



## Executive Summary

Site Description and Scope of Works		
<p>The site is located north of D'Urton Lane, Preston, Lancashire, BB7 (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: SD 54102 34309) and comprises 3 parcels of land, totalling approximately 10.7 hectares. Habitats present on-site include improved grassland, marshy grassland, scrub, seven ponds, hedgerows and scattered mature trees.</p> <p>No plans for development have been issued at the time of writing this report but the North West Preston (NWP) Masterplan and Delivery Plan (to be adopted as a Local Development Document) envisaged that the site would be developed for residential use.</p> <p>The purpose of the updated extended Phase 1 habitat survey is to identify at an early stage any potential ecological constraints that have implications on planning for future developments, to minimise future delays to potential works and provide advice as to how future works on site can avoid breaching any UK or European nature conservation legislation.</p>		
Potential Constraints	Yes	No
<b>Great crested newts</b>		
Has the site been assessed for great crested newts?	✓	
Are great crested newts a potential constraint to development of the site?	✓	
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Has the site been assessed for reptiles?	✓	
Are reptiles a potential constraint to development of the site?		✓
<b>Breeding birds including barn owls</b>		
Has the site been assessed for breeding birds including barn owls?	✓	
Are nesting birds a potential constraint to development of the site?	✓	
<b>Bats</b>		
Has the site been assessed for bats?	✓	
Are roosting bats a potential constraint to development of the site?	✓	
Are foraging / commuting bats a potential constraint to development of the site?	✓	
<b>Badgers</b>		
Has the site been assessed for badgers?	✓	
Are badgers a potential constraint to development of the site?	✓	
<b>Other protected species (e.g. otters, water voles, white-clawed crayfish)</b>		
Has the site been assessed for otters, water voles and white-clawed crayfish?	✓	
Are otters, water voles and/or white-clawed crayfish a potential constraint to development of the site?		✓
<b>Notable species (e.g. hedgehog, common toad)</b>		
Has the site been assessed for hedgehog, common toad and other notable species?	✓	
Are hedgehog, common toad and other notable species a potential constraint to development of the site?	✓	
<b>Other features of nature conservation interest</b>		
Does the application site support Habitats of Principal Importance or Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats?	✓	



If so which?	NERC Priority habitats: - Hedgerows - Ponds	
Recommendations	Yes	No
Are further surveys recommended to inform the ecological impact assessment?	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GCN:</b> Aquatic surveys at ponds 1-7 (noting that it may not be possible to survey pond 5 if water levels are too low) to inform whether further mitigation is required. Ponds within 500m of the site should be subjected to Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessments to determine their suitability for GCN.</li> <li>• <b>Roosting bats:</b> Endoscopic climbing inspection of all Category 1 trees to be removed to facilitate development by an appropriately licensed bat ecologist.</li> <li>• <b>Foraging and commuting bats:</b> Bat activity surveys involving one transect survey per month to be undertaken between April and September during suitable weather conditions. At least one of the surveys should comprise a dusk and pre-dawn (or dusk to dawn) within one 24-hour period. In addition automated surveys should be undertaken at 1 location per transect. Data from the automated surveys should be collected on 3 consecutive nights each month.</li> <li>• <b>Badgers:</b> A 6 month pre-construction badger survey is recommended to determine if any setts are present within 50m of the development footprint.</li> </ul>		
Is mitigation (including avoidance/compensation) and enhancement recommended?	✓	



#### Mitigation

- **Nesting birds:** To ensure legal compliance, it is recommended that tree works and any works to the buildings and vegetation with nesting bird potential are avoided during the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive) or, if necessary, preceded by a search for nesting birds by a suitably experienced and qualified ecologist/Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW);
- **Roosting bats – trees:** Retain all Category 1 and Category 2 trees onsite, where possible;
- **Reptiles:** No further survey required;
- **Common toad and hedgehog:** Any toads and hedgehogs found should be carefully captured using gloved hands and placed (where capture is possible and humane) in a ventilated box and released into suitable nearby vegetation that will be unaffected by the proposed works; and
- **Fox:** Any foxes disturbed by site works should be allowed to disperse on their own accord and should not be approached/touched.

#### Best practice

- **Habitats:** It is recommended that an Ecology Best Practice Plan is included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) produced for any future works proposed at the site to protect habitats to be retained within and adjacent to the site;
- **Species:** It is recommended that a suitably experienced ecologist/ECoW delivers a Tool Box Talk regarding best practice to site personnel with regard to ecological issues in advance of any works commencing.

#### Enhancements

- Planting native trees along new roads and around the boundary of the site;
- Installing bird boxes;
- Install bat boxes on site (number to be confirmed following further bat surveys); and
- Planting of new areas of soft landscaping with insect-attracting native species of local provenance, wherever possible, to enhance the site's biodiversity.



## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

WYG was commissioned by the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) in December 2015 to undertake an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey at land at D'Urton Lane, Preston, hereby referred to as 'the site':

This report was prepared by WYG Senior Ecologist Alexander Baldwin MCIEEM<sup>1</sup>.

### **1.2 Site Location**

The site is located in a semi-rural area located immediately south of the M6 motorway, Junction 32, where the M55 and M6 motorways meet, to the north of Preston in Lancashire (Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference: SD 54102 34309). The site comprises three 'parcels' (Parcels 1, 2 and 3 see Figure 1) of land separated by access tracks and occupying an area of approximately 10.7ha.

### **1.3 Development Proposals**

The HCA is planning to acquire the site. No plans for development have been issued at the time of writing this report.

### **1.4 Survey & Reporting Objectives**

The purpose of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey is to identify at an early stage any potential ecological constraints (UK and European nature conservation legislation) that have implications on planning for future developments, and to provide information to inform a potential site masterplan for future site development.

The ecological investigations included the following objectives:

- A desk study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest and records of protected / notable species within the site and its environs;
- An extended Phase 1 habitat survey involving a walkover of the site to record habitat types and dominant species, including any invasive species, and a reconnaissance survey for evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species;

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<sup>1</sup> Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management



- An assessment of the potential ecological constraints to the proposed development of the site and recommendations, if any, for further survey, avoidance, mitigation and enhancement where appropriate.

The data search does not cover:

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); or
- Conservation areas designated for their special architectural and historic interest.

Nature conservation legislation and policy is summarised in Section 2.0 Planning Policy and Legislation. Further details, including schedules of protected and invasive species, are provided in Appendix A.

