
EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

LAND OFF CHERRY TREE ROAD, BLACKPOOL, LANCASHIRE



MAY 2021



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Site Information

- 1.1 Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2020 by Euro Garages to carry out an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of land off Cherry Tree Road, Blackpool, Lancashire (O.S. grid reference: SD 33170 33959 – see Figure 1). The proposed development site currently comprises an area of hardstanding bare ground, currently used as parking spaces for an Asda Supermarket. Introduced shrub beds run adjacent to the eastern and northern site boundaries. The site is surrounded by residential and commercial development.
- 1.2 An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is required to provide an overview of the habitats present within the site and to assess any potential protected species issues on the site.

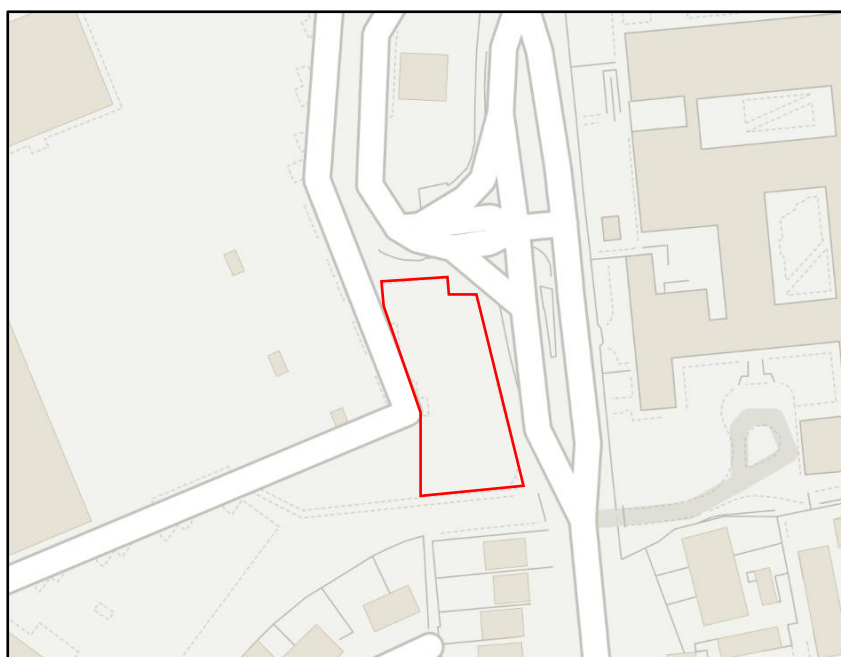


Figure 1 showing the location of the site

Description of Development

- 1.3 The site will be the subject of a planning application for the construction of a drive-thru coffee shop and associated access and parking.

Biodiversity in Planning

- 1.4 Biodiversity is a material consideration, and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have a requirement to consider biodiversity and protected species when determining planning applications. Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019) gives specific reference to minimising the impacts of development on biodiversity. Local and Neighbourhood plans also provide guidance towards protecting and enhancing biodiversity, including priority habitats and notable species.



2.0 METHODOLOGY

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.1 A Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken to JNCC standards (JNCC, 2010). The site was walked and each habitat was assigned a Phase 1 habitat category. Species lists were taken at locations of botanical interest. All botanical nomenclature follows Stace, 2019. A Phase 1 map was produced showing habitat boundaries.
- 2.2 During the Extended Phase 1 survey, the habitats were assessed for their potential to support protected species. This included, for example, looking for signs of Badger activity (e.g. setts, paths, latrines and hairs on fences), assessing any waterbodies on site or near the site for their potential to support Great Crested Newt.
- 2.3 The site was also surveyed for invasive, non-native plant species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

Personnel and Seasonal Timing

- 2.4 Ben Crossthwaite (Senior Ecologist) carried out the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey on the 24th May 2021. Ben is an experienced ecologist and fully trained in botanical surveys and protected species assessments. May is within the optimal time of year for botanical surveys and a thorough assessment could be undertaken. The weather at the time of the survey was overcast, mild and dry.

Survey Constraints

- 2.5 The site was fully accessible and there were no survey constraints.



3.0 RESULTS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 3.1 The Phase 1 Habitat Map can be found at the back of the report. The habitats on the proposed development site are described below.

Bare Ground - Hardstanding

- 3.2 The site consists an area of hardstanding bare ground currently used as a parking area (see Cover page above and Photograph 1 below).



Photograph 1 showing the bare ground

Surrounding Habitat

- 3.3 The sites northern and eastern boundaries are bordered by introduced shrub beds and three juvenile Cherry Trees *Prunus* sp (see Photographs 2 and 3). The introduced shrub is dominated by Cotoneaster species, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Hebe sp and Cherry species *Prunus* sp.



Photograph 2 showing the introduced shrub beds and scattered trees adjacent to the northern site boundary



Photograph 3 showing the introduced shrub beds adjacent to the eastern site boundary

PROTECTED SPECIES

Great Crested Newt

- 3.4 Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* is a European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the species is fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).



- 3.5 No waterbodies exist on the site or within 250 metres of the site. The site lacks suitable Great Crested Newt terrestrial habitat. The hardstanding bare ground is considered hostile habitat for Great Crested Newts.

Bats

- 3.6 All bat species are European Protected Species. This is implemented in the UK through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Bats are also protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC, 2006).
- 3.7 No buildings or trees exist on site. A line of semi-mature trees is adjacent to the southern site boundary. This landscape feature offers potential bat foraging and commuting habitat for bats.

Badger

- 3.8 Badgers *Meles meles* are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These Acts, for example, make it illegal to disturb a Badger whilst it is in a sett, to kill, injure or take a Badger and to obstruct the entrance to a Badger sett.
- 3.9 No Badger sett was located on the site or immediately adjacent to the site. No evidence of Badger activity such as latrines or snuffle holes was located on site.

Nesting Birds

- 3.10 All bird species are protected at their nest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.11 The site lacks suitable nesting bird habitat. However, the introduced shrubs adjacent to the sites northern and eastern boundaries offer suitable nesting habitat for birds.

INVASIVE SPECIES

- 3.12 No non-native species and is listed on Schedule 9 Part II (plants) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are present on or immediately adjacent to the site.

PROTECTED SITES

- 3.13 No statutory protected sites lie on the site. One statutory protected sites are located within 2.5km of the site boundary. Marton Mere Local Wildlife Site (LNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located over 1.3km north-east of the proposed development site.
- 3.14 The site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone, which lists certain types of development that may have a deleterious impact on protected sites nearby. The type of development proposed is not listed as a concern.



3.15 The nearest non-statutory protected site is Herons Reach Golf Course/Marton Mere Habitat Complex Biological Heritage Site (BHS). This is located over 1.3km north of the proposed development site.



4.0 ASSESSMENT

Habitats

- 4.1 The Phase 1 Habitats present on the site are common throughout the UK. No nationally rare or locally rare plant species were located during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.
- 4.2 The site comprises hardstanding bare ground. This habitat offers negligible ecological value.

Development Context

- 4.3 The development proposals involve the loss of all the hardstanding bare ground. A suitable landscaping scheme implemented on site will provide biodiversity net gain to the site.

PROTECTED SPECIES

Great Crested Newt

- 4.4 No ponds exist on the site or within 250m of the site. The site offers no suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newt. Great Crested Newt is not considered to be a constraint on development at this time.

Bats

- 4.5 No buildings or trees exist on site. Bats are not considered to be a constraint on development at this time.
- 4.6 The line of trees adjacent to the southern site boundary offers suitable commuting and foraging habitat. It is recommended this linear landscape feature be protected as such through a Sensitive Lighting Scheme (SLS), during the clearance and construction phases and thereafter.

Badger

- 4.7 No Badger sett was located on the site or immediately adjacent to the site. No evidence of Badger activity was located. Badgers are not considered to be a constraint on development.

Nesting Birds

- 4.8 The site does not support suitable nesting habitat for birds. Nesting birds are not considered to be a constraint on development. However, if the adjacent introduced shrub beds are to be affected by the proposals, it is recommended the works to potential nesting habitats to be carried out within the bird nesting season (which is generally March – August) unless a nesting bird survey is undertaken first.



INVASIVE SPECIES

- 4.9 No non-native species and is listed on Schedule 9 Part II (plants) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are present on or immediately adjacent to the site.

PROTECTED SITES

- 4.10 No statutory or non-statutory protected sites lie within the proposed development site. The nearest statutory protected site, Marton Mere LNR and SSSI, lies over 1.3km north-east of the site boundary. It is considered, at this distance, and with barrier habitats between the site and the statutory protected site, as well as the relatively small scale of the proposed works, there is expected to be no deleterious impact on the protected sites from the development.
- 4.11 The site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone, which lists certain types of development that may have a deleterious impact on protected sites nearby. The type of development proposed is not listed as a concern.
- 4.12 The nearest non-statutory protected site lies over 1.3km north-east of the site boundary. It is considered, at this distance, and with barrier habitats between the site and the statutory protected site, as well as the relatively small scale of the proposed works, there is expected to be no deleterious impact on the protected sites from the development.



5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings

- 5.1 Protected species are a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a planning application. Following the findings from the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, no further survey work is required.

Sensitive Lighting Scheme

- 5.2 It is recommended the line of trees adjacent to the southern boundary of the site is protected as a 'dark zone' for foraging and commuting bats through a SLS.

Habitat Enhancement

- 5.3 General recommendations to bring biodiversity gain to the site are:
- Soft landscaping should include the provision of native and non-native flowering perennial species, to provide a pollen and nectar source for invertebrates.
 - Trees planting of native species where practically possible.

6.0 REFERENCES

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


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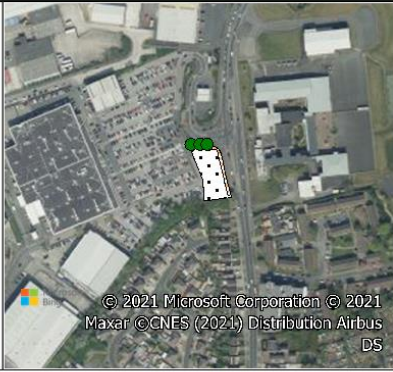
APPENDIX A PHASE 1 HABITAT MAP



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Key

-  Bare Ground - Hardstanding
-  Introduced Shrub
-  Scattered Tree



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PHASE 1 HABITAT MAP

Land off Cherry Tree Road, Blackpool, Lancashire

NOT TO SCALE

Date: 25/05/2021
Drawn by: BC



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