

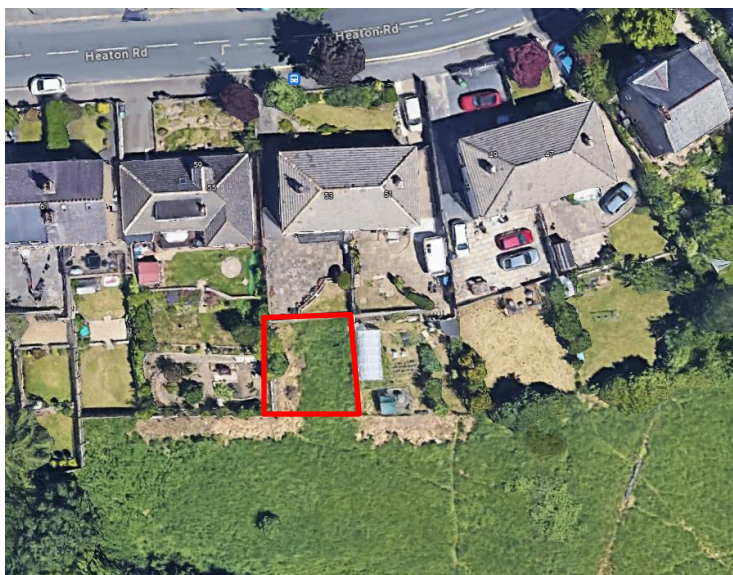
ECOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE

SITE NAME & ADDRESS	53 Heaton Road, Paddock, Huddersfield HD1 4HZ
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL	Regrading To Form Garden and Construction of Garden Building
PLANNING REFERENCE	Not known
ECOLOGY ASSESSMENT TYPE	PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL
DATE	2 April 2024
AUTHOR	Ryan Knight BSc (Hons) MCIEEM - Principal Ecologist

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for the proposed development at 53 Heaton Rd, Huddersfield. The proposal includes the extension of the existing garden of the dwelling which requires the regrading of land within the field to the south as illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1. Area of development proposal



The site is located to the south of Heaton Rd and bound by similar properties to the west and east. The rear garden backs onto an open field area associated with Gledholt Woods. The wider area is a mix of woodlands, parkland and housing.

The primary aim of this document is to provide a baseline of ecological information for the site and to highlight any potential ecological constraints to the proposal.



METHODS

The methodology of the preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) was based on standard guidance (CIEEM, 2017)¹. The level of detail within this document is considered proportionate to the scale of the project, the location and history of the site and the complexity of potential impacts that may arise as a result of the construction of the development. The highly refined approach to the PEA within this document is in adherence with the guidelines. Also, with this proportionate approach in mind, an ecological records search was not acquired from the local records holder.

Given the limited complexity, limited size and location of the site along with the ongoing earthworks that had already taken place, a site visit was not deemed to be required and this report is based on a desk study only. The agent for the planning application provided several photos of the site taken in March 2024 (provided at the foot of this document).

RESULTS

BASELINE

Designated Sites

The proposed development is not located within 2.5km of any internationally / nationally designated sites that are primarily designated for their nature conservation interests. In addition, the development type does not meet the criteria for requiring further consultation with Natural England regarding any designated sites located over 2.5km.

The ground in which the development is to be constructed is located within the boundary of Gledholt Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Figure 1.2 provides an illustration of the designated area in relation to the site.

As per the Designated Sites View from Natural England², “*Gledholt or 'TP Woods' LNR contains an area of mature woodland and rough meadow. The woodlands support an unusual range of fungi for a site so close to a town centre. White clawed crayfish, the UK's only native species, have also been found in the pond here*”.

Unlike national designations, the level and type of protection afforded to an LNR is decided by the local authority. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment.

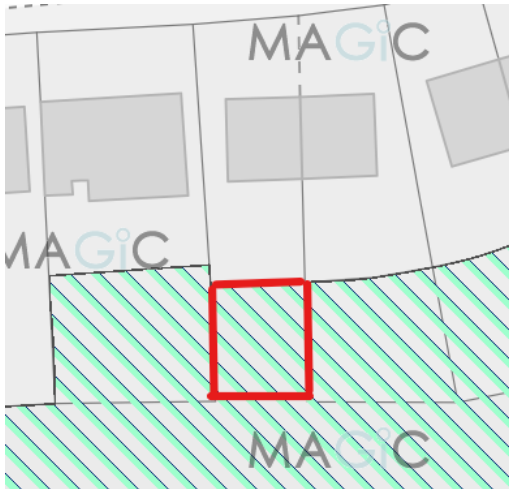
Gledholt Woods is also a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). No citation data for the LWS was obtained; however, the woodland and grasslands are likely to be listed as qualifying features of the LWS.

¹ CIEEM (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

² Available from: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1421558>



Figure 1.2. Gledholt Woods LNR boundary and the proposed development area (red line)



Priority Habitats (including Ancient Woodland)

The nearest priority habitat to the site comprises a deciduous woodland located 68m north (across Heaton Rd). The deciduous woodland associated with Gledholt Woods is located 160m east.

Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network

The development site is within Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

Habitats

Photos which provide a general overview of the site are provided below. The development proposal comprises an extension to the rear garden to match the boundary lines of the adjacent properties and is to include the construction of a garden room. The land parcel outside the current garden boundary measures approximately 100-115m² and forms part of the wider field area. Based on the photos, this area comprised rough, neutral grassland which did appear to be species poor although the diversity of grasses and forbs cannot be fully verified. There also appeared to be tree (possibly ash) seedlings on the west boundary.

To the north is the existing rear garden and patio area of the property and there are similar properties to the west and east.

Protected / Notable Species

There are no suitable nesting bird habitats within the site. No ponds of suitability to support breeding amphibians were identified to be within 250m of the site. Given the size and location of the site, no other potential ecological constraints are likely to be encountered (e.g., bats, badgers, hedgehog etc).



CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development site is slightly within the boundary of Gledholt Woods Local Nature Reserve / Local Wildlife Site. The site is also within Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. Viewed retrospectively, the development will result in the loss of neutral grassland amounting to 100-115m². Taking into account the location of this land parcel (between two garden boundaries), along with the size of the land parcel, it is concluded that the proposal would not result in any significant direct or indirect adverse effects on the qualifying features of the LNR / LWS. In addition, no significant effects are anticipated on the functionality of the habitat network.

Enhancements

It is recommended that the property incorporates biodiversity enhancement measures via the fixing of one bird box and one bat box within the site. The details of which are provided below. Given the low height of the garden room, it is advised that these boxes be fixed onto the dwelling.

Bird box models and siting advice

Recommended Models	One of the following models should be used: • 1no. WoodStone Starling Nest Box • 1no. Vivara Pro Seville 28mm WoodStone Nest Box • 1no. Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box All boxes can be sourced from https://www.nhbs.com/. In the event that a certain bird box model is unavailable for purchase, a suitable like for like replacement should be sourced.	
Positioning	The box should be faced on the north or east aspect, thereby avoiding the strongest sunlight. The box should be sited to ensure birds will have a clear flight path to the nest entrance. Boxes to be placed at least 2m in height.	
Maintenance	Cleaning of the boxes should be undertaken from <u>October to January, outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive)</u>. Rubber gloves must be worn. The old nesting material which accumulates after every breeding season and the droppings from earlier in the season should be removed along with any egg shells or unhatched eggs.	
Examples	 WoodStone Starling Nest Box	 Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box



Bat box models and siting advice

Recommended Models	A choice of suitable bat box models is provided below. Please note, there can be a considerable waiting time for delivery, therefore, several options have been provided. Options • Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box • Low Profile WoodStone Bat Box • Eco Kent Bat Box All the above models are available from https://www.nhbs.com/	
Positioning	The box should be placed close to the roof ridge or directly under the roof verge at the gable so as to achieve a height well in excess of 2.5m from the ground.	
Maintenance	The models chosen do not require cleaning as bat droppings do not typically accumulate within these types of boxes to a level likely to cause problems for future habitation.	
Examples		
	Eco Kent Bat Box	Low Profile WoodStone Bat Box



PHOTOS

Photos 1-3.
View of site
as existing
(March
2024).

