

## Middleton Ecological Consultancy

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Michael Townsend  
Townsend Planning Consultants  
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Dear Michael

### **Sandygate Lane, Stairfoot**

I have visited the site today at Sandygate Lane to assess whether there are any issues regarding ecology. This was to assess whether there are any potential impacts on protected species and whether a more detailed assessment is required.

The proposed development plot has been cleared of vegetation and what remains is bare ground with emergent pioneer species and tall ruderal vegetation. There is a bank adjacent to both the main highway and Sandygate Lane which has trees and shrub plantings of native and non-native species which is somewhat dense. Whilst there is no habitat on site with the potential to support any of the European or UK protected species, the tree and shrub areas on the banks will support common nesting birds.

A more detailed ecology assessment is not required but any subsequent clearance of vegetation should be undertaken between April and August when it will not affect nesting birds.

Given the sites location adjacent to the Trans-Pennine trail it is recommended that plantings of native trees and shrubs be an integral part of the soft landscaping, especially along the south-west boundary which is directly adjacent to the trail.

Kind Regards



Peter Middleton MCIEEM