

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 22.03.2023
Prepared for: Exemplar Healthcare
Springfield Street Barnsley

Prepared by Simon Brain. Chartered arboriculturist. PGCE (Bio. Rec.)

1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Background to the Project	3
1.2	Site Location and Context	3
1.3	Purpose of this Report	3
1.3.1	Surveyor Information	3
2.	Desk Study	4-5
2.1	Methodology	4
2.2	Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview	4-5
3.	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	6-9
3.1	Methodology and Survey results	6
3.1.2	Vascular plants and Habitat	6
3.1.3	Protected and Notable Species Mammals	7-8
3.1.4	Protected and Notable Species Amphibians	8
3.1.5	Protected and Notable Species Avian	8
3.1.6	Protected and Notable Species Vascular Plants	8
3.1.7	Protected and Notable Species Reptiles	9
3.2.	Constraints to the Surveys	9
4.	Summary and Impact. Recommendations for Further Work	9-11
4.1.	Summary and Impact. Protected Sites, habitat and species	9-10
4.2.	Recommendations for protected species. Further work	10-11
5.	Recommednations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12
5.1	Recommednations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12
Appendix		
	Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map	
	Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list	

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the re development of the Springfield Street site in Barnsley comprising of a new healthcare facility constructed on an existing hard standing site with some areas of scrub developing within the site.

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within the Kingstone area of Barnsley in a urban environment and enclosed by existing residential land uses. The habitat on site comprises of scrub habitat growing within areas of hard standing.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS). He has over ten years experience as a practice ecologist and 30 years experience as an arborist.

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI which is located 3775m south of site. Dearne Valley Park (LNR) is located 2075m east. The development proposal does not appear to conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

The site is within the non-statutory Community Forest designation.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are no section 41 habitats listed on the inventory on the site or adjacent to the site boundaries.
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km
- The site is outside the National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England)
- The site area is not covered by the countryside stewardship priority area for Bird Conservation Targeting Project.

- There is no important Bird Areas, Seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species.
- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license application by Natural England was for bat species approximately 700m northeast of site. No EPS other licenses are within 1km.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 14th March 2023 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
A.2.2 scattered scrub	Buddleia sp. Salix caprea	Betula pendula

Target Notes

None taken

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European. Bats are largely ubiquitous but there is little green infrastructure linking the site to the wider landscape. The site contains sub optimal foraging habitat on the site as only very recent scrub is present and the site is mainly hard standing. The dominant vegetation is Buddleia regenerating across the site which will need to be removed for development which do not contain and preliminary roost features because they are small and have not yet formed any features that roosting bats would use. No buildings are present on site for roosting bats.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. Badger records are present in the LRC data. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks on site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 20m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist due to the presence of trees and grassland and the semi urban nature of the site.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 500m of the site and no EPS approved licenses are present within 1km. There is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season. The habitats on site are suitable for the breeding bird species (scrub). Urban birds are likely to use the site such as house sparrow and starling which are birds of conservation concern.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists on the site for these species to be present.

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. There are no priority hedgerows on the site.

Summary - Protected species

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site. No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins. The site is not part of the National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England).

Impact – General

The development proposal seeks to construct a new healthcare facility and associated infrastructure and there is a direct loss of scrub and hard standing habitat for the footprint of the development.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. Loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging. The existing trees do not contain bat roosts.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger and very limited access, hedgehog has potential to be present on site.

Water vole. No impact considered likely.

Amphibians. Some loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of foraging habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact.

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

A Bat Roost Assessment of all trees is not required as they have been inspected as part of this PEA walkover and found to be free of any preliminary roost features because of their very young age and species (buddleia). The site is not likely to hold any significance for commuting and foraging bat species.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No other further surveys are required for these species.

4.2.3 Avian

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree / scrub to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species.

5. Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

5.1 Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside, or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

At present there is no evidence of protected species on the site which could be affected by development. Other protected species that may be present on site include hedgehog.


The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

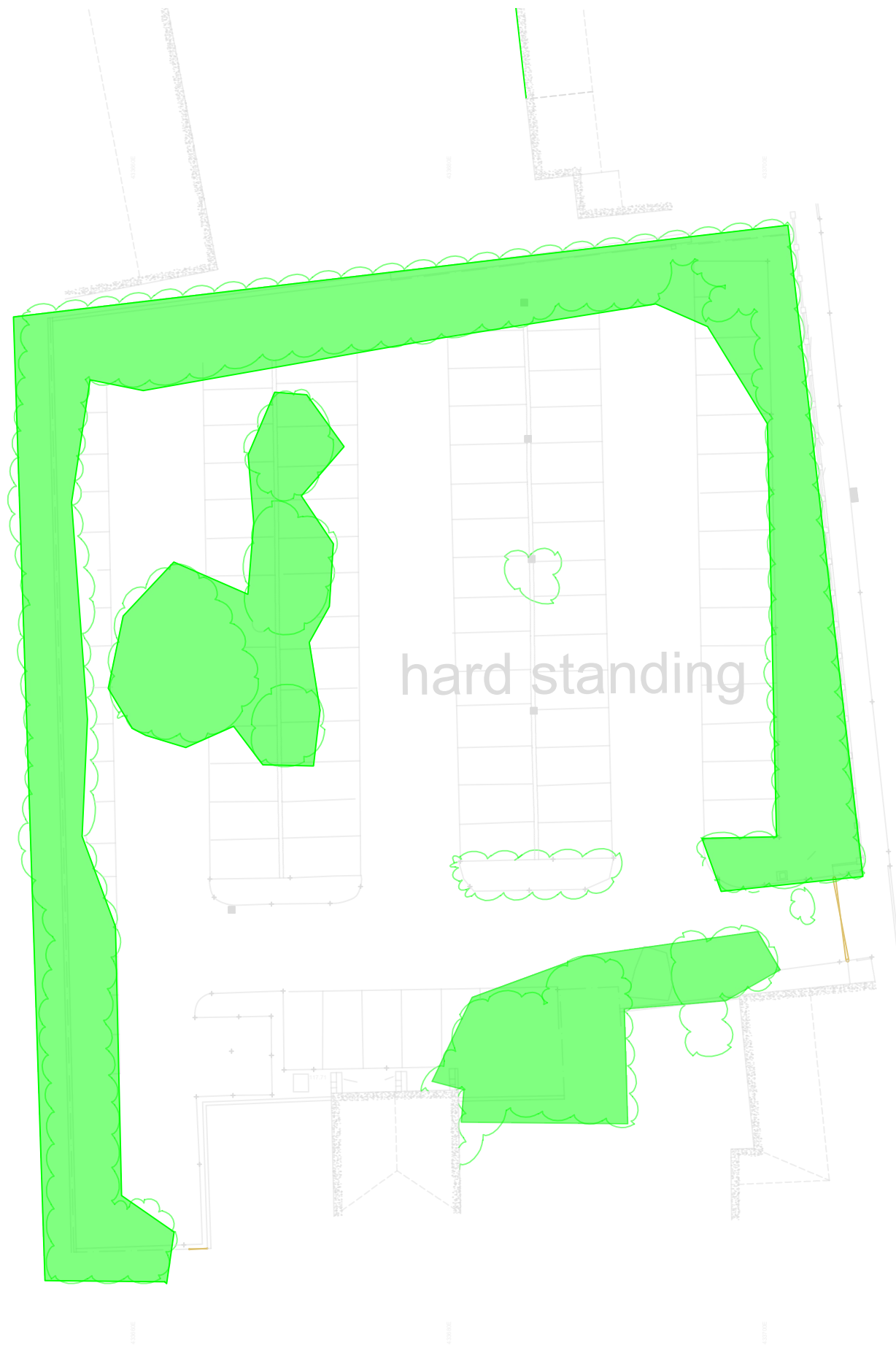
The provision of a Biodiversity enhancement report and a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment is considered to apply to the site in accordance with the NPPF guidelines and best practice.

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

 A.2. Scrub



Client:

Exemplar Healthcare

Project:

Barnsley

Detail:

Phase One Habitat Map

Drawn By: Date: Scale:

SB 22.03.2023 NTS

Drg No:

TR-01

Revision:

V1

Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

Buddleja sp.
Chamerion angustifolium
Convolvulus arvensis
Dactylis glomerata
Epilobium parviflorum
Festuca rubra
Galium aparine
Hedera helix
Ranunculus repens
Rubus sp.
Rubus agg.
Sambucus nigra
Taraxacum officinale
Trifolium repens
Tussilago farfara
Urtica dioica