

Habitat Survey [MiscDem 22/10/A]

A Habitat Survey has been conducted in support of the demolition of a redundant building in the north west corner of the Sellafield site. The survey was conducted with a desktop study and a site visits on the 24th August and 7th September 2022.

The building to be demolished is a temporary structure situated within a single compound area, as follows:-

- One two-storey portacabin structure with external stairways. This building is no longer occupied. It was inspected externally and to the rear it was positioned flush on top of a concrete slab with around 2m of concrete surround and appeared well sealed. Around the perimeter of the building at the joins between modules there were some recesses for cable connections that may be attractive in nesting season. These were all visible during the survey with no evidence of wildlife intrusion.
- The remainder of the surrounding compound was tarmac parking, with a small strip of gravel at the boundary to the North East along the fence line.
- There is one metal ISO freight container in the compound which is not part of the demolition scope.

In summary, the building was in good condition and appeared to be well sealed. Externally there was no evidence of wildlife habitation, nor is it considered significant habitat potential as the area is very exposed to the elements. From external and internal inspections carried out there was no evidence of wildlife intrusion found.

The immediate surrounding areas beyond the compound boundary structures are primarily tarmacked roads with graveled edges. And a small strip of uneven embanked gravel bordering west edge of the compound, before further tarmac an gravel stretching to the site boundary.

Any gravelled areas could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, (though no evidence was found) – however, this is highly unlikely due to the proximity to both the building and accompanying roads. There was no evidence of roosting bats from the external elevations. There was a small amount of bird activity but no observed evidence of bird indicating nesting during the site visit. If demolition occurs in the breeding season then the roof should be checked for nesting birds prior to demolition starting.

Demolition operatives are expected to know what to do if they encounter any wildlife during their work. This should be reinforced with an appropriate toolbox talk prior to demolition starting.

The nearest area of any ecological value is an area of high grass and bushes to the North ~ 200m away (beyond the site boundary) which rises up and connects to a drainage ponds to the North East ~400m away (also beyond the site boundary). This mound includes some small shrubs and gorse bushes. Beyond in this direction is farmland and Yottenfews Farmland, beyond the site boundary.

The centre of the site is ~910m from the River Calder and ~1300m from the the River Ehen. These are the nearest areas of natural/semi natural habitat to the proposed construction site and there is no connectivity with other gravel compounds, tarmac and numerous structures providing significant barriers to dispersal for terrestrial

animals. With the exception of the previously mentioned rivers there are no areas of fresh water within 1000m of the proposed construction site.

A review of the local area has been undertaken. The nearest statutory sites are:

- Low Church Moss SSSI ~0.7 miles NW
- Drigg Coast SSSI/SAC ~3.5 miles SE
- Hallsenna Moss SSSI ~3.4 miles SE

There is a known colony of Natterjack toads near the Sellafield Site boundary, however this is over 2.2km away from the demolition site and there is a low level of connectivity due to roads, embankments and other structural barriers limiting toad movement. The site itself is poor habitat for Natterjack toads.

On the basis of the above, no ecological constraints were evident to prevent the demolition of the building. Though there is potential for wildlife, any potential impacts can be easily mitigated through good construction management, and wildlife awareness.

Relevant Legislation

Bats

Bats and their roosts are protected in England and Wales, the relevant legislation is the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended); the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000; the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC, 2006); and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010). It is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
- Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost

Nesting Birds

Protection for nesting birds is detailed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Part 1, in that it is an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird; take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule 1; take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built or take or destroy an egg of any wild bird. The nesting season is officially 1st March to 31st July; however it may extend beyond those dates.

Recommendations



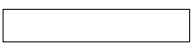


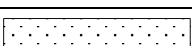
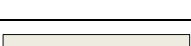

It is recommended the following mitigations are employed to ensure the risk of impacts on wildlife is as low as reasonably practicable:

- Consider scheduling the work to take place between 1st August - 28th February.
- Operatives working on the demolition will be provided with relevant tool box talks regarding identifying wildlife and actions to be taken on discovery of animals on the site during works. The tool box talks will be delivered before works commence and will focus on nesting birds and reptiles.

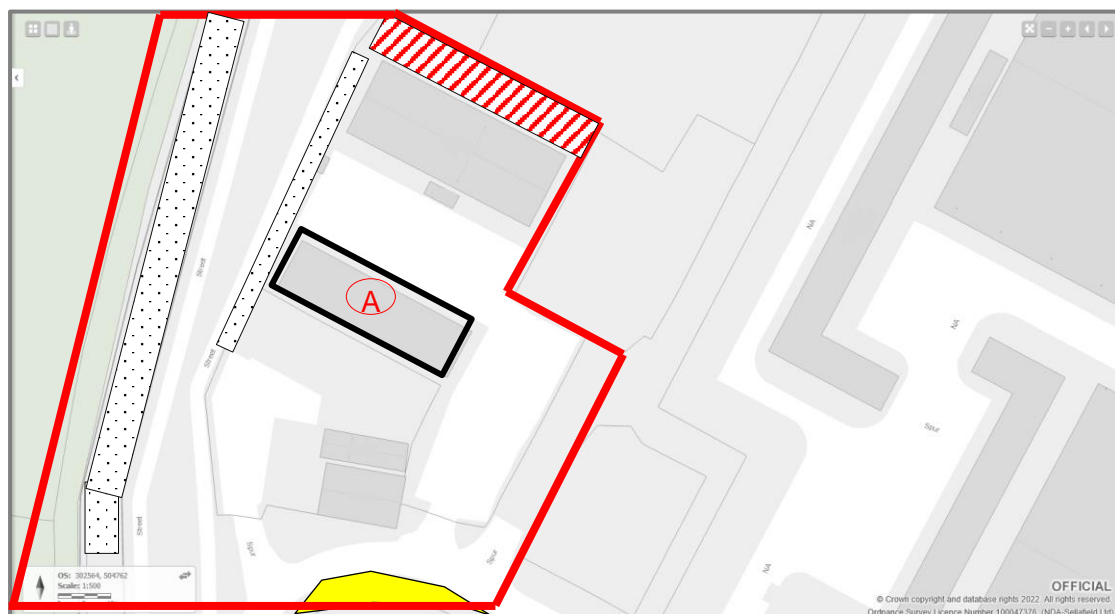
- It is recommended that operators are briefed on recognising evidence of the presence of bats. If evidence of bats is observed during demolition then demolition should not proceed without further investigation and a detailed survey; an ecologically competent person should be contacted to assess the situation.

Note: regardless of the time of year, if nesting birds are noted 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.

Map Key

	Extent of Habitat Survey ¹		Amenity Grassland
	Roads (Tarmac and concrete)		Hedgrow/Shrubs
	Buildings (existing)		Bare ground-gravel / hardcore
	Other hard surfaces including footpaths		Proposed Demolition building

Map



¹ This is not the same as the proposed site plan.

