Living Ecosystems



'Working Towards Sustainble Development and Providing Ecological Education...'

Results of a

Terrestrial mammal survey carried out on land in the vicinity of The Close in Lundwood near Barnsley

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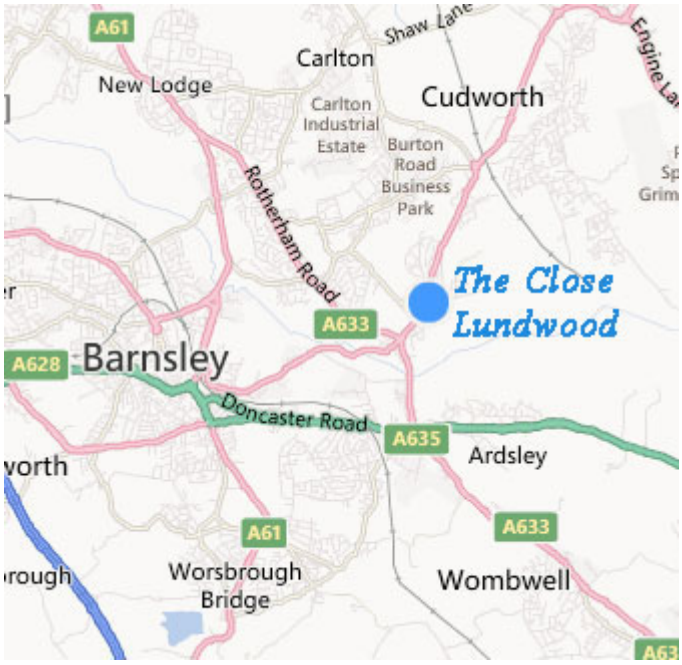
Introduction

Living Ecosystems was commissioned The Cornell Group in January 2013 to carry out a Terrestrial Mammal survey in the vicinity of The Close in Lundwood near Barnsley.



Site Location



Location of The Close in Lundwood.

Details of the proposed works

The current planning application is for residential development amounting to approximately 26 housing units [see figure below].The site is now disused and has been colonised by grassland but was formerly used for housing.



Layout of the proposed residential development



The area around the site as it is currently

Terrestrial mammal survey

A detailed inspection of the site was carried out by Richard Parkinson assisted by Susan Wood for evidence of terrestrial mammals on the 2nd February 2013.

The survey involved walking along all ditches, pond margins, hedgerows, field margins, wooded banks and other landscape features which are known to be suitable habitats for water vole and badgers. These features were searched for the presence of water vole burrows, water vole lawns, larders and latrines and for badger setts and other signs of badger activity. Water voles are typically associated with emergent reed fringe. Areas where soft banks and reed fringes are present provide the best habitats, but water voles can inhabit gaps and crevices in wash walls. Indications of all other terrestrial mammals was also searched for and recorded.

Badger and water vole signs include:

- Water vole burrows.
- Water vole lawns.
- Water vole larders [food caches].
- Water vole latrines.
- Active and disused setts of different types including main setts (breeding setts), annex setts, subsidiary setts and outliner setts.

- If setts are found, they will be examined for the presence of recently excavated spoil and discharged bedding material.
- Pathways used by badgers will be surveyed and mapped, particularly those linking different setts and those indicating the routes taken by animals
- Badger dung deposited in either latrines (dug in pits) or on level ground will also be recorded.
- The searches will record paw-prints in soft ground, hairs (guard hairs) caught on vegetation or fences.
- Grassland and other habitats will be examined for signs of foraging such as grubbings for plant roots and earthworms.
- Other signs will also be recorded.

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Signs of water voles and badgers can be found by an experienced Ecologist throughout the year. Optimal survey periods are between February to May and August to October. Sub-optimal survey periods are January, June, July, November and December. If badgers are recorded on site it may be necessary to undertake further survey works during the optimal survey period.

Badger legislation

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal for any person to **kill, injure** or **take a Badger**. It is an offence to **cruelly ill-treat a Badger**, to **dig**

for or to **snare a Badger**. Under the 1992 Act it is now **illegal to damage a badger sett** or **cause a dog to enter a sett**.
It is also an offence to attempt any of these actions or recklessly allow a dog to enter a sett.
It is also an offence to **possess a dead Badger, which has been acquired illegally,** and to **sell** or **try to sell** or **keep a live Badger.**
A fine of up to £5000 can be imposed for each animal. The courts can also confiscate any dogs used in offences against Badgers and disqualify the offender from owning a dog.

Water Vole Legislation

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was updated on April 6th 2008 and water vole protection was increased to make it an offence to:
- Intentionally kill, injure or take water vole from the wild.
- Possess or control live or dead water voles or derivatives.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which water voles use for shelter or protection.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles whilst occupying a structure or place used for that purpose.
- Sell water voles or offer or offer or expose for sale or transport for sale.

Terrestrial mammal survey results

Evidence of protected terrestrial mammal species

Despite extensive and comprehensive searches no evidence was found for any protected terrestrial mammal species at the site.

Other mammal tracks and signs

There was no evidence of hedgehogs and scarcely any evidence for foxes at the site.

Conclusion

No evidence was discovered indicating the presence of any protected species of terrestrial mammal. No adverse impacts on terrestrial are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

Prepared by

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