

Two Storey Modular Building

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

A site survey was conducted on 4th October 2021 by a Sellafield Ltd Environmental Advisor. The survey area is outlined in red on the map; it is entirely within the Sellafield site boundary. The survey area includes where the building is to be sited and the areas that will be used to support construction.

The site is surrounded by roads, buildings and fenced compounds. Along with the Sellafield Site fence these all provide significant barriers to terrestrial wildlife, so connectivity is poor. The site itself is a mix of flat areas of amenity grass, a steep bank with a mix of trees, scrub and ruderal vegetation, and some small areas of ornamental planting. While the bank extends ~160m south of the surveyed area it is still surrounded in a similar manner to the development site (i.e. with poor connectivity).

There was no evidence of protected species seen during the visit. No invasive non-native species were identified.

Designated Sites

Designated statutory sites within 5km of the Sellafield Site (Ref. Magic Map application <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>)

	Nearest Site boundary (km)	Designations
Hallsenna Moor	3.6	NNR, SSSI
Low Church Moss	1.3	SSSI
Drigg Coast	2.5	SSSI, SAC
Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsey Mosses	3.2	SSSI
Cumbria Coast	<0.1	MCZ
Lake District	1.2	National Park

There are no sites with the following designations within 5km:

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Biosphere Reserves
- Marine Nature Reserves
- Ramsar

The proposed development will not impact on any designated sites.

Target Notes

1. Bank, predominantly ruderal vegetation on the lower parts (Bramble and Rosebay Willowherb) with scrub and trees further up. There is evidence that several trees have been felled in this area with tree stumps on the lower part of the bank which have put on new shoots. Trees are mixed broadleaves. The trees do not appear to have any features that would support roosting bats. No evidence of badgers¹. Favourable habitat for reptiles.
2. Same as the bank described in 1 but no evidence of tree felling so there are more trees and scrub which come further down the bank. Several patches of Gorse. It is noted that this area is not expected to be part of the development, but it has been included due to its proximity.
3. Area of amenity grass but due to installation of temporary fencing some small areas have not been maintained.
4. Access track up the bank separating the development site from the rest of the bank. Not a significant barrier to terrestrial wildlife.
5. Ornamental shrubs (Rhododendron) under two trees.

Ecological Constraints

The potential ecological constraints are nesting birds and reptiles.

Relevant Legislation

Nesting Birds

Wild birds are protected in England and Wales under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The nesting season is officially 1st March to 31st July, however it may extend beyond those dates.

Reptiles

Reptiles, including grass snakes, adders, slow worm and common lizards, are protected from killing and injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Penalties

Penalties that can be imposed for criminal offences contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are an unlimited fine, up to six months imprisonment or both. Similar penalties are set out under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017).


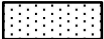

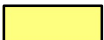
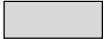




¹ An extensive badger survey of the Sellafield site and surrounding area was completed in 2012. No badgers were identified within the site security fence. Since that survey the fence has been improved so the risk of badgers within the site is considered to be very low

Recommendations

It is recommended the following mitigations are employed to ensure the risk of impacts on wildlife is as low as reasonably practicable:

- Consider beginning the ground works between 1st August and 28th February (outside the bird nesting season). If work is planned to begin during the nesting season an ecologically competent person should be contacted to inspect the site immediately prior to works commencing. **Note:** Regardless of the time of year, if a nest is found on site an ecologically competent person should be contacted to assess the situation. Works will be delayed in the vicinity of any occupied nest until the young birds have fledged.
- In order to reduce the potential habitat for nesting birds and reptiles, areas of amenity grassland, long grass/ruderal vegetation and scrub should be cut to low levels and maintained with regular mowing/strimming until the works are due to commence. The long grass/ruderal vegetation and scrub should be cut in stages; the initial cut should take place outside the bird breeding season and be high enough to avoid any accidental injury to any reptiles that may be present (~200mm).
- As far as practicable, materials, equipment and wastes should be stored on hard-standing away from the vegetated areas to minimise the risk of reptiles taking shelter. When moving equipment, materials and waste, particularly those immediately adjacent to the more vegetated areas, care must be taken to avoid injuring any reptiles which may be sheltering.
- Operatives working on the project will be provided with relevant toolbox talks on identifying wildlife and actions to be taken on discovery of wildlife on the site during works. The toolbox talks will be delivered at relevant points through the project e.g. before works with the potential to impact on wildlife commence. The toolbox talks will focus on nesting birds and reptiles.
- Once the project has confirmed a start date an ecologically competent person should be contacted to determine if the site needs to be re-inspected prior to works commencing.

Map Key

	Extent of habitat survey ¹		Bare ground (gravel / hard-core)
	Roads (tarmac and concrete)		Amenity (maintained) grass
	Buildings (existing)		Target Note (see numbered paragraph)
	Other hard surfaces including footpaths (tarmac and concrete)		Tree
			Development location (approx.)

¹The habitat survey boundary is denoted as a red line as per JNCC 'Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey'. This is not the same as the proposed site plan.

