

Heywood Developments (Meltham) Ltd,
Alumex Works,
Water Lane,
Halifax,
HX3 9HG

10 August 2020

Dear Mr Mayo,

Report of Ecological Walkover Survey at Land off Huddersfield Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 4BU

You instructed us to undertake an ecological walkover survey (variously referred to as the; "survey, report") at the above-named site to inform an update of the existing Ecological Mitigation Plan. The survey was undertaken on 5th August 2020. My qualifications and experience along with those of the reviewer of this report are summarised at the end of this report.

A previous Ecological Appraisal was carried out by Quants Environmental in August 2017. An Ecological Mitigation Plan was subsequently produced by Arbtech in January 2019. This ecological walkover will be used to inform an update of the Ecological Mitigation Plan to discharge a condition of planning.

Description of the site and proposed development

The survey site consists of a large improved pasture field, with a dense area of woodland at the centre of the site. There is a small water course running through the area of woodland. The site boundaries to the south and west consists of areas of deciduous woodland.

Improved grassland

Improved grassland forms the majority of the site, with dominant species including Perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*. The grass is mostly cut short with a few overgrown patches across the site.

Woodland

There is a small, dense area of woodland at the centre of the site with dominant tree species including holly *Ilex aquifolium*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, oak *Quercus robur* and silver birch *Betula pendula*. This area of woodland will be retained as part of the proposed works. It is currently surrounded by heras fencing to protect the area during the works.

Protected/notable species

The previous 2017 PEA found no significant potential for protected species. The findings of the ecological walkover found similar results with low potential for protected species to be using the site.

The presence of Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* was identified during the previous 2017 PEA. A subsequent Himalayan balsam management plan has been produced by Arbtech to control this species.



Figure 1: southern end of site (facing west).



Figure 2: Northern end of site (facing north).



Figure 3: Woodland at centre of site (facing south).

Site Plan – Phase 1 Habitat Map

Figure 4: Updated site plan.

My assessment is there are no significant changes since the 2017 PEA was carried out.

Author

Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes, Consultant

Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2019-43774-CLS-CLS

Terms and Conditions of Use

Arbtech Consulting Ltd has prepared this report for the sole use of the above-named client or their agents in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions, under which our services are performed. It is expressly stated that no other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of Arbtech Consulting Ltd. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based upon information provided by third parties. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by Arbtech Consulting Ltd.

© This report is the copyright of Arbtech Consulting Ltd. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited and may be chargeable at the absolute discretion of Arbtech Consulting Ltd.