

UPDATE PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

of

**1A TURNLEE ROAD
SIMMONDLEY
GLOSSOP
DERBYSHIRE
SK13 6JS**

A Report For

**MR DAVID COPSON
(PROPIETOR OF THE ABOVE ADDRESS)**

Report Author

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1a Turnlee Road, Glossop Update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

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Executive Summary

This report has been prepared at the request of Mr David Copson (Proprietor). Stuart Macpherson ACIEEM was requested by the Proprietor of the land adjacent to 1a Turnlee Road, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 6JS (central Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference (OSGR): SK 02960 93486), hereafter referred to as 'the site', to update the initial Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey and report undertaken by Elite Ecology in 2018 as part and in relation to the High Peak Borough Council planning application number HPK/2016/0675. The update survey comprised a review of freely available online resources, a review and summary of Elite Ecology's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal desk and field survey findings and a site walkover survey which was undertaken by the author of this report on the 27th July 2021.

Details of the site proposals can be found on the High Peak Borough Council website; however, current proposals are for the construction of two new residential properties adjacent to 1a Turnlee Road, Glossop. This report considers the potential impact of the works on the habitats and species present on site.

A search using freely available online resources found there are three statutory designated sites within 2km of the site; the Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest; South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area. A review of Elite Ecology's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report found there are 17 non-statutory sites within 2km of the site.

A search using freely available online resources found there are three grassland types, upland heathland and deciduous woodland within 2km of the site. All of the afore mentioned habitats are of principal importance as listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Additionally, two European Protection Species Mitigation Licences were identified within 2km of the site, these both related to bat(s) species. A review of Elite Ecology's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report found records of six species groups were returned as part of the desk study data request made in 2018, these groups were: bird, amphibian, invertebrate, mammal, reptile and plant species.

During the field survey completed on the 27th July 2021 the following habitats were recorded on site (in habitat code order):

- A3.3 – Mixed Scattered Trees
- J1.2 – Amenity Grassland
- J1.4 – Introduced Shrub
- J2.1.2 – Species-poor Hedgerow
- J2.5 – Wall
- J3.6 – Buildings
- J5 – Other Habitat (Hard Standing Ground)

These habitats were also identified by Elite Ecology. However, as part of this update PEA, semi-natural broadleaved woodland (a1.1.1) and running water (G2) have been included, although these are outside of the planning application boundary they are of ecological interest.

The habitats listed above are generally of low conservation value and the potential that protected and/or notable species are to be present on the site is also thought to be low. However, despite the adjacent Long Clough Brook and semi-natural broadleaved woodland being beyond the planning

application boundary and the area requested to be surveyed, these were of greater ecological interest and potentially had suitable habitats to support protected and/or notable species. The recommendations within this report reflect those initially made within the Elite Ecology report from 2018.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This report has been prepared at the request of the proprietor, Mr David Copson. Stuart Macpherson BSc (Hons), MSc ACIEEM was requested to undertake an update of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report at the land adjacent to 1a Turnlee Road, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 6JS (central Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference (OSGR): SK 02960 93486) (refer to Figure 1 below for the site location and Appendix A).

A PEA survey and report was completed and submitted as part of the approved High Peak Borough Council planning application number HPK/2016/0675 in May 2018 by Elite Ecology (Elite Ecology, 2018a). At the request of the proprietor, this report presents a summary of Elite Ecology's PEA report as well as the results of an update ecological walkover survey which was undertaken on 27th July 2021.



Figure 1 - Red circle indicates the approximate central point of the site at 1a Turnlee Road, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 6JS, SK 02960 93486.

1.2 Legislation

There are several pieces of legislation relating to wildlife and biodiversity. Those of particular relevance to ecology and development works are the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), which enacts the Habitats and Birds Directives into UK law, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and, regarding specific protection of badger (*Meles meles*), the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. In addition, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, sets

the requirement for planning authorities to consider impacts on “species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity” when determining planning applications.

A summary of legislation relating to protected species of potential relevance to the study area and proposed works are provided in Appendix B.

1.3 Surveyor Experience

The surveyor and author of this report, Stuart Macpherson, has over 12 years experience in ecological survey, evaluation and land management. Key skills include the following.

- Ecological survey, evaluation and impact assessments for both large and small scale infrastructure schemes;
- Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey / Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Survey;
- Bat Class Licence Level 1 (Licence number: CL17-2021-52539-CLS-CLS) (also a qualified tree climber; NPTC Units 206 and 306);
- Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) Class Licence (Licence number: CL29/00477);
- Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) Class Licence (Licence number 2015-16213-CLS-CLS); and
- Highly proficient survey for a range of species including breeding and wintering birds, otter (*Lutra lutra*), badger and water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*).

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

Elite Ecology (2018a) obtained detailed ecological data as part of the desk based search for protected and/or notable habitats and species in 2018. The resources used were:

- Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC)
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside Natural England (www.naturalengland.org.uk)
- Ordnance Survey (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)
- Google Maps (<https://www.google.com/maps>)
- Google Earth (<https://earth.google.com/web/>)
- Bing Maps (<https://www.bing.com/maps/>)

Given the relatively small scale, localised nature of the approved planning application a repeat request for Local Wildlife Site and species data was not considered to be required for this update PEA as it would not significantly change the evaluations laid out in Section 4 of this report and those made by Elite Ecology and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as part of the initial submission of the planning application HPK/2016/0675. However, a review of the MAGIC database was undertaken and searched for statutory designated sites for nature conservation, European Protected Species Mitigation Licences and habitats of principal importance. For the results of the initial desk study survey undertaken by Elite Ecology (2018a) please refer to the report submitted as part of the approved planning application number HPK/2016/0675. This can be viewed using the High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) website link; <http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=212867>.

2.2 Field Survey

The survey of the site undertaken for the PEA by Elite Ecology was completed on the 13th April 2018. An update survey of the site was undertaken on the 27th July 2021 and its aim was to identify any significant differences between the habitats and their potential to support protected and/or notable species identified by Elite Ecology (2018a).

The following survey methodologies were completed in part due to the recommendations, potential presence for certain protected and/or notable species to be present within or adjacent to the site and also comments/recommendations made by Elite Ecology (2018a) and also Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (2018), the latter in their consultation response with regards to the planning application.

- Extended Phase 1 Habitat (EP1HS) survey;
- Bat roost potential survey; and
- Nesting bird(s) survey.

2.2.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

An EP1HS was undertaken by Stuart Macpherson on the 27th July 2021. All habitats were mapped according to the Handbook for Phase 1 Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit (JNCC, 2010) and further developed in Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (Institute of Environmental

Assessment, 1995). The scope and detail of the surveys undertaken follow the recommendations made by the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2017).

Dominant and notable plant species were recorded, plant abundance was expressed using the DAFOR scale; Dominant , Abundant , Frequent , Occasional and Rare. Botanical taxonomic nomenclature follows that of the New Flora of the British Isles; Fourth Edition (Stace, 2019).

Specific points of notable conservation interest within each survey area were identified as numbered “Target Notes” (TN).

The “extended” element of this survey was undertaken in accordance with that set out in the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) which enhances the standard methodology by looking for evidence of or habitats which may support legally protected or notable species. This includes

- Waterbodies with suitable habitat to support great crested newt and other amphibians including common toad (*Bufo bufo*).
- Watercourses such as ditches, canals or rivers that may support otter and/or water vole.
- Presence of features within trees and structures suitable for use by bats.
- Signs of badger activity e.g. setts, latrines, runs, guard hairs and footprints.
- Suitable habitat for breeding birds.
- Trees and structures suitable for barn owl, in particular nesting barn owl.
- Habitats suitable for reptiles.
- Habitats likely to support protected and notable invertebrates.
- Presence of non-native invasive plant species, in particular those listed in Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended).

2.3 Limitations

Access to the semi-natural broadleaved woodland (OSGR SK 02989 93488) and Long Clough Brook immediately adjacent to the site boundary was restricted. However, these aren’t anticipated to be adversely affected by the proposed development and the vegetation is understood to be retained on the western bank of Long Clough Brook, therefore this does not comprise a significant limitation to the reports’ Evaluation and Recommendation (Section 4). However, it should be noted the findings of this report represent the professional opinion of qualified ecologists and do not constitute professional legal advice. The Proprietor may wish to seek professional legal interpretation of the relevant wildlife legislation cited in this document.

3. Results

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

A review of MAGIC was undertaken and returned results identical to those by Elite Ecology (2018a). Three statutory designated sites of nature conservation were identified; The Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest; South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area. all three sites are approximately 1.4km south west of the site.

3.1.2 Protected and/or Notable Habitats

Three grassland types, upland heathland and deciduous woodland within 2km of the site. The closest of these sites was the deciduous woodland immediately adjacent to the site. All of the habitats are of Principal Importance as listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).

3.1.3 Protected and/or Notable Species

Additionally, two European Protection Species Mitigation Licences were identified within 2km of the site, these both related to bat(s) species. The closest record identified was approximately 0.9km to the north east of the site.

A review of Elite Ecology's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report found records of six species groups were returned as part of the desk study data request made in 2018, these groups comprised: bird, amphibian, invertebrate, mammal, reptile and plant species. None of these groups were within the site planning application boundary.

3.2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

3.2.1 Habitats

The habitats first identified by Elite Ecology in 2018 in the EP1HS were found to be present during the survey conducted in 2021. These habitats are listed and described below (refer to Appendix C for photographs). Additionally, as part of this update PEA, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and running water have been included.

- A1.1.1 – Semi-natural broadleaved woodland
- A3.3 – Mixed Scattered Trees
- G2 – Running water
- J1.2 – Amenity Grassland
- J1.4 – Introduced Shrub
- J2.1.2 – Species-poor Hedgerow
- J2.5 – Wall
- J3.6 – Buildings
- J5 – Other Habitat (Hard Standing Ground).

A1.1.1 – Semi-Natural Broadleaved Woodland

An area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland was identified to the east of the site boundary. Access to the woodland was restricted however the woodland showed a diverse structure comprising pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) (O), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) (A), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) (F), horse chestnut (R) (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) (R), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) (R), and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) (F). Of note was the presence of Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) which is listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The woodland is not anticipated to adversely affected by the proposed development.

A3.3 – Mixed Scattered Trees

Present along Long Clough Brook (SK 02970 93490) which is outside of the planning application boundary. Species recorded included: ash (O), pedunculate oak (O), leylandii (*Cupressus x leylandii*) (A), horse chestnut, Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

G2 Running Water

Long Clough Brook was identified to be immediately adjacent to the site boundary. The brook flows in a northerly direction with the water level relatively low at the time of survey. The substrate comprised cobbles and boulders. No aquatic or marginal vegetation was recorded, likely due to the dense shading of the woodland, however, as described above Himalayan balsam was present on the banks of the brook. The proposed development is not anticipated to adversely affect the brook.

J1.2 – Amenity Grassland

Three areas of amenity grassland were and account for approximately three-quarters of the planning application boundary. The grassland is well maintained and comprised perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and an unidentified moss species.

J1.4 – Introduced Shrub

Introduced, non-native species of shrub were recorded throughout the grounds within the planning application boundary. Species recorded included cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), a camellia species, sorbaria (*Sorbaria sorbifolia* ‘Sem’), purple elder (*Sambucus nigra*) amongst others.

J2.1.2 – Species-poor Hedgerow

A leylandii hedgerow was identified immediately adjacent to Turnlee Road forming part of the south-wester boundary of the planning application. The length of the hedgerow was approximately 20m. No other botanical species were identified within the hedgerow.

J2.5 – Wall

Dry stone walls were identified throughout the site and at the time of survey look to have been recently constructed as part of the initial works relating to the proposed works.

J3.6 – Buildings

Two buildings were identified within or immediately adjacent to the planning application boundary. These were 1a Turnlee Road and an enclosed garage space presumably used for storage. Both buildings comprised negligible bat roosting potential.

J5 – Other Habitat (Hard Standing Ground)

Hard standing ground comprised the driveway to the land within the planning application boundary.

3.2.2 Species

a) Bats

All trees and buildings within the site were inspected during the survey. All were found to comprise negligible bat roosting potential. However, it was found during the survey the garage and carport identified by Elite Ecology (2018a) as comprising 'low' bat roost potential had been removed. As part of the recommendations within the Elite Ecology (2018a) report, in accordance with survey guidance one survey of the building was recommended. A survey of the building, using an endoscope to inspect the potential bat roost features was completed on the 12th July 2018 by Mr Richard Millington, BSc (Hons), ACIEEM, Natural England Licence Number: 2016-26861-CLS-CLS Bat Survey Level 2. The survey found that *some of these gaps had cobwebs covering them, thus suggesting bat inactivity. Despite this, some gaps contained no cobwebs and could be in use by crevice dwelling species. These gaps were inspected externally for any bat evidence (e.g. bat droppings), before being internally probed with an endoscope. In summary, the surveyed building at 1A Turnlee Road, Glossop does not contain any roosting bats, with no impacts occurring from the proposed scheme of works* (Elite Ecology, 2018b).

b) Breeding birds

The mixed scattered trees and species poor hedgerow were both found to be suitable to support nesting birds. Species recorded during the survey included bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), magpie (*Pica pica*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), and great tit (*Parus major*). Breeding activity was confirmed for bullfinch with pair being recorded and the male was observed with food strongly suggesting young were nesting nearby (nest location was not identified).

4. Evaluation and Recommendations

4.1 Evaluation

The site is of low ecological value with those habitats identified within the site boundary being typical of the surrounding residential landscape. The buildings presented negligible bat roosting potential although the mixed scattered trees, species poor hedgerow, adjacent semi-natural broadleaved woodland and Long Clough Brook providing suitable foraging habitat for the species group. These habitats also provided suitable habitat for nesting birds.

4.2 Recommendations

Following a review of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust consultation response and Elite Ecology's (2018a) no additional recommendations are to be made as part of this report. It should be noted however, that should the planning application boundary be altered from what is discussed within this report then a further update of the site should be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidance.

5. References

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn) Bat Conservation Trust.

Elite Ecology (2018a), 1A Turnlee Road, Glossop Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Elite Ecology (2018b), Letter Statement.

Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995). *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*.

JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee). (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Nature Conservancy Council (1990) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit*. Nature Conservancy Council.

Stace, C.A., (2019). *New Flora of the British Isles*. 4th Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Websites

Bing Maps (<https://www.bing.com/maps/>)

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Consultation Response (2018)
<http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=212867>

Google Maps (<https://www.google.com/maps>)

Google Earth (<https://earth.google.com/web/>)

High Peak Borough Council Planning Portal <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/article/312/Search-and-track-planning-applications>

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside Natural England
(www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Ordnance Survey (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

Appendix A. Planning Application Related Figure



Figure 1: Site Location Plan (dated October 2020)

Appendix B. Legislation

Legislation relating to bats

European Protected Species and their resting places (e.g. bat roosts) are protected under Schedules 5 & 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) transpose the European Union's 'Habitats Directive' (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (EC Habitats Directive) into UK law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European Sites', the protection of 'European Protected Species' (EPS), and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. EPS are listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

The relevant sections of this legislation (combined) make it an offence to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal listed as a European Protected Species;
- deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species in such a way as to be likely to impair their ability:
 - to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or;
 - in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate, or;
 - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal (not relevant to bats);
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; and
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

Legislation relating to Breeding Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird; and
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides further protection for selected species (including peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*) and black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) during the breeding season. If any person intentionally or recklessly disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturb dependent young of such a bird. That person shall be guilty of an offence.

A number of bird species are species of principal importance (NERC Act, 2006).

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) is designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.

It was created to make provision in connection with wildlife, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks and the Broads; to amend the law relating to rights of way; to make provision as to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council; to provide for flexible administrative arrangements in connection with functions relating to the environment and rural affairs and certain other functions; and for connected purposes.

Section 40 of NERC carries an extension of the earlier CRow Act biodiversity duty to public bodies and statutory undertakers to ensure due regard to the conservation of biodiversity. Section 41 requires the Secretary of State, as respects England, to publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in the Secretary of State's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The updated list was published in May 2008.

Appendix C. Photographs



Photograph of 1a Turnlee Road, planning application site. Photograph is taken looking north-eastwards.



Photograph of 1a Turnlee Road, planning application site. Photograph is taken looking westwards



Photograph of northern section of the site, looking north-eastwards.



Photograph of Long Clough Brook and semi-natural broadleaved woodland (looking northwards), both of which are immediately adjacent to but outside of the planning application boundary.