



PLEASANT VIEW, CUDWORTH.

OS REF: SE 392 077.

**PHASE I HABITAT AND PROTECTED
FAUNA SURVEY.**

Ref No:- 140926.

Date:- 18th September 2014.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to develop a plot of land adjacent to Pleasant View, Cudworth.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Phase I Habitat and Protected Fauna Survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. The site survey was carried out on 18th September 2014 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I to IX of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society:-

- * Badger setts.
- * Badger latrines or dung pits.
- * Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
- * Badger paths.
- * Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.3. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Rob Strachan, Tom Moorhouse and Merryl Gelling (2011). *Water Vole Handbook: Third Edition*:-

- * Water vole burrows.
- * Water vole faeces and latrines.
- * Water vole feeding stations.
- * Water vole runs.
- * Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Water vole lawns.
- * Predator field signs.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter and Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines*:-

- * Otter prints in soft mud.
- * Otter spraints.
- * Otter Holts.

2.5. The survey area was searched for mature trees and derelict buildings and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with L Hundt (2012). *Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines* by looking for the following signs:-

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat Droppings.

2.6. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.7. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.8. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies and where found all watercourses and waterbodies within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish where safe to enter the water. The survey was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.9. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.10. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.11. This survey was carried out by Laura Hobbs BSc, MRes, Grad CIEEM. Since 2013 Laura has had experience in a professional capacity carrying out ecology, protected species and phase 1 habitat surveys. Laura holds degrees in Zoology (BSc) and Evolutionary Biology (MRes); Natural England and CCW survey licenses for Great Crested Newts and is a Graduate member of CIEEM. Laura has also completed numerous professional courses run by National Biodiversity Network (NBN), Field Studies Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (and others) in relative protected species and phase 1 survey methodologies; and has completed a traineeship with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust focussing on conservation methods for water voles.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) and South Yorkshire Bat Group (SYBG) were commissioned to carry out a data search in order to identify any records of protected species of designated sites within 1km of the survey area. Full results can be found in Appendix VIII.

3.1.2. BBRC holds records of great crested newts, badger, water voles, otters, grass snakes, lizards and various species of bat within 1km of the survey area (full results appended as a separate document).

3.1.3. SYBG hold numerous records of bats in the area including Pipistrelle species and Noctules (full results in appendix VIII).

3.1.3. The closest designated site the survey area is Carlton Main Brickworks SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Importance), which lies 1.78km, to the east. 1.9km to the north lies Carlton Marsh LNR (Local Nature Reserve). BBRC also identified numerous wildlife sites within close proximity to the survey area (closest 1km to south), details of which can be found in Appendix VIII.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The surveyed area covered an area of land adjacent to Pleasant View, Cudworth. The site is surrounded by residential housing of Cudworth to the east and arable fields to the west. A small patch of woodland is located to the north of the site.



Figure 1. Aerial views of survey area (red) and surrounding land.

3.2.2. The site itself is regularly disturbed and contains a public footpath joining Pleasant view to Carrs Lane to the west. Various areas of debris were found on site, with the remnants of a bonfire in the centre of the site.



Figure 2. Bonfire remnants and debris on site.

3.2.3. A small dike runs adjacent to Carr Lane, underneath the railway line which also runs approximately 275m to the south west of the site. Adjacent to the east of the railway line lies a sewage works containing ponds for water treatment.

3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix V of this report contains annotated maps marked up with the varying habitats that are cross referenced to target notes in Appendix VI of this report. The habitats on and adjacent to the site are:-

- Poor Semi-Improved Grassland
- Tall Ruderal
- Scrub
- Scattered Trees
- Fence and Wall

3.3.2. Poor Semi-Improved Grassland.

3.3.2.1. The majority of the survey area was a combination of grassland and tall ruderal habitat.

3.3.2.2. Species found on site include: cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), smooth meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), common sorrel (*Rumex*

acetosa), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), red clover (*Trifolium pretense*), dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.), ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and hairy violet (*Viola hirta*).



Figure 4. Grassland covering site.

3.3.3. Tall Ruderal.

3.3.3.1. Tall ruderal vegetation was found along all borders of the site and make up a large proportion of all vegetation on site.

3.3.3.2. Species found on site include: nettles (*Urtica dioica*), rosebay willow herb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), thistles (*Asteraceae* sp.) and ferns (*Pteridophyta* sp.).



Figure 5. Tall Ruderal vegetation on site.

3.3.4. *Scrub.*

3.3.4.1. Monoculture scrub vegetation was found underneath trees and mixed with tall ruderal vegetation.

3.3.4.2. These areas were dominated by brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*), with some ivy (*Hedera* sp.) present along the south boundary.



Figure 6. Scrub vegetation on site.

3.3.5. *Scattered Trees.*

3.3.5.1. Trees were found along boundaries and pathways on site.

3.3.5.2. Species were dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*) with some oak (*Quercus* sp.) trees and conifers (*Pinophyta* sp.) along the north boundary.



Figure 7. Scattered trees found on site.

3.3.6. *Fence and Wall.*

3.3.6.1. The south boundary was enclosed by a brick built wall, the north and east by palisade, wire and garden fencing. The west side led into an arable field with no boundary between the two.



Figure 8. Boundaries of site by fences and walls.

3.4. **Description of Fauna.**

3.4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area.

3.4.2. A small dike runs along Carr Lane approximately 220m to the west of the survey area. This was not assessed for potential habitat for water voles, otters or

crayfish, as it lies on private land outside of the site boundary. The adjacent field makes it unlikely for any of these species to be found on site.

3.4.3. Numerous trees were found on site, none of which were assessed to house features that would provide suitable opportunities for roosting bats. However, there are a number of trees adjacent to the site in a small woodland to the north which may provide suitable habitat. Surrounding residential housing may also provide potential for roosting bats.

3.4.4. The site and surrounding area provide suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats. A thorough assessment of bat foraging activity could not be assessed during this daytime survey.

3.4.5. Two ponds were identified within 500m of the site. One was located within the sewage works, the other to the west of the dike. These were not assessed for their potential to house habitat for great crested newts as they lie on private ground outside of the survey area.

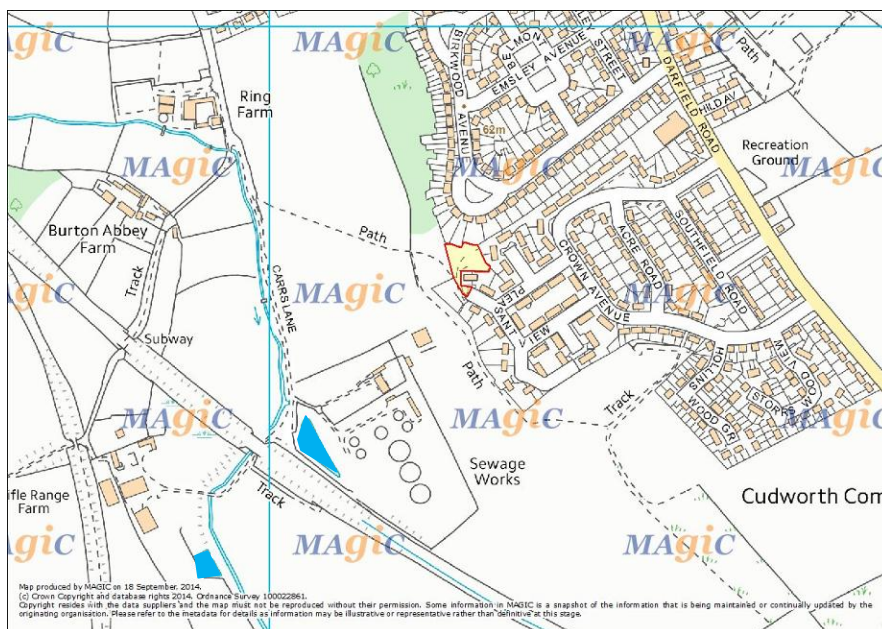


Figure 9. Map of site (red) and surrounding area.

3.4.6. No invasive non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were identified within the surveyed area.

3.4.7. A large proportion of habitat on site provides suitable opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season which extends from March to September each year.

No active nests were found on site during this survey but lots of bird activity, particularly by blackbirds was observed on site.

3.4.8. The site provides some opportunity for reptiles due to abundant refugia provided by vegetation and debris left on site; limited basking sites are available along the public footpath. No reptiles were found on site during this survey.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. No designated sites were identified within 1km of the survey area. Therefore there will be no impact upon these during proposed works.

4.2. Although this survey was carried out late in the season the grassland exhibits numerous common grass species and is becoming dominated in a lot of areas by dense scrub and ruderal species leading it to be assessed as a low value grassland.

4.3. The remaining habitats are common habitats that are found in high abundance in the surrounding area.

4.4. No badger setts or fields signs were found within the surveyed area. Therefore there will be no impact upon badgers.

4.5. No mature trees were identified to provide suitable habitat for roosting bats. However, the adjacent woodland and nearby residential housing may provide roosting opportunities. These will not be impacted during proposed works; hence there will be no impact upon roosting bats.

4.6. The site provides suitable foraging opportunities for bats due to the nature of vegetation and suitable foraging habitat in the surrounding area. A thorough assessment of bat foraging activity could not be made during a daytime survey of the site. There will be no fragmentation or significant loss of foraging habitat during proposed works; therefore there will be no impact on foraging bats.

4.7. Two ponds were identified within 500m of the site. One lies the opposite side of a small dike, the other as part of the sewage works. Due to the lack of other ponds in the area, it is very unlikely that great crested newts will be present in these ponds. Hence, they will not be found on site and will not be impacted upon by works.

4.8. No invasive non native plant species were identified within the surveyed area which could be affected by proposed works.

4.9. The vegetation on the site provides suitable nesting habitat for various species of bird during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year. If any vegetation clearance is to take place during this period, there will be an impact upon nesting birds.

4.10. The site provides some opportunities for reptiles due to the abundance of refugia provided by vegetation. No reptiles were identified during this survey, however, they may be an impact upon reptiles should they be present on site.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. If work is to impact surrounding woodland habitat, it is recommended that thorough bat activity surveys area carried out in order to gain information on how bats are using the area and mitigate any works.

5.2. It is recommended that no vegetation clearance work is carried out within the nesting season, which extends from March to September. Any vegetation clearance carried out within this period should be preceded by a nesting bird survey carried out by a suitably experience person.

5.3. It is recommended that all personnel working on the site are briefed as to the potential presence of reptiles on the site and how to identify them. A toolbox talk on reptiles has been included with the appendices of this report to aid in this matter.

5.4. In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified it should be allowed to move off the site of its own accord.

5.6. If large numbers (5+) of reptiles are identified it is recommended that work on the site ceases and the author of this report is contacted.

Prepared by:	
Laura Hobbs BSc, MRes, Grad CIEEM	Date: 18 th September 2014.

Checked by:	
Steven Whitcher, MCIEEM.	Date: 22 nd September 2014.

Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about bats, their basic nature, ecology and legal protection in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

18 species of bat currently reside in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

All appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet, and habitat change.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

A breeding or resting site of any bat is known as a bat roost. A bat roost is therefore any structure a bat uses for shelter or protection. Because bats tend to use the same roosts each year, legal opinion is that the roost site is protected whether or not the bats are present at that time.

Bat roosts can be identified by looking for:-

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices.
- Bat droppings.
- Prey remains.
- By carrying out night observations using a bat detector.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

The person applying for that licence has to be suitably qualified and experienced in bat matters. That person is then responsible for ensuring that the measures contained in the licence are carried out.

Appendix II. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about the legal protection offered to nesting birds in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

Part 1.-(1) Of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 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.-(5) of the Act states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

- (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 dependant young of such a bird,

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees, scrub and buildings but others are ground nesting.

The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Appendix III.

REPTILES - GRASS SNAKE AND ADDER INFORMATION.

The grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and the adder (*Vipera berus*) are the two most common snakes to be found in the UK. Adders are found all over Britain while the grass snake becomes rarer towards the north and are rarely found in Scotland.

The grass snake is usually around 120cm long, live in a variety of rough habitats and lay their eggs in warm rotting vegetation. The background colour is dark green and the body is marked with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is generally a dark collar marking.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous but this is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Background colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.

Both snakes hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators. Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies, then later they may move back into the shade because they do not sweat and have to be careful not to overheat. During hot summers, adders will try to move to damper, cooler sites.

Both snakes are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

Appendix IV. REPTILES - LIZARD INFORMATION.

The common or viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) is one of three species of lizard that occur in the UK. They have a dry scaly skin and are variable in colour ranging from brown or yellow-brown to almost green with varying patterns of spots or stripes. The typical length of an adult is 150mm, including the tail.

Common lizards hibernate over the winter, emerging from February onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and the young are born in late July or August. The lizard gives birth to live young, hence the term viviparous, meaning live bearing.

The lizards draw their body warmth from the sun and consequently spend long periods basking in the sun. They are commonly seen on road and railway embankments and on walls where they sit for long periods soaking up the heat of the sun before going to find food.

They occupy a wide range of habitats including woodland, marshes, heathland, moors, sand dunes, hedgerows and bogs.

Common lizards hunt insects, spiders, snails and earthworms. They stun their prey by shaking it and then swallow it whole.

At night, and when startled, they will shelter beneath logs or stones or under other refuges that may be available.

Common lizards are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (they received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991) and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) making it a European Protected Species.

Common lizards should not be confused with the somewhat larger sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*). These are typically 190mm long and stockier than the common lizard. Their marking are distinctly different being considerably more colourful. Sand lizards are confined to moorland and coastal sand dunes where they lay their eggs in the warm sand. The range of the sand lizard in the UK is therefore very limited. Sand lizards are a European protected species.

The third species of lizard is the slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), which is frequently mis-identified as a snake. The firm body of the slow worm is distinctly cylindrical in shape and the tiny smooth scales result in a very smooth, shiny appearance. Colouration is typically a uniform grey to brown although there is a wide variation from straw coloured to almost black and some animals have very fine stripes or a zig-zag along the centre of the back. The typical length of an adult is 400mm.

Slow worms can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Britain and is the most likely reptile to be found in urban and suburban environments.

Slow worms hibernate over the winter, emerging from March onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and six to twelve young are born in August or September.

Their favourite food is slugs but they will also eat insects and spiders.

Slow worms are hard to find. They will bask in the sun but they quickly and quietly move into cover when disturbed and do not generally attract attention as they retreat from a basking spot.

Slow worms are also protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA.



Appendix VI. TARGET NOTES.

1. Public footpath running through site, mixture of grassland and hard standing ground.
2. Hawthorn and Oak trees with underlay of dense bramble.
3. Tall ruderal habitat dominated by Rosebay Willowherb.
4. Tall ruderal habitat dominated by ferns.
5. Scattered Silver Birch trees.
6. Conifers along boundary fence.

Appendix VII. SPECIES LISTS.

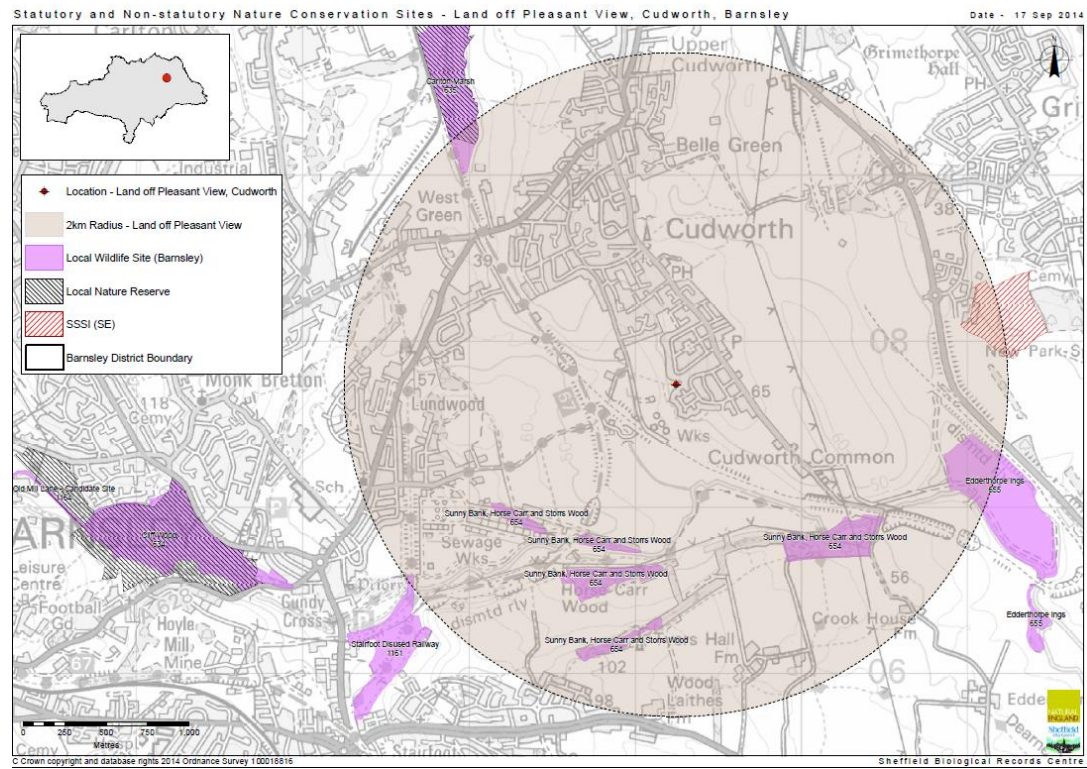
Semi-Improved Grassland Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
Cocks Foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>)	A
Smooth Meadow Grass (<i>Poa pratensis</i> ,	D
Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>)	A
Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>)	F
Yellow Rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>)	O
Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>)	A
Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)	O
Perennial Rye Grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>)	A
Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pretense</i>)	O
Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.)	A
Ragwort (<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>)	O
Dock (<i>Rumex</i> sp.)	O
Hairy Violet (<i>Viola hirta</i>).	R

Tall Ruderal Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
Nettles (<i>Urtica dioica</i>)	D
Rosebay Willow Herb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>)	D
Thistles (<i>Asteraceae</i> sp.)	A
Ferns (<i>Pteridophyta</i> sp.).	A

Scrub Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
Brambles (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)	D
Ivy (<i>Hedera</i> sp.)	A

Scattered Tree Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i> sp.)	D
Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	D
Oak (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	O
Conifers (<i>Pinophyta</i> sp.)	O

Barnsley Biological Records Centre.

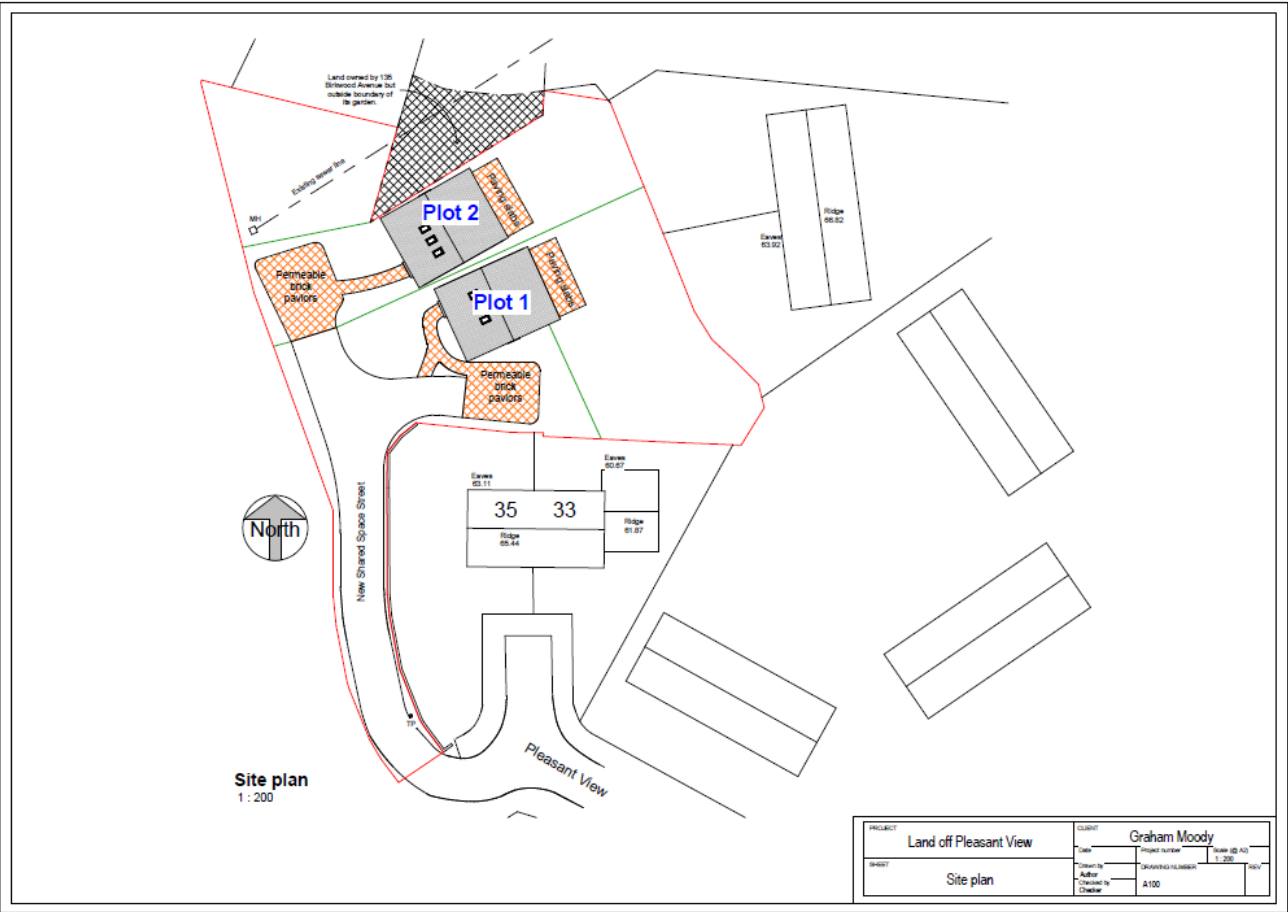


South Yorkshire Bat Group.

Recorder	Date	GridReference	Address line 1	Address line 2	Address line 3	Type	Notes	Species	Number
BCT/NE	19/07/2012	SE380056			South Yorkshire			Pipistrelle sp.	Unknown
English Nature	22/07/2005	SE385083	Newtown Street	Cudworth	Barnsley		Grounded bat. Failed to fly at dusk. Poss injured wing. EB to visit. Bat to LH for care.	Pipistrelle sp.	Unknown
English Nature	30/06/2003	SE390081	Sunny Bank Drive	Cudworth	Barnsley		Grounded bat found. Advice given. Bats seen regularly in garden, planning house extension next year. Will ring back if signs of roost. FOB sent.	Unknown	1
Eric Bennett	09/07/2004	SE390081	Sunny Bank Drive	Cudworth	Barnsley	House	Dead babies found grounded.	Pipistrelle sp.	2
Jill Parker	09/07/2004	SE390081	Sunny Bank Drive	Cudworth	Barnsley		Baby found clinging to outside wall. Died.	Pipistrelle sp.	1
Jill Parker	12/07/2004	SE390081	Sunny Bank Drive	Cudworth	Barnsley		Baby found clinging to outside wall. Dead.	Pipistrelle sp.	1

English Nature	13/07/2004	SE390081	Sunny Bank Drive Storrs Mill	Cudworth	Barnsley	Roost	Several bats on outside wall of house. EB identified roost. 2 storey extension planned. Timing & acces for bats advised.	Unknown	Unknown
Jerry Brown	22/05/1982	SE4006	Wood Regent					Unknown	1
Jerry Brown	22/06/1989	SE3406	Street Ferry		Barnsley			Unknown	3
P Middleton	08/07/2011	SE404087	Moor pond Ferry			foraging		Common pipistrelle	3
P Middleton	08/07/2011	SE404087	Moor pond			foraging		Noctule	3

Appendix IX. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.



Toolbox Talk : Reptiles.

Identification : Grass Snakes.

The grass snake is usually around 120cm long. The background colour is dark green and the body is marked with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is generally a yellow marking around the neck.



Identification : Adders.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous but it is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Background colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.



Identification : Slow Worms.

Slow worms grow to around 45cm in length. The males and females display a marked difference in colour when fully grown. Females often have a dark vertebral stripe, the flanks are flecked or striped with dark brown or black, the ventral surface is nearly always uniform black. Males are more uniform in colour dorsally and on the flanks, the belly is usually mottled black or dark grey, they also have larger heads and occasionally distinct blue spots. The upper parts of the body vary from light or dark brown, grey, bronze or brick red.



Identification : Common Lizards.

Common lizards grow to around 16cm. They are grey brown to dark brown, often with a darker streak that may run the entire length of the spine. A continuous dark band bordered by light yellow or white spots is often seen on either side of the body. The underside of the males is egg yolk yellow to orange spotted with black, females are yellowish grey.



Habitat.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies and then later they may move back into the shade so as not to overheat. Hence, reptiles require a habitat that provides a range of suitable refugia for shelter such as dense vegetation, rubble or log piles, or crevices and open areas for basking such as bare ground, rocks or railway ballast shoulders. During hot summers reptiles may be found in damper, cooler sites.

Reptiles hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.

When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.

Other Reptiles.

In addition to the reptiles outlined on this document there are also two other reptile species in Great Britain, the smooth snake and the sand lizard. These reptiles are a lot less common than the four species covered with the smooth snake being predominantly found on heathland in southern England and the sand lizard found throughout Great Britain in coastal dune areas.

These species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.

Legislation.

Reptiles are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

DO's.

- ✓ Stop work if any reptiles are found and let them move away safely of their own accord.
- ✓ Stop work immediately if large number of reptiles are found and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
- ✓ Avoid handling reptiles where possible.
- ✓ Seek medical attention immediately if you are bitten by a snake.
- ✓ If in doubt of the species, photograph the reptile and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd regarding identification.

DON'Ts.

- ✗ DON'T handle adders. Their bite is poisonous.
- ✗ DON'T kill or injure any reptiles.

Further information. Contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Tel : 01226 753271. Email : info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk.