

**Mr. Nigel Darlington
Honkley Hall
Stringer's Lane
Rossett
Wrexham**

11th January 2018

Our Ref: C315-HonkleyFm-Walkover-110118-TK

Dear Mr. Darlington

**Re – Proposed Residential Development on land at Lower Honkley Farm, Stringer's Lane,
Rossett, Wrexham – Walkover Survey**

Introduction and Background

Marches Ecology was commissioned to undertake a Walkover Survey of land at Lower Honkley Farm, Stringer's Lane, nr Rossett, Wrexham (approximate OS Grid Ref. SJ 341 593). This parcel of land had previously been the subject of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey on 5th January 2017. The results of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey are presented in the following report:

- Marches Ecology (2017). *Proposed Residential Development on land at Lower Honkley Farm, Stringer's Lane, Rossett, Wrexham – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey*. Produced on behalf of Mr. N. Darlington.

This report was produced to provide supporting information for a planning application.

The principal aims of the Walkover Survey were as follows:

- To review the findings of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and identify any material changes to the site (and thereby update the survey results); and
- To review the recommendations and conclusions of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey to confirm whether they remain applicable.

This 'letter report' presents the findings of the Walkover Survey. It should be read in conjunction with Marches Ecology (2017).

Methodology

The Walkover Survey was carried out on 10th January 2018 by Tom Knight of Marches Ecology. All parts of the survey site were accessed. The information contained in Marches Ecology (2017), more specifically the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey plan and associated Target Notes, and the plant species list, were reviewed and any changes noted. The assessment of the site for its potential to support protected species was updated. The weather during the survey was cold and sunny with no cloud and a light breeze.

Habitat and Flora

The habitat resource remains broadly similar to that recorded in January 2017. There are several more piles of soil in the centre of the site and close to the southern corner. Regular vehicle access across the site to the building in the northern corner has also created a rutted, bare track. Otherwise there are no material changes and the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey plan would remain the same.



Piles of soil in the centre of the site and vehicle track.

A further 21 species of plant were recorded during the Walkover Survey including *Typha latifolia* (Bulrush) in a small water-filled depression. None are of particular note.

Fauna

No evidence of Badger (*Meles meles*) activity was recorded. A faint animal path was recorded exiting the northern corner of the survey site. It is likely to be used by a Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

The assessment with regards bats, Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*), Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*) and reptiles made in 2017 remains applicable.

The assessment with regards birds made in 2017 also remains applicable. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) and Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) were again recorded from the survey site. A further six species of bird were recorded from the survey site including Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) and Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*). All of these latter three species could potentially nest within the survey site though opportunities are limited.

More than 30 pellets along with droppings were found beneath the Oak tree previously recorded at *Target Note 5b* in Marches Ecology (2017). A small number of pellets were also recorded beneath the Oak at *Target Note 8*. These pellets are believed to be from a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*). As no nest or holes were visible it is assumed that these trees are being used as a perch/ for roosting. A single larger pellet beneath the tree at *Target Note 5b* is believed to be from a Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*).

Evaluation, Recommendations and Conclusions

The evaluation, recommendations and conclusions made in Marches Ecology (2017) remain applicable.

It is proposed to retain and protect the large trees which have been used by a Kestrel. Marches Ecology (2017) also provides recommendations with regards sympathetic lighting which should also minimise any potential impacts on roosting birds and other wildlife.

Marches Ecology (2017) recommends planting in any hedgerow gaps and further suggests the inclusion of patches of native scrub in any soft landscaping. This should benefit species such as Dunnock and potentially Bullfinch, Song Thrush and Long-tailed Tit.

Along with the old Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nest, two Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), one Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and one Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) nest were recorded in the portacabin previously described at *Target Note 11* in Marches Ecology (2017). As recommended in Marches Ecology (2017) this building should be demolished outside the bird nesting period as should the clearance of any vegetation that may potentially support nests.

If you have any queries regarding this letter report, or wish to discuss any aspect of it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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