

Stone Lea
Sedgwick
Kendal
Cumbria
LA8 0JP



Tel/Fax: 015395 61894
Mobile: 07812 081320
Email: info@envtech.co.uk
Web: www.envtech.co.uk

BASELINE ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Morrisons, Buxton

December 2010

NB. Information on legally protected, rare or vulnerable species may appear in ecological reports. In such cases it is recommended that appropriate caution be used when circulating copies.

©Envirotech

GEN/10/193

Envirotech NW Ltd
Director: A Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEEM, MRICS, CEnv, Dip NDEA
Registered Office: Stone Lea, Sedgwick, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 0JP
Registered in England and Wales. Company Registration Number 5028111



RICS

The mark of
property professionalism worldwide

COMMENTS ON CURRENT STATUS AND ANY IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE ACTIONS NEEDED:

THE SITE IS UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT AN ASSEMBLAGE OF PLANT SPECIES OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE AND HAS LIMITED SCOPE FOR PROTECTED SPECIES. NO AQUATIC HABITAT WILL DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTED BY WORK BUT A PRECAUTIONARY FOLLOW-UP SURVEY IS JUDGED AS BEING REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK TO CHECK FOR THE ABSENCE OF NESTING BIRDS.

REPORT CONTROL SHEET

General Report Information	
Date of site risk assessment	3rd December 2010
Project lead signature	Andrew Gardner - Director
Date report issued	8 th December 2010
Report approved by	Andrew Gardner - Director

Report Version Control

Whilst all due and reasonable care is taken in the preparation of reports, Envirotech accept no responsibility whatsoever for any consequences of the release of this report to third parties.

Version	Date	Author	Description
1.0	3rd December 2010	Andrew Gardner	Draft document created
2.0	3rd December 2010	Andrew Gardner	Final document issued
3.0	8 th December 2010	Andrew Gardner	Final document (revised)

RESULTS SUMMARY AND ACTIONS REQUIRED

Results

1. The Morrisons site is unlikely to support habitat of significant value to wildlife. It is heavily disturbed and influenced by the operation of the adjacent supermarket
2. The principal constraint to development is the protection of adjacent trees.



Site Location - SK 065 729

Extension of building into adjoining land

Woodland

Residential Gardens

Based upon Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright, under licence 1000020449, unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Please note: this plan is intended only to indicate the approximate location of features and should therefore, not be treated as an accurate scale plan.

SURVEY COMMENTARY

The tables below provide the results of the survey in a structured format with particular reference to any notable factors or features for regulatory compliance or conservation. Please also refer to the Plan above.

Item	Observations
Habitats & vegetation	
General description	The site lies to the South east edge of Buxton. The site comprises a large supermarket including car parking to the North West side. The land on which the proposed extension will cover consists of mixed woodland of varied species and rough grassland. Existing retaining walls comprising gabion baskets limit the growth of vegetation and trees.
<p>A tree survey has indicated specimens from juvenile to mature ages including native and non native species. Conditions of the recorded trees vary from moderate to good physical condition and poor to good structural condition.</p> <p>The rough grassland/ scrub at the site comprises common native as well as non-native horticultural species associated with the car park landscaping scheme.</p> <p>Trees to be removed are generally of low ecological value. The protection/ retention of trees outside the site boundary is however encouraged.</p>	
Mammals	
<p>With certain exceptions, all mammals are legally protected from cruel treatment such as crushing or asphyxiation, making it necessary to check sites before groundworks, etc. commence to ensure vulnerable taxa are not harmed. Many species have additional strict protection which may include their habitat, e.g. dormice, water voles, otters. All bats and their roosts are afforded strict protection. Generally, unless a licence is issued, the law prohibits intentional killing, injuring or taking; possessing; intentional or reckless damage, destruction or obstruction of any structure or place used for shelter or protection, and selling or offering for sale. Badgers and their setts are strictly protected under separate legislation to prevent cruelty.</p>	
Bats	<p>A specific survey for bats has undertaken on the site covering both the existing supermarket building, trees and retaining walls affected by work.</p> <p>The survey was undertaken by a licensed surveyor in accordance with the recommendations of BCT (2007).</p> <p>The tree report indicates that some trees may provide cracks, crevices and deadwood which could support roosting and/or hibernating bats, as well as foraging potential surrounding them.</p> <p>The site survey found that although some of the trees have damage too them, none of the cracks or fissures are suitable roosting locations.</p> <p>All of the trees were categorised as "risk level 3" (BCT, 2007), no suitable roosting sites, a very low risk to bats, no additional survey or ecologist intervention required.</p> <p>The existing supermarket was inspected for possible roosting sites in the walls, eaves and roof. All parts of the building affected by work were found to be very well sealed</p>

	with no potential roost sites located. The risk to bats from the proposal is therefore considered to be minimal. No follow up surveys are judged as required.
Birds With the exception of a few derogated pest or very common species, all wild birds are protected from killing, injuring or taking as well as taking, damaging or destroying nests in use or being built, and taking or destroying eggs. Some birds ("Schedule 1 species") are afforded special protection from intentional or reckless disturbance while building a nest, or when such a bird is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young, or intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young.	
Common breeding birds	<p>The trees and grassland to be affected may support foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of bird species. The high levels of disturbance associated with use of the car park and supermarket may however reduce its potential for use by sensitive species considerably.</p> <p>We would recommended that as a precaution the scrub to be removed to facilitate the development is checked prior to the commencement of work if this is in the period March- September inclusive.</p>
Herpetofauna The grass snake, slow-worm, viviparous (common) lizard and adder (viper) are all protected from intentional or reckless killing and injury and commercial activities. The great crested newt and some rarer herpetofauna and their habitats are more strictly protected: intentional killing, injuring or taking; possessing (including parts or derivatives), intentional or reckless damage, destruction or obstruction of any structure or place used for shelter or protection, and commercial activities are all prohibited.	
Slow-worm/ Common Lizard/ Amphibians	<p>The grassland/ scrub to be affected may support foraging habitat for a variety of reptile species. The area of suitable habitat to be lost is however small in comparison with that in the local area.</p> <p>The commencement of work (scrub clearance) is quickly likely to result in the displacement of any reptile species present on the site and they will move to adjacent unaffected areas. Scrub clearance, which will not require earth works is not considered to be a hazardous operation for reptiles.</p> <p>Cleared scrub should however be removed from site or immediately chipped in order that new refuges are not created on the site.</p> <p>The risk to reptiles from the proposal is on this basis considered to be low.</p> <p>Amphibians are not considered likely to be a significant issue due to the absence of still water and ponds in the local area.</p>

Macro-invertebrates

Several invertebrates enjoy varying degrees of legal protection including Atlantic stream crayfish, lesser silver water beetle, Roman snail, stag beetle and some butterflies, dragonflies, etc.

Macro-invertebrates	The grassland and trees to be affected may support habitat for a variety of macro-invertebrate species. The habitat affected by work appears common in the local area. No significant impacts are therefore likely to occur. Replanting/landscaping of the scheme, perhaps with the inclusion of a native climber with a high nectar source such as Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>) on the retaining wall would encourage insects to the site.
---------------------	---

Invasive species

There are an increasing number of these and some are notifiable or require elimination/prevention of spread.

Japanese knotweed (or related Fallopia spp.)	We have not undertaken a specific survey for invasive species at the site. No indication of the residual stems of this species were however noted during the site survey.
Weeds Act natives (common ragwort, creeping and spear thistles, curled and broad-leaved docks)	We have not undertaken a specific survey for weeds act species at the site. No indication of the residual stems of these species were however noted during the site survey.
Other exotics that may cause problems such as Rhododendron ponticum, Buddleia davidii.	We have not undertaken a survey for other exotic species at the site.

Professional responsibility

This report has been commissioned and the actions of the surveyor have been made in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. (www.ieem.org.uk) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (www.rics.org.uk)

Accuracy of report

This report has been compiled based on the methodology as detailed and the professional experience of the surveyor. Whilst the report reflects the situation found as accurately as possible, all of the protected species this survey covers are wild and can move freely from site to site. Their presence or absence detailed in this report does not entirely preclude the possibility of a different past, current or future use of the site surveyed.

We would ask all clients acting upon the contents of this report to show due diligence when undertaking work on their site and/or in their interaction with protected species. If protected species are found during a work programme, and continuing the work programme could result in their disturbance, injury or death, either directly or indirectly an offence may be committed.

If in doubt, stop work and seek further professional advice.

Quality and Environmental Assurance

This report has been printed on recycled paper as part of our commitment to achieving both the ISO 9001 Quality Assurance and ISO 14001 Environmental Assurance standards. Envirotech have been awarded the Gold standard by the Cumbria Business Environmental Network for its Environmental management systems.

Signed



Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEEM, MRICS, CEnv, Dip NDEA
Director Envirotech NW Ltd
Wednesday, 08 December 2010