



Desk Study Assessment

Introduction

Site name

BK Barnsley

Purpose of report

To undertake an initial assessment of the potential ecological impact of the proposals using online desk study.

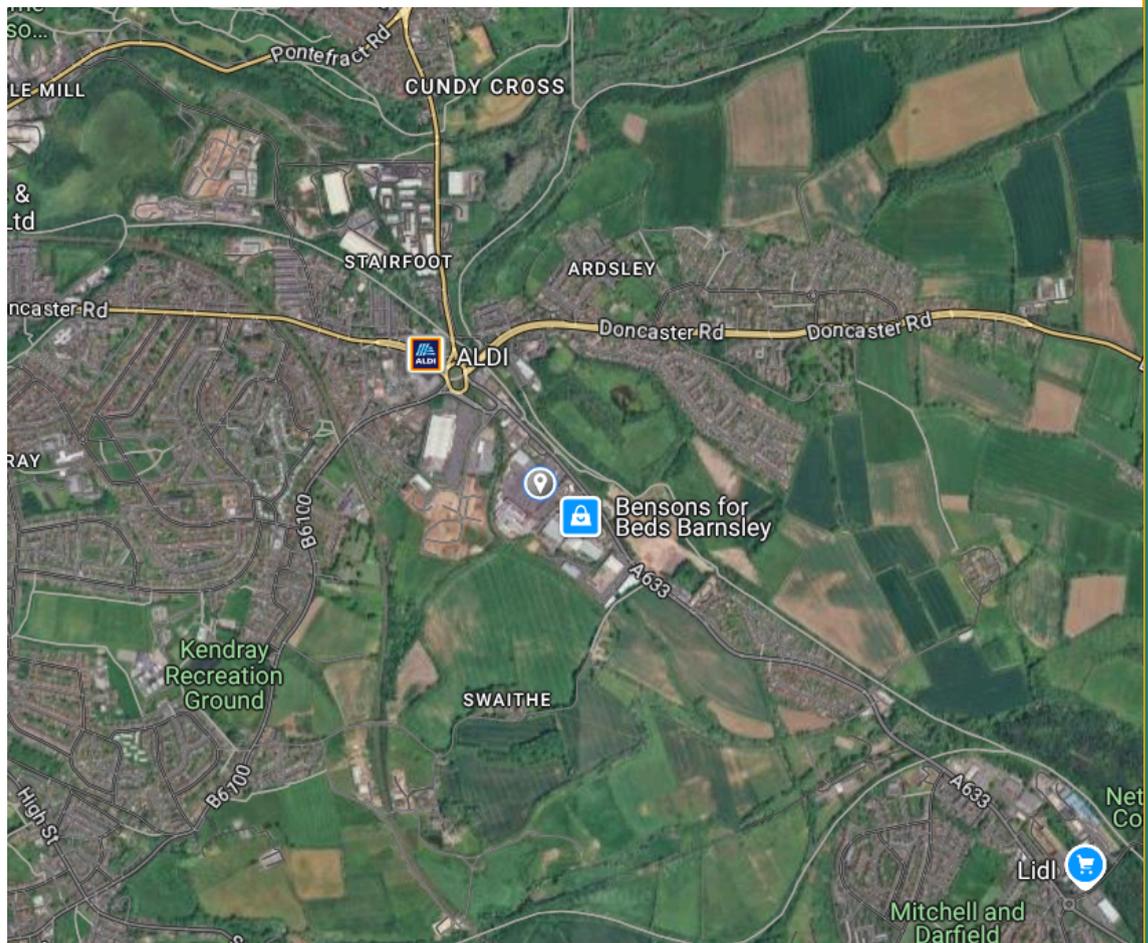
Development proposals

Erection of drive thru restaurant pod at Tesco Extra, Barnsley

Location

Tesco Extra, Wombwell Ln, Barnsley S70 3NS, United Kingdom.

Map



screenshot extracted from: Google Earth Pro on 10th February 2025



Introduction

Zone of Influence

The term Zone of Influence is used to describe the geographic extent of potential impacts of a proposed development. The Zone of Influence is determined by the nature of the development and also in relation to designated sites, habitats or species which might be affected by the proposals.

For this site the Zone of Influence is considered to be the red line boundary only due to the small scale development proposals and urban context.

Methodology

Desk Study

The ecological records obtained as part of this assessment within a 2 km radius of the site were analysed, using online records. This included a review of existing statutory sites of nature conservation interest, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Area of Conservation (SACs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

A 1:25,000 OS map was used to identify nearby features such as ponds or green corridors that could provide habitat or connectivity to other areas.

The use of MAGIC granted licences for GCN and bats was used to identify any recent / local granted mitigation licences in the search area.

Impact Assessment

The ecological impact assessment is based on the standard best practice methodology provided by the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2018). The assessment identifies important sites, habitats, species and other ecological features that are of conservation value based on factors such as legal protection, statutory or local site designations such as SSSI or Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) or inclusion on Red Data Book Lists or Local Biodiversity Action Plans. The importance of an ecological feature is considered within a defined geographical context. The following frame of reference is used, or adapted to suit local circumstances:

- ★ International and European
- ★ National (England)
- ★ Regional (North West)
- ★ County (South Yorkshire)
- ★ District (Barnsley)
- ★ Local (Wombell)
- ★ Below Local Level: Site Level Only.

Consideration of impacts at all scales is important, and essential if objectives for no net loss of biodiversity and maintenance of healthy ecosystems are to be achieved. In identifying impacts, the review considers the Client's Site proposals and any subsequent recommendations made are proportionate / appropriate to the site and have considered the Mitigation Hierarchy as identified below:



Methodology

- ★ Avoid: Provide advice on how the development may proceed by avoiding impacts to any species or sites by either consideration of site design or identification of an alternative option.
- ★ Mitigate: Where avoidance cannot be implemented mitigation proposals are put forward to minimise impacts to species or sites as a result of the proposals. Mitigation put forward is proportionate to the site.
- ★ Compensate: Where avoidance cannot be achieved any mitigation strategy will consider the requirements for site compensatory measures.
- ★ Enhance: The assessment refers to planning policy guidance (e.g. NPPF) to relate the ecological value of the site and identify appropriate and proportionate ecological enhancement in line with both national and local policy.

Effects are considered significant at the range of scales from international to local. A significant effect is an effect that is sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the ecological consequences of the project are understood. In broad terms, significant effects encompass impacts on structure and function of defined sites, habitats or ecosystems and the conservation status of habitats and species (including extent, abundance and distribution).

Limitations

Desk Study Records

A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report.

Desk Study Results (2 km)

Sites

- ★ Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI - 648m south east
- ★ DEARNE VALLEY PARK LNR - 1.6km north west
- ★ WORSBOROUGH COUNTRY PARK - 1.98km south west
- ★ SSSI IRZ: The Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI IRZs) indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on terrestrial Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites that they underpin. Therefore, you do need to consult Natural England on the likely impacts of development on terrestrial SSSIs and the SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that they underpin¹.

¹ https://irz.geodata.org.uk/IRZ/consult.html?option=all_cons_1

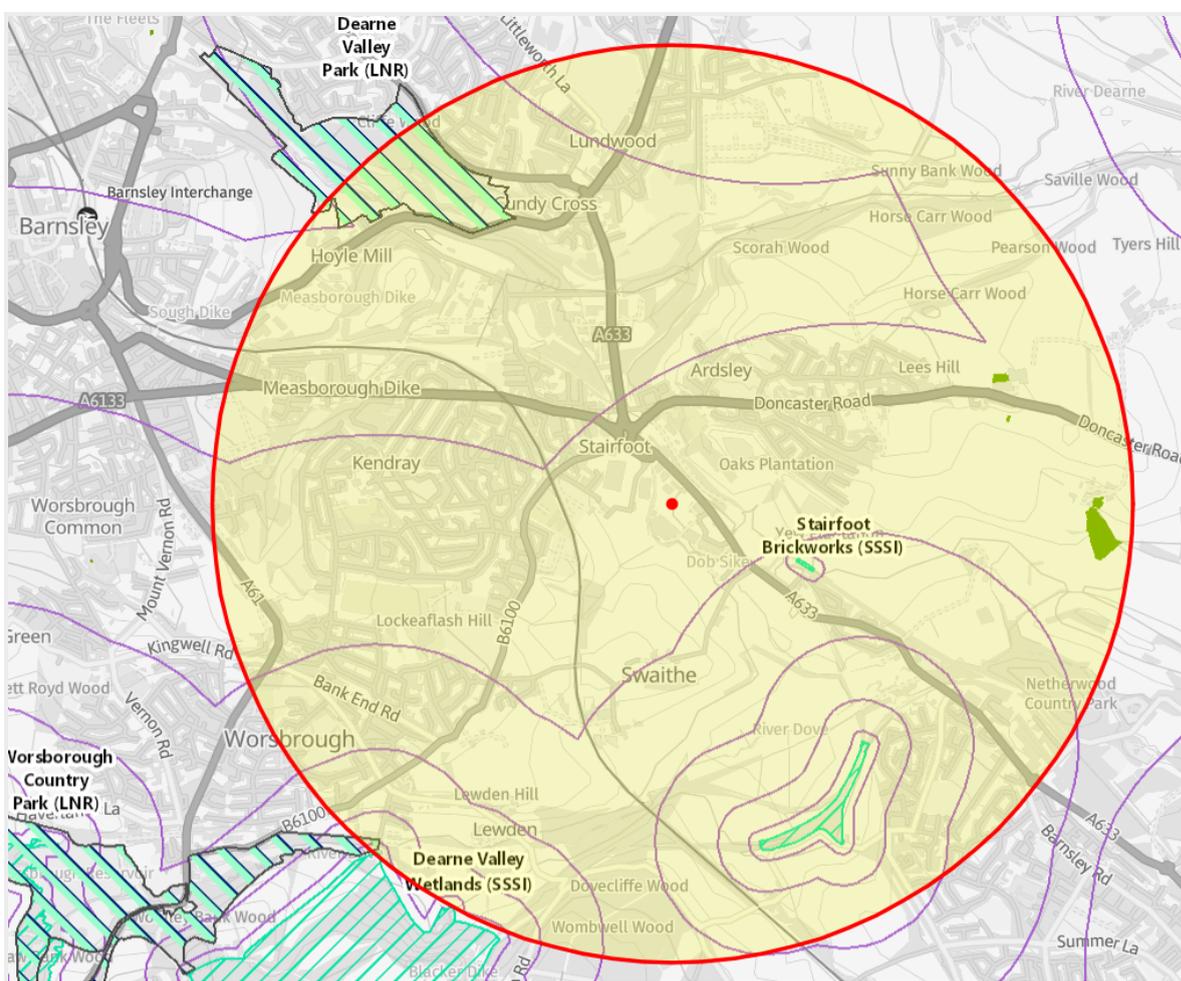


Desk Study Results (2 km)

- ★ Priority habitats None present in the search area.
- ★ None present.
- ★ The site falls within the Amber zone for District Level Licencing for GCN². Amber or Red Zones, which are areas of medium to high importance for GCN, however as the site is within an urban context and lacks any terrestrial or aquatic habitat for GCN it is considered highly unlikely for the species to be present or impacted by the proposals. There are no ponds within 250m of the site.

Granted Licence(s)

Magic Map



<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> accessed on 11th February 2025

2

https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/6d65c02890b94c20ba709717a19c3cd6_0/explore?location=53.541953%2C-1.436242%2C16.75



Discussion and Recommendations

Designated sites

No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the distance of the proposals to the designated site. The site was noted within SSSI Risk Zone, although included within the consultation, the site is a built up / urban area within an existing commercial setting, therefore no further consideration should be given and consultation with Natural England is not required.

The proposed red line boundary is entirely developed land / sealed surfaces, therefore is exempt.

The Environment Act (2021) (through the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) requires all planning permissions in England (subject to exemptions) to be granted subject to a new general pre-commencement condition that requires approval of a biodiversity gain plan. The planning authority will only approve the biodiversity gain plan if a minimum of 10% net gain is achieved, this is known as the 'biodiversity gain objective'. Some developments are exempt from the BNG rules which include:

Phase 1 Habitat Survey / BNG

- ★ A development that does not impact a priority habitat and impacts less than 25 square metres (5m by 5m) of on-site habitat or 5 metres of on-site linear habitats such as hedgerows;
 - The areas proposed are developed land: sealed surfaces only and will be replaced with developed land; building - both have negligible habitat potential.
- ★ Householder applications;
- ★ Self builds which are less than nine dwellings, 0.5ha or less and are exclusively self-build dwellings.

Based on the above, it is likely that this site is exempt. The site is below the threshold for area impacted (0.5ha), no impacts to priority habitats and / or vegetated habitats and once developed the developed land:sealed surface will become developed land: buildings.

GCN

No ponds on site or within 250m of the site are present. Although the site is within the amber zone, no aquatic or terrestrial habitat will be affected by the proposals, Therefore, GCN are not considered a constraint to the proposals.

Protected Species

It is considered highly unlikely for protected species to be present on site or using the site due to the urban context and in use car park.

Ecological Enhancements

The National Planning Policy Framework and local development plan requires ecological enhancement of sites subject to development proposals to the extent that they provide a net biodiversity gain. The introduction of native shrubs would be beneficial for a range of birds. Examples of native wildlife friendly shrubs that can be planted include English lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*, common broom *Cytisus scoparius*, dog rose *Rosa canian*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, gorse *Ulex europaeus*, currant *Ribes rubrum*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, witch hazel *Hamamelis virginiana* and box *Buxus*



Ecological Enhancements

sempervirens. Good horticultural practice should be utilised, including the use of peat-free composts, mulches and soil conditioners, native plants and avoidance of the use of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

References

- ★ Botanical Society of the British Isles (2013) Online atlas of the British and Irish Flora. [online] Available at: http://www.brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/index.php?q=title_page.
- ★ British Standards Institute (2013) Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development. BS 42020:2013.
- ★ CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- ★ CIRIA (2015) Environmental good practice on site guide, 4th Edition. Construction Industry Research and Information Association, London.
- ★ JNCC Report no. 259. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
- ★ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for Environmental Audit. JNCC, Peterborough.
- ★ Stace, C. (2019) New Flora of the British Isles. [4th Edition] C&M Floristics.

Legislation

Relevant legislation, policy guidance and both Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are referred to throughout this report where appropriate. Their context and application is explained in the relevant sections of this report. The relevant articles of legislation are:

- ★ The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021);
- ★ ODPM Circular 06/2005 (retained as Technical Guidance on NPPF 2019);
- ★ Local planning policies;
- ★ The Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- ★ The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- ★ Local Biodiversity Action Plan for South Yorkshire.