

Proposed Site Siren: Ecological Survey

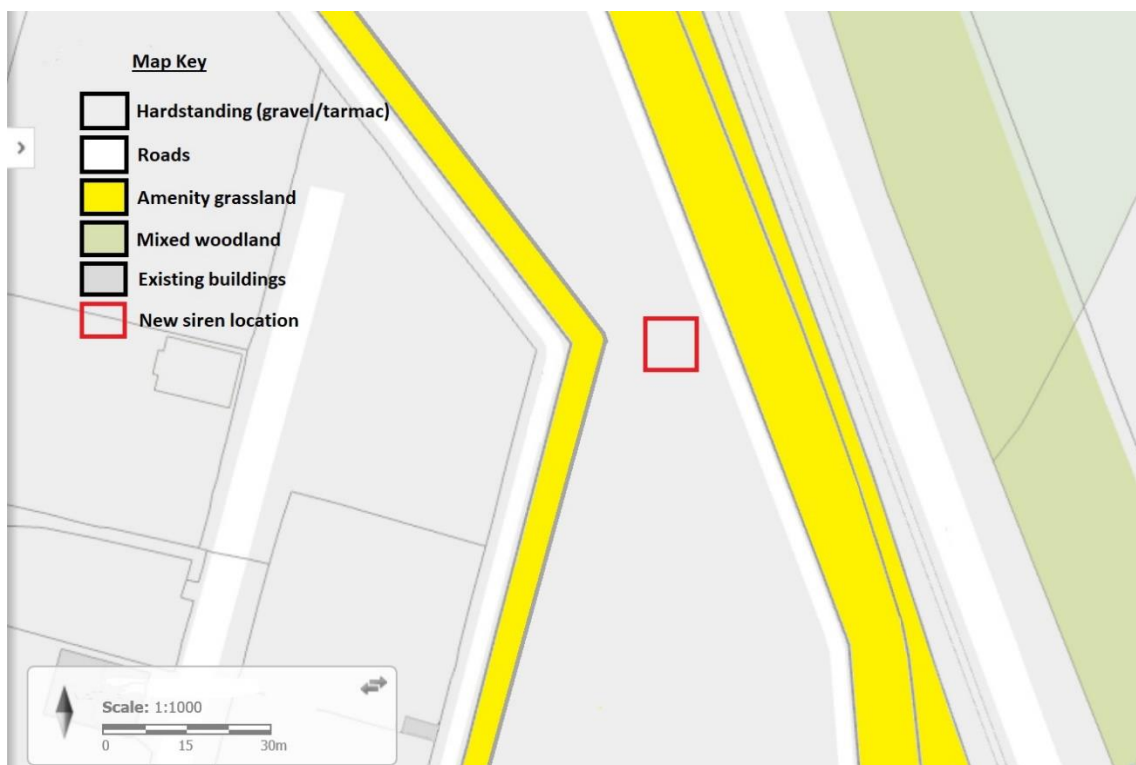
Issue Date - October 2021

Habitat Description

The site was surveyed on 13 October 2021 by Kath Reed ISA Environmental Advisor.

The area where the siren will be positioned is currently on an area of hardstanding within the Calder compound. There is no vegetation within the proposed footprint of the siren. Towards the edges of the compound within the current temporary fences are sparse ruderals and grass growing within the gravel/aggregate.

The plant species in the adjacent areas are common ruderals and grassland species with no invasive species identified. No evidence of fauna was seen in the immediate area and the habitat is of low ecological value.



The area is relatively isolated from the wider area by fences and badgers have previously been excluded from site. There are no suitable trees or structures to provide bat or red squirrel habitat. Great crested newts and white-clawed crayfish are not present in the area around Sellafeld and the project area is not suitable habitat. Species which may potentially be affected are noted below.

Nesting Birds

The vegetation in this area is kept low for visibility therefore habitat for nesting birds is poor. There is slight potential for ground nesting birds such as oystercatchers in the more gravelled or aggregate areas in the compound. If work is to take place between March and August this will be monitored. Nesting birds, their eggs and nests are protected by law under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Any type of disturbance, damage or injury to birds or nests must be avoided.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles are also protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) making it illegal to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure them. There are adders within the Sellafield site and during their active months (March to October) there is slight potential for basking adders on site although the habitat is too exposed to be ideal, so this is unlikely.

There are natterjack toads in the coastal areas to the south, the habitat at the compound is unsuitable (compacted and isolated by fences) therefore it is highly unlikely that they will be affected by the work.

Statutory Sites

Searches on Defra's MAGiC database shows there are no environmental statutory designated sites within 2km of the project. Due to the small scale of the project and distances involved the project will not have an impact on these designated sites:

- Lake District National Park (2.35km)
- Low Church Moss SSSI (3km)
- Drigg Coast SAC (2.9km)
- Hallsenna Moor SSSI & NNR (3.54km)

Summary

The site area is of low ecological value and there are no protected areas within 2km. The potential for ecological impacts during construction for this site are relatively low risk such as nesting birds or basking adders. **If nesting birds, protected species or invasive species are found on site then they will not be disturbed, and the Environmental Advisor will be contacted.**