



**STOCK NOOK HOUSE BARNS PASSING
PLACES, HEYWOOD.**

OS REF: SD 8484 0859.

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL.

Ref No: 230746/PEA/REV1.

Date: 8th September 2023.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	3
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	4
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	7
4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	13
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.	17
6. REFERENCES.	18
Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.	19
Appendix II. REPTILE INFORMATION.	20
Appendix III. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES INFORMATION.	22
Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA.	25
Appendix V. TOOLBOXK TALKS:	
• Reptiles.	26
• Himalayan balsam.	27

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to convert three barns off Dr Fold Lane, Heywood into residential properties. To facilitate the development there is a requirement to create two new passing places along Dr Fold Lane leading up to the site.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of these two proposed passing places to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. That survey was carried out on 3rd August 2023. This report outlines the findings of all surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I to III of this report provides additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

- * Badger setts.
- * Badger latrines or dung pits.
- * Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
- * Badger paths.
- * Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.3. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series)*. Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -

- * Water vole burrows.
- * Water vole faeces and latrines.
- * Water vole feeding stations.
- * Water vole runs.
- * Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Water vole lawns.
- * Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter and Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines*: -

- * Otter prints in soft mud.
- * Otter spraints.
- * Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for trees and structures and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible,

in line with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.13. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.14. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on “Natural Environment” also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.15. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

2.16. This survey was carried out by Derek Whitcher who has over twenty years’ experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England, CCW and NRW survey licences for, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A desktop data search was carried out with the Greater Manchester Local Record Centre (GMLRC) for records of bat and bat roosts within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. The results show that there are two Sites of Biological Interest (SBI) located within 2km. These are both located in excess of 1.5km from the survey area.

3.1.3. There are fifteen bat roost records for bat sp, Common Pipistrelle and Pipistrelle sp, all located in excess of 600m from the survey area.

3.1.4. There are also various records of 'bats other signs', again in excess of 600m from the survey area, including Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared, Whiskered, Daubentons, Noctule and myotis sp.

3.1.5. The remaining species data has not yet been received. This report will be updated and reissued as soon as it is.

3.1.6. A search was carried out on the MAGIC website for any statutory designated sites within 2km of the survey area. No such sites were found.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is located in a rural location. The surrounding area comprises open grazing land with fragmented hedgerows and some commercial/residential areas further afield.

3.2.2. The aerial map below shows the location of the survey area, circled in red, and the surrounding area.



3.2.3. The survey area comprises two sections of hedgerow that will be lost to the creation of two new passing places along Dr Fold Lane. The two locations are shown on the map below.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix VIII of this report contains annotated maps marked up with the varying habitats. The habitats are listed and described below: -

- h2a – hedgerow (priority habitat)
- g4 – modified grassland
- u1e – built linear feature.

3.3.2. h2a – hedgerow (priority habitat).



3.3.2.1. There is a hedgerow that extends along the length of Dr Fold Lane on the approach to the site. This is a native hedgerow that is cut along Dr Fold Lane and is approximately 2m in height.

3.3.2.2. The species throughout this hedgerow include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) with an understorey of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), thistle (*Cirsium sp*), horse tail (*Equisetum arvense*), sow thistle (*Sonchus sp*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

3.3.3. g4 – modified grassland.



Beyond the hedgerow, the passing places will encroach into adjacent grassland. This comprises a short sward and heavily grazed by sheep and cattle. Species identified within this habitat include Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), thistle (*Cirsium sp*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*).

3.3.4. u1e – built linear features.



Dr Fold Lane extends up to the site, which is a hard standing track.

3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified during the survey.

3.4.2. There are no watercourses or waterbodies within the survey area therefore there are no habitats present suitable for water voles, otters or crayfish.

3.4.3. Maps of the area show that there is a ditch extending along the railway corridor up to 15m from the eastern end of the survey area. There was no access to this during this survey and it was seen to be completely overgrown.

3.4.5. There is one pond shown on maps within 500m from the passing places. This is located approximately 250m from the closest passing point, and appears to be a well disturbed pond with poor water quality and completely surrounded by a well used area. It is assessed as unlikely that this pond will support great crested newts.

3.4.6. There is a wet area in the grazing field adjacent to the hedgerow, although this contains grassy vegetation and a shallow depth of water. This is not an established pond, rather just a wet depression. There is not enough depth of water to support great crested newts. The photograph below shows this wet area of the field.



3.4.7. There are no buildings, structures or trees within the survey area to provide potential for roosting bats.

3.4.8. The hedgerow within the survey area provides some potential habitat for foraging and commuting bats. There is another hedgerow adjacent along the other side of Dr Fold Lane that also provides habitat. It is likely that bats will forage or commute between the two hedgerows.

3.4.9. There is potential for nesting birds in the hedgerow. No active nests were found during this survey, although a comprehensive nesting bird survey was not carried out as the results are only valid for a couple of days.

3.4.10. The survey area is assessed to provide very low potential for reptiles as the ground is mostly shaded along the hedgerow and the habitats either side of the hedgerow are disturbed by sheep/cattle grazing or vehicles.

3.4.11. The survey area lies outside the natural range of hazel dormouse therefore there are no hazel dormouse present within the survey area.

3.4.12. There are no habitats within the survey area suitable for red squirrel and the site lies outside the natural range of the species.

3.4.13. The site provides some limited suitability for hedgehogs. It is possible that they will commute along the hedgerow corridor.

3.4.14. Himalayan balsam was identified growing along the bottom of the hedgerow throughout the survey area. This is an invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The photograph below highlights this species identified alongside the hedgerow.



4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within or close to the survey area. Therefore, the works will have no impact on any designated sites.

4.2. To give an indication of the impacts on the biodiversity of the habitats as a result of the construction of the passing places, biodiversity calculations were carried out using the Small Sites Metric 4.0 of the section of the track, hedgerow and adjacent grazed fields adjacent to the proposed places. The baseline was calculated at 0.03 habitat Biodiversity Units (Bu) and 0.76 hedgerow Bu.

4.3. The habitat units account for the units afforded to the modified grassland. These will be lost in their entirety to facilitate the new passing places. To mitigate for this loss, of biodiversity, 2m wide grass verges around each passing place will be enhanced to create grass road verges to the specification of 'other neutral grassland'. This will be a minimum combined area of 75m² and this will deliver 0.07 habitat Bu, which will result in a 1.94% net gain of habitat Bu with all trading rules satisfied.

4.4. New hedgerow will be planted along the road verges around both new passing places, which will be a total combined length of approximately 37.6m. A tree will also be incorporated into each new length of hedgerow, to make these native hedgerows with trees. This will deliver 0.84 hedgerow Bu, which will result in a 11.02% net gain with all trading rules satisfied.

4.5. These measures are outlined in the tables below.

Habitats baseline.

Habitat Type	Extent (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Modified Grassland	84.80	Low	Moderate	0.03
Developed land; sealed surface	978.40	V.Low	N/A	0.00
Modified Grassland (to be enhanced)	75	Low	Moderate	0.03
Total	1138.20			0.06

Habitats proposed:

Habitat Type	Extent (m2)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Developed land; sealed surface	978.40 retained 84.80 created	V.Low	N/A	0.00
Other neutral grassland (enhanced from modified grassland)	75	Medium	Good	0.07
Total				0.07

Hedgerow baseline:

Hedgerow Type	Length (m)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Native hedgerow	188.85	Low	Moderate	0.76
Total	0.67			0.76

Hedgerow proposed:

Hedgerow Type	Length (m)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Native hedgerow (retained)	157	Low	Moderate	0.63
Native hedgerow with trees	37.6	Medium	Moderate	0.21
Total	0.67			0.84

4.6. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area therefore the propose works will have no impact on badgers.

4.7. There are no watercourses or waterbodies therefore the proposed works will have no impact on water voles, otters or crayfish.

4.8. There is on pond within 500m of the survey area, however considering how isolated that pond is with poor habitat around the pond and a lack of records, it is assessed that the creation of two small passing places will have no impact on great crested newts.

4.9. There are no buildings, structures or trees within the locations of the proposed passing places, therefore there will be no impact on roosting bats.

4.10. The hedgerow provides potential linear habitat for foraging and commuting bats. The proposals will result in the temporary loss of some small sections of hedgerow, that are less than 20m in length each. This is not deemed to be sufficient length to have any detrimental impact on any foraging and commuting bats, and in addition, the hedgerow along the opposite side of Dr Fold Lane will remain in place to provide continuity. The gaps will be replanted and enhanced with some tree planting too. Overall, there will be no negative impact on foraging and commuting bats.

4.11. There is potential for nesting birds throughout survey area in the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September each year. Any hedgerow removal carried out during the nesting bird season is highly likely to have a high negative impact on nesting birds on the site.

4.12. The survey area is assessed to provide very low potential for reptiles therefore it is assessed that with some precautionary measures in place, there will be no impact on reptiles.

4.13. The site lies outside the natural range of hazel dormouse therefore the proposed works will have no impact on that species.

4.14. There are no suitable habitats for red squirrel and the site lies outside the natural range of the species. There will therefore be no impact on red squirrel as a result of the proposed works.

4.15. The site provides some suitability for hedgehog. The hedgerow removal could potentially impact on any hedgehogs present at that time.

4.16. Himalayan balsam was found present along the hedgerow bottom. This is an invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act

(1981) and it is an offence to allow or cause the plant to spread into the wild. This plant spreads via the seeds that are ejected from the seed pods during late summer/autumn. The seeds can be ejected up to 7m from the plants, therefore any soils within 7m could contain viable seeds. The works could therefore result in the spreading of the plant.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. It is recommended that the hedgerow removal is carried out outside the nesting bird season. If it is necessary to undertake these works within the nesting season, the works will need to be immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey carried out by a competent person. Any active nests that are found, must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

5.2. As a precautionary measure, it is recommended that all personnel on site are briefed on the identification of reptiles and instructed that in the event any are found during the works, they should be left to escape the area unharmed before the works proceed. In the unlikely event that high numbers (5+) of reptiles or hibernating reptiles are found, professional advice should be sought immediately to advise how to proceed.

5.3. In addition to the above, all vegetation on the site should initially be cut down to a minimum of 150mm and left for twenty-four hours before clearing to ground level to prevent any harm to any animals at ground level and to make the area unattractive for any fauna species before the ground clearance. This will prevent harm to any reptiles, hedgehogs and any other small mammals on the site.

5.4. It is recommended that measures are put in place during the works to prevent the spread of Himalayan balsam. This should include the vegetation clearance being carried out at a time when there are no seed pods present on the plants and any vegetation/soils removed from the site should be disposed of as controlled waste. A wash station should also be set up to wash all footwear, equipment and machinery that come into contact with the soils, in situ before leaving site. The washed arisings should be kept confined and disposed of as controlled waste. A toolbox talk document has been appended to this report to aid in the identification of this plant.

Prepared by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 8 th September 2023.

Checked by:	
Alexandrea White BSc(Hons) MSc ACIEEM MIEEnvSc CEnv.	Date: 8 th September 2023.

6. REFERENCES.

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. **Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Second Edition**. CIEEM, Hampshire.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. **Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition**. CIEEM, Hampshire.
1981. **Wildlife and Countryside Act**. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> (accessed 18/02/16)
2000. **Countryside and Rights of Way Act**.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>.
2017. **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations**.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>.
2012. **National Planning Policy Statement**.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Anon. 1995. **Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group report. Vol 2: Action Plans**. HMSO, London.
- The UK Habitat Classification User Manual**. Version 1.1. UK Hab. September 2020.
- The UK Habitat Classification. **Habitat Definitions Version 1.1**. UK Hab. September 2020.
1992. **Protection of Badgers Act**. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>.
- Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D. 1989. **Surveying Badgers**. Mammal Society. London.
- Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). **The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook** (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series). Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London
- Chanin P. 2003(a). **Ecology of the European Otter**. Conserving Natura 2000, Ecology Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.
- Chanin P. 2003(b) **Monitoring the Otter Lutra**. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 10. English Nature, Peterborough.
- Peay S. 2003. **Monitoring the White-Clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes***. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 1. English Nature, Peterborough.
- English Nature. 2001. **Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines**.
- Langton T, Beckett C, Foster J. 2001. **Great Crested Newt: Conservation Handbook**. Froglife, Suffolk.
- Oldham et al. 2000. **Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Assessment. ARG UK Advice Note 5, May 2010**.
- Collins J. (ed.) 2016. **Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines**. 3rd ed. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- English Nature. 2004. **Bat Mitigation Guidelines**. English Nature, Peterborough, UK.
- BTHK 2018. **Bat Roosts in Trees – A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-Care and Ecology Professionals**. Exeter: Pelagic Publishing.
- BOCC4 Eaton et al. 2015. **Birds of Conservation Concern 4: The Population Status of Bird's in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man**.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2004. **Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds**. 2004 ed. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Froglife. 1999. **Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey**. Froglife, London.
- Bright P, Morris P, Mitchell-Jones T. 2006. **The Dormouse Conservation Handbook** 2nd edition. English Nature, Peterborough.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2004 (ed.). **Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for: Reptiles and Amphibians**. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 1996. **UK Strategy for Red Squirrel Conservation**. JNCC, Peterborough.

Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man-made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix II. REPTILE INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are five main species of reptile that reside in the UK; Common or Viviparous Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*); Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*); Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*); Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Adder (*Vipera berus*). The Adder is the only native species that is venomous although this is rarely harmful to humans.

Reptiles occupy a wide range of habitats including woodland, marshes, heathland, moors, sand dunes, hedgerows and bogs. Sand Lizards are confined to moorland and coastal sand dunes where they lay their eggs in the warm sand. The range of the Sand Lizard in the UK is therefore very limited. Slow Worms can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Britain and is the most likely reptile to be found in urban and suburban environments.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies, then later they may move back into the shade because they do not sweat and have to be careful not to overheat. During hot summers, Adders will try to move to damper, cooler sites.

Over winter reptiles will hibernate in burrows or under logs where they are protected from the cold and predators, emerging from February onwards as the weather warms up.

Reptiles generally begin to mate April to May with young born in late July to September. The Common Lizard gives birth to live young, hence the term viviparous, meaning live bearing.

Surveys

Reptile surveys involve the searching of refuge such as logs and stones for any animal sheltering below. Artificial refuge may be laid out on site for the purpose of reptile surveys.

Legislation

Reptiles are protected under Appendix II (sand lizards) and Appendix III (common lizard, slow worms, smooth snake, grass snake and adders) of the BERN Convention (1982), partially protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and are all listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Communities Act (2006) making them a species of principal importance.

This makes it an offence to disturb any reptile while it is occupying a structure or place it uses for shelter or protection or to obstruct access to such a place.

Appendix III. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES INFORMATION.

Ecology

The Government has acknowledged the problems that can be caused by non-native invasive species. In 2008 the Government launched “The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain”. The strategy provides a framework for a more co-ordinated approach to invasive species management. It seeks to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility across government, key organisations, land managers and the public.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Details of the secretariat including risk assessments and action plans for some species are available at www.nonnativespecies.org.

In general, there are four basic methods of controlling weeds: mechanical, chemical, natural and environmental.

- ***Mechanical control*** includes cultivation, hoeing, pulling, cutting, raking, dredging or other methods to uproot or cut weeds.
Where this method is used all plant material must be considered “controlled waste” and must be disposed of properly.
- ***Chemical control*** uses approved herbicides.
- ***Natural control*** uses pests and diseases of the target weed to weaken it and prevent it from becoming a nuisance.
- ***Environmental control*** works by altering the environment to make it less suitable for weed growth, for example by increasing or decreasing water velocity.

Surveys

A site will be searched for invasive plant species growing on site, from mature plants to new shoots. A site will also be searched for dead stems indicating that plants that may have seasonally died back are present.

Legislation

Invasive species listed under Schedule 9 are prohibited from release into the wild. Schedule 9, Section 14(2) prohibits ‘planting’ or ‘causing to grow’ in the wild of any plant listed in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

The following is a list of all the species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Common Name	Scientific Name	England & Wales	Scotland
Alexanders, Perfoliate	<i>Smyrnium perfoliatum</i>	✓	
Algae, Red	<i>Grateloupia luxurians</i>	✓	
Archangel, Variegated Yellow	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>Argentatum</i>	✓	
Azalea, Yellow	<i>Rhododendron luteum</i>	✓	
Balsam, Himalayan	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Entire Leaved	<i>Cotoneaster integrifolius</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Himalayan	<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Hollyberry	<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Small Leaved	<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	✓	
Creeper, False Virginia	<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>	✓	
Creeper, Virginia	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	✓	
Dewplant, Purple	<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i>	✓	
False-acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		✓
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	✓	✓
Fern, Water	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	✓	✓
Fig, Hottentot	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	✓	✓
Garlic, Three-Cornered	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	✓	
Hogweed, Giant	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	✓	✓
Hyacinth, water	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis angustifolia</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis integrifolia</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis laevis</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Japanese	<i>Laminaria japonica</i>	✓	✓

Knotweed, Giant	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	✓	
Knotweed, Hybrid	<i>Fallopia japonica</i> x <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>		✓
Leek, Few-flowered	<i>Allium paradoxum</i>	✓	✓
Lettuce, water	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	✓	✓
Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	✓	
Parrot's-feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	✓	
Pennywort, Floating	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	✓	
Potato, Duck	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	✓	
Primrose, Floating Water	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	✓	
Primrose, Water	<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	✓	
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	✓	
Rhubarb, Giant	<i>Gunnera tinctorial</i>	✓	
Rose, Japanese	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	✓	
Salvinia, Giant	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	✓	✓
Seafingers, Green	<i>Codium fragile</i>	✓	
Seafingers, Green	<i>Codium fragile tomentosoides</i>		✓
Seaweed, Californian Red	<i>Pikea californica</i>	✓	✓
Seaweed, Hooked Asparagus	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>	✓	✓
Seaweed, Japanese	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	✓	✓
Seaweeds, Laver (except native species)	<i>Porphyra</i> sp. except - <i>P. amethystea</i> <i>P. leucosticta</i> <i>P. linearis</i> <i>P. miniata</i> <i>P. purpurea</i> <i>P. umbilicalis</i>	✓	✓
Shallon	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>		✓
Stonecrop, Australian swamp	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	✓	✓
Wakame	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	✓	✓
Waterweed, Curly	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	✓	✓
Waterweeds	All species of the genus <i>Elodea</i>	✓	

Appendix VII. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA.



Site: Stock Nook House Barns Proposed Passing Places

Reference: 230746

Date: 06.09.2023

Produced by: Ruth Georgiou



Toolbox Talk: Reptiles

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants



Identification: Grass Snakes.

The grass snake can be up to 120cm long. It is generally dark green in colour but may occasionally appear grey with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is usually a yellow marking around the neck.



Identification: Adders.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous, but it is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Back ground colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.



Identification: Slow Worms.

Slow worms grow to around 45cm in length. The males and females display a marked difference in colour when fully grown. In general, the species displays colouring that varies from light brown, dark brown, grey, bronze or brick red with the females often displaying a dark vertebral stripe and both males and females displaying occasional markings on the flanks.



Identification: Common Lizards.

Common lizards grow to around 16cm. They are grey brown to dark brown, often with a darker streak that may run the entire length of the spine. A continuous dark band bordered by light yellow or white spots is often seen on either side of the body. The underside of the males is egg yolk yellow to orange spotted with black. Females are yellowish grey.



Other Reptiles.

In addition to the reptiles outlined on this document, there are also two other reptile species in Great Britain, the smooth snakes and the sand lizard. These reptiles are a lot less common than the four species covered with the smooth snake being predominantly found on heathland in southern England and the sand lizard found throughout Great Britain in coastal dune areas.

These species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.

Habitat.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies and then later they may move back into the shade so as not to overheat. Hence, reptiles require a habitat that provides a range of suitable refugia for shelter such as dense vegetation, rubble or log piles, or crevices and open areas for basking such as bare ground, rocks or railway ballast shoulders. During hot summers reptiles may be found in damper, cooler sites. Reptiles hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.



When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.

Legislation.

Reptiles are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

If reptiles are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Toolbox Talk: Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Balsam was introduced into the UK in the early 19th century as an ornamental garden plant. The plant has since become established in the wild growing in a wide range of habitats, predominantly damp habitats and along watercourses. Himalayan Balsam grows in dense stands and therefore along river banks it can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and can leave the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants



Identification.

Himalayan Balsam grows to around 2m and has a hollow, brittle stem. The plant stem is green to red early in the season and turns pink to red during the summer.



The plant has leaves up to 15cm long which are finely serrated along the edges and may have a pink mid-rib. The flowers are trumpet shaped and pink.



Habitat and Spreading.

Himalayan Balsam grows in a range of habitats but prefers damp habitats and river corridors. The plant grows in dense stands that out-compete native species. Along river corridors the plant can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and leaves the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.



Himalayan Balsam spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water. The seed heads are approximately 2.5cm long and explode on touch when ripe.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before it can seed.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Himalayan balsam is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk