Ref: 784-B039096
Date: 22nd August 2022

Claire Campbell

Issued by email: Claire.campbell@wainhomes.co.uk

Dear Claire,

RE: Dinting Vale, Glossop – Ecology Surveys Update

Please see below for a summary update of ecological surveys completed/being undertaken at the above site.

Survey type	Scope & Methodology	Survey status	Summary
eDNA for Great Crested Newt (GCN)	Two waterbodies previously identified by the Ecological Appraisal (TEP, 2022) were found to be dry on the day of the proposed eDNA survey (24th June 2022), therefore it was not possible to collect a sample. Additional HSI was carried out on the four fishing ponds to the south of the site.	Complete	The additional HSI assessments of the four fishing ponds (24th June 2022) rated all four ponds as 'Poor' and therefore were scoped out of eDNA testing. Given the highly ephemeral nature of the two ponds identified by TEP(2022) and the poor suitability of the fishing ponds located further afield, it is considered unlikely that GCN are present on site.
Reptile	Survey set up and undertaken in accordance with the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003) and Advice Sheet 10 – Reptile Survey (Froglife, 1999). Surveys to comprise the use of two complementary methods – direct observation and artificial refuge checks. These two methods to be applied over seven visits from in suitable weather conditions. The purpose of this assessment is to:	Survey refugia set out on site on 20th June 2022. • 1st survey completed 26th July 2022. • 2nd survey completed 3rd August 2022.	No reptiles recorded to date. Common toad observed on site. The desk study identified one record of reptiles within 2km of the site. There is one record of grass snake approximately 800m east of the site. The dense scrub, tall ruderal, grassland, pond and stream habitats on site provide suitable foraging,

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	• Determine the presence or likely absence of reptiles within the site by undertaking 7 survey visits and checking 40 refugia mats. • Determine if any potential impacts on reptiles are likely to arise from the development.	• 3rd survey completed 22nd August 2022. Opportunities to survey in suitable conditions have been limited due to heatwaves. Weather continues to be monitored for suitable opportunities to check refugia. **Remining visits (7 in total) to be undertaken in suitable weather, which will mean surveys will run in to September.**	commuting and sheltering habitat for reptiles, particularly grass snake and slow worm. Given confirmed presence of common toad, it will be recommended that a precautionary approach be applied to site clearance activities and that an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) be present to deliver a toolbox talk and hand searches during vegetation clearance. **Once all survey data collected a full set of recommendations re mitigation and enhancement will be provided within a Reptile Report.**
Breeding birds	The current guidance (Bird Survey Guidelines, 2022) recommends up to six survey visits between March to early July. Survey methods comprise: • Observations from a walked transect route around the site, which ensured full coverage of the survey area. The surveys were timed between sunrise and midday to record high periods of uniform bird activity. • Registrations of birds were recorded on Mapit (a digital field map), using standard	Due to timing of commission, four survey visits have been completed in 2022 as follows: • 20th June 2022 • 4th July2022 • 13th July 2022 • 29th July 2022	The desk study returned limited records of notable birds (Schedule 1, S41 and birds of conservation concern (BoCC)) within 2km of the site. Barn owl and red kite have been recorded within 2km of the site. Evidence of an artificial owl box were noted on mature oak to the north of the site. Notable birds recorded during the surveys included: • Greenfinch (red-listed) – probable breeding • Wood pigeon (amber-listed) • House martin (red) – non-breeding • Kestrel (amber) – non-breeding • Herring gull (red) – non-breeding

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	British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two letter species codes (Gilbert, Gibbons, & Evans, 2002). • Behaviours were recorded and mapped to indicate potential territories.	Additional data Derbyshire Ornithological Society (DOS) as per LPA request, to supplement survey data gathered.	• Dunnock (amber) – probable breeding • Bullfinch (amber) – possible breeding • Starling (red) – non-breeding • Whitethroat (amber) – probable breeding • Wren (amber) – probable breeding • Song thrush (amber) – probable breeding The woodland, dense scrub and grassland habitats on site provide suitable opportunities for nesting and foraging birds. Under the current proposals the majority of the scrub and some areas of woodland to the north of the site will be lost leading to a reduction of breeding bird habitat. Woodland located to the north of the site will be partially retained. Mitigation should include: • Avoiding nesting bird season (March to September inclusive). • Retention of nesting bird habitats: scrub and woodland, hedgerows, where possible. • Creation of new suitable breeding habitats favouring native fruiting, seed-producing plants, where possible. Nest box provisions incorporating nest boxes integrated onto the dwellings. **For full details see Breeding Bird Report.**
Bat activity	Based on standard survey guidance (BCT) the suitability rating of habitats on site to support bat activity, requires completion of seven surveys, undertaken on a monthly basis, between April	Survey effort is ongoing:	Data collected to date indicates high levels of foraging on site for pipistrelle bats.

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	and October. (With at least one survey which should comprise a dusk and pre-dawn within a single 24 hours period). Static detectors will be set out on each visit and then retrieved after five nights of data collected. The purpose of the bat activity survey is to: • Provide an assessment of the species assemblage of foraging and commuting bats within the site and the temporal and spatial distribution of bats across the site.	• 30th June 2022 completed • 14th July 2022 completed • 4th August 2022 completed • September 2022 scheduled pending suitable weather	The desk study returned records of brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, Myotis species and Pipistrelle species within 2km of the site. The woodland and dense scrub within the site provide opportunities for commuting and foraging bats. A large proportion of these habitats are currently lost within the proposals, where possible it is recommended that the northern woodland within the site is retained as this is considered valuable for commuting bat species and forms habitat connectivity. The woodland immediately adjacent to the site forming the site boundary to the southeast and northwest is proposed for retention. It is recommended that a lighting scheme is employed throughout the development with particular emphasis on reducing light spill to these woodland boundaries. **Once all survey data collected a full set of recommendations re mitigation and enhancement will be provided within a Bat Report.**
Bat trees	<u>Tree Climbing Assessment:</u> • Two City and Guilds Units 206 and 306 qualified climbers will work in a pair to install the safe placement of the access system following which a Natural England Level 2 licenced bat ecologist or accredited agent shall access the tree (9 in total) and inspect any apparent roosting features with torch and	Initial climbing survey completed – which identified further climbing survey required. • 21st – 22nd July 2022 • 11th August 2022	Nine trees were previously identified as having bat roosting potential by the Ecological Appraisal (TEP, 2022) and further surveys recommended. Eight trees were inspected by means of roped access during the first survey visit (21st-22nd July), the ninth tree could not be located within the woodland. As a result of the aerial inspection a number of trees were

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	articulated endoscope for any evidence of roosting bats. <u>Nocturnal Roost Survey:</u> Should a tree be unsuitable to climb nocturnal bat emergence surveys must be undertaken. • Two surveyors will complete one emergence survey on each of the trees identified. • Survey must be completed by the end of August	• 26th August 2022TBC	recategorized: three high potential, three moderate, one low and one negligible. During the first inspection no bats or evidence of roosting bats were identified. The three high and three moderate potential trees were inspected during the second visit with no bats or evidence of bats identified. During the upcoming third visit, the three high potential trees will be subject to final inspection. If no bats are identified during the finial visit a protected species mitigation licence will not be required to remove the trees, however a soft felling technique should be adopted as a precaution. **Once all survey data collected a full set of recommendations re mitigation and enhancement will be provided within a Bat Report.**
Badgers	The scope of work comprised: • Identification of any badger setts on or within a 50m buffer of the site; • Identification of any signs consistent with badger activity on and within a 50m buffer of the site; and • Assess the status of any badger setts identified and the level of badger activity within and immediately adjacent to the site.	Completed on 20th June 2022	No badger setts recorded on site, evidence of mammal paths. **See Badger Report for full details.**

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Invasive plant species survey	The scope of work comprised: • Identification of all areas of invasive species on-site at the time of survey and in the immediate surroundings of the site to a maximum of 50m, where possible.	Completed on 15th July 2022	Himalayan balsam and yellow archangel observed in various locations across the site. Recommended working practices to prevent further spread include: • All invasive species on site should be clearly marked and buffer zone of 3m highlighted. • All operatives should be provided a toolbox talk given by an invasive species contractor. • Wash-down areas should be provided to clean boots and tools as soon as contractors leave the area. Control of invasive plant species will require an invasive species management plan.
BNG	The BNG assessment methodology has been undertaken using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (Natural England, 2021a), in conjunction with the user guide (Natural England, 2021b). The scope of the BNG assessment is to: • Quantify the pre-development baseline habitat units present on site by undertaking a habitat condition assessment; • Quantify the post-development habitat units on site; and	Completed 14th July 2022	BNG calculation pre-development completed. Based on currently proposed layout, there will be a significant BNG loss. **See Biodiversity Net Gain Report for full details.**

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	• Calculate the likely change in biodiversity units from pre to post-development to provide an indication of the biodiversity losses / gains that may occur should the proposed development proceed.		

Yours sincerely,

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for and behalf of Tetra Tech
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