Arc Ecology

# LAND OFF DINTING ROAD, GLOSSOP - PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

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Where field surveys have been undertaken, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the services in line with the original project scope.

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## INTRODUCTION

Arc Ecology were commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of an area of land off Dinting Road, Glossop, High Peak, Derbyshire to attempt to determine the presence/absence of any protected or notable flora and fauna species, or habitats suitable to support such species within the site prior to a planning application being submitted for its development.

Given the habitats present within the site, particular emphasis was given to the potential for the site to support badger (*Meles meles*), roosting bats and nesting birds.

## SITE DESCRIPTION (SEE ALSO FIGURE 1)

The site lies approximately 1km to the north-west of the centre of the village of Glossop, High Peak at OSGR SK 024 925 (approximate site centre) and consists of an area of semi-improved grassland with its associated hedgerows, scrub and trees.

The grassland is comprised of common arable grass species with nettle (*Urtica daioca*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), broad-leaved plantain (*Plantago major*) sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) scattered throughout, along with occasional foxglove (*Digtalis sp*) and garden escapees such as lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*).

There is a single hedgerow along the northern boundary of the site (see Photograph 1). This predominantly consists of outgrown hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with some small pollarded ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) scattered throughout and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), nettle, ivy (*Hedera helix*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) also present.

There are large areas of scrub within the site, mainly in the eastern section of the site, but also around the majority of the boundary (see Photograph 2). The scrub is mainly low-lying bramble, but also contains nettle and rosebay willow-herb (*Chamerion angustifolium*).

There is a single building within the site boundary, which is a shed of mixed wood and corrugate tin construction with a flat, felted roof (see Photographs 3 - 5).

There is a single large ash tree within the site (see Photograph 6), and there are a number of trees and self-seeded saplings adjacent to the southern boundary of the site including hawthorn, elder (*Sambuchus niger*), oak (*Quercus robur*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). There are also three trees adjacent to the western boundary of the site comprising of a single sycamore and two hazel (*Corylus avellana*) trees, and a small group of outgrown hawthorn and elder shrubs approximately mid-way along the northern boundary to the south of the building.

**Photograph 1 - Hedgerow on northern boundary of site**

**Photograph 2 - Bramble scrub in eastern section of site**

**Photograph 3 - Building on northern boundary of site**

**Photograph 4 - Interior view of wooden section of building**

**Photograph 5 - Internal view of corrugate tin section of building**

**Photograph 6 - View from western boundary of site showing single ash tree**

Habitats in the vicinity of the site consist of built environment to the north and east with pastoral fields beyond this, a railway line with pastoral fields beyond it to the south and an area of woodland bordering the railway line to the west.

## METHODOLOGY

All appraisals of the site were undertaken on the 21st April 2015 by a suitably qualified ecologist and current holder of a Level II Class Licence to survey for bats.

### BADGER

Appraisal of the site for signs of the presence of badgers were undertaken according to guidelines given by Harris *et al.* (1989). The appraisal included searches for evidence including setts, latrines, snuffle holes (foraging signs) and hairs on hedges, shrubs and fences.

### BATS

An internal and external inspection of the building was carried out to attempt to prove presence/absence of the use of the building by roosting bats and the ash tree was inspected for features suitable for roosting or resting bats. Any evidence of the presence of bats, such as droppings; staining or scratch marks on woodwork or the presence of the animals themselves was recorded and any features suitable for such species such as cracks, crevices, rot holes and dense ivy on trees was noted. The appraisal was augmented by the use of ladders, a strong torch (Cluson 'Clulite' CB2), a Stagg Electronics 'Batbox Duet' heterodyne bat detector and a Provision 100 endoscope where required.

The survey was carried out in accordance with current guidelines given by Mitchell-Jones (2004) and the Bat Conservation Trust (2012).

### NESTING BIRDS

The appraisal for nesting birds was undertaken following guidelines given in Bibby *et al.* (2000) and consisted of inspection of the buildings for evidence of current or historic nesting.

### OTHER PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

The site was also appraised for its potential to support populations of other protected and notable flora and fauna species including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The proposed development of the site (as currently understood) is creation of new build dwellings within the site and their associated amenity land and hard-standing.

## CONSTRAINTS

There were no constraints to the survey and all areas of the site were accessible.

## SURVEY RESULTS

### BADGER

There was no evidence found of the current or historic presence of badger within the site.

Badger are therefore not considered to pose a constraint to the proposed works and are discounted from the remainder of this report.

### BATS

There was no evidence of the current or historic presence of bats within the building within the site, and no suitable features for roosting or resting bats on the ash tree within the site or the trees immediately adjacent to the site on the southern and western boundaries.

Bats are therefore not currently considered to pose a constraint to the proposed development of the site and are discounted from the remainder of this report.

### NESTING BIRDS

There was no current or historic evidence of the presence of nesting birds found within the site, although the hedgerow and tree within the site boundary provide potentially suitable nesting sites for birds.

### OTHER PROTECTED AND NOTABLE FLORA AND FAUNA SPECIES

There was no evidence of the presence of any other notable flora and fauna species found during the survey and there are no habitats present within the site considered particularly suitable to support such species

## CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### NESTING BIRDS

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition to this, for some rarer species (listed on Schedule 1 of the Act), it is an offence to disturb them while they are nest building or at or near a nest with eggs or young, or to disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

A number of bird species are also listed as Species of Principal Importance under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006. The National Planning Policy Network document 'ODPM Circular 06/2005' gives guidance on the treatment of Species of Principal Importance and states that local authorities should ensure that they are protected from the adverse effects of development, where appropriate, by using planning conditions or obligations.

There was no current or historic evidence of the presence of nesting birds in the trees and hedgerows within the site and its immediate vicinity, although these features offer suitable habitat for nesting birds and could be used during the current nesting season or subsequent seasons.

Due to this, if possible, any work likely to cause disturbance should preferably avoid the nesting season for birds (February to September inclusive).

If this is not possible, then an appropriately experienced ecologist should conduct an investigation of the areas to be disturbed to determine whether they are in use by nesting birds immediately prior to work commencing. If nesting birds are found to be present at this time, all work likely to cause disturbance should cease until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer in use.

## SUMMARY


- A protected species appraisal was carried out on an area of land off Dinting Road, Glossop by Arc Ecology on the 21st April 2015.
- No current or historic evidence of the presence of badger was found within the site.
- Badgers are not considered to pose a constraint to the proposed development and no further survey for this species is required.
- No evidence of the presence of bats was found either externally or internally on the building within the site, and neither the tree within the site nor those in the immediate vicinity of the site had features suitable to support roosting or resting bats
- Bats are therefore not considered to pose a constraint to the development of the site and no further survey for bats is considered to be necessary.
- There was no evidence of the current or historic presence of nesting birds within the site. Nesting birds are not currently considered to pose a constraint to the development of the site, but there are suitable features present for nesting birds that could be utilised at any time.
- Due to this, work within the site should preferably avoid the nesting season for birds (February to September inclusive).
- If this is not possible, then suitable features for nesting birds likely to be removed or disturbed should be checked by an appropriately experienced ecologist immediately prior to work commencing to determine whether nesting birds are present.
- If nesting birds are found to be present at this time, all work likely to cause disturbance should cease until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer in use.
- There was no evidence of any other protected or notable species found during the survey, and no habitats present considered particularly suitable to support such species.

## REFERENCES

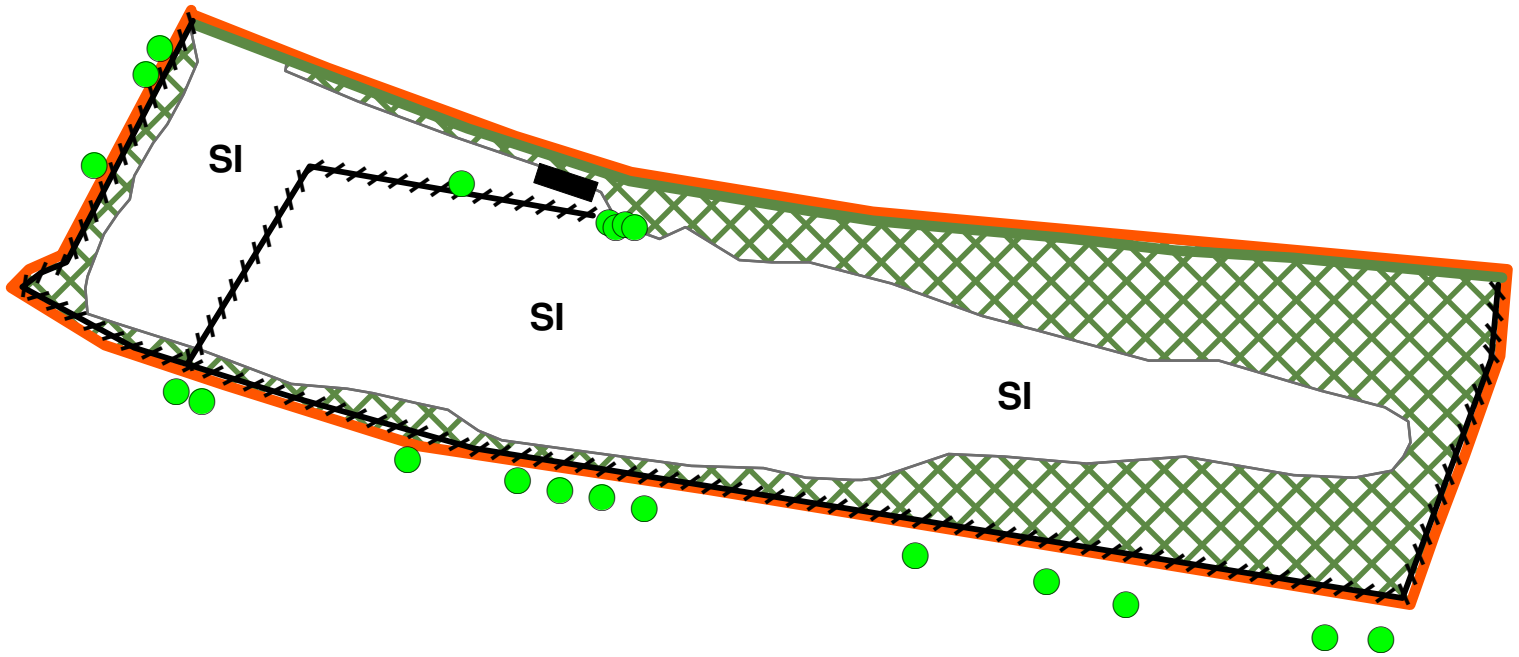
Bat Conservation Trust (2012).
Bat Surveys - good practice guidelines. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S.H. (2000).
Bird Census Techniques: 2nd edition. Academic Press, London.

Harris, S., Creswell, P. & Jefferies, D. (1989)
Surveying Badgers. An occasional publication of the mammal society - No 9. Mammal Society, London.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004).
Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

# FIGURE 1 - SITE PLAN SHOWING HABITATS AND FEATURES




## Legend

- Tree
- Site boundary
- Hedgerow
- Fence
- Building
- Scrub
- SI — Semi-improved grassland

Arc Ecology

Project.

**Land off Dinting Road, Glossop**

Drg. Title

**Figure 1 - Site Plan**

| Drawn by: | Date: |
|---|---|
| Chris Richards | 30/04/15 |