern field, so mostly flowed through open grassland, with a small section flowing through dense scrub. It is narrow (approximately 1m wide) and quite shallow (approximately 0.5m tall banks), although the north-eastern tip has taller banks. The substrate was dominated by clay and there was limited aquatic vegetation present, which included yellow iris and soft-rush. A small amount of Himalayan balsam was present at TN4.

3.58 The remaining section of the stream could not be observed due to access difficulties posed by dense scrub vegetation. Ordnance survey maps show this stream to flow underground after it exits the south-eastern field before emerging and eventually joining the other stream within the survey area at the north-eastern corner of the survey area.

3.59 This stream runs along the northern boundary of the north-eastern quarter of the survey area. It flows through dense scrub and scattered trees vegetation and only portion of stream (approximately a 50m stretch) was accessible. Of the section observed, this stream had quite tall banks (of a few meters high) in one area, although they were much smaller (approximately 0.5m) downstream. It was approximately 2m wide and the substrate was dominated with boulders and cobbles. No true aquatic vegetation was present, which was likely due to dense shading. Himalayan balsam occurred in mostly low density throughout the section observed (TN5)

Potential for Protected Species

Badger

3.60 [redacted]

3.61 The dense scrub and woodland habitats within the north-eastern quarter of the Site could not be surveyed in detail due to the lack of access provided by the density of this vegetation. [redacted]

3.62 Sett creation opportunities also occur within the hedgerow providing the northern boundary to the north-west field and dense scrub patches within the south-west and south-east fields.

3.63 The grasslands, especially the shortly grazed-modified grassland, also provide suitable foraging habitat for badger.

3.64 The desk study includes a large number of badger records, and this species is, therefore, active in the local area.

Bats

3.65 No buildings were present on the Site and none of the trees observed contained suitable roosting features for bats, although trees within the woodland and dense scrub in the north-eastern quarter of the Site could not be fully assessed due to access difficulties. It is, therefore, possible that trees containing suitable roosting features for bats may be present in these areas, although none were found during the previous PEA.

3.66 The woodland, individual trees, hedgerow, scrub and streams provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats, with the grasslands also providing foraging habitat.

3.67 There are desk study records for bats within the locality, which contains both rural and urban environments.

3.68 In summary, the Site is unlikely to support roosting bats but is likely to support commuting and foraging bats which may be important for bat roosts within the local area.

Otter

3.69 No evidence of otter use (such as prints or spraints) was found on Site, although only a 50m stretch of the stream running along the northern boundary of the north-easter quarter of the Site and none of the connecting stream within the woodland area could be accessed. It is, therefore, possible that signs and potential holt sites (such as the bases of mature trees) may be present within these areas.

3.70 However, the risk of otter presence within the Site is low due to a lack of desk study records and limited connectivity with surrounding watercourses, which are separated from the Site by culverted sections and urban development including roads.

Water Vole

3.71 No evidence of water vole, such as burrows or latrines, were recorded during the survey, although sections of both streams could not be accessed, as described above. Again, it is, therefore, possible that signs may be present within these areas. However, the risk is low as both of these areas are likely to be heavily shaded and, thus, a lack of suitable foraging habitat for water voles.

3.72 The section of one of the streams that ran through the south-eastern field was visible, however, it currently provided poor-quality habitat for water vole due to a lack of suitable foraging habitat and cover. In addition, the banks were quite short. It is not known how regularly the stream is dry, which also reduces the suitability for water vole.

3.73 In conclusion, due to the likely poor-quality watercourses present and a lack of nearby recent water vole records, there is a low risk that water voles occur within the Site.

Breeding Birds

3.74 The woodland, individual trees, hedgerow and scrub habitats provide suitable nesting opportunities for breeding birds, with the grasslands providing foraging habitat to support breeding birds.

3.75 The Site is, therefore, likely to support both nesting and foraging breeding birds. The desk study returned a large number of bird records, including a number of species of conservation interest.

Amphibians

3.76 No standing waterbodies were present on Site. The streams (dry at the time of the survey) are likely to be unsuitable for amphibians as they are likely to be flowing.

3.77 The majority of the habitats within the Site provided suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians, especially as they occurred within a mosaic. The modified grassland was poor-quality terrestrial habitat for amphibians due to its short sward height.

3.78 The Site and the immediate surrounding land are quite isolated, being surrounded by roads (Causeway Head Road, Cross Lane and Hathersage Road to the west, Ash House Lane to the north, Limb Lane to the east and Parkers Lane to the south), which limit amphibian dispersal to the Site. Only one pond is located inside of these roads, approximately 120m north-east of the Site. Desk study records of amphibians, excluding great crested newt (GCN, *Triturus cristatus*), occur within 2km of the Site.

3.79 Due to the largely isolated nature of the Site, lack of amphibian records within dispersal barriers and lack of breeding aquatic habitat within the Site, there is a low risk that amphibians are present on Site. Habitat suitable for common toad does, however, occur on parts of the Site.

Reptiles

3.80 The grasslands on Site provided suitable foraging habitat for reptiles, apart from the closely-grazed modified grassland areas. The woodland, scrub and hedgerow also provide foraging habitat, in addition to shelter (including for hibernation), especially in the north-eastern quarter of the Site where these habitats occur within a mosaic.

3.81 There is a recent desk study record of grass snake, although this is 800m away and a road (Limb Lane) reduces connectivity with this record.

3.82 Therefore, the risk of reptile presence on Site is low.

White-Clawed Crayfish

3.83 The section of the stream along the northern boundary of the north-easter quarter of the Site that was accessible contained suitable stony substrate for white-clawed crayfish.

3.84 The section of one of the streams that ran through the south-eastern field was dominated by clay substrate, providing poor-quality habitat for white-clawed crayfish. The north-eastern section of this stream flowing through woodland was not accessible and, therefore, could not be assessed for its habitat suitability.

3.85 As previously mentioned, it is not known how regularly the streams are dry, which reduces their suitability for white-clawed crayfish. It also made it difficult to access the water quality of the streams, although cattle effluent was present where one of the streams ran through a grazed field and, therefore, water quality is likely to be poor in this section.

3.86 Recent desk study records of white-clawed crayfish occur relatively close to the Site, within watercourses that have limited connectivity with the Site as they are likely to be culverted both upstream and downstream of the Site.

3.87 In conclusion, there is a low risk that white-clawed crayfish are present within the Site.

Additional Species of Principal Importance

3.88 The grasslands provide suitable foraging habitat for brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and hedgehog, with the woodland, scrub, hedgerow and mature tree bases also offering shelter (including for hibernation) for hedgehog.

3.89 Due to a low number of nearby recent records, there is a low risk of brown hare presence on Site. However, there are numerous recent records for hedgehog, therefore it is likely that hedgehog is present on Site.

3.90 The grasslands (excluding the modified areas), woodland and dense scrub habitats, especially within the north-eastern quarter of the Site where they occur within a mosaic, provide suitable habitat for invertebrates.

4. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

4.1 The Site comprises predominantly grazed pastures on the edge of the settlement of Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. There are scattered scrub and trees across the Site, with an area of more densely developed scrub and rough grassland that appears ungrazed within the north-eastern parcel. In this eastern section there are also two small watercourses which join and enter Limb Brook, a tributary of the River Sheaf.

Habitats

4.2 The majority of the land within the survey area was heavily-grazed modified grassland fields. Within the two fields in the western half of the survey area, where the proposed housing site allocation is focussed, perennial rye-grass was the dominant grass species, with white clover and creeping buttercup. Soft-rush was abundant in the southern section of south-western field.

4.3 Neutral grassland also occurred frequently as scattered pockets of habitat across the site, with the dominant species varying depending on the local conditions. These areas were typically more lightly-grazed and supported a more diverse flora including yellow iris, greater bird's-foot-trefoil and marsh thistle in damper areas.

4.4 The majority of the south-eastern field was classified as lowland meadow grassland, and this was the most diverse grassland habitat of the survey area. It was grazed, although not as intensely as the western fields. Perennial rye-grass was also much less frequent within the sward than the modified grassland areas and there was greater variety and abundance of tufted hair-grass, red fescue and common bent. Herbs were much more diverse and included common knapweed, bird's-foot-trefoil, sneezewort and (more rarely) meadow vetchling, eyebright and harebell. Several patches of soft-rush were present.

4.5 The majority of the north-eastern quarter of the survey area formed dense scrub comprising gorse, hawthorn and bramble. Semi-mature trees were scattered throughout and included rowan, sycamore, holly, elder and oak species. Himalayan balsam also appeared to be scattered throughout, although its full extent could not be determined due to limited access through the very dense vegetation.

4.6 Scattered mixed native scrub occurs across the wider site. Individual tree species are also scattered across the site and included ash and pedunculate oak. The hawthorn hedgerow along the north-western boundary is considered to be likely part of the adjacent landowner's property, with the post and wire fence assumed to be the boundary of the Site at this location.

4.7 A patch of woodland within the north-eastern quarter of the survey area was recorded by the previous survey, however, the area was completely inaccessible at this time. Therefore, it is assumed that the woodland is still present. Previously, the woodland was found to comprise pedunculate oak, ash, field maple, rowan and holly with a scrubby understorey and minimal ground flora. It is possible that Himalayan balsam has colonised the woodland.

4.8 Two streams occur within the survey area. Both were dry at the time of the survey, which took place during a period of drought. One small narrow stream partly ran through the south-eastern field through open grassland and a small section flowing through dense scrub. The substrate was dominated by clay and there was limited aquatic vegetation present, which included yellow iris and soft-rush along with a small amount of Himalayan balsam.

4.9 The second stream runs along the northern boundary of the north-eastern quarter of the survey area, through dense scrub and scattered trees vegetation. It was approximately 2m wide and the

substrate was dominated with boulders and cobbles. No true aquatic vegetation was present, which was likely due to dense shading and there was sparse Himalayan balsam present.

4.10 Overall, the mosaic of neutral grassland, lowland meadow and scrub/tree/woodland areas provide a range of habitat types, with the streams providing additional habitat diversity albeit they were generally considered to be in poor condition due to a lack of aquatic plant species (although this may have been limited by the drought) and the presence of the NnIPS Himalayan balsam. The more diverse grasslands provided some plant species that are likely to be relatively restricted in their distribution locally.

Protected and Notable Species

4.11 The habitats and features on Site were considered potentially suitable for the following species:

- Badger – some evidence of presence on/use of the Site in the form of latrines;
- Bats – commuting and foraging habitats present, limited opportunities for roosting;
- Breeding birds - suitable nesting habitat present;
- Hedgehog – suitable breeding, foraging and hibernation habitats present;
- Reptiles – some limited opportunity for more common reptiles such as grass snake;
- Common toad – may be present within wetter areas of grassland and along streams; and
- Invertebrates – the more floristically diverse habitats likely provide nectar and pollen sources for local invertebrate populations.

Recommendations

4.12 In terms of habitats, the following is recommended should the Site be proposed for development in the future:

- Re-survey north-western quarter of the Site in winter/early spring and when streams are not dry (due to limitations of survey during drought period) and some vegetation has died back to enable better access (although dense scrub will still be present);
- The impacts within the LWS to be minimised and where such impacts are unavoidable any development scheme should target the LWS designated area for landscaping uses that retain and enhance the existing biodiversity value and provide suitable compensatory measures such as additional management measures to enhance other habitats within the LWS;
- The lowland meadow area is retained and enhanced through suitable measures such as appropriate management and diversification of the sward with suitable British native plant species. If impacts on this habitat are unavoidable, then suitable compensatory measures should be agreed;
- Some areas of scrub are retained and managed to reduce the density (i.e. include glades/rides) so as to enhance biodiversity;
- Woodland areas are retained and protected;
- Trees are retained and protected wherever possible and any unavoidable losses should be replaced with suitable British native species;
- Streams are retained and protected using suitable measures to prevent sediment/pollutants entering into watercourses during construction. Enhance by reducing bank erosion and diversifying the habitat by, for example, the introduction of a range of

British native marginal/emergent plant species, reducing access to edges and including coir/geojute bank protection;

- A Himalayan balsam management and control plan to be developed for both construction and post-development phases;
- The hedgerow (assumed to be off Site) has a suitable undeveloped buffer strip;
- Consideration given in any landscape design to retaining habitat corridors through/around the Site to maintain links to adjacent rural landscape; and
- Consideration given to including ecologically appropriate planting schemes which support and enhance local biodiversity within any landscape design with a suitable long-term management plan.

4.13 In terms of faunal species, the following recommendations are made:

- Further surveys required for badger and bats – specific measures would be required if confirmed as present on site;
- Precautionary working method statements to be developed for nesting birds, hedgehog, grass snake and common toad;
- Protection and enhancement of the key wildlife habitats to support local populations of faunal species; and
- Consideration given within the landscape design to the presence/likely presence of these species on Site through the inclusion of measures such as habitat piles, nest/roost boxes, including British native / nectar-rich plants within any planting scheme, and the development of an ecologically sensitive lighting plan.

4.14 The findings of this report are considered valid for 12 to 18 months from the date of the survey after which an Ecologist should advise if any update surveys or assessments are required. This is to ensure that any decisions are made on up-to-date ecological datasets for the Site.

5. REFERENCES

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6. ABBREVIATIONS

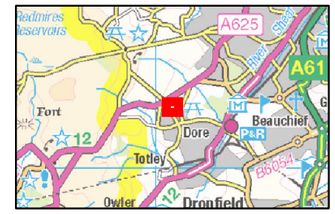
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CRoW	Countryside and Right(s) of Way
EPS	European Protected Species
ESRI	Earth Systems Resource Institute
EU	European Union
GCN	Great Crested Newt(s)
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
LNR	Local Nature Reserve(s)
LWS	Local Wildlife Site(s)
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
MMU	Minimum Mappable Unit(s)
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
NnIPS	Non-native Invasive Plant Species
NNR	National Nature Reserve(s)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAA	Penny Anderson Associates
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
SAC	Special Area(s) of Conservation
SAC	Special Area(s) of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area(s)
SSSI	Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest
TN	Target Note(s)
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act

FIGURES

430400 430500 430600 430700

382000 381900 381800

TARGET NOTES
1 - 5 Himalayan balsam
[redacted]

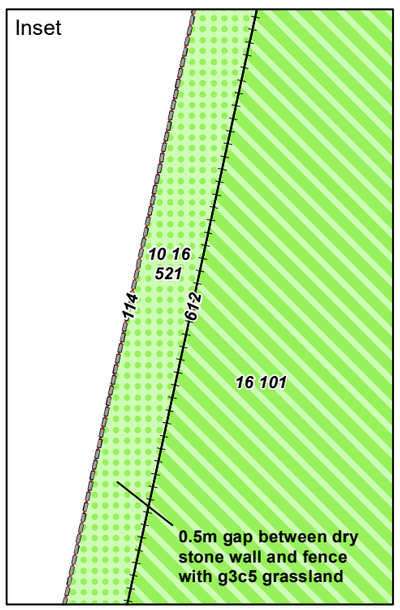


Cross Lane

T18 T17 T19 T14 T13 T12 T11 T10 T09 T08 T07 T06 T05 T04 T03 T02 T01 T15 T16

16 101 | 114 | 114 519 | 10 16 200 521 | 16 101 | 14 101 | 128 | 128 200 | 32 | 3 | 500 | 5 | 10 | 500 | 16 101 510 | 10 16 200 521 | 4 | 114 | 500 | 101 | 16 101 200 | 10 16 200 521 | 16 101 | 10 16 200 521 | 16 101 200 | T05 | T04 | T06 | 612 | 10 16 521 | Causeway Head Road | Parkers Lane

Inset



Legend

- Survey area

UKHab Habitats

- g3a, Lowland meadows
- g3c, Other neutral grassland
- g3c5, Arrhenatherum neutral grassland*
- g3c6, Lolium-Cynosurus neutral grassland
- g3c8, Holcus-Juncus neutral grassland
- g4, Modified grassland
- h3h, Mixed scrub
- w1g, Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a6, Other native hedgerow
- r2b, Other rivers and streams
- u1e, Dry stone wall
- u1e, Fence
- Individual tree - MEDIUM
- Individual tree - SMALL
- Target note

*g3c5 grassland located between dry stone wall and fence, locations denoted by * - see Inset for detail

Secondary Codes

10: Scattered scrub	500: Dry
14: Scattered rushes	510: Bare ground
16: Tall herb	519: Abandoned
32: Scattered trees	521: Unmanaged
101: Cattle grazed	612: Fence
114: Dry stone wall	
128: Tall or tussocky sward	
200: Tree	

British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
False Easting: 400000.000000
False Northing: -100000.000000
Central Meridian: -2.000000
Scale Factor: 0.999601
Latitude Of Origin: 49.000000

N

ISO A3

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Metres

CHATSWORTH

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Project Name: Parkers Lane, Dore

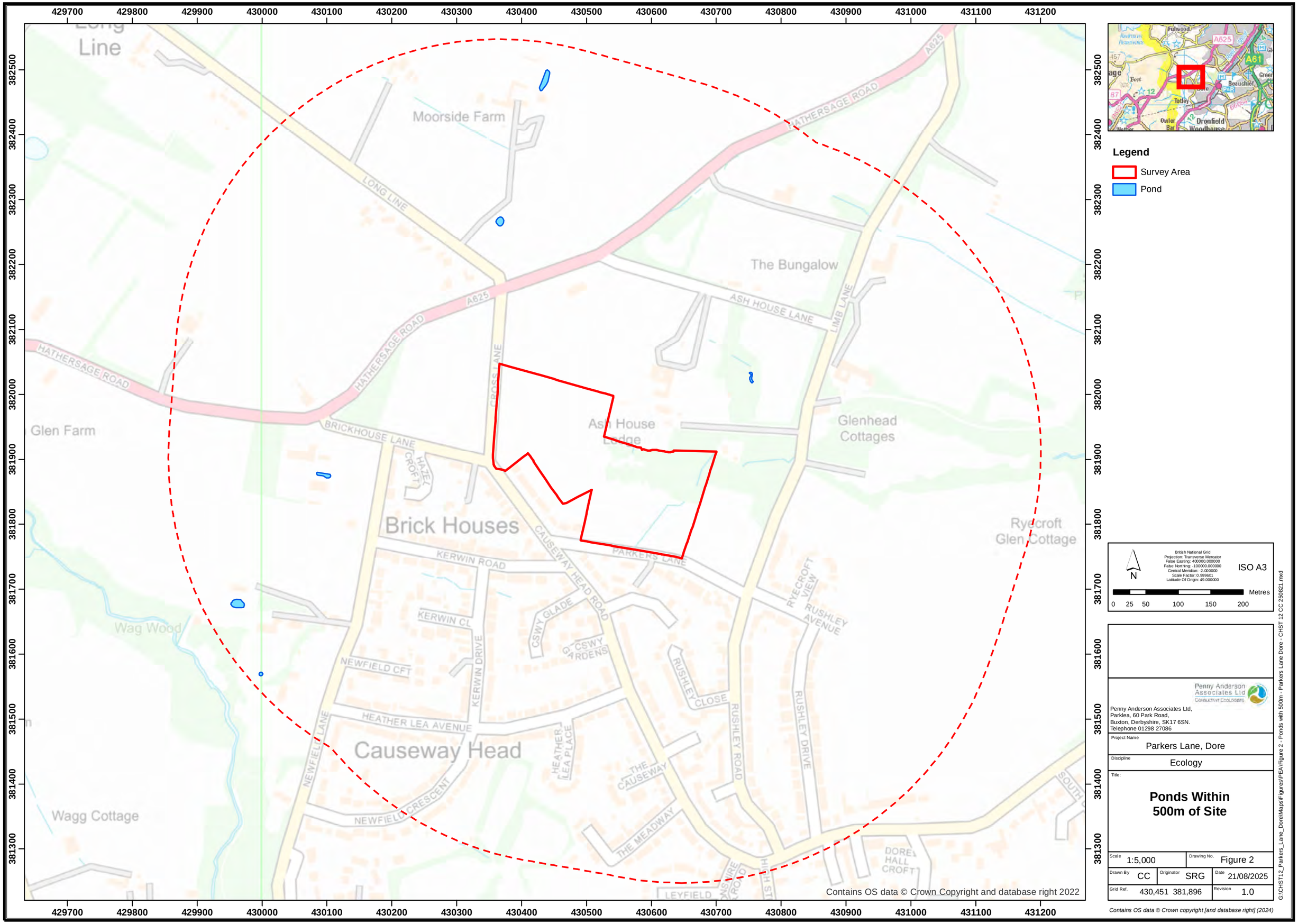
Discipline: Ecology

Title:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Map

Scale	1:1,250	Drawing No.	Figure 1
Drawn By	CC	Originator	VB
Date	02/09/2025		
Grid Ref.	430,527 381,890	Revision	1.0

\\paa-srv01\GIS\CHST12_Parkers_Lane_Dore\Maps\Figures\PEA\Figure 1 - PEA Map - Parkers Lane Dore - CHST12 CC 250822.mxd



Legend

- Survey Area
- Pond

British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
False Easting: 400000.000000
False Northing: -100000.000000
Central Meridian: -2.000000
Scale Factor: 0.999601
Latitude Of Origin: 49.000000

ISO A3

N

Metres

0 25 50 100 150 200

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Discipline: Ecology

Title:

Ponds Within 500m of Site

Scale	1:5,000	Drawing No.	Figure 2
Drawn By	CC	Originator	SRG	Date	21/08/2025
Grid Ref.	430,451 381,896	Revision	1.0

G:\CHST12_Parkers_Lane_Dore\Maps\Figures\PEA\Figure 2 - Ponds with 500m - Parkers Lane Dore - CHST 12 CC 250821.mxd

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Relevant Protected Species Summaries

SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION RELATING TO REPTILES

All six of the native British reptile species are afforded varying degrees of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA), 1981 (amended) and this legislation is applicable to England and Wales. All six species are listed on Schedule 5 of the WCA.

The four widespread species, common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and adder (*Vipera berus*) are afforded part protection under Section 9(1), making it an offence to intentionally kill or injure any of these species of reptile. The two rarer species, sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), are subject to a greater degree of protection under Section 9(4) which, with the amendments, make it (in brief) an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a sand lizard or smooth snake while it is occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection (S9:4b); or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place a sand lizard or smooth snake uses for shelter or protection (S9:4c).

All six species are afforded protection from buying, selling or exchange under Section 9(5) of the WCA.

Sand lizard and smooth snake are also listed under Annexes IIa and IVa of EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the 'Habitats Directive'. Inclusion on Annex IVa means they are consequently identified as European Protected Species (EPS) and protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended) state that a person commits an offence if they:

(a) deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European protected species,

(b) deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species, in such a way as –

  (i) to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear their young, or

  (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate, or

  (iii) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;

(c) deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or

(d) damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

Under these Regulations it is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place whether the animal is in occupation or not, and protection extends to all life stages of the animal in question. There are additional offences relating to possession, control and sale of a live or dead sand lizard or smooth snake or part of such an animal.

In addition, the same six reptile species are listed as 'species of principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England under Section 41 (England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (amended). They are also included in Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 that provides a list of organisms of 'principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales'.

Please note: the above text provides a brief summary of the legislation in relation to reptiles for England and Wales and the original Acts, Regulations and any amendments should be referred to for the precise wording.

SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION RELATING TO BADGERS AND THEIR SETTS

Badgers (*Meles meles*) are not an endangered species but have a long history of persecution and cruelty. As such, badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended), which makes it illegal for any person to kill, injure or take a badger. It is also an offence to destroy, damage or obstruct a badger sett, or to disturb a badger whilst it is within a sett. There are also additional offences relating to possession of, buying and selling a dead badger, or anything derived from a badger, and causing a dog to enter a sett.

The Act defines a sett as 'any structure or place which displays signs of current use by a badger'. Setts are defined by English Nature (1995) as 'usually underground tunnel systems providing shelter for badgers but may include other structures used by badgers such as hay bales, drainage culverts, or cellars'. 'Current use' is more difficult to define but is usually interpreted by the presence/absence of badger field signs over several observations of the sett (Natural England 2006). Guidance from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) also presents a similar classification approach[1].

In England, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) provides guidance for local authorities on the content of the Local Plans and is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Briefly, with an overall focus on sustainable development, the NPPF states that developments should aim to engender positive outcomes for habitats and biodiversity, with a particular focus on the maintenance and creation of ecological networks.

NPPF 2023 retains reference to Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System* in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geodiversity conservation. Part IV Section D of the Circular states:

> *'The likelihood of disturbing a badger sett, or adversely affecting badgers' foraging territory, or links between them, or significantly increasing the likelihood of road or rail casualties amongst badger populations, are capable of being material considerations in planning decisions. Although consideration of the case for granting a licence is separate from the process of applying for planning permission, a planning authority should advise anyone submitting an application for development in an area where there are known to be badger setts that they must comply with the provisions of the Act. Local authorities and other public bodies (except central government) are generally likely to need a licence in respect of any development which they themselves carry out in any areas if it will involve them interfering with a badger sett.*'

The planning guidance for Wales, Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 5 – Nature Conservation and Planning (Welsh Assembly Government September 2009), also identifies the need to comply with the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It states:

> '*Although the badger is not a rare animal over much of Wales, there is specific legislation for the protection of badgers under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The likelihood of disturbing a badger sett, or adversely affecting badgers' foraging territory, or links between them, or significantly increasing the likelihood of road or rail casualties amongst badger populations, are capable of being material considerations in planning decisions.'*

[1] *https://naturalresources.wales/media/696694/badgers-a-guide-for-developers.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=133216507090000000*

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Please note: the above text provides a brief summary of the legislation in relation to badgers for England and Wales and the original Act and amendments should be referred to for the precise wording.

SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION RELATING TO BATS

All wild species of bat are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981, which has also been amended by later legislation, including the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Bats are listed on Schedule 5 of the WCA and are therefore subject to some the provisions of Section 9 which, with the amendments, make it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection (S9:4b).
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a bat (S9:4c).

There are additional offences in relation to buying and selling (S9:5) any live or dead animal of this species or anything derived from them.

Bat species are also listed under Annexes IIa and IVa of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the 'Habitats Directive'. Inclusion on Annex IVa means they are consequently identified as European Protected Species (EPS) and protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended) state that a person commits an offence if they:

(a) deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European protected species,

(b) deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species, in such a way as –

  (i) to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear their young, or

  (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate, or

  (iii) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;

(c) deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or

(d) damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

Under these Regulations it is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place whether the animal is in occupation or not, and protection extends to all life stages of the animal in question. There are additional offences relating to possession, control and sale of a live or dead bat or part of such an animal.

In addition, seven native British bat species, including the soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and the brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), are listed as 'species of principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (amended). In Wales, Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provide a list of organisms of 'principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity' and lists several species of bat including the common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) which is absent from England's S41 list.

Please note: the above text provides a brief summary of the legislation in relation to bats and their roosts and the original Acts, Regulations and any amendments should be referred to for the precise wording.

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SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO BROWN HARE, COMMON TOAD AND HEDGEHOG

These three species, brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and West European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), although not included under legislation such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended), are known to be declining across England and Wales.

In recognition of this decline, they are listed as 'species of principal importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England under Section 41 (England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (amended). They are also included in Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 that provides a list of organisms of 'principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales'.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) for England has an overall focus on sustainable development, and states that developments should aim to engender positive outcomes for habitats and biodiversity, with a particular focus on the maintenance and creation of ecological networks. Furthermore, the NPPF also states that any planning proposals for which significant negative impacts on biodiversity cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated for should be refused. Reference is made to Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geodiversity conservation.

In Wales, Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The S6 duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. Section 7 goes on to deal with biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

NPPF, 2023. *National Planning Policy Framework, updated September 2023.* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Please note: the above text provides a brief summary of the legislation and policy for England and Wales and the original Acts, Regulations, documents and any amendments should be referred to for the precise wording.

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SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION RELATING TO BREEDING BIRDS

All wild species of breeding birds and their nests and eggs are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981, as amended by later legislation including the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. This legislation applies in England and Wales.

Part 1 (Section 1:1) of the WCA states that:

> 'If any person intentionally,
>
> (a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
>
> (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
>
> (c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,
>
> he shall be guilty of an offence.'

Part 1 (Section 1:5) of the WCA (amended by the CRoW Act 2000) refers to specific birds listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, and states that:

> 'If any person intentionally or recklessly,
>
> (a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
>
> (b) disturbs dependent young of such a bird,
>
> he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.'

Schedule 1 includes birds such as Western barn owl (*Tyto alba*), black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Cetti's warbler (*Cettia cetti*). Please refer to the WCA for a complete list of Schedule 1 species[1].

Some provisions are made to allow the killing and taking of certain species under certain circumstances, as follows:

- Birds listed on Schedule 2 (Part 1) of the Act may be taken or killed outside of the 'close season' for each individual species (the 'close season' is defined by the Act). This includes various wild duck and geese species.
- Birds listed on Schedule 2 (Part 2) of the Act may be killed or taken by authorised persons at all times. This includes species such as carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), Eurasian magpie (*Pica pica*), feral pigeon[2] (*Columba livia*) and greater Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*). An 'authorised person' is defined as a person who has written authorisation to undertake the act from the relevant statutory authority. The written authority is in the form of a licence, either a general licence which covers a number of the more typical 'pest' species, or an individual licence for other individual species. In England these licences are issued by Natural England and in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Please note: the above text provides a brief summary of the legislation in relation to breeding birds in England and Wales and the original Act and any amendments should be referred to for the precise wording.

[1] *https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1*

[2] *Also known as rock dove*

APPENDIX 2

Sheffield Plan: Proposed Additional Site Allocations, Site SWS19

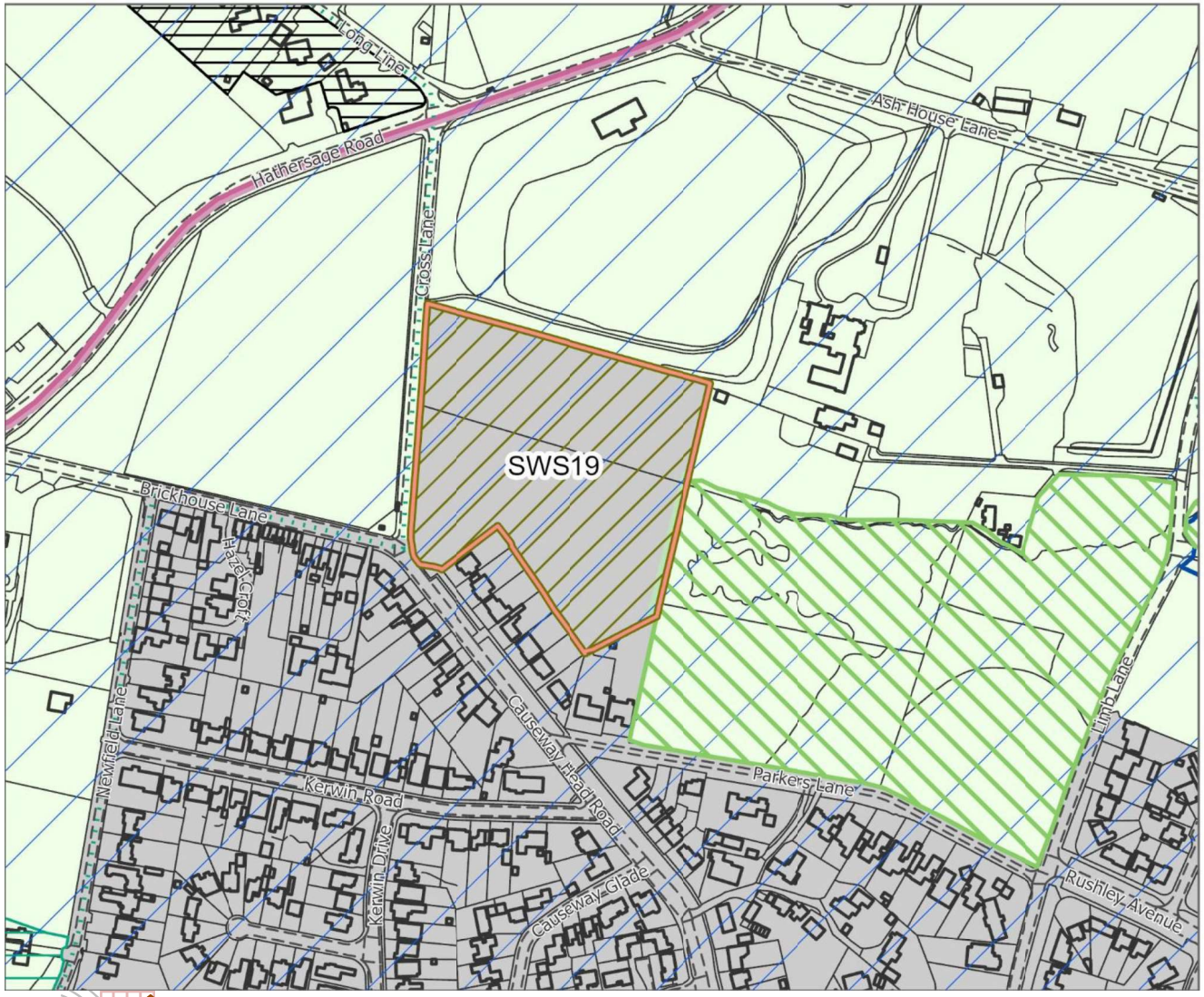
Site Reference: SWS19	**Address:** Land to the north of Parkers Lane, S17 3DP	
Allocated use: Housing		**Site area:** 2.61 Hectares
Net housing area: 2.35 Hectares		**Total housing capacity:** 82 Homes
Net employment (Class E(g)(i & ii)) area: 0.00 hectares	**Net employment (Class B2, B8 & E(g)(iii)) area:** 0.00 hectares	**Net (Other employment uses) area:** 0.00 hectares

Conditions on development:

- This site was formerly designated as Green Belt, so the 'Golden Rules' set out in the National Planning policy Framework will apply. Open space should be provided in accordance with Policy NC15.
- In accordance with the Golden Rules the level of affordable housing required will be expected to be at a higher level than would otherwise apply to land which has not been released from the Green Belt.
- Planning applications must include a comprehensive assessment of the development's impacts on the environment. Where appropriate, adverse impacts should be offset through compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining areas of Green Belt.
- This site is identified as impacting on an area of known archaeological interest and due consideration should be given to the impact of any proposal at the planning application stage. Development proposals should implement the recommendations set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment prepared in support of the Local Plan, or other suitable mitigation measures agreed with the Local Planning Authority, to avoid or minimise harm to the significance of archaeological interest.
- Site is within 250m of a historic landfill site. An assessment of the impact (including identifying any necessary mitigation/remediation works) the landfill may have on development will be required at planning application stage.
- Development must comply with policy GS3 so that the character and features of the landscape are safeguarded or enhanced.
- A 6m buffer is required from the adjacent Local Wildlife Site (grassland) to protect this area from development.
- Due consideration should be given to any impacts of flood risk identified in the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. All mitigation matters

identified in the “Recommendations, FRA requirements, and further work” section of the Level 2 SFRA site assessment should be addressed at or before planning application stage.”

Recommended change to Policies Map



APPENDIX 3

Botanical Species List

Appendix 3 Botanical Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Lowland Meadows – g3a (101, 16)	Lowland Meadows – g3a (101, 16, 200)	Other Neutral Grassland – g3c (128, 200)	Other Neutral Grassland – g3c (128)	*Arrhenatherum* Neutral Grassland – g3c5 (16, 10, 200, 521)	*Arrhenatherum* Neutral Grassland – g3c5 (16, 10, 521)	*Lolium-Cynosurus* Neutral Grassland – g3c6 (101, 16, 200)	*Holcus-Juncus* Neutral Grassland – g3c8 (101)	Modified Grassland - g4 (101, 16)	Modified Grassland - g4 (101, 14)	Modified Grassland - g4 (101, 16, 510)	Mixed Scrub - h3h (32)	Mixed Scrub - h3h	Other Native Hedgerow – h2a6	Other Rivers and Streams – r2b (500)
Woody Species																
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*		R			R		LO								
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus* agg.	R	R	R	R	O-LD	O-LD	R		LO			LD	O - LF	F	
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*					LR										
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*									LR			O		LO	
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*	LR	LR										A	LA		
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	R	R	R	R		R - LA	R		LO		R	A	F-LA	D	
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*					R				LR			O		LR	
Oak species	*Quercus* sp.												O			
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*		R	R		R										
Rowan	*Sorbus aucuparia*			R									O			
Sessile oak	*Quercus petraea*														LR	
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*					R							O			
Herbs, Grasses and Ferns																
Bird's-foot-trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*	F	F	R-LO	R-LO			O		LR	LR	R				
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*												LF			
Broad-leaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*								R	R	R	R				
Brooklime	*Veronica beccabunga*															LR
Cat's-ear	*Hypochaeris radicata*	LO	LO					R								
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*					R	R									
Cock's-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*			R	R	R	R					R				
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	F	F	A	A			F	O	R-O	R-O	O				
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	O	O	O-LF	O-LF			R				LR				
Common mouse-ear	*Cerastium fontanum*	LR										R				
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*	R	R			R-LF	R-LF	LD	R	R-LA	R-LA	LD		R- LF		
Common ragwort	*Jacobaea vulgaris*	LR	LR	R	R			R								
Common sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*	R-LO	R-LO	R-LO	R-LO			R	LR	R	R					
Compact rush	*Juncus conglomeratus*	LR	LR													
Creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	O-F	O-F	O	O			O	LO	F	F	O				LF
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	R	R	R-LO	R-LO	O-LF	O-LF	LA		R-LF	R	R				
Crested dog's-tail	*Cynosurus cristatus*	O	O					O	R	O	O					
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale* agg.									LO	LO					
Eyebright	*Euphrasia officinalis*	LR														
False oat-grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*					LF-LA	LF-LA								F	
Fern species						LR								LR		
Field horsetail	*Equisetum arvense*					LR										
Foxglove	*Digitalis purpurea*					R										LR
Great willowherb	*Epilobium hirsutum*															LR
Greater bird's-foot-trefoil	*Lotus pedunculatus*								O-F							
Groundsel	*Senecio vulgaris*											LR				
Harebell	*Campanula rotundifolia*		LR													
Himalayan balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*					R							O-LF			R
Hoary willowherb	*Epilobium parviflorum*					O	LO									
Horsetail species	*Equisetum* sp.															LR
Jointed rush	*Juncus articulatus*								LR							
Knotgrass	*Polygonum aviculare*											R				
Marsh thistle	*Cirsium palustre*	R	R						R-O							
Meadow foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*			R	R											
Meadow vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	R	R													
Oval sedge	*Carex leporina*	LR														
Perennial rye-grass	*Lolium perenne*	O-LF	O-LF					O-LF		D	D	D				
Pineappleweed	*Matricaria discoidea*											R				
Red clover	*Trifolium pratense*	R	R						R	R	R	R				
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	O-LF	O-LF	R-O	R-O			O								
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	O-LF	O-LF	O	O			O		LO	LO	O				
Rosebay willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*					R-O	R-O							LR		
Selfheal	*Prunella vulgaris*	LR	LR													
Sneezewort	*Achillea ptarmica*	R-LO	R-LO			LR										
Soft brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*	LR	LR													
Soft-rush	*Juncus effusus*	O-LF	O-LF						D	R	LA	R-O				
Sweet vernal-grass	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	R	R	O	O			R		R-O	R-O					
Timothy	*Phleum pratense*	LR	LR							R	R					
Tormentil	*Potentilla erecta*	LR	LR						R							
Tufted hair-grass	*Deschampsia cespitosa*	O-LF	O-LF	O	O				F			R-O				
White clover	*Trifolium repens*	O	O					O		O-LF	O-LF	O				
Willowherb species	*Epilobium* sp.(annual)					LR										
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	LR	LR													
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudacorus*								LF							LO
Yorkshire-fog	*Holcus lanatus*	R-O	R-O	F-A	F-A			R-O	O			O				

KEY
D-Dominant, A-Abundant, F-Frequent, O-Occasional, R-Rare, L-Locally

APPENDIX 4

Photographs

Photograph 1
Modified grassland of the western fields

Photograph 2
***Arrhenatherum* Neutral Grassland within field edge**

Photograph 3
Hedge forming northern boundary of north-west field

Photograph 4
Dense scrub within north-eastern quarter

Photograph 5
Lowland meadow of south-east field

Photograph 6
***Holcus-Juncus* neutral grassland of south-east field**

Photograph 7
Other neutral grassland within north-eastern quarter

Photograph 8
Stream within south-eastern field

Photograph 9
Stream along northern boundary of north-east quarter

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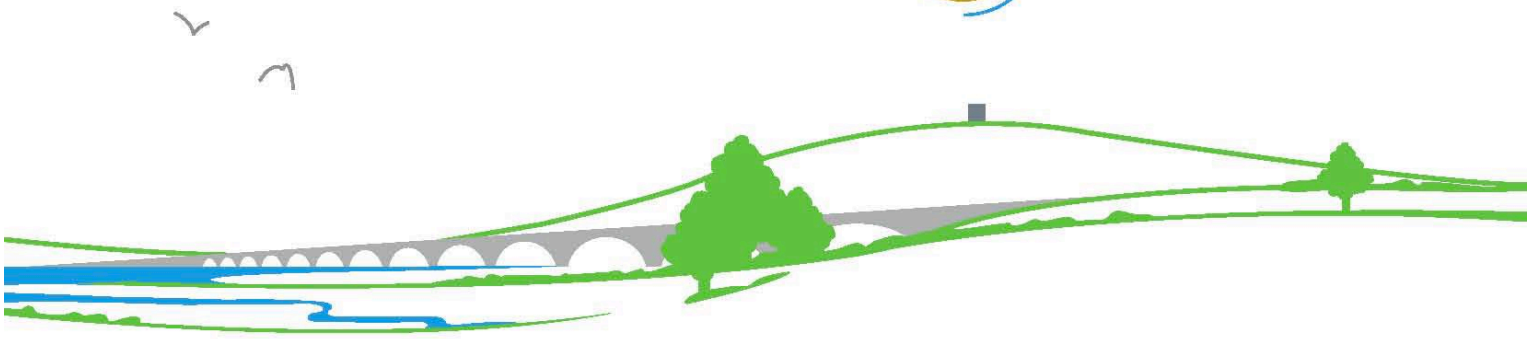

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