



BETTER SOLUTIONS, INTELLIGENTLY ENGINEERED

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Avant Homes
Moorthorpe Way, Sheffield

Ecological Impact Assessment
Addendum

ENVIRONMENT

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October 2019

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 BWB Consulting Ltd (BWB) was instructed to produce an addendum to the existing Ecological Impact Assessment relating to a proposed residential development off Moorthorpe Way, Sheffield. This is in relation to two additional areas being included within the red line according to drawing n1276 0009(Appendix 1). This include for the proposed Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP), the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and the Surface Water Attenuation area.

Site Setting

- 1.2 The Site is located off Moorthorpe Way and Moorthorpe Rise to the south-west of Owlthorpe in Sheffield: Central Grid Reference SK 4156 8261. The location of the Site (outlined in red) and the proposed MUGA and Leap are shown in Figure 1. The proposed LEAP and MUGA lie to the south of the site, whereas the proposes Surface Water Attenuation is located to the northeast.

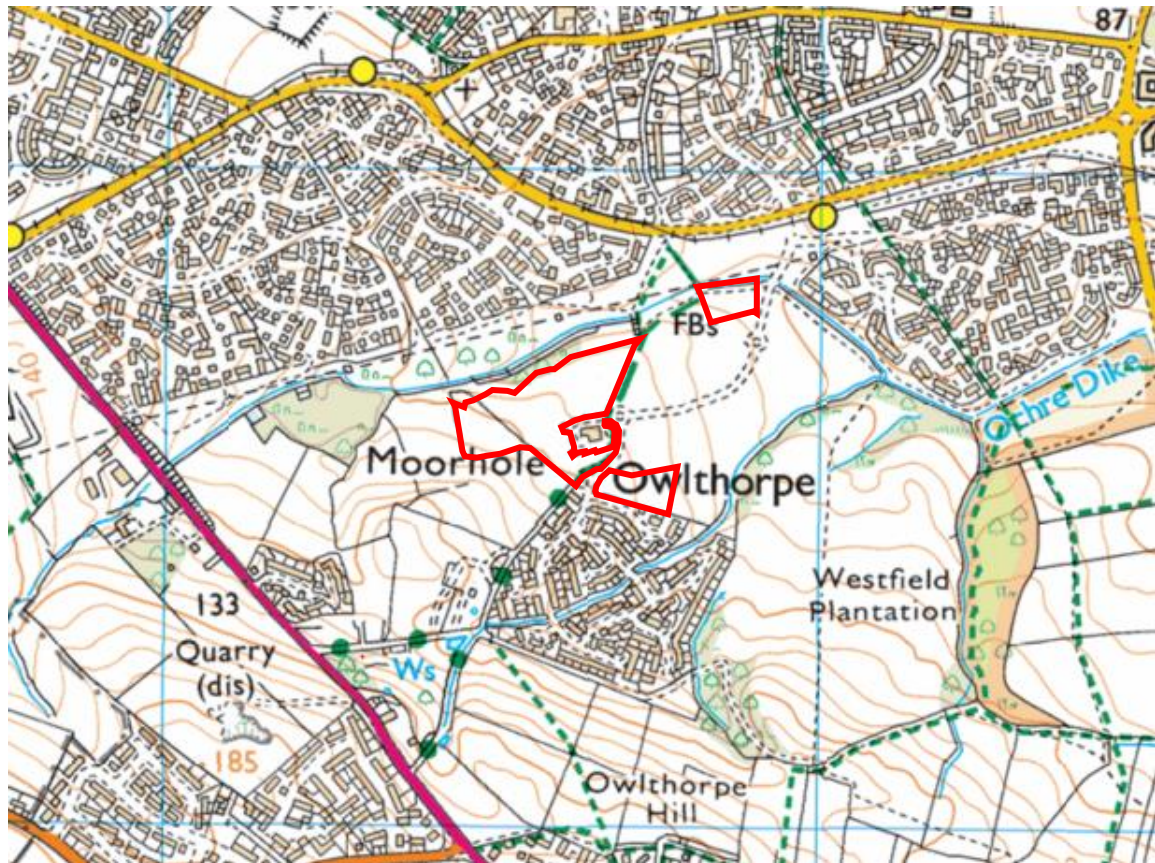


Figure 1: Location Plan

Aims

- 1.3 The primary purpose of this addendum is to provide a baseline of all ecological considerations relating the proposed LEAP and MUGA and Surface Water Attenuation Area. This will include the identification of any potential ecological constraints and opportunities.

Scope of Works

- 1.4 The ecological appraisal was previous survey and assessment, and a new site survey. The approach to this addendum follows best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017) and the British Standards Institution (BSI, 2013). Further details are provided later in this report.

Legislation and Planning Policy

- 1.5 The following legislation relates to species and habitats that could potentially occur in association with the Site:
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
 - Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
 - Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; and
 - The Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- 1.6 Further information on the legislation relevant to this Site is provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.7 Consideration has also been given in this report to relevant National and Local Planning Policy as summarised below.
- 1.8 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guides Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) when developing their planning policies and considering planning applications affecting protected habitats, sites and species.
- 1.9 In respect of the natural environment, the NPPF states that:
- 1.1 “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
 - b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and

other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
 - d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
 - e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
 - f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate."
- 1.10 Through the NPPF and Section 40 of the NERC Act, LPAs have a duty to consider habitats and species listed as being of principal importance for nature conservation in England on Section 41 (S41) of the Act when considering a planning application. In addition, the biodiversity duty of local planning authorities also covers species and habitats listed in local biodiversity action plans.
- 1.11 Additionally, the current adopted Sheffield Local Plan (comprising the Sheffield Core Strategy (2009) and 'saved' policies from the Sheffield Unitary Development Plan (1998) provides the following policies with respect to open spaces and the natural environment:
- 1.2 **GE11: Nature Conservation and Development**
- 1.3 *The natural environment will be protected and enhanced. The design, siting and landscaping of development should respect and promote nature conservation and include measures to reduce any potentially harmful effects of development on natural features of value.*
- 1.4 **GE13: Areas of Natural History Interest and Local Nature Sites**
- 1.5 *Development which would damage Areas of Natural History Interest will normally not be permitted. Development affecting Local Nature Sites should, wherever possible, be sited and designed so as to protect and enhance the most important features of natural history interest.*
- 1.6 *Where development would decrease the nature conservation value of an Area of Natural History or Local Nature Site, that decrease must be kept to a minimum and compensated for by creation or enhancement of wildlife habitats elsewhere within the site or local area.*

1.7 GE15: Trees and Woodland

1.8 *Trees and woodland will be encouraged and protected by:*

- a) Planting, managing and establishing trees and woodland, particularly in the South Yorkshire Forest; and*
- b) Requiring developers to retain mature trees, copses and hedgerows, wherever possible, and replace any trees which are lost; and*
- c) Not permitting development which would damage existing mature and ancient woodlands.*

2. METHODS

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.1 A site survey was undertaken on 16th September 2019 by Chris Grocock MSc BSc (Hons) who has extensive experience in survey and site assessment for protected species and is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies for species surveys (CIEEM, 2017).
- 2.2 The visit was completed using Phase 1 habitat survey techniques as defined in the standard methodology (JNCC, 2010).
- 2.3 The aim of the visit was to gather sufficient baseline information on the habitats within the Site in order to allow an interpretation of the ecological value of the land.
- 2.4 In addition, the methodology was extended to include a search for incidental evidence of protected/notable fauna and an assessment of the Site's potential to support protected/notable fauna. Specific consideration was given to the following species:
- Birds;
 - Bats;
 - Amphibians, including great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*;
 - Reptiles;
 - Badgers *Meles meles*; and
 - Priority Species, such as hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.
- 2.5 Standard methodologies were used where applicable.
- 2.6 Habitats adjacent to the Site were viewed, where possible, from the Site boundaries in order to assess their potential to support protected species that could be utilising the survey Site.

2. RESULTS AND SUMMARY

- 2.3 The habitats on-site were found to be comparable to those recorded on the main area of the Site i.e. a mosaic of scrub, semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal. A watercourse also ran through the northern parcel of land; however, this could not be viewed as it was beneath dense scrub. Likewise, several areas of both parcels of land could not be accessed fully due to the density of the vegetation.
- 2.4 No additional constraints with regards to protected species were recorded to those subjected to species-specific surveys already conducted i.e. bat activity, breeding birds and reptiles. There was a pond located approximately 75m east of the northern parcel of land. However, this was separated from the Site by Moorthorpe Gate, a road with high kerb stones likely to act as a significant dispersal barrier to amphibians. The water course is entirely shaded within dense scrub and is therefore unlikely to offer potential to

water vole, otter or crayfish; furthermore there are no records of these species within the last ten years.

- 2.5 In summary, no amendment to the assessment of impacts identified in the Ecological Impact Assessment prepared in September 2019 is required.
- 2.6 As a matter of good practice, contractors should remain vigilant for the presence of badger setts within the denser areas of scrub which could not be accessed. Should any large mammal holes be discovered, works should stop, and an ecologist be contacted.

3. REFERENCES

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Appendix 1

Project Code	Drawing Nr	Rev	Drawing Scale
n1276	009	A	1:500 @ A0