

Technical Note

Project:	Sellafield RBLA Gate				
Subject:	Ecological Impact Assessment – Non-technical Summary				
Author:					
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Document history

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1.0	Final for client comment					10/12/2021

Client signoff

Client	Sellafield Ltd
Project	Sellafield RBLA Gate
Project No.	5208084
Client signature / date	

Non-technical Summary

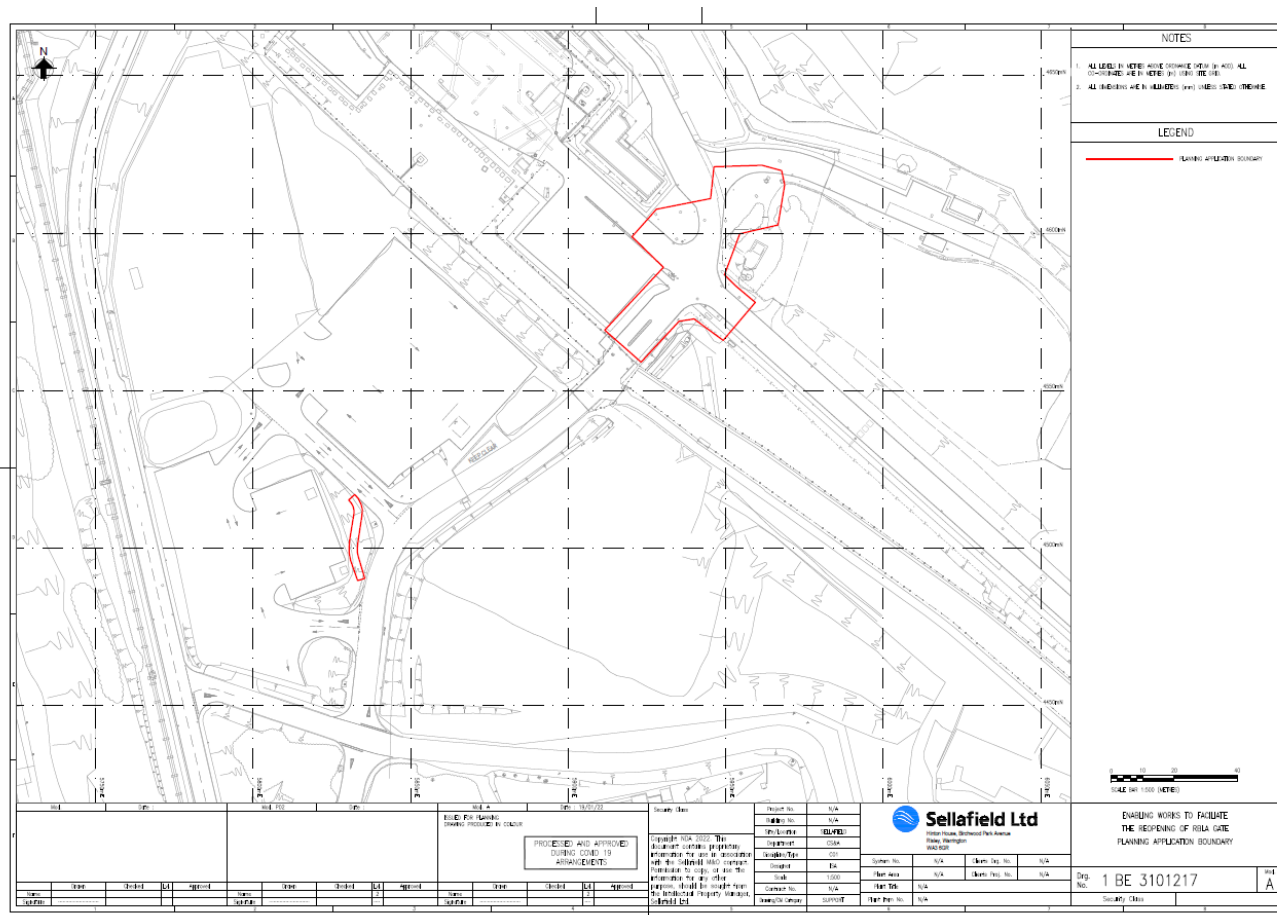
Report purpose	This report describes the ecological baseline and evaluates the nature conservation importance of ecological features present within the zone of influence for the Proposed Scheme. The assessment identifies impacts (both positive and negative) on important ecological features, sets out agreed avoidance, mitigation, and enhancement measures and provides details on the significance of effects for each important ecological feature.
Proposed Scheme	The Proposed Scheme relates to the Enabling Works to facilitate the re-opening of RBLA Gate at the Sellafield Site in Cumbria and includes re-surfacing of an existing road and installation of two security checkpoints (Application Boundary shown in Appendix A). The majority of the proposals will be restricted to the existing road. Some areas of adjacent vegetation may require reducing to ground level to improve visibility and access.
Desk studies and field surveys	A desk study was undertaken on 16/08/21 and an ecological walkover survey of areas within and adjacent to the Application Site, including land up to 50 m from the Application Site boundary where access was allowed (the Survey Area), was undertaken on 30/07/2021
Ecological features	<p>The majority of the Application Site comprises areas of hardstanding, with adjacent areas of managed and unmanaged scrub and grassland. A watercourse flows adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the Survey Area. These are considered capable of supporting breeding birds, reptiles, terrestrial invertebrates and badgers. A plan showing the results of the survey are shown in Appendix B.</p> <p>No statutory designated sites for nature conservation are present within 2 km of the Site and there are no non-statutory sites within 1 km.</p> <p>None of the ecological features present, or those which are considered likely to be present, are of local or above value and have not been taken forward for further assessment within the report. Instead, the report has considered appropriate measures to avoid the contravention of the legal protection afforded to breeding birds, reptiles and badgers.</p>
Avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for pollution prevention and Construction Industry Research and Information Association guidance on the control of water pollution from construction sites will be followed. If vegetation clearance is to be undertaken during the core breeding bird season (the core bird breeding season is March to August inclusive) then a check for nesting birds will be undertaken by an Ecologist. Mitigation measures to avoid killing and injuring reptiles during works will be implemented. Excavations will be infilled or covered at night to prevent animals such as badgers falling in and becoming trapped or, if this is not possible, will be fitted with a means of escape. <p>The above measures are to be detailed within an Ecological Management Plan (EcoMP).</p>

Report Validity

In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per CIEEM guidance¹.

¹ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys

Appendix A. Site Location Plan and Scheme Figures



Appendix B. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

