



2022/0115: LAND OFF SHAW LANE, CARLTON, BARNSLEY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE - ECOLOGICAL ADDENDUM – SEPTEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2019 by Network Space Ltd to carry out ecological surveys at land off Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, hereafter known as the 'site'. The site is the subject of an outline planning application with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (planning reference: 2022/0115) for residential development of up to 215 dwellings with associated car parking/garages, landscaping, public open space including both equipped and non-equipped areas of play, SUDS and drainage, with details of a new vehicular access onto Shaw Lane (Outline with all matters reserved apart from means of access).

A number of ecological surveys have been undertaken at the site by Rachel Hacking Ecology (RHE) to support the planning application, including an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (2019), a Badger Survey (2022) and a Willow Tit Survey (2022) as well as the production of a Great Crested Newt statement (2022). This addendum should be read in conjunction with the reports.

As part of the application, comments were issued from the Planning Ecologist, objecting to the application in lieu of extra information and supporting data. This document addresses the comments relating to ecology.

The proposed development site currently comprises an arable field and the associated boundary habitats.

COMMENTS & RESPONSE

A request for a data search from Barnsley Biological Record Centre (BBRC) was requested. This was undertaken. A total of 13169 records were returned. No records were returned from the site. The Planning Ecologist requested the data search so that records could be used to strengthen any previous conclusions. These are described below.

Great Crested Newt

10 records for Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* were returned from the data search. Most of these records are from Rabbit Ings Country Park or the surrounding land, where a breeding population has been recorded approximately 825 metres to the north-east of the site, dated between 2013 and 2020. This is much further than the 250 metre – 500 metre radii of risk.

RHE stands by the conclusion it is reasonably unlikely that GCN occurs on site. The pond on site has been dry or held very little water during the multiple site visits. The habitats on site are mostly of poor quality, with better quality suitable GCN terrestrial habitats existing closer to

the country park. The nearest record is 825 metres away. No further GCN surveys or mitigation are required.

Badger

2 records of Badger *Meles meles* were returned within the data search. These are from 250m to the east of the site and Rabbit Ings Country Park 825m to the north of the site. These are at such a distance to be of no consequence to the development.

Multiple Badger surveys have been carried out on the site, with no active Badger setts found within 30 metres and no signs of Badger activity found. Fox and Rabbit evidence was found. Disused mammal holes exist within the railway embankment east of the site, with the holes extending into the embankment, away from the site.

The Planning Ecologist requested a data search be undertaken with the local Badger group. RHE considers this to be unnecessary given the survey findings and the records returned from the data search.

Given the lack of Badger evidence, it is considered that no Badger sett will be impacted upon by the development. However, a pre-commencement Badger survey should be carried out to assess potential changes to the Badger activity on the site and the land 30m surrounding the site. A RAMs Method Statement must be implemented during the works on the site.

Bats

43 records of bats were returned 39 of these records are from Carlton Marsh Local Wildlife Site. Species include Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Common and Soprano *Pipistrelle Pipistrellus pipistrellus/ Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii* bats. Given the provision of suitable foraging habitat in the locality, the site is not considered to be an important bat foraging resource in the area and the proposed development poses an opportunity to increase the potential of roosting opportunities in the area through the provision of bat boxes. A sensitive lighting scheme should be implemented along the site boundaries to ensure there is foraging habitat available on the site.

Reptiles

15 records of Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica* were returned, from Carlton Marsh LWS, Barnsley Canal and Rabbit Ings. The site does not offer suitable foraging habitat for Grass Snake or other reptiles.

Water Vole

390 records for Water Vole were returned from Rabbit Ings. No suitable Water Vole habitat exists on the site and there are no suitable habitats connecting the site and Rabbit Ings Country Park. Water Vole is not considered to be a constraint on development at this site.

Barnsley Canal Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Barnsley Canal LWS lies to the west of the site, approximately 45m away at the nearest point. The proposed site masterplan shows cycle and footpath links between the site and the LWS. The distance between the site and the LWS means that a direct impact from the development is unlikely. There may be an indirect increase in recreational pressure as a result of the proposed development. However, the towpath is well managed and well-used it is not believed that an increase in use will result in negative impacts on the LWS.

A comment was made regarding the loss of a hedgerow, where the proposed link between the site and the towpath will be created. The loss can be mitigated for with the inclusion of an additional length of hedgerow within the landscaping plan.

Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (Carlton Marsh)

Dearne Valley Wetland SSSI lies to the south-east of the site, approximately 35m away at the closest point. The citation for this site details its importance for aquatic birds and vegetation.

The Planning Ecologist and Natural England requested more details on potential impacts to the SSSI from the development, and if potential impacts are identified, then an EclA will be required.

Direct Impacts

There will be no direct impact upon the SSSI from the construction or operational phases of the development. This is due to the distance, barrier habitats and the lack of direct impact pathways.

Indirect Impacts

There are no habitats on the proposed development site that offer suitable habitat for qualifying species of the SSSI. Therefore, there will be no indirect impact to the aquatic bird assemblages nor the flora.

The site and the SSSI are of comparable height above sea level. An outline drainage scheme has been designed for the site (Tetra Tech) and this includes the use of SUDS, with detention basins and a pond being suggested. Surface water will discharge at a controlled rate to the Yorkshire Water surface water drainage system, meaning that clean water only will leave the site. Foul water will be connected to a combined sewer system (in agreement with Yorkshire Water). Therefore, no indirect hydrological impact is anticipated to the SSSI. No pollution or run-off impact is anticipated from the development.

An Air Quality assessment has been undertaken (Tetra Tech) and this concludes that no construction phase emissions are anticipated due to strict site management of emissions and during the operational phase of the development, the long-term traffic emissions impact will be negligible. Therefore, there will be no air pollution impact to the SSSI.

In conclusion, it is anticipated that no direct or indirect negative impacts to the SSSI will occur from the development and therefore, no EclA is required.