

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 28 10 19
Prepared for: CRT
Trevor Basin.

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- Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the re development of the Trevor Basin as is shown in appendix 1 – proposed development.

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within the area of Llangollen in a rural environment and enclosed by existing residential and commercial land uses. The habitats on site comprises of Woodland, scattered tress, tall ruderal, amenity grassland, standing water and building habitat including areas of hard standing.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS).

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for River Dee and Bala Lake SSSI which is located 325m south of site. The development proposal does not appear to conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

The site itself is in a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone.

- Community forest (within site)

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are areas of woodland (section 41) habitats listed on the inventory on the north of the site.
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km which are mainly located within 1km.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 25th October 2019 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List. Habitat coding identified within the survey are listed below and shown on the Habitat Plan.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
A.1.1.1 Woodland broadleaf semi natural	Fraxinus excelsior Acer pseudoplatanus	Betula pendula Alnus glutinosa
A.3.1 scattered trees	Salix caprea Crataegus monogyna	Acer pseudoplatanus Betula pendula
C.3.1 Tall ruderal	Rubus agg. Urtica dioica	Chamerion angustifolium Ribies sp.
J.1.2 Amenity grassland	Festuca rubra Trifolium repens Poa annua	Plantago lanceolata Ranunculus repens

Target Notes

T1 – Potential bat roost in sunken tunnel area

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation and bats are largely ubiquitous. There are good hunting and foraging grounds in the immediate vicinity of site and on site itself as water, woodland and tall ruderal habitats are present. There are several trees that shall need to be removed for development as indicated on the habitat plan.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 15m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist for hedgehog to be present.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 250m of the site. There are two larger ponds within the Pontycysyllte coach parking areas which are over 375m east of site. There is no suitable aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and some foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

The area forms part of the Bird Conservation Targeting Project for arable assemblages of bird species including lapwing. The habitats on site are suitable for the breeding bird species due to the presence of areas of scrub (scattered and dense). Although no specific bird survey was undertaken the site is unlikely to support a significant amount of grassland and /or farmland birds due to urban nature of the habitats present. Urban birds are more likely to use the site such as house sparrow and starling which were both observed during the walkover on the site.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified. No non-native invasive (WCA Schedule 9) vascular plants were found.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. Some habitat exists on the site (hard standing).

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. The priority listed woodland is 150m off the southern site boundary. There are no hedgerows on the site.

Summary - Protected species

Evidence of protected species was recorded on site which included starling (UK Red List). No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

Impact – General

The development proposal seeks to regenerate the area for visitor attractions and there is a direct loss of amenity grassland, scattered trees and buildings for the footprint of the development.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. Loss of some commuting and foraging habitat. The existing trees to be removed may contain bat roosts. The target noted tunnel entrance appears unaffected

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog has potential to be present on site.

Amphibians. Some loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of breeding habitat (hedge and scrub) and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact and no protected plants were identified

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

A Bat Roost Assessment of all trees and buildings to be removed is required. The Bat Roost Assessment may recommend the need for a summer emergence survey/s on the identified roost features in trees. The site is likely to hold significance for commuting and foraging bat species. The need for a bat activity survey is however lessened as much of the existing habitat suitable for foraging bats is to be retained.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No other further surveys are required for these species.

4.2.3 Avian

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species.

5. Mitigation and enhancement measures

5.1 Mitigation and enhancement measures

Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

At present there is some evidence of some protected species on the site (avian), some of which could be affected by development. Other protected species that may be present on site include bats and to a lesser degree, badger/hedgehog.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

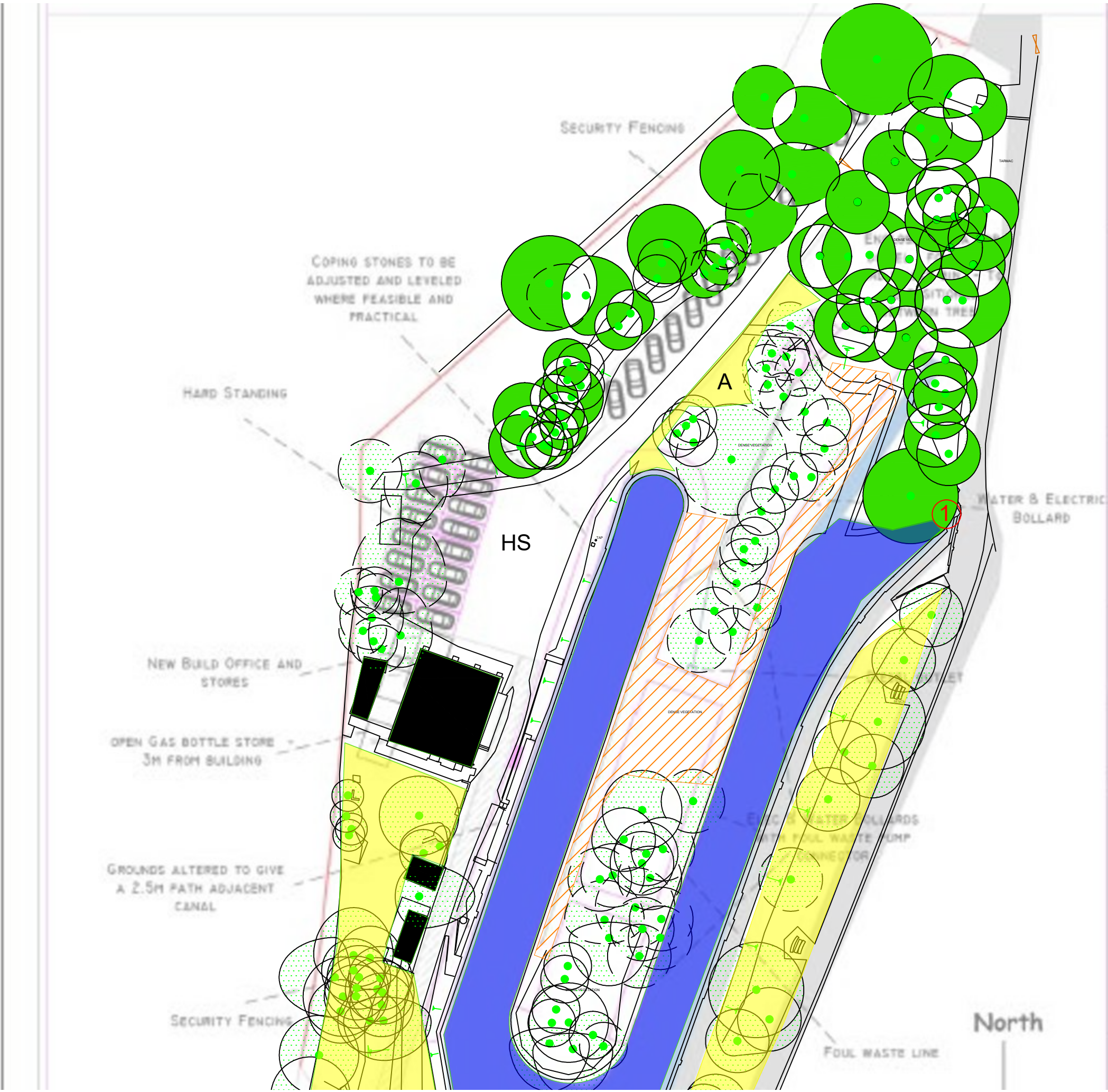
Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map and proposed development



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

- KEY
-  A.1.1.1 Woodland (to be removed)
 -  A.1.1.1 Woodland (to be retained)
 -  A.3.1 Scattered trees (to be removed)
 -  A.3.1 Scattered trees (to be retained)
 -  C.3.1. Tall ruderal
 -  G1 Standing water
 -  J1.2 Amenity Grassland
 -  J6 Buildings

Client:		
CRT		
Project:		
Trevor Basin		
Detail:		
HABITAT PLAN		
Drawn By:	Date:	Scale:
SB	28 10 19	1:500@A3
Drg No:		Revision:
TR-01		V1



1	TITLE		SCALE	NA	AUTOCAD DRAWING DO NOT REVISE BY HAND	DRAWN BY	Stephen Hough	Dwg No.	Draft 2
	Layout for Budget Cost		SHEET SIZE	A3					
									Rev. No
							14/5/19		

PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

A.1.1.1 Woodland (to be removed)

A.1.1.1 Woodland (to be retained)

A.3.1 Scattered trees (to be removed)

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C.3.1. Tall ruderal

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A

J1.2 Amenity Grassland

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Client:
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Trevor Basin

Detail:
HABITAT PLAN

Drawn By: SB Date: 28 10 19 Scale: 1:500@A3

Drg No: TR-01 Revision: V1

Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

Acer pseudoplatanus
Alnus glutinosa
Alnus cordata
Arrhenatherum elatius
Betula pendula
Carex pendula
Carpinus betulus
Chamerion angustifolium
Cirsium arvense
Cuppressus sp
Craetagus monogyna
Corylus avellana
Dactylis glomerata
Euphorbia repens
Festuca rubra
Fraxinus excelsior
Galium aparine
Hedera helix
Hippuris vulgaris
Holcus lanatus
Lolium perenne
Ligustrum vulgare
Plantago lanceolata
Plantago major
Prunus padus
Poa annua
Rosa acicularis
Salix caprea
Salix fragilis
Sambucus nigra
Ranunculus repens
Ribies sp.
Rumex obtusifolius
Rubus agg.
Taraxacum officinale
Trifolium repens
Ulmus sp
Urtica dioica