



April 2021

Technical Note: Updated Phase 1 Habitat Survey. Land off Carr Road, Deepcar.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The following Technical Note has been produced by FPCR for Hallam Land Management (HLM). This provides the methodology and results of an updated Phase 1 Habitat Survey completed on land off Carr Road, Deepcar on 05 August 2020. This land is affected by the proposed development of up to 85 dwellings and infrastructure (Planning Reference Number: 17/04673).
- 1.2 Further details on matters relating to the potential effects to Fox Glen LWS and mitigation have been addressed through ecological submissions over the determination period and such matters are not considered further in this technical note.

2.0 Methodology

Extended Phase 1 Survey Habitats

- 2.1 The survey technique adopted for the habitat assessment followed the extended Phase 1 habitat survey technique as recommended by Natural England. This comprised a walkover of the site, mapping and broadly describing the principal habitat types and identifying the dominant plant species present within each habitat type and any invasive weeds (where present). Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types.
- 2.2 This survey was completed on the 5th August 2020 by a Level 3 FISC surveyor. The survey updates and builds upon previous phase 1 habitat surveys completed in May 2016, June 2016 and January 2020.

Hedgerows

- 2.4 Hedgerows were surveyed using the Hedgerow Evaluation and Grading System (HEGS). The aim of the assessment is to allow the rapid recording and ecological appraisal of any given site in the UK, and to allow the grading of the individual hedges present, to identify those which are likely to be of greatest significance for wildlife. This method of assessment includes noting down: canopy species composition, associated ground flora and climbers; structure of the hedgerow including height, width and gaps, and associated features including number and species of mature tree and the presence of banks, ditches and grass verges.

2.5 Using the HEGS methodology each hedgerow can then be given a grade. These grades are used to assign a nature conservation value to each hedgerow as follows:

- Grade -1, 1, 1+ High to Very High Value
- Grade -2, 2, 2+ Moderately High to High Value
- Grade -3, 3, 3+ Moderate Value
- Grade -4, 4, 4+ Low Value

2.6 Hedgerows graded -2 or above are suggested as being a nature conservation priority.

3.0 Results

Overview

3.1 The habitats described below correspond to those mapped on Figure 1: Phase 1 Habitat Plan. Plant species lists for each habitat are provided in Appendix A.

3.2 The Site comprised five species-poor semi-improved grassland field compartments divided by dry-stone walls. Other habitats present either within and bounding the site included buildings, dense/continuous and scattered scrub, hedgerow, fence lines, coniferous trees and broad-leaved trees.

Poor Semi-improved Grassland

3.3 Species-poor semi-improved grassland formed the dominant habitat within the Site.

3.4 At the time of survey, the western field compartment and the field compartment associated with TN1-TN3 was cattle grazed, exhibiting a fine and short sward height and structure of c.3-7cm. TN1 is a small area of bare ground which had been poached by cattle footfall. The margins of the bare ground were dominantly colonised by knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare*. TN2 is an area of poached organic matter build up, including discarded hay and cattle detritus surrounding a cattle feeder. TN3 is an area dominated by ruderal colonising vegetation over organic substrate, including frequent knotgrass and frequent hedge mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*.

3.5 The remaining three species-poor semi-improved field compartments are managed for agriculture and hay cutting, resulting in a sward height of c.5-10cm across the majority of the field and approximately 30-50cm in the uncut field margins.

3.6 Species composition is largely homogenous between all species-poor semi-improved field compartments. Perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* were recorded as frequently occurring in abundance, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* occasionally occurring and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* recorded as local dominantly occurring, in particular dominating any field margins present. Herbaceous diversity and abundance is limited, with most species identified recorded as rarely occurring in abundance. A small number of herbaceous species, located in small areas of the site, are either locally dominant or occasionally within the grassland sward. These species included common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and white clover *Trifolium repens*.

Dense/Continuous and Scattered Scrub

- 3.7 Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. dominated the dense/continuous scrub with frequently occurring creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* associated with unmanaged field margins located in a single field compartment.
- 3.8 A small number of immature wild cherry *Prunus avium* scrub is located within the northern corner of the Site. Small amounts of scattered scrub is also present along field boundaries. These areas are very limited in extent and limited to semi-mature hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* standards.

Hedgerows

- 3.9 Present along the Site’s northern boundary is a single overgrown, gappy, species poor hedgerow (H1). Hedgerow H1 qualifies as a habitat of principle importance as described in S41 of the NERC Act 2006 because it comprised at least 80% native species. The hedgerow is considered suitable for assessment against the Hedgerow Regulations criteria and the HEGS assessment. A summary of the extent and ecological value of the hedgerow is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of the Extent of the Hedgerows and their Ecological Value

Ref.	Canopy Sp.	Height / Width (m)	Length (m)	Sp. per Av. 30m	Associated Features	HEGS Grade	Import. HR*
H1	Cm, Fe	>4 / 0-1	50	2	>1 standard/50m	-3 (Moderate Value)	No

Cm – Hawthorn, Fe - Ash

Broad-Leaved and Coniferous Trees

- 3.10 A small number of broad-leaved trees are located within the Site. The vast majority of specimens were associated with field margins or boundaries and were predominantly immature in age. Species included ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and English oak *Quercus robur*. A domestic line of coniferous trees are also present along the northern boundary of the Site.
- 3.11 Two veteran ash trees are present to the north west of the Site, situated immediately south of the Fox Glen LWS. Whilst within the red line these veteran trees are outside the zone of influence of the built development.

Wall and Fence Lines

- 3.41 Dry-stone walls predominantly bounded the Site and divided field compartments. Wooden post and wire fence lines are present bounding and dividing field compartments.

4.0 Summary Conclusions

- 4.1 At the time of the updated survey, the habitats and the site conditions were recorded to be largely unchanged and assessed as being of low ecological value. The potential tree roost on the fringe of the Fox Glen is retained and buffered, thus the tree and any potential roost in the tree is not affected by the proposals.
- 4.2 As the habitats within the site have not significant changed since the previous surveys, the results of the previous species-specific survey work remain valid and further species-specific surveys or alter will not alter the overall

assessment or conclusions of the ecological submissions over the determination period.

APPENDIX A: BOTANICAL SPECIES LIST

D – Dominant, A = Abundant, F – Frequent, O – Occasional, R – Rare, LD – Locally Dominant, LA – Locally Abundant, LF – Locally Frequent, LO – Locally Occasional, LR – Locally Rare

Species-Poor Semi-Improved Grassland

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR Scale
American willowherb	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	R
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	R
Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>	R
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	R
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	R
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	R
Burdock species	<i>Arctium sp.</i>	R
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	R
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	R
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis hispanica</i>	LD
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	R
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	R
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	R
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	R
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	O
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	R
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	O
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	O
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	R
Crested dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	R
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	R
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	R
Dove's-foot crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	R
False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	LD
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	R
Great willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	R
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	R
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	O
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	R
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	R
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	R
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	F
Prickly sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	R
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	R
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	R
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	R
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	O

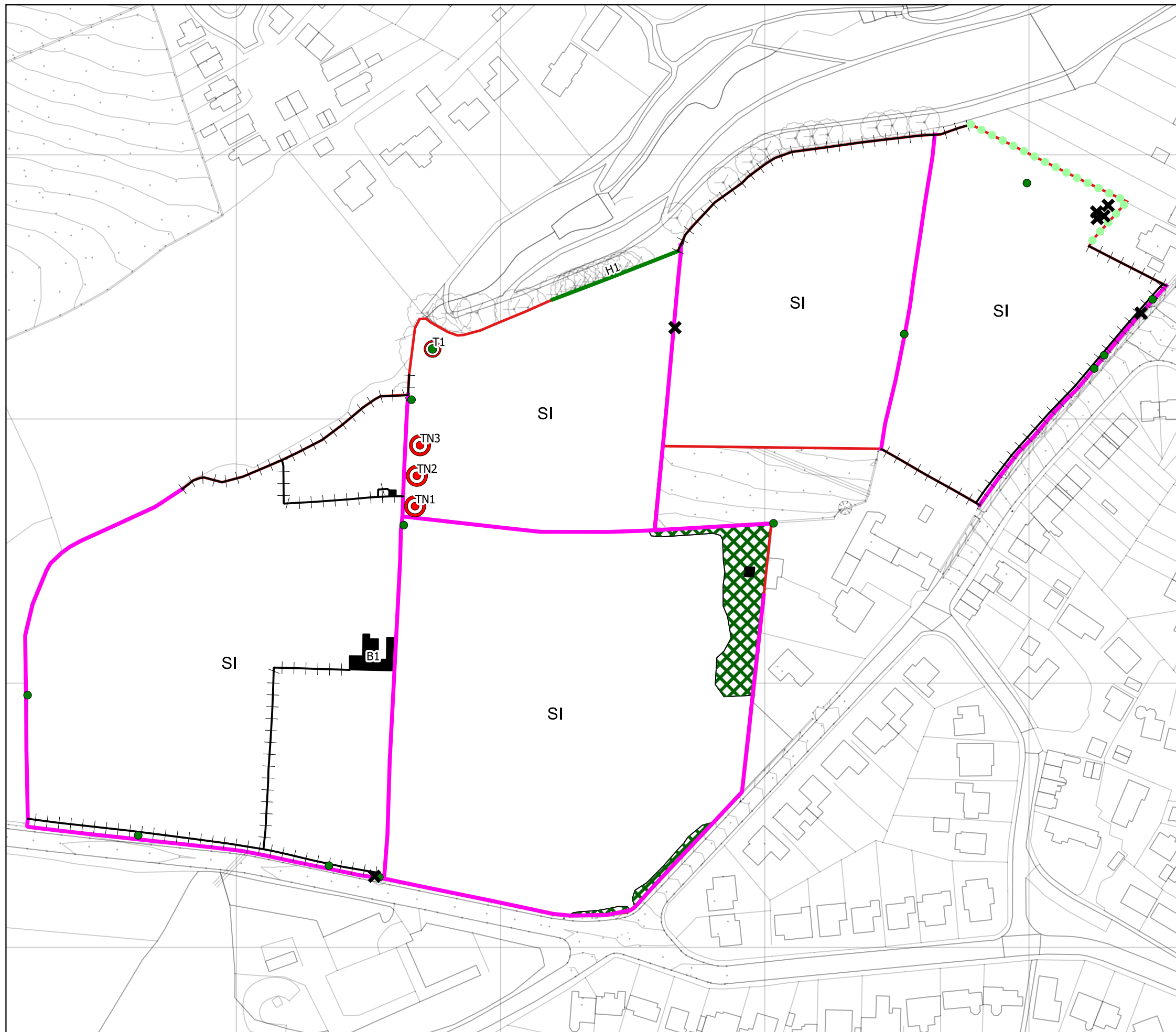
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion</i>	R
Rough meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	R
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	R
Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	R
Thistle sp.	<i>Cirsium sp.</i>	R
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	R
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	F

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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Buildings
- Scrub - dense/continuous
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland
- Wall
- Intact hedge - species-poor
- Fence
- Coniferous trees
- ✕ Scrub - scattered
- ⊙ Tree with bat potential
- ⊙ Target note
- Broadleaved tree



client
Hallam Land Management
project
**Land off Carr Road,
Deepcar**
drawing title
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN

scale @ A3
1:1500
drawing / figure number
Figure 1
drawn
MPG/KDG
issue
28/4/2021
rev
7301-E-01

