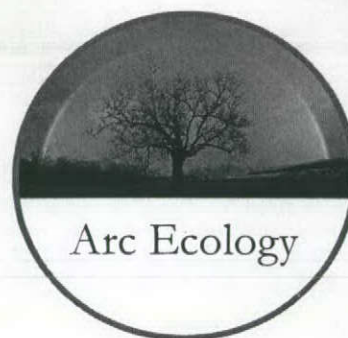


Our Ref: ARC/MRT0615/HPA

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

Address: Amy Hubble  
High Peak Architects  
Wharf House  
Wharf Road  
Whaley Bridge  
High Peak  
SK23 7AD



For the attention of Amy

**ADDENDUM TO REPORT FOR MANCHESTER ROAD TUNSTEAD MILTON**

This letter is to be used as an addendum to the above report following queries raised by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) following consultation of the original report.

The queries raised are as follows:

- 1) No desk study has been completed. This information is lacking from the survey report and has not allowed a detailed impact assessment and appraisal to be completed.
- 2) From reviewing some of the information we hold we are aware of the following: Combs Reservoir SSSI is located immediately to the east of the proposed development site and there is a toad crossing on the Manchester Road. This has not been taken into account as part of the appraisal.
- 3) We are aware from survey work undertaken in the local area that the fields in question may be of botanical interest. Further survey work should be undertaken of the fields to determine the extent of their botanical interest through detailed surveys during the summer months by a suitably experienced botanist.
- 4) The fields have not been assessed for their suitability to support ground nesting birds or wintering birds. This is considered to be particularly important given the location of the SSSI immediately adjacent to the proposed development site.
- 5) The pond has not been subject to a HSI Assessment for great crested newt and its suitability to support other breeding amphibians such as common toad has not been considered.
- 6) Ponds within 500 metres of the proposed development site have not been considered in terms of their suitability to support great crested newt (and other amphibians).

- 7) The trees do not appear to have been assessed for their suitability to support roosting bats.
- 8) The site has not been assessed for its suitability to support foraging bats and no bat activity surveys have completed.

These concerns will be dealt with in order in this letter.

1) **A desk study was undertaken through DWT and a summary of the results is given below with full details in Appendix A - Data Search Results and Appendix B - Confidential Badger Records at the end of this document.**

### STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

#### STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

There is a single Statutory Designated Site within 1km of the survey area:

**Combs Reservoir Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), OSGR SK 038 795, 32.1ha** - The site is one of a very few sites in Britain which support an unusual community of short-lived mosses and liverworts. The most characteristic species is the rare moss *Physcomitrium sphaericum* which is known at only a very few other localities and other short-lived mosses such as *Physcomitrella patens*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum*, *Ephemerum serratum*, and the liverworts *Ricca glauca* and *Fossombronia wondraczekii*. The plant communities of the reservoir margins are also of interest and provide the only known county site for the rare mudwort *Limosella aquatica*. The combination of woodland, grassland and water-margin habitats support a number of breeding birds including great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* and little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius* whilst the marshy grasslands attract snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

#### NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

There are three Non-Statutory designated sites within 1km of the survey area. These are all Local Wildlife Sites (LWS):

**Long Lane, 1.5ha** - This site is situated approximately 900m to the south-west of the site and consists of heather moorland.

**Lower Crossings Meadows, 2.5ha** - This site is situated approximately 1km to the east of the site and consists of unimproved neutral grassland.

**Bradshaw Hall Lane, 0.5ha** - This site is situated approximately 800m to the north-east of the site and consists of a hedgerow.

There is also one potential wildlife site and four sites of interest within 1km of the site. These have been noted as having nature conservation interest but have not been officially designated at the time of writing.

## PROTECTED & NOTABLE FAUNA AND FLORA

### FLORA SPECIES

There were no records found of protected or notable flora species within 1km of the site.

### BATS

No records for bat species were given for within 1km of the site:

### BADGER

Three records of badger setts were given from within 1km of the site (see Confidential Badger Appendix B), but none were from within 50m of the site boundary.

### BIRDS

No records of protected or notable bird species were provided from within 1km of the site.

### OTHER PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

Records for other protected or notable species within 1km of the site include eighteen records of water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) and one record of otter (*Lutra lutra*) from within Combs Reservoir SSSI.

While it is recognised that the data search does not provide exhaustive records, it indicates that there are unlikely to be any notable impacts on protected or notable flora and fauna species or designated sites as the habitats within the site appear to be commonplace and there are not expected to be any significant impacts from the development apart from within the site boundary.

There is no suitable habitat for otter and water vole within the site and the survey was undertaken at a time when it would be expected that any notable floral assemblages would be visible.

**2) From reviewing some of the information we hold we are aware there is a toad crossing on the Manchester Road. This has not been taken into account as part of the appraisal.**

While we are aware of the potential for toads to be present, and the toad crossing indicating that their numbers are substantial in the area, there is very little suitable habitat, either terrestrial or aquatic within the site, suggesting that were toads to be present, it would be in lower numbers than in surrounding areas of better habitat, resulting in a reduced risk to this species from the development.

3) We are aware from survey work undertaken in the local area that the fields in question may be of botanical interest. Further survey work should be undertaken of the fields to determine the extent of their botanical interest through detailed surveys during the summer months by a suitably experienced botanist.

While a full botanical survey was outside the scope of the initial survey, no floral assemblages were noted within the site. There are no boggy/wet areas present likely to allow spread of the notable species from the SSSI to the site, and it is considered that the floral interest within the site is no different to that of similar fields within the area.

4) The fields have not been assessed for their suitability to support ground nesting birds or wintering birds. This is considered to be particularly important given the location of the SSSI immediately adjacent to the proposed development site.

The fields were assessed for the presence of ground nesting birds and the habitats and short grass sward were deemed insufficient to offer suitable cover for such species. It is not the purpose of an Ecological Report to list all the species that are likely to not be in the site.

It is possible that the site could be used by overwintering bird species, but as there is regular activity within the site, it is unlikely that they would remain for long due to disturbance and the site is not considered to offer any more suitable habitat than the SSSI and other fields nearby.

5) The pond has not been subject to a HSI Assessment for great crested newt and its suitability to support other breeding amphibians such as common toad has not been considered.

An HSI assessment was carried out on the pond and the results are given in the table below:

Pond ref	Pond 1
SI1 - Location	0.5
SI2 - Pond area	0.05
SI3 - Pond drying	0.9
SI4 - Water quality	0.33
SI4 - Shade	1
SI6 - Fowl	0.01
SI7 - Fish	1
SI8 - Ponds	0.5
SI9 - Terr'l habitat	0.33
SI10 - Macrophytes	0.3
<b>HSI</b>	<b>0.29</b>

The score indicates that the pond is of poor quality for great crested newt and would also be unsuitable for common toad to breed in due to the pond being created to house the owners domestic ducks.

**6) Ponds within 500 metres of the proposed development site have not been considered in terms of their suitability to support great crested newt (and other amphibians).**

The score indicates that the pond is of poor quality for great crested newt and would also be unsuitable for common toad to breed in due to the pond being created to house the owner's domestic ducks.

Given the lack of suitability of the pond for this species and general lack of suitable terrestrial habitat present, investigation of ponds within the wider area would be unlikely to offer any useful information regarding great crested newts within the site.

**7) The trees do not appear to have been assessed for their suitability to support roosting bats.**

It clearly states in the report that none of the trees present had features considered suitable for roosting or resting bats.

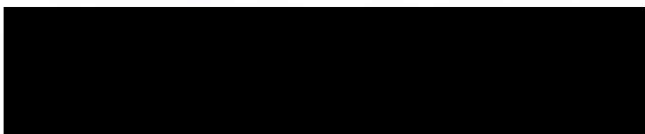
**8) The site has not been assessed for its suitability to support foraging bats and no bat activity surveys have completed.**

The site is no more or less suitable for commuting and foraging bats than the surrounding habitats.

As only a small number of trees are to be removed as part of the proposed development (a few on the road for access and a single tree from within the site), it is considered that foraging areas and commuting routes for bats will remain very close to their current status and the effect of the development on commuting and foraging bats is assessed to be minimal.

I trust this letter is suitable for your requirements and if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

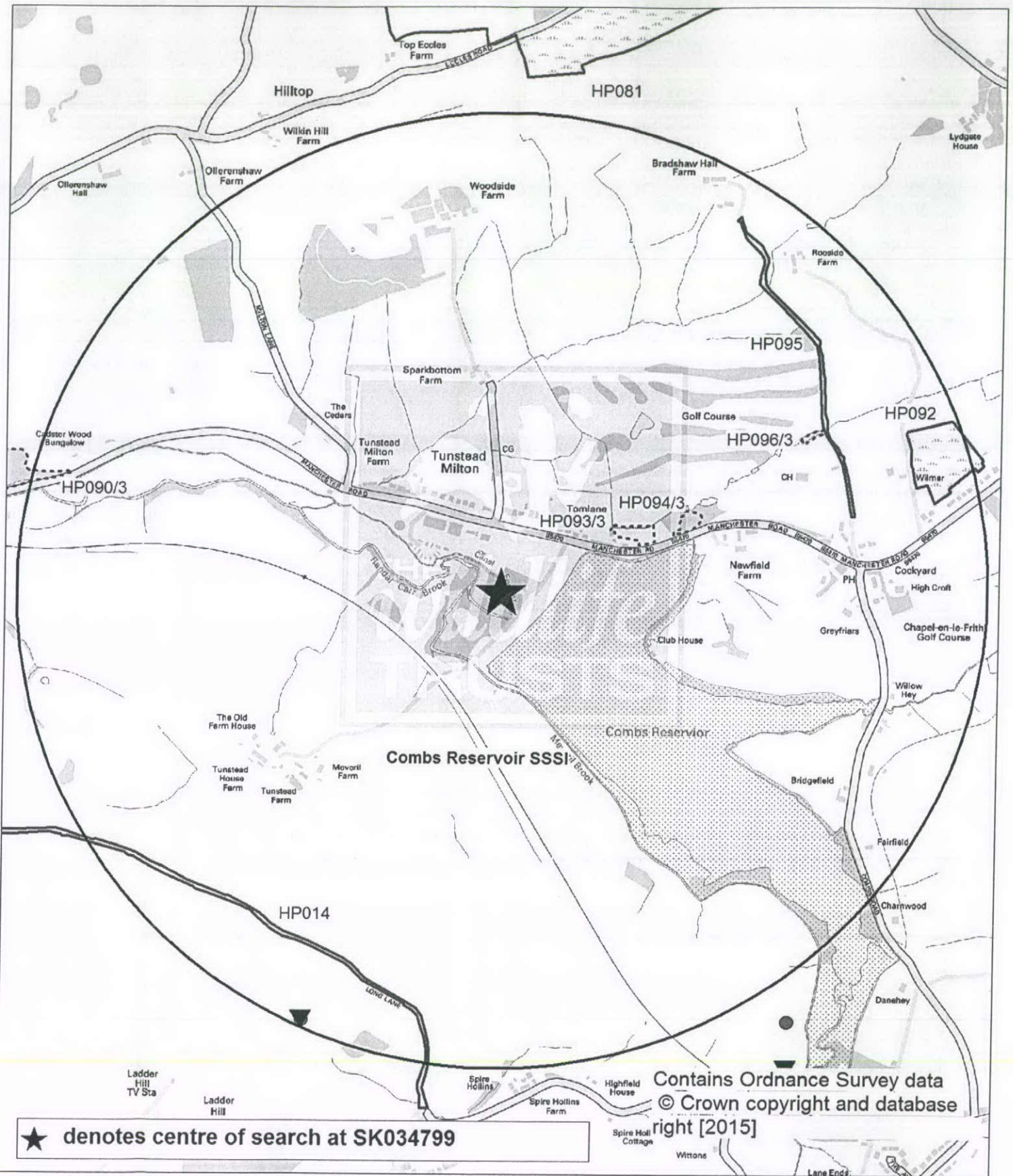


Chris Richards

BSc (Hons), PGCert, MCIEEM.

Principal Ecologist

APPENDIX A - DATA SEARCH RESULTS






























Produced for  
 Arc Ecology  
 by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust  
 3rd March 2015



## GENERAL KEY TO GIS MAPS

NB Not all these symbols may appear on the map supplied

	otter (BAP) record		BAP mammal record
	badger record (confidential)		BAP reptiles
	fresh water crayfish		BAP bumblebee
	BAP great crested newt with 500m buffer zone		BAP beetle
	bat roost		BAP butterfly record
	water vole (BAP) record		BAP moth record
	BAP bird record		BAP fish record
	kilarney fern		toad record or toad crossing
	Derbyshire Red Data Book Plant Species		swift
	Derbyshire Red Data Book Plant Species		veteran trees
			native black poplar record
			species rich hedgerow
	Local Wildlife Site		potential Local Wildlife Site
	Semi Natural Grassland		DWT nature reserve
	other recorded site of interest		










	SSSI		SAC		SPA		National Nature Reserve
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	LNR		RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites)
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### Ancient Woodland from Ancient Woodland Inventory

	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland		Plantation on ancient woodland site
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### UK BAP Priority Habitats

	Lakes in Lowland Derbyshire		Lowland heathland		Mire
	Reedbed		Lowland swamp and tall herb swamp		Parkland
	Purple moor grass and rush pasture		Traditional orchard (not ground truthed)		Pond (not necessarily BAP habitat)

**Otter records**

<u>OS Grid Ref</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
SK030790	Combs	2010

**Water vole records**

<u>OS Grid Ref</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1975
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1990
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1990
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1990
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1990
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1990
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SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1991
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1991
SK0379	Combs Reservoir stream	1991

**SSSI**

Combs Reservoir

**Local Wildlife Sites**

<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>	<u>Ecological feature</u>
HP014	Long Lane	1.571	Heather moorland
HP092	Lower Crossings Meadows	2.5461	Unimproved neutral grassland
HP095	Bradshaw Hall Lane	0.542	Hedgerow

**Semi natural grassland sites (regarded as Potential LWSs unless already designated as a LWS; not necessarily UK BAP habitat - may require survey)**

<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>	<u>UK/LBAP</u>	<u>Ecological feature</u>
HP092	Lower Crossing Meadows	2.5461		Unimproved neutral grassland

**Other recorded sites of interest**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>
Chapel Road Wood	HP090/3	0.61
Tom Lane Meadow Site	HP093/3	0.25
New Field Farm Pond	HP094/3	0.15
Tunstead Milton Golf Course Pond	HP096/3	0.05

