

Tankersley, Barnsley

Ecological Risk Assessment For McDonalds

This Ecological Risk Assessment document is intended to provide an indication of what ecological issues may be present on a particular site

This document has been prepared using; aerial photographs, data gathered by Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants and interpreted by an experienced ecologist, along with desk study data from the MAGIC website and Barnsley Biological Records Centre. Our standard supporting text including relevant legislation is provided as an appendix.

This document does not purport to provide legal advice and does not bypass the requirement for further detailed botanical or protected species surveys.



**Practical
Ecology Ltd**



HAYDEN'S
Arboricultural Consultants

Project Proposals

McDonalds are looking at expanding their drive-through access road into the margin of the adjacent woodland to allow more room for maneuverability.

Methods

When carrying out the arboricultural survey, Hayden's surveyor filled in a questionnaire provided by Practical Ecology Ltd to look out for features of ecological interest such as trees with rot holes, badger setts and ponds. We were then provided with photos of the site and from this we have made an assessment of further surveys and mitigation that are likely to be necessary. This ecological risk assessment serves as an indication of potential ecological issues that are likely to arise and does not replace the need for a full ecological assessment.

Risk Code Key		
	High Risk- Likely foreseen issue	Further survey work and mitigation recommended
	Moderate Risk- Some potential foreseen issue	Low level mitigation required, no further survey work recommended
	Low Risk- No foreseen issue	No further action required

Risk Code	Factor	Comments and Actions Required
	Bats	Several mature trees with suitable features for roosting bats on site with one tree (T12, Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.)) to be removed. This tree has been confirmed as having cavities and deadwood that could be suitable for roosting bats. As this tree is to be removed, aerial inspection surveys required by licensed bat worker prior to intrusive works. If a roost is confirmed, further mitigation may be necessary such as emergence/re-entry surveys. All retained trees protected in line with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

Risk Code	Factor	Comments and Actions Required
	Invasive Species	No records of invasive species were provided and no evidence was seen on site at the time of Hayden's site visit. However, due to the time of year the site was visited, plants have died back and as such any evidence may not be visible. A walkover survey by an ecologist during the growing season will need to be undertaken to determine whether invasive species are utilizing the site.
	Reptiles	Records of grass snakes (<i>Natrix natrix</i>) 250m north of the site. Fallen trees and log piles in woodland could provide suitable refugia for reptiles. Dense bramble may provide foraging and hibernation opportunities. Any bramble to be removed should be cut to 0.5m during the winter months and remove the rest during the summer when reptiles are active. Or if bramble is to be cleared during the summer, a nesting bird survey must be done within 48 hours prior to removal. No further survey required. Move log piles by hand during the summer when reptiles are active.
	Birds	Numerous records of birds were returned within 500m of the site however many of these only had a 4 figure grid reference which reduces accuracy. None of these species will be affected by this development Clearance of trees and vegetation to be undertaken outside of nesting bird season (March to September inclusive). Protect all trees and hedgerow to be retained.
	Statutory Designated Wildlife Conservation Sites	One statutory designated wildlife conservation site is within 500m, Potter Holes Plantation Local Nature Reserve. Proposals are not anticipated to have an effect on this statutory designated site.
	Non-Statutory Designated Wildlife Conservation Sites	Six non-statutory designated wildlife conservation sites are within 500m of this site, most of which are woodland. Although the site is not designated itself, it may support the designated sites but as only a small area is to be affected, the rest will be retained. Proposals are not anticipated to have an effect on the non-statutory designated sites.
	Otters, WCCF, Water Voles	There are no ditches or water courses around the site and as such the site has no suitability for any of these species.

Risk Code	Factor	Comments and Actions Required
	Badgers	No evidence of badger activity noted at the time of the survey.
	Dormice	There are no records of dormice in this area however the wood is well connected to other much larger areas of woodland. Due to the scale of works, it is not considered that dormice will be affected by this project.
	Great Crested Newts	Two ponds were identified within 500 m of the site, one 234m to the north and one 257m to the south. Several records of GCN were provided within 250m of the site and confirm presence at both of these ponds. The southern pond is separated from site by the A616 and A61 and the northern pond is separated from site by an industrial park and Maple Road. Both of these ponds have suitable terrestrial habitat nearby and both are isolated from the proposed development site. As both ponds have suitable habitats closer to the ponds than that offered by the proposed development site, and have barriers to GCN dispersal, it is considered unlikely that great crested newts would be present on the proposed development site.
	Invertebrates	Several records were provided of invertebrates in this area however many of these only have a 4 figure grid reference which reduces accuracy. Species include green-veined white and common blue butterflies, whose ideal habitats include hedgerows, riverbanks and roadside verges. Both of these species are common and widespread throughout the UK. As the works are limited to a small area of woodland habitat, it is not considered that invertebrates will be affected by this project.
	Protected Habitats	Root protection measures in line with BS 5837:2012 to be put in place to protect any retained trees.

Ecological Risk Assessment

Standard Supporting Information

This document provides standard supporting information to accompany an Ecological Risk Assessment. All information contained in this document is considered up to date and relevant and is reviewed periodically to ensure this.

Updated JAN 2015- REV B



Desk Study

- A search for statutory sites of nature conservation importance within 1 km using the Multi Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (www.magic.gov.uk);
- Ordnance Survey maps were consulted to identify any still water bodies within 500m of the site;
- Protected and notable species records for within 500m of the site were requested from Local Biological Records Centre (LBRC). LBRC also consulted for details of non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest for within 1km of the site; and
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) website was consulted to determine if species and habitats identified (by both the desk study and field survey) are subject to specific action plans under the UKBAP or Local BAP (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=54>).

Site Survey

A questionnaire was given to Nick Hayden, who carried out the Arboricultural survey for Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants. The questionnaire included the following questions:

- Are any water bodies on the site?
- Are there any mature trees with cracks, crevices, loose bark or woodpecker holes?
- Are there any buildings on site?
- Is there suitable habitat for nesting birds such as hedges, trees, scrub, buildings?
- Are there areas of rough grassland?
- Is there any deadwood? Is it fallen or standing?
- Were any non-native plants identified?
- Are there any holes that could be badger setts?

Limitations

Due to seasonal behaviour of animals and the seasonal growth patterns of plants, ecological surveys may be limited by the time of year in which they are undertaken. As such it may not provide a complete list of the plants and animals that may be present, or may seasonally utilise the site. Any site specific limitations are noted within the Ecological Risk Assessment document.

Species	Legislation	Application of the Law (the important bit!)	Licensing procedure
Bats*	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Deliberately ¹ capture, injure or kill a bat; Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats ² ; Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time); Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat	European protected species development licences can be sought from Natural England for specific purposes to permit actions that would otherwise be unlawful. Appropriate mitigation must be developed and implemented.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.

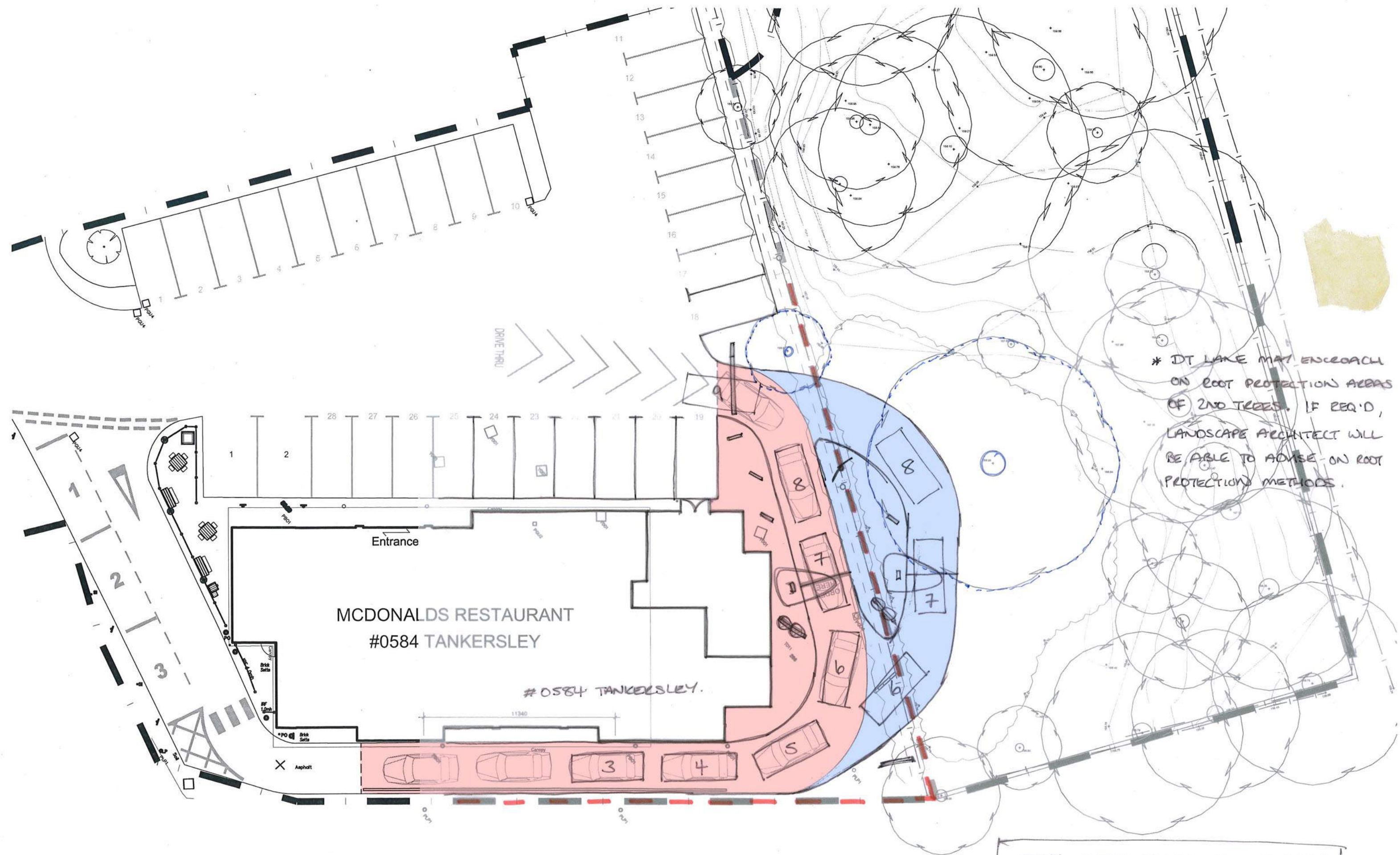
Great crested newts*	Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Deliberately ¹ capture, injure or kill a great crested newt; deliberate disturbance ² of a great crested newt; deliberately take or destroy its eggs; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a great crested newt.	European protected species development licences can be sought from Natural England for specific purposes to permit actions that would otherwise be unlawful. Appropriate mitigation must be developed and implemented
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a great crested newt in such a place.	Licences issued for science (survey), education and conservation by Natural England.
Otters*	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Deliberately ¹ capture, injure or kill an otter; deliberate disturbance ² of otters; or damage, destroy or obstruct a breeding site or resting place used by an otter.	European protected species development licences can be sought from Natural England for specific purposes to permit actions that would otherwise be unlawful. Appropriate mitigation must be developed and implemented
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb an otter in such a place.	No licence is required for survey in England. However, a licence would be required if the survey methodology involved disturbance.
Natterjack toad, Sand lizard and Smooth snake*	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Deliberately ¹ capture, injure or kill an individual; deliberate disturbance ² ; deliberately take or destroy the eggs of these species; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting.	European protected species development licences can be sought from Natural England for specific purposes to permit actions that would otherwise be unlawful. Appropriate mitigation must be developed and implemented
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ³ it in such a place.	A licence is required from Natural England for surveying and handling
Dormice*	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Deliberately ¹ capture, injure or kill a dormouse; deliberate disturbance ² of a dormouse; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a dormouse.	European protected species development licences can be sought from Natural England for specific purposes to permit actions that would otherwise be unlawful. Appropriate mitigation must be developed and implemented
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a dormouse in such a place.	Licence issued for survey and conservation by Natural England.
Badger	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Intentionally kill, injure or take a badger; disturb a badger in its sett; or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett.	Licences for development activities involving disturbance or sett interference or closure are issued by Natural England (NE). Licences for activities involving watercourse maintenance, drainage works or flood defences

			are issued under a separate process. A licence may be required for any work within the vicinity of a sett that is likely to cause disturbance to badgers. Licences are not granted from December to June inclusive because cubs may be present within setts. <i>Badgers & Development</i> (NE 2007)
Breeding Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.1	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird. [Special penalties are liable for these offences involving birds on Schedule 1 (e.g. most birds of prey, kingfisher, barn owl, black redstart, little ringed plover).] Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species.	No licences are available to disturb any breeding birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g. public health, public safety, air safety.
Adder Common lizard Grass snake Slow worm	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.9(1) (part); S.9(5)	Intentionally kill or injure any common reptile species.	No licence is required in England. However an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken prior to any development works which have potential to affect these animals.
Water vole	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally kill, injure or take water voles; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a water vole in such a place.	No licence is required for survey in England, unless you are likely to commit an action that is otherwise illegal. There are currently no licensing purposes that explicitly cover development activities or activities associated with the improvement or maintenance of waterways. However when a proposed lawful activity has no opportunity to retain water voles within a development site and their translocation would result in a conservation benefit then a licence from Natural England or the Countryside Council for Wales may be obtained.

			<i>The Water Vole Conservation Handbook</i> (R. Strachan & T. Moorhouse, Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, 2nd Edition 2006) <u>England: Water voles and development licensing policy -NE Technical Information Note TIN042 2008-</u> <u>Wales: Water Voles – Guidance for recent legislation changes (2008)</u>
White-clawed crayfish	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.9(1) (part) only	Intentionally take from the wild.	Licences issued for survey by Natural England. No licences in respect of development are available. Trapping and removal of crayfish for maintenance or development activities in a watercourse requires a conservation licence from Natural England and a permit from the Environment Agency.
Japanese Knotweed Giant Hogweed	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.14	Plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild.	Any Japanese knotweed/giant hogweed contaminated soil or plant material is classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of in a suitably licensed landfill site, accompanied by appropriate Waste Transfer documentation, and must comply with section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. <i>The Knotweed Code of Practice</i> (Environment Agency 2006)

***European Protected Species**

Appendix 1-Proposed Site Layout



WESTWOOD NEW ROAD A61

5414-0584-SK03-SBS SKETCH
JS 17.11.14 1:200 @ A3

Appendix 2-Photos

Photo 1- Deadwood



Photo 2- Bramble within Wood



Photo 3- Bramble within Wood



Photo 4- Woodland

