

# ecological**report**

for

land to the north east of Harras Road, Whitehaven

March 2022



bringing ecological excellence to local environments

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.0.1 Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants were commissioned in March 2022 to undertake an ecological assessment survey on an area of land north east of Harras Road, Whitehaven. The extent of the land is approximately 1.5 Ha.
- 1.0.2 The ecological survey of the site was undertaken to support a planning application for the redevelopment of the land.
- 1.0.3 This ecological report provides information from a survey carried out at the site on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- 1.0.4 The survey focused on an assessment of habitats for protected species.

## **2.0 Site Description**

- 2.0.1 The site is accessed directly from Harras Road, which provides access to the A595.

A drawing of The Area of Survey is located in Appendix 1, HRW/SL/WB/01

Photo sheet of the sites features are included in Appendix 2, HRW/WB/PS01,

- 2.0.2 The site is basically rectangular in shape and measures approximately 1.5Ha. It is bounded to the south by Harras Road, on the other aspects it is bounded by agricultural land primarily used for grazing. There are no buildings on site.
- 2.0.3 There are no waterbodies on site or within 500m of the site.
- 2.0.5 The main habitats present on the site included
  - Semi improved grassland
  - Remnant Hedgerow
  - Tall ruderal
- 2.0.6 All habitats present on site were searched for obvious signs of faunal activity, e.g. presence of badger setts, mammal tracks or herpetofauna under refugia. Any mature trees on the site boundary were visually examined from the ground to identify features with the potential to support roosting bats.

## **2.1 Habitat Descriptions**

- 2.1.1 Remnant Hedgerow

There is what appears to be the fragmented remains of a hedge on the boundary of Harras Road. Bramble areas have become established on the boundary.
- 2.1.2 Tall ruderal

Some areas of tall ruderal have become established along the Harras Road boundary.



- 2.1.3 The majority of the land is made up of semi-improved grassland. This grassland has been obviously used for sheep grazing in the past resulting in poor quality grass with a low ecological value
- 2.1.4 The loss of this small area will have no significant negative impact on the local biodiversity. In fact with the development of the site for residential purposes there will be an increase in the ecological value of the site due to the diverse planting and mature trees that will eventually feature on the site.

### **3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 3.0.1 Results and findings from the ecological site surveys conducted on the site indicate the following.
- 3.0.2 No further survey effort is deemed necessary for any EPS species.

### **4.0 Closure**

This report has been prepared by Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

The information presented in this report provides guidance to reduce the risk of offences under UK law. However, Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants Limited is not a legal practice and disclaims any responsibility to the client and others for actions that lead to offences being caused, whether or not the guidance contained in this report is followed. Interpretation of UK legislation is presented in good faith; however for the avoidance of doubt, we recommend that specialist legal advice is sought.

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## 5.0 References

Batten, L.A. (2002). *Red Data Birds in Britain: Action for Rare, Threatened and Important Bird Species*, Poyser.

Bat Conservation Trust (2007). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*, Bat Conservation Trust, London.

BTO, (2006). *Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007* [online]. British Trust for Ornithology.  
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HMSO, (1995). *Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report, Volume 2: Action Plans*, HMSO, London.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004). *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*, English Nature, Peterborough.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (Eds) (2004). *Bat Workers' Manual*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

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Bat Conservation Trust (2012) *Bat Surveys - Good Practice Guidelines 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Ernest, N and Cheeseman, C. 1996. *Badgers*. T & AD Poyser

Harris, S., Cresswell, W. And Jefferies, D. 1989. *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society Occasional Publication No 9. Mammal Society London.

Natural England, 2007 *Badgers and Development: A guide to best practice and licensing* (interim guidance document, version 09/07). Natural England Wildlife Licensing Unit, Bristol, England.

### Web addresses for access to full UK legislation and policy text:

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010:  
[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi\\_20100490\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100490_en_1)

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:  
[www.opsi.gov.uk/RevisedStatutes/Acts/ukpga/1981/cukpga\\_19810069\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/RevisedStatutes/Acts/ukpga/1981/cukpga_19810069_en_1)

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:  
[www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/200000037.htm](http://www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/200000037.htm)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006:  
[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga\\_20060016\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060016_en_1)



Planning Policy Statement 9:

[www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147408](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147408)



## Appendix 1





**Project**  
Ecological Assessment

**Title**  
Land to North East  
Of Harras Road, WhiteHaven

Approximate extent of land  
surveyed during Ecological  
site assessment




Photo Sheet      HRW/SL/WB/01

Date                March 2022

Scale      N/A



## Appendix 2





1. Land boundary with Harras Road



2. Remnant hedgerow bounding road



3. Poor quality semi-improved grassland



4. Poor quality semi-improved grassland



5. Sheep grazed field adjoining land



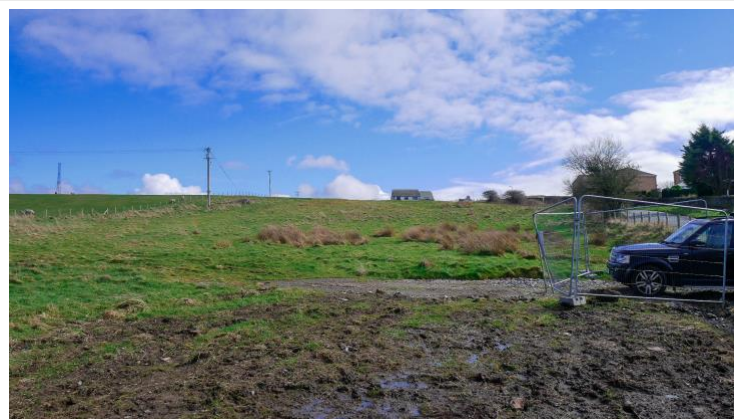
6. Rank Grassland area



7. General view of land



8. Typical ground conditions



9. General view of land



## Project

Land to north east of Harras Road, Whitehaven

## Title

Photographs of site

Photo Sheet HRW/WB/PS01

Date March 2022

Scale N/A



