

**Pre-Construction Ecological
Survey Schedule**

Dinting Vale, Glossop

Planning Ref: HPK/2009/0496

Date: July 2012

Written and checked Sheaf Ecology Ltd

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the planning approval for a development at Dinting Vale, Glossop (planning reference HPK/2009/0496), condition 14 requires the developers to submit for approval by the LPA, an ecological management and implementation scheme prior to any commencement of development works. Within condition 14 there are 11 subsections (listed from i to xi) which identify the detailed requirements of such a scheme.
- 1.2 Section (ii) of condition 14 requires a 'programme and methodology of pre-construction surveys' to be provided to the LPA. However, as the submission of the full ecological management and implementation scheme could post date important survey 'windows', an early submission of the proposed pre-construction survey schedule is being provided in this report. Although this is a stand-alone report for the purposes of gaining an early approval of the survey schedule, it will be integrated into the full ecological management and implementation scheme when that is submitted to the LPA in due course.

2.0 Ecological surveys

- 2.1 Due to the long-running nature of the planning application and subsequent Village green application, the development site and surrounding area have been subject to numerous and extensive ecological surveys since 2006. Over this period surveys of flora and fauna have been conducted by field ecologist using standard methods as recommended by Natural England, the government's statutory advisor on nature conservation, and other specialist groups such as the Bat Conservation Trust. Surveys of species and habitats across the full range that may be found at the site from European Protected Species to local BAP priorities have been conducted.
- 2.2 The site comprises a range of habitats all of which have been surveyed according to their nature conservation potential including mature woodland, wetlands, grasslands, scrub and plantation woodlands.
- 2.3 The largest constraint to the development works is the presence of bats on-site and in particular their use of the mature woodland as a roost site. Other protected species surveys included great crested newts and badgers as well as a reptile, breeding bird and phase 2 habitat surveys. The detailed results and outcomes of the surveys are contained within the Environmental Statement submitted with the planning application and a summary of survey work conducted to-date is shown in table 1, below.

Table 1: Brief overview of ecological surveys conducted on Carpenter site to-date

Species/habitat	Type of survey	Date(s) of survey	Main Findings
Bats	Nocturnal (dusk/dawn and transects). Anabat remote recording. Tree-climbing assessments	2007-2011	A small number of common pipistrelle are using the mature woodland as a roost site and foraging area. Soprano pipistrelle noted foraging from Anabat data. Daubenton bats feeding over ponds.
Amphibians including great crested newt	Presence/absence survey (four visits for each survey)	2007 2009 2011	A small number of smooth and palmate newts were found as well as frogs and toads. No great crested newts were found.
Reptiles	Presence/absence survey (six visits)	2007 2010	No reptiles were found.
Badger	Badger signs search Comprehensive site search and follow-up works on numerous site visits	2009 Spring 2010 2011/2012	Badger sighted during bat survey of woodland. Runs, latrines and evidence of feeding. Suspected outlier sett recorded in early 2010 but this was only used for a short period and has been abandoned but is monitored for any further use.
Birds	Breeding bird survey (6 visits)	2009 2010	A range of common species were noted across the site and song thrush (RSPB red list)
Woodland areas, trees and hedgerows	Mature woodland only. Other woodlands surveyed as part of Phase 1 habitat survey.	2007 Updated Phase 1 in 2008	The surrounding woodland areas have only been surveyed as part of a phase 1 habitat survey. The mature woodland has been surveyed in detail. New plantation woodland areas appear to be overcrowded. Hedgerow on-site in poor condition. Wet woodland contains interesting ground flora.

Species/habitat	Type of survey	Date(s) of survey	Main Findings
			Tree condition and ecological value not known in detail.
Grassland	Grassland survey (including quadrats) Independent surveys by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as grassland part of a wildlife site.	Summer 2007 Summer 2010	A range of grassland types, some with considerable botanical interest.

3.0 Survey proposals

3.1 Due to the ongoing nature and scale of the proposals and planning requirements there has been considerable consultation over the survey requirements conducted to-date with various organisations including:

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- High Peak Borough Council
- Arboricultural consultants
- Nick Bonsall – bat specialist
- Natural England

3.2 In March 2010 Sheaf Ecology conducted a site meeting with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and High Peak Borough council to discuss various aspects of the development proposals, including further survey effort. Additionally, in previous and current consultations with the above organisations and specialists it has been agreed that a certain level of re-survey work is required at the Carpenter site to increase the available information and data for the habitats and species directly affected by the development and for those surrounding the development. The overall purpose of the re-survey works are as follows:

- to provide 2012 bat survey data to allow a successful application to Natural England for a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence for the woodland felling operations;
- to ensure no other protected species will be affected by the works i.e. badgers;
- to provide additional information on site ecology for the Ecological Management Plan and Woodland Management Plan (planning conditions 13 & 14) and ensure

existing valuable habitats are not compromised as part of the mitigation and compensation strategy;

The proposed survey schedule can be seen in Table 2.

3.3 Protected Species

- 3.3.1 Previous survey work has shown that the most significant ecological issues are roosting bats, removal of woodland habitat and the planning of associated mitigation and compensation measures. Survey work to-date has identified a fairly small population (<10) of bats roosting in the woodland. As the woodland is to be felled, in order for there to be no offence committed by Carpenter Ltd, all felling works must be conducted under a Natural England European Protected Species Licence that will allow for the destruction of such roosts sites (with appropriate mitigation and compensation measure).

In order to make such a licence application, Natural England will require 2012 survey data to demonstrate that the use of, and numbers of bats within the woodland, hasn't changed. Therefore during July 2012 it is proposed that further nocturnal surveys and remote recording with Anabat devices will be conducted to provide additional information in relation to the use of the woodland and movements of bats entering and leaving the woodland. Transects will be carried out to assess use of the wider site to inform mitigation proposals in the licence.

- 3.3.2 Badgers have been known to occupy a newly dug outlier sett for a short period on the site during early 2010 but apart from that and a single sighting, badger activity can be described as low therefore pre-construction surveys will be confined to a dedicated search of the site for any new setts or other identifiable activity. Surveying for field signs in the course of other fieldwork will be conducted as routine and a strategy for protecting badgers during the construction phase will be produced from information gathered should there be any apparent badger activity.
- 3.3.3 All birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 and amendments) whilst nesting with some birds receiving additional protection as schedule 1 species. There are no schedule 1 species using the woodland at the Carpenter site and woodland felling operations are scheduled for late autumn/early winter therefore there should be no constraints in respect of bird use of the site or requirements for additional survey effort (all trees will be assessed, however, during felling operations).

3.4 Habitats

- 3.4.1 In order to inform on the Woodland Management Plan a re-survey of the woodland ground flora will be carried out to identify areas of ground flora that could be translated from the mature felling area to the remaining and younger areas of woodland on the site. Similarly, hedgerow surveys will be conducted with a view to short and long-term improvements, site wide, through translocation of suitable woodland ground flora to the replanting and

protection of areas in need of restoration. The surveying of immature/plantation woodlands on the site will identify receptor areas for translocated woodland ground flora that would have to be selectively cleared to provide.

- 3.4.2 All areas of grassland that will not be affected by the development works will be re-surveyed to Phase 2 level to provide additional detail for detailed grassland conservation management proposals / ecological management plan. This will also inform on appropriate seed mixes to be used on embankments once development works are complete.

Table 2: Proposed pre-construction surveys

Survey	Rational	Survey methodology	Timescale 2012	Notes
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gather data for 2012 season on bat use of the woodland and to further understand how bats are using the mature woodland and the surrounding site. To ensure adequate mitigation for habitat loss can be provided. To ensure bats are not harmed during removal of mature woodland To inform the tree felling operations. To inform planning conditions 9 – 14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dusk and dawn surveys to be completed in July 2012 Anabat remote recording to be used in combination with the above surveys and left in position for 7-10 days. Transects around the site and wider area for mitigation proposals. Trees in the woodland have already been reassessed during June 2012 to monitor any changes from the full tree-climbing surveys in 2007 (high potential trees have been tagged). 	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Bonsall (bat specialist) will act as licensed ecologist for Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licence. 2012 data required for licensing process.
Badger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A search of the site for signs of badger activity and new sett creations. Badgers are known to use the site and the woodland. Need to ensure that no outlier setts are present at Carpenter site. To allow for adequate mitigation to be put in place for construction phase. To inform planning condition 14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkover survey searching for any badger setts. Further survey prior to development works and on another site visits. 	Continuous from June 2012	Construction work close to badger setts can only be carried out under a Natural England license and at certain times of the year. Thus, it is important to make sure no sett is located close to or within the development footprint.

Survey	Rational	Survey methodology	Timescale 2012	Notes
Grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure a comprehensive species lists for grassland types on the site are available. To protect species rich and valuable grassland areas during the construction phase. To inform mitigation and habitat enhancement measures and to ensure no woodland is planted on important grassland habitat. To update baseline data for monitoring of mitigation work on grassland improvement (e.g. permanent quadrats etc.) To inform planning conditions 9, 13 & 14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCV classification of grassland areas. Permanent quadrats for monitoring purposes. 	July	Re-survey on previous phase 2 areas (and wider site).
Woodland Ground Flora survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To re-survey ground flora in the mature woodland and which areas of topsoil may be salvaged and translocated into other woodland areas. This would act as a benchmark for restoration works within other woodland areas on-site as mitigation. To determine the ground flora species present in other areas of woodland. To inform restoration proposals/ 	One off visit. Standard ground flora survey.	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detailed woodland ground flora survey has been conducted to-date and is required for restoration and mitigation measures. Can be combined with Woodland and hedgerow survey see below.

Survey	Rational	Survey methodology	Timescale 2012	Notes
	mitigation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a baseline for future monitoring purposes (permanent quadrats) To inform planning conditions 9, 13 and 14. 			
Woodland and hedgerow survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform mitigation and management of woodland areas to be retained. To inform planning condition 9, 13 and 14. 	One off visit. NVC survey where possible, if not, woodland assessment in terms of ecological value etc.	No restrictions	Can be combined with Woodland Ground Flora survey