

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Phase 1 Habitat Survey in support of new CNC accommodation building.

A new building is being provided to house facilities for the civil nuclear constabulary on Sellafield site to include office accommodation and welfare. The chosen location is a section of land in the "north group" area of site adjacent to the new main site control facility, which is under construction. The new building will occupy part of a piece of land previously the site of process plant, which has been demolished. In addition to the accommodation, part of the land parcel may be used for construction activities and laydown areas.

A site ecology survey was conducted on 3rd April 2018 by Dr WA Marshall, subsequent walk downs have been conducted in July 2018 and August 2019 to validate the initial survey and ensure it remains fit for purpose.

The survey area as covered by the survey map (Appended) included not only the planning area (indicatively marked by the red boundary) but also the surrounding areas to capture features of interest. The area under development is entirely ringed by roads and includes existing buildings and other construction sites and associated laydown areas.

At the time of the survey the proposed construction site was being used for temporary storage of material and waste from ongoing construction activities. Most of the surrounding open ground comprises hard standing (both made ground and metalled surfaces). This is interspersed with managed amenity grassland with some plantings of trees and shrubs.

Some areas of less managed land comprise scrub and ruderal vegetation, this is more extensive to the south east of the development site but remains separated from it by a number of features including service trench and road. To the south east there is also a stand of mixed conifer and broadleaved plantation. Both the scrub and plantation has poor connectivity to mature habitat outside the Sellafield site (notably the riparian woodland flanking the river Calder) being separated by a number of [REDACTED] features [REDACTED]

Designated Sites

Designated statutory sites within 5km of the Sellafield Site (Ref. Magic Map application

<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>)

	Nearest Site boundary (km)	Designations
Hallsenna Moor	3.6	NNR, SSSI
Low Church Moss	1.3	SSSI
Drigg Coast	2.5	SSSI, SAC
Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsey Mosses	3.2	SSSI
Cumbria Coast	<0.1	MCZ
Lake District	1.2	National Park

There are no sites with the following designations within 5km:

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Biosphere Reserves
- Marine Nature Reserves
- Ramsar

The proposed development will not impact on any designated sites.

Target Notes (See Phase 1 habitat survey map appended)

1. Scattered scrub, bramble and willow predominating
2. Scrub, willow and bramble dominate, invasive cotoneaster also present
3. Landscaped planting, invasive cotoneaster present
4. Scattered scrub, bramble and gorse predominating
5. Landscaped planting, shrubs
6. Scrub, bramble predominating
7. Landscaped planting, shrubs invasive cotoneaster present
8. Scrub, bramble and gorse predominating.
9. Landscaped planting, shrubs and trees
10. Amenity grassland with scattered trees
11. Landscaped planting, shrubs and trees
12. Amenity grass with scattered trees
13. Plantation circa 30 years old, mixed broad leaf and conifer
14. Scrub, willow and bramble predominating

Ecological Constraints

The potential ecological constraints within the development area are nesting birds.

Relevant Legislation

Nesting Birds

Wild birds are protected in England and Wales under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The nesting season is officially 1st March to 31st July, however it may extend beyond those dates.

Wildlife and Countryside Act and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations

Both pieces of legislation make it an offence to disturb (intentionally or recklessly) various protected species.

Penalties

Penalties that can be imposed for criminal offences contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are an unlimited fine, up to six months imprisonment or both. Similar penalties are set out under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017).

Recommendations

It is recommended the following mitigations are employed to ensure the risk of impacts on wildlife is as low as reasonably practicable:

- Consider beginning the ground works between 1st August and 28th February (outside the bird nesting season). If work is planned to begin during the nesting season an ecologically competent person should be contacted to inspect the site immediately prior to works commencing. **Note:** Regardless of the time of year, if a nest is found on site an ecologically competent person should be contacted to assess the situation. Works will be delayed in the vicinity of any occupied nest until the young birds have fledged.
- The area should be treated to prevent habitat forming (treat/remove vegetation).
- Once the project has confirmed a start date an ecologically competent person should be contacted to determine if the site needs to be re-inspected prior to works commencing.
- Operatives working on the project will be provided with relevant tool box talks on identifying wildlife and actions to be taken on discovery of wildlife on the site during works. The tool box talks will be delivered at relevant points through the project e.g. before works with the potential to impact on wildlife commence. The tool box talks will focus on nesting birds.
- Construction best practice should be followed to ensure nuisance impacts such as noise, vibration and light pollution do not impact the areas outside the site boundary.
- Lighting for the finished development should be designed to be directed away from the site boundary.



PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY FOR CNC ACCOMMODATION

Note

This map is based on Ordnance Survey British National Grid and is an overview of Sellafield Site.
 This is a schematic representation and should be used FOR GUIDANCE ONLY.

Scale: 1:1,200 (@ A3)

Printed: 18/04/2018

Uncontrolled copy when printed

File name: CNC Accommodation Phase 1.mxd

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