

Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment in support of a new Calder Site Emergency Assembly Point (SEAP) Capability, with accommodation and welfare facilities for Calder Site.

A desktop study and site survey were conducted on 22/08/2024.

The survey area (See Appendix 1) is entirely surrounded by industrial buildings, roads, car parks, waste/equipment storage areas, and various security and other fences. The security fences in particular are a significant barrier to movement of terrestrial wildlife. Connectivity with areas of ecological value is poor.

The survey area itself is entirely surfaced with manufactured materials, predominantly concrete with hard packed gravel and tarmac surrounds.

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	3.2	NNR, SSSI
Low Church Moss	1.1	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

*Distances are approximate, measured to the closest Sellafield Site boundary using the tools available on the MAGiC map.

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.

Ecological Constraints

Potential for Nesting Birds, particularly ground-nesting species.

(Low potential but should be considered to ensure risk is minimised as far as practicable).

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.

Recommendations

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

- Operatives working on the project will be provided with relevant briefing on identifying wildlife and actions to be taken on discovery of wildlife on the site during works. The briefing will be delivered at relevant points through the project e.g. before works with the potential to impact on wildlife commence. As well as general wildlife issues the briefings will focus on nesting birds.
- **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.
- 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.

Biodiversity Net Gain – Metric Selection

The Small Sites Metric has been used to consider Biodiversity Net gain based on the guidance provided in “*The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide, DEFRA, July 2024*”.

Size requirements to use the Small Sites Metric: “Commercial development where floor space created is less than 1,000 square metres or the total site area is less than 1 hectare”.

<u>Floor space</u> New Calder SEAP Capability, with accommodation and welfare facilities calculated nominal total gross internal floorspace = 790m ²	Building footprint and floor space occupied is less than 1000 square metres.
<u>Development site area</u> Development Site Area, including temporary project laydown areas as marked by red boundary: Total Site Area ~ 2000m ² (0.2 Hectares) Note: Services and drainage will be extended from nearest local services/drains and routed through existing ducts and trenches where practicable. To install access/egress stairs/ramps, apply non-slip surface coatings/markings and extend existing services/drainage, there will be works required. To allow for this, the calculated Site Area marked in red is deliberately over-sized to allow flexibility.	Total site area is less than 1 hectare (10,000m ²).
The development meets both area requirements to be considered under the Small Sites metric.	

Other requirements to use the Small Sites Metric:

Where only the habitats available in the SSM are present on-site	Met - all habitat types on the development site are in the Small Sites Metric
Where no priority habitats are present on-site	Met - no priority habitats on the development site*
Where no statutory protected sites or habitats are present	Met - no statutory protected sites or habitats are present on the development site
Where no European Protected Species are present	Met – no European Protected Species are present on the development site
If statutory protected sites or priority habitats are located within 500m of the development site boundary, you should consider whether you need to contact an ecologist and use the statutory biodiversity metric.	There are no statutory protected sites within 500m of the development site. Closest statutory site – Cumbria Coast MCZ, >1300m*

	<p>Closest priority habitat – Deciduous woodland, >300m*</p> <p>The nearest small patch of Deciduous Woodland is within 500m, however, almost all the area between the development site and the Deciduous Woodland is the Sellafield Site and therefore similar to the survey area and connectivity is very poor. Site Ecologist advice sought, and no further assessment considered necessary.</p> <p>The development will not impact on statutory sites or priority habitats.</p>
<p>The development meets all other requirements to be considered under the Small Sites metric.</p>	

(*Ref. MAGiC Map application <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>)

Biodiversity Net Gain Approach

The pre-development (baseline) score for the development site has been determined, using the Small Sites Metric, to be zero.

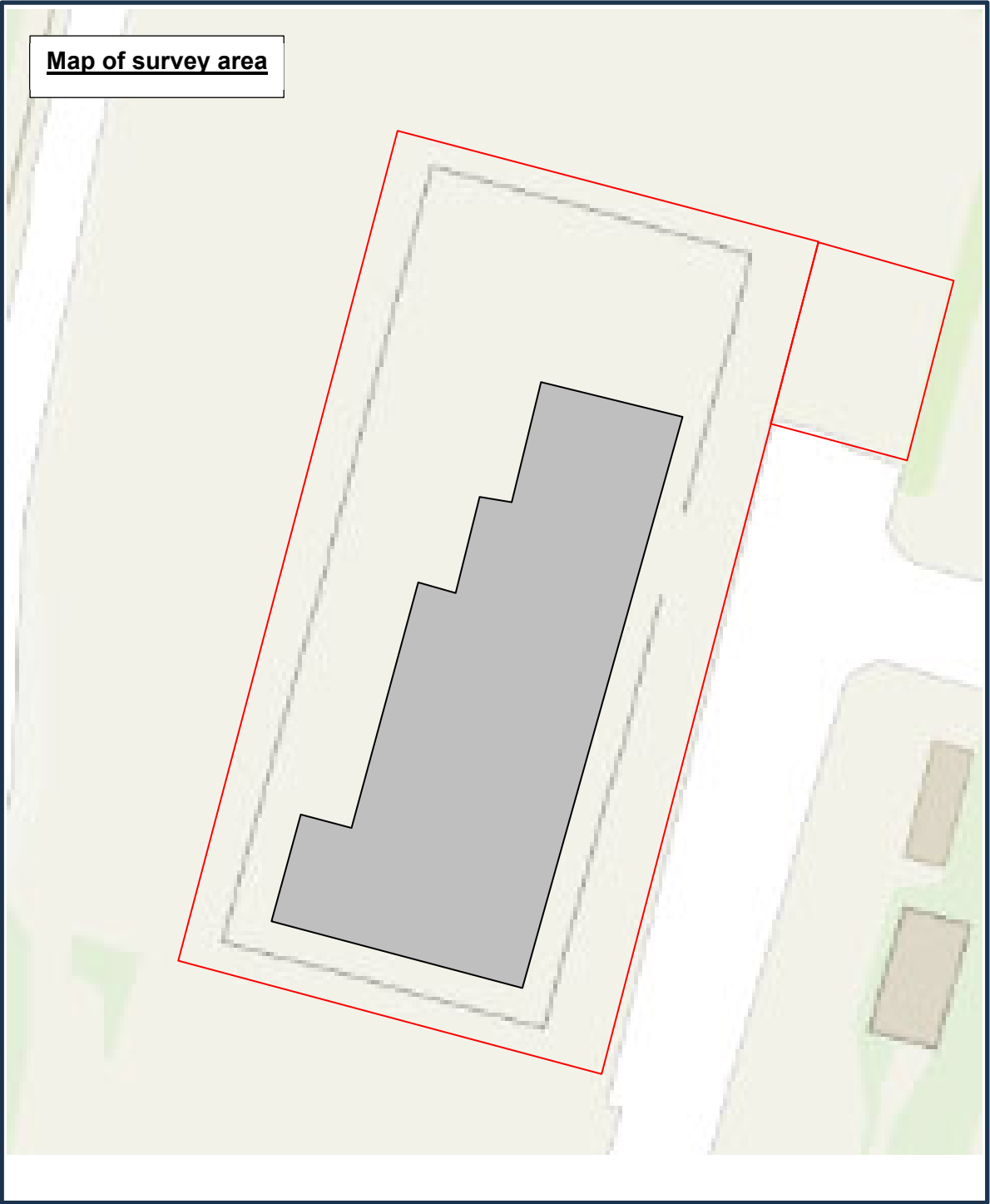
The development does not impact a priority habitat.

Less than 25 square metres (5m by 5m) of on-site habitat is affected: zero habitat is affected.






Less than 5 metres of on-site linear habitats such as hedgerows is affected: zero linear habitat is affected.

The proposed development is exempt from the requirements of the biodiversity gain condition set out in Schedule 7A Town & Country Planning Act 1990 by virtue of Regulation 4 of The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024, de minimis exemption.

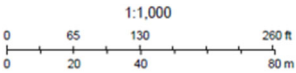
Appendix 1




Map Key

-  Extent of Survey
-  Hard surfaces including footpaths. Predominantly concrete, tarmac and no-fines concrete
-  Roads (tarmac and concrete)
-  Other Buildings
-  SEAP Building

27th August 2024



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