

Ecological Survey

Project Title: Standby Emergency Generation Project (SEGP) – Retaining Wall

**Our Ref: NFR/509140/CSA/00207
ISA-INT-NFR-314**

See Appendix on the last page for a sketch of the area walked over.

General habitat features

- This is an area of neutral grassland with a moderate diversity of grasses.
- There are no dense areas of habitat areas with the grass being cut to roughly 50mm all around the area.
- The habitat was deemed suitable habitat for nesting birds with two trees in the area.
- The remaining areas within the proposed project area comprises aggregate gravel area, hardstanding or bare earth.
- No invasive species were identified on the site.
- The site is a regularly mown patch of amenity grassland with common grassland species only and one tree. This area is also isolated from other habitats by roads and therefore of limited ecological potential.
- Within the Sellafield site there is a slight risk of basking reptiles (adders) during summer months. The area concerned is not ideal reptile habitat due to the lack of vegetation cover required by reptiles for shelter and temperature regulation.

Grassland

No rare or protected species were identified on the site. The site grass is cut by a maintenance team on a regular basis, ensuring that there is a limited habitat for protected species.

Nesting birds

There remains a chance of ground nesting birds during nesting season (March to September inclusive) as some species nest on bare ground/gravel areas (e.g. oystercatchers). There is a potential for nesting birds in the two trees on the site, these are not affected by the works but need to have an exclusion zone to protect them from excavation if nesting birds are identified.

If additional vegetation clearance must be carried out during nesting season it will be checked for nesting birds prior to clearance by a suitably experienced person. If nests are found then a 5m minimum buffer zone will be implemented until birds have fledged.

Reptiles/adders

No reptiles or evidence of reptiles were found during the walkover.

However, as they are mobile and found within the wider area there is still a slight chance that they may be found basking on site from late February to October. If a reptile/adder is seen on site, work will stop and the Environmental Advisor will be contacted.

Amphibians (great crested newts/natterjack toads)

There are no ponds within the project area. Great crested newts have not been highlighted previously as having significant potential within the Sellafield site and the work area is unsuitable for natterjack toads due to the habitat and lack of connectivity to dune populations to the south. If an amphibian is seen in the work area the Environmental Advisor will be contacted.

Bats

The trees on site are not suitable bat roost features and nor are any existing structures in the project area. If work is carried out at night task lighting must be positioned sensitively to avoid excessive light spill onto the wider area and potentially affecting bat foraging behaviour.

Badgers

There are no badger setts or other evidence within the project area and they have been previously excluded from the Sellafield site. No impact.

Red squirrels

There is no suitable habitat for red squirrels in the work area. No impact.

Some of the factors above are seasonal and may depend on the timing of the works.

The Environment Team will be kept updated regarding the work schedule and expected start dates.

The Environmental Advisor will be informed if any of these species or other ecological issues are identified on site.

Appendix

Walkover Area Map Sketch as of 07 July 2021 (Grassed Area)

